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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Checking In With Reality

Ireland 2009. How to describe it? The Year of Reality? The Year the Party ended? It wasn't the best of times; but was it the worst of times? Two surveys, before and after the New Year, found that most people were enjoying their lives as much as ever, despite the recession. Moreover, as proof that there is life apart from economics, media interest in December and after, also switched focus away from its obsession with the country's economic difficulties, though the alternate headlines hardly made for light reading.

The most persistent non-economic story of the year, that of clerical abuse of children, surfaced again in December with the publication of a second highly damaging report, this time on clerical sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The first, in May, had focussed chiefly on the so-called "industrial schools" of the previous half century, including Artane and Letterfrack, administered by a number of religious orders. It described a regime of systemic abuse, physical and sexual, inflicted on the inmates, mainly children from poor and underprivileged backgrounds. The report's conclusions were clear and damning with regard to both the religious orders involved (the Christian Brothers in particular) and to the Irish Department of Education, and pointed firmly to a cover-up by the religious concerned.

The December (Murphy) report addressed allegations (a "representative sample") of sexual abuse of over 300 children by 46 priests in the Dublin archdiocese over 30 years to 2004 i.e., at clergy in the front line attached to parishes. It found most of the allegations to be well founded, noted that some of the priests concerned were dead, and that 11 had been convicted

by the Courts. Disturbingly, it found that, at least until the mid-1990s, the Archdiocese's preoccupation had been to maintain secrecy and to have a "don't ask, don't tell" approach. Four former archbishops were criticised as well as auxiliary bishops during the period (four of five of whom have resigned, prompted by public opinion and pressure from the current Archbishop, Diarmuid Martin). In its wake, conscious of the damage, real and potential, Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin met with the Pope. There is little doubt that, despite the fact that only a small percentage of priests were involved, the report has dealt another body blow to the flagging authority of the Irish Church.

Some relief was afforded to the beleaguered Hierarchy as a severe spell of weather more in keeping with the American Mid-West than an Irish winter hit the country over Christmas and the New Year, driving everything else off the front pages. The worst weather in almost fifty years, following on heavy flooding in November, may or may not be down to climate change, but it served as a timely reminder of the type of winter we would face if anything were to deflect the Gulf Stream. Unsurprisingly the authorities were unprepared for an extended freeze and public opinion, charged with a sense of entitlement, was highly critical as supplies for road clearing became exhausted. Yet, overall, the public mood remained upbeat, reflecting what many commentators are pointing to as indications that the worst economically may be over.

Whether we are actually at the end of the beginning, there are some positive signs. 2009 was certainly a year in which for many a different

reality dawned. The huge rise in unemployment over the last two years saw tens of thousands of families lose one income, a smaller number lose two. For a generation which had become accustomed to prosperity and rising living standards, on an unprecedented scale, and had planned ahead on that basis, the shock was psychological as much as economic. The job market simply dried up. Recovery or not, nobody doubts that difficult years lie ahead. The jobs lost over the past 18 months will take much longer to replace, and will not be in construction!

However, as the dust has begun to clear, some perspective becomes possible. Yes the number of unemployed increased dramatically – by 8% of the workforce in two years. But for most people 2009 was a year for treading water. Life continued pretty much as before; taxes were increased, reversing a trend. There was less money around and prudence and caution emerged where spending it was concerned. There was apprehension, certainly, as jobs disappeared and as the country's finances went into freefall. There was particular concern regarding job prospects for the young, who as a group were hardest hit. There was hysteria in the media and among politicians. But it is now becoming apparent that the recession was concentrated, hitting some sectors very hard, some hardly or not at all. Building and related activities suffered severely. There was a shakeout as some multinationals restructured in the context of the international downturn, and another as some featherbedded companies went to the wall. The retail sector took a hit, particularly in sales of luxury consumer items, such as automobiles. But other sectors (pharmaceuticals, high-tech) continued as before. Overall our exports in 2009 appeared to buck the worldwide trend (decline) by holding up.

There are tentative signs (flattening of unemployment, stabilisation of tax revenue) that economically the worst may be over. If this proves the case, a contributing factor will be the infusion of confidence brought about by the December budget. For

once an act of policy ticked most of the right boxes. Most of the sacred cows went down like ninepins (sorry about that!) as the government followed through on its promises to cut government spending. Wages in the public sector were slashed, benefits were cut and inroads were made in the huge budget deficit. There were no new taxes apart from a hike in fuel taxes dubbed a "carbon tax". There were some perceived injustices among the welfare cuts, where there was insufficient tweaking, but these can probably be rectified at a later stage. Overall however the budget was greeted with relief (just as it had been awaited with trepidation) and as a sign that the government was serious about setting the country to right. It's only a first step; to adapt a recent Flanna Fail election slogan "some done, much to be done".

The economic and social challenges facing the government in 2010 are reasonably clear. Unem-

ployment is unlikely to decline and this will generate a situation where an unprecedented number of people will shortly be without work for 12 months or more. Training and re-training will become priorities and a debate has already started on this. The issue of negative equity as a consequence of the collapse in property prices will feature more and more as the numbers of unemployed unable to pay their mortgages increases. In a society which sets such store on house ownership, and where repossession and eviction generates high emotion, this issue promises to be the hot political potato of the year. There is no easy solution.

Finally, I must record, sadly, towards the end of the year, the passing of two icons of Irish music, Liam Clancy and Ciaran MacMathuna. No letter from the Motherland could or should fail to salute their enormous contribution to Irish culture everywhere.

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Skinny & Houli Debut on WNTD-AM 950

WNTD-AM Radio, 950 On The Avenue, rolled out their much anticipated program, The Skinny & Houli Show on Wednesday nights from 6-8pm starting January 20th. Avenue 950 highlights some of Chicago's most committed individuals in their newest program, The Skinny & Houli Show. "Skinny," former Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events and "Houli," columnist for the Irish American News and former columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times introduce listeners to the quirky characters and stories that give our city its unique charm. The heart of this two-hour show includes

interviews with local leaders who are making a daily, positive impact in our community and a "Special Olympics Spotlight" on an athlete, coach or parent for outstanding achievement. Tune in to a show that will make you proud to be a Chicagoan. This two hour, freewheeling talk radio dialogue features two of Chicago's most irreverent and irrepressible personalities, discussing what's happening in the city each week. The hosts will dissect the news, politics, sports, and entertainment scene with their trademark wit and introduce a variety of community activists and neighborhood heroes.



Mike Houlihan and Skinny Sheahan debuted "The Skinny and Houli Show" on WNTD-AM 950, Wednesday evening, January 20, 2010 from 6pm. to 8 pm. Good news, and good fun is the focus of the show.

February at Chicago Gaelic Park

Musical Luncheon

Gaelic Park will host their Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010 beginning at noon.

It's a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music and dancing and a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park hosts weekly Celtic Suppers every Sunday, from 4-9pm. They're a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family. For the cost of \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal, which includes a choice of soups, full salad bar, a choice of entrée, vegetable, potato, dessert, tea and coffee is provided.

Entertainment includes: Sean O'Donnell on 2-21 and Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane on 2-28.

Celtic Suppers will not be held Sunday, February 7th due to Super Bowl, and Sunday, February 14th due to the member's convention.

Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and children under 3 are free. (708) 687-9323 for tickets.

Mass & Breakfast

Monthly Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, February 14th, 2010 with Mass beginning at 10am. A delicious

traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, will be served after Mass for the cost of \$8.

CraicaPalooza,

An Irish Reunion

In Ireland, having the "craic" means having a good time or a laugh. On Saturday, February 13, 2010, Gaelic Park will host CraicaPalooza, an Irish Reunion. This free event will give people who have not seen each other recently the opportunity to get together for something other than a wedding or a funeral and will feature price rollbacks on drinks, hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches and entertainment by Jerry Eadie.

Craicapalooza offers a chance to come together and to celebrate what binds us all together—Gaelic Park. Perhaps you are a part of one of the many constituent groups from Gaelic Park such as the Gaelic Park Players, the hurling and football clubs, the county associations, the step-dancing and ceili groups, the Irish Dancing clubs and the many volunteers from Irish Fest. Perhaps you are a bar patron, have participated in our Pub Quiz or you have attended a banquet or wedding at Gaelic Park. Craicapalooza is a great opportunity to chase away the winter blues, touch base with old friends and visit Gaelic Park. Things are not what used to be, things will never be the same again, but they can be again for one night when old friends are reunited.

Catherine

O'Connell Concert

Chicago's very own Catherine O'Connell will perform on Sunday, February 21, 2010. The doors for the show open at 7pm.

Catherine, who was the St. Patrick Day Parade Queen in 1976, developed her distinctive style and dramatic stage presence by performing in dozens of pubs, saloons and cabarets in Chicago, New York and the Caribbean.

The Chicago Tribune's and WGN's Rick Kogan says, "Catherine is an original, as gifted a singer and as sensitive a performer as I have ever heard and seen. She might easily have become a star in the New York scene but, God love her, she's tied to our town."

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be reserved at (708) 687-9323.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL.

Visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org for more information on this and other upcoming events.

VOTE NUMBERS FOR CANDIDATES ADVERTISING IN THIS PAPER

For your convenience we have listed vote #'s for candidates running for office in the February 2, 2010 elections who have advertised with us.	Cook Co Assessor Berrios Joe # 106	Lieutenant Govenor Boland Mike # 22
Cook County Board President O'Brien Terry # 96	State Treasurer Oberman Justin # 28	Appelate Court Epstein Jim # 134 Hogan Thomas L. # 137 Rochford Mary Katherine # 142 Ryan Jim # 133
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commisioner Kelly, Maureen # 89 Spyropoulos, Mariyana # 84	Cook Co Circuit Court Judge Mitchell Raymond W # 163 Bailey James Michael # 185 Baumann Diedre # 152 Fehn Joanne # 167 Griffin John # 204 Hartigan Russell William # 184 MacCarthy Terry # 154 Malone Daniel # 201 Patterson Sharon Finegan # 157	Dem State Representative Burke Kelly McGuire # 72
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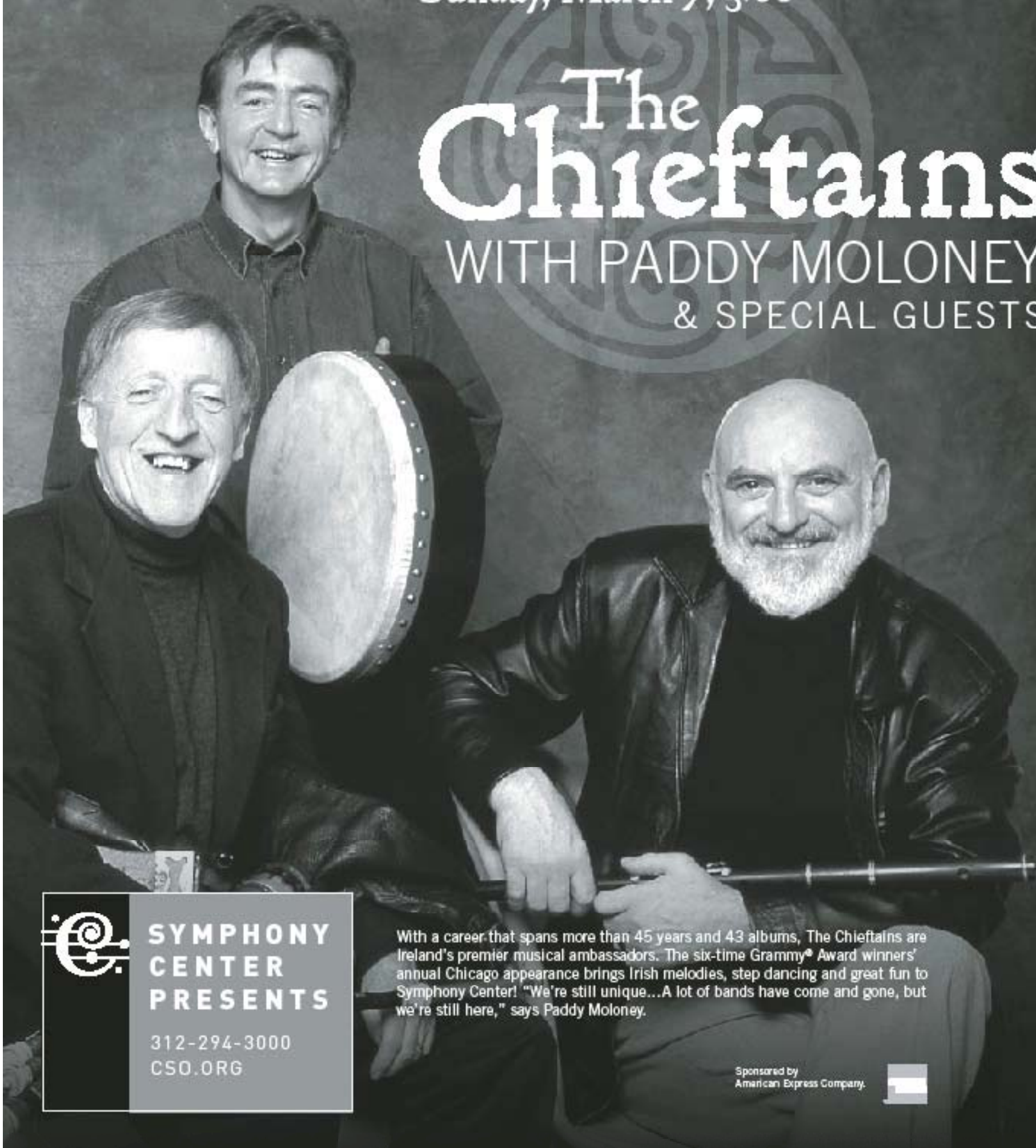
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Bring Back South Side St. Patrick's Day Parade

Having to write something about a cancellation of a parade honoring Ireland's National Apostle is anything but a pleasant assignment at any time. I kept putting it off until I had to do it. The Southside Parade Committee recently cancelled the annual parade by a one vote margin, ten votes to nine. Hopefully it will be back next year, please God and St. Patrick.

Last year's parade attracted the largest crowd ever to our area, approximately a half million was the figure mentioned. Despite the large crowd, everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves and the weather cooperated, Tanumcun De, Thanks to God. Chicago is one of the few big cities in which two parades on different dates hail the great saint who, though not Irish born, helped to convert them. The two parade idea came from Mayor Richard J. Daley, who decreed the official one for the Loop area on State Street, and the other for the "Great South Side of Chicago."

Unfortunately, in last year's parade a group of outsiders crept into

the area, carrying all kinds of luggage, baskets, buckets, bags and anything they could carry the "refreshments" in. They tried to enter the parade but were rejected by parade marshalls and others. But the open taverns all along the route, with patrons coming and going as they please, helped this groups as they gathered on the side streets where arrests were made by the police. The groups' apparent intention was to make the parade and surrounding area an ideal place for a Mardi Gras, regardless of the consequences.

With all due respect to the Police, they did a good job, but detailing 10 or 12 officers inside the barricades didn't help. They would have been of greater help had they been assigned to walk the sidewalks in pairs, where their mere presence would have been a much greater deterrent. Inside the barricades, all they could do was look at the parade passing by.

No doubt the parade committee did a great job each year since it was restarted in the Morgan Park area.

But, to throw in the towel now, is to surrender to a bunch of people who were out for a good time regardless of the consequences. We understand the "mashing" of the neighborhood by such a large crowd was unfortunate, but that, too, could be handled much better next time.

The good people of the neighborhood who come out each year to enjoy the parade deserve a much better understanding and protection but, with a new plan covering all the bases, I bet most of them would not like the parade to move anywhere else. So let's arrange a special meeting, with all the parties represented, discuss the entire matter, draw up a good plan, and adhere to it for future parades.

Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our Isle, on us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile. And now thou art high in the Heaven above, o come to our aid, in our meeting take part, o come to our aid, in our gathering take part.

**Retain Judge
John C. Griffin,
Cook County Circuit
Court, 15th Subcircuit**

We join Chicago Gaeldom in seeking retention of the dynamic and popular Judge John C. Griffin, in the February 2010 election, as candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge,

15th Subcircuit.

Judge John Griffin has been the popular President of Chicago Gaelic Park for several years now, and under his great leadership the home of the Gael is today "the finest Gaelic Center that I have seen outside of Croke Park in Dublin," headquarters of the GAA, the largest amateur association in the world. This description was spoken by the President of Ireland Mary McAleese when she and her husband visited the park a few years ago.

His other local community involvements include Moraine Valley Community College Trustee, Irish Fellowship Club Director, St. Xavier University Advisory Council, Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Director and Treasurer.

We wish the popular John every success. Please rake a Democratic ballot and vote for John C. Griffin in this February's Election.

**Death Of Great
Irish Election Lawyer**

His countless friends in the Cook County area recently mourned the death of well known Election Lawyer, Michael Lavelle. He was a character member of the state board of elections commissioners. The popular Mike always received top rating of whatever important position that he held even as a chairman of the Chicago board of elections. He was indeed "The election Czar" as his son told John Byrne, who wrote a great story about Mike in a recent copy of the Chicago Tribune.

The late Mike also served his country as a Marine from 1957 to 1960, he received his bachelor's degree at Loyola University and his Law degree at John Marshall Law School. He was also a proud Irishman with ancestry in the Galway a place that he loved to visit almost every year. He also delighted watching thrilling hurling and football games and here again he was proud of Ireland's national games.

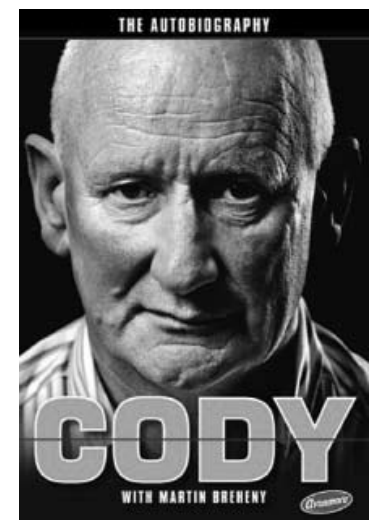
Mike was also an election lawyer and represented a client in a successful fight to overturn in a case that would later be cited in the 'dented and dimpled chads' that played such an important part in the George Bush and Al Gore presidential fight for the presidency.

His crowded wake at a funeral home in Naperville and his funeral mass at St. Scholastica testified to the popularity as his countless friends who bid farewell to a great Irishman whom I had the great pleasure of knowing. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to his sons and daughters and with them and thousands of others we say in the Old Gaelic Language. Ar Dheis De Go raibhn an aimn.

**Brian Cody's Great
Hurling Book at
Donegal Imports**

Brian Cody's great book on the art of hurling is on sale now at Alex and Sheila McGrath's fine import store at 538 West Devon Ave. Chicago. Cody is a household name in Ireland today by the tremendous success of Kilkenny hurlers who last September captured 4 All-Ireland in a row. Although the hurlers on the field enjoy and get most of the publicity nevertheless its the manager who trains them to become what they are.

Declan Kidney who introduces this great book had this to say about it and Brian Cody. "The book is an



honest man's account of how he goes about his role as Kilkenny hurling manager. In sport as in life, that is all that you can ever ask for. Honesty."

As you pick up your book and perhaps many more Irish items and chat with Alex you will never hear him discuss hurling unless it brought up in conversation. Although he was described as "one of the best minor hurlers on a Kilkenny team" in the 60's Alex (and his best buddy, the late John O'Brien, both of whom played some great hurling in Chicago), were described by the late legendary Paddy Grace, as "two of the best minor hurlers to ever don the famed black and amber sweater."

Thanks Alex, for sending me a copy. To read this book it feels like you are sitting in the Hogan stand, watching each and everyone of those thriller's. Young budding Irish-American hurlers and their managers should get a copy and learn from a master. Brian was a fine hurler himself. The last team I played with in Ireland before leaving in 1943 was James Stephens, Brian Cody's club. Other members included the Larkins, Paddy and Mick, Jimmy Morrissey, Bobby Brannigan, Jimmy McGrath and others. Ar dheis De go raibhn an aimn. All of those fine hurlers were household names in their time. May they be sitting at the right hand of God.

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• \$4 Stella Artois & Magnums • \$4 burgers & fries

Wednesday - Live Irish session 8pm • \$3 hot wings • \$4 Guinness • 1/2 price cosmos
• \$3.50 Chang Beer

Thursday - 1/2 price margaritas
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Candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge 15th Subcircuit

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The Chicago Federation of Labor endorsed John C. Griffin, for Cook County Circuit Court Judge, 15th Subcircuit in the far south and southwest suburbs.
The Chicago Tribune has endorsed John C. Griffin...
"Our pick is John Griffin of Palos Heights, who was appointed to the bench in 2006 and sits in the Chancery Division. He has four opponents."

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- ◆ Graduate, DePaul University, College of Law, Cum Laude
- ◆ Graduate, University of Notre Dame, With honors
- ◆ Graduate, St. Rita High School

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ◆ Practicing Attorney - 31 years
- ◆ Appointed Circuit Court Judge - March, 2008
- ◆ Judge - Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section, Chancery Div.-14 months

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ Chicago Gaelic Park, President - 1991 - Present
- ◆ Moraine Valley Community College, Trustee - 1986 - 1991
- ◆ Irish Fellowship Club, Director - 1986 - Present
- ◆ St. Xavier University - School for Continuing Professional Studies, Advisory Council - 2007 - Present
- ◆ Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Director and Treasurer - 1990 - Present

PHILOSOPHY

- ◆ Follow the law
- ◆ Be honest
- ◆ Work hard
- ◆ Treat people equally and with dignity and respect

You must take a Democratic ballot and vote in the Democratic Primary in order to vote for John Griffin

For more information, visit www.judgejohngriffin.com

VOTE NO. 204

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We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



evin to weep once more for the disciples that betrayed Him in Ireland? (Parable—paraphrased) Suffer the little children to come unto Me and abuse them not!

jobs lost when small businesses have to close after Walmart moves in, however, the community benefits from lower prices and the availability of groceries, which presently are hard to find in the Chatham neighborhood. The trade unions would benefit from the construction of a new store. The city and state would benefit from sales tax revenue. I polled a number of union members, mostly retired men, and all but one gave the project a thumbs up.

our help. You can help by going to the website for Concern Worldwide U.S. (www.concernusa.org) or you can phone them at 1-800-59-CONCERN. Give what you can. Concern is an Irish charity.

Sex Abuse Reparations

The Mercy Nuns in Ireland have offered 128 million euros in reparations for child abuse. They covered up rape, molestation, beatings, and mental cruelty. The Mercy Nuns are one of the largest property owners in Ireland. They also own major Dublin hospitals.

The Ryan Report revealed the notorious Golden Bridge School in Dublin, run by the Mercy Nuns, had a high level of severe corporal punishment and a "pervasive climate of fear."

Christian Brothers

The Christian Brothers offered a 254 million euro package of cash and property following their acceptance of shame and sorrow.

Gethsemane

"He found the cup of sorrow and shame too bitter, and prayed to the Father to take it from His lips if it were possible—possible without breaking faith, without surrendering love. For that He learned the frailty of human friendship, the narrowness and dullness and coldness of the very hearts for whom He had done and suffered most, who could not watch Him for even one hour."

"What infinite sense of poverty and feebleness of mankind, the inveteracy of selfishness, the uncertainty of human impulses and aspirations and promises; what poignant questioning of the necessity, the utility of self immolation, must have tortured the soul of Jesus in that hour." Let us not forget that Judas betrayed Him, and Peter denied Him three times before the cock crowed.

Glasnevin

Must Jesus now visit the gardens at Glasn-

Catholics Come Home?

TV ads pushing the CatholicsComeHome.org website are too maudlin. People reduced to tears over returning to their faith. People who truly believe don't need the four walls of a church to have a heart to heart talk with God. There is comfort in being part of a larger congregation that believes as you do. Pretty hard to get people to come back who are disillusioned by pedophile priests.

WalMart Chatham

Looks like jobs gained would be equal to

Cook County Board

Terry O'Brien is the man for President of the Cook County Board. You heard it here.

State of Illinois

Look for Dan Hynes to break out!

The Haiti Quake

These poor people have had more trouble than they can handle. They desperately need

St. Patrick's Parade Queen

The Queen contest is scheduled for February 21, 2010. Entries must be received by February 12, 2010. You can get an entry form at the St. Patrick's Day Parade website or the Irish American News website. If you would like to place an ad in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Book, you may contact Patty Fadden at 312-421-1010.

Irish Organizations

Currently the Irish American Heritage Center is conducting a membership drive to bring back people who have dropped off the membership rolls. So far, it has been very successful. During this time, until we get the economy back up on its feet, remember the Irish American Heritage Center, like many other organizations is a not-for-profit organization. We need everybody to participate. If you have not yet donated to the Annual Appeal, it would be greatly appreciated. Don't forget about Chicago Gaelic Park, the Irish Fellowship Club, the Young Irish Fellowship Club, the many county organizations... take your pick, they all need your support.

Massachusetts

Special Election

By the time we see this paper in print, the Special Election will be over. I'm hoping for an outcome that would bring more balance to the political process. I think the situation in Washington with a filibuster-proof majority is not a healthy one for our democracy. Whatever your political persuasion is, they have played a lot of games with the health-care bill. They just can't keep their hands out of the pork barrel. The trade-offs that were made to bring the state of North Dakota and the state of Nebraska on board were hardly



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Punch #133

Photo by Citizens for Judge Jim Ryan

fair to the rest of the states. Why should they be exempt from paying increased Medicare premiums for 20 years? It would be appear the big winner in this process is going to be once again the insurance companies. It looks like there will be no public option. This has been a fast track journey taking the left fork in the road to socialized medicine. We can't afford it.

Bishop McDevitt

Six Bishop McDevitt players got All-State honors in Pennsylvania's AAAA Division Football. On defense first team-John Dukett DB; second team-Stefan Belle DL, honorable mention-Ryan Kuntz DL; offense first team-Jameel Poteet RB; second team-Matt Johnson QB, honorable mention-Victor Shaffer OL (my grand-nephew). Congratulations to all!

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- Widowed, Father to Elise, Jimmy, Bobby and Ryan
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**Case Study
The Cat & The Moon**

The Cat & The Moon, a successful international jewellery brand which sells to in Ireland, the US, the UK and online was established by Martina Gillan, a native of Sligo, when she graduated from IT Sligo in the late 1980s. Amongst the key reasons for establishing the company Martina quotes "the young, educated population of Sligo who have a great love for the arts, poetry and music."

When talking about Sligo Mar-

tina says: "The wide range of easily accessible leisure activities is another attraction for staff who list swimming, sailing, surfing, yoga, dance, theatre, music sessions (including jazz, traditional and indie), cinemas, parttime education, night classes and sport amongst their interests."

Martina believes that operating a business in the West of Ireland is becoming increasingly easy with improvements in recent years in

telecommunications and access. The company is looking forward to a promising future and believes that "with a growing population of young confident people who have a love of quality and beauty we can only benefit and grow in the future."



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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Dual Benefits for Irish Electrician Affirmed on Appeal for the First Time

The Illinois Appellate Court, Workers' Compensation Commission Division, has affirmed consolidated awards of death benefits and permanency benefits for the first time in a workers' compensation case.

What happens to a workers' compensation claim when the employee dies?

Under the Workers' Compensation Act, there are many different types of benefits that can be awarded depending on the facts of a particular case. Permanent partial disability benefits are generally awarded to living claimants, and are meant to compensate them for their decreased earning power as a result of the permanent impact an injury has had on their ability to work. Death benefits are meant to compensate a surviving spouse or children who relied on the claimant for support during the employee's lifetime.

Oftentimes, when an employee's work related accident results in his death, the family members will only be entitled to death benefits. Alternatively, when an employee has an on the job injury, but dies of an unrelated cause, his estate may be able to collect permanent partial disability benefits that had accrued prior to his death.

In situations where an employee's family attempts to prove he was entitled to permanent partial disability prior to his death, there must be sufficient evidence to support an award; in other words the award cannot be speculative. This presents a difficulty when, for instance, an individual is injured, lives for several weeks in a hospital, then dies. Because there was no recovery whatsoever, and a short period of time involved, there may not be enough information to justify an award of permanent partial disability.

Finally, the Workers' Compensation Act in most instances only al-

lows "specific loss" injury claims to survive, such as injuries to the arms or legs, and does not allow "man as a whole" injuries, such as back injuries, to survive.

Our Case

In our case, the claimant, an Irish union electrician, injured his back while working for his employer, an electrical contractor and filed a workers' compensation claim. He underwent surgery but continued to experience chronic back and leg pain. About a year and a half after his accident, he attempted to return to work, but was unable to continue working. Although the employee's physician indicated he should be off work, the contractor sent him for evaluation by its retained physician, who said he could return to work full duty, even though he was actively engaging in medical treatment. The physician was routinely used by the contractor's insurance company to evaluate claimants.

Following the physician's recommendation, the contractor's insurance company sent the electrician a letter terminating his workers' compensation benefits. Upon receiving the letter, the electrician, who had previously been treated for depression, became very distraught over his financial condition and committed suicide.

When the electrician's wife informed us what had happened, we immediately filed a separate workers' compensation claim on her behalf for death benefits. At the time the claim was filed, no one had ever simultaneously been awarded death benefits and permanency benefits because of the same accident. Our position was that the suicide was related to the electrician's employment and his back injury, and that his own workers' compensation claim survived

his death. Because of the intricacies of obtaining benefits following an employee's death, we knew we had a difficult case to prove.

The Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Award and the Contractor's Appeal

Following a trial, the Workers' Compensation Commission awarded death benefits to the wife and awarded permanent partial disability benefits to the electrician's estate, finding that his claim survived his death.

The contractor appealed the Commission's decision to the Circuit Court and the Illinois Appellate Court. On appeal, the contractor argued that the suicide was not related to his employment and that, in any event, benefits could not be awarded for both permanent partial disability and death benefits for the same accident. The contractor pointed out that no Illinois court has ever awarded both death benefits and permanency benefits for the same accident.

The argument that the suicide was not related to his employment was based on the insurance company's position that there was no evidence that it improperly terminated workers' compensation benefits, but instead lawfully terminated the benefits based on its physician's opinion that the electrician could return to work.

The Illinois Appellate Court's Decision

The Appellate Court, Workers' Compensation Commission Division, consisting of five justices, unanimously found that the contractor's insurer supplied its physician with insufficient information with which he could form a legitimate opinion and thus his opinion was entitled to "no weight." This issue aside, the Court found that the suicide could be related to his employment regardless of any fault by the employer. Workers' compensation is not a fault based system, but instead addresses whether an injury arises out of and in the course of the employment.

The Court found that the electrician's suicide was work related because he suffered from chronic pain after his accident and was severely depressed once his benefits were terminated. Moreover, the Court likewise rejected the argument that the suicide was brought on by a pre-existing condition, noting that aggravation of a pre-existing condition is always compensable.

Next, the Court addressed whether permanent partial disability benefits and death benefits could be awarded for the same accident. Usually, a spouse or child's claim for death benefits is an independent cause of action, separate and apart from an

employee's claim during his lifetime against his employer. However, the contractor argued that both benefits could not be awarded because of the same accident, that only one or the other could be awarded.

The Court found that both awards were justified and affirmed the decision. The Court noted that common sense dictates that an employee could be disabled because of his injuries and later die because of those same injuries, and nothing within the Workers' Compensation Act disallows compensating both instances.



Additionally, because the electrician had pain which radiated down his legs, he suffered a specific loss, and his claim survived his death.

Conclusion

Because of the award, and the amount of time that has passed since her husband's death, the electrician's widow will receive death benefits, a significant award for permanent partial disability, as well as interest on the awards.

The electrician was represented at The Healy Law Firm by Daniel Malone until he was appointed a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County by the Supreme Court of Illinois. Jack Cannon and Dennis Lynch represented the electrician in the Appellate Court.

By: Dennis M. Lynch.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



and great-grandparents knew the challenges of integrating into a society hostile to newcomers. Immigration reform will provide advocacy and help for a group of people whose lack of rights has made them easy targets for fraud and exploitation.

It is no secret that our immigration system is broken; both sides of this debate agree on that. For reasons of national security, domestic growth and international expansion, and to uphold the principles upon which this country was built, it is high time that we provide a viable channel of legal immigration worthy of the 21st century.

Michael J. Wildes is an Immigration Attorney and up until the end of 2009 was Mayor of Englewood, N.J.

a drain on society, American immigration in the 21st century is a story of opportunities wasted and development squandered.

Perhaps most important when it comes to any discussion of immigration reform is the moral imperative to ensure the rights of undocumented workers as human beings, many of whom have worked hard and lived as our friends and neighbors for years. Ours is a nation of immigrants, and many of our parents, grandparents

So What Has Taken Immigration Reform So Long?

The last attempt at reform, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act introduced in 2007, was attacked by the left and the right, and ultimately killed in the Senate despite numerous amendments made in an attempt to save it.

The task won't be any easier next year, and it will mean overcoming a lot of misconceptions.

Forexample, the tough economy has made the job market extraordinarily competitive and spread the mistaken belief that immigrants steal American jobs. But a study published just this month by the National Bureau of Economic Research found "no evidence that immigrants crowded out employment and hours worked by natives." The authors note that "At the same time, we found robust evidence that [immigrants] increased total factor productivity."

A traditional barrier to immigration reform has been the labor unions, whose primary interests historically have been to protect the American worker. Nevertheless, as Napolitano said, labor leaders have made it clear that unions cannot compete when a large part of the workforce is operating illegally and in a shadow economy.

And fixing immigration can help our economy. As Napolitano noted in her speech Nov. 13, requiring undocumented immigrants to register to earn legal status will actually strengthen our economy, as an estimated 12 million of these immigrants become full-paying taxpayers. And, once registered, they may be called upon to pay back taxes and penalties.

Likewise, American universities attract and educate the finest young talent across the world, only to send them back home when they would rather stay in the U.S. to establish businesses and other ventures. Why not reap the benefits of the education we provide? Leaders in agriculture, service industries and other fields almost universally report that business growth is being hindered by outdated visa quotas.

Despite the discourse of talking heads that focus on immigrants as

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Mike Morley



Angling for Anglicans and Other Papist Plots

One year ago Time Magazine, part of the nation's largest (\$36B) media conglomerate, introduced: "the next Archbishop of New York City, perhaps the nation's most prominent pulpit... with 2.5 million Catholics in nearly 400 churches" praising him as "a beloved Milwaukee priest known for his jocular demeanor." Recently another media biggie, the New York Times (3.2B) handed Archbishop Tim Dolan (and those 2.5 million other New Yorkers) a very personal snub, refusing to print a critical op-ed he had submitted. (We printed the Archbishop's letter in the December issue: <http://www.irishamericannews.com/index.php/opinion/mick/1080-mick-dec-2009>)

Why the rejection? The Times editors said rather lamely that Dolan's piece was more of a "letter to the editor" than an "op-ed." (So, why not

print it as a "letter" then? Is it a case of "Sorry, wrong window - Go to the end of that other line"?)

Dolan, deemed unfit by the paper with the lofty motto, "All the news that's fit to print," simply published the letter in "The Gospel in the Digital Age," a little blog of his own started only a month before. Well, judging by the reaction of the Times and its acolytes, you'd have thought he ran it prime-time on CNN.

The editors were apparently caught off-guard by Dolan's blog entry. That same day (Oct. 29th) the Times ran a piece about his new blog, noting: "Archbishop Dolan has drawn only one biting comment, scolding him for saying something nice about the United Nations..." Scarcely 5 days later the N.Y. Post reported Times' editorial page editor Andrew Rosenthal was fuming over Dolan calling his articles "anti-Catholic."

Rosenthal had seen fit to print a column (Oct. 24th) by Maureen Dowd, the Times' current Irish-Catholic icon, describing Benedict XVI as "the über-conservative

Our Condolences

Our horoscope columnist, Therese Castro, suffered the loss of her boyfriend, John Viano, who passed away on December 15, 2009.

May he rest in peace.

pope," "God's Rottweiler," and "a conscripted member of the Hitler Youth." Dowd labeled the Vatican's current apostolic visitations of US nuns "inquisitions," a betrayal by a Church which "enabled rampant pedophilia." She ended with an "attagirl" rehash of an Oct. 16th column by Religion Editor Laurie Goodstein, updating the lurid tale of a Wisconsin priest who had fathered a son. Declared Rosenthal to the Post: "There's nothing remotely anti-Catholic about Maureen's column."

Kelly Fincham, Editor of Irish Central, the online arm of Naill O'Dowd's Irish Voice also launched a rabid defense of Dowd in her Oct. 31st column "Kelly's Corner:" "read Dowd's column, and you wonder if the Archbishop hasn't temporarily taken leave of his senses." She scolds: "the church treats all women as second-class citizens... while a plague of pedophilia ran unchecked through the church." She pleads: "Why can't we become priests? Why can't priests be married?"

WCBS-TV New York said Dolan's letter: "certainly rubbed some folks in the Irish-American press the wrong way." In a televised interview Nov. 3rd Fincham again defended Dowd: "I don't think there's any way Maureen Dowd could be described as anti-Catholic. She's one of the most Catholic people I've ever met." (Step aside, Mother Teresa, make way for Maureen.)

Dolan cited Goodstein's long and detailed front-page article on the Wisconsin priest and asked: "why a quarter-century old story of a sin by a priest is now suddenly more pressing and newsworthy than the

war in Afghanistan, health care, and starvation-genocide in Sudan. No other cleric from religions other than Catholicism ever seems to merit such attention."

Why indeed. That story was followed Oct. 21 by another front-page Goodstein expose, this time regarding what she termed the Vatican's "extraordinary bid to lure traditionalist Anglicans en masse... a rare opportunity, audaciously executed, to capitalize on deep divisions in the Anglican Church..." Wow! After that breathless lead you might expect the Boyne or Kinsale had been avenged and the Reformation in serious peril. You had to follow the story inside to page 4 and down to the very last paragraph to read that Anglican Archbishop Williams of London actually "minimized the impact of the announcement" saying: "the routine relationships we enjoy as churches will continue." But oh, two maps of the world inserted by the Times looked anything but routine. One titled "Where Catholics Live" sports big black blobs covering most of Western Europe and South America, with a big spot hovering somewhere over the western US. The biggest blob was labeled "Brazil, 140 million Catholics." The map of "Where Anglicans Live" had only one small spot up in Canada and one on the edge of Europe labeled "England, 26 million Anglicans."

(Scary stuff indeed... poor little United Kingdom. Apparently the fact that Anglicans live mainly in England is big news to the Times' editors. These are the same people who would have you believe that while the Jewish Holocaust was caused by prejudice, its Irish counterpart was caused by a vegetable.) Goodstein continues ominously: "If entire parishes or even dioceses leave the Church of England for the Catholic Church, experts and church officials speculated, it could set off battles over ownership of church buildings and land." And even more ominously: "Pope Benedict has said that he will travel to Britain in 2010." (OMG... They're coming Back!! "Bring me my spear! Bring me my bow of burning gold; my chariot of fire!")

It's instructive to follow the sequence of events in this religious ruction.

It began with a Times story by Paul Vitello on Oct 14: "New Abuse Tack for Jewish Sects" revealing that "For decades, prosecutors in Brooklyn routinely pursued child molesters from every major ethnic and religious segment of the borough's diverse population. Except one." They avoided charging child

molesters who happened to be rabbis, teachers and school administrators in the Orthodox Jewish community.

This was an eye-opener, but not a Times exclusive. The Daily News had been reporting growing child sex abuse prosecutions in the Hasidic community for at least a year; The AP and ABC in NY had also covered it.

The faithful were forbidden under pain of sin or even death from informing on their religious leaders. One concerned father flew to Jerusalem to consult a prominent rabbi there before reporting another rabbi who had molested his 6 year-old son.

The term "pedophile" never appeared in the Times' story. Nor did the paper follow up on this extraordinary tale. On the contrary, what followed was the series of stories which led Dolan to write in protest.

It's not like those stories just leaped off the wires, or that a star reporter (ala the Hollywood fictional stereotype) came running in with a hot scoop. Stories are assigned by editors to writers who then write them and submit them back to the editors. When the editors are happy with the stories, they get printed - then the writers get paid. And if the owners of the paper, in this case the Ochs-Sulzbergers, are also happy with the stories, the editors get paid. That's how it works.


The Times is considered America's "newspaper of record." That implies that because it publishes trustworthy descriptions of events, has independent editorial policies, and opinions distinct from those of its owners and the government, those opinions will be cited abroad and in scholarly journals. It also means the Times' has the powerful luxury of "framing" how events and movements are perceived by the country and its lawmakers, and ultimately by history.

It appears the "man behind the curtain" at the Times, faced with a growing epidemic of Orthodox prosecutions, had to acknowledge the schanda, but didn't care to fuel the fire with a follow-up. So he reached into his wizard's bag for his most basic tool: misdirection. And it worked.

Having framed the story and its public agenda from the outset, the Times continues to ignore those two alarming reports Dolan cited on sexual abuse by public school officials: (one by the US Dept. of Education in 2004, the other by the Associated Press in 2007). The public debate on child abuse remains firmly focused on Catholicism.

(Find an expanded version of this column online: www.IrishAmericanNews.com)

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



berson from Advanced Health Center in Elmhurst. You guys have been great and totally destroyed all the horror stories about painful therapy. It's been pain-free, fun and effective. I look forward to going in to see these guys.

February brings one of the most interesting and, frankly, unique shows we set up at. "Reenactor Fest" is a convention and trade fair for military and historic reenactors and they're all there, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Spanish-American War, War of 1812, French & Indian Wars, Yom Kippur War (I kid you not), Punic War—honest to God, even a troop of Roman warriors in full battle array. These aren't people playing around either, they study this stuff and know what they're talking about. You'll see famous people from history, Lincoln, Grant, etc. and they'll be able to talk the talk and walk the walk. It's not all military either, there are lots of civilians in period clothing with period goods. The range of items on display and for sale is fascinating, everything from machine guns (artfully altered to fire only blanks) to whalebone corsets (one of the displays I found most interesting last year). There are reenacting groups looking to sign up new members, you can join the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (WWII) or the 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (Civil War) or one of Caesar's legions. There are seminars and guest speakers and live music (Three Pints Gone will be there, one of my favorite bands) plus nightly parties. Saturday night features an "all era" dance, ever dance with a storm trooper? Last year some friends who were not reenactors took my recommendation and came down. They had a ball and are planning to come again this year. Want to have some fun and learn something too? Join us at "Reenactor Fest VI" at the Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee in Wheeling, IL on February 5 thru 7. It's a family-friendly festival and this year features a special guest, Jason Salkey who portrayed Rifleman Harris on the television show "Sharpe's Rifles." For more info check out the website at www.reenactorfest.com.

The arm continues to improve and a big thanks to all of you who have inquired and commented and wished me well in emails, on facebook, and in the store. I want to thank the fellows who have been handling my therapy, Dr. Doug Simper and my therapist Mark Lam-

only wish sales were doing as well as my arm. Every shop has the same mantra, "Nobody's buyin' nuttin'." Not completely true and plenty of great new CD's being issued every week.

The first CD I'd like to tell you about isn't exactly Celtic, even though it was recorded by one of the most popular Irish singers in the US today, Seamus Kennedy. Seamus told me about this CD last September at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem PA. He said how he had always had a love for cowboy music stemming back to those halcyon days of his youth, when he'd go to the Saturday movies and see westerns, cartoons, a short feature and a newsreel, all for six pence. I gotta confess that I did the same thing myself but it cost me a quarter. Well I remember those cowboy singers, Gene Autrey, Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter, the Sons of the Pioneers and the rest. Only later in life did I find that most of those cowboy songs had their roots in Irish and Scottish music. No wonder we loved them! So Seamus, remember him, this is supposed to be a story about Seamus Kennedy and his new CD, he tells me when I ask him "What's new?" that he's doing his next CD for himself, whether it sells or not. It's a labor of love and it's all his favorite cowboy songs and if I don't like that, well, too bad. I like that idea and told him so and said to send some when they were ready. So it happens that the first week of January, I get a package from Seamus, and in it are the copies of his new CD Sidekicks and Sagebrush. Well I slapped my play copy on the store CD player and sat back and just enjoyed the heck out of it. He starts out with the great Eric Bogle song, "Front Row Cowboy" which tells about going to the Saturday pix as a kid, just to set the scene and get you in the right frame of mind for the rest. The rest, with one exception that Seamus wrote, are all of the most popular cowboy songs ever written, sung beautifully is Seamus' whiskey baritone with all the proper musical accompaniment and he even thought to include a lyric sheet so you can sing along. What a great treat! Seamus does it again, a bushel of fun in one little CD.

Can't beat it.

Compass Records continues to release simply the best music and their three most recent releases are long-awaited gems. Exiles Return by Karan Casey & John Doyle, what more do I need to say? Two of the greatest talents in Irish music are joined by Michael McGoldrick on flute and tin whistle and the result is a stunning mix that will hold your attention all the way thru the last cut. Simply outstanding.

Natural Angle is the new release from Irish band Grada, and it definitely takes you on a different angle. This recording was produced by the well-known bluegrass artist Tim O'Brien and was recorded in Nashville. It has an American edge and a bluegrass twang, producing a fusion of Irish and Americana that really works. I have to mention singer Nicola Joyce. Her voice reaches down into your very soul and gives it a tug. I do like the way that girl sings. I was also impressed with the flute work of Stephen Doherty, innovative and unusual. I have enjoyed all three of Grada's previous CDs and this one is my favorite.

Solas has a new CD coming out this month called The Turning Tide. Haven't heard it yet but can't wait to wrap my ears around it.

All for now. Stop by and pay us a visit at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa in Villa Park or call at 630-834-8108 or email at pipingitin@comcast.net and, like most everyone these days, catch me on facebook, and if you can, throw a couple of bucks to the Red Cross to help out our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Slainté.

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Mary Margaret O'Leary



the sport. The first ever indoor one-quarter mile, oval track had just been constructed for the 1988 Winter Olympics. "I walked into

Conventional wisdom would assume that you slow down when you age, but Bruce Conner has disproven that notion entirely. At 53, Bruce Conner is the oldest man ever to qualify for the Olympic Trials in speed skating. He is faster, stronger and healthier than he has ever been in his entire life and is achieving more today in his sport than he probably ever imagined. Conner holds three world records for his age group, the World Sprint Championship, and perhaps most important is a seriously positive mind-set that is inspiring those familiar with his story all over the world.

Conner who grew up in suburban Chicago in the town of Morton Grove, began skating in 1968, when he was 12 years old. He and his two brothers (one of whom is Bart Conner, U.S. Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics) often skated at the outdoor rink close to their home. At 19, Conner competed in the U.S. Trials before the 1976 Olympics and after failing to qualify for the team "retired" from the sport entirely. Conner earned his commercial pilot lesson and focused on his family before returning to the ice three-decades later.

When asked if he ever envisioned himself returning to the sport, Conner simply replied no. It was in 1988 on a trip to Calgary, when Conner first realized how much his soul missed

the rink and I thought this is Mecca, I've got to figure out a way to get back here." It wouldn't be until 1996 at age 40, that Conner finally returned to the sport he is so passionate about. Picking up where he left off with a renewed feeling of self-worth, Conner began training intensely in the spring of 2005 for the trails that December, which ultimately led him to qualify for the 2006 games. Conner's determination landed him eligibility in the Olympic Trials at age 49 and 53. His philosophy is to "let age enhance your dreams, rather than define them." And his message to everyone is clear—do not self-limit yourself!

"You can achieve almost anything if you break your barriers down," says Conner. "Just this morning I could have thought its cold outside and it is seventy-five miles to the rink. I chose not to accept that as a barrier, if it was an issue I wouldn't be able to do this."

People who know Bruce are using him as motivation to achieve their own goals. Bruce's neighbor recently told him he had decided he was going to do the triathlon he had been putting off for the past few years. On a recent skating trip in Germany for the World Championship, the Italian coach approached Conner asking if he was from Chicago. When Conner told him that he was, the coach proceeded to

let him know that they were familiar with him in Italy. He had watched Conner qualify for the Olympic Trials in 2006, and was very proud of what he was doing for Master skaters (over thirty years old), by setting the bar so high. Another similar story is of a photographer who was assigned to take pictures of Bruce for a story. He became so inspired by Conner's



journey that he told him he would be picking up his violin that had been sitting in the corner for ten years.

Conner who was in Salt Lake City, Utah competing in Phase 2 of the U.S. Olympic Trials this past December, returned having skated faster than he did four years ago at the trials. Conner skated his second and fourth fastest times ever in the 500m. Although, he will not be representing the U.S. in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, he will be watching and sends his best. Conner says he feels privileged to share the ice with such hard working, talented athletes.

Today Bruce Conner is a Masters World Speed Skating Champion, the Captain of a B-747 aircraft, a motivational speaker, an

author, but most notably, a man who refused to let obstacles hold him back. Conner's next stop will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the Second World Masters Sprint Games, this February 6th-7th.

4 Questions with Bruce:

Q: What's different today in your philosophy than at 19?

A: The philosophy back then was that in order to skate faster you had to push harder on the ice. That is really counter-productive because you trash your legs. I didn't know anything about tapering then. I've learned the physiology of it. I'm Irish, I can be hard-headed, I need to keep trying things out until I figure out what works best for me.

Q: Why speed skating?

A: I love it. There is something in it that feeds me. You have to like pain, but for me it's important to know how far I can push myself. I love to go fast. I love the technical aspect of it. I love to work on my motor. The physical conditioning and the hundreds of decisions I make per day that directly affect my performance make it worth it.

Q: How do you feel on the ice?

A: I'm never as exposed as I am when I'm on the ice. If my head's not right, if my body isn't where it needs to be, if I'm not focused, if I'm not psychologically, spiritually, emotionally where I need to be, its over. We get such tremendous feedback on the ice.

Q: What's your philosophy today?

A: You're never too old. If you have a passion for something and you do the work you can achieve almost anything. Know that you're worth it.

Look for Bruce's book *Faster at Fifty Plus* soon and check out his website www.bruceconner.com for upcoming events and information.

Renowned Rugby Coach to Visit Brother Rice

Eddie O'Sullivan, the renowned coach of a few of Ireland's Grand Slam Rugby Championships and coach of the Ireland World Cup team in 2003, will be at Brother Rice High School on Thursday, February 25th, 2010 to hold a brief coaches conference for local rugby coaches and to be part of a panel discussion on the growth of youth rugby here in the United States. Accompanying Eddie will be Nigel Melville, the former coach of the USA Eagles and the current CEO of USA Rugby and a former England U19 and U23 representative.

Eddie O. has an illustrious history of coaching the national Ireland rugby teams, and is widely considered to be Ireland's most successful coach of this decade. Eddie first hit the United States in the late 1990's, spent some time at the University of California with Jack Clark, and then returned to Ireland where he coached Ireland in 6 Nations and the 2003 World Cup, returning to the United States in early March, 2009.

The panel discussion and coaches seminar will be held on behalf of the Brother Rice Rugby Club, which was formed in the early



2000's and has been the Illinois State Champion in 6 of the last 9 years, most recently in 2009. Brother Rice Rugby Club is 60 kids strong, and in the 2010 season we will field 3 teams in the Tier I, Tier II and frosh-soph divisions.

The panel discussion will be designed to touch on the growth of USA Rugby in America and also talk to the many young men (and women) in attendance, many

of whom currently play rugby. Eddie will give the current players tips on how to improve their game and what it takes to be a top-level, international player.

Rugby is a rapidly growing sport in the Illinois, now recognized as an "emerging sport" within IHSA guidelines. In the spring 2010 season, there will be almost 50 teams or 1,000 kids playing rugby under the Illinois Youth Rugby (IYRA) umbrella. The State Championship is held every Memorial Day in Lemont Illinois.

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Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



Home again in dear old Dublin for my mum's 80th birthday and what a great time I had, despite the crazy weather. In fact, the weather was a blessing as I spent all of my time with the family. I had missed the last major family bash as my brother Don got married at the height of the festival season, but they had gathered again to celebrate my mother's birthday and it was great to see them all.



Kathleen Clarke, 80 years young, and her son Shay.

My beautiful and dutiful daughter Leighanne picked me up at the airport and whisked me straight away to my equally beautiful daughter Sharon's home and a big hearty Irish breakfast with my grandchildren Josh & Alex. I can't believe how quickly they grow, and they are beautiful too. From there, on to my mum's house, everybody calls it Nana's house now as the grandchildren totally outnumber the family, and I'm truly home again as we sit down to chat and cups of tea. Happiness is being home with mum.

I had a few pints in O'Dwyers that first night with my brother Don, and we did a bit of catching up, just the two of us. Hey, yah can't beat it with a stick.

The following morning we were off to the races at Punchestown Racetrack in Kildare. Don had rented a coach to take us there, yeah, the whole family, or most of them, and within a few hours brothers, sisters, nieces & nephews were together again

in the Chairman's Box at the races with an open bar and food coming from all angles. Who said the Celtic Tiger is dead... more champagne, please.

Mum of course, is the center of attention on that day as the principal race on the card is the Kathleen Clarke 80th Birthday Hurdle, and she gets to present the winning trainer with the prize in the parade ring after the race.

It was a lot of fun, betting was furious and frantic, and there were winners and losers as the day went on. Races were run despite occasional snow showers, and of course by the time we left the comfy confines of the Chairman's Box, we had to skate across the inner courtyard that had become an ice rink; it was dangerous, but we all survived and boarded the coach, to yet another party hosted by my niece Aisling, and what a spread it was, as again the family were together and happy to be there.

New Year's Eve brought more snow and ice, this time it was measurable snow and as we sat in O'Dwyers Pub looking out the windows at this winter wonderland, we had no idea that Dublin and indeed most of the country would grind to a halt for the next week. We drugged back to Mum's house to ring in the New Year and toast the future, and at midnight we were outside to greet neighbors who also opened their doors to wish each other Happy New Year. I visited briefly with a few neighbors and was pelted with snowballs as I returned, sure all the kids were out on the street enjoying themselves.

The weather was the story for the rest of my vacation as airports closed, busses and trains stopped, and the rest of the nation were left to fend for themselves. Cars were abandoned, and those who tried to drive found that a short 10 mile drive to work could take 7 hours—I know it's crazy. People walked and slithered through icy footpaths and compacted snow and many were hurt, the main roads were passable but getting to them was the problem.

On January 2nd, we celebrated Mum's birthday with a party hosted by my brother Don and his wife Maria. She had a great time, we all did. Friends and family had gathered and it was a great Hooley, songs were sung and glasses were raised to honor the best Mum, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Mother-in-Law in the world and I hope to be there again for many more of them. There are loads of photographs on my Facebook profile—great memories, and Mum had a great time.

Next morning I said goodbye to my sisters and their families as they made their ways home to London, Birmingham, and Waterford, and at last I had Mum to myself for a few days before I too had to leave. It was the best of all as we watched telly, drank tea and reminisced. I hope she visits us here in Chicago this summer, God Bless you Mum, and love from all of us here.

Re-Seisiun

So, I was watching an Irish Talent Show on television and

I saw a great band from Moate in Co. West Meath called Re-Seisiun. They are Liam and Keith Flynn, Steve and Pat Hefferan, and Conor Irwin, and they are really good. They have yet to release an album, but have sent me an MP3 recording which I am playing on our Radio show Blarney on the Air, which you can hear on Monday nights at 7pm Central Time on WDCB.org or on the wireless at 90.9 FM in Chicago.

Re-Seisiun are a young, vibrant and talented band and I just can't wait for a debut album. Remember—I told you so.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



food pantries located throughout Chicago, the suburbs, and Lake County.

Fortunately, our food pantry staff reassure all visitors that there is nothing wrong with being in need—at some time, we all have to reach out and ask for a helping hand. Then our staff work with the first-time clients to ensure that the heads of households have the knowledge they need to sustain themselves and their families during this period of crisis in their lives.

At Catholic Charities, we provide more than nutritious food. We treat these brothers and sisters of ours with respect and compassion at this difficult, frightening time in their lives. We try to stabilize them by offering helpful information—dispelling myths regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits and food stamps—and we do the necessary screenings right in our food pantries and offices. We enable each family or individual to maintain their dignity and balance in this temporary crisis, until they can get "back to normal."

From July, 2008 through June, 2009, the total number of Catholic Charities' Food Pantries' clients soared from more than 155,000 in fiscal year 2008 to nearly 226,000 by July of 2009; an increase of 46 percent.

I'm sure everyone realizes that 2009 was not a good year for families, working people and retirees across our nation. Economic crises such as the downsizing of companies, layoffs and loss of jobs, as well as loss of investment income and savings, have taken a terrible toll on everyone of ordinary means, but especially on retirees and others living on fixed or low-incomes. Unemployment is at its highest level since the Great Depression.

Because Catholic Charities is a place of refuge for people who are in trouble, we see first-hand the suffering of our neighbors. Our food pantries and emergency assistance centers are experiencing great increases in clients, because people can't pay their utility bills and/or rent.

People from all walks of life are finding that they need to go to a food pantry. A lot of families who recently considered themselves middle-class are no longer able to make ends meet. Many two-income families have suddenly become one-income households. And if individuals and families have always lived from paycheck to paycheck, they are now in a very painful situation indeed.

But at Catholic Charities we embrace people suffering

with these problems and say: "We will do our best to help you." We say it with confidence because we see the great generosity of people who believe in giving more during this difficult time. Even those who are worried about their own finances give a little, because Catholics, and generous donors of all faiths, are well known for giving at least a little all the time—even when they are struggling themselves.

As a result, Catholic Charities has welcomed over 1,000 new donors this past year. Because of the struggling economy, everyone is giving less—but more people are giving!

We have wonderful stories to tell of this great generosity of heart. For example, people who have no money themselves are coming to serve at our six weekly suppers for hungry and low-income individuals in the city and suburbs. A few weeks ago, a family came in with their daughter to volunteer. The father had lost his full-time job and was working two part-time jobs, but it wasn't enough: they were three months behind in rent. Fortunately, they had a very compassionate landlord who said he would give the father as long as it took to find his next job. Catholic Charities was able to help him find a full-time job.

In early December, two elderly women who had each recovered from strokes drove up to the Catholic Charities "Celebration of Giving" truck where volunteers were collecting Christmas gifts from eight parishes in the Southwest suburbs. They delivered bags of new toys and clothing for families who were too poor to afford them.

These heartwarming tales seem especially appropriate this month as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day—because they show that everyone has something to give. And that the spirit of charity—love for our neighbor in need—thrives even in the most difficult of times.

Right now, food is especially important to people in crisis. Because of the great numbers of foreclosures and evictions, we cannot always help financially with rents or mortgages, but we can provide healthy food so that the struggling person or family can use their cash resources to pay for their utilities or housing and thus forestall homelessness. At our food pantries, a donated canned ham or canned goods such as green beans, macaroni and cereal are very important, but we also need cash donations so that we can buy milk and other perishables. Then a family can really make a nutritious meal out of the food. So, just a \$25 donation to our food pantries can make a big difference to hungry families.

May God bless each of you and your families during these winter months with health and happiness, and may you continue to open your hearts to those in need.

To make donations to our food pantries, or to find out more about Catholic Charities, please visit www.catholic-charities.net.

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Women of Concern Brigid Awards

ConcernWorldwide U.S. has named the honorees of the 2010 Women of Concern Brigid Awards: Catherine Bertini, Mary Ellen Caron, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Foster. This is the 12th year the awards have been given in recognition of the accomplishments of three outstanding women who are committed to justice, generosity and compassion in their work and daily lives.

The women will be honored at the Women of Concern Brigid

Awards luncheon on Friday, February 26 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive. The program will be held from 11am-1:30pm. Proceeds from the event will support Concern's emergency relief efforts in Haiti in response to the earthquake. Concern has been working in Haiti since 1994. Reinstating services at 10 health centers for malnourished children, and setting up seven additional infant nutrition centers are urgent priorities.

ConcernWorldwide U.S. is a non-governmental, international humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of the most vulnerable people in the least developed countries in the world. Concern is active in 28 of the world's poorest countries across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and provides emergency relief and long-term assistance in the areas of nutrition, health, livelihoods (including agricultural training and microfinance) and HIV and AIDS. For information or tickets, call 312.431.8400 or www.concernusa.org.

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Start the Year Organized!

Through her humor, energy, and expertise, best-selling Irish-American author, Rita Emmet, will give two presentations on February 20th at the Fifth Province Lounge at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox in Chicago. This event is a fundraiser for the Center, and the Fifth Province will be open for food, drink, and live music afterward.

Presentation 1: Procrastinator's Handbook (see more info below) 1pm-3pm. \$10; Presentation 2: The Clutterbusting Handbook (see more info below) 3pm-5pm. \$10. -Special deal- come to both and get your tickets for \$15.
irish-amer.org. 773-282-7035.

Traditional Irish Music Sessions Tuesday nights

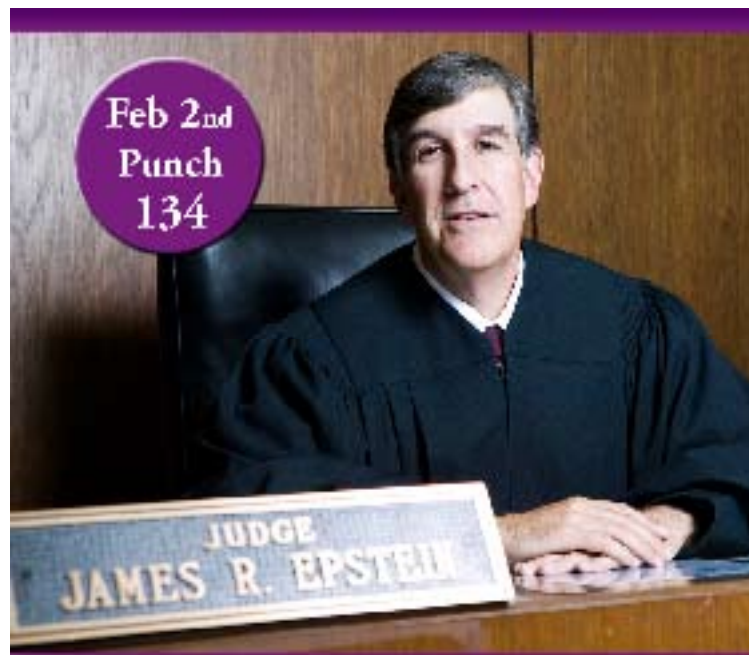
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Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West



The future is golden for our Irish literary heritage.

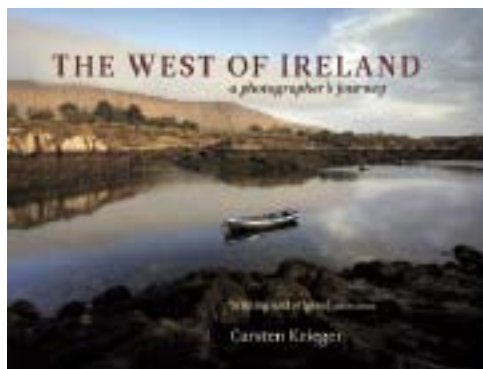
Irish people have always had great respect for the beauty, power, and nuances of words.

In recent years, more and more people have made the commitment to become an author. There is a great flowering of books written by Irish Americans and by Irish authors.

This wasn't the case when I began this column in 1977. I had to get books from libraries and from used book stores. Not now!

Here's a sampling of recent books.

The West of Ireland: A Photographer's Journey



All my relatives came from the west of Ireland. So when I saw this book of photographs of there, I was captivated.

I quickly became passionate when I saw the statement on the cover that it contains striking images like

"majestic Ben Bulfin in Sligo." This is near where my grandparents came from (and where I have visited many times.)

To make these gorgeous photos, the author, Carsten Krieger, must have travelled many times and in many seasons to Ireland's west.

Included is a picture of Lough Easley in Sligo. When I was a boy I heard my grandfather praise that magical place.

The exquisite beauty of the landscape shouldn't lead us to forget the hardships endured by our ancestors. It must have been very hard to raise crops to feed a family and to pay that rent. The landscape is beautiful, but the fertile topsoil is very shallow. The best land was taken in the mid 1600s, to pay Cromwell's soldiers. The poorest land was left to the Irish.

Even the bottoms of rivers and lakes were owned by these rude soldiers and their descendants. Any Irish who fished there were punished as poachers!

When the Great Famine occurred (1845-1850), the British government even took the food (it having been paid as rent) out of the country, and left the rotting potatoes for the Irish.

Thanks to our bold, and brave, and lucky ancestors, we are alive today. We must not forget the reasons we are

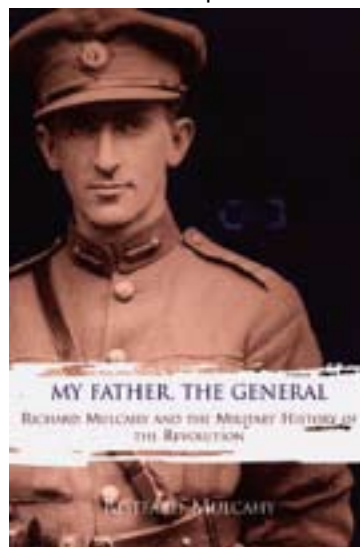
here, and not in Ireland's exquisitely beautiful landscape.

The West of Ireland: A Photographer's Journey by Carsten Krieger. The Collins Press and DuFour Editions; Chester Springs, PA; 2010. 160 pages; \$49.95.

Richard Mulcahy's Vision of Ireland

The young Richard Mulcahy, later General of the Irish Republican Army, visited the West Cork Gaelteacht in the early 1900s. The vivid experiences influenced him for life.

This is a description of those



experiences. "Here he met Irish poets and scholars, seanachai and singers, teachers and language revived enthusiasts. But most of all he met... the local Irish population, still unaffected by the insidious approach of materialism; they were generous, hospitable and most in their needs, and living days steeped in their native culture..."

This biography of Richard

Mulcahy was written by his son, a medical doctor, with a keen interest in modern Irish history. He used his father's writings, both public and private, and his father's personal and intimate tape recordings.

As a young man, Mulcahy trained to be an engineer. An ardent Irish nationalist, with valuable engineering experience. He quickly came to the attention of the Irish Republican Army.

His bravery, and brilliant organizing and planning skills permitted him to rise rapidly in the IRA. He became Commandant of the Dublin Brigade. Then, during Ireland's War of Independence, he became Chief of Staff of the IRA. He worked closely with Michael Collins, and supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921.

After Collins was murdered by de Valera's soldiers, Mulcahy became leader of the Provisional Government's army.

He represented Fine Gael in both the lower and upper houses of the Dail.

Mulcahy was a kind and generous man who devoted his life to Ireland's deep desire for freedom, to its language and to its culture.

My Father, The General: Richard Mulcahy and the Military History of the Revolution by Risteard Mulcahy. Liberties Press and DuFour Editions; Dublin; 2010. 263 pages; \$31.95.

Sabu And Me

How creative and imaginative this young author is. She is Maura Lane, and is in second grade here in Chicago.

Sabu is her pet dog, and they adore each other. How do you show a close relation like that? Maura does



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www.lw210.org/spotlightseries

this by how her dog relates to her as she grows: first, when as a baby, she comes home from the hospital, then when she begins to crawl, then when she learns to eat at a table, etc.

Maura Lane lives in a nurturing home, and is well loved. She is aware of her Irish heritage, and has both



American and Irish citizenship.

The book is illustrated with bright, cheerful pictures of her and her developing relation with Sabu.

Those lovely illustrations were drawn by Hazel Mitchell. Mitchell has illustrated many children's books, and has clients worldwide.

Another nice feature of Sabu And Me is that all profits from on-line sales of this outstanding book will be donated to Paws Chicago.

I want to thank Maura's proud dad, Jeff, who I met at a party. He told me about this unique book.

I enjoyed reading Sabu And Me because it shows the innocent outlook of a very observant young person.

Sabu And Me by Maura Lane. Alton Road Publishing; Miami, FL; 2009. 21 pages; \$14.95. www.sabuandme.com.

Where is Home?

The Yellow House, by Patricia Falvey, shows the reader the intense

pressure the nationalist people of Northern Ireland had to live with. Religious intolerance, and the resulting economic discrimination, has been part of life in the North for generations.

These harsh facts of life are changing slowly in our time.

They were the cause of the recent war there, called "the Troubles." The war lasted from 1969 to 1998. The Provisional IRA, or Provos, fought the unionists, and the British police and army to a standstill. It only ended in 1998, with a peace agreement among the unionists, the British government, and Sinn Fein (the party allied with the IRA.)

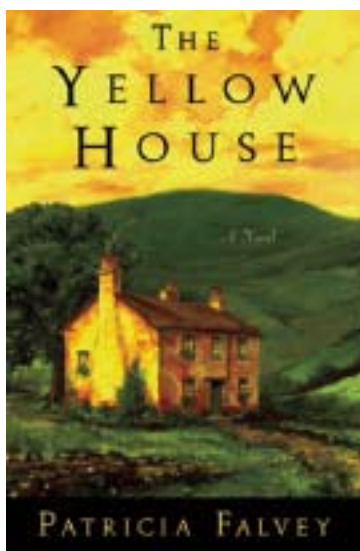
The shared government that resulted with the unionists and Sinn Fein is working. People from both heritages don't like each other (maybe never will), but they are learning to live in peace.

This is the background to The Yellow House. Not only is the book powerfully written, but for me it is also personally intimate. Why? Because I have relatives who live in the North, and relatives who live in Sligo, near the border.

You can often tell where a book's plot and characters are going. But so many times, I was astonished to find that what I expected on the next page was a complete surprise. Falvey held my close attention with suspenseful events that constantly amazed me.

Here are information and observations about Patricia Falvey. She was born in Neury, Northern Ireland. She lived for a while in England, and as a young woman came to the United States—with only \$200 in her pocket!

She achieved the American dream. She became an accountant (specializ-



ing in taxation), and ultimately becoming Managing Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the largest financial service company in the world!

However, writing was her first love, and as this book shows, she is a very, very good writer. The Yellow House is a powerful book, full of strongly drawn characters that exemplify vitality, humanity, and passion for life. They are so realistic, I felt like I knew them.

The book asks: Where is home? Is it a place in our hearts? A house? A childhood memory? Is it a real place or a dream we hope to attain? Maybe, it is in the neighborhood where we were born and raised.

The Irish playwright, Brian Friel, asks that question in the play The House Place. The family that owns vast lands in Donegal, still considers their home to be in Kent, in England, where they come from 300 years ago!

On the last page, as the boundary in 1924, creates the artificial boundaries of Northern Ireland, Falvey

has her main character answer the question: Where is home? "I, too, have drawn close to me those things that matter—love, family, and home. I have left outside the borders anger, fear, and regret."

The Yellow House by Patricia Falvey. Hachette Book Group; New York, NY; 2009. 352 pages; \$21.99. www.centerstreet.com.

The Brightest Star In The Sky

By Marian Keyes

Internationally bestselling author Marian Keyes is a preeminent voice in women's commercial fiction. In her new book, The Brightest Star In The Sky: A Novel (Viking; January, 2010; \$26.95; 978-0-670-02140-6), Keyes

delivers a wry and life-affirming story centered on a disparate group of neighbors forced by unusual circumstances to depend on each other in order to transform their lives.

The Brightest Star In The Sky: A Novel is a refreshing, funny, heart-warming drama with a compelling and vast cast of authentically rendered characters that will charm and delight all who meet them. Keyes, whose earthy novels have made her an international phenomenon, delivers another satisfying story that charms with its wit and surprises with its depth.

Marian Keyes was born in Limerick in 1963, and brought up in Cavan, Cork, Galway and Dublin; she spent her twenties in London, and lives now in Dun Laoghaire with her husband Tony. www.amazon.com.



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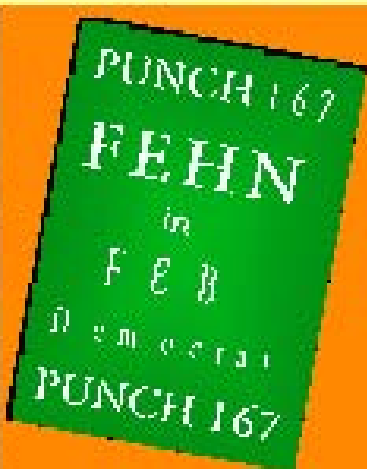
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Chicago, Illinois



Meet Your Match at the Annual Hooley



Love is in the air in the Fifth Province! The IAHC will celebrate Valentine's Day again with its annual Valentine's Day Hooley.

What's a hooley? A hooley is an old-fashioned Irish term for a dance and party. It has been a huge success in the past and includes dancing, singing, refreshments and live music with Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine.

To celebrate the holiday, there will be a Lisdoonvarna corner.

Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, Ireland, is home to the Lisdoonvarna matchmaking Matchmaking Festival, where each year, swarms of singles travel to meet that someone special.

The IAHC's foray into matchmaking will be set against the backdrop of the Fifth Province's fireplace, with facilitators available to make that perfect match. We have had many folks meet that special someone during the hooley, one

match even resulting in a 2008 wedding!

Already paired up? No matter, the event is open to all who just want to celebrate the holiday with live music and dance.

The Hooley is Sunday, February 14, 2010 is from 5pm to 9pm. The cost is \$12 and includes refreshments. A cash bar will be available. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

2010 Film Series Keeps it Reel

The Film Series at the Center returns in February with the screening of the critically-acclaimed documentary, Jackie: Behind the Myth.

For a few short years, she was America's legendary First Lady. The film traces the arc of the extraordinary life of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, from her seemingly idyllic youth to her days as a beloved First Lady to her post-White House marriage and career and finally to her valiant

efforts to promote and preserve America's cultural heritage. This program reveals an intelligent, insightful woman whose courage and commitment captured the heart of a nation.

Co-writer Karen Kelle-



her will be present to introduce the movie and present a post-film discussion.

The film is Friday, February 5 at 8pm and the price is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Munnelly in Concert

Concert Part of St. Patrick's Day 2010 Celebrations

The IAHC is pleased to announce the return of Munnelly in concert this spring. The band appears at the IAHC on Sunday, March 14 at 7pm. Tickets are \$20.

Munnelly is one of Ireland's top young groups, featuring some of the most exciting established and rising stars of Irish music. The band has been making waves on both sides of the Atlantic and their style is reminiscent of the Irish American dance

The band is led by David Munnelly, who was born and raised in County Mayo. Munnelly is a

an award-winning composer. He toured with The Chieftains from the age of 21 to 25, and is



halls of the 1920's.

charismatic young Irish button accordionist and

featured on their CD, Water from the Well.



With members from Mayo, Dublin, Donegal, Tyrone and Brighton, England, these exciting musicians combine button accordion, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, piano, bodhrán and flute for a high-spirited instrumental sound colored with a bit of jazz and ragtime, and extraordinary percussive dancing topped with the singing of All-Ireland champion Shauna Mullin.

"The Irish band to see"

(Irish Voice) has won critical acclaim for incorporating the sound of the 1920s and 1930s and such bands from that era as the Flanagan Brothers with its traditional roots. Munnelly was awarded "Concert of the Year" for both 2006 and 2007 by Livelreland.com.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center



President's Message

Without a doubt, the best thing about being president of the Irish American Heritage Center is the people. In the past year and a half I have met so many people who share a common bond—our Center. I've met people of all ages who come together to enjoy a particular event at the Center or to roll up their sleeves and help make our Center a better place. I've made new friends, developed new colleagues, reconnected with old friends, and have had old acquaintances develop into good friends.

That is why I am so excited about 2010. We are planning so many unique and exciting events that will bring people together more and more at our Center. Concerts, plays, parties, exhibits, festivals, dances, family gatherings—everything geared toward

bringing more people to our Center and back to our Center on a regular basis.

By far though, I am most



excited about our membership drive that is currently getting underway. Our goal

for 2010 is 2010 new members! New members mean new energy, new volunteers, and new ideas. Our membership is the backbone of our organization. With more members, we will have more people attending our events and more people supporting the Center. A larger membership will solidify the financial base of the organization and help to secure long-term success. In this newsletter you will find more information on the membership drive, what you can do to help us attract new members and possibly win a trip to Ireland for your efforts!

The mission of the organization is to preserve and strengthen Irish culture and heritage, but there is nothing to preserve or strengthen without the people who celebrate their heritage and enjoy

expressing and engaging in their culture. There isn't a day that goes by without me hearing something about how much people care for our Center, what it means to their parents, or how they took dancing or music lessons there. It is very rewarding to be a part of something that people look upon so fondly.

If the only thing I can take from my time as president are the people I've met along the way, then I'll consider it time extremely well spent. I look forward to meeting all the new and current members along the way.

Robert McNamara
*President,
Board of Directors,
The Irish American
Heritage Center*

Executive Director's Message

Keep your eyes peeled:

As you have probably noticed during the past few months, the amount of activities happening at the Center on a regular basis has been on the rise, which has brought large crowds to us and has created a positive vibe and energy around here, particularly on weekends. As the trend continues this spring, keep your ear to the ground for what's happening at the IAHC. Just in February, we will host a viewing of the PBS documentary *Behind the Myth* about Jackie Kennedy in the auditorium, a Super Bowl party in the Fifth Province, a Valentine's Day Hooley in the Fifth Province, motivational talks related to procrastination and clutter by best-selling Irish-American

author Rita Emmett in the Fifth Province, a talk-radio parody called *You're On The Air* by Irish-American playwright Vicki Quade and WGN radio personality Jerry Agar in the Erin Room, and *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Seanachai Theatre Company in the 3rd Floor Theatre. All unique, all interesting, and all fun!

There is no better time to be a member of the Irish American Heritage Center than right now. Come on out and enjoy yourselves—and bring friends to make friends. The member-get-a-member campaign is just getting its wheels on the ground, so if you have not heard about it yet or just have not found the chance to reach out to people, you are not too far behind

(Chuck Grant leads the pack with 12 new members—addaboy Chuck). How-



ever, with a trip for two to Ireland at stake, there is not a moment to waste.

Here comes the Mini-Heritage Line

Quarterly, we will release a mini-newsletter to announce personal news, meeting news, membership campaign news, and other updates. In the February edition, which will be released in the next two weeks, you will notice that we will be holding a member townhall on Sunday, February 21st. I would love to see all of you there as we present our 2010 plans for our Chicago Irish home.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell
*Executive Director
The Irish American
Heritage Center*



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American
heritage center Chicago, Illinois



Shapeshifters Sprout Wings for Spring Show and AIITF

Shapeshifters Theatre is pleased to announce their 2010 spring show is the Irish family story, *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* by former Chicagoan, Ann Noble. *Wings* was named Best Play of 1995 by New City and received two American Theatre Critics Association's Award nominations for playwriting.

Wings is the story of Kathleen and Eveline Donnelly, sisters in 1950's rural Ireland. The Donnelly sisters have just lost their mother and are struggling to find themselves. Kathleen can't decide between her sweet fiancé and a dashing actor; Eveline tries to prioritize her responsibility to her widowed father, a coveted university scholarship and her feelings for a new man in her life. When their mother makes a ghostly appearance to lend a supernatural hand, tempers flare and secrets are revealed. The conflict of duty versus love affects both sisters, and both finally realize what paths their lives must take.

Wings opens April 16 and runs through May 9 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$10 for members

of the IAHC. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035 or email shapeshifters@irishahc.org.

Shapeshifters will also perform *Wings* as the opening night entry in the 17th annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival, and the group is also the host city for this year's festival. The AIITF was founded in 1993 as an association of Irish theater troupes from across North America. More than a dozen Irish theatre companies from the US, Canada, and now Ireland are invited to present plays as part of a competition judged by professionals in the theatre community. By tradition, the host organization stages the opening production and the winner of the 2009 festival (the Toronto Irish Players for *A Skull in Connemara*) will close the festival. The AIITF runs from May 17-22 at the IAHC, with both afternoon and evening performances. Tickets for all shows are \$15; additional information and tickets for performances and closing awards ceremony and brunch will go on sale in March. For more information and to purchase tickets, email AIITF2010@aol.com or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Irish Heritage Singers Plan Busy Season

2009 was a busy year with performances at the St. Patrick's Fest at the IAHC, Avenues to Independence, the 2009 Heartland International Tattoo, Irish Fest at Gaelic Park, Luther Village in Arlington Heights, the IAHC Irish Fest, Des Plaines Park District Under the Stars Concert, a Misericordia Fundraising Event, the iBAM Mass at IAHC, mass and caroling at the IAHC Bazaar and the International Christmas Concert sponsored by the Chicago Metro Chorus. Their annual concert, *Slainte and Shalom* was a huge success celebrating the history of the Jews in Ireland through the combination of Jewish and Irish music. For the audience there were tears, laughter and an opportunity to perform with the Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Singers and the Irish Heritage Singers in one voice.

The Singers will perform on Sunday, March 7 for the Orland Park Park District and donate their singing talents at a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser on Sunday, March 14 for Avenues to Independence, a non-profit, charitable organization that provides programs and services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Next up, they'll perform at the Prairie Arts Center in Schaumburg on Saturday, March 20 at 8pm, with guest performers, The Weber School of Irish Dance. To purchase tickets, call the Prairie Arts Center at 847-895-3600 or visit www.prairiecenter.org. Extend your St. Patrick's Day celebration with great music and dance.

To join or hire the Irish Heritage Singers, contact Director Mary Grimes at 773-282-7035, ext. 34. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations Span Full Week

The IAHC continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March.

What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that

ditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ire-



the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof. People wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay late, beating the bar crowds and cold weather.

On Friday, March 12, step off the holiday with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish dance event at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish step dancers, all on one stage.

On Saturday, March 13, the IAHC holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes tra-

land. Confirmed performers include The Mickey Finns, Tim O'Shea and Friends, The Dooley Brothers and The Irish Heritage Singers. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if purchased before March 12. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. Tickets go on sale on February 1 at 9am.

On Wednesday, March 17, the IAHC will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day party in the Center's Fifth Province Lounge. The day-long event runs from noon until 1 am. Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. The cost is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



Planning a Special Event?



Visit the IAHC and tour any of our rental rooms for your special occasion.

The Erin Room (above) is a brand new, high-end social venue seating up to 310 people. Perfect for weddings, galas, benefits, anniversary parties, sweet sixteen parties, corporate luncheons, funeral luncheons and many other gatherings.

The room is air-conditioned and includes a top quality sound system, top quality projector system, a 10'x20' stage, a mahogany bar, a cloak room, a bride's room, a prep kitchen, brand new chairs and 72-in and 54-in round tables.

To book a visit call 773-282-7035.

February 2010

February 3	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
February 4	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Sham. Amer. Rm.	10am
February 5	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Fifth Province	8:30pm
February 6	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham. Amer. Rm.	8pm
February 7	Super Bowl Party	Fifth Province	6pm
February 13	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
	Great Irish Books Club Discussion	Library	2pm
February 14	Valentine's Day Hooley	Fifth Province	5pm
February 16	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 304	7pm
February 18	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Sham. Amer. Rm.	10am
February 19	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
February 20	Procrastination and Clutter-busting Presentation	Erin Room	1pm
February 26	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
February 27	You're On the Air	Erin Room	8pm
February 28	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tuesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 205	9:30am
	Traditional Irish Art Class	Room 308	7pm
Wednesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 205	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
Thursday	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
Friday	Francis O'Neill Ceili Practice and Dance	Room 111	8pm
Saturday	Irish School	Various	9am

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the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

February 2010

Fri, 2/5	Ceili Dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago
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Fri, 2/12	Barry Fagan's Band
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Sun, 2/14	Valentine's Day Hooley
Fri, 2/19	Matt Stedman Band
Sat, 2/20	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Fri, 2/26	Joe McShane
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No reservations necessary



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center Chicago, Illinois



2010 IAHC Membership Drive

Member – Get A Member Contest

YOU Could WIN a Trip to Ireland!

Calling all Irish American Heritage Center Members! Encourage a new person to join the IAHC and you have the chance to **win a trip for two to Ireland**. It couldn't be easier, as each of us probably knows someone who should become a member (or maybe has become a lapsed member).

If you are not a member – join today and you can start recruiting members to get into the contest.

Our membership is the backbone of our organization. In an effort to strengthen our organization, we are looking to expand our membership and bring our mission to as many

people as possible. A healthy, active and large membership will help to keep our Center viable for years to come. **The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members!**

The beauty of our IAHC is that there is something for everyone – music, dance, literature, theater, Irish Language lessons, social activities, volunteer opportunities, the Fifth Province, and, of course, festivals and parties! Membership supports all of our programs and allows people to be involved at whatever level suits their schedule and interests.

Get your family and friends to join and win a trip to Ireland or other great prizes.

Here are the contest rules:

1. All current IAHC members are eligible to recruit new members for this contest.

2. Multiple referrals are allowed. For each person that you recruit, you get an additional chance to win! The more new members you find, the better your chances of winning. Our goal this year is 2010 new members!

3. The person who recruits the most new members will receive a free party at the Irish American Heritage Center for themselves and 25 guests.

4. For the purpose of the contest, the new member must not have previously been an IAHC Member within the past year.

5. Members whose membership expired at the end of 2009, may renew their membership and then be eligible to refer new members for the contest.

6. Referral entries must be a new member and not an addition to an existing IAHC family membership.

7. New members that are recruited for this contest may in turn also recruit new members and be entered into the contest.

How to enter:

Once you have identified a new member for IAHC, have them fill out a IAHC Membership Form or contact the office for details.

On the top of the new member's form, insert your name in the, "I was recruited by" space.

Have the new member complete the form and submit it with their dues to the Center for processing.

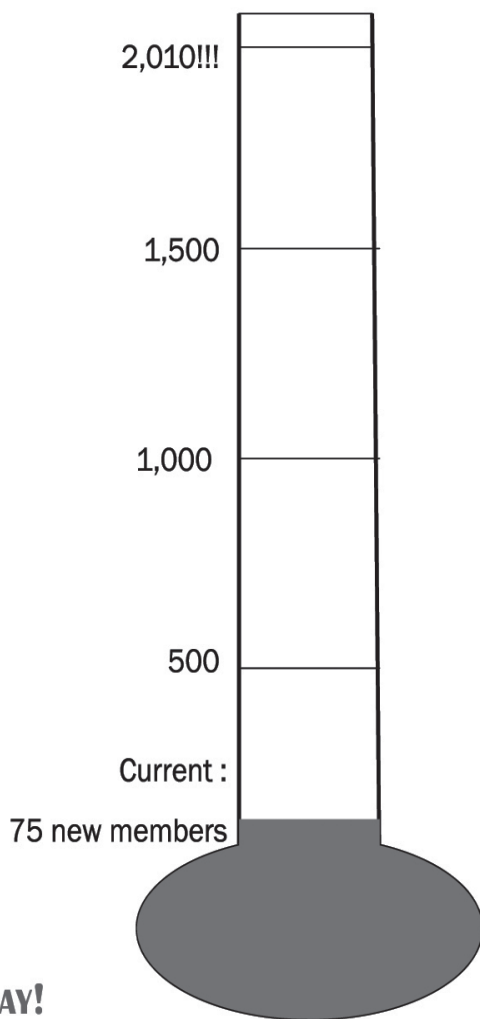
Membership Forms are available below or on-line at www.irish-american.org.

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by December 31st, 2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at the 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January of 2011 (a new event yet to be scheduled).

2010 IAHC Membership Drive

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\$1,000 - Chieftain 10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King 25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint Lifetime membership without annual dues





The Irish Rover

By James McClure



clueless how to travel from point A to point B without mistreating designer luggage or misreading a common train schedule.

A misstep and bad stop along the way includes a pitying

stationmaster who takes the two under his wing and beneath the roof of his wife's staid couples cottage who disapproved of unmarries sharing her beds. Declan and Anna thus must share not only a ridiculous impromptu married last name but also a too narrow bed. And a kiss that would steam the hottest pot of hearth made Irish stew.

Along the way they both grow... Anna loses her snobbery and Declan his slobbery, all of which leads to a climax of just who the girl will propose to... and when.

The result is a movie the whole family can see... nothing more than kisses in the hotel for married and the obligatory if disappointing living together Anna and Doctor planning their new condo sans matrimony. If you prefer a more romantic, traditional and chaste turn on marriage you'll get it in the conclusion (and conclusions) of "Leap Year."

It's just in time for February 14th and not for Leap Year, that's not until 2012. As for great Irish cultural insights, expect more cultural stereotypes with the breathtaking on location scenery.

And as for that Irish Leap Day mythology, my Italian American girlfriend Ginny informs me she's heard that one for Italian girls too... and adds with a smile that she had a similar notion back in 2008. Obviously my knowledge of all things Irish, and women, has a ways to go.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

An Irish Leap of Love

Some things you just have to do on impulse... marriage shouldn't be one of them.

Just the same I split the difference and split the Edens Expressway Spur after platonic brunch with a drop dead gorgeous Irish American gal (unavailable of course) for a fantasy Irish American marriage spin seeing the movie "Leap Year."

Arriving alone just in time at the Buffalo Grove Theatres, I settled in with my Junior Mints expecting exactly what I got... a loopy, funny, even if a bit predictable will she or won't she romance comedy.

The she would be actress Amy Adams as Anna, a Boston Irish American who knows in her heart (and her stereotype red dyed hair) that the doctor man of her dreams is about to pop the question but instead up pops a gift set of earrings. Learning from slightly boozy Irish father John Lithgow in a Boston pub that women can propose to men on Leap Year Day, Anna gets the Celtic women's lib urge and decides to pursue her man to a medical convention in Dublin.

The romantic comedy of errors continues with a weather stopover in Wales, a barely useful boat ride to Dingle, and a soggy, disheveled out of sorts suitress to be days behind her boyfriend and hours before Leap Day. Will she make it? Not likely, given the run down pub in Dingle where one taxi driver falls over drunk, and the other, pub owner Declan, played by Matthew Goode offering a truly bad choice.

Declan's being down at the heels starts with his scruffy chin. His clothes and manner are scruffier and with foreclosure imminent he charges an outrageous amount to force Anna to pay through her upturned nose. The rest of the movie is charming and funny snob vs. slob... with Declan receiving a fair amount of crap for not meeting Anna's well-to-do standards and the ever high-heeled Anna stepping into her fair share of dung as well.

The journey over hill and dale from Dingle to Dublin is a personal journey for each of the two misfit travelers. The Boston debutante is ill-prepared for anything involving personal exertion or problem solving, the Dingle pub man seemingly

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



How do you get an Irishman to stand when you enter the room?

Simple, just say, "Will the defendant please rise!"

You don't usually see an Italian guy helping an Irishman in court. Most of the time they're trying to put each other in jail.

But recently a goombah saved my bacon.

Last month it was my turn to be the defendant in a courtroom. I was there to fight the system and plead not guilty to a traffic citation issued unjustly.

The court in question was located in lovely Maywood and although I wasn't the only Irishman there that day, we were definitely in the minority. Oh I'm sure there were a few Fitzgeralds and Murphys in court that day, but primarily the Ella and Eddie variety.

A rookie Oak Park cop had nailed me weeks earlier for a moving violation on my way to visit editor Cliff Carlson. Cliff sensed my exasperation as I entered his swingin' bachelor pad, offered me a beer and then listened as I moaned about how I couldn't afford the fine. The check I went to pick up that day was less than the cost of the ticket I got going to get it.

Yeah, I was pissed, but I had inadvertently touched a nerve with editor Carlson as he launched into a diatribe about parking on the street in Oak Park. He beefed that he had three different stickers on his vehicle just so he could park in front of his crib, and still he had to set an alarm for

parking rant had him practically frothing at the mouth. Don't get him started!

I left with my scrip and took the same route home as I had getting there. Coming through the intersection I saw the young cop sitting in his car and then watched him pull another guy over at the exact same spot he had nailed me. Hey, this



is a stinkin' setup!

Now I was really irked and decided then and there that I was going to fight the power.

A postcard arrived in the mail with my court date a few weeks later and I started building my case. I drove over to the intersection and took two dozen photographs of the sign in question. I made some charts which I rehearsed with in my basement as I bellowed like Hamilton Burger, "So you see your honor, the sign is clearly misleading, especially at dusk when these photographs were

taken, on a day not unlike the day my client Mr. Hooligan zipped across the street. As you can see, the sign says "Only", but I ask the court, only what? Yes there is an arrow next to "only", but that arrow could be interpreted a hundred different ways, your honor. Only what? Up? Down? In the barrel? What?"

On the morning of my trial I took the day off work and walked into the courtroom confidently carrying my dossier of photos and charts. There were no seats left because the entire population of Detroit was sitting in that courtroom. I squeezed next to Moms Mabley in the front row and surveyed the room, sizing up the states attorney. I overheard him castigating another Irish guy for trying to get his case dismissed.

Uh oh. The judge entered the courtroom and he looked like Golda Meir in drag wearing black robes. I was doomed.

And then I saw a familiar face from the neighborhood, Bill Gamboney.

Bill is a friend from Sunday mass and we've shared a cocktail or two at my neighborhood saloon, Kevil's. Better than that, Bill Gamboney was a lawyer, and he looked like he knew his way around this room. We nodded and I wondered what my next move would be.

Gamboney sidled up to me, leaned over and said, "Do you need some help here?"

We hustled out into the hallway and I showed him my charts and photographs and asked for his honest opinion of my chances. He looked at me like I had antlers growing out of my head. "Well it MIGHT work, but I wouldn't count on it. Why don't you just plead guilty and pay the fine? It's probably only another couple bucks since you bonded out. You want me to handle it for ya?"

"Do I have to pay you? 'Cuz I don't have any dough."

My antlers now had grown their own antlers and Gamboney said, "No, of course not."

And that was that. They called my name and Gamboney brought me before the judge and I was out of there in ten minutes, a free man! I felt bad because my tapioca would prevent me from duking Bill Gamboney and offered him a complimentary issue of this great paper, with the caveat, "Well I know you're Italian, but here's a copy of my paper."

Gamboney took the January issue filled with judges I want to get elected, (Russ Hartigan, Tom Hogan, Mary Katherine Rochford, John Griffin, Dan Malone, and Jimmy Ryan) and he smiled, "No I'd love to read it, my mother was a Phelan!"

Well, that explains everything!

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



ful in the past to your current job search. At the onset of your search, you want to develop a systematic approach to process. The precise

composition of any system you develop is not nearly as important as is its very existence.

Many people get caught up in processing data; they don't distinguish between activity and achievement. Those whose search focuses simply on responding to internet job listings are kidding themselves. You have to deal with the realities. A personal contact is far more likely to be productive than sending your resume to a total stranger. And yet, many job searchers describe their activity level by how many emails they send out each week.

#4. SEEING PEOPLE.

While watching an NBA game several years ago, I heard a statement that still speaks to me. John Stockton, the outstanding guard for the Utah Jazz, was not guarding his man closely. Magic Johnson, the color commentator, said that John had to get in the player's face in order to stop him from scoring. To Magic, it was simple—if Stockton is in his face, his opponent would not score. If Stockton lays off the guy, he would score. If you accept the analogy—to be successful in finding a job you have to get into people's face. GO SEE THEM. You don't make a sale without a sales call.

You must let them know that you are out here. Let them know what you seek. Tell every contact four things: (1) what you have been doing; (2) what you want to do now; (3) what level of compensation you are looking for; and (4) where do you want to live geographically. Develop a two or three sentence introduction for yourself. If people know even a little bit about you they will feel more comfortable with you. Then they are far more likely to be of help. So your task is to make a friend out of a complete stranger. Most people want to help you but you need to give them a reason to help you. Offer to help them in some way i.e. by giving them contact names at companies that interest them.

Remember that there are different levels of contact or intimacy. If you email somebody, it is not interactive. There is no immediacy associated with it. The recipient could be reading your message on a commuter train. There is only a second level of intimacy to a telephone call. Think about it, you could talk to a person for 20 minutes on the phone, walk out of your office, stand next to

the same person on the elevator, and not even know who they are. The ultimate goal is face to face contact. Once you have met a person it isn't likely that you'll ever treat them quite the same way as if you hadn't met them. They have entered your psyche. And, of course, the whole notion of seeing people should culminate in a "real" interview: the ultimate purpose of contacts.

#5. DEVELOPING PERSISTENCE.

Can you think of a single business leader, politician, or religious figure that you admire that is not persistent? Do you really admire anybody that isn't persistent? Plain and simple, you need to keep at it.

#6. BEING IN CONTROL.

Many job seekers simply give up the reins of their search to their outplacement consultant, some friend, or a mentor/colleague, associate/significant other. Somebody else dictates the process. Don't allow that to happen to you. Don't allow your contacts to dictate to you. People say things like, "Well, my contact doesn't want me to talk to the referral until he/she does first." That could be weeks, months, or even never. The person receiving your resume does not see your job search with your same sense of urgency.

#7. DOING YOUR HOMEWORK.

Many job seekers simply don't do the fundamentals. They don't prepare an achievement-oriented resume. They don't make sure that their resume is typo-free. So consider these three simple concepts when developing your resume: A) Make it readable, B) Keep it crisp and neat, and C) Give yourself enough credit.

Are you prepared to be interviewed right this minute? Most of us are simply not prepared to talk about ourselves. Do you have a crisp five minute presentation ready? Can you answer fundamental questions like, "Why should I hire you?" Have you thought about these things? You need to hone your interviewing skills continuously. Ask a close colleague to conduct an interview.

Take thirty minutes to review these seven obstacles with somebody else in job search. Discuss how you will overcome these barriers. Discuss how you might help each other. In my experience, your job search could be significantly shortened if you learn how to deal with these seven obstacles.

I certainly hope this six part series has been helpful to you or others you know. Carpe diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, Illinois-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone# 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net.

Can You Overcome These Seven Obstacles?

This is the final column of six dealing with the specific issues related to a real or anticipated job loss. The first column in September addressed how one keeps his/her current job, while preparing for the possibility of termination. The second, in October, addressed the lessons that job coaches have learned about the process. Third and fourth columns covered the need for preparing and rehearsing for your interviews while learning things that the average job seeker doesn't know. The fifth column was really a job search pep talk.

This column will address the most frequent and major obstacles that I have seen people stumble over time and again. It is essential that you learn how to recognize and overcome these obstacles. The seven obstacles are:

- Overcoming inertia
- Handling rejection
- Getting organized
- Seeing people
- Developing persistence
- Being in control
- Doing your homework.

#1. OVERCOMING INERTIA.

Being unemployed dissipates a person's energies. Very active, energetic people acquire the habit of procrastinating when in a job search. They cross into the world of Gonna. They are "gonna" contact that company. They are "gonna" call that prospect. They are "gonna" look up the information.

Do you know anybody who is successful in their career by working only five hours a week? Why five hours? Because some experts say that is the amount of time that the typical job seeker spends per week looking for a job. The real test of success in the job search is: Can you get yourself moving? Set attainable goals and work towards their achievement. Get into exercise; it will help to keep your energy up.

#2. HANDLING REJECTION.

This concern seems to go to the core of our existence. What's been your experience? Have you heard people speak enthusiastically about how they were turned down? Nobody likes rejection. But our life experiences tell us that no one bats .1000.

Do you expect to win (succeed) at every single interview? We need to deal with the realization that even the best athletes, insurance sale representatives and job seekers, do not win all of the time. Can we mitigate our need to succeed by redefining success? Have an alternative strategy if you see a "NO" coming. Don't leave an interview empty-handed. Consider flattering the interviewer a bit and then ask him for a couple of referrals.

#3. GETTING ORGANIZED

The job search process seems to drain us of every organizational cell that we have applied to our work for years. You have to apply the same organizational skills that have made you success-

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



MASS GRAVE LOCATIONS. For the past few decades people have come to me with information about Holocaust "famine" mass graves. In some cases the mass grave was in one of the fields of the farm on which they were born. My "MASS GRAVES OF IRELAND; 1845-1850" map at www.irishholocaust.org locates all those known to me at the time but we've learned of many more since then. Each cross on that site's map represents a mass grave and the word nearest it identifies its location. You will notice that the same map includes the 75 British regiments that created the graves. All workhouse mass graves are accounted for on the map. But, nowhere near comprehensive is the list of mass graves known to be scattered across the countryside. Many are being forgotten, as parents in Ireland, knowing the fates of its patriots, tend to not inform their children about

them lest they, too, become patriots. The irishholocaust.org map is too crowded to accommodate more data, so my upcoming book will include two maps, one identifying the 75 Food Removal regiments and the districts they were assigned to strip of edibles, and the second one showing only locations of mass graves.

NOW'S THE TIME to ensure that the mass grave you know of will never be forgotten. Reach me at 312/664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net to have the mass grave(s) you know of included with all other known ones. The book's map will include it, representing it as a cross with the name of its townland alongside it. Let us no longer abet the murderers by remaining silent about specific mass grave locations. Instead, let's obey the 8th Commandment by bearing truthful witness. We will help end genocide as government policy by ending our silence about these additional evidences of Britain's

1845-50 deeds in Ireland. Please don't let fear overcome your conscience. What can the genocidists' abettors do to us other than ignore or slur the book and its information while promoting Big Lie books about "potatoes" and "famine" and "young love"?

TIME RUNS OUT regarding the mass graves. Knowledge of the existence of the Lisnabinnia mass grave would probably be lost by now had Tom Egan of Ballyglass, Ballymoe, Co. Galway not known of my Mass Graves... pamphlet and sought me out in 2000 regarding his knowledge of the mass grave in his townland, and had Maggie Flanagan (RIP) not been available to point out its exact location (in the distant-most field of her family's farm which, though ideally tillable, was never ploughed again after her father's plough hit the bodies in his first Spring on that newly-redistributed land about 1910). Mr. Egan's info about those mass deaths and Prof. Tom Fahy's map suggestion led me to visit the Irish Ordnance Survey offices in Phoenix Park, Dublin. Its 1838 map of that area showed the source of those bodies: Lisnabinnia village's seventeen houses.

The map also shows the nearby village of Parkgarve. By 1851 both had been obliterated.

BACKGROUND. Attendees at the July 2, 2000 public consecration/inauguration of the Lisnabinnia village memorial evidently felt encouraged. That day alone brought to our attention additional mass graves: one each in nearby Kilbegnet, in Keellogues(?), in Kilkeevin, Castlereagh; in Kilglass, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon; and in Ahildotia, Kealkill, Bantry, Co. Cork. The ones in Kilbegnet and Kilkeevin were of the most common type; located immediately outside the local cemetery wall. Cemeteries were and are considered consecrated ground containing, as most do, the remains of an earlier church, and the parish priests were fearful of incurring the wrath of the local English landlord by providing Last Rites and Christian burial to those being murdered to increase his profits. It was only thirteen years earlier in 1829 that Ireland's English local magistrates stopped paying the mandated bounties of five shillings each for severed heads of Catholic priests.

Also, for centuries under British rule prior to 1829 Irish Catholics were stripped of legal personhood. Thus, the killing of any Irish Catholic man, woman or child was, legally, a non-event. Irish Catholics were felons a priori; the law existed only for their punishment; never for their protection. Community histories of Garrahan, Co. Roscommon, of Rivertown, Co. Sligo or an adjacent parish, and of other localities report that their parish priests denied Last Rites and Christian burial to their Holocaust victims. It is important to say here, that even had the parish priests the courage to treat these parishioners as such, the continuing removal of Ireland's food at British army gun-point created a torrent of deaths that overwhelmed everything. Once scores or hundreds were dying each day in nearly all parishes the few priests couldn't begin to cope. Mass graves became the only option.

PLEASE CONTACT ME (312/664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net) with your information about a mass grave. It is the right thing to do. You can do it confidentially, or with attribution to you; whichever you prefer. But don't delay. If you know of a mass grave or know someone who does, please

get me the information. The book will soon be completed, so this might be your last opportunity to bear honest witness for those buried in that mass grave. If you informed me years ago I may have mislaid the data, so please re-inform me.

THE BOOK will be available within a few months. Its price is not known yet, but any and all of its gross proceeds ordinarily paid to its authors will be paid directly into a fund for the exclusive purpose of installation of memorials over the mass graves. Thus, this book will accomplish two things that all "famine" writers fail to do; 1) it bears honest witness for the dead and 2) it avoids making a profit out of genocide as its authors will neither accept nor seek a profit. It uses official records of the time to refute the falsehoods of other writers and to reveal crucial data that they omit. It doesn't include a "tender love story" and doesn't refer to the murdered as "dirty" or "feckless" or "alcoholic" so is not aimed at a commercial killing via Hollywood. Though the subject is genocide, the facts are presented and documented in nuanced if not understated style. Still, I expect it to become the definitive work on Ireland's Holocaust.

BEARING WITNESS to the above sensitizes us to genocides everywhere. "Never Again" must apply generally, not only to us. Thus we distinguish between the horrific death tolls in Haiti and Palestine. Though Haiti is far deadlier, our \$taxes are ameliorating its suffering while our \$taxes are delivering death and suffering to Palestine. We must avoid blaming "the Jews" for Palestine. I know many Jews in Chicago, and all of them actively oppose the Israeli gov't's genocide against Palestinians. Many Israelis in Israel are doing all they can to stop their gov't's crimes. Israel's slow genocide against the Palestinians couldn't happen without the Apache helicopter gunships, F16 rocket planes, and Caterpillar D9 dozers that destroy Palestinian villages, etc., that we furnish for those criminal purposes. Contact your US Congressman and both US Senators.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS regarding Occupied Ireland? See www.terrorismireland.org.

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, beneficial? See www.michaelmckevitt.com and www.friendsofcolinduffy.com.

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O'BITUARIES

Friends we will miss



Thomas A. Gibbons

Laid to rest last year at Queen of Heaven Cemetery Thomas A. Gibbons, 66; beloved husband of Margaret "Rita" nee Hickey; loving father of Colleen, Thomas A. Jr. "Tucker" (Marya), Michael (Kerry, CPD) and Patrick; proud "Papa" of Thomas A. III, Daniel, Evan, Maren and William; dear brother of Anne Rita "Ritzie" (the late Harry) See, Catherine "Tykee" (Francis "Packey") Green, Margaret Robinson; fond son-in-law of Michael (the late Johanna) Hickey; brother-in-law of Michael Hickey, Kay (the late Bill) Clifford, Josephine (Richard) Walenda, Billy (Peggy) Hickey and Breda (Eamon) Connaghan; fond uncle of many; friend to all who knew him.. Services were handled by Gibbons Family Funeral Homes.



Michael Newell

Laid to Rest at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, January 4, 2010. Michael Newell, age 76, Native of Annaghdown, Co. Galway, Ireland, beloved husband of Mary, nee Doorley; dearest father of Maura (Eddie) Mannix, John (Bridie), Sheila (Matt) Buckley, Una (Martin) Durkan, Kevin (AnnMarie) and

the late Michael; loving grandfather of Eddie, Michael, Jack, Kevin, John, Kelsey, Ryan, Meghan, Matthew, Conor, Olivia, Brendan, Delaney, Marty, Danny, Colleen, Molly and Michael; dear brother of Nora (Myles McPadden and the late Brendan Hanniffy), Breda (the late Mick) Lally, Willie (Julia), Tom (Anne), Una (Nicky) Murray, John (Ann), Mary (Joe) Carroll, Philomena (Oliver) Tierney, Martin (Sheila), Brendan (Maura), Paddy (Marian), Pius (Kay) and the late Christie (Barbara); fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Contributions may be made to the Saint Patrick Fathers, 1347 West Granville, Chicago, IL 60660. Member of Plumbers Union Local 130. Services were handled by Gibbons Family Funeral Homes.



Bernard Joseph Conboy III

The Southland has lost a gem...
December 6, 1941 - January 18, 2010

"Bernie" Conboy, as he was known to many, will be sorely missed, but his energy and spirit will live on through the lives he touched over his nearly 40 years of community service and volunteer work in the southland.

Bernie was born in Terrell, Texas but spent the majority of his childhood in the south suburbs of Chicago including years at Bremen High School in Midlothian, IL. Even as a young adult he helped coach local football teams, including those of his younger brothers. In his early adulthood he began coaching softball, first in Rockford, Illinois in the early 70s. In the mid 70s, Bernie and his family moved to Orland Park, IL where he continued coaching softball, first with the Orland Youth Association and later with the Orland Park Sparks, IL. In his own words on his 65th birthday this past December, Bernie said helping start the Orland Park Sparks (girls softball team) would be his legacy. The Orland Park Sparks organization began with one girls softball team with girls age 13-15 in the late 70s and has grown to an amazing organization synonymous with excellence, providing countless young athletes with a forum to display talent and earn scholarships, as well as forge lifelong friendships. However, Bernie's coaching days were not limited to girls softball. He also coached girls basketball for St. George School in Tinley Park, football with the Oak Forest flag football program and the Orland Park Knights football program and finally Lightning Bolt Hockey, the ice hockey team associated with Andrew High School in Tinley Park, IL, through 1997, making that over 25 years



of coaching youth sports and touching so many lives along the way. Bernie's good deeds were not limited to coaching, however. In the early 80s he joined the Orland Park Emergency Services and Disaster Agency where he served for many years. He worked as a Public Safety Officer after graduating from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy (at the tender age of forty something, affectionately referred to as "popeye" by his fellow academy attendees) as well as an Orland Park Police Officer. He also was a founding member of SMART (Suburban Mutual and Response Team), which is the Southlands EMA Mutual Aid System and served as the the EMA Director. Finally, he held the post of Director of Emergency Management for Palos Park, IL for the past five years.

Indicative of his impact are the words of one player he coached in basketball in 1979, who has not seen him since, who, upon learning of his death said, "I have such awesome memories of him -- especially, when he was coaching our B-ball team. He had such a gentle, yet authoritative way about it -- he knew how to be a friend and still discipline. He surely will be missed."

Bernie is survived by his wife Dorothy and three children Colleen (John Schmeske), Kathleen (Don Easton) and Bernard IV (Stephanie) and grandchildren, Ryan, Megan, Donald Jr. & Nicholas. Services were held at Sheehy Funeral Home, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, Services were handled by Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home.

Thomas R. Melican

Resting at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,

Beloved Husband of 51 years to Marlene D nee Sullivan. Devoted father of Maureen (Michael) Svob, Teri (John) Salkas, Thomas Jr. (Margaret), and Nancy Sullivan. Proud Grandfather of Danny, Kristen, Nathan, Carley, Jimmy, Brian, Allyssa,

Jonathan, Amanda, and Colleen. Loving Brother of Betty (Joseph) Naples. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. 40 years usher at St. Thomas More Church. One of the "Vis Kids" Services were handled by Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home.



Noreen Brown Hochwert



Laid to rest at All Saints Cemetery on January 16, 2010.

Noreen Browne Hochwert nee O'Brien, She was a Native of Kilkelly, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Dearest mother of Mary, Michael and Peggy Browne and Ann (George) Furman; loving grandmother of 6.

Services were handled by Gibbons Family Funeral Homes.

Patrick Heneghan

Laid to rest in December 2009.

Patrick Heneghan, native of Drimcoggy, Srah, Clairemorris, Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo, Ireland; beloved husband of Margaret nee O'Toole; loving father of Patrick (Carol), Theresa (Mike) Henry, Brian (Sheila), Sean (Maria), Kathleen (Michael) McComb, Michael (Elvia), Colleen (Kirk) Thompson, Martin, Moirra and the late Mary Josephine, Eileen and Michael Anthony; cherished grandfather of 13, great grandfather of 8 and great great grandfather of 2; dear son of the late Patrick and Ellen nee King; fond brother of Mary (Mike Phil) Staunton, Noreen (Tony) Walsh and Michael (Helen) Heneghan and the late James (Peggy), Bridget (the late Pat) Keane, Sr. Celine, RSM, Thomas and Maggie; Donations may be made to Misericordia c/o Martin Heneghan #1697, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

Services were handled by Gibbons Family Funeral Homes.



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The Merry Ploughboys

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Doors Open at 7:30pm

Show Begins at 8:30pm

Admission \$20.00 - Cash Bar



The Wolfe Tones

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Doors Open at 7:30pm

Show Begins at 8:30pm

Admission \$25.00 - Cash Bar

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Doors Open at 11:00am

Luncheon Served at 12:00pm

Admission \$25.00 - Cash Bar

St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Show - Starring



Deirdre Reilly & Her Band

Doors Open at 6:00pm

Dinner Served at 7:00pm

Show Begins at 9:00pm

Admission \$45.00 - Cash Bar



Catherine O'Connell

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Show Begins at 7:30pm

Admission \$20.00 - Cash Bar



Conal Gallen

Friday, April 16, 2010

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Show Begins at 8:00pm

Admission \$25.00 - Cash Bar

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

Chocolate... Need I Say More?

When Valentine's Day comes around every February 14th, the ladies begin to think of their loves: the man in their life, maybe children, even her parents, and plot how to show appreciation. Men (usually) do the same towards their wives or girlfriends, some with instant date recognition and others remember only after a prodding reminder from a TV or radio commercial. Either way, the search begins.

The panic shopper may find their gift in a fancy boutique or down the street in a giant warehouse store. Neither one is right nor wrong if you know what to look for in the gift that says Happy Valentine's Day: chocolate. Let's step away from the commercial aspect of the holiday to really get at the heart (pun intended) of this wonderful day.

Going back centuries, there were several religious men named Valentine who could be given the legendary lineage of love. Pope Gelacius I in 496 AD established the feast day out of respect of a recognized Valentine and other martyrs whom he wanted to honor.

During Valentine's time, between 197-269 AD, there were laws against Christians and



helping them. There was also a law against marrying because the Emperor was raising an army and he felt married men would make poor soldiers. Valentine was doing the work of God by marrying Christians and helping others in need. He was caught and imprisoned.

Though the Emperor liked Valentine, he sentenced him to death when Valentine tried to convert him. There are several churches throughout Europe which maintain St. Valentine's relics. One is the Whitefriar St. Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland. During the middle ages, the writer Geoffrey Chaucer finally established the link between romantic love and St. Valentine when courtly love began.

Fast forward to the 1800's where hand written professions of love were now produced by companies and purchased. It caught on and cards along with little gifts were sent to objects of lovers' affections. Other business saw potential in all of this and began the marketing for their own manufactured cards, chocolate and even jewelry.

In my years of sampling chocolate, I have found two truths: I will try any chocolate put before me and some chocolates are far superior to others. All chocolate starts out from cacao

nuts. The chocolate pods are removed, dried and when ready tossed in machines, where the hull is removed and the chocolate nub emerges.

At that point, the chocolate nubs are bagged in large sacks and sent to large candy factories, gourmet chocolate companies and small artisan chocolatiers. It is then up to the maker to do as little as possible to that wonderful, though very bitter piece of chocolate. They will add sugar and sometimes cream to enhance the flavor.



Unfortunately, when excess corn syrup, milk, milk solids, wax and even artificial flavoring is added, the pure flavors diminish and the artificial taste becomes prominent.

But what to do about all of this, you ask? Read the labels. First, is the company known

for quality, large or small? From Harry London in Akron, Ohio to Cadbury in London, England, quality can be found and tasted. These chocolates could also be listed on in the local favorites' websites. Do they have national or international appeal?

Hershey's is well known and loved in the U.S. Europeans look at Godiva for upholding chocolate traditions. Does the label list the brand of chocolate used? Well known European chocolates such as Guittard, Scharffen-Berger and Valrhona, are high quality sources of mixed chocolate that are bought and made into confections by other companies, though I have found Scharffen-Berger by drinking chocolate. Others, like Swiss Lindt and the San Francisco Ghirardelli chocolates also have loyal and well deserved followings.

With all of this information, the question remains of how to present this wonderful, well thought out gift of fine chocolate. That is where I'll make a modest suggestion. A quaint box of fine chocolates is always going to please.

When your beloved unwraps the box and sees that this gift, if budgeted correctly MAY last several days, possibly a week, and the linger of the chocolate luxury gift will be theirs. However, if you have the time, I offer the next choice in Valentine's Day fantasies: a chocolate sampling. This sampling is decadent and not for the faint

Continued to page 35

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Mulliganeers Annual St Pat's Party

The Mulliganeers, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for children and families in need, are finalizing details for the upcoming St. Pat's Party, their main fundraising event. Along with other fundraising activities, the Mulliganeers have raised over \$3 million and have helped

Celtic Kitchen

Continued from page 33

of heart. However, if planned well, it will impress the recipient and will win you the heart (again) of your love. This sampling trio can be served on its own or after your Valentine's Day dinner.

Using small teacups or espresso (demitasse) cups, start with a decadent European-style drinking chocolate from Patric Chocolate, out of Columbia, MO. This is richer than an American hot chocolate. From there, double chocolate mini cakes, a variation of the desserts served at the French inspired California restaurant, Thomas Keller's Bouchon.

To finish, serve three well chosen chocolates from your favorite chocolate shop. Godiva has free memberships for sample of the month plus other deals. For perfect variety, try a chocolate truffle, a salted caramel, and a chocolate covered fruit, preferably fresh like a strawberry or a group of raspberries.

Valentine's Day is one of two days out of the year that we are reminded to stop and think about the love that has graced our lives. It is a gift and the people involved around us need to be told how much we appreciate them. Traditional gifts are always liked, but in essence, so is a meaningful big hug and kiss. XOXO

Chocolate Mini Cakes

1 store bought chocolate fudge cake mix

4 oz. semi sweet chocolate (bar or chips)

Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray cupcake tins with cooking spray for baking (Pam has a great one). Make cake mix according to directions. Chop chocolate into small pieces and stir into cake mix. Pour into tins, 1/2 full. Bake until set, 12-14 minutes. Let cool in tin 5 minutes, then remove to cooling rack. When serving, warm 20 seconds in microwave. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve.

Drinking Chocolate

Patric drinking chocolate is prepared with 3-4 unsweetened chocolate discs and melted and served in whole milk. Sweeten to your preference (I also add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla). Serve hot.

over 170 children and their families.

The St Pat's Party will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 starting with the Catholic Mass at 5:45pm. The \$75 donation at the door includes food, beer, wine and live entertainment provided by a Chicago favorite, "Maggie Speaks." The event will take place at the International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers Union Hall, 6200

Joliet Road in Countryside. During the evening, guests will enjoy bidding on terrific live and silent auction items, including tickets to the final year of the Oprah Show, packages that include tickets for the Blackhawks, Sox and Cubs games and many more.

For details on the St. Pat's Party, or further information on the Mulliganeers, please visit the website at www.mulliganeers.org or call Julie Reilly at 630-724-9321.

Ignite the Spirit Fundraiser Martini Night!

Whom does a firefighter turn to for help in times of need? Fellow firefighters. That is what Ignite the Spirit is all about—a charity started six years ago by firemen for firemen. In that time, they have helped over eighty families, and given out nearly \$200,000 in times of need.

The calendar features 12 firefighters who embody the spirit of the

Chicago Firefighter Community.

In partnership with The Curragh Irish Pub (6703 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, (773) 774-6170 www.curraghirishpub.com), representatives from this and previous years' calendars will be on hand to autograph. (suggested donation \$10), during their Martini Night on Wednesday, February 10th. ignitethespirit.org.



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Brian Dennehy in Hughie and Krapp's Last Tape at Goodman Theatre

Two-time Tony Award-winner Brian Dennehy has thrilled Chicago audiences in unforgettable productions over the past two decades; now, he will portray contrasting roles in the double-bill of *Hughie* by Eugene O'Neill and *Krapp's Last Tape* by Samuel Beckett. The first production, *Hughie*, features Dennehy as the wise-cracking, down-on-his-luck gambler Erie Smith, and Joe Grifasi as night clerk Charlie Hughes. Then, in "a transformation of extraordinary stature" (Associated Press), Dennehy becomes the title character in Beckett's classic one-man show, *Krapp's Last Tape*.

In *Hughie*, high-rolling gambler Erie (Brian Dennehy) and *Hughie*, the credulous night clerk at a single-occupancy hotel, were confidants. *Hughie* admired Erie for his bold lifestyle and Erie considered *Hughie* his good luck charm. When *Hughie* dies unexpect-

edly, Erie's luck changes for the worse and he finds himself in dire straits. Then Erie meets the new night clerk (Joe Grifasi), who reminds him enough of *Hughie* that he takes the gamble that his luck is about to change.

Krapp's Last Tape is Samuel Beckett's classic one-act, one-man show. Every year on his birthday, Krapp (Brian Dennehy) records the important—and the banal—moments of the last year. As he prepares to record a new tape on his 69th birthday, he begins to listen to his archives. This immersion in his own history leads Krapp to question, with growing regret, whether his present lives up to his past.

Hughie/Krapp's Last Tape runs January 16 – February 21, 2010 at the Goodman's Albert Theatre, 170 North Dearborn in Chicago. www.GoodmanTheatre.org, at the box office (170 North Dearborn) or by phone at 312.443.3800.

Dancing at Lughnasa at IAHC, New Home for Seanachai Theatre Co.

Seanachai Theatre Company announces that the first show in its new home, The Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox Avenue), will be the modern classic *Dancing at Lughnasa*, by Brian Friel, opening in the 3rd Floor Theatre February 27th (previews 25th, 26th) and closing April 4th.

Dancing at Lughnasa is the story of the five Mundy sisters, who live a simple and routine life in their croft in the village of Ballybeg. The youngest sister's mark of shame on the family, her illegitimate son Michael, has thus far been offset by the great reverence in which their eldest brother Father Jack is held on account of his missionary work in Africa. When Jack returns a very different man from the one who left 25 years prior, his arrival coincides not only with the re-appearance of Michael's itinerant father, but also with the pagan, Irish festival of the harvest, La Lughnasa. Underscored by rumblings of war in Europe and the arrival of industrialization to rural Ireland, *Dancing at Lughnasa* is a joyous and moving portrayal of the yearnings and sublimation of love by five lonely sisters whose mundane existence shatters into pieces, to be

re-imagined by the now grown-up narrator, Michael, in this extraordinary memory play from Brian Friel.

For tickets and more information, please visit www.seanachai.org or call (773) 878 3727.



Maggie (Sarah Wellington, right) and Kate (Barbara Figgins, left) muse about what might have been in Seanachai Theatre Company's production of *DANCING AT LUGHNASA* by Brian Friel. Photograph courtesy of Jackie Jasperson.

The Old Settler Writers' Theatre

Writers' Theatre will produce *The Old Settler* from February 2 – March 28, 2010 at Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

It's Harlem in the spring of 1943. Elizabeth and Quilly are sisters of a certain age sharing their quiet lives together, but when they take in Husband Witherspoon, a handsome young boarder, their entire world changes abruptly. Husband, fresh from the country and adjusting to live in the big city, is on a desperate search for his missing fiancée, but ends up finding love in the most unlikely of places. Told with heartwarming sincerity, humor and a touch of poetry, *The Old Settler* paints a poignant picture of two women testing the bonds of sisterhood and finding the strength and forgiveness only family can offer.

847-242-6000 or online at www.writers theatre.org.

A Love Lost Life-The Unauthorized Story of Marlon Brando

A Love Lost Life-The Unauthorized Story of Marlon Brando comes to Theatre Building Chicago February 2010 for a four week run. *A Love Lost Life* tells of the bonds and barriers between fathers and sons manifesting in Brando's own efforts to understand fatherhood. The 90-minute biopic reveals his feelings towards his father and his confusion about being a father to his own children. Brando's final years inspired the author's title and focus. And although Marlon Brando was a famously private man, what is indisputably known about him is that he changed the way actors act.

A Love Lost Life will be presented at Theater Building Chicago, 1225 West Belmont in Chicago, from February 18th and runs through March 21st.

773-327-5252. Theatrebuildingchicago.org.

Twelve Angry Men at Raven Theatre

Twelve Angry Men opens at Raven Theatre's East Stage, 6157 N. Clark in Chicago, on Sunday, February 21, at 7pm and runs through April 17, 2010.

Twelve jurors enter the deliberation room to determine the fate of a troubled youth on trial for murder. It's the hottest day of the year and these men are all sure of his guilt... except for one. Can this individual break the mentality of group thought to ensure that the trial is fair or will complacency rule? Reginald Rose's

riveting play challenges all of us to find the personal strength to stand alone in the crowd and see the bigger picture, even in the most unpopular of situations. www.raventheatre.com or 773-338-2177.



WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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Private Lives at Shakespeare

Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) will perform *Private Lives*, a revelation of the humorous complications of marriage penned by master playwright Noël Coward. This classic comedy takes us into the private lives of a stylish, ferociously intelligent divorced couple who meet again quite by accident—on their honeymoons, with new spouses in tow.

Private Lives runs through March 7, 2010 at the Courtyard Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Avenue in Chicago. www.chicagoshakes.com. 312.595.5600.

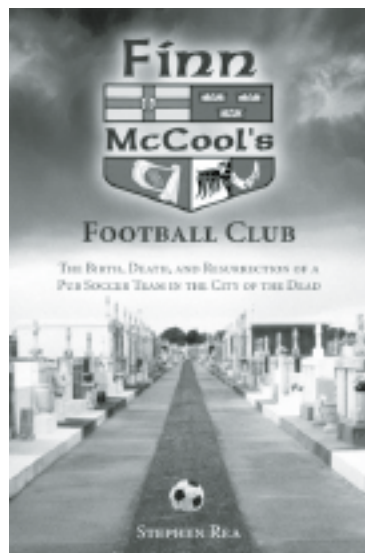
Finn McCool's Football Club

Tens of books, hundreds of articles and millions of words have been written about Hurricane Katrina. But a new release looks at the deadly storm from a different angle and tells the story from a unique perspective—the effect it had on the Irish population of New Orleans. Finn McCool's Football Club: The Birth, Death and Resurrection of a Pub Soccer Team in the City of the Dead is the debut nonfiction book by Belfast native Stephen Rea.

The incredibly violent 2005 hurricane season set all kinds of records. Katrina was the third-most powerful storm ever to hit the U.S. and five names were retired that year—the most ever (Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Stan and Wilma). There were 28 named hurricanes, so many that scientists ran out of letters and were forced to use the Greek alphabet!

Katrina did an unparalleled amount of damage to the Gulf Coast, killing more than 1,800 people, impacting Louisiana and Mississippi to the tune of an estimated 150 billion dollars, and leaving debris strewn over roughly 87,000 square miles in six different

States—an area the size of Britain. Compared to large cities like New



York or Boston the Irish ex-pat scene in the Big Easy is small but tight-knit. Everyone knows everyone else, and many members of the community meet every weekend at Finn's to watch English and Scottish soccer.

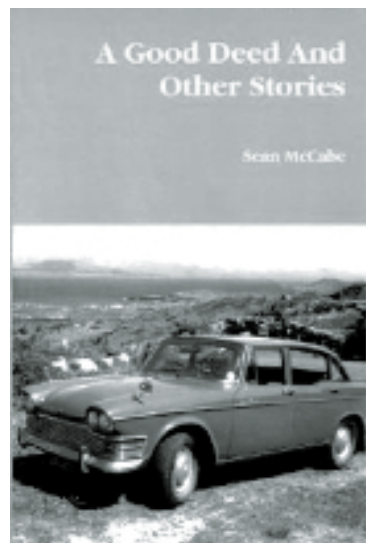
A dozen fans were gathered there on the morning of Saturday August 27 2005—less than 48 hours later one was clinging to a roof battling for his life, some were swimming out of the flooded city, while another was forced to loot an ATM machine for cash to bribe a teenager driving a stolen school bus to take him to safety.

Even after escaping the modern-day Atlantis many of the Irish emigrants had to live as internal refugees for months while the Crescent City was pumped dry. When some of the team finally got back they had lost their jobs, their homes or everything they had ever owned. Some lost all three.

Rea weaves his story with that of his teammates as they return to Louisiana and try to rebuild after their lives had been literally washed away. He describes how hard simple day-to-day living is in the surreal post-Katrina apocalyptic landscape, with residents struggling to cope in a city devoid of hospitals, schools, traffic lights and trash collection.

Finn McCool's Football Club: The Birth, Death and Resurrection of a Pub Soccer Team in the City of the Dead, published by Pelican Press, has just been released in Europe and a Hollywood producer has enquired about the movie rights. It is available at stores across the nation or from online booksellers.

www.stephen-rea.com.



Sean McCabe, Musician - Author

Sean McCabe, from the Irish band The McCabes out of New York has written a new book, A Good Deed & Other Stories, published in November—a work of fiction about a young boy growing up in a small town in Ireland in the 1970's. The book has so far been well received.

McCabe, who studied at Trinity College Dublin and has a master's Degree in Irish Literature, will be at the Irish American Heritage Center on February 20 for a reading. Afterwards, he will give a musical performance and a short talk about Irish Literature.

McCabe will also be playing a show at the Abbey Pub that same evening. www.irish-american.org. www.abbeypub.com.

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**Tradition
In Review**

Bill Margeson



Carey is Ireland's best all-round piano player. A master. This year's album, *Moving On*, also cements his spot as one of Ireland's truly great composers. Independently released, it offers many of the Island's best musicians joining Denis in performance of

his 12 new tunes on the album. It is a stunner of a creation from a consummate professional, and a gifted writer. Wow!

Vocal Cut of the Year

Not a new album, but new to us, *Start of a Dream* from Galway's Don Stiffe offers a new giant on the scene. An incredible—and I do mean incredible—voice, and a great guy. Good Lord, this album is phenomenal. But, let's choose "Dimming of the Day" as the Vocal Cut of the Year. Any song from this album would qualify, but the important thing is this. Don Stiffe. He will be with us a long time, and we can't wait for the next song. And, the next, and the next... masterful. Beautiful.

Female Vocalist of the Year

Deirdre Scanlon released her first album, *Faces*, this year. Incredible. She is the seven-time All-Ireland singing champion, and this album shows why. She is also one of the gardai in Clare! Yup! A police officer who can sing Eileen McMahon like no one else in the world. Her album is like her voice. Strong. True. She is, somehow, a throwback to those fabulous female altos of the 60's and 70's. Stunning. Must hear to believe—and you WILL believe!

Instrumental Album of Year

There are those who would argue that Kevin Crawford of Lunasa is the best trad flute player in the business. That is a sustainable point. He and his musical partner, Cillian Vallely, uilleann piper supremo, (also of Lunasa) released a gorgeous, perfect gem of a thing this year, entitled, *On Common Ground*. Incredible. If you love real Irish music, and you DO—(elsewise how did you get this far in the article?)—this is a must have album. We don't have space here for it all. There are 12 cuts on the album, covering a bunch of tunes. It is brilliant. THEY are brilliant. YOU will feel brilliant when you hear it. Go get it. Hear it. It IS Irish music. At its best. This is a classic. Big time.

Instrumental Cut of the Year

"Swooping Molly" from Martin Simpson's *True Stories*. This is a musician and singer who has been so great for so long that it is easy to take him for granted. A mistake. This new album is wondrous. He is a great singer, writer and guitar player. There is no one in the business who so perfectly melds his guitar work and voice together. His voice is lovely, his playing intricately nuanced and his writing is a thing of beauty. All this comes together and makes Martin Simpson eligible for virtually every Award we give. So, let's give him this one. Small thanks, indeed, for all he has given us.

**Male Vocalist of the Year-
Male Vocal Album of Year**

Just in under the wire for this year's Awards is the Male Vocalist of the Year, who is also winning this year's Male Vocal Album of the Year.

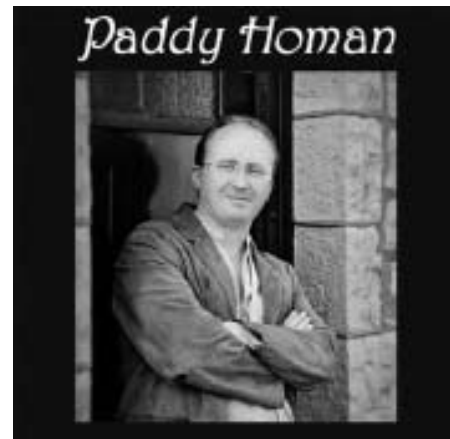
Paddy Homan, originally from Cork. This is the first time we have ever combined these two Awards for one singer. There is a very simple and good answer as to why. He is the best male singer we've heard in 25 years of writing on the music. His self-titled, first album is an instant classic. He is a tenor, but don't think "tenor" in the usual sense of the word. This is the real voice of Ireland. Simple. Unadorned. Clear. Perfect. A long run is surely in store for this major new force on the scene. Good God, this man can sing.

Trad Fusion Album of the Year

Lover's Well from Boston's Matt and Shannon Heaton. This album blends so many forces and trends so brilliantly, it is impossible to follow them all. Shannon is a great singer and flute player, and Matt's harmonies and intricate guitar accompaniment are perfection. Guest musicians drop by on the album, but make no mistake, Matt and Shannon are the reason for the season. They don't come any better. This album celebrates love. These two are in love and it comes through in every tune and song. There is even one in Thai, as Shannon is a fluent speaker! Who would have thought you could combine Irish trad and Thai and come out a winner? Well, Matt and Shannon, that's who! This is magic.

Female Musician of the Year

Uh, that would be Shannon Heaton on *Lover's Well*. Shannon has her own style on the flute. We hear a lot of Sligo and Roscommon. But, best of all, we hear a lot of Shannon. It takes such talent to combine the musical/cultural threads represented in this album into a



fabric that is so strong and so vibrant. No duo has so continuously improved year by year over the course of their careers, and now Matt and Shannon take their rightful place at the top, while Shannon joins the iconic masters of the flute from Kevin Henry, Kevin Crawford and Dennis Watson through Matt Molloy and Kieran Munnelly to Shannon Heaton. She is an artist down to her socks. This woman is the bottom line in flute playing. A trad treasure.

Newcomer of the Year

Christa Burch for *Love of the Land*. Produced at the increasingly influential Dennis Cahill's Chicago studio, this California singer has blown away everyone in the Irish music world with this stunning new album. Out of nowhere, Christa Burch has burst onto the scene. You will hear a LOT more of her and her

voice soon. We have never heard a singer this good this immediately. Wow. Wow! WOW! It is so hard to describe any voice. Wait! No, it's not! How about, "Perfect?" That is Christa. She is a stunner and a wonder. She is a singer. An Irish singer and she is among the tops in the field, right out of the shoot! Like springing full grown out of the brow of Zeus. Forgive us the classical reference, but we've got a new classic on the scene. Christa Burch.

Vocal/Instrumental

Album of the Year

The David Munnelly Band has given us *Tight Squeeze*, and it is a perfect gift. This is the best vocal/instrumental act in the music, and they also give the best concert! Start with the wizard, David Munnelly on button box, this year's Musician of the Year, brother Kieran on flute and percussion, Paul Kelly of Tallaght on fiddle and mandolin with an assortment of guests on tour like Ferghal Scahill on guitar and fiddle, or Ryan Molloy on piano and you get the picture. The instrumentality and grasp of the tradition is total. Then, add Shauna Mullin on vocals. Is she the best female singer in Irish music? Quite possibly. She is an alto, with a voice so pure and powerful as to break your heart. The band worked their tails off on this album and it shows. It is perfection. Nothing else really comes close this year.

Special Merit of the Year

Scotland and the Greentrax label gave us Fiona Mackenzie and, *A Good Suit of Clothes—Songs of the Emigrant Gael*. Between the liner notes and Fiona's beautiful, beautiful voice, we have an album that has everything. The songs! The information! Best of all, Fiona! What a voice, and what a talent! The album is important history. But, forget all that. It IS important, but forget all that. Focus on Fiona. Total talent, total beauty in the songs and a total winner. Special Merit, indeed. VERY special, indeed! Fiona, you are just wonderful!

Album of the Year

The Irish and the Jews by Mick Moloney is the easiest choice of all this year. Well, that and Jimmy Keane! Featuring the songs of the turn of the 20th century, Mick is the master here. No one does this music better than Dr. Moloney, and he is in his wheelhouse. In our original review, we said the liner notes are worth the price alone, and so they are. But—but—this historical fusion of the Tin Pan Alley Irish and Jews produced such wonderful music for so long, it is now all a part of the American AND Irish cultures. For anyone foolish enough to think that the music came solely and unidirectionally from Ireland to America, wake up and get this album. It clearly shows that the musical ship sailed both ways across the Atlantic. These songs are vibrant, topical and fun, right to this day. And, they are Irish to the core. Irish-American. Equally valid. Equally important. Equally wonderful. We're out of adjectives for Mick, and this album. If you don't have it, yet, you don't have a complete collection. This is critical stuff, and it is a ball. Crank it up, smile, and get your toes to tappin'. Thanks again, Mick.

Huge congratulations to all, and on behalf of trad lovers around the world, Thank You!

Top Tir Awards

Here they are and here we go. One of the oldest Awards in the business, the TOP Tir Awards, named for the acronym of Tradition in Review—this column! This is the annual recognition for the best of the best in Irish trad music. Chicago is well represented this year, as it should be! The IAN recognizes the top players in the world every year, and it is quite arguable that this is the golden age for Chicago Irish music. Let's open those major market muscle Chicago envelopes now!

Female Vocal Album of Year

Kat Eggleston has given us a gem. The album is *Speak* and it is a masterpiece. She wrote almost all the music. Gorgeous. Her guitar playing is complex and beautiful, and the voice—perfect. This former Chicago singer for The David Munnelly Band and Bohola has played a blinder. Kat. Her guitar and her songs. Each time we listen we hear more. And then, we listen more. An easy and spectacular choice.

Male Musician of the Year

Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders gave us the album, *Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders!* Of course, you know them from Bohola. Well, technically, their name is bohola, but that is another story. THE story here is Jimmy Keane. It is not enough to say that he is easily the best piano accordionist in the history of Irish music. That doesn't cover it. Jimmy could, and should, win Male Musician of the Year every year. He, as with Liz Carroll, Dennis Cahill and a few others like Kevin Henry ARE Chicago Irish music, and there is none better. The Japanese have different artists who their society officially recognizes as Living Treasures. Chicago ought to do the same, and the first should be Jimmy Keane. A master. Total.

Compendium Album of Year

People and Songs of the Sea is an important masterpiece from Scotland's Shona McMillan and her Greentrax label. The album is of the men and women, predominantly in the Scottish fishing industry, who earn their livings every day in the face of great danger and with great courage. It would, however, be a mistake to think of this as a "Scottish album." It is an album of the world's seas and the brave men and women who live by it and on it. It is impossible to encapsulate the wonderful songs and tunes offered from a variety of artists here, many noticeably from the Scottish fishing communities themselves. It is, as we said, a masterpiece. You should own this, and when your courage for every day life may flag a bit, you can listen to this music and stand yourself up. A wonderful, wonderful thing of an album.

Composer of the Year

Limerick and Newport, Tipperary's Denis



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Education

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- Former Member, Subcommittee of 2nd District Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

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Mary Katherine was born and raised in Chicago by her parents Thomas and Bridget, natives of County Mayo.

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