

## Chicago Irish Get Ready to Celebrate!



(l to r): Queen's Court; Erin Mulcahy, & Meghan Hayes, Grand Marshall; Bob Ryan,  
2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen; Kerry Brennan, Queen's Court; Sara Collins and Lauren Corry photo by Cathy Curry

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**Friday, March 12th**  
8am-12pm **Gavin Coyle**

**Saturday, March 13th**  
PUB  
11:30am **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
12-4pm **Gavin Coyle**  
4:15pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**  
5-8pm **Cirrus Falcon**  
8pm **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
9-CL **Patrick's Rowdy Irishmen**

**TENT**  
11:15am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
12-3pm **3 Men in Kilts**  
3:15pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**  
4-8pm **St. James Gate**  
9pm **Emerald Society**  
10-CL **The Larkin & Moran Brothers**

**Sunday, March 14th**  
2nd Annual St. Baldrick's Fundraiser  
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Silent Auction, Bean Bag Tournament

**Wednesday, March 17th**  
11am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
11am-3pm **The Ploughboys**  
3pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
4-8pm **Patrick's Rowdy Irishmen**  
8:45pm **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
9-12:30pm **St. James Gate**

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**Friday, March 12th**  
8pm-12am **St James Gate**

**Saturday, March 13th**  
11am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
3-7pm **Patrick's Rowdy Irishmen**  
9:30pm **Chicalba Bagpiping**

**Wednesday, March 17**  
11am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
2:30pm **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
4-8pm **Gavin Coyle**

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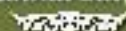
**Saturday, March 13th**  
11am-12pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
(Immediately after Naperville parade)  
9pm **Three Men in Kilts**

**Wednesday, March 17th**  
11am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
12-3pm **Larkin & Moran Brothers**  
8pm **Naperville Bagpipers**  
9pm **Kevin and Brian**

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**Friday, March 12th**  
9pm **Larkin & Moran Brothers**

**Saturday, March 13th**  
11am **Sullivan Irish Dancers**  
4-7pm **Kevin and Brian**  
8:15 **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
9pm **Rico Quinn**

**Sunday, March 14th**  
11am **St. Baldrick's Fundraiser**  
5pm **Sullivan Irish Dancers**

**Monday, March 15th**  
8pm **Pub Trivia**

**Tuesday, March 16th**  
**Goose Island Beer Dinner**

**Wednesday, March 17th**  
Noon **Sullivan Irish Dancers**  
1pm **Chicalba Bagpiping**  
2:30-6:30pm **St. James Gate**  
7:30pm **Sullivan Irish Dancers**  
9pm **Three Men in Kilts**

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**Saturday, March 13th**  
11am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
12-3pm **Larkin & Moran Brothers**

**Sunday, March 14th**  
12pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
3pm **Irish Session w/John Williams**  
4pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**

**Monday, March 15th**  
6pm **Tully Irish Dancers**  
7pm **Irish Session w/ John Williams**

**Tuesday, March 16th**  
6pm **Tully Irish Dancers**  
9pm **Three Men in Kilts**

**Wednesday, March 17th**  
11:30am **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
12-2:30pm **Irish Session w/John Williams**  
3pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**  
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## The Venerable Chief O'Neill

His Legacy Lives On at University College Cork

Francis O'Neill, born in Co. Cork in 1846, emigrated to America at a young age and rose through the ranks of the police force to become Chief of Police in Chicago in 1901. He is perhaps best remembered today for the role he played in documenting and publishing traditional Irish music.

Chief O'Neill took a somewhat innovative approach in his collection of Irish music—he recorded emigrant musicians playing traditional Irish music on the streets of Chicago, capturing their performances on a series of wax cylinders. Wax, or phonograph, cylinders (invented by Thomas Edison) were one of the earliest devices used to record and reproduce sound. O'Neill's recordings feature some of Chicago's best known musicians, among them the pipers Patsy Touhey and James Early and the fiddle player James McFadden.

Chief O'Neill sent a number of these treasured recordings to his great friend, the Reverend Richard Henebry, Professor of Irish at University College Cork in Ireland. Henebry was equally passionate about traditional Irish music and safeguarded O'Neill's gift; the O'Neill Wax Cylinder Collection continues to reside

at University College Cork today.

In November, Dr. Mel Mercier, Head of the School of Music at UCC, travelled to Chicago to showcase the recordings of Chief O'Neill in his hometown. Together with two of his most accomplished students, Catilin Nic Gabhann and Tara Breen, Dr. Mercier performed a selection of music, inspired by O'Neill's recordings, for attendees of both the American Ireland Fund Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel and the Annual University College Cork Alumni Reception in Chief O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant in Chicago.

University College Cork, as custodian of the O'Neill Cylinders, plans to conserve, re-format and digitize these early recordings so that they may be studied and enjoyed by all. The Cylinders are symbolic of the heritage shared by Irish-Americans in the Mid-West and the people of Munster. They also represent a tangible link between the cities of Chicago and Cork. If you would like to support and be part of the Chief O'Neill project at University College Cork, Ireland please contact: Dr Jean van Sinderen-Law (email: j.law@ucc.ie - telephone: +353 21 490 2205).



(l to r): Dr. Mel Mercier, Head of the School of Music at UCC, Catilin Nic Gabhann, and Tara Breen play for the American Ireland Fund Dinner last November.

## 11th Annual Chicago Irish Film Festival

More films and more fun are in the program during the 11th Annual Chicago Irish Film Festival, Friday, March 5 through Wednesday, March 10 at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th Street south on Western) in Chicago. The six day festival kicks off with an opening night reception on Fri., Mar. 5, at 7pm, that brings out Chicago's Irish community to celebrate an evening of live music, food, drink as well as a feature film and shorts.

More than 25 films will be showcased at the Festival, Chicago's only event dedicated to contemporary and classic Irish cinema. Screenings include features, classics, documentaries, children's films, Irish language films and short films made by Irish and Irish American filmmakers and producers.

For a full festival schedule and ticket pricing visit [www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.net](http://www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.net). For tickets, call 773-445-3838 or purchase online at [www.beverlyartcenter.org](http://www.beverlyartcenter.org).

## Altan at Abbey 3/27

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**Irish Books and Plays  
in Review**

Frank West



**Eugene Mc Eldowney  
is the Real Faloorie Man**

The man I interviewed impressed me with his energy, inquisitiveness and heartiness. I was immediately taken with him. And, when I read several of his novels, I realized that they too are filled with this energy and enthusiasm for life.

Hi is Eugene Mc Eldowney and his is the author of ten novels, including *The Faloorie Man* and the *Cecil Megarry Mysteries*.

For many years he was a journalist and news editor for the *Irish Times*. Recently he retired from that work, but continues to write prolifically.

In appearance, McEldowney is of average height, wiry, and has short steel-gray hair. In age he is about 60.

He was born into a large family in Belfast. His father was a welder. He studied English literature at Queen's University, and later taught at St. Malachy's College in Belfast.

He worked hard to become a reporter.

He has written many novels, several film scripts, and is a regular book reviewer for the prestigious *Irish Times* in Ireland. He lives with his wife in Howth, near Dublin and in rural Spain.

When I interviewed him we discussed several topics, one of which was why Irish immigrants in the 1800's succeeded so well at American politics. How did they get other ethnic groups to vote for them?

The usual explanations: The Irish spoke English, and they were familiar with electoral politics. But, for long after the interview I was intrigued by the question. There had to be other reasons, and some of them persist to this day. Irish people make up only a tiny part of the urban populations, yet there are so many Irish American

electd officials.

It became obvious that McEldowney displayed the human qualities that explained the quick rise of our ancestors to political and business success.



of treating everybody equally and respectfully would have been refreshing to newly arrived people in WASP dominated America.

McEldowney's friendly war-hearted and gracious attitude made me look forward to reading the three books he so generously brought for me from Ireland. (I will review the two mystery books in the next issue.)

**The Faloorie Man**

Set in Ardoyne, near Belfast in Northern Ireland, the time is the period after World War II >

The title comes from a street song sung by children in Belfast: "I am the wee Faloorie Man, a rattling, roaring Irishman."

Eugene impressed me as a real life Faloorie Man.

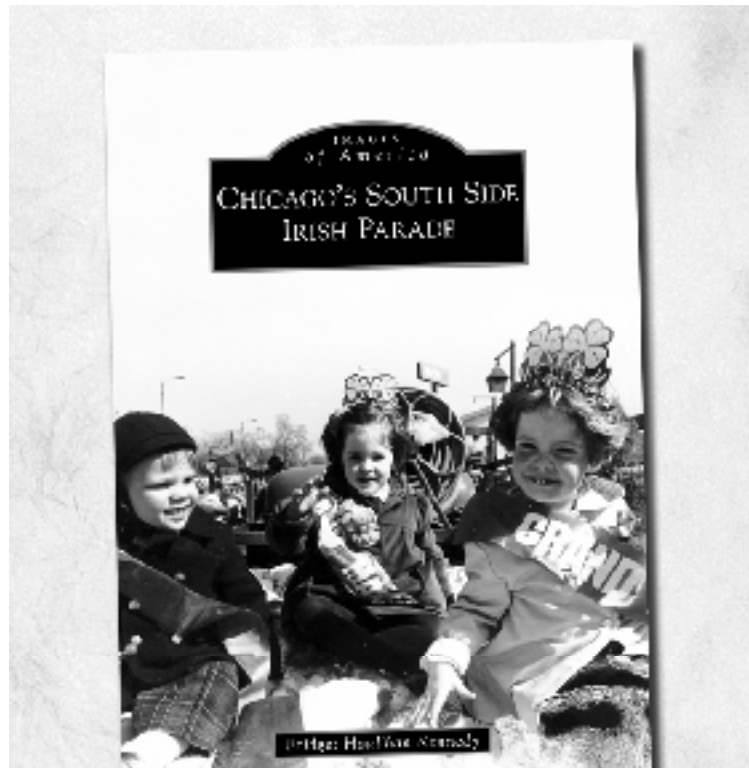
The book is a coming of age story, the *Irish Times* calls *The Faloorie Man* "An affectionate chronicle, gently told."

We can all relate to its scenes of childhood. It is both happy and poignant. Often it is bittersweet, but it is always filled with personal feelings - often intimate ones.

The story is magnetic and suspenseful. Yes, suspenseful. A powerful author can create the magic of suspense.

At iBAM! (the Irish Book, Art, and Music Celebration held at the Heritage Center over the last Celtic New Year) I observed that he treated everyone equally - whether they had written a best seller, or were newly published.

He was hearty, friendly, and respectful of everyone. This attitude



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Kevin O'Donnell

Ireland, 1838  
the author's remote ancestral home, Arranmore Island, languishes on the eve of famine. Meanwhile, carved from the Illinois prairie, a small settlement rises, eventually becoming his boyhood hometown, Mundelein.

*Fadó* chronicles the surprising confluence of these two cultures. Generations of family heritage, immigration, triumph, and tragedy, reveal fascinating ties to a much bigger world. Resonating throughout is the story of a son eager to please his father and prove his worth.

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- Aidan Callagher, Dublin  
Co-author of *Arranmore Links*

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We have all been children, and one part of growing up is experiencing the first to the opposite sex. This probably first happened on the school playground.

For boys: Will she talk to me? Will she like me? For girls: Am I attractive to him?

We are human beings. Attraction of boys and girls is natural. Why is this attraction sinful? Who says it is? Why do they say it is?

These scenes attracted my attention and give a flavor of the book.

A high school teacher addresses his class: "Boys, look at the way Yeats uses language. Look at the way he chooses words. Look at the way he puts them together, one word following another, just in its right place. That didn't happen by accident. A poet is a craftsman."

A senior newspaper editor gives advice to the young reporter: "Your job is to give them a straight report. Just tell them what [the speaker] said. Don't editorialize. Let them make up their own minds. . . Readers are busy people. They mightn't have time to read to the fourth paragraph. If you think that's the most important thing it should be right up there in the first paragraph. Exclude everything that isn't relevant."

The Faloorie Man by Eugene McEldowney.

GemmaMedia.www.gemmamedia.com:Boston, 2009. 286 pages, \$15.95.

### Creator of Father Dowling Dies

A friend emailed the news that Ralph McInerney passed away.

Quoting from that email: "One of his favorite places to write was in Ireland. He would travel there and hole up in hotel rooms for days at a time to write his books. . . He felt there was something about just being in Ireland that helped him write."

He published over 100 books with topics ranging from medieval philosophy and Irish history to mysteries.

The Father Dowling series (28 books) became a popular TV series. (To me Father Dowling will always look like Tom Bosley.)

"He had a great dry sense of humor . . . Above all he was a gentleman. . . He could not have been more gracious." Ralph, we'll miss your books, but most of all we'll miss your gentle human spirit. . .

### Chicago's South Side Irish Parade Book Available

Although many Irish eyes were crying at news that the South Side Irish Parade would be no longer, a local author has come to their rescue with a new book about the parade.

Part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, Chicago's South Side Irish Parade by Bridget Houlihan Kennedy perfectly captures the images and stories of the parade's 31-year history.

In Chicago's South Side Irish Parade, Kennedy takes a look back at how the parade began, as well as its gradual rise in preeminence and crowds. The book highlights the parade's various grand marshals and special honorees, marriage proposals and politicians that made the parade the must see event in Chicago each March.

Considered to be one of the largest neighborhood-based St. Patrick's Day parades outside Dublin, Chicago's South



Side Irish Parade began quite modestly, with 17 children under the age of 10 marching twice around the block. Dubbing themselves the "Wee Ones of Washtenaw and Talman," the founders of this great parade marched with homemade signs, costumes, and a baby buggy while neighbors and family members cheered them on. Over the next 31 years, the parade grew into an annual event, attracting hundreds of thousands who came to celebrate Irish heritage with family and friends. In 2009, President Barack Obama encouraged Taoiseach Brian Cowen of Ireland to visit the parade, calling it "one of the great events in America."

Bridget Houlihan Kennedy is a Chicago resident who was born on the South Side, but raised on the North Side. One of six children, her family moved from Beverly to Wilmette, where she graduated from New Trier High School. Growing up, Kennedy attended countless South Side Irish Parades with her mother, grandmother and siblings. Many of her relatives still live in the Beverly neighborhood today.

Kennedy graduated from John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio, in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and a minor in English. She went on to earn her Masters in Journalism - Public Affairs from Chicago's Columbia College in 2005. Since then, Kennedy has written for several major publications, including Chicago Magazine, the Chicago Sun-Times and the Pioneer Press, covering politics, education and

local, late-breaking news. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Chicago Headline Club and the Association for Women Journalists in Chicago.

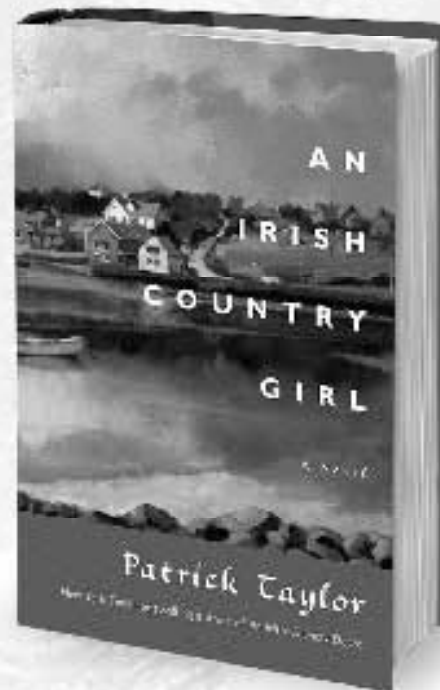
Kennedy is thrilled to share the stories and photos of one of the greatest neighborhood St. Patrick's Day parades in the country.

"With the parade ending in 2009, this book conveys the spirit of the South Side Irish and will hopefully be passed along for generations to come," she said.

Bridget will also be on hand March 13th for a book signing at the Beverly Arts Center's Southside Irish Parade Family Fest.

## This winter, let stories of the Irish warm your heart

A captivating tale of heartbreak and hope from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Irish Country Doctor*



Some forty-odd years past and many miles to the south, the girl who would someday be Kinky Kincaid was Maureen O'Hanlon, a farmer's daughter growing up in the emerald hills and glens of County Cork, a girl blessed with a gift for seeing into the mystic realm.

Yet even for one who can see beyond the ordinary, the future is often a mystery.

"A grand read from a grand man."

—Malachy McCourt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Monk Swimming* on *An Irish Country Doctor*



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ALSO AVAILABLE  
*An Irish Country Doctor* • *An Irish Country Village*  
*An Irish Country Christmas*

## A touching childhood memoir from the author of *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*

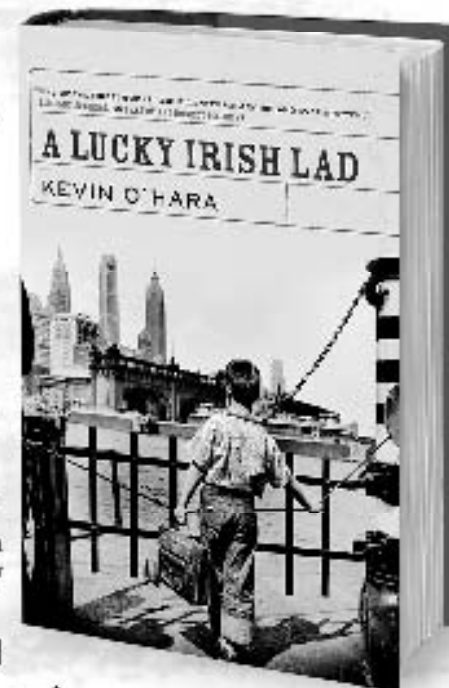
Kevin O'Hara recreates his boyhood with this collection about growing up in Massachusetts as one of eight children. His is a story about the Irish-American experience, but it's also the story of a generation growing up in the shadow of the Second World War and the start of a new age of hope and promise, a time when people believed that anything was possible as long as you dared to dream and had faith in yourself.

A little Irish luck couldn't hurt either.

"One of the finest books about contemporary Ireland ever written."

—*Library Journal* on *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*

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## From the Motherland

**Sean Farrell**



in Brussels to identify the four "poorer" countries receiving special subsidies from the EU before the—much poorer—Central

Europeans were admitted. It stuck in the Euro era to identify the fiscally weaker members).

These are still early days. The immediate concern when the Greek crisis broke was to cobble together a short term solution to head off any possible domino effect were Greece to default on an early maturing \$30 billion debt, threatening next up Portugal and Spain. Any lasting solution to the Eurozone's problems will probably feature the major paymaster, Germany—which will have to do most of any necessary bailing out—exerting some control over other Eurozone members' budgets. Watch this space.

Domestically, also, things may be looking up politically for the government. Last year's by-election and local election losses and the depths to which Fianna Fail slumped in the polls (trailing Labour at one point) represented the nadir. Since then there has been some recovery but the party has continued to languish far behind Fine Gael in popular support. However, even allowing for an expected upturn in support after mid-term disaffection, and even possible brownie points for acting tough, the odds have been squarely on a change of government at the next election (which must take place by June 2012). The electorate continues to place the political blame for the economic collapse firmly on the government and on Fianna Fail in particular. The coalition partner, the Greens, which was decimated in the local elections, has stuck with Fianna Fail on the Benjamin Franklin maxim that if they don't hang together, they'll hang separately.

The scenery changed in the second week in February with the departure from active politics of the high profile Fine Gael TD, George Lee. Lee, the former economic correspondent for the national broadcaster RTE, was elected to the Dail in a by-election only last June, gaining a whopping 53% of the vote. His declared aim was to do something about Ireland's dreadful economic situation. His resignation, from both his seat and his membership of Fine Gael, after just 8 months has been accompanied by ill feeling and recrimination. Lee declared he was quitting through frustration at his inability to achieve anything and at his treatment at the hands of Fine Gael, which had ignored or sidelined his talents and expertise.

Fine Gael's reaction has been a circling of the wagons and closing of the ranks behind leader Enda Kenny. They, and many neutral observers from the media, have focussed on the shortness of the period allowed by Lee to make an impact, and the opportunities on offer to him, which were his to develop. Some have asked what, in any event, he could have hoped to achieve in the short term by joining the opposition.

It's a debate in which there can be no winners but at least one loser. Enda Kenny was already under fire for two recent less than impressive media appearances (in one of which he stumbled over his attitude to forming, hypothetically, a government involving Sinn Fein). Having brought Fine Gael back from near electoral oblivion in 2002 to a credible alternative party of government in 2007 (how many remember how close he came to government then?) And having since built up an impressive lead in the polls, there was a high level of agreement among pundits that, barring something major, Enda Kenny was set fair to become Ireland's next Taoiseach. The Lee affair, and the fallout from it, together with the media performances, have now raised doubts. Could he not have handled, and harnessed, Lee better? For the moment criticism is muted but if the next few months see Fianna Fail gain an electoral "bounce", for whatever reason, then the mutterings against Enda are likely to increase and the Lee affair is likely to surface again. Whatever happens, Fine Gael have been damaged; it remains to be seen by how much.

In retrospect the Lee episode was a distraction. His election came at the high watermark of public disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the political and economic situation. Much of the population were in denial and were seeking scapegoats or an instant solution. Lee was seen as someone untainted and determined to do something to put it right. His throwing in of the towel so soon has come as a shock. Yet the period since June last has seen some progress towards finding a way out of the economic morass, not least in the growing public recognition of the seriousness of the situation and what needs to be done. It would be unfortunate were Lee's departure to affect this. Our troubles are the outcome of a reckless property bubble in tandem with an international economic recession. Like other economic bubbles ours will have to work itself out, with considerable temporary pain. There's no way to avoid this. And, as we now know, Ireland is not the worst. Greece, equally recklessly, hid the truth until it was almost too late. Let us hope it can be rescued. Timeo Danaos...

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## A Long Time in Politics

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson once remarked that a week is a long time in politics. Indeed. And three months can be an eternity. On December 1st last Brian Cowen's government seemed on the ropes. The recession was biting savagely, negotiations on cost cutting with the public sector unions had ended in fiasco and a savage, benefit and wages slashing budget had become inevitable. Fianna Fail was in the doldrums in the opinion polls, trailing its chief rival, Fine Gael, by a wide margin.

Three months later, the scene looks different. The budget was successfully navigated. There may be disruption ahead in the public sector, still smarting over the pay cuts, but the issue does not appear to have caught fire. There has been only muted reaction from those affected by the welfare cuts. Overall the public mood has been one of relief that the draconian budget proved less so than feared. There are some signs of economic recovery, though the signals are mixed. International opinion, deeply sceptical beforehand that the government would take the necessary measures, has been fulsome in its praise. The cost of borrowing (for it has not stopped—but continues at \$400 million per week) to keep the country afloat has even reduced slightly.

Ireland is now something of a darling of the international economic press. There are no more analogies with Iceland. The new EU bad boy is Greece, where a new government discovered its predecessor had been economical with the truth where the public finances were concerned. Suddenly there are fears for the stability of the Euro, with the participating countries (which do not include Britain) now divided into two—those who practice economic and financial prudence and those who do not, but run huge fiscal deficits. Ireland currently occupies a grey area in the middle; having fallen from grace we appear to be bouncing back up, thanks to the government's firm actions. Some commentators have even begun to replace Ireland with Italy in the "PIGS" group alongside Portugal, Greece and Spain ("PIGS" was the unflattering acronym used

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## Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea  
Tom Boyle



acquired the building for the right price, closing the deal in November, and have since put another \$20,000 into it.

Maureen Kennedy also founded the Irish

American Theatre Company in Cincinnati, while her husband Kent is Treasurer of the AOH and Director of the new Center. John B. Keane's play, Moll, was staged at the Center on the last weekend in February. Maureen and Kent visited the Irish American Heritage Center last fall and several of us spent some time with them discussing what it takes to succeed in establishing their new Center. We talked about the importance of volunteers, fundraising, and the learning curve that we went through that can keep them from learning the hard way. I wish them luck and I will visit them when time permits.

### Election Results

Most of those I supported for Judge were elected—Dan Malone, Terry MacCarthy, John Griffin. Congratulations one and all! Russ Hartigan came close; I'm sure he will try again in the future.

Todd Stroger got the message, now let's see if Toni Precwinkle can keep her campaign promises. Dan Hynes ran a great campaign, but fell short. Terry O'Brien's problem was voter apathy in the suburbs, which cost him dearly. November's election should prove to be dicey for the democrats.

### Pensions

Having a tough time making ends meet? How would like this pension? Dennis Gannon,

former President of the Chicago Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, will receive a \$200,000 pension from the Chicago Federation of Labor, and additional \$163,649 from the City of Chicago, where he worked for 17 years. This is the biggest pension the city pays to any retiree, due to a little known state law that requires the city to match the individual's highest salary in the private sector. He will also collect \$163,625 from Blue Cross and Blue Shield for a total pension of \$517,274. This information is readily available on the internet. I must point out that all of the sweetheart pension deals the City of Chicago dishes out are one of the greatest burdens the taxpayers carry.

### Happy Saint Patrick's Day

It has become my custom to ask all of you to celebrate the day with pride and dignity. Hope to see you at the Parade or the Heritage Center or wherever our paths may cross.

### Irish Id

Shamrocks, Shillalaghs, Harps, Castles, Provinces, Counties, Thatched Roofs, Ass and Cart, Poets, Minstrels, Boyle Family Farm, Life Austere, Churches, Priests, Nuns, Brothers, Pubs, Cattle Markets, Dingle Harbor, Curachs Giving Way to Trawlers, The Pattern Day, Saving Hay, Pikes, Wynds, Cocks, Bales, The Creamery, Dolmens, Bee-Hive Huts, Kerry Head, Barnacle Soup, Lobster Pots, Flax, Linen, Whiskey, Poitin, Bacon, Green Cabbage, Liberty, 1916 Rising, Rebels, Turf Fires, Banshee, Galway Hookers, The Burren, Connemara Ponies, Horses, Terriers, Ancient Breeds, Wolfhounds, Blacksmiths, Wild Salmon, Ring Forts, Faeries, Bogs, Slane, Blessed Wells, Hill of Tara, Cliffs of Moher, Martello Tower, GPO, Ulysses, Dublin, Black 47, Skibbereen, Blight, Famine, Cobh Harbor, Mooncoin, Derry City, Bogside, Free State, Punts, Euros, Shannon, Boyne, Lee, Vikings, Wild Geese, Ballinglanna, Trout, Hurling, Fiddles, Goatskin Drums, Lough Derravargh, Children of Lir, Glendalough, Jigs, Reels, Tin Whistles, Pshogues, Spanish Arch, Healy Pass, Fota Island, Aran Islands, Arranmore, Step Dancing, Ceili Mór, Potatoes, Book of Kells, Tir na Og, Slainte, on and on anon, Innisfail.

### Innisfail

"No frown was seen thro sky or sea,  
nor tear o'er leaf or sod,  
when first on their isle of destiny,  
our great forefathers trod."

### Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati

Maureen Kennedy and Kent Covey are living the dream while building it. They have recently acquired the McKinley School at 3905 Eastern Ave., Columbia Tusculam, the oldest neighborhood in Cincinnati, situated along the meandering Ohio River. Maureen and Kent

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Little Seamus walked into the room to find his grandfather asleep in front of the TV. Grandpa's glasses were in his lap and the Olympics blared on the tube.

The boy picked up the glasses and placed them in the old man's front pocket and sat in his lap. He grabbed the TV remote out of the old man's sleeping hand and clicked to MTV where Lady Gaga was screeching out "Poker Face."

Grandpa awoke with a start and gave little Seamus a whack in the back of his head as he exclaimed, "What the hell are you sneakin' up on me for?"

Seamus began to cry and his mother ran into the room and screamed at her father, "Did you just hit Seamus, Dad? Are you nuts? Honestly, we are going to start looking for a cheap nursing home for you this weekend!"

Grandpa was now awake, "For the cryin' out loud! I'm sorry Seamus, you just scared your ol' grandpa, don't be such a lil baby now and stop the bawlin'. Go and get me another whiskey and come back and sit on my lap and I'll tell ya a story."

His daughter stood with arms folded in the doorway as the boy ran to the kitchen to fetch his Grandpa's booze. "That's your third Jameson's this afternoon, don't you think you might want to knock off til after five-thirty Mass?"

"Your little brat woke me up in the middle of a terrific dream about Peggy Fleming!"

"Tell him a story dad, a clean one so we don't have to visit the principal's office after he tells the kids at school."

want to hear a story about, Seamus?"

Seamus crawled up next to the old man and leaned back against his fat belly.

"Tell me about the parade again, Gramps. Tell me about the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade."

"Well, Seamus my boy, it was not so long ago. Each year on the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day all the South Side Irish would gather on Western Avenue and display their pride at being the greatest race of people on God's green earth."

"How did it start Grampa?"

"It started innocently enough with a bunch of kids about your age, who paraded once or twice around their block on their bikes and in strollers to celebrate the Saint's day. Each year it got larger until pretty soon there were hundreds of thousands of joyous Irish folks laughing, singing, and celebrating their heritage."

"Boys and girls and moms and dads and grandparents would all wear green and there were marching bands, leprechauns, floats, music, and politicians were not allowed in the front of the parade."

"Sounds cool!"

"It was very cool Seamus. People all over the neighborhood would have house parties. Friends and relatives who hadn't seen each other all year would make a point of showing up for the parade and spending time together. Everybody dressed up in his or her best Irish garb. The churches would have special Masses and some folks had Masses in their homes where a priest in the family would officiate. The local newspaper printed a wonderful guide to all things Irish and people came from all over the world to participate in the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade."

"Firemen and cops would come over from Ireland to visit their Yank cousins in Beverly, and Skinny Sheahan would throw a party in his backyard under a huge tent and give out bologna sandwiches and beers to everyone. Many a deal was cut outside the Porta-Potty in Sheahan's driveway."

"And the shop owners in town made a bundle as the people crammed into the bars and restaurants to whet their whistle after marching in the grand parade. It became one of the largest

neighborhood festivals in the world, a Mardi Gras for Micks."

"And then what happened Grampa?"

"Well, the neighborhood started to change. Cub fans started moving into Beverly because they liked the 'architecture'."

"Slowly they became involved in the parade and well, Seamus you know how kids at school sometimes try to be the teacher's pet?"

"Yeah, like Sally Duffy, she's always raisin' her hand with the answer and always volunteering to clean the chalkboard and she always tells on the other kids. She's a tattle tail."

"Sounds to me like Sally Duffy is a future 'goo-goo'."

"What's a 'goo-goo' Grampa?"

"Seamus, goo-goo's are the most reprehensible misanthropic blabbermouth bastards that ever crawled out of a Planned Parenthood fundraiser where they go to meet their future mates and celebrate the killing of babies."

Suddenly a voice was heard from the kitchen, "Dad, please! Tell him the truth!"

Grampa whispered, "You know Seamus my boy; sometimes I worry that your mom might have some goo-goo tendencies. Anyway, it wasn't JUST the goo-goo's that killed the parade. North-siders started showing up at nine o'clock in the morning already hammered. They came in droves, even arriving on the Rock Island. The parade got so huge there was no place to park. Traffic was tied up for hours. Teenagers were getting drunk and puking in front of every body on the parade route."

"All the people showing up made putting on the parade more expensive. Bar owners were making a fortune and yet they wouldn't pony up to sponsor a hole at the annual parade golf outing. At one parade a drunk kid tinkled on Mrs. McGillicuddy's begonia bush!"

"He did?"

"Yeah, and he also peed on her flowers!"

"Things got worse. Drunken brawls broke out; punks were actually pooping on people's front lawns. Hooliganism reigned!"

"And then one day at Sheahan's party I saw future President Barack Obama standing in Skinny's backyard and I knew it would soon be over. And so it was."

"Will the South Side Parade ever come back, Grampa?"

"Well, tell me young man, what happened when they killed Jesus?"

"He came back!"

"He did indeed, Seamus my boy. He did indeed!"

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paper whenever he gets a chance. He is also, we are told, a great musician and can even do a step or two. That's something that the great banner County of Clare has always produced, good musicians and, of course, good hurl-

**Shona La Naoimh Padraig  
Happy St. Patrick's Day**

Chicago-Irish will sponsor its big St. Patrick's Day parade along beautiful Lake Michigan on Columbus Drive on Saturday, March 13th, starting at Balbo at noon. More than 30 gaily decorate floats, 20 marching bands and more than 30 marching units will pay tribute to the great Saint who, with others, promoted the Catholic faith in Ireland.

Unfortunately, we have no St. Patrick's Day parade on the "great southside of Chicago" this year due to circumstances beyond the control of a great committee. Hopefully, this will be remedied for next year, and we shall again honor St. Patrick with two great parades.

Historians tell us that St. Patrick was born in Brittany, France, and whilst playing by the sea shore one day, was captured by Irish sailors and brought to Ireland. He was, we are told, sold to farmers in Ireland, and was employed minding sheep on the hills of Wicklow. During his time there, he was loved by the Irish people, who finally managed to help him escape and return to his parents.

He later journeyed to Rome and became a priest, and received the blessing of the Pope to return to Ireland and help the missionaries. This St. Patrick did with great enthusiasm, and one day, while trying to convert some Druids, he was having trouble explaining the Trinity, three persons in one God. The good Saint knelt on the ground, picked a three leaf shamrock, three leaves with one stem. Ever since, Irishmen and women wear the shamrock on his feast day, whenever it is available.

The first official St. Patrick's Day parade in the Loop was held in 1956, the year after the legendary Mayor Richard J. Daley was elected Mayor of Chicago. He attended the first one on the southside in 1954 and promised that when elected in 1955 he would have two parades, the official one and one "on the great southside of Chicago." The one in the Loop would be the official one and the southside would be a tribute.

"Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear Saint of our Isle, on us thy poor children, look down with a smile, and now thou are high in the mansions above, on your parade in Chicago look down with your love."

**Congrats to the Fitzgerald's**

Congratulations are extended to the well known U.S. Attorney General from the Illinois area, Patrick Fitzgerald, and his charming wife, Chicago school teacher Jennifer, who welcomed a bouncing baby son to the family just before Christmas. They named him Conor Patrick. The Attorney General who is very popular in the state is a son of proud Clare parents, and we understand that Patrick Sr. loves to read our

ers and footballers. Names that readily come to mind—Dr. Daly, "Tull" Considine, Jimmy Smith, all great caman wielders, and of course, our own P.J. O'Dea, one of Clare's finest on the football field.

**Ireland on Parade**

Now in its 43rd year of existence and getting better every year, Ireland on Parade will be featured at Chicago Gaelic Park from March 1st - March 17th, starting at 7:30pm each evening. Just the mention of Ireland on Parade recalls its talented maestro, Martin Fahey. He has directed this all-star show over the years and will be on hand again this year, as he says "God willing."

I can recall this group of organizers getting together with the famed Dennehy Dancers, together with star musicians, Tommy Masterson, Marty Byrne, Noel Gaffney and others, 43 years ago and playing in the large Ford City Shopping Center. They attracted the huge shopping group and as the lad says, "the Craic was mighty."

The talented group this year will include dancers from 14 dancing schools and all-star Irish singers from the Chicago metro area. Entertainers who will be featured at other shows during the night will drop by and entertain. Food and refreshments will be available and doors will open from 5:30pm. See you at Gaelic Park during the week, God willing.

For more information, call Melody or the other charming colleens at the Front office, 708-687-9323.

**Sean O'Ceallachain Injured**

His countless friends in Chicago and indeed all across the U.S. will be saddened to learn that the legendary Sean O'Ceallachain, famed sports announcer with his late father for over 60 years, and our popular sports editor, suffered a bad injury to his back in a fall at home. Thank God he is now on the mend and will be out playing golf with Martin McAleese, husband of Irish President Mary, in the spring.

Sean, who occupies a prominent place in the

Guinness Book of Records for his 60 years of broadcasting sports results from Ireland every Sunday night, is known throughout the Gaelic world. He and his father (Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm), controlled that much coveted spot. He also wrote some fine articles for our paper, and has been missed for the past few months.

He tells us he is working on another GAA book entitled, The Liam McCarty Cup, which will be a detailed history of the last 68 All-Ireland hurling finals, 1921-2008. This will be some book, and knowing the editor, the sooner it comes on the market, the better. I witnessed some of the greats of that time, as did countless gael. It will be worth waiting for some trips of the past.

**St. Patrick Day at Gaelic Park**

Crowds will be flocking to Gaelic Park for their St. Patrick's celebration. Doors will open at 11am for the big delicious luncheon and at 7pm that evening, the renowned Deirdre O'Reilly and famed band will provide their own star performance.

A call has gone out from Gaelic Park asking parents of youths 8-14 to sign up for the Youth Drama Group, now being formed. For more information call the colleens at 708-687-9323.

**Chicago St. Patrick's  
Day Parade Marches On!**

Chicago's Southside parade, a tribute to Ireland's national Apostle, St. Patrick, will continue to march on Sunday, March 14th. Its new location will be on Oak Park in Tinley Park, on the southwest side of the city. Marchers, floats, coaches, etc. will assemble at Central School at 18100 s. Oak Park Ave. at 1pm. Step off will be at 2pm. The parade route will be along the avenue from 18100 to 17100 Oak Park Ave.

Marchers include Chicago Gaelic Park with float, etc, Hennessy clan with Coach, and others. Other organizations are welcome to come along but must first be registered. Fran Kurza, 532-9989, before March 3rd. Mayor Ed Zatrocki extends a hearty welcome to all marchers, etc. The Oak Park Ave. Main Street Association has sponsored this community parade for the past 11 years.

May the road rise with you. May the wind be always at your back. May the shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again friend, may the Good God hold you in the palm of his hand. Beannacht De ar an La Naomh Padraig. (The blessings of Saint Patrick be upon you.)

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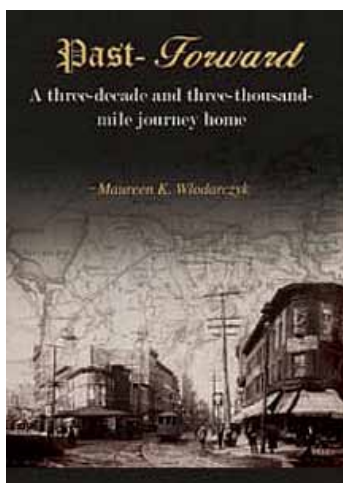
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Past-Forward – A three-decade and three-thousand-mile journey home tells the story of the author's 30-year search for his grandmother Kate's Irish roots. She had a sad and turbulent childhood and adolescence at the turn of the twentieth century in New Jersey. She was motherless by age nine and in the care of various relations. By fourteen, she was placed as a live-in domestic servant and by sixteen she was married. She knew very little about her family and nothing

about her grandparents or earlier ancestors. Written in the form of a letter to his grandmother, it tells the story of his search and the discoveries he made and traces the family from County Sligo, Ireland in the late 18th century, to their emigration to America during the potato famine and through the successive generations into the early 20th century in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. <http://outskirtspress.com/pastforward>.



**2nd Annual Irish Soda Bread Bake-Off**

The Irish Shop is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Irish Soda Bread Bake-Off Contest on Saturday March 20. The entries will be judged at 3pm at The Irish Shop, 100 N. Oak Park Ave., capping off 3 weeks of celebrations honoring Ireland's patron saint.

Competition is open to non-professional cooks/bakers. Contestants can enter their breads in any of three categories. Category #1: Plain Soda Bread, Category #2: Wheaten Soda Bread, Category #3: Soda Bread with Fruit, Nuts, or Seeds.

Entries will be judged by appearance, texture, and taste. The entry with the highest total score will be awarded first place, and receive a \$100 gift certificate from The Irish Shop. The winning recipe will be published

in the Irish American News and The Irish Shop Newsletter. A \$50.00 gift certificate will be awarded for 2nd place, and a \$25.00 gift certificate for 3rd place. Entrants will receive a 20% discount on their next purchase at The Irish Shop.

"A family's Irish soda bread recipe is a well treasured secret handed down from generation to generation," says co-owner Jim August. Entry forms are available at the Shop, or at [www.theirishshopoakpark.com](http://www.theirishshopoakpark.com). Entries must be submitted by 2:30pm on March 20, 2010. Entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.

The Irish Shop is celebrating its 19th year of bringing the best of the Emerald Isle. 708-445-1149; [www.theirishshop-online.com](http://www.theirishshop-online.com).

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St. Patrick's Mini-Pint Special  
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Wednesday – Live Irish session 8pm • \$3 hot wings • \$4 Guinness • 1/2 price cosmo's  
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Thursday – 1/2 price margaritas   
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Friday – all you can eat fish and chips all day  
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\*See travel terms and conditions

# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Yet despite all of this, there is one group of unredeemable chancers that I loath even more. Yeah, that has to be the Green Party.

I never trusted this bunch of sandal-wearing, bicycle riding, vegetarian "save the planet from global warming by introducing more and more taxes" clodhoppers in the first place.

But when they went into a coalition with a party that they were supposed to be diametrically opposed

to... well, what can you say?

What a bunch of tree-hugging sell-outs.

It's as if FF put a ring through their miserable green noses and led them a merry dance before they all squealed at the top of their phoney hippy voices "Sorry, Masters, you were right all along. We'll play ball now."

They are "led" by a joke called John Gormley. I put "led" in inverted commas because his string has never been pulled by anyone other than his masters in Fianna Fail.

He is a disgrace both as a politician and as a man.

So what a delight and pleasure it was—and yes, this is the kind of thing that keeps me warm at night—to see one of their most honourable and honest politicians, Senator Deirdre de Burca, finally throwing in the towel with her corrupt sell-out of a Party.

Not only did she decide that enough was enough, but she couldn't have put it more bluntly than in the letter of resignation that she sent to John the Joke Gormless:

"I regret to say that I can no longer support the Green Party in government, as I believe that we have gradually abandoned our political values and our integrity and in many respects have become no more than an extension of the Fianna Fail party."

"I have had a number of conversations with you as party leader over months now about my growing discomfort with decisions that the Green Party has been supporting. You have been very aware of my frustration with the fact that despite the fact of the Green Party holding the balance of power in this Government for some time now, our willingness to try to exercise that influence appears to grow less with every passing week."

Yes! Senator, marry me! Now!

But she gets better:

"As a party, we seem to have been paralysed by the electorate's rejection of many of our candidates (including myself) in the local and European elections last June. Any suggestion that we challenge Fianna Fail seems to bring up a great fear in us that we will have to leave government. In fact staying in Government appears to have become an end in itself now for the Green Party."

She goes on to say:

"Unfortunately the effect of this unwillingness to act is that the Green Party has been slowly hemorrhaging support because of a growing public perception that we have lost the courage of our convictions and have become no more than an obedient "addition" to Fianna Fail."

"I believe that in your role as party leader you have done a disservice to the Green Party and to its members in allowing this 'drift' to occur."

Did you get all that, Gormless? I know that you're better at riding bicycles and sucking up to your masters in FF so in case you didn't, then let me spell out what the lady is trying to put diplomatically: you are a bootlicker. You always were and you always will be.

Like I say, it doesn't take much to make me happy. Just watching those that I detest squirm. It's not a lot to ask for.

So step forward, "Archbishop" Gerry Adams who now says that he is planning on taking therapy to help him to deal with the fact that his father and brother were child abusers.

Adams knew about this for years, but of course, it's only now that he's wandered onto the set of a Woody Allen film and is looking for therapy.

I'm just wondering, Adams: all those people who died for nothing while you were absolutely not the former head of the Irish Republican Army Council... do their relatives get therapy too?

## Letter of Resignation for Gormley and Therapy for Gerry Adams

God knows that it doesn't take much to cheer me up. In this life all that I really ask for is horror and bewilderment on the faces of the people that I despise.

Regular readers of this column will know just how much I loathe the chancers of Fianna Fail. I hate their arrogance, their wasteful expenditure on each other while at the same time cutting Paddy Q. Sucker right down to the bone when it comes to tax.

I hate the witch that is in charge of the jokingly called Health System, Morticia Mary Harney, who bleats on about how she needs to make all these cutbacks in the health system, while she herself can't even go out for the evening without having a seven-course meal.

I hate our invisible Taoiseach Brian Cowen. That's OK though, everybody else hates him too. Show up now and again, clown! Tell us something!

Give the peasants something so that we can throw rotten apples at the TV screen by simply being bloody seen now and again.

I guess I just hate the Fianna Failures, and I hate us for letting them get away with it for so long.

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**Friday, March 12th**  
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## "The Luck Of The Irish, I've Got It"

By Frank West

Kerry Brennan is the Queen of the St. Patrick's Day Parade as of Sunday, February 21, 2010!

She is a beautiful young lady, with blue eyes and black hair. She is not only beautiful and filled with the enthusiasm of youth but she has other important qualifications.

The main one is that she is a Pediatric Nurse. This is a nurse who specializes in helping newly born babies that have health problems.

She finds this work so important and



Congratulations to Kerry Brennan and her boyfriend, Patrick Doran who became a Cook County Sheriff Monday, 2-23-2010!

personally rewarding ("The best job I could ever ask for.") that she is studying this nursing specialty at graduate school. She will soon graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and will then be a Nurse Practitioner for children.

Hard work to achieve your dreams is something that is in her Irish heritage. Kerry speaks fondly of her grandmother who lived to be 99 years old.

Her grandmother worked hard, everyday, since she came from Ireland. Her dream

was to raise her family and to make a better life for them. Her children and grandchildren saw this example of working for a dream and have fulfilled it.

Repeatedly Kerry pointed out the importance of using education to achieve a dream, and her parents are both examples of this. Her father, Thomas, is an attorney and her mother, Bernadine, is a nurse. They raised a family of five children. As Kerry says: "Her parents are wonderful people, and they are a lot of fun too."

The new Queen runs competitively in Chicago-land cross country and track sports. She knows Julie Popp, last year's Parade Queen from the athletic department at UIC. As Kerry says "We are very good friends. I have known Julie for years. I have been in the Queen's Court for three years, and have met many friends there."

James Sullivan, General Chairman of the Queen Contest, remarked about that friendliness among the contestants. He said "The contestants are not competitive but celebrating their Irish heritage."

A word of thanks to the Plumbers Union-Local 130- for their great encouragement of our Irish American heritage. They have sponsored the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Queen Contest since 1956 when Mayor Richard J. Daley asked them to coordinate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We can learn many things about life from this young woman. When I asked her what personal qualities are important to her, she answered: "Life can be full of joy if we expect it to be." She wants to be positive and keep an open mind and to look for the humorous things in life.

This is great advice, and she is only 24 years old. Queen Kerry learned well from her parents and grandparents. The future of Irish America is bright and golden.

(photo by Cathy Curry)

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**O'BITUARIES**  
**Friends we will miss**



**Margaret Mary Corrigan**

Margaret Mary Corrigan went to heaven in February. She was 92.

The daughter of Canadian immigrants Edward and Margaret Loftus, Mrs. Corrigan was born April 10, 1917 on the South Side.

She grew up at 68th and Wentworth in a house that would later be torn down to make way for the Dan Ryan Expressway. Mrs. Corrigan became a life long Cubs fan at age 14 despite her South Side roots after a family friend took her to her first game.

Mrs. Corrigan attended Loretto High School in Englewood. In 1940, she earned a bachelor's degree in education

from St. Xavier College. Later in life both schools honored her. In 1960, she was named Loretto Foundation Woman of the Year. St. Xavier named her Alumni of the Year in 1990.

Mrs. Corrigan met her future husband at a 1937 summer party in Lakeside, Michigan. The late Charlie Corrigan was a friend of her brother and nine years her senior. At the party, Charlie Corrigan tossed Margaret into the lake and thought it was funny.

"Mom said right then she knew they would start dating," Her daughter Maureen Toomey said.

They married in 1941 and lived near 78th and Wood in Little Flower Parish. They had nine children. Four of their sons, including the late Marty Corrigan, suffered from hemophilia—a blood disease that keeps blood from clotting.

Helping other families affected by hemophilia became a passion for Mrs. Corrigan, who along with her husband founded the Midwest Chapter of the Hemophilia Foundation. They organized annual blood drives for 40 years.

She stayed loyal to her Catholic upbringing, volunteering at nursing homes and supporting pro-life causes, her family said.

She was remembered as someone who met church sermons for morality and personal responsibility head-on with action, volunteering her time and her home for causes

she believed in. Already caring for three hemophiliac sons in a family of eight children, Mrs. Corrigan and her husband, Charles, adopted 11-month-old Roger — also a hemophiliac — in the late 1960s from a Peoria orphanage.

"It was something that she was put on this earth to do," said her son Michael, the only son born without hemophilia. "That was just a part of her person."

Even after her sons became adults and didn't require her supervision, Mrs. Corrigan turned her attention toward care for both young and old. An active member of Catholic Charities and the pro-life movement, she cared for newborn babies waiting to be put up for adoption as an alternative to abortion. She wasn't afraid to pick up a sign and picket outside a clinic that performed abortions, her family said.

Mrs. Corrigan also volunteered at homeless shelters, nursing



"She was the most cheerful, upbeat Irish lady that I've ever known."

Mrs. Corrigan's friend Marge Noonan said, "She never stopped. She volunteered in all directions her whole life. She just had the get up and go." In 2002 Cook County Sheriff Mike Sheahan presented Margaret Corrigan with a medal of honor for her volunteer work.

Mrs. Corrigan took great pride in keeping up with her 25 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Every Valentine's Day, she sent each of them a card with a dollar bill tucked inside and a "Love, Gramma" signature.

homes and the Meals on Wheels program. In her later years, her family said she remained active, cooking for the priests at St. Linus parish in south suburban Oak Lawn, where she lived for three decades.

Mrs. Corrigan is survived by her daughters Maureen Toomey, Mary Therese Malone, Loretta Cunningham, and Marge Miller, and sons Chuck, Bill, Mike, and Roger.

Services were handled by Sheehy Funeral Home.

**Thomas P. Byrne**

Thomas P. Byrne, loving son of the late Mary and Patrick Byrne (Strokestown, County Roscommon, Ireland) was born into eternal life on February 8th, 2010.

Tom was born and raised in St. Leo parish on the South Side and graduated from Leo High School in 1936. He was a proud member of The Trevillions Social Club on West 79th Street where he forged lifelong relationships with Fran O'Donovan, Roger, Bob, and Jack Sheehy, Willie Dixon, Mike Maloney, Larry Grogan and countless others. Tom Byrne was a veteran of World War II having served as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1941-45. After the war, Tom was a stationary engineer for the Chicago Board of Education for over 40 years. He also owned a saloon at 74th and Halsted on which "Tom Byrne" and a lone shamrock in the window displayed his proud Irish heritage for over 15 years.

In 1952, Tom married Marion Burke from Nativity parish in Bridgeport. They settled in St. Christina parish and raised their family there. Tom was the



loving father of Patrick (Rosanne) and the late Mary McGivern, Ellen & Thomas (Mary Pat) Byrne. He was the proud "Papa" of 11 grandchildren and the fond brother of the late Loretta (the late Harold) Hartney, Helen, and Patsy Byrne.

Tom was Notre Dame's greatest fan having season football tickets for 57

years and where his son Tom graduated in 1978. His passions included golf, crossword puzzles and Irish music especially his friends Tony Kenny & Ronan Tynan. After retiring Tom and Marion spent their winters in Naples, Florida.

Tom's proudest accomplishment was his family. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren and provided them many fond memories.

Tom was a very compassionate and loving person. He taught his family his lifelong principals of having faith in God, family & friends and to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

Tom's wife Marion died in August of 2000.

Thomas P. Byrne was laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on February 12, 2010. Donations may be made to The Mulliganeers, P.O. Box 213, LaGrange, IL 60525.

Services were handled by Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home.



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# Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



badour presents us with his brilliantly conceived album The Baltic Tae Byzantium.

Many thanks to Craig Scotland and Jack Baker for turning me in Brian's direction, as he never disappoints and I have gathered some of his amazing albums.

The Baltic Tae Byzantium explores in song the links between Scotland and Europe. Songs and stories of Mary, Queen Of Scots, John Knox and Bonnie Prince Charlie.

It's rich in it's history and almost visual in it's telling. Brian is a writer, multi instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and founder member of The Battlefield Band.

In Scotland he is considered a national treasure and rightly so. Celtic Rock Album Of The Year The Irish Collection - Barleyjuice

Barleyjuice are on top of the Celtic Rock genre with their lively hand clapping, toe tapping, beer drinking yet incredibly talented approach to Celtic Rock.

Kyf, Swanny, Billy, Eric, Jimmy and Gregor take no prisoners as they take us on a merry jaunt on this double album of bawdy ballads and truly memorable originals. The Irish Collection is divided into two parts—"A Night At The Pub" and "The Morning After"

If it's craic you're after then it's all here and loads of it. There are thirty-two songs on this album and with the exception of a few instrumentals they are all about Whiskey, Rum, Tequila, Stout and The Juice Of The Barley. "Whiskey To The Sea" is one of the best songs ever written, nothing short of brilliant.

Kyf Brewer is a wordsmith and one of

the best contemporary balladeers out there today.

Female Vocal Album Of The Year Speak - Kat Eggleston

I heard Kat sing with David Munnely's band back at The Kansas City Irish Festival and realized what a loss she was to the Chicago Irish Music scene. With her new album, Speak she just knocks it out of the ballpark. The songs are soulful and memorable, the lyrics warm and comfortable, the guitar playing sensational. Speak has a beautiful sixties feel, like Joni Mitchell and I have been playing it over and over since first receiving it - Yumalicious.

Male Vocal Album Of The Year Paddy Homan - Paddy Homan

What do you get when you combine the pure Cork tenor voice of Paddy Homan with some of the best trad musicians alive—you get perfection.

Paddy is joined on his album by Dennis Cahill, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon, Johnny Williams, Jimmy Moore, Kathleen Keane and Pat Broaders. The result is stunning.

Great songs done beautifully—'nuff said. Paddy, yer a star. Best Live Album - Trad

Beo - Slide

They have defied tradition and redefined it with their energetic, stunningly visual and multi talented performances across the world for the past few years and have captured the live experience in their first album Beo.

Aogan Lynch, Daire Bracken, Mick Broderick, Eamonn De  
Continued to next page

## The Irish American News Blarney On The Air Awards

It was another great year for album releases covering the entire gamut of Irish, Scottish and Celtic music. At one end of the spectrum there were Grammy nominations for John Doyle, Liz Carroll, and Maura O'Connell and we applaud and congratulate them for their brilliance. At the other end there are hundreds of independently produced albums, some good, some truly awful, but sometimes you can find a gem among them. That's what I do. I look for the "gems" and then I share them on Blarney On The Air every Monday night on 90.9 fm in Chicago or on the web at wdc.org.

So here are my gems from last year's offerings—The IAN/Blarney On The Air Awards.

Irish Album Of The Year

Traditional Irish Music - Girsra

I told you back in the September issue of IAN how great this album was and that it was a serious contender for my Album Of The Year, and I have heard nothing to change my mind since. Girsra are brilliant and with this debut album they have captured the hearts of Irish America.

The album Traditional Irish Music delivers on its promise with sixteen awesome tracks, eight gorgeous girls with talent and voices to match. Whether it's a soulful ballad or a lively jig, the girls are all over it, delivering a sound that is truly traditional in all it's senses. There is not a bad note on this entire album and every cut is a winner.

Maeve, Deirdre, Kristen, Margaret, Bernadette, Blathin, Pamela and Emily are from Pearl River, NY, and have been playing together since they were children. Some of their parents are Irish music teachers and Girsra are a credit to them.

The album is brilliantly produced by Gabriel O'Donohue who has also been a great mentor to the girls. Check out their "Emigrant Eyes" video on YouTube and as expected, Girsra will be at some of the major Irish Festivals this summer, including Irish Fest Milwaukee and The Dublin Irish Festival, Ohio. I look forward to seeing them play live.

Scottish Album Of The Year

The Baltic Tae Byzantium - Brian McNeill

Another easy pick as Brian McNeill, Scotland's folk trou-



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**Raised On Songs and Stories**

Continued from previous page Barra and Dave Curley have made traditional Irish music HOT and with their kick-ass approach and boundless energy have brought legions of fans into the traditional camp.

They sing, they dance and they play with a relentless ferocity that has made them the darlings of the Irish Festival circuit and their album Beo captures this excitement.

Continued from previous page Daire Bracken also gets the "Whirling Dervish" award. Altogether brilliant.

Best Live Album - World Live. Volume 1 - Scythian  
 Classically trained and combining Gypsy, Jazz, Celtic and Cajun, it has

always been difficult to pigeonhole Scythian, but never mind the labels, call it Celtic heart with Gypsy soul, but it's all just meaningless words until you see them play live.

Scythian Live. Volume 1 captures the relentless, contagious and highly visual but always entertaining experience. There is even a beautifully rendered version of Maurice Lennon's "If Ever You Were Mine" on the album.

Brothers Alex and Danylo Fedoryka, Josef Crosby and Mike Ounallah are Scythian and they bring it all to this album, sparing nothing and sharing the excitement that have made them one of the top five bands at Irish and Celtic events in the USA.

Did I mention that my daughter Saoirse thinks they are also the "cutest band on the circuit?"

So there you have it, seven of the

best albums I have come across in the last year. We wish them luck and look forward to their future albums. Well done all.

**Bits And Pieces**

Re - Seisiun, a great little band from Moate, County Westmeath have been doing very well on RTE's All Ireland Talent Show.

Keith Flynn, Liam Flynn, Stephen Heffernan, Patrick Heffernan and Conor Irwin have bundles of talent on their side and we wish them well in the competition.

We expect to see them in the USA in the not too distant future and hope that they are working on a debut album.

Paddy Reilly was photographed chatting to The Fuschia Band's Mairtin De Cogan on Mary Rowley's Caribbean Cruise recently and she sent a photograph of them, which she titles "Master And Pupil." She tells me Paddy was quite taken with the talent displayed by our young Mairtin.

Ian Byrne, front man for The Elders has been chosen as the Grand Marshal of the KC St. Patrick's Day parade in Kansas City... He was chosen because he came over with \$120 in his pocket and a dream to own his own furniture business—which he does... He is living the American dream as a newly sworn in citizen! (The music is the cream...)

Congratulations Ian. Well deserved.

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## Suzanne Barrett: Coaching, Support, and Suite Services

Suzanne Barrett is the owner and manager of Barrett Office Suites and Services. She is a business support expert with a passion for coaching and supporting winners. Early career success in award-winning journalism and press relations for political campaigns led Suzanne to realize her calling—being a unique resource for business and professional people.

As a result of her passion for creating a back-office environment that supports front-office activities, Suzanne established Barrett & Associates seven years ago as a turnkey option for business and professional clients to open the door and commence business. As a natural extension to providing this back-office infrastructure, Suzanne founded Barrett Office Suites and Services in 2009.

What makes Barrett Offices unique is the blend of executive office space, staff and group offices, virtual office services and conference, training and board room facilities in the prestigious 135 S. LaSalle St location in the heart of Chicago's financial and government district. Striving to be a catalyst for businesses, whether for a day, a week, a month or more, Barrett offers support services in back office administration, onsite IT support, vendor sourcing, mail, reception and clerical collaboration and resources, while maintaining the highest level of confidentiality.



Ireland (Belmullet and Swinford) and she is an Irish citizen herself. Remaining true to her Irish heritage and the Irish love of horses, Suzanne coaches winners of another sort. She is active in thoroughbred racing and is owner of Barrett Racing Stable LLC. She holds licenses in the sport as a horse owner, pony person, and hotwalker. With her eye set on developing a stable full of stakes winning horses, her business life is also devoted to training winners.

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Suzanne's parents were born in

Suzanne grew up on the southside of Chicago and now resides on the near north side. She may be reached at 312-254-8700. Her email address is [suzanne@barrettoffices.com](mailto:suzanne@barrettoffices.com).

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**Tradition  
In Review**

Bill Margeson



Happy Paddy's Day! Now, pay attention! Listen up! Fluff your soapy suds! Shake your tail feathers! The David Munnely Band is the best Irish vocal/instrumental group in the world for traditional music right now. And, we get 'em Sunday night, March 14th at the Irish American Heritage Center! Call 773-282-7035, ext. 13 and talk to Center Goddess, Kathy O'Neill. Reserve! Every trad cat in Chicago will be there, and you should be there, too! This will probably be concert of the year. Usually is. Munnely has not had the sextet here in a while. They're out supporting their new, Award-winning album, Tight Squeeze. Rare. Fabulous. Not to be missed. Enough said. And, Altan is coming to the Abbey, as well! Get up to 3429 W. Grace on Saturday, March 27th. Munnely and Altan in the same month. Two all-time great bands coming to the best Irish music city in America. No question. No doubt. Do what you have to do. See you there.

Well, we have received about 70 albums in the mail in the last couple months. So, here are the best of 'em. There will be 9. This will be fast. Brace yourself, Bridgid:

1. Speaking of Altan. They are JUST out with their 25th anniversary album on Compass. This is cool. They went back into their own catalogue and picked out their favorites and re-recorded them with the RTE Orchestra! It is great. Totally trad? Nope. But, no band has stayed so true to the tradition over the years. So, this is something different, and it is lovely. Top, top stuff.

2. John Doyle and Karan Casey have teamed up and have Exile's Return out, also on Compass. There are 12 songs. John Doyle's masterful guitar and both of their wonderful voices are fully employed here. A stunner of an album from two of the best in the business at the top of their games. Geez, we have

played this a lot on the radio show already, and the listeners love it as much as co-host, Mary Ann Keifer and I do. Totally enjoyable, fore and aft. Winners.

3. We have loved Hanneke Cassel's fiddle playing since we first heard her years ago with Cathie Ryan. Here she is with her latest, For Reasons Unseen. Her fiddle playing just gets better and better. There IS some great Irish work here, all right. We only wish she would have put more of it down on the album. There are other styles here, which show her total musicianship, but leave the Irish trad aficionados wanting more. It is a wonderful album, so we shouldn't whine. But, like the recent String Sisters, it will not appeal to listeners seeking a full Irish album. She is great, and you should have this, in any case. We remember her as a young girl in the music. Now—all grown up, and a woman of musical substance.

4. Outside Track is a new band out with a self-titled album, recorded in the Scottish borders region. We want to name them, this is so good. Norah Rendell, from Vancouver—vocals, flute, whistle, Ailie Robertson—a Top TIR Award winning musician from this paper, and a Livies winner on harp from the world's largest Celtic music site, LiveIreland.com. One of the best new harpists in the world. Mairi Rankin, singing, playing fiddle and step dancing—out of Nova Scotia and, yes, part of THAT Rankin Family. Fiona Black out of the Scottish Highlands on piano accordion, fiddle and flute. Wow! Cillian O'Dalaigh from Germany on guitar and flute. Wow again! This is the best new group we have heard in quite a while. Stunning. This album is just the beginning. Wow! (Did we already say that?)

5. Fidl has their latest out, Fidl 3. All three fiddlers prove that when you have this much talent, you can offer albums that continuously amaze in their virtuosity and different sounds, all brought to the party by three fiddles! If you dare

to think you know what three fiddles sound like, you are wrong. These are young masters at work, and we love them to bits. Damien McGeehan, Aidan O'Donnell and Ciaran O'Maonaigh are all from Ireland and all known to us from their many other projects. But, it is together that they reach this crescendo, A brilliant format for brilliant musicians. Find it.

6. Conversation at the Crosses is from two master Irish musicians, and it is an early contender for Instrumental Album of the Year. The conversation takes place between Pat O'Connor on fiddle and Eoghan O'Sullivan on button box and flute. This is for the real, true trad fan. Masterful. Wonderful. There are 12 cuts, loaded with magic. This is the pure drop. If YOU'RE the pure drop, find it. Recorded in Miltown Malbay in Clare. Irish music. Real Irish at its core, down to the bottom and up to the top.

7. The RTE Masters Series is on board with Willie Clancy The Gold Ring. An awful lot of people would tell you Willie was the best uilleann pipes player of all time. Hard to argue. Surely an immortal. Two CD's here with a staggering 65 cuts. Definitive. Important. He passed in 1973, but his musical legacy is so vital to the tradition and Miltown Malbay, his home town, we can't go into it here, and might not try it in any format. The all-time master? Well, if not he, who? If you love real, true genius piping, here it is. Alpha and Omega.

8. Nightingale, from Boston, has a new one. Jolie. This trio is unexcelled in their arrangements and amazing musicians. We were hipped to them by two of their biggest fans, the fab Matt and Shannon Heaton. Piano accordion, fiddle, bouzouki, guitar, vocals, all the tasty stuff. Becky Tracy, Jeremiah McLane and Keith Murphy have come up trumps. We love this album, and so will you.

9. Le Cheile has Out of the West. This group is a London-based quintet sent to us by Alan O'Leary at Copperplate Distribution and Promotions. Copperplate is the best and only handles the best. Le Cheile is wonderful. These guys make you feel that they are right there with you in an incredible session. They have a ball, and just play it ahead. Lay it out, and "Bob's yer uncle." This is the stuff we all love. The vocals are not to be believed. Every now and then we hear an album and smile through the whole thing. This is one of those. Terrific, wonderful music.

Notes: You can hear all of these on partner Mary Ann Keifer's and my Monday night show, Ireland Tonight (BOTA) on WDCB, 90.9fm or www.wdcb.org. It is on from 8-9pm Chicago time, and features the best in real Irish music. Join us.

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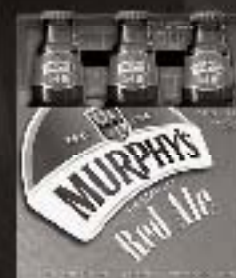
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Last year, ten food pantries in Cook and Lake counties served an extra

70,866 people. That's a 46% increase.

To help increasing numbers of families and individuals in crisis, Catholic Charities is asking the public to collect donations and non-perishable food items to bring to their emergency assistance sites. The donations will be given to those in the greatest need who come to the pantries for food each day.

Donations are being accepted at

10 locations from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. The locations are:

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- Chicago: 4537 S. Ashland, 60609, (773) 376-9425
- Chicago: 721 N. LaSalle St., 60654 (708) 655-7525
- Cicero: 1400 S. Austin Boulevard, 60804 - (708) 222-1491
- Des Plaines: 1717 Rand Road, 60016 - (847) 376-2100
- South Holland: 16100 Seton Drive, 60473 - (708) 333-8379
- Summit: 7438 W. 61st, 60501 - (708) 563-2407
- Waukegan: 671 S. Lewis, 60085 - (847) 782-4000
- Worth: 7000 W. 111th Street, 60482 - (708) 430-0428

Thanks to a partnership with NBC-5 Chicago, Catholic Charities' staff, volunteers and supporters will kick off the Have a Heart Help Your Neighbor Campaign in a special way on March 5 by gathering on the NBC 5 Plaza on Michigan Avenue from 6am-noon to collect donations from the public. NBC News morning personalities will join Catholic Charities in raising awareness about the increased needs for food in the greater Chicago community.

In addition to dropping off donations in person at the locations above, those interested in supporting the Have a Heart Help Your Neighbor Campaign may give by phone by calling (312) 655-7012, or mail checks or money orders payable to Catholic Charities, with "Have a Heart" in the notation line, to: 721 N. LaSalle, 4th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, 60654. They may also give online at: [www.catholiccharities.net/neighbor](http://www.catholiccharities.net/neighbor).

Catholic Charities serves anyone in need, regardless of religious belief, economic circumstance, age or ethnic background. [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

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Céad Míle Fáilte

Avenues to Independence

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Sunday, March 14, 2010  
 2:00 pm  
 The Meridian Banquets  
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 Rolling Meadows

This grand afternoon includes:


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- Non-stop Irish music & dance
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*(For a sneak peak at items visit the Avenues website at [www.avenuestoindependence.org](http://www.avenuestoindependence.org))*

Cost is \$60 per adult, \$20 for children under 12.

For reservations contact  
 Peg O'Herron at 847.885.8976 or  
 Ann Marie Ehrlich at 847.292.0870 ext. 108

or register on line at [avenuestoindependence.org](http://avenuestoindependence.org) and clicking on Irish Fest



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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



### Madonna House

The mission of Catholic Charities has always been to nurture life—in whatever way is needed at any given moment in history. According to Father Roger Coughlin, our resident historian and a pioneer of many programs at Catholic Charities over the last 50 years: "It depends on the needs of people and Catholic Charities' ability to help."

So, a year ago, when Catholic Charities' St. Sylvester Shelter on Chicago's Northwest side for up to 12 homeless families had to close and move to make room for a needed parish project, we—like so many of the families we serve—had to search for a new home.

And thanks to the great generosity of numerous benefactors: parishes, parishioners, businesses and an extraordinary family, we found one!

Madonna House, in Chicago's Lakeview

neighborhood, was a vacant building that had suffered fire damage. Today, it is totally transformed into the larger, newly repaired and beautifully renovated residence that accommodates 14 families or 50 family members: mothers and children who had no homes—but are now preparing for new, self-sufficient lives.

Madonna House is much more than a building or even a warm and welcoming home: it is a full-fledged, four-month long program of wrap-around social services, counseling and individualized family case management designed to move families from homelessness to self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Madonna House offers a home-like environment where families can regain their dignity and focus on their goals like finding employment, affordable childcare, and generating personal savings.

Because homelessness is a threat to more families than ever before in this recession, the Madonna House interim housing program could not have opened at a better time. And this wonderful transitional home for homeless families has inspired tremendous acts of kindness and commitment. We are grateful beyond measure to our partners in charity who have made this beautiful place a reality. Key contributors to the project include the James

N. Perry family, St. Clement Parish in Lincoln Park, the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Discovery Clothing, and Designs for Dignity, an organization that provides pro-bono professional design services and in-kind donations to non-profits. The Korean American community in Chicago donated warm blankets for the families. For years to come, their extraordinary generosity will be a blessing to families seeking their way out of homelessness into stable housing, jobs and a new life.


In these difficult times, Catholic Charities remains committed to helping the most vulnerable families throughout Cook and Lake counties through a wide range of emergency services such as food, clothing, and shelter, and professional social services. Other services for homeless families include the St. Francis de Paula Shelter in Chicago and the New Hope Apartments Program, which places homeless families in 124 scattered-site apartments throughout the city and suburbs with temporary rental support while providing intensive case management services. Catholic Charities also operates the Homelessness Prevention Call Center, which assists callers who fear they may become homeless by connecting them to a wide range of supports.

To make financial donations to Madonna House, call (312) 655-7525. To learn more about Catholic Charities or Madonna House, visit [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

May the spirit of St. Patrick enliven your faith and open your hearts to God's people in need! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



inform me of the mass grave you know about. Call 312/664-7651 or eMail me: fogartyc@att.net.

THE "IRISH" GOV'T, a main Irish Holocaust denier, opposes installation of mass grave memorials. Meanwhile, it promotes a different memorial, to Irish purveyors of British violence. Pat Muldowney sends the following (shortened here) from Ireland:

GALLIPOLI "PILGRIMAGE." In an official visit to Turkey in March Irish President Mary McAleese is scheduled to unveil a memorial to the Irish soldiers killed at Gallipoli in World War 1. Ireland's elected representatives are being invited to participate in a "Pilgrimage" to Gallipoli as part of the ceremonies.

Should this invitation be accepted? In 1915 Irish, Australian and other invaders descended on Turkey armed to the teeth with the deadliest weapons and technology of destruction available at that time. Why were they there? Did they incite the Turks to do the same to the Armenians a few years later? The Gallipoli attack was the beginning of a campaign by which the Western powers secured control of most of the Middle East and its valuable oilfields. They continued to wage war throughout the twentieth century to keep control of the region. Since Gallipoli, Western armies have plagued the Middle East, so that it is now one of the most dangerous and tormented areas on earth.

It is unlikely that most of the individual Irish soldiers buried in Gallipoli went there to capture oil and territory, or to start a century of western military aggression, colonisation and domination in that region. So why were they there trying to kill Turks? What were their reasons and motivations? Some of them were poor men who thought they could better themselves if they signed up for killing other people. In other words they did it for the money. Others were persuaded by patriotic propaganda that it was a good idea to invade another country and kill people

there. In other words, they were duped. Some people signed up in order to get a gun and have adventures. In other words they wanted to kill for pleasure.

Which of the Gallipoli dead should be admired, honoured and commemorated? Those Turkish soldiers who heroically sacrificed their lives defending their homeland from foreign invasion? Or the invaders who engaged in aggressive warfare for money, for pleasure, or to help their governments to steal the territory and natural resources of other people? How would we feel if a foreign head of state came to our country to honour and commemorate jihadist soldiers who died while trying to conquer us, change our way of life, and seize our land and resources, using religious words like "Pilgrimage"? It may be that the Irish President thinks that the population of Ireland can be brought together by focusing on some military event in which both sides participated, while mindlessly closing our eyes to the meaning, purpose and consequences of that event. The reality is that we are just emerging from a period of armed conflict in Ireland. Such violence creates division, not harmony. The militarism and slaughter of the Great War generated anger, disillusion, bitterness, destruction and chaos. The Middle East in particular is still suffering grievously from the consequences of Gallipoli.

The Irish dead in Gallipoli should be allowed to rest in peace. If anything, some official amends should be made for the horrific crime they helped to perpetrate on the people of the Middle East. There are many peaceful and honourable projects in which people of good will can join together in common cause. So why should we now dwell on some violent project which Irish people participated, for opposing and mutually contradictory reasons, in order to inflict death and destruction on people in a faraway country who had never harmed us? Why should we now expect to be inspired and elevated by the un-

inspiring fact that armed unionists and nationalists were prepared to defend each other from a third party against whom they had joined together in a savage and unprovoked attack?

The real meaning of Gallipoli is carefully concealed from us. Why? Could it be that we are being softened up to make us amenable to present-day Gallipoli-style savagery in other faraway countries? If Gallipoli is so commendable as to be worthy of State Visits and "Pilgrimages", surely we should be eager to involve ourselves in similar military activities today? In fact, Gallipoli was one of the most shameful, divisive and brutal episodes in our history, and that is what we should remember about it.

IN DUBLIN on its January 30 anniversary, people commemorated Bloody Sunday of 1972 in which British soldiers shot thirty peaceful Derry human rights marchers, mostly in the back, killing fourteen of them.

While the murderers have proven to be above the law, "Irish" police including Dets. Kevin Doherty and Joe Higgins photographed the Dublin commemorators and threateningly demanded IDs. Thus, in official Ireland, mass murder by the Brits is something to abet while treating commemorators as terrorists.

MY MARY asks me to include this: "It wasn't only millions of jobs that were lost," said the Los Angeles Times' Marc Cooper. "We have lost our guiding principles as a nation." After the twin towers fell, "we were stampeded" into an unnecessary war "by an administration that cynically manipulated our deepest but unfounded fears." Executive power was expanded in a manner that would make "Dick Nixon blush and Thomas Jefferson roll over in his grave" and our global standing was "drowned in the CIA's torture pits and in the horror dungeons of Abu Ghraib." And let's not forget how it all began—with the "charade" of an unelected, blatantly partisan Supreme Court picking our president.

CALL THE WHITEHOUSE (202/456-1111) Ask for cessation of US funding for murderers of union organizers in Colombia and Honduras. Demand an end to funding and munitioning of Israel's genocide against Palestinians. Then phone/write your US Congressmen and Senators about the same.

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, beneficial? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), and [ww.friendsofcolinduffey.com](http://ww.friendsofcolinduffey.com).

WHICH BRIT REG'T murdered your relatives? See [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org).

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS in Occupied Ireland? See [www.terrorisireland.org](http://www.terrorisireland.org).

HOLOCAUST MASS GRAVES. Another, in Co. Louth, was brought to my attention yesterday by long-time friend Malachy Towey. Like so many other Holocaust (famine) mass graves, it is outside the wall of a consecrated cemetery- Slarmore. It's a few fields west of the Collon road some miles from Ardee. Malachy informs me that the Ardee workhouse haulier required a four-corpse minimum to make the cemetery trip, and made a few trips some days. Thank you, Malachy! It is to your credit that the murders of the innocents buried there will not be permanently concealed.

ANOTHER, IN DUNFANAGHY,

Co. Donegal, thanks to George McFadden.

TIME RUNS SHORT. My book nears completion. Of the hundreds of Holocaust mass graves in Ireland, only two, so far, have markers that bear honest witness. Most lack markers of any kind, others have a worn "famine graveyard" sign; so we must register the remaining known mass graves before they are lost forever. This might be the last chance for the mass grave near your birthplace to be publicly acknowledged and put on the map along with the others. It's your choice as to attribution. If you prefer anonymity, that's fine; just be sure to

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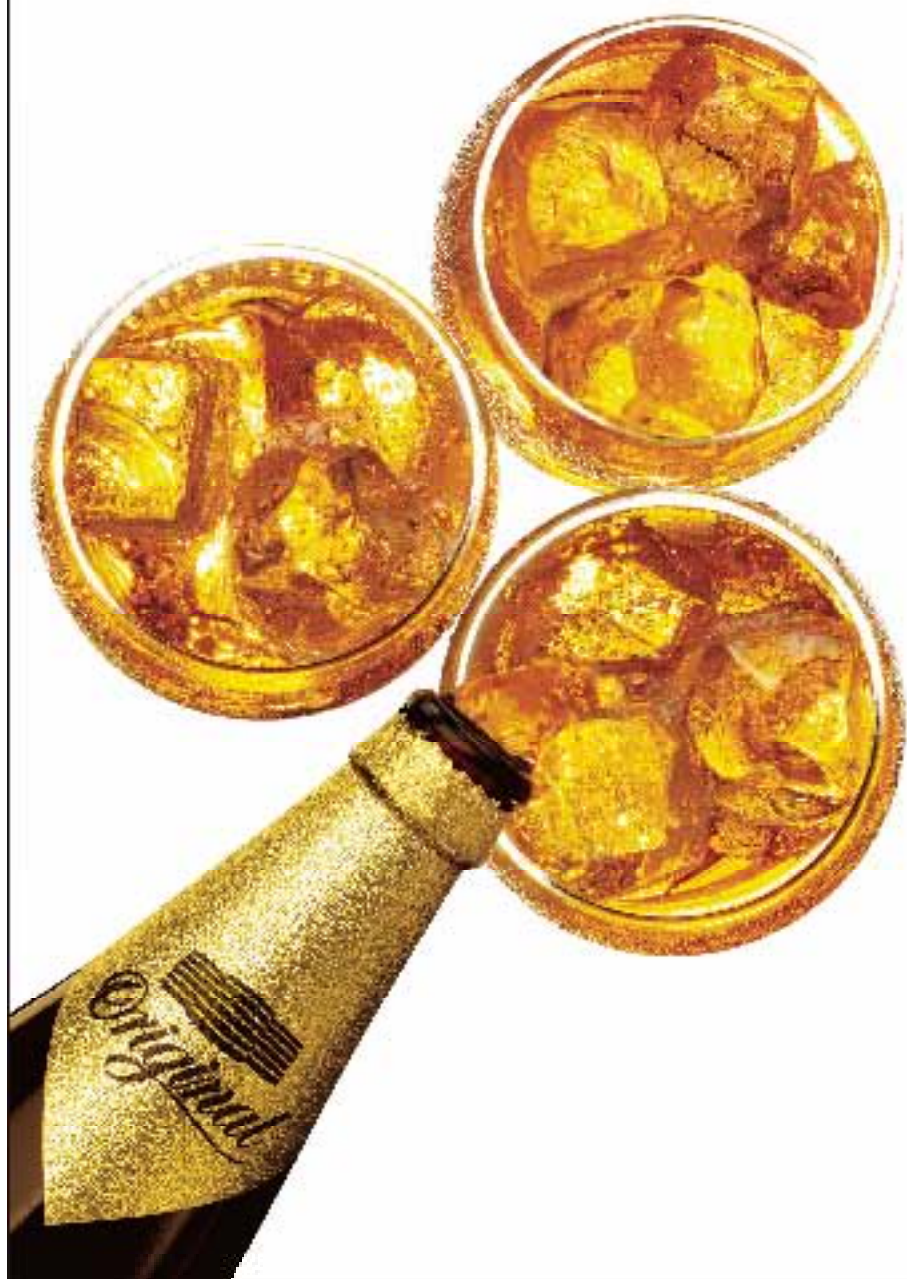
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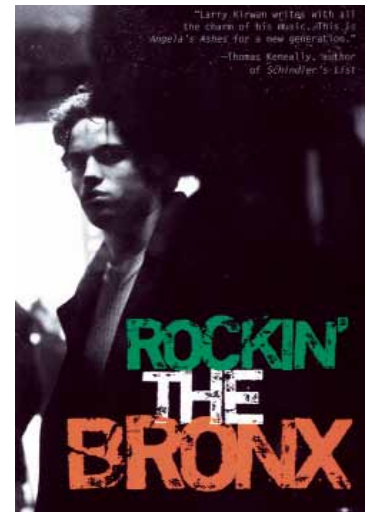
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### NWS Irish Parade 3-14

The Northwest Irish Parade is a celebration of faith, family, and heritage on the Northwest side of Chicago. Now in our 8th year, the Northwest Side St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has grown. The Committee was founded with the goal of bringing the Chicago's Northwest side area a celebration of Irish involvement in the American experience.

Last years parade was a huge success. NWSI will honor our Illinois Wounded Warriors at the March 14, 2010 Parade. Join us in celebrating those men and women who have sacrificed, those who have honorably served this great nation. If you are a Wounded Warrior and would like to participate in the 2010 NWSI Friends and Family Saint Patricks Day Parade please contact Steve Fisher at 773-209-0402

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# Mick

Mike Morley



## Poison Pen Power

Here's something you may not know. Some of the most violent exhibitions of religious bigotry known in the United States were directed against Old St. Patrick's Church. Several attempts were made to burn it down, and in 1844, a monster torchlight parade formed in City Hall Park, marched through Chatham Street and the Bowery...

Yes. I'm talking about St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York... but,

no; not the church you see televised each year during the parade up trendy Fifth Avenue.

Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, 200 years old last year, stands down on Mulberry Street in the heart of Little Italy. Before he built St. Patrick's on 5th Avenue, Old St. Pat's was the parish of New York's first archbishop, "dagger" John Hughes. The press, more overtly anti-Catholic than today, hung the "dagger" label on Hughes because he tagged his signature with

a cross. But the nickname suited the aggressive Tyrone-born Hughes.

He was born in Annaloughan in 1797, growing up under Britain's Penal Laws—a pariah in his own country. When Hughes was 15, his younger sister Mary died. The parish priest, barred by English law from entering the cemetery, could only scoop up a handful of dirt, bless it, and hand it to Hughes to sprinkle on his dead sister's grave.

James Harper headed Harper Brothers (later Harper & Row). His Harper's Weekly was noted for its anti-Catholic Thomas Nast Cartoons. His first big coup was the 1836 gothic horror novel, Maria Monk's Awful Disclosures, about a Canadian woman claiming to have been sexually exploited in a convent.<sup>2</sup> Harper published the book following the success of Six Months in a Convent, another fiction bio posing as reality that sold 200,000 copies in a month. That book, along with a sermon from the rabidly anti-Catholic Lyman Beecher (father of Harriet) inspired a Protestant mob in 1834 to burn to the ground the Ursuline convent school in Charlestown, Massachusetts.<sup>3</sup>

In 1835 one attempt had been made to destroy St. Pat's. Hughes took over as bishop in 1842. A mob that year smashed the windows of the Cathedral and the Bishop's house.

Harper was elected Mayor of New York in 1844 on an anti-Catholic, anti-immigration platform. That year Nativist mobs in Philadelphia looted and burned several churches, a seminary, and most of the Catholic neighborhood of Kensington.

At a meeting with the Mayor who, despite his name, was no friend of "Harps," bishop Hughes was asked if he was worried about his churches. Hughes replied: "No, Mayor, it is you who should be worried about yours." Hughes sent the Mayor a note saying, "Should one Catholic come to harm, or should one Catholic business be molested, we shall turn this city into a second Moscow" (in 1812 Russians torched their city as Napoleon marched in).

Now in 1844 with the torch-wielders gathering in City Hall Park, the bishop packed the Cathedral and its graveyard on Mott St. with armed men. Hughes wrote later that every one of his churches had been "protected with an average force of one to two thousand men—cool, collected, armed to the teeth..."

The mob arrived and began to stone St. Pat's stained glass windows. But welcomed by a church full of riflemen, they quickly opted to take their enlightened, reformed, All-American God-fearing fervor and... dangle.

Unfortunately, very little of that

spirit now infuses 70 million nominal US Catholics. Confronted, they are more apt to join the Harpers and Nasts parroting, "pedophile priest," "pedophile priest" like mad macaws.

During the 20th century, attacks on Catholicism and the Church became more subtle but no less effective: "Let us have no martyrs among the Catholic priests, it is more practical to show they are criminals."

(A. Hitler) It's an era we plan to examine another month.

Now St. Patrick's Old Cathedral School, New York's first Catholic parochial school in the system founded by John Hughes 188 years ago is set to close at the end of this school year. St. Pat's has just 129 students, down 2/3 from a decade ago. Marty Scorsese, who grew up a block away, is an alumnus.<sup>4</sup>

Last month we wrote about misdirection, one technique used by news organizations to control opinion. When a story is "out" but harmful to your agenda, you cover it, once, framed in the best possible light, then hide it from the public radar with "chaff"—a flurry of stories designed to focus public attention back where you want it.<sup>5</sup>

Containment is another effective control tool. You saw it used all during the recent Anglo-Irish conflict as American media displayed an almost slavish devotion to the most conservative official British line.<sup>6</sup>

Imagine then that "pedophilia" were uncovered at an upscale school for children of the elite, including American Presidents. Would that story attract national and international attention? You bet.

Last month Robert "Pete" Peterson was fired from his school after an outstanding 30 year teaching career. Police charged him with "sexual abuse of a minor," a student.

"Pete" was a social studies teacher at Sidwell Friends School. Heard of it? It's a high-class (tuition @ \$30,000/yr) Quaker school in Washington, DC, catering to the offspring of our political and media nobility. Peterson was also director of Camp Corsica, Sidwell's prestigious summer camp on the Maryland shore. Executives and correspondents at Time, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and, of course, the Washington Post, send their children to Sidwell. Tricia and Julie Nixon are alumni, as are Chelsea Clinton and Nancy Reagan. Joe Biden has a grandchild there. Oh, and don't forget: the Obama daughters.

Really? So why are you hearing about this in the little ol' Irish American News? Did you miss the fat

headlines in the Trib and Sun-Times? Were you tuned out when the flash interrupted your favorite TV news show? Fuhgeddaboutit! It didn't fit the frame or the agenda.<sup>7</sup>

Your press treated this story as it does other inconvenient events like the 2007 Knoxville rape-torture murders, and those two major reports on sexual abuse in public schools (2004 and 2007)—it was contained—quarantined—another item for the memory hole.<sup>8</sup> The few papers and TV shows that carried the Sidwell revelations are D.C. based, like the Washington Post. America's newspaper of record, the New York Times, did not see fit to inform its readers. One notable exception: the N.Y. Post did run a barebones (three sentence) item titled "Perv' teach at O kids' school."

Consider the recent flap over Tareq and Michaele Salahi, he a rich guy, she a former Miss USA. They "crashed" a state dinner last November. The crashing involved nothing more violent than having their pictures snapped saying hello to Obama and few of his guests. Although Tareq is Palestinian, and a board member of the American Task Force on Palestine (a fact scrubbed from that press coverage) there was no danger to the Obamas. Guests were thoroughly scanned for weapons by the Secret Service. And the Obamas knew the Salahis, having met them before. But the story received breathless international coverage for a week. So, when an actual sexual predator teacher is uncovered at the Obama girls' school, why is the press... suppressed? If ol' Pete were a Catholic priest—how do you think that story would have been played?

This may help you decide: Did you read, hear or see news of D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee's recent explanation for firing more than 200 schoolteachers last October? The official reason given was "budget cuts."

But in a January interview Rhee blurted: "I got rid of teachers who had hit children, who had had sex with children, who had missed 78 days of school..."

"Sex with children"? As of writing, the story is huge... but in D.C.'s local press, nowhere else. The New York Times hasn't touched either the Sidwell or Rhee revelations. And except for an item sent to one of its online blogs, Newsweek, owned by the Washington Post, also stands silent.

Are you getting the picture yet... the one not in the frame?

(Go to <http://www.irishamericannews.com/index.php/opinion/mick> for the footnotes)

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# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



### IAHC HOSTS FIVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

#### Festivities Run for 8 Days in March 2010

Join us as we celebrate some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March at the IAHC. In 2010, we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit us between March 12-20.

What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that 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, kick off the festivities with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale dance concert 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 dancers, all on one stage, including The O'Hare School of Irish Dance, The Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, The World Academy of Irish Dancing and The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance. They'll be joined by the music group, The Academy of Irish Music.

On Saturday, March 13, stop by after the downtown parade for the annual St. Patrick's Festival. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. There will be vendors on hand, selling jewelry, artwork, crafts, CDs and more.

The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. There will be children's activities from 1pm-6pm that include games and children's music.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 11. Children 12 and under are free.

On Sunday, March 14, we present Munnelly in concert 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 halls of the 1920's.

On Wednesday, March 17, we continue the fun with our annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Fifth Province Lounge. The day-long event runs from noon until midnight. A St. Patrick's Day Mass will be held at 11:30am. Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. The cost is \$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

On Saturday, March 20, wrap up the celebrations with Stepping Forward, a concert at 7pm, combining the best of Irish music, step dancing and bag piping in Chicago. Performers include Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, The City of Chicago Bagpipe Band and musical group The Four Courts, featuring Paddy Homan, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon and Dennis Cahill. The publisher of the Irish American News, Cliff Carlson, will emcee the event. Tickets are \$20 for General Admission or \$30 for VIP tickets, which includes reserved seating.

For more information and to purchase tickets for select events, call 773-282-7035 or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).



### St. Patrick's Festival March 13, 2010

#### Fifth Province

1pm	Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley
3pm	Shannon Rovers
3:30pm	Dooley Brothers
6:30pm	Mulligan Stew
9pm	Mickey Finns

#### Erin Room

2pm-2:45pm	Wiggleworms
3:15-4pm	Wiggleworms
5pm	Anish
7:30pm	Sullivan Brothers
10pm	Ceili Mor with Dennis Cahill, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon, John Shine, Sean Cleland and Tommy Masterson

#### Auditorium

2pm	Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance
3pm	Mulhern School of Irish Dance
4pm	O'Hare School of Irish Dance
5pm	Trinity Academy of Irish Dance
6pm	Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration March 17, 2010

#### Fifth Province

11:30am	Mass
1pm	Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley
3pm	Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance
4pm	Chancey Brothers
5pm	O'Hare School of Irish Dance (during band break)
6:30pm	Shindig
9pm	Barry Fagan's Band



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



### President's Message

The High Holy Days are upon us! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

As a kid growing up in Chicago, St. Patrick's Day was always one of the highlights of the year. For this proud Irish-American boy, it meant a month of parties and, most importantly, it meant an extra day off from school! Even better, this wasn't an average day off from school, this was special. Not every kid in school got the day off – only the Irish ones! This was our holiday, and we got to lord it over the other kids. In my neighborhood, we didn't know of any other nationality that took their own day off of school. In the mind of a 10-year old, it was another reason (and maybe the best one) to be proud to be Irish!

My mother taught step dancing back in those days and the whole family, as well as almost every Irish kid from the neighborhood, was a part of her school. The month of March meant we were out every Friday and Saturday performing at the corned beef dinners held at every local parish on the Northwest Side. The 70's were a simpler time and it was still quite a few years away before *Riverdance* would change the game for Irish dancers, but, nonetheless, we thought we were pretty hot stuff in our polyester dance costumes. That is until one of my friends saw me. The abuse heaped on a

young boy for taking dance lessons could be pretty intense. My saving grace was our school wore black pants not kilts. Could you imagine if I was a dancer and in a dress??! It wasn't too bad, though, because most of the Irish boys in the neighborhood took step dance lessons too at some point. There's strength in numbers. It's funny, for all the years I spent dancing and the countless times I performed a 4-hand reel, a hornpipe, or some other dance, the only thing I could pull off if my life depended on it is the basic jig. The rest is lost (sorry, Mom!)

Yet none of the parties could hold a candle to the big day itself – St. Patrick's Day. In those days, the parade was held on the day itself. With the step dancing school and my dad being part of the Shannon Rovers, it was a day unlike any other (plus did I mention we were off of school). The day started with the old Ray Rayner show on WGN. The McNamara Dancers performed on Ray Rayner every St. Patrick's Day morning. This was big time. You had to wait your turn and be one of the better dancers to get chosen for the TV show. Whether it was watching my sisters on TV or the year I finally got my own chance, it was how we started the day. Then it was



downtown for the parade, watching the river turn green and going to the Shannon Rovers pre-parade activities. I don't think I fully understood until many years later why all the adults were in such a good mood early in the day, but it still was pretty cool. Then came the parade itself and marching down State St. (or Dearborn depending on the year). Thousands of people cheering and maybe another chance to be

on TV! Or maybe more than on... The McNamara Dancers always marched, but the Shannon Rovers were at the front of the parade. If the numbers worked out, you could march behind the band and then run back down the side street and re-march with the dancers. And if you were really good, maybe you could march with the Shamrock American Club, too! As typical boys, my cousins and friends and myself would always try to march as many times as possible. The rest of the day often became a blur of parties, step dancing, bagpipers, and general sensory overload for a weary kid. They are marvelous memories and part of the story of Chicago's Irish.

As an adult not too much has changed! As president of the Center and a member of an Irish band, March is an incredibly

busy month. I look forward to building these same type of fond memories for my own family and sharing St. Patrick's Day with them and our wonderful Irish community in Chicago. It seems as if there is some sort of celebration every day in March leading up to the big day on the 17th. (Some of us even started celebrating in February!)

Nowhere is that more true than at our Center. March is the busiest month of the year for us – our phone rings more, our website gets millions of hits, and all aspects of our organization are busy presenting various forms of programs and events to celebrate our Irish heritage. It's a bit overwhelming at times, yet that doesn't mean we are shying away from it! In fact, our 2010 St. Patrick's Day programming is by far our most ambitious in years. This issue will provide you with all the details and we hope to see you around the Center at as many of these events as you can fit in. I know I will be around the Center and all over this month! There is still a lot of that kid in me! Besides, we can all sleep in April!

*Erin Co Bragh!*

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

### Executive Director's Message

As the old line goes, "If you are lucky enough to be Irish, then you are lucky enough." There is no time when this saying rings as true as in March, when everyone is Irish – for a month or at least a day. Once relegated to the low spot on the socio-economic totem pole, the about-face for Irish popularity in this country took generations to unfold—a story rooted in gallant fighting in the Civil War, change-driving participation in the early labor struggle and labor unions, grassroots politics, and sheer numbers. People of Irish descent now make up the second largest ethnic group in this country, and the Irish American identity has grown to carry a certain mystique and personality that people find charming and fun, whether they are Irish or not. Shamrocks and leprechauns aside, who doesn't love upbeat music, high-spirited people who love a laugh and can tell a good yam, and a fine Irish brogue from time to time?

As we serve as the house where Irish culture comes to life, these Irish elements are of course a part of the general character of the Center year-round, along with a chance to dig a big deeper into the culture through theater, music, dance, history, language, and sport. That's right, sport! As of March, we will again be showing Irish sports at the Center, a welcome addition for many. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on this front. We are also fielding a co-ed soccer team this year, called Irish Center FC, which will be competing in a spring league and a national ethnic 7 v 7 tournament in the summer. A sign of bridges being built between the different Irish organizations and interests around town, this team will include the Vice Consul General, members of the Ireland Network, members of the Young Irish Fellowship Club, members



of the Chicago Irish music community, the husband of an Immigrant Support board member, and of course IAHC members and staff. For those soccer players out there who are looking for a quality team to knock it around with this season, please feel free to drop me a line. We are aiming to bring a trophy home to the Center.

For the season of St. Patrick, though, we have worked hard to line up one heck of a schedule (see previous page). I hope to see the dance-floor packed for the Ceili the night of March 13th. Anyone who came to the Grand Opening of the Erin Room in October will attest to how much fun the ceili was that special Sunday night—with old and young cutting a rug straight up until closing time, entertained by some of the finest musicians in the city. Well, the stage will be full of top shelf Irish musicians

once again on the 13th at 1pm—so put your dancing shoes on, and come join us.

Stepping Forward on March 20th will be another event where we show off the traditional quality that is regularly on display at the Center. World champion dancers train here. World-class pipers practice here. World-class musicians play here. And the next generation of innovators in all three areas come to the Center on a weekly basis to hone their skills through dance schools, music schools, and a piping academy. This show will celebrate those who have already achieved so much, as well as those who are just starting the journey.

Plenty to enjoy at the Center as always. There is no better time to be a member.

Onwards,  
Tim McDonnell  
Executive Director  
The Irish American Heritage Center





**THE HERITAGE LINE**  
**IRISH AMERICAN**  
**HERITAGE CENTER** Chicago, Illinois



**Library Lectures**

The IAHC Library Lectures have been a staple of the IAHC's cultural programming for 25 years and the 2010 lecture is no exception.



Patricia Falvey

This March, the lectures will feature two authors, Patricia Falvey and Patrick Tracey.

Patricia Falvey makes her literary debut with *The Yellow House*,

**Celtic Women Honor Two Brave Women**

Celtic Women International's Chicago Branch and the IAHC's Cultural Committee present the 3rd Annual Revolutionary Women Series Program, *Designing Women: Kathleen Clarke and Margaret Skinnider*. The program will recognize and honor the sacrifices and achievements of Irish women in the struggle for Irish independence.

Before she was on the road to rebellion, Kathleen Clarke was a dressmaker who also designed the tri-color ribbon badges to counteract against the Union Jacks used by the British as they recruited young men to fight in World War I. Following the 1916 Easter Rebellion and the executions of her husband and her brother, she put aside personal grief to craft a complete support system to care for the dependents of the prisoners and slain.

Born in Scotland of Irish parents, Margaret Skinnider was a mathematician, teacher, marksman, and

a tale of love set during the war for Irish independence. She will present a lecture, *In Loving Memory: An Emigrant's Search For Home*, a look at Falvey's own journey in writing the book, her search for home and the theme of home that runs through her life and the novel.

Author Patrick Tracey will discuss his new book, *Stalking Irish Madness: Searching for the Roots of My Family's Schizophrenia*. In Tracey's powerful story, he journeys to Ireland to track the origin and solve the mystery of his Irish-American family's multigenerational struggle with schizophrenia.

Filled with history, science, and lore, *Stalking Irish Madness* is an unforgettable chronicle of one man's attempt to make sense of his family's past and to find hope for the future of schizophrenic patients.

The IAHC Library Lectures are Sunday, March 7 at 2pm. Tickets for the lecture are \$8 and a reception follows. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

devoted member of the Glasgow branch of Cumann na mBan. She used her skills to draw up detailed maps and diagrams, including her most famous map of Beggars Bush Barracks, Dublin indicating the probable location of the munitions storage area.

Although women played their part as politicians, snipers, spies, nurses, dispatch carriers and educators in the Revolutionary years, they were written out of history, banished to obscurity after the Irish Civil War. In keeping with CWI's mission to recognize, honor and celebrate achievements of Celtic women, they will offer this annual program series commemorating these women.

The program, which features a lecture, slide show presentation, music and poetry, is Sunday, March 28 at 2pm. The cost is \$12 for IAHC or CWI members or \$15 the general public and tickets can be purchased at the door.

**Relive the Magic with the Holiday Ballroom Memories Concert**

Remember Chicago's Holiday Ballroom? Relive the memories with the IAHC as we host the The Holiday Ballroom Memories Series.

This concert and dance features the legendary Larry Cunningham, direct from Ireland. Cunningham is an award-winning Irish and country music star. He'll perform with the SilverBridge Band.

They'll be joined by Cleland's Irish Music School of Chicago,

singer Frank O'Hara from the old Holiday Ballroom Days and the Ceoltoiri Chicago Ceili Band

The concert and dance is Saturday, April 17. The concert is at 7pm in the Auditorium with doors opening at 6pm. Seating is general admission. Dancing follows in the Erin Room.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling the IAHC office.



**Shapeshifters Sprout Wings for Spring Show**

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](mailto: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.

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 be available in March.



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



### March 2010

March 1	Irish Imm Support Mtgs	Erin Room	10am
March 3	Tir Na Nog Seniors mtg	Fifth Province	11am
March 5- April 3	Touch of the Poet Art Exhibit Sat and Suns	Art Gallery	1-4pm
March 5	Lenten Fish Fry Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	6:30pm 8pm
March 6	Shamr Amer Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
March 7	IAHC Library Lectures Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance	Auditorium	2pm 5pm
March 12	Lenten Fish Fry Irish Dance Chicago	Fifth Province Auditorium	6pm 7pm
March 13	St. Patrick's Festival	Whole Building	1pm
March 14	Munnelly Concert Great Irish Books Club Discussion	Auditorium Library	7pm 2pm
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration	Fifth Province	Noon
March 18	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Erin Room	10am
March 19	Lenten Fish Fry Quiz Night	Fifth Province Room 109	6:30pm 8pm
March 20	Stepping Forward	Auditorium	7 pm
March 26	Lenten Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
March 27	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Social Center	8pm
March 28	Celtic Women Lecture Genealogy Meeting	Room 109 Library	2pm 1pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Tuesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Irish Art Class	Room 308	7pm
Wednesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	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

### Art Exhibit Showcases Irish Writer Inspired Art

The IAHC Art Gallery presents a group art exhibit, *A Touch of the Poet* this spring. Artist Laura Coyle is the curator of the exhibit.

As many as 40 artists will create and display their art based on the work of an Irish writer. The art will be mixed media, including paintings, sculptures and photography. Keeping with the literary theme, the artists' artwork will incorporate a verse or passage of the writer they choose.

Writers whose work will be featured by the artists include: William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett,

Jonathan Swift, Darrell Figgis, Seamus Heaney, Oscar Wilde, C.S. Lewis and Katharine Tynan.

*A Touch of the Poet* is Friday, March 5 through Saturday, April 3, 2010. There will be a free opening night reception on March 5 from 6-9pm. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm or by appointment. To make an appointment, call Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

**NOTE: On March 13, the IAHC holds its St. Patrick's Festival and the exhibit will be open only to festival attendees, who have paid admission.**

### 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. The room is 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.

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## the fifth province

### IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

#### March 2010

Fri, 3/5	Ceili Dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago
Sat, 3/6	Tony Leonard's Band
Fri, 3/12	Donofinn
Sat, 3/13	St. Patrick's Festival
Wed, 3/17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Fri, 3/19	The Dooley Brothers
Sat, 3/20	Gerry Haughey
Fri, 3/26	Joe McShane
Sat, 3/27	Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane



Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music.  
 Pub food is served from 6pm-10pm.

**No Cover  
 Free Parking**



**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.

**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.

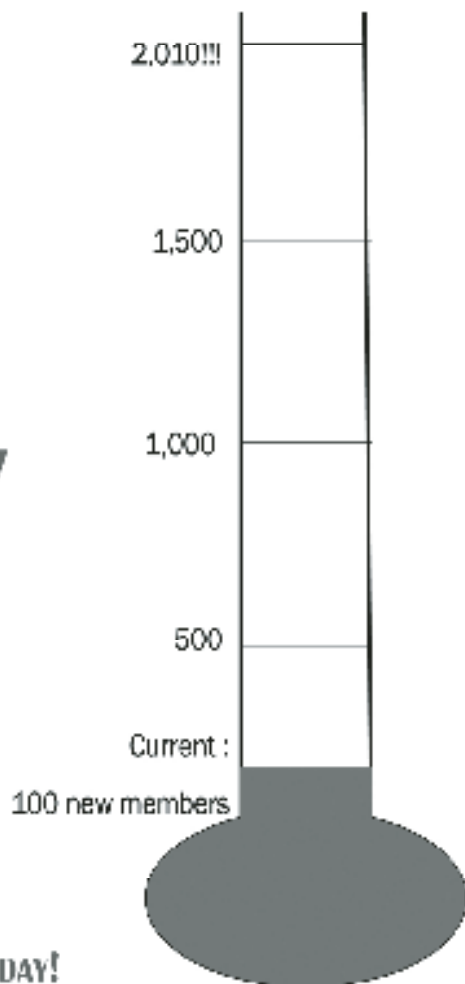
• **Membership Forms** are available below or on-line at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

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 a 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January, 2011.

**2010 IAHC Membership Drive**

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### O'Neill Clan Gathering in Paris

By Kathleen O'Neill Benschila

If your name is O'Neill, or you have O'Neills in your family, and you've been looking for a good excuse to visit Paris, this might be the perfect one.

Next June 2010, from the 24th to 27th, an international gathering of O'Neill clans will take place in Paris,

France. A program of events is being organized that will include lectures by Irish academics at the Irish Cultural Center, a magnificent old building located in the historic Latin quarter in Paris, near the Sorbonne and the Pantheon. Tours of the city of Paris and a visit to the medieval port town of Quilleboeuf, where Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell landed when they fled Ireland in what is known as the "Flight

of the Earls," is also on the program. A highlight of the events will be a cocktail reception at the Irish Embassy.

From as far back as the beginning of the 17th century, the Irish were forced to emigrate from their homeland. At that time, England gained full control of Ireland, and soon the ancient Brehon law would be replaced by English law, Gaelic language and customs would also be replaced. Many of the Irish

inhabitants were scattered to different countries and different continents, having to adapt to new customs and sometimes new languages. The traditional kinship groups, the Clans, which had formed the basis of society up until then, were also under threat of extinction. Today, however, a revival of the spirit of the Clans is taking place, and the meeting in June will see O'Neills from all over the world heading to Paris

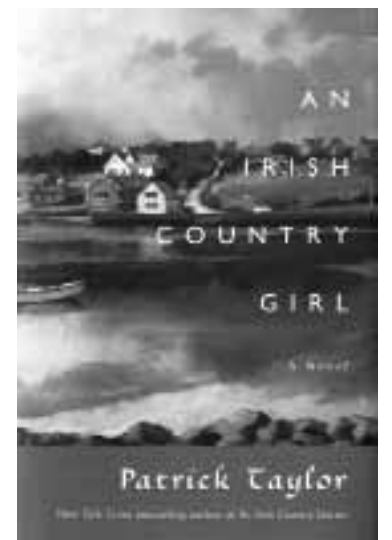
for the international gathering of the O'Neill Clans.

One of the goals of this international gathering is to create a living network of O'Neill families from all over the world to celebrate and preserve their common heritage. An Association of O'Neill Clans will be formally launched during the event.

If you are interested in learning more about the reunion, preliminary information can be found on the website: [www.oneillclans.com](http://www.oneillclans.com). You can also contact me, Kathleen O'Neill Benschila at: [oneillbenschila@gmail.com](mailto:oneillbenschila@gmail.com).

### Book Signing at Paddy's March 15

Internationally acclaimed Irish author Patrick Taylor will be in town for a special event at Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove, March 15, 2010. The New York Times bestselling author will be available for discussion and to sign copies of his new book "An Irish Country Girl." at 3 to 5pm. Patrick will also give a presentation and reading at 7pm at Paddy's. This will be his only Chicago appearance during his international promotional tour.



Born and raised in Bangor, County Down in Northern Ireland, his first novel, "An Irish Country Doctor" is based on journals he kept of his early days as a doctor in rural Ireland. Dr. Taylor is a distinguished medical researcher, off-shore sailor, model-boat builder, and father of two grown children. He divides his time between Canada and Ireland. All four of his novels are available at Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove. To reserve your copy or for more information call Paddy's at (847) 634-0339.

Monday, March 15, 3-5 PM Book signing, 7 PM Presentation by Patrick Taylor and discussion.

Paddy's on the Square, 228 Robert Parker Coffin Road, Long Grove Illinois. 847 634 0339



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### Mike Houlihan Around The Town

Irish American News and former Sun-Times features columnist Mike Houlihan is all over town this season. On a personal appearance tour of pubs, parishes, gift shops, theatres, and libraries Houlihan will perform and sign copies of his new book, *Hooliganism*. The book is an anthology covering 15 years of Mike Houlihan's best bits from *The Irish American News*, the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, and *Chicago Public Radio*, capturing the best stories from one of Irish America's funniest raconteurs. Houlihan takes the reader on a picaresque journey as he recounts his travels in show biz as a Shakespearean clown; his days as proprietor of *The Hooley-Dooley*, an Irish gin mill in Rockaway Beach, NY; his adventures as a theatre and film producer chasing investors; memories of growing up Irish-Catholic on the south side of Chicago; and his day to day tightrope walk as an itinerant actor, father, and husband. "*Hooliganism*" also revisits and reinvents several Irish American urban myths and fables featuring a stock company of rogues, scoundrels, and boozers. Filled with Irish jokes, anecdotes, and preposterous tales, *Hooliganism* is like enjoying a pint of your favorite stout.

Also being released with the book is a 15th Anniversary DVD of *Goin' East On Ashland*, which Houlihan performed in sold-out theatres all over Chicago for six years. Shot live at the Beverly Art Center on the south side, the show is a nostalgic romp, Mike's hilarious memoir of growing up Irish in Chicago. The Sun-Times called it "a tour de force" and "extremely funny" and the Tribune called it "a one-man laughathon." This classic has never been available on DVD until now.

The book and DVD can be purchased online at [www.mikehoulihan.com](http://www.mikehoulihan.com)—look for the special "Irish Discount" when ordering both book and DVD together. "*Hooliganism*" is also available at all of Chicagoland's finer Irish gift shops.

**Book Signings:** Saturday March 6, 2010: Glenview Public Library, 228 Robt. Parker Coffin Rd., Long Grove, IL. Meet Mike and The McNulty Irish Dancers and also Irish author Brenna Briggs from 2-4pm.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010: Paddy's On The Square, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL, 847-729-7500. Full performance-7pm. "We'll have some laughs!"

Friday March 12, 2010: UIC Barbara's Bookstore, 1218 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL, 312-413-2665. Stand-up and book signing-7pm.

Saturday March 13, 2010: Oak Park Barbara's Bookstore, 1100 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL, 708-848-9140. Stand-up and book signing-4pm.

Southside Irish Parade Wake, The Beverly Woods, 11532 S. Western Ave. (Where the parade ended), Chicago, IL, 773-233-7700. Houli will give the eulogy-1-3pm.

### Black 47 - New Bankers & Gangsters CD

Black 47 is recognized as the premier Irish-American rock group that paved the way for the explosion of bands like Flogging Molly and The Dropkick Murphys. Bankers and Gangsters, celebrates Black 47's 20th year on the road. The title track is a humorous, if acidic, comment on the cur-

rent financial crisis in inimitable Black 47 fashion. Opening track "Long Hot Summer Comin' On" comes out blazing in New York memories of CBGB's and Lester Bangs among others. Bankers and Gangsters is vintage Black 47—uproarious, tuneful, challenging and entertaining. [www.black47.com](http://www.black47.com).



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## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### How To Organize Your Job Search!

If you are a loyal reader of this column, you know I started writing a six issue series of articles on the job search process in September, so my February column was intended to be the last in the series. But one

of my readers, Neal Anthony, challenged me to write a (final) column that would address the day to day activities of a job seeker. This column addresses Neal's excellent request. Just so we are all on the same

page, let me restate what the other six columns covered:

- How one keeps his/her current job, while preparing for the possibility of termination. (September, 2009)
- The lessons that job coaches have learned about the process. (October)
- The importance of preparing and rehearsing for interviews. (November and December)
- A job search pep talk. ( January)
- The seven obstacles that job seekers bump into all the time. (February, 2010)

There are some "golden rules" in the job search process: (1) Get in front of as many potential employers as possible with a prepared script about what a terrific job candidate you are. (2) Tell everyone four things—what work have you been doing; what sort of work you want to do now; where do you want to work; and give some idea of your compensation expectations. (3) It is absolutely critical for you to understand that most people want to help you; my estimate would be 95%, but they need to know those four things about you to do so. (4) Learn from rejection and then shake it off. (5) Keep at the process—persistence pays off. (6) Learn how to use the social media channels (LinkedIn: Facebook: Twitter, for example). This is a great opportunity to allow the younger generation to help you in your job search; they probably know how those channels work far better than most of us adults over 40.

Recently a client of mine, Don, was kind enough to forward me some information that he had received from an organization that assists job seekers. Their release said that the average job seeker who takes far longer than normal to find a job did NOT consider networking a critical part of the process NOR did s/he actively market themselves. Whereas job seekers who "worked" their network and who actively marketed themselves found their jobs significantly sooner. Think about it; isn't a sale normally preceded by a sales call. Consider every person a potential helper for you in your job search.

Often job seekers feel prepared because they developed their verbal interview presentation shortly after they were terminated. They practiced it a few times. But interviews can be few and far between, so one needs to continually hone that presentation. One of the values of accountability groups (frequently a sub set of a job support group) is having someone available to you so

you can practice your responses to obvious interview questions.

BEFORE you get actively involved in contacting potential employers, decide on what you want to do. Spend some quality time thinking about it and then develop an (ideal) job description for yourself. The more clarity you demonstrate to your contacts the more likely they are to walk away with a better idea of what type of job you are seeking.

What does the typical week look like for a job seeker? Actually any week should start on the preceding Friday (an hour or two on Saturday or Sunday also works).

FRIDAY: (A) Review the week's activities. Complete any open correspondence and/or return every significant phone call. (B) Organize your activities for the next week (C) Divide your calendar between face to face contacts and contacts to be made through other media. Set aside one or two mornings/afternoons every week; find someone to talk to face to face. (D) Remember many job seekers simply shuffle papers all week long. You must make personal contacts.

MONDAY: (A) Respond to all emails, text messages, and social media messages that you have received over the weekend. (B) Make contact with everyone on your day's contact list. Be persistent. Have a goal for the number of contacts you will reach and for the number of appointments you will set. (C) Don't allow yourself to be interviewed over the phone; almost everyone communicates better in person. (D) State your willingness to meet early, late, and/or for a specific amount of time. Your availability for a meeting or a call on Saturday or Sunday could be well received. Resist being put off.

TUESDAY: (A) Review your activities of Monday; resolve any open items. Remember, when in doubt, make the contact. (B) Use a specific part of the day to meet with potential employers, former colleagues, and personal contacts. Meet for coffee; breakfast or lunch can be too expensive and take too much time. (C) Recalibrate your calendar for the rest of the week based on your "results" from Monday and Tuesday. (D) Reschedule anything and everything to get time on someone's calendar.

WEDNESDAY: (A) Again, be sure that you have handled every contact you have received earlier in the week. (B) Make contact with everyone on your day's contact list (as modified and updated). Focus on meeting your goals for the day. (C) Give yourself a little "treat" when you have a successful day.

THURSDAY: (A) If you are using Tuesday and Thursday as your face to face contact days, do it. Don't allow some minor inconvenience to keep you tied to your computer. (B) For that matter, Conor Cunneen's new book with the unique title (SHEIFGAB the World-8 Building Blocks to Successful Transition) emphasizes the need to be out of your home regularly. It's simply too easy to find things around the house that can distract you.

FRIDAY: (A) Do an honest examination of your week's activities—consider the number of face to face meetings; the number of actual phone calls completed with the intended party; and the number of new contacts added to your Personal Contact list. (B) Plan your schedule for the next week and develop your goals for the week.

This "typical" week shown above does not include attendance at various Job Support groups. But I would certainly advocate regular attendance at one or more job support groups; often you can obtain leads and/or pertinent information about potential employers from other attendees. Perhaps you could set up an accountability group, of five or six other job seekers, from such organizations.

There are a great number of job support groups; many of them are listed on the www.WORK MINISTRY.com web site. In addition to those, a number of involved organizations have sub sets or "functional job support groups" i.e., oriented to financial, production, marketing and/or human resources professionals. Ask around when you go to the regular Job Support groups. Check them out on the Internet. There is one caveat about job support groups—don't allow attendance at their meetings to compromise your availability to meet with potential employers. In other words, don't allow job support groups to become your hideaway.

Obviously every job seeker develops his/her own way of organizing their day or week. The key to a successful job search is having an organized approach however unique it might be; if it works for you, that's great.

Hope this column is helpful to job seekers wondering how to get started in their job search. Carpe Diem.

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

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# WTTW 11



## Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra

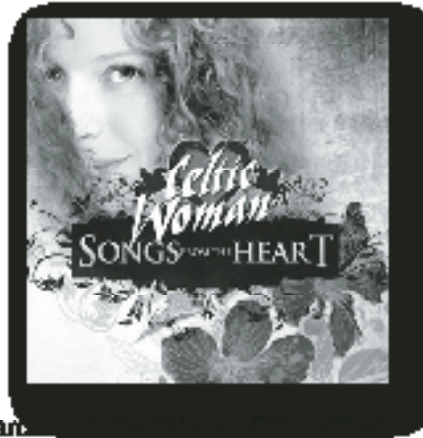
Sun. Mar. 7 from 1-2:30 pm

This lively program was taped at Caesars' Windsor Hotel and Casino in Canada during the Polkapalooza Festival where Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra were the headline performers. They have earned the title of "America's Best Polka Band," with 18 Grammys in the last 20 years.

## Celtic Woman: Songs from the Heart

Fri. Mar. 5 from 7:30-9:45 pm; also Sat. Mar. 13 at 7 pm

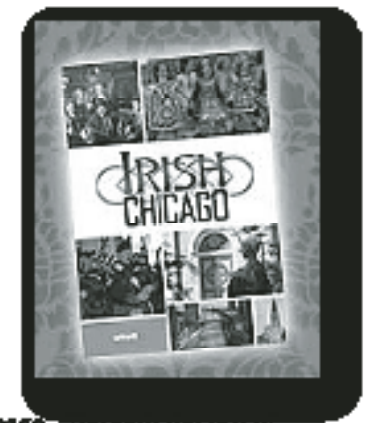
The special was recorded in Enniskerry, County Wicklow, Ireland, at the historic Powerscourt House and Gardens — location for such films as Barry Lyndon, The Count of Monte Cristo, and the cable series The Tudors. Shot in HD, the breathtaking gardens (based on the gardens of Powerscourt) were an ideal location for the musical vision of musical director and composer David Downes and the five women who comprise Celtic Woman.



## Irish Chicago

Tues. Mar. 16 from 7:30-9:30 pm

The immigrant history of Chicago is rooted among many countries and people whose struggles and triumphs have led them to the Midwest. In many ways, these new arrivals made their mark throughout the city and are woven into Chicago's rich cultural fabric. Hosted by Chicago native Aidan Quinn, this WTTW production presents colorful stories of Irish-American immigrants and their descendants who shaped the history of Chicago. Through the use of historical footage, archival photos, and stories from a core group of contemporary Chicagoans, Irish Chicago retraces the journey of the city's first outsiders who became the city's transformative leaders.



## The Priests in Concert at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral (NEW)

Sat. Mar. 6 from 7-8:30 pm

Internationally acclaimed artists The Priests appear in concert at the historic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool, England. Before an audience of 2,000, they perform inspirational classics such as "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "You'll Never Walk Alone."



## When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: An Irish Parade of Stars (NEW)

Fri. Mar. 12 from 7:30-9 pm

Pulitzer-prize winning author Malachy McCourt wrote and produced this warm and nostalgic parade of Irish favorites from the past. The archival program will focus on Ireland's most beloved ballads and folk songs, performed by some of the world's greatest vocalists. Among the traditional favorites to be featured are "Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ra (An Irish Lullaby)," "Tolly Malone," "McNamara's Band," "It's A Long Way To Tipperary," "Danny Boy," and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," as well as such Emerald Isle-influenced classics as "Look To The Rainbow," "The Unicorn," and "A Great Day For The Irish."



## Celtic Thunder: It's Entertainment!

Sat. Mar. 6 from 8:30-10:30 pm; also Tues. Mar. 9 at 7:30 pm;

Fri. Mar. 12 at 9 and 11 pm

This wildly popular group — new member Neil Byrne, Paul Michael Byrne, George Donaldson, Keith Harbin, Ryan Kelly, and Damian McGinty, Jr. — along with a fantastic band and nine sensational dancers, performs an unforgettable program that combines colorful big band swing and modern classic pop in a show not to be missed. Musical selections include everything from old classics ("Standing on the Corner," "500 Miles") to the group's unique take on contemporary numbers (the Michael Bubl  hit "Home" and U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For"). Other performances include: "Take Me Home," "Ev'ry Breath You Take," "Hard to Say I'm Sorry," "You Raise Me Up," "Hallelujah," "Ireland's Call," "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," and even a surfer medley!



## Music of Ireland: Welcome Home (NEW)

Tues. Mar. 16 from 9:30-11:30 pm

From the early days when the insularity of "Planet Ireland" resulted in a sound that uniquely reflected the pain and joy of the Emerald Isle in the 1900s to the Clancy Brothers bringing the sound of the old country to The Ed Sullivan Show in the '60s to a new generation that saw U2, Riverdance, and Thin Lizzy all representing Irish culture to U.S. audiences, this program celebrates the entire spectrum of Irish music throughout its colorful history to the present day.



## Brian Dennehy and Jennifer Tarver: We Have Had a Conversation

By Frank West  
Goodman Theatre is presenting the extraordinarily rich plays Hughie by Eugene O'Neill, and Krapp's Last Tape by Samuel Beckett. They are both powerful one act masterpieces.

Brian Dennehy, who stars in both plays, and director Jennifer Tarver (Canada's Stratford Shakespeare Festival), discussed those plays at Goodman's Artists Talk. The discussion was moderated by Richard Christiansen, former Chicago Tribune theatre critic.

After discussing and praising Hughie by Eugene O'Neill, the discussion turned to the work of Irishman Samuel Beckett's Krapp's Last Tape.

Following are highlights from my notes and from the Goodman's On Stage publication.

Jennifer: "Beckett writes thru time and space."

Brian: "It is one of the best plays I have worked on. And, it's a pleasure to have Jennifer as the director. Through the long period of preparation and rehearsal, we have had a conversation about the play."

JT: Krapp's Last Tape is an ex-

traordinary piece. We constantly find new meaning and ideas in it.

BD: "Beckett's plays are like an exploration of a new country. The great cosmic joke for Beckett is existence itself. He uses the banana peel on the floor to remind us to live for the happiness and pleasure of the moment."

BD: "We 'see' ourselves a certain way. The ancient Romans called this persona. We put on a view of ourselves every morning, like a suit. Krapp is part of us, part of humanity."

From On Stage: "It is ultimately not the actors or the director or even the playwright that matters most, but what transpires between the play and its audience." Or, as Dennehy said during the discussion: "The most wonderful sound in theater, after a play is silence."

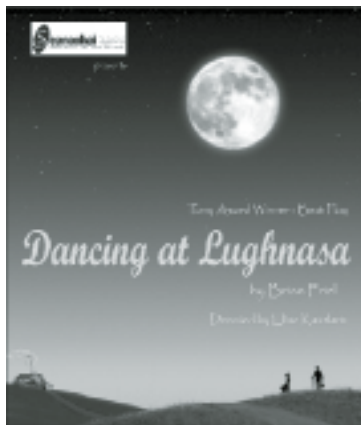
"With the passing of playwrights like O'Neill, Beckett, Tennessee Williams, and others - Dennehy wonders whether American theater audiences will remain interested in the ideas these great playwrights wrote about..."

The answer to this is that the

Goodman Theater was packed on a cold, rainy Saturday evening for a 5:30 conversation by two theater people about the ideas and meanings in these plays. No need to worry Brian!

## Dancing at Lughnasa at IAHC

The IAHC has a new professional, resident theatre company. Seanachai Theatre Company, well respected in the Chicago scene over the past fifteen years, has just opened house with the modern classic Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel, running until April 4th.



Friel's lyrical story of the five Mundy sisters living in Ballybeg in 1936, infused with great beauty and rich in humor, also features original choreography by Trinity Irish Dancer's Ellen Gahl Waller.

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.seanachai.org](http://www.seanachai.org) or call (866) 811-4111. Note: If you're interested in seeing a production of And Neither Have I Wings to Fly, you don't have to wait long. Shapeshifters will be producing the play immediately following the run of Dancing at Lughnasa!

## The Informer at Prop

The Informer is a one-act play based upon the Academy Award winning film in 1935. Victor McLaglen won the Best Actor Oscar, and it was John Ford's first of four Academy Awards.

This Irish play takes place in 1922, six years after the Easter Uprising, as the IRA tried to rid their country of British rule. Gippo Nolan is an IRA enforcer who makes an ill-fated decision, and comes to regret it.

The play is being staged at the Prop Theater, 3502 N. Elston in Chicago, from February 26 to April 18.

This is a world premiere, live theater at its best, with lots of action. The theater seats 80, so if you've never attended a play where you were less than 100 yards from the stage, you'll be pleasantly surprised by the intimacy, and they promise you a great story. 773-539-7838.

## St. Vitus Improv Workshop Growing

St. Vitus Improv Workshop will be expanding into another Beverly neighborhood institution, The Music Station, at 1808 W. 103rd Street on the Southwest Side of Chicago. In addition to the existing program conducted at nearby Christ The King Parish Center, St. Vitus Director Tony Papaleo has developed a similar but more advanced improvisational creative play program for The Music Station.

The new program is a 10 week session, and concentrates on enhancing presentation skills and developing scenarios. The St. Vitus Music Station classes are conducted every Saturday at 2pm. Reservations for a space in the class are being taken now, by calling 773-840-3005 or email to: [info@the-music-station.com](mailto:info@the-music-station.com).



## 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](http://www.raventheatre.com) or 773-338-2177.

## Ragtime at Drury Lane Oakbrook

Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, will present an epic production of the nostalgic and powerful portrait of life in turn of the century America.

Ragtime opens March 24 and runs through May 23.

Ragtime is not only a powerful portrait of life in turn-of-the-century America, but a relevant tale for today. Ragtime intertwines the stories of a Harlem musician, a wealthy New York family and a Latvian Jewish immigrant, and poignantly explores history's timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair, and love and hate.

(630) 530-0111 or call TicketMaster at (800) 745.3000. [www.drurylaneoakbrook.com](http://www.drurylaneoakbrook.com).

## A Separate Peace at Steppenwolf for Young Adults

Steppenwolf for Young Adults continues its 2009-2010 season with John Knowles' A Separate Peace, through March 14, 2010 in Steppenwolf's Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

Set at an all-boys boarding school in New England during World War II, A Separate Peace is a fascinating look into the dark side of adolescence. The

Continued to page 54

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# CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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*The Irish American Heritage Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March at the IAHC.*

## **Irish Dance Chicago**

Friday, March 12th, 7pm  
\$10, children 12 and under FREE

A concert showcasing the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish dancers, all on one stage, including The O'Hare School of Irish Dance, The Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, The World Academy of Irish Dancing, The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, and special guests, The Academy of Irish Music.



## **Munnelly in Concert**

Sunday, March 14th, 7pm  
\$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 halls of the 1920's.



## **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

Wednesday, March 17th, Noon-Midnight  
\$10, children 12 and under FREE

Activities include traditional and modern Irish music, Irish dancing, and food. Performers include Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, The Chancey Brothers, The O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Shindig, Barry Fagan's Band, and The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance.



## **St. Patrick's Festival**

*(following the downtown Parade)*

Saturday, March 13th, 1pm-Midnight  
\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, children 12 and under FREE



A large-scale, family-oriented festival featuring traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. There will be vendors on hand selling jewelry, artwork, crafts, CDs and more.

Entertainment includes **The Mickey Finns**, The Sullivan Brothers, Anish, Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, The Dooley Brothers, The Shannon Rovers, The Mulhern School of Irish Dance, The Wiggleworms, Mulligan Stew, The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, The Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, The O'Hare School of Irish Dance, The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, and a Ceili Mor with **Dennis Cahill, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon, John Shine, Tommy Masterson and Sean Cleland.**



## **Stepping Forward**

Saturday, March 20th, 7pm  
\$20, \$30 for VIP Reserved Seating

This concert combines the best of Irish music, step dancing and bag piping in Chicago. Featuring performances by Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, The City of Chicago Bagpipe Band and musical group The Four Courts, with Paddy Homan, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon and Dennis Cahill. The publisher of the *Irish American News*, Cliff Carlson, will emcee the event.



For more information and to purchase select tickets, call 773-282-7035 or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

# Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



To start this time honored necessity, guidance in making THE proper cup of tea is essential, so says Fergie.

1) In preparation, one must have 8-10 oz cups. (Anything more, and it's a grande/tall/ventewhateversupersize. Too much of a good thing is too much.) ~ A favorite black tea, preferably without string staple. (Herbal won't work). ~ Lots of fresh water. ~ Tea pot OR saucer to 'lid' the tea cup, to keep in heat. Milk and/or sugar/honey

into tea pot or cup to warm.

3) Boil more fresh water. When water is at a mad boil, pour out warming water, drop in tea bags and quickly pour in still boiling water.

4) COVER with either tea pot lid or saucer. Heat is paramount for releasing all of the flavor from the tea. At this point, a 'tea cozy' can be put over the pot. It looks like a very large oven mitt. This again, is to keep in heat.

5) Let the tea steep for five minutes.

at least until the snow melts.

The suggestions below (which are included in the picture) are quick, easy and can be adapted for a semi rushed afternoon or an afternoon tea on Mother's Day. The options are limitless. Bon appetit!

## Sugar Cookie with Rosemary and Lemon Cutouts

Your favorite sugar cookie recipe  
1 t. chopped rosemary, preferably fresh

1 t. lemon rind  
2 inch cookie cutters

Make recipe according to directions, adding the rind and rosemary with the flour. Roll out and cut out shapes. I found special cookie cutters with a notch to place the cookie on edge of cup at Williams-Sonoma. Bake to directions and let cool.

## Tea Sandwiches

8 slices of bread such as rye, whole wheat or country white

Various spreads, cream cheese with salmon, etc

Various salads, egg and watercress (my fave), ham, chicken salad

Various vegetables, cucumber, peppers, lettuce

Cut off crusts. Spread on condiments, salads and vegetables on 4 pieces. Place other 4 on top and cut sandwiches on diagonal. Place on plate and serve.

This article is dedicated to John Connell who passed away in January. He was a great man, a wonderful, lilting singer and a seanachie who will be missed. Here's to ya!

\*Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron, Ohio. Julianna can be contacted at [julileber@hotmail.com](mailto:julileber@hotmail.com) and will respond to your questions and comments as soon as possible.

## The Proper Cuppa Tea

During a recent conversation with local Irishman John Ferguson, he reminded me that every once in a while the tried and true must be revisited, refreshed and sometimes relearned. Those lessons can be applied to pouring the perfect pint, baking the perfect soda bread and at Fergie's suggestion, making the perfect cup of Irish tea.

So many are rushed in the morning, trying to get ahead of the clock. They may gulp down a demi tasse of perfectly timed coffee from the perfectly programmed coffee maker. Or, they may drink tea and simply toss a bag of their favorite blend into a travel thermos and chase it with hot water from a recently whistling kettle. Drop a teaspoon or two of sugar in the mug and it's done.

Fast forward eight hours and it's time for dinner. The American trend has been to try to get dinner on the table as fast as possible due to hunger, evening activities, everyday rituals. With all of the activities and rushing around, taking a little time for a tradi-

tional Irish necessity may encourage a sense of peacefulness, or maybe even a little weight loss after the holidays and Mardi Gras.

Tea time was established in the British Isles in the mid 1600's, from Portugal, and created a time for a light meal set between 3pm and 5pm. While the royal court found the meal to be civilizing and calming during the day's activities, the working class found that having tea and a biscuit also helped them break the day and soothe the hunger until the end of their work. It was and is a daily ritual that calms the nerves and the appetite with a warming and milky tea. In doing so, dinner could be made in smaller portions, thereby saving the food costs and, inevitably controlling weight.

Tea time does not have to be a grand production with finest china, your great grandmother's table linen or expensive shopping at the high-end specialty grocery store. Just a few items are needed for a great cup of Irish tea and a light snack to ward off hunger.

if preferred.

2) Set the kettle to boil on the stove; not microwave, not hot shot. Water must be boiling. Pour hot water only



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Pour into warmed cups. Add milk and sweeteners, and enjoy.

Along with a great cup of tea, a simple plate of biscuits (cookies), tea sandwiches, crackers and cheese, whatever is extra can be served. The idea is to lightly curb the appetite, give enough energy to make dinner, and then serve the lighter meal. I can remember living in Dublin having tea with my friend and him bemoaning the fact that he did not have 'proper biscuits' for tea, just thick slices of toast with gorgeous Irish butter. It always worked though, since that held us until we went for dinner around 8pm.

Whenever time is taken before dinner for tea, around the water cooler for an afternoon coffee break, or a stop at the local shop for a half double decaffeinated half-caf, with a twist of lemon, enjoy that hot shot of liquid warmth,

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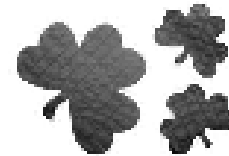
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## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



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](http://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.

### Illinois Supreme Court Declares Medical Malpractice Caps Unconstitutional

For the third time, the Illinois Supreme Court has declared arbitrary caps on non-economic damage awards in medical malpractice cases unconstitutional. The most recent case, *Lebron v. Gottlieb Memorial Hospital*, relates to a 2005 law passed by the Illinois General Assembly which capped an injured plaintiff's

recovery of non-economic damages (disability, pain and suffering, disfigurement and loss of society) in medical malpractice cases to \$500,000 in cases against a physician and \$1,000,000 in cases against a hospital. This cap would be imposed on every medical malpractice case, regardless of the severity of the injury or the age of the injured plaintiff.

Under the law, the jury would not be informed of the cap. As such, a jury could return a verdict against a doctor for \$2,000,000 and after the trial the trial court would be required

to reduce the verdict to \$500,000.

In the Supreme Court, the caps were opposed not just by the injured plaintiff, but by the American, Illinois State, Cook County, and Chicago Bar Associations, all of which comprise of attorneys who work on behalf of injured persons and also those who work on behalf of doctors, hospitals and insurance companies. Additionally, the caps were opposed by the Woman's Bar Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans. These groups opposed the caps in part because cap on non-economic damages disproportionately affect women, racial minorities and older individuals.

Finally, the AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor filed briefs in opposition to the caps, as well as a group of almost 25 law and social sciences professors who provided statistical evidence undermining the alleged "health care crisis" and "doctor flight" from Illinois. Conversely, the only groups who supported the caps were associations of doctors and hospitals. Not a single independent or bi-partisan group filed supporting briefs in the Supreme Court supporting the caps.

At the time the Act was passed but before it was signed by then-Governor

Blagojevich, this column featured an article arguing that the Governor should not sign the bill into law because it was unconstitutional, and because it would not solve the problem of increasing insurance premiums on the medical profession. This article will discuss the *LeBron* case and future articles will discuss the validity of criticisms of the decision.

### Abigaile LeBron

Shortly after the medical malpractice caps were passed by the General Assembly and signed into law, Abigail Lebron was born. As a result of alleged medical errors during her delivery, Abigail suffers from a severe brain injury, cerebral palsy, abnormal neurological function and needs to be fed through a tube in her stomach. Abigail's mother filed suit against the doctor and hospital involved with Abigail's care, and filed a motion requesting that the trial court find the cap on non-economic damages unconstitutional.

After extensive briefing a Circuit Court judge found that the caps violated the separation of powers clause of the Illinois Constitution because it acts as a legislative remittitur. A remittitur is the right of a judge to reduce a jury verdict if they feel it is unreasonably high. The judge will either reduce the verdict to an amount he feels is appropriate or order that a new trial as to the amount of damages be conducted with a new jury. The only limitation on the judge is that they order a remittitur based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case before him.

Caps on non-economic damages operate as a legislative remittitur. In other words, rather than having a judge who has viewed the evidence and heard testimony from witnesses decide whether a verdict in a particular case is too high, the legislature has arbitrarily capped damages at a certain amount. Because a remittitur is a function given to the judicial branch (the courts), having the legislature impose a remittitur is a violation of separation of powers. Therefore, the judge ruled that the Act was unconstitutional and could not be applied.

### The Supreme Court's Decision

Under Illinois law, if a judge finds a state law unconstitutional, the parties are allowed an automatic and immediate appeal to the Supreme Court of Illinois. As described above, prior to issuing its decision, the Supreme Court received briefs not just by the parties to the *LeBron* case, but from over 20 entities who submitted "friend of the court" briefs, as well as a brief from the Illinois Attorney

General, who is allowed to intervene in cases where a state law is found unconstitutional.

After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's finding that the statute was unconstitutional. The Court noted that in 1997 it held in the *Best* case that a \$500,000 cap on non-economic damages was unconstitutional because it violated the separation of powers clause of the Illinois Constitution and violated the Illinois' Constitution prohibition on "special legislation." The special legislation clause prohibits arbitrary legislative classifications that discriminate in favor of a select group without a sound, reasonable basis. The Court found the cap on non-economic damages penalized the most severely injured individuals, and thus was special legislation.

Likewise, in 1976, the Supreme Court invalidated a similar medical malpractice cap in another case. Thus, the *LeBron* decision is the third time the Supreme Court has found that non-economic damage caps in medical malpractice cases was unconstitutional.

In *LeBron*, the Supreme Court reiterated that legislatively imposed caps on non-economic damages violates the separation of powers clause. It is first and foremost the role of a jury to assess the nature and extent of an individual's injuries. It is then the role of the trial judge, who has had an opportunity to see the particulars of a case to decide whether the jury's verdict is excessive. It is not the legislature's role to impose an arbitrary one size fits all cap on damages.

The Court also addressed the fact that several other states do have medical malpractice caps that have withstood constitutional scrutiny in those states. However, the Court rejected "everybody is doing it" as the test for determining the constitutionality of an Illinois state law.

Since the Supreme Court's decision, the same rhetoric that fueled the caps imposition has again resurfaced as criticism of the decision. Next month we will discuss whether doctors are really leaving the state, whether the filings or verdict amounts of medical malpractice cases are rising, and whether malpractice claims have a significant effect on the cost of health care.

By Martin Healy, Jr. and Dennis M. Lynch (r).



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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



the untapped economic potential of the estimated 12 million out of status immigrants already living here. Researchers at UCLA found

that comprehensive immigration reform could add as much as \$1.5 trillion to the U.S. G.D.P. over 10 years. The study sponsored by the Immigration Policy Center and the Center for American Progress, was based on surveys after federal legislation in 1986 that legalized about three million undocumented workers. Based on the experiences of the 1986 legislation, the study concluded that immigrant workers who gain legal status go on to make contributions at higher levels in the economy and to the society as a whole. They move on to better jobs, they become more educated, they consume more, so they spend more, and pay more taxes. It has also been pointed out by other economists that legalizing the undocumented population would also help the housing sector to recover as these folks would be in the market for new homes.

## Is Immigration Reform Dead For 2010?

I have been asked this question numerous times since President Obama's first State of the Union last month. Politicians never cease to surprise me. Political promises rarely impress me. Words are cheap and plentiful on the campaign trail; actions are what matter. As someone famously said: "when all is said and done, there is more said than done."

President Obama promised to pursue Immigration Reform in his first year in office. Well so much for that promise, here we are two months into his second year and still no action. What the President had to say with his afterthought reference to immigration leaves one wondering if the administration is really serious about a push for a comprehensive immigration reform plan in Congress this year.

"And we should continue the work of fixing our broken immigration system, to secure our borders, and enforce our laws, and ensure that everyone who plays by the rules can contribute to our economy and enrich our nation." What concerns most advocates is the fact that this statement of President Obama's was delivered with no conviction and no plan or call to Congress for action. In fact the statement did not even mention the word comprehensive.

To those who say now is not the time to approach immigration reform and who point to an unemployment rate of 10%, I ask, when is the right time? I think history has a lesson for us here. President Regan undertook the last major overhaul of our immigration law in 1986 at a time when unemployment was running about 7.5%. In fact a new study points to

The study from UCLA also considered a hypothetical outcome for U.S. immigration reform. What if it were possible to deport all illegal immigrants workers? (A proposal, which the anti-immigration lobby strongly support) What would happen then? The study found that mass deportation would reduce the national GDP by \$2.6 trillion over 10 years. Even during a recession, American workers could not fill the gap the immigrants would leave.

President Obama did make another reference to immigrants in his speech: "In the end, it's our ideals, our values that built America, values that allowed us to forge a nation made up of immigrants from every corner of the globe, values that drive our citizens still." For America to work at its best and to endure, all of its people have to share the same values

and ideals. That can't happen when millions of residents are excluded from participating in all the country has to offer. Mr. President and members of Congress... this great nation can truly be a place of prosperity for all its citizens and for "the strangers who live among us". The 12 million who live and work among us wish to be a part of the solution to our present economic woes, please give them the opportunity to do so, and we will all surely benefit from the blessings that are sure to follow.

## New Ballydoyle in Bloomingdale

There is a full St. Patrick's Day celebration going on at the new Ballydoyle Irish Pub, 327 Stratford Square Dr. in Bloomingdale IL 60108 630-924-8800, www.Ballydoylepub.com

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

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**A Chairde:**

Everyone at Gaelic Park is extremely excited about the inclusion of our newsletter into the Irish American News. Over the years, people like Fat Daly, Colleen Reidy and Christopher Mullooly have worked extremely hard to produce a great newsletter. We thank Cliff Carlson and everyone at the Irish American News for making it possible to share our news with the entire Irish community of Chicago.

February was a great month at Gaelic Park with both The Merry Ploughboys and The Wolfe Tones concerts selling out. Our new event, Craic a Palooza, an Irish reunion, was a huge success with over 500 old and new friends getting together to reminisce.

Finally, over 450 members attended our annual convention in February. Each year, ten people are elected directors for three-year terms. Two hard-working board members,

Jack Stewart and Joe Begley are taking a year off and we look forward to their return in the future. Newly-elected board members, Maureen Burns-Bekta, Marla Butler and Peter Shannon Wash, joined re-elected directors John Devitt, Chuck Dineen, Kay Knightly, Mary



The "Galway Bench" seen only at Gaelic Park!

O'Donnell, Bill O'Sullivan, Marie Rottigan and Carol Sweeney on our hard working board.

The St. Patrick's season is always busy at Gaelic Park but this year

may set a record. In addition to Ireland on Parade, South Side Irish Sunday and a big day of events on St. Patrick's Day, Gaelic Park is being honored by the South Side Irish Parade Festival and the Oak Forest Fleadh and Parade. Gaelic Park has become the place in the Chicago South and where families celebrate their Irish heritage during the St. Patrick's season. Both committees of the South Side Irish Parade and the Oak Forest Fleadh have mentioned Gaelic Park's emphasis and commitment to family as a major reason for the honors.

Chicago is blessed to have the two world-class Irish centers - Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center. Please stop by and see us during the St. Patrick's season. Like the Heritage Center, there's always a warm dead mile folite waiting for you at Gaelic Park.

Sincerely yours,  
**John C. Griffin**  
President

**Gaelic Park Membership**

For over 25 years Gaelic Park has developed into a magnificent location in the promotion and fostering of Irish Culture in the Chicago-land area. Throughout the year, Gaelic Park hosts a wide range of events with Ireland on Parade, the best in Gaelic games with hurling and football during the summer time, Irish Fest, Harvest Day, the best in Irish entertainment with a great line-up of concerts, the best in Irish theatre and a host many more events for all the family.

The Carraig Pub is a great place to meet up with friends and have the best pint in the Midwest with live entertainment on most weekends. Gaelic Park is also home to a number of different associations that continue to grow here.

For many Irish and Irish Americans, Chicago Gaelic Park is home away from home, and helps people connect with their roots. Come join us and be a part of something very special!

A yearly membership is \$30 for an individual and \$50 for a family. With this membership you are invited to our annual convention dinner which is the best meal you will have all year, you also get two FREE tickets to our Irish Fest held on Memorial Day weekend and a monthly copy of Irish American News that will keep you informed on all the goings on around the Irish community in the Chicago-land area.

More importantly, becoming a member of Chicago Gaelic Park helps us to continue to promote and foster all what is best about being Irish. Gaelic Park is a fantastic place with fantastic people, come and be a part of it and we promise you it will be your best investment ever!

Go raibh maith agat,  
**David O'Carroll**  
Membership Chairperson

**Membership Form**

NEW  RENEWAL  Family Membership \$50  Individual Member \$30

NAME last first initial

SPOUSE (if joining) last first initial

ADDRESS street city state zip

PHONE: home work

E-Mail:

Donation Enclosed

Make Checks Payable to: Chicago Gaelic Park

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership Chairperson  
8119 W 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

phone: 708-687-9323 fax: 708-687-0120 web: www.chicagogaelicpark.org



## CHICAGO GAELIC PARK MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

### Southside Sunday

On South Side Irish Sunday, March 14, come to Gaelic Park for a day full of events for the whole family beginning with the Monthly Mass and Breakfast at 10am. The Mass is preceded by a touching presentation of the symbols of Ireland by local children and includes hymns performed by the Gaelic Park Choir. The Mass is followed by a delicious traditional Irish breakfast. The cost is \$8.

Doors will re-open at 1:30pm with four stages of continuous entertainment for the entire family. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Entertaining in the Emerald Room is the popular, lively local group, The Larkin Brothers at 1:30pm. Arranmore brings its contemporary folk music with an Irish flair at 5:15pm and The Dennehy School of Irish Dance displays its wonderful step dancers at 7pm.

The festivities in the Tara Room include Week Back at 1:30pm and Red Rebel County at 6pm. In the Carraig Pub, local sensations John Dillon will perform at 1:30pm and Dan McGuinness at 6:30pm.

Lastly, the Celtic Room hosts children's entertainment beginning at 2pm with the Dublin Deceptions Magic Show, A Bit 'o' the Magic at 3:30pm and the Shamrock Sheridanigans Magic Show at 5pm.

All in all, Gaelic Park provides a great atmosphere for the entire family to celebrate South Side Irish Sunday no matter what the weather.

### St Patrick's Day

Not surprisingly, there is a full day of activities at Gaelic Park on St. Patrick's Day. The Emerald Room doors open at 11am for the annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon. The \$25 admission fee includes a delicious lunch served at noon with music and dancing to the sounds of Joe Cullen until 3pm. There will also be a special step dancing show by the Cross Keys School of Irish Dance. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

The Tara Room will provide a family atmosphere including children's entertainment beginning at 4:30pm and The Griffins beginning at 6:30pm. There is no admission fee and a delicious hot food buffet is available for purchase.

The Carraig Irish Pub will be open for lunch at 11am and offers corned beef dinners, shepherd's pie, Irish sausage, fish and chips and corned beef sandwiches. Entertainment will be provided by The Griffins beginning at 3pm and Gerard Haughey at 7pm. The Carraig Pub provides a wide assortment of refreshments including perfect pints of Guinness. There is no cover charge.

### Come March in the Parades

We are proud to participate in several of the area St. Patrick's Day parades. Members and friends of Gaelic Park are welcome to march along side our float in the Manhattan (March 7) Chicago Downtown (March 13), Oak Forest (March 13), and Tinley Park (March 14) parades. You may join us on the bus from Gaelic Park to the Chicago, Oak Forest, and Tinley Park parade or meet us in the "float staging areas" just prior to start time. Call the front office for more details.

We are especially proud as Oak Forest kicks off their first Annual Fleadh, and have chosen us as the Grand Marshall. The family parade will kick off at 11am from 151st street and travel along Cicero Avenue to 159th Street. In addition, an open bike ride will kick off on Cicero Avenue from 151st street to 159th Street between 9am and 10:30am. A 5K race in Midlantic Meadows (northeast corner of 159th Street and Cicero Avenue) will start at 9am.

### 10 Day Celebration at Chicago Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park is proud to host Ireland on Parade, a multi-generational tradition now in its 18 year. Also known as "Irish Week", Ireland on Parade is part of the 10-day celebration at Gaelic Park in honor of Ireland's patron saint, Patrick.

Each evening begins with music by Sean O'Donnell followed by performances from the Irish step dancing schools with music provided by the Irish Musicians Association. The Irish Musicians are a group of local artists who are dedicated to the perpetuation of traditional Irish music and have been involved with Ireland on Parade since its inception. There is no admission for Ireland on Parade, which will be held in the Emerald Room of Gaelic Park. Students from the Irish Music School of Chicago are returning to perform.

In addition, each night of Ireland on Parade will include exhibitions of Ceili dancing and Set dancing.

Doors open each evening at 5:30pm with the first dance show starting at 7pm. Admission is free. Delicious, hot food will be available for purchase beginning at 5:30pm.

### School of Irish Dancing and Music Schedule:

**Friday, March 5 7pm:**  
Jery O'Loughlin School of Dancing  
7:30pm:  
Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing  
**Tuesday, March 9 7am:**  
Mulane, Healy & O'Brien School of Irish Dancing  
7:30pm:  
Muhern School of Irish Dance  
**Wednesday, March 10 7pm:**  
Weber School of Irish Dancing  
7:30pm:  
Geraldine Foy School of Irish Dancing  
8pm:  
Darva Foy School of Irish Dancing  
**Thursday, March 11 7pm:**  
Shalyn McNamara  
School of Irish Dancing  
7:30pm:  
Sean Cleland School of Irish Music  
8pm:  
Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dancing  
**Friday, March 12 7am:**  
Ann Lavin-Cossidy  
School of Irish Dancing  
8pm:  
Blackbird School of Irish Dancing  
**Tuesday, March 16 7pm:**  
World Academy of Irish Dancing  
7:30pm:  
Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing



# G A E L I C P A R K

## CHICAGO GAELIC PARK MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

## gaelic park players

Gaelic Park Players  
Spring Play

The Patrick Pearse Motel  
by Hugh Leonard

The story takes place with an upwardly mobile couple living in an upscale Dublin suburb, and their business partners are showing what real patriotism is all about - selling it in the form of hotels.

Each room in the Patrick Pearse Motel is decorated with a portrait of a national hero. Unbeknown to her dating husband, the lady of the house is plotting a tryst with an old flame, a television commentator famed for his rudeness. Soon the stage is filled with mistaken identities, cropped trousers, a flimsy negligee and false accusations. A hysterical bedroom farce that will have you wondering how will all of this turn out and who will get out alive!

Scheduled show dates  
at Gaelic Park are:

Fridays April 9, 16 and 23 at 8pm  
Saturdays April 10, 17 and 24 at 8am  
Sundays April 11, 18 and 25 at 3am  
This is a dinner/theatre matinee at a special price.  
Reservations are required by calling the office.

This show will also be taking part in the Acting Irish International Theater Festival 2010, hosted by the Irish American Heritage Center. The Gaelic Park Players will perform on Wednesday afternoon, May 19.

## Young Drama and Choir Group

Gaelic Park invites all young boys and girls, ages 8 to 14 years, to become part of a Young Drama Group or alternatively, a Youth Choir Group at Chicago Gaelic Park. Please email John Devitt at [Devittj62@yahoo.com](mailto:Devittj62@yahoo.com) with contact information (email address) or fill in an information sheet in the front office at Gaelic Park.

St. Baldrick's  
Fundraiser at Gaelic Park

How much would you donate to childhood cancer research to see me shave my head in solidarity with kids fighting cancer? That's the question St. Baldrick's shavers ask their friends and family!



On Saturday afternoon, March 13, we will be hosting another St. Baldrick's event at Gaelic Park. We have held this fundraiser for the last two years and raised a total of over \$35,000. Last year we had three hair dressers shaving heads for about two hours. Two women and about thirty men and boys had their heads shaved.

Whether participating or watching, Shindig, a 3 piece ballad band from Ireland with influences such as The Pogues, The Wolfe Tones, The Dubliners, and more, will perform at 1:30 p.m. The head shaving will begin at 3 p.m. Food will be available for purchase starting at 10am through 11pm.

This year we hope the event will be even bigger and are looking for many participants. For more information visit their website at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org), or contact Tadgh at Gaelic Park, 708-687-0120.

## St. Jarlath's Football &amp; Hurling

The Chicago St. Jarlath's Football and Hurling club are excited about the approaching 2010 season, and now is your chance to play the best field sports out there. We welcome boys and girls from ages 5-18 to come out and be a part of an Irish tradition. Gaelic Football and Hurling reign from Ireland and are the fastest growing sports in the United States. All skill levels are encouraged to play.

Football practices are held in Gaelic Park on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Hurling practice on Friday

evenings. Games are also held in Gaelic Park on the main pitch, on Sunday mornings. We will be having our annual Football and Hurling camp this summer, which is run by certified GAA coaches. For more information please visit our website, [www.chicagostjarlaths.com](http://www.chicagostjarlaths.com).

## Gaelic Handball News

Beat the winter blues! Want to get a little exercise while having fun, then join the Gaelic Handball Club. Handball like football and hurling is part of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). The game of handball was brought to the United States, Canada and Australia by Irish immigrants. In fact, the first handball court built in the US was built by an Irish man named Phil Casey in New York.

Three years ago the Gaelic handball club was formed on the South Side to give kids a challenging game to play. Colm Connolly from Galway was instrumental in forming this club. The club currently has 16 underage players age 7-16, and 12 adults. We are looking for more players. Chicago has a strong history in handball with many national champions. The club's home courts are at Silver Lakes Golf and Racquet Club in Orland Park.

If you would like to learn the game or bring your children to participate please call:

James Cooke 708-257-7047 or  
Colm Connolly 630-935-3722



Picture by Colm Egan.

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**CHICAGO GAELIC PARK MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER**

**Musical Luncheon**

Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Doors open at noon, lunch served at 1pm, music until 4pm. \$13 per person. Reservations required!

**Sunday Celtic Supper**

Celtic Supper is hosted almost every Sunday, November 1 through Mother's Day. It's a delicious, hot food buffet, all you can eat, served from 4pm to 7pm. A cash bar is also available. Music and dancing continues until 9pm. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$9 for children 12 and under. Reservations requested, especially for large parties. Upcoming entertainment:  
 3/7: Paddy Homan  
 3/21: The Griffins  
 3/28: Gerard Houghey  
 4/4: Joe Cullen (special Easter rate of \$21 for adults; \$11 for children)  
 4/11: Sean O'Donnell  
 There will be no Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 14.

**Ladies Auxiliary**

The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings. There will be no meeting held in the month of March.

**Sunday Mass and Irish Breakfast**

Mass is celebrated at 10am on the second Sunday of each month, October through May. A full Irish breakfast is served after Mass for the cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children between the ages of 4 and 12 and free for children 3 and under.

**Weekly Dancing and Sessions Ceili and Set Dancing**

Gaelic Park is the venue for Ceili and Set Dancing each week as part of their commitment to advance Irish Culture.

Set Dancing is a form of social dancing, which has been popular in Ireland for over 150 years. Sets are danced by four couples in a square, and usually consist of three to six figures with a short pause between each.

Monday nights, 7:30 - 9:30pm, year round. John Carmody is the man behind the Set Dances. Lessons are provided year round with the Kerry Set, Antrim Jig and Clare Set a few of the more popular ones. There is a \$3 weekly fee.

Ceili Dancing is another form of Irish social dance. This is a different, separate repertoire of those that are commonly danced in Ireland, England, America, and Australia. They are danced to steps similar to modern step dancing.

Tuesday, 7:30 - 9:30pm, September through April, directed by Donna Killeen. The music and set up is coordinated by Mary Carmody. Every third Tuesday night the Murphy/Roche Band plays. There is a \$2 weekly fee and tea is served for all to enjoy.

Step Dancing is the competitive solo form of Irish Dancing has become very popular over the last several years and the students enjoy the lively music and modern choreography. There are four step dancing schools for children that practice at Gaelic Park:  
 Cross Keys - 773.298.0038  
 Lavin-Cassidy - 708.448.6593  
 Mullane 708.267.3638  
 McCormack-Fay Academy - 708.856.2961

**March 17 Don't Miss!**

**Deirdre Reilly & Her Band**



**\$45 per person**  
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 Show @ 9pm  
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 reservations required

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**Live Music in the Pub**

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- 3/6 Jason Jackson
- 3/12 Richie Z
- 3/13 St. Baldrick's Head Shaving Fundraising Activities
- 3/19 Donnafinn
- 3/20 Joe Mc Shane
- 3/26 The Brewski Brothers
- 3/27 Bernie Glim & CR
- 4/2 Dan Mc Guinness Duo
- 4/3 Pat Smillie

**Check Web Site for Full Schedule**

**Chicago Gaelic Park**

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## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



The no-placing streak is OVER! At my very first feis of the year, the Wisconsin Winter Feis, I placed in every dance except my reel. (I just learned a new reel.) I danced the best I could have, and it was good enough this time. I think how well I danced at Oireachtas kind of motivated me to dance well at my next feis. I ended up getting two fourths, a third, and a second. That means I only have to qualify in 2 more dances and I can dance in solos at Oireachtas. I was so happy when I saw the results board with my name on it. I also danced at the St. Louis Irish Arts feis. I got two thirds and a first. I got the first in my Traditional Set. It doesn't count toward anything but I was still very excited! Now, usually you would get a trophy when you get first in prizewinner, but I got a medal. I was really disappointed that I didn't get a trophy but still, I was happy to get a first. While I was at

St. Louis, I was lucky enough to go on the Arch. It is so cool. You go in this really tiny, round car. And when you get to the top you look out these windows. I enjoyed this experience.

Can you believe it? I have been writing for a year now. I enjoy writing very much and I would like to thank Mr. Carlson, for giving me an opportunity to voice my opinions and stories. It has been a first good year—I look forward to writing many more.

I am looking forward to my many performances on St. Patrick's Day, but the one thing I am going to miss is the South Side Parade. I really enjoyed marching in this parade with my family. This, I would have to say, is one of my favorite holidays. (Well it should be a holiday, anyway!) So I wish everybody a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and I look forward to telling you all about it!

## A Separate Peace

Continued from page 52  
complex bonds of friendship between shy, studious Gene and his athletic, daredevil roommate Finny are tested—with shocking consequences. Based on the best-selling novel, A Separate Peace is a quintessential American classic about trust and betrayal, war and peace. (312) 335-1650 or [www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org)

## Abigail's Party

A Red Orchid Theatre closes its 2009-2010 season with Abigail's Party, by Mike Leigh. The production will run February 12–March 28, 2010 at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells in Chicago.

## Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro  
**ARIES:** You are in a reclusive mode this month of March 2010 until the 20th. This will help you recharge your batteries for the year ahead. After that, it's full steam ahead! These quiet days are very helpful for you to consolidate affairs so that they can be dealt with in the best way possible. Good planning.

**TAURUS:** Your hobbies, pet projects, love affairs, and children should be a source of joy this month of March 2010! The year promises to start out right if you direct matters with conscious resolve. Remember to share your good fortune! Think unselfishly.

**GEMINI:** You are high viz this month! A great deal of attention will be thrust upon you while many of the planets are at the highest point of your chart in March 2010. Do make the best of this time now because the influence will move in to the next phase. This could be the beginning of something good if you use the opportunities at hand!

**CANCER:** You will want to keep a watch on the condition of your finances. You are not alone in the world when it comes to these issues. There is of special concern though for you, with planet Mars moving slowly in your bank balance sector. Don't blow money on frivolities for awhile.

**LEO:** Feeling irritable lately? Mars is traveling slowly in your face. You may be especially made aware of this fact at work or school. Even while driving, road rage could overtake you. Definitely it is a time to count to ten and take a deep breath. Outside influences can light your short fuse. Thankfully, Mars will move on to the next sign not to bother you so acutely for a long while.

**VIRGO:** This could be a time of endings and new beginnings for you. It is appropriate now with the new year. 2010 will usher in changes that will bring fresh opportunities into your life.

Abigail is having a party and none of us are invited, but do not miss the cocktail party just down the block... Beverly and Lawrence are having the "grown-ups" over and this party promises hilarity and horror the likes of which you can not imagine. The petty competition is fierce as social relationships are laid bare exposing the obsessions, prejudices, dreams and aspirations of the guests. A sort-of comedy of manners, Abigail's Party was developed through lengthy improvisations in which Mike Leigh and his actors explored characters and the realities of day-to-day life in all their beautiful, terrible glory.

312-943-8722 or [www.redorchidtheatre.org](http://www.redorchidtheatre.org).

Don't be afraid to step up and live the next phase of your existence!

**LIBRA:** This is a time when you are being tested. Some structures that you have built in your life may be working and others are not. You are changing and have outgrown certain people, places, and things that are holding you back. Do not fight the change. Embrace your future!

**SCORPIO:** You need to relax and let your life move on to the next level. You may have worried in the past about your direction. You are entering a time in your life where new places and new faces will grace your existence. If you have sustained some disappointing life experiences in the recent past, know that a better future is waiting.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your home will see some needed changes this March 2010. If you have been under stress regarding where you live or the people in it, remember that you will be able to control the course of events that surround this area of your life.

**CAPRICORN:** Planet Pluto is in an angry dispute with planets Saturn, and Uranus from your sign. This has been especially troublesome for Caps born around Christmas. You will, however, get a reprieve while this troublesome trio moves out of range of effectiveness in your sign. Remember, that all planets move on with time.

**AQUARIUS:** This month of March 2010 will bring fresh optimism on your financial status. You may have felt some stress in this area lately, and now has some much needed cash on the horizon. You may also have rearranged a few items to help cope with the shortfall.

**PISCES:** The spotlight is on you this month of March 2010. You are very lucky to have a once in a twelve year occurrence of the Sun with Jupiter in your sign! How cool is that? Strike while the iron is hot, and take advantage of this planetary event to further your pet projects!

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### Paddy's on the Square Does the Season

Think Green! St. Paddy's day is coming—get ready for some fun. Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove has a number of toe-tapping activities to shake out the winter blahs and celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the Irish heritage. Paddy's will host a series of Irish dance troupes and authors during the month of March. Come meet the authors and enjoy the lively dance performances. Paddy's on the Square is located in the heart of Fountain Square at 228 Robert Parker Coffin Rd. in Long Grove. For more information, contact John or Paddy Barry at 847-634-0339.

St. Patrick's Events at Paddy's

on the Square

Sat., March 6th: 2pm-The McNulty Irish Dancers; 2-4pm-Mike Houlihan, author of "Hooliganism", Book Signing; 2-4pm-Brenna Briggs Book Signing,

Author of "Liffey Rivers and the Mystery of the Sparkling Solo Dress Crown," "Liffey Rivers and the Mystery of the Winking Judge," "The Secret of the Mountain of the Moon."

Sun., March 7th: 2pm-The Academy of Irish Music; 2-4pm-Mary Pat Kelly, author of "Galway Bay," Book Signing.

Saturday March 13th: 2pm-The McNulty Irish Dancers; 2-4pm-Sharon Shea Bossard,

Book Signing, Author of "Finding My Irish" and "Finding Your Chicago Irish."

Sunday March 14th: 2pm-The O'Hare School of Irish Dance; 2-4pm-Kevin O'Donnell, author of "Fado," Book Signing.

Visitors to Long Grove can enjoy the haunting melodies and captivating rhythms of Irish music any time of the year. With one of the largest collections of traditional Irish music and books in America, Paddy's on the Square attracts visitors and collectors from all over the world throughout the year. They are also known for their authentic Irish clothing, Aran knits and warm Irish welcome. Just down the street near Long Grove's signature covered bridge, the Irish Boutique has specialized in fine Irish crystal and china, including Waterford and Belleek, claddagh rings, wedding bands and Irish foods for more than 30 years.

Paddy's on the Square and The Irish Boutique, phone 847-634-0339 or 847-634-3540. For more information about Long Grove phone the Visitor's Information Center at 847-634-0888 or visit the web at [www.LongGroveOnline.com](http://www.LongGroveOnline.com).



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Celtic Virtue Ltd. is a small Irish workshop, founded by two stone masons, Finnian Clarke and Stuart McGrath. Their aim is to provide customized, carved stone around the world. The stone comes from local quarries and the carving is done by traditional methods.

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Finnian and Stuart are personally responsible for every order and make sure they maintain very high standards of craftsmanship and quality. If you want to offer a beautiful piece of Ireland, visit [www.celticvirtue.com](http://www.celticvirtue.com).

For more information call Stuart on +353.87.294.38.18 or email Finnian at [clarkefinnian@gmail.com](mailto:clarkefinnian@gmail.com).

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Daniel J. McLaughlin**  
 Mayor of Orland Park



# Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sonra Daoibh



(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

to

All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



Back row standing from left to right: Thomas M. Lynch, Jerry Cochran, James J. Vengala, Herbert E. Healy, Thomas Goughran, David P. Harris, and Paul Quinn. Front row sitting from left to right: Steven Healy, Sr. and John P. Aquino.

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