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# Truth at Last

## Victims of Bloody Sunday Exonerated by Lord Saville

By Michael Norby

It was difficult for John Kelly to get much sleep on the evening of Monday, June 14. For the past 38 years, he would slip into bed and think of his brother, Michael, who was killed by a single bullet from a British paratrooper's rifle on Bloody Sunday. On this particular evening, however, his difficulty in getting to sleep wasn't due to the heartache of loss. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

At 10:30 a.m. the next day, Kelly would meet other bereaved family members at Derry's Guildhall and, for the first time, would learn what exactly happened to the 14 people brutally killed in one of the darkest days in the history of Northern Ireland.

As family members, people who lived and breathed with their loved ones every day, those who would soon make their way to the town hall already knew that the dead of Bloody Sunday were innocent. Because of a rushed prior investigation by the British Government years earlier, however, those killed were painted as terrorists. To Kelly, and the other family members, this judgment would not be allowed to stand. Thus, after years of tireless work, they stood ready to expose the truth once and for all.

At 4 a.m. Kelly awoke from sporadic sleep and got dressed in a dark suit, striped blue shirt and sky blue tie. Although there was some sense that he would receive good news from Lord Saville's exhaustive 5,000 page report, after nearly four decades of disappointment, he was nervous and guarded.

A television crew from British broadcasters Channel 4 arrived on his doorstep a few hours later to film his preparation – a welcome relief from his kaleidoscopic and torturously nervous thoughts.

At 9:30 a.m. Kelly met with his nine sisters, one brother, and a selection of nieces and nephews at the sprawling city cemetery. They stood by Michael's graveside, who had just turned 17 when he was killed, and uttered a prayer. It was a simple request for strength to get through the day but it was also, perhaps, the most important prayer they had ever whispered.

From there, they proceeded to what they had long maintained was a crime scene – a long stretch of working class road on the fringe of downtown Derry City called Rossville Street. It was where members of 1 Para stormed into the Bogside and attacked thousands of civil rights marchers on January 30, 1972, deliberately shooting down the

civilians whose claims of innocence now lay judged on a document less than a half mile away.

There they met the other family members and the wounded survivors of Bloody Sunday, and walked in a silent procession to the Guildhall. It was an appropriate journey. The green-spined, red-bricked town hall was the intended rally point for the abbreviated

Kelly told *The Irish Emigrant*. "It was an unbelievable feeling. It was so surreal, like being in a dream."

Indeed, the 12-year, \$300 million report was a damning indictment of the British Army and its superiors. Lord Saville laid responsibility for the deaths firmly on 1 Para saying that the soldiers', "unjustifiable firing was the cause of those deaths and injuries."

armed forces and for that, on behalf of the government, indeed, on behalf of our country, I am deeply sorry."

And, with that, the vigorous, painful and draining search for truth was finally realized. For the City of Derry, a wounded, blue-collar and deeply proud town, a cloud darker than most can imagine was finally allowed to float away. For Kelly, the words he had

was a symbolic one.

Just months after the events of January 30, 1972, an inquiry was set up. It was called the Widgery Tribunal. It was the report that claimed those who were killed possessed bombs, fired weapons and, although the actions of the British Army were called "reckless," the soldiers were justified in their actions.



Family members John Kelly and Jean Hegarty tear up copies of *The Widgery Tribunal*.

march that was attacked by British soldiers all those years ago.

With every step the families took towards the truth, another butterfly found its way into their stomachs until, when they finally entered the double doors and ascended the steps to the grand hall, they were numb with nervous anticipation – just moments away from history and, they hoped, vindication.

In the hall were 14 neatly arranged tables, each adorned with four objects – a computer, a compact disc, the 5,000 page inquiry report, and a 60-page summary of Lord Saville's findings. Mercifully, the 56 family representatives (four members for each victim) were given a preview to what they were about to read by their lawyers, who had been sifting through the information since the early morning hours.

"The first person I met was our lawyer and I knew, in less than a minute, that Michael's name had been cleared,"

The report also found that soldiers had lied in an attempt to mask their actions, that those killed and wounded were completely innocent, and that some soldiers of Support Company had aimed shots at civilians that they knew posed no threat, giving no warning before doing so.

Just hours after entering the Guildhall, Kelly, and thousands gathered outside the building, watched British Prime Minister David Cameron offer a gracious and concrete apology for the actions of the British Army on the streets of Derry on Bloody Sunday.

"There is no doubt, there is nothing equivocal, there are no ambiguities," Cameron told the House of Commons. "What happened on Bloody Sunday was both unjustified and unjustifiable. It was wrong."

Some members of our armed forces acted wrongly," he went on to say. "The government is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the

wanted to hear since he lost his brother were finally spoken – not from an advocate or from a neighbor, but from a judge, for the world to hear.

"I was told that Soldier F intentionally fired a shot into the crowd" he said. "The people were not presenting a threat and, in doing so, he shot Michael in the stomach and killed him."

I asked what "does that mean?" and I was told that "it was blatant murder." Those were the greatest four words I ever heard coming from another human being."

Outside the doors of the Guildhall, the families took the podium. Each of the deceased were remembered by a respective family member – the faces of each one adorning a big screen set up in the city square with word "innocent" stamped below.

A moment of silence was observed for all victims of the Northern Ireland conflict and the final act, before the book was closed on Bloody Sunday,

Before thousands of people, standing there on a podium in the Guildhall Square, John Kelly held up a copy of *The Widgery Report*, grasped it in both hands and tore it to shreds.

After Widgery was released, the families of the dead of Bloody Sunday, many of whom have since passed, sometimes doubted that their quest for truth would ever be realized.

Even so, they kept going and kept fighting. They kept believing and praying and hoping. Now, after Tuesday, April 15, 2010, John Kelly, and those who campaigned by his side, can finally rest. They can sleep peacefully. More importantly, so can the ghosts of Bloody Sunday.

"The truth has been released at last," said Kelly. "I will always talk to people about Bloody Sunday and hopefully people will learn from our story. Hopefully it will be said that, after Saville, nobody can get away with murder, no matter who you are."





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**Raised on Songs and Stories**



Shay Clarke



**Thank you Natasha McShane, you brought out the best in us**

The cross town Natasha Day benefit was a huge success by any standard as thousands of people flocked to support Natasha and her family at both Gaelic

Park and the Irish American Heritage Center.

There was an air of celebration to the whole affair as prayers had been answered and we had been hearing stories all week from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, that Natasha was showing signs of recovery. She had said a few words, she had taken a few steps, and she was coming back. There was no doubt in our minds that despite the odds, this smart and beautiful girl from Armagh, was a fighter and was not staying down.

Hundreds of volunteers had prepared well for this day and by 11 am the Heritage Center was ready, as the first wave of visitors arrived for Mass, celebrated by Fr. Karl Langsdorf and Fr. James O'Brien. The Irish Heritage Singers, The Old Town School of Music Ladies Choir combined with the voices of Catherine O'Connell, Michael Londra, Paddy Homan, Kathy Cowan and Mary Grimes raised the roof and praised the Lord in an amazing display of teamwork.

Joe McShane performed his beautiful tribute, "Song for Natasha" and Natasha's parents Sheila and Liam along with their son Conor were besieged by well wishers afterward. Natasha Day was off to a good start.

Entertainment began after Mass and musicians came and went in what can

only be described as a magical, musical, awesome blur of talent. The Heritage Center was packed on all four floors by mid afternoon and the constant line at the silent auction tables in the Erin Ballroom was very encouraging. On the third floor there was the most amazing selection of food dishes and desserts, all had been contributed and they must have fed thousands, it was really an amazing feat. By six we began to hear the stories from Gaelic Park, bands who had already played IAHC were now on stage on the Southside and were also reporting a huge turnout. Irish Consul General Martin Rouine and his wife Mary also attended on both sides of the city.

Sharing their talents that day were the Pauline Conneely Ceili Band, The Academy of Irish Music, The Trinity Dancers, Marian Bradfield and the Irish Possee, Baal Tinne, James Conway and the Boils, Brogue, the 4 Courts, The Joe McShane Band, Johnny Gleeson, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, Stephens Green, Paddy go Easy, Jeff Ward, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, Seamus Kennedy, Joe Cullen, Marieke Van der Linden, Mike Doyle, Timmy Favourite, John Williams, Rose Boyle, Kathleen Keane, Noan Smukis, Jessica Zigler, Sheila Dorley, Sean Gavin, Pat Quinn, Maurice Lennon, Dennis Cahill, John Dillon, Teresa Shine, Gerry Haughey, Aisling Gagliardi, Patrick Cannady, Karan Cook, 3 Pints Gone, February Sky, Joe Monahan, Gavin Coyle, Bob Harkey, Bohola, The Katie Sullivan Band, Mary McDonagh, and many of them entertained on both sides of the city. There were many musicians who also shared their talents on stage that day and in the sessions that followed and I'm sorry but I do not know their

names. I thank you one and all for the most amazing day. Your selfless generosity on Natasha Day will long be remembered.

Chicago has been my home now for twenty-three years. I have always felt at home here since day one and I love the place. What happened to Natasha and Stacey on our streets was horrific and was a stain on the good name of our "Sweet Home Chicago", but it could just have easily have happened in my fair city of Dublin. The events that followed and the incredible outpouring of support for Natasha and her family has certainly restored to us some semblance of pride and by midnight on Natasha Day, I think we also felt redemption.

So I salute all of you who helped in any way to make this day a huge success. I never doubted your generosity and big heartedness for a second and I know that you would all be up for it again in a heartbeat. Get well soon Natasha McShane, you brought out the best in us and you and your family will always be in our thoughts and prayers.



Thanks to hockey legend, Chris Chelios, who stopped by the IAHC to sign autographs and show support.

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The Four Courts performed at several benefits for Natasha including this one at Local 399 on June 4, 2010. (l to r): Dennis Cahill, Paddy Homan, Natasha's father; Liam McShane, Jimmy Keane, and Maurice Lennon.

## A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

**Reverend Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO



this time is to maintain stability in a time of economic instability. We continue to offer those services that support and sustain the families and individuals who are most at risk among us. We help low-income families stay employed by offering child development programs for their children; offer in-home senior services and adult day centers so that elders can remain at home; provide safe housing and life-changing programs for hundreds of formerly homeless families with children. We offer independent living and supportive housing for low-income seniors and formerly homeless veterans.

We are determined to live our mission to fulfill the Church’s role in the mission of charity to anyone in need as we serve the poor compassionately and competently. In doing so, we promote a culture of life for all those we serve and for our society, based on human dignity and respect for every human person.

Yes, it’s a hard year, but our hope is strong that we can maintain our services to all those who come to us. If you can help, please visit our website at: [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net); or call (312) 655-7012.

And I ask that you keep the people we serve—and Catholic Charities, too—in mind and in your prayers as you move through your day and week.

*May God bless you and your families. And may God bless America.*

experience of serving people in need that even if conditions improve in the next 6 months, it takes a much longer time for financial stability to filter down to the people we serve. Over the last four years, our emergency assistance requests have risen 400 percent. Even in the best of times, it’s hard for low-income families and individuals to survive and thrive—and so we are seeing more people in need.

People we’ve never seen before are coming to our food pantries; the food is flying off the shelves. Financial assistance to struggling families is distributed shortly after we receive it. We are consistently re-prioritizing needs and expenditures. Our major priority remains the more than one million people who come to us each year in need of the basic necessities of life: families and individuals who need food, clothing and a roof over their heads, as well as the knowledge that they can maintain their human dignity in safety and with a sense of security—no matter how fragile.

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This year’s Midwest Connemara Pony Breeders Show will be held on July 10th at Windy Isles Farms in Peotone, IL. The show is in memory of Martin Prendergast from Co. Clare. This is the second annual Midwest Connemara Pony Breeders Show. Martin’s family had bred Connemara Ponies in Ireland since 1961 and the pony was his passion. He was heavily involved with the first show; it was his dream to bring a large Irish fair type show to the Chicago area showcasing the Connemara Pony.

Sadly he passed away a few weeks before the show, but it was

a huge success last year, with Connemara Ponies coming from 7 states—the largest Connemara Pony Show in the country.

This year there will be 40 classes offered in everything from in-hand, showjumping, eventing and dressage. It will be a great day for the family with a bouncy castle, hayrides and face painting. That night there will be a dinner and music by Joe McShane and the Silverbridge Band and performances by World Champion Irish Stepdancers.

For more information log onto [www.windyislesfarms.com](http://www.windyislesfarms.com).

## State Budget & Neighbors in Need

Our country is celebrating our nation’s independence. We thank God for the gift of freedom that we enjoy.

Catholic Charities is once again facing financial stress as we attempt to keep our doors open, pay the bills, and serve the hundreds of thousands of people who come to our doors for help. The current state budget is now in the hands of the governor and difficult decisions must be made.

Catholic Charities is a not-for-profit social service agency that operates on a balanced budget, and contracts with the state of Illinois to provide a wide range of professional social services. Because Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is an essential part of the human services safety net in the State of Illinois, as well as an organization founded to serve the poor, we are deeply concerned that the needs of our low-income neighbors, including those who are unemployed and their families, be met with justice and charity.

While there are some signs nationally that the economic crisis may be easing, we know from over 90 years’



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**For The Republic**



Chris Fogarty



"*THE GOD of the cannibals will be a cannibal, of the crusaders a crusader, and of the merchants a merchant.*" Ralph Waldo Emerson (*Civilization*, 1862). Likewise, I'd suggest, the God of the forgiving is merciful, and the God of the murderous is an angry God of vengeance.

**TWIN TORTURE CITIES!** The twinning of Chicago and Israel's Petach Tikva was made official recently during ceremonies at the Hilton hotel, 720 So. Michigan Ave. Petach Tikva is internationally infamous as Israel's torture city; the place where it sends Palestinians to be professionally tortured. Though I didn't recognize any of the entering celebrants they were obviously from the dwindling number of Chicago's Jews who promote genocide of Palestinians. Chicago pols must have entered from the alley; they didn't enter through the front. This twinning celebration occurred just days after Israel murdered life-saving aid-givers to Gazans targeted for death. One of those murdered was American; but Obama continues all of Bush's crimes, and ranks Israeli "right" to murder above even the life of an American, and infinitely above Palestinian lives.

**THE AID FLOTILLA** massacre is being investigated by—the perpetrator. But not to worry—Israel's self-investigation was OK'd by the international community (Obama and Hillary). For appearance's sake they assigned two Non-Israeli observers; a Canadian army officer and David Trimble, the leader of Occupied Ireland's Loyalists. Who chose Trimble? Trimble's Loyalist supporters fly Israel's Star of David flag throughout their neighborhoods while Palestinian flags are flown throughout Irish areas. The Occupied Irish had identified with the Jews ever since the Shoah, while the Loyalists allied with Britain's Neo-Nazis including Combat 18 (I=A for Adolph, 8=H for Hitler). Some 20 years ago Israel's treatment of Palestine affected Occupied Ireland; its Irish stopped admiring Israel and became sympathetic with Palestine, while the Nazi-allied Loyalists began to identify with Israel. About a decade ago a Combat 18 leader complained by letter to the Loyalists, referring to Combat 18's long-time support against "the Niggers" (Neo-Nazi call the Irish "Niggers"), and suggesting that C-18's support can't continue if the Loyalists support Israelis (also "Niggers" per C-18).

Chicago, too, is a torture city? We know of Cook County jail torture, and of Chicago's long-time defense of Jon Burge and his torture gang. Despite a huge City Law Dept. defending Burge, the City spent further \$millions to shield him from justice.

**A QUESTION** our US Senators and Congressman must answer; On what lawful and moral basis do citizens of Poland, Russia, Germany, and Brooklyn, USA possess overriding claims to Palestinian homes and lands in Palestine? Also; exactly why are \$7 million per day, 365 days per year, of our taxes going to finance Israel's genocide of Palestine? Silence gives consent; our failure to object effectively makes us their accomplices.

**BLOODY SUNDAY's** official cover-up is over. British P.M. Cameron just stated what everyone knew, excepting Ireland's gov't and other Crown sycophants. Cameron admitted that the British soldiers had "unjustifiably shot" the thirty Derry human rights marchers, of whom 14 died, and that the victims hadn't posed a physical threat. Thus ends 38 years of British and Irish gov't denials, perjuries, false accusations against the dead, corrupt verdicts, the utterly corrupt Widgery Report, etc. We salute their relatives' long struggle for justice and must always gratefully remember those Chicago Aldermen who spearheaded the support for years when asked: Aldermen Tom Murphy, Michael Sheahan, Edward Burke and Patrick O'Connor (until the latter two became British collaborators). The Illinois State legislature also provided support when asked, as did the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction and Trades Council. Why was Britain expected to, or even allowed to, investigate itself? Justice-seekers know that prosecution of Bloody Sunday's murderers and their abettors will be decisive; only then can the world expect the rule of law to be applied to the "war on terror." Impunity for Bloody Sunday would be license for continued war crimes.

**THE DEPTH** of official Ireland's degradation is made clear by its 38-year failure to legally intervene on behalf of its Derry citizens. Now it is faced with the even greater crime of having covered up, not an atrocity of its own doing, but lethal attacks on Irish soil by a foreign power on May 17, 1974 in Dublin and Monaghan that killed 33 and

wounded 300, all Irish civilians. Meanwhile, Irish Consuls in Chicago always attribute such violence to the IRA. Once clear that the Irish gov't would not prosecute the known perpetrators, the IRA killed a few of them. Another, Somerville, was killed near the border in the premature explosion of the bomb he was placing aboard the Miami Showband bus, intended to detonate after it got home in the 26-Counties.

**GREAT NEWS!**—from Ireland's gov't, no less! It recently released the official census documents of 1901 and 1911! Go to <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>. A wonderful, versatile map of Ireland is also available at <http://ims0.osiemaps.ie/website/publicviewer/main.aspx#V1,600000,750000,0>. If you can't access these links just eMail [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) and I will send you its link.

**THE IRISH GOV'T** fabricates history and destroys its own legitimacy. Why? Who are the traitors? It's hard to believe, but true, that in 2008 Ireland's State TV [Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE)] collaborated in, and repeatedly aired, gross fabrications about an event in the War of Independence in 1921 Co. Offaly, rejecting all corrections. Though the film has been refuted in all its details by the book, *Coolacrease*, the Irish gov't continues to promote the film and its falsehoods; most recently at University College Dublin.

**THE IRISH HOLOCAUST**, particularly Britain's at-gunpoint removal of Ireland's abundant food at that time, is being covered up by the "Irish" government. An expensive propaganda campaign it is waging along with a complicit university states, in part. "An exhibition, presented through September 3 by Quinnipiac University, is currently underway at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York City, showcasing sculpture, paintings, and writings on the Irish Famine. The exhibition, "Ireland's Great Hunger; An Gorta Mór: The Quinnipiac University Collection," is a collection of works that focus on the famine in Ireland, which lasted from 1845-1850. During this time, nearly all of Ireland's potato crops were destroyed. The destruction of crops, as well as the lack of support from the British government, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Irish citizens. Over two million others immigrated to various other nations around the world to escape the famine. The exhibition at the Consulate General of Ireland is the first time that the exhibit has ever traveled from its permanent home in the Lender Special Collection room at Quinnipiac University. The collection includes over 700 volumes on the actual famine period, as well as others focusing on peripheral issues that helped shape the events surrounding the tragedy." Have they no shame?

**MY BOOK** finally nears completion. Phone me (312/664-7651) about any "famine" graves you know of for inclusion.

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

**WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS** re Occupied Ireland? See [www.terrorismireland.org](http://www.terrorismireland.org).

**GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT;** beneficial? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), [www.friendsofcolinduff.com](http://www.friendsofcolinduff.com), and [www.freegerry.com](http://www.freegerry.com). Corrupt justice/penal systems are committing crimes against all three of them. Regarding Gerry, contact [mcclafferty32@aol.com](mailto:mcclafferty32@aol.com).

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## Arlington Heights Irish Heritage Festival July 16 - 17

Come join the annual celebration of Celtic pride in Arlington Heights and celebrate all things Irish at this year's Irish Fest. Besides exhibits and education, the museum promotes



**Paddy Homan**

cultural heritage by hosting the Irish Fest every summer. The festival

features two days of Irish dancing, heritage, fun, and food! This year's 11th annual Irish Fest will take place on the museum grounds on Friday July 16, 6pm to 11pm, and Saturday July 17, 4pm to 11pm. Admission prices are lower than in previous years. Friday night admission is \$5 for adults, and children under age 15 are free. Saturday evening admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and Historical Society members, and \$2 for children 3-14 yrs.

The crowd is sure to remain entertained with performances by the McNulty Irish dancers, Trinity Irish dancers, Paddy Homan, Hi-Infidelity, 7th Heaven, Gavin Coyle, The Doolneys, The Glengael Bagpipe Band, and Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society. There will also be vendors



**Gavin Coyle**

showcasing their Irish goods for sale, as well as plenty of activities such as balloon art, Ceili dancing clinic, air brush body art, contests and more.

Irish Fest is a chance to be able to see many great performers, such as 7th Heaven, who will be opening for Bon Jovi this summer when The Circle Tour makes a stop at Soldier Field. 7th Heaven has beat out many other bands in a contest for the chance to be an opening act for Bon Jovi's show this summer. They are one band that you won't want to miss!

Bring the whole family for an enjoyable weekend packed full of excitement and culture at the Irish Fest. For further information on schedules, bands, and more visit the Arlington Heights Historical Museum website at [ahmuseum.org](http://ahmuseum.org) or call the museum at 847-255-1225.

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**EXPERTISE** Maureen knows the Gold Coast market and due to her involvement in both the real estate and restaurant industries around the area for many years, her clients benefit from her wealth of knowledge of the Near North Side. Maureen is a licensed broker in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan and is eager to help you buy and sell properties.

**HISTORY** Maureen O'Brien has been a resident of the Gold Coast for over 40 years, growing up as a child here and raising her own children on Astor Street. She served as President of the Gold Coast Neighbors Association for three years, has been a Board member of GCN for over fourteen years, and is currently active on the Zoning Committee of GCN. She also chaired 'Evening on Astor,' the highly successful block party for three years.

**MAUREEN O'BRIEN**

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**Irish Books and Plays in Review**

Frank West



that also give you a feeling for the beauty and power of Llywelyn's writing:  
• "Life is a voyage from launch-

**The Irish Discovered America Long Before Columbus**

"On the eve of his great voyage in 1492, Columbus wrote, 'I am convinced that the terrestrial paradise is in the Island of Saint Brendan'" This quote is from Wikipedia.

When Columbus reached the West Indies he looked for that island, the Island of Promise. We know the rest of the story.

Who was Brendan? Hew was an Irish monk who, in medieval times, gave up everything he loved and, with a few other monks, set sail in a small leather boat to search for Paradise. The voyage lasted several years and probably took place during the period 521 to 534 A.D.

The resulting story—*The Voyage of Saint Brendan*—was an epic tale widely read in Europe. Did he reach America? Many scholars think so. His descriptions of the places he visited correspond to actual places. Also, the voyage of Tim Severin, using a boat like the one described by Brendan, proved that he very well could have come to North America.

Now, author Morgan Llywelyn has written a novel about him called *Brendan*. This is the 18th novel she has written, and as in those other novels (of which I have read many of them) she takes pains to recreate the historical times in Ireland of the period she is writing about. She is skilled at taking away the myths that have grown around legendary figures, like Brian Boru and Grace O'Malley. Llywelyn creates novels about these persons so that they become real, vibrant human beings.

Much can be accomplished by people who are motivated by religion. They can assume the strength and power of their beliefs. Much that is good can be done, as well as, much that is bad, like fanaticism and extremeism.

Brendan, and his companion monks, believed they were doing the work of God. Thus they endured the brutal conditions of a long sea voyage in an open boat.

Long travels and voyages were common in Ireland: travels on land, sea and into one's self. Irish monks travelled to such far off places as Austria, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Italy. Llywelyn shows us the attraction, power, and mystery of these treks and voyages.

Irish monks founded places of learning and study throughout Europe during the medieval period. This was after the Roman Empire ceased to function. Llywelyn ends by pointing out the debt our civilization owes to Irish monks, "In institutions like these the flame of literacy was kept alive..."

These are some thought provoking quotes

ing to beaching."

• "The human yearning to believe is very strong."

• "In his journal Brendan wrote: 'In the Ireland of my youth, priests often married in order to become more fully a part of the community they served.'"

• In 325 A.D., Emperor Constantine convened the first council of the church: the Council of Nicaea. Among the results of that council was that sexual "continance was urged," and that married priests who were already ordained could continue to "cohabit" with their wives.

Sex is a beautiful force of life in human beings. Jesus never said anything against it, and he was human. However, the early scripture writers did not present women as full, complete persons.

That attitude toward the equality of women and the beauty of sex had a particularly negative effect on Ireland. This was because Irish priests—during the 1600s and 1700s—had to be trained in seminaries on the Continent. The ideas of Cornelius Jansen were strong there. He

did not see the beauty of the human life force. Young priests brought these repressive ideas home to Ireland.

Amazing timing! —As I was writing this review, the radio broadcast the news that the Pope had been requested to change the man made rule of celibacy and permit priests to marry.

• "Having inculcated a sense of sin in its followers, the Church had recognized the need for relieving the unbearable burden of guilt." Examples of Morgan Llywelyn's beautiful writing:

She describes the sea:

• "Encroaching on Kerry with clawing fingers, using a bounty of hope and cod and line to lure men with its wild pagan heart."

• "The two men sat on the ground outside the ...house with their backs pressed against its walls and the bottomless well of the sky above them. Night sounds. A brief patter of rain on the leaves. The smell of the earth."

• "Daion was a sacred time. The earth held its breath as if waiting to be born. Then sunrise lifted the lid of the day, releasing a flood of light to push the darkness."

*Brendan* by Morgan Llywelyn. Tor/Forge, New York, 2010. 304 pgs; \$24.99. www.torforge.com.

**Signs Can Say More Than They Were Intended To**

We know signs can take on other meanings—often very funny ones. Like the one chosen for the book's cover. It was posted in a maternity hospital, with many pregnant woman walking around. The sign says "No Children Allowed."





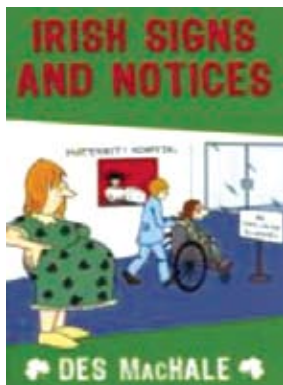
Des MacHale is the author of *Irish Signs and Notices*. He found these signs in many places: factories, stores, schools, and many, many other places.

The book is 126 pages with two to four signs reproduced on each page.

Quoting from the author, “The results... are hilarious and add yet another dimension to Irish humour, already known to be the best in the world.”

Of the many outstandingly funny signs in this book, I had room to select only these: • In a Dublin university: “Famous Trinity scientist to give talk on the moon.” • On a farm: “Cattle Please Close The Gate.” • At a holiday village: “Honeymoon cottage for rent sleeps three.” • In a church: “The readers for next week have been nailed up in the sacristy.” • In a laundromat: “Ladies why not leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.” • On a packet of sleeping tablets: “May cause drowsiness.” • A hard pressed Irish taxpayer might have included a subconscious message on this sign: “The Minister for Finance Will Address a Public Meeting at this Venue Saturday Next Beware of Pickpockets.”

*Irish Signs and Notices* by Desmond MacHale. Mercier Press-Dufour Editions, Dublin/Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 126 pages; \$17.95. 610-458-5005; info@dufourEditions.com.



Memories of Wise Advice

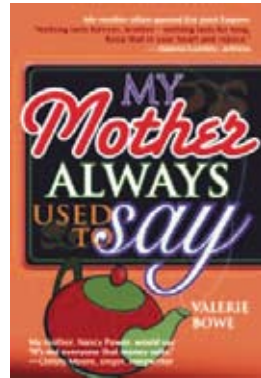
Children are receptive to their parents’ fears and emotional entanglements, but also to their wise observations. As we grow older we become able to separate the good from the bad.

I remember my mother’s many sayings. The ones I remember most clearly, I later learned, were Irish proverbs and sayings she had probably heard as a child from her own parents. They were both born in Ireland and used wise sayings they had probably heard from their parents.

In this wonderful book, *My Mother Always Used to Say*, are collected sayings remembered by Irish public persons. Authors, playwrights, sports figures, TV broadcasters and personalities, and many other people contributed to this book.

The author is Valerie Bowe, “a manager facilitator” for homeless people in Ireland. She feels passionately about adult education opportunities for women parenting alone. So strongly does she feel that “all the royalties from this book will go to a fund named after my own mother, the Kitty Whittle Fund.” This fund pays for the education of single parents.

Of the dozen of sayings of mothers, I selected only a few. Why did I select



these? The sayings are encouraging, optimistic, and I believe useful for today.

The mothers of these people used to say to them: • Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein: “The least said, the soonest mended.” • Maeve Binchy, author: “How are you?” is a greeting, not a question.” • Gay Byrne, TV broadcaster: “Prepare yourself, the opportunity will come.” • Emer Costello, Lord Mayor of Dublin: “If you can’t say something nice, say nothing.” • Ian Dempsey,

broadcaster: “Always think of how the other person is feeling—not yourself.”

• Mary Harney, Minister for Health and Children: “Never forget where you come from.” • Joe Duffy, broadcaster: “You are never better than anyone else or worse than anyone else.”

*My Mother Always Used to Say* by Valerie Bowe. Currach Press and DuFour Editions, Dublin and Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 128 pages; \$15.95. 610-458-5005.

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# IRISH FEST - JULY 9, 10, & 11

**Eileen Ivers, The Tossers, Scythian and The Elders headline**

**Plus performances by The Makem and Spain Brothers, The Prodigals, The Mickey Finns, & The Kreellers**

The 25th annual Irish American Heritage Festival will be held Friday through Sunday, July 9, 10, and 11. Over the past 25 years, our festival has grown by leaps and bounds and has become not only one of Chicago's best festivals, but also a marquee stop on the national Irish Fest scene. The biggest reason for our success has been the Center's commitment to bringing in the best musical talent available and 2010 will celebrate our anniversary in style!

Friday night, The Tossers will return to get things started on a rollicking note. These local boys are making a big name for themselves on both the Irish and the punk rock scene. They are clearly the heir apparent to The Pogues. On Saturday evening, two tremendous bands will be making their debuts at our festival. The Elders are one of the top bands playing the festival circuit these days. They bring a tremendous amount of emotion and passion to their music. They guarantee to have everyone on their feet at the end of the night. Scythian is widely considered to be one of the most up and coming Irish bands in the U.S. Although that hardly quantifies their music. They combine so many different influences to create their own sound and their own energy



on stage. Don't miss these guys or you'll be envious of what everyone else will be raving about.

Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul stole the show at last year's fest. They were so good we had to have them back! Ivers is certain to win over our hearts again this year and her fiddle playing will make her a staple on your iPod playlist. Speaking of your favorites on the play list, our old friends, The Makem and Spain Brothers are back and appear Sunday afternoon. These sons of Tommy Makem along with

Mickey and Liam Spain treat the traditional songs the right way and are making their own name in the business. Their voices and harmonies create a veritable wall of sound that is missing in most music today.

New to the festival this year are The Kreellers, a high energy Celtic rock group out of Detroit, who were a big hit at iBAM last year. The Kreellers along with The Mickey Finns, The Prodigals, The Sandcarvers and Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers give us one of the best Celtic rock lineups in the country!

But that's not all; many of Chicago's local favorites and talents will be appearing with music all weekend on five different stages. There won't be a moment of downtime so prepare to be here all three days to catch all of

the great entertainment. Also scheduled to appear this year are:



The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, Kennedy's Kitchen, The Academy of Irish Music, Cu Roi, The Dooley Brothers, Gareth Woods with Sugarbeat, The Irish Music School of Chicago, Finbarr Fagan's Band, Steve Davern and The Escape Artists, Mulligan Stew, The Matt Sledman Band, Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band, The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, Kevin Prendergast with Joe Cullen and Gerry Haughey, Joe McShane and The SilverBridge Band, The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Switchback, The Irish Heritage Singers, The Misericordia

Heartbreakers, New Yorker cartoonist Pat Byrnes, Shapeshifters Theatre, Dyed in the Wool, Milwaukee Irish Arts, Gaelic Park Players, The City of Chicago Pipe Band, The Boils, Tenor Mark Piekarz, Harper Lillian Reasor, Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, The Mullarkey Brothers, Tom Hughes, The Murphy Roche Junior Band, Whitey O'Day, Seanachai Theatre's Children's and Adult Companies, Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, The Alex Joyce and Friends Comedy Hour, Ceili Mor with Ceolbion Chicago, The Mullane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy and more!

In addition to the full roster of music, there is plenty of hands-on activity throughout the weekend. The Folk Tent will bustle with demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food is available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry. The Tea Room will provide a proper cuppa tea and live piano and harp music.

Fest activities and contests include The Hoolie Hook-Up, a matchmaking event with live music, matchmaking and



dancing, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Sham-ROCK Stars Singing Contest for children and adults. For contest rules, visit [www.irishfestchicago.com](http://www.irishfestchicago.com).

The festival is one of our largest fundraisers and depends on your attendance to be successful. Please bring family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and everyone you know along with you.

This is the Center's biggest weekend and our chance to showcase how truly special the Irish American community is and all the variety of things the Center provides to that community. Tickets can be bought online at [www.irishfestchicago.com](http://www.irishfestchicago.com) or by calling the office at 773-282-7035. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$14 at the door, Seniors \$7, and children 12 and under are free.

Want to volunteer? Email us at [info@irishfestchicago.com](mailto:info@irishfestchicago.com) or call the office at the number above.







# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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### President's Message

It's here! It's here! Irish Fest weekend is finally here! Its utter pandemonium: little kids are running around with shamrocks on their faces and barely supervised by their parents who are too busy chatting with friends, grown adults are behaving like children gorging on mashed potatoes or dancing like fools, sweaty musicians are braving the heat and wailing away on their instruments while thousands of slightly inebriated fans sing and dance along. If you're in the mood, the Guinness and Budweiser will be flowing and, of course, bridges, meat pies and shepherd's pie are just what the doctor ordered on a hot Chicago summer day.

There'll be mosh pits and matchmaking; comedians and poets, and northsiders and southsiders and westsiders singing arm and arm together. Quilters will be quilting, actors will be acting, singers will be singing, and dancers



Celtic jewelry. Moms will be buying a little bit of everything. Cousins will be sharing pints and old stories. Friends will be catching up on old times while some lucky young men and women will be starting new memories. Everyone who's anyone will be there!

will be dancing. The old-timers will be waltzing and ceili dancing while the little ones will be wigglegworming and step dancing. Grandparents will be with their grandchildren and even great grandchildren. Big sisters will be keeping an eye on their pesky little brothers (whether those brothers are 12 or 32!). Dads will be buying moms some

Irish Fest is my favorite weekend of the year at the Center. It's where I started as a volunteer and I take great pride in how it is grown over the years. It's the one weekend where our Center gets to showcase itself to thousands of people from throughout the Midwest. It's when the best bands come to town and when everyone from our Center gets a chance to come together and enjoy themselves.

I've made great friends over the years through the festival committee and I'm looking forward to meeting even more folks this year. Feel free to stop and say hello over the weekend. I'm always interested in meeting and hearing from people who love our Center. I can't wait to get the party started - see you at the Fest!

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

## Irish Fest 2010 Schedule

### FRIDAY, JULY 9 - 6pm to Midnight

#### Main Stage

7:00-8:30 The Sandcarvers  
9:00-11:00 **THE TOSSERS**

#### Raffle Stage

6:30-7:00 Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance  
8:30-9:00 Mashed Potato Eating Contest

#### Fifth Province Stage

6:00-8:00 Hooley Hook-Up  
6:00-7:45 The Boils  
8:15-9:45 Steve Davern & The Escape Artists  
10:15-Close **The Kreellers**



The Tossers

### SATURDAY, JULY 10 - Noon to Midnight

#### Main Stage

12:45-3:00 Dooley Brothers  
3:30-5:00 Larkin & Moran Brothers  
5:30-7:00 **Mickey Finns**  
7:30-9:00 **Scythian**  
9:30-11:00 **The Elders**

#### Raffle Stage

3:00-3:30 Academy of Irish Music  
5:00-5:30 The Shannon Rovers  
7:00-7:30 Irish Music School of Chicago  
9:00-9:30 Chicago Celtic Pipe Band

#### Fifth Province Stage

12:00-1:30 Cu Roi  
2:00-3:30 Joe McShane & The Silverbridge Band  
4:00-5:30 Kennedy's Kitchen  
6:00-7:30 Finbarr Fagan's Band  
8:00-9:30 Kevin Flynn & The Avondale Ramblers  
10:00-Close **The Prodigals**

#### Auditorium Stage

12:00-1:00 Seanachai Theatre Company Children's Group  
1:30-2:15 Shapeshifters Theatre, *Bedtime Stories*  
2:30-3:00 Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance  
3:15-4:15 Gaelic Park Players, *I think you think I think I love you*  
4:30-5:00 Trinity Academy of Irish Dance  
6:00-6:30 Mulhern School of Irish Dance  
8:00 Alex Joyce & Friends Comedy Hour

#### Erin Room

Saturday Night Dance and Ceili  
6:00 Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine  
7:30 Kevin Prendergast with Joe Cullen & Gerard Haughey  
9:00 Ceili Mor with Ceoltoiri Chicago

### SUNDAY, JULY 11 - Noon to 11pm

#### Main Stage

12:00-2:00 Dyed in the Wool  
2:30-4:00 Switchback  
4:30-6:30 **THE MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS**  
7:00-9:00 Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul

#### Raffle Stage

2:00-2:30 Misericordia Heartbreakers  
4:00-4:30 Sham-ROCK Stars! Finals  
6:30-7:00 Academy of Irish Music  
9:30 City of Chicago Pipe Band

#### Fifth Province Stage

12:30-2:00 Mulligan Stew  
2:30-4:30 Matt Stedman Band  
5:00-6:30 Gareth Woods with Sugarbeat  
7:00-9:00 **The Mickey Finns**  
9:30-Close The Chancey Brothers w/Special Guests

#### Auditorium Stage

Noon Gaelic Park Players, *I think you think I think I love you*  
2:00-2:30 Mullane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy  
3:00-3:30 O'Hare School of Irish Dance  
4:00-4:45 Milwaukee Irish Arts, *Forgive Me Father*  
5:00-5:30 Shapeshifters Theatre, *Bedtime Stories*

#### Erin Room

2:30-3:30 Irish Heritage Singers  
3:45-5:00 Murphy Roche Irish Music Club  
6:00-8:00 Kevin Prendergast with Joe Cullen

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# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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### Executive Director's Message

#### God, Country and Heritage

God, Country and Heritage; such a simple way to characterize the heart of Irish America, a race that has done so much to shape the history of this nation. Well, there is no better place to celebrate Heritage than the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago, and there is no better event to experience all things Irish than Irish Fest in July.

The Fest really has it all. Music—more than 40 bands from all over North America and Ireland. Cuisine—great Irish food from the Abbey, Harrington's, The Claddagh Pub, Winston's and a host of others. Dancing—performances by several dance schools and also a big ceilí! Language—Gaelic 101. Art—an exhibit focused on James Joyce's Ulysses. Theater—one act plays by the Shapeshifters Theatre, Gaelic Park Players, Seanachai and more. Song—our Irish Heritage Singers and the Shamrock Stars Singing

competition. Story—lectures on the Book of Kells, Irish Castles, the Irish in Chicago, and other interesting topics. Piping—piping and drumming 101 with some of the best bagpipers and drummers in the country. Sport—live hurling demonstrations and inflatable soccer playgrounds for the kids, provided by the Chicago Fire.

The event will also feature an Irish short film competition, a matchmaking hooley, a classic tea room, and of course more than anyone's fair share of laughs and good times. With all aspects of the heritage on display and nary a detail left out, the Fest is fun for people of all ages, a great showcase of what goes on



at the Center all year round, and our single biggest annual fundraiser. Hope to see you all there July 9th-11th.

#### New Moves

As you have probably noticed, the Center is moving and shaking in all sorts of new ways these days. There are a pair of BIG new additions that we will formally announce at Irish Fest, so keep your eyes peeled for more information. I will let the first cat partly out of the bag and tell you to mark your calendars for Saturday, September 25th for the Guinness-sponsored ARTHUR GUINNESS MUSIC FESTIVAL at the Center!! All the way from Oughterard, Co. Kildare, our man Arthur will be tapping his toes and humming a tune.

Onwards,  
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director  
Irish American Heritage Center

## Irish Fest 2010 Schedule

### FRIDAY, JULY 9 - 6pm to Midnight

#### Folk Tent

7:30-8:30 The Sullivan Brothers  
9:00-11:00 The Young Sullivans

#### McGinty Room

6:00-8:00 Ceilí Lessons



The Elders

#### Library

6:00-8:00 Genealogy and Used Book Sale

#### Art Gallery

6:00-8:00 Leonid Osseny: 30 views of James Joyce's Ulysses

### SATURDAY, JULY 10 - Noon to Midnight

#### Folk Tent

1:00 Academy of Irish Music  
2:00 Irish Dance Lessons w/Trinity Academy of Irish Dance  
2:30 Irish Music Lessons on the Bodhran w/Mike Austin  
3:30 Wiggleworms  
4:30 Irish Pipe Band Demonstration by the Shannon Rovers  
5:00 Irish Music Lessons on the Bodhran w/Mike Austin  
6:00 Traditional Irish Sing Song with Tom Hughes  
7:30 Irish Sing Song with the Mullarkey Brothers

#### McGinty Room

5:00-8:00 Ceilí Lessons

#### 3rd Floor Theatre

2:00 Seanachai Theatre One Act Play - TBA  
3:00 Irish Language Basics-greetings and conversation  
4:00 Hooliganism-Mike Houlihan talks about growing up Irish in Chicago  
6:00 New Yorker cartoonist, Pat Byrnes presents 'The Dark Irish-It's Not a Hair Color-It's a World View!'

#### Shamrock American Room

3:00-6:00 Tea Room  
Tenor/Pianist Mark Piekarz

#### Library

12:00-6:00 Genealogy and Used Book Sale

#### Museum

1:00-6:00 Photography exhibit of sports teams connected to Irish immigrants to Chicago

#### Art Gallery

12:00-6:00 Leonid Osseny: 30 views of James Joyce's Ulysses

### SUNDAY, JULY 11 - Noon to 11pm

#### Folk Tent

1:00 Irish Music with Murphy Roche Junior Band  
2:00 Irish Sing Song with Whitey O'Day  
3:00 Wiggleworms  
3:45 Irish Dance Lessons w/Trinity Academy of Irish Dance  
4:30 Irish Pipe Band Demonstration w/Chicago Celtic Pipe Band  
5:00 Traditional Irish Sing Song with Tom Hughes  
6:00 Irish Sing Song with the Mullarkey Brothers

#### 3rd Floor Theatre

2:00 Fond Memories of the St. Patrick's Day South Side Irish Parade  
3:00 Introduction to the Book of Kells  
4:00 Screening of the winners in the short film competition

#### Shamrock American Room

3:00-6:00 Tea Room  
HarperLillian Reasor

#### Library

12:00-6:00 Genealogy and Used Book Sale

#### Museum

1pm-6:00 Photography exhibit of sports teams connected to Irish immigrants to Chicago

#### Art Gallery

12:00-6:00 Leonid Osseny: 30 views of James Joyce's Ulysses

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



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**Davey Arthur  
and  
Fionnuala Gill**

**July 30  
8pm  
\$15**

*Next up:*

**Tommy Sands**

**August 11  
7:30pm \$15**

Each month, we'll aim to bring you the finest in Irish music. Check back often as we add to this amazing series.

For tickets, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) or call 773-282-7035. Follow us on Twitter or become a fan of the IAHC, the Irish American Heritage Festival or the Fifth Province on Facebook to receive concert updates and ticket giveaways.

**July 2010**

July 2	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
July 4	Building Closed		
July 9, 10 and 11		Irish Fest IAHC Grounds	
	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Room 109	11am
July 20	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 109	7pm
July 25	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	Mother/Daughter Tea	Sham Amer Rm	1pm
July 30	Davey Arthur and Fionnuala Gill Concert	Erin Room	8pm

**Regularly Scheduled Events**

Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Irish Art Class	Room 308	7pm
Wed.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
Thurs.	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac.&Dance	Room 111	8pm

*Special thanks to Brian Lydon and Northwest Drapery Services for their generous donation of a new set of curtains for our Auditorium.*

**CWI's Mother/Daughter Tea**

Celtic Women International's Chicago Branch will host a Mother/Daughter Tea this summer.

Bring your grandmother, aunt, sister or any special woman in your life for an afternoon of tea, sandwiches and live Irish music and dancing with mother/daughter musicians, Jen and Katie Hamman.

Each table will have its own extraordinary Irish woman as a theme, including St. Brigid, Maud Gonne, Constance Markievicz, Queen Maeve, Lady Lavery and Grace O'Malley.

The Mother/Daughter Tea is Sunday, July 25 at 1pm. Tickets are \$25 for you and a guest and includes tea, tea sandwiches, punch and desserts. To purchase tickets, contact Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057.

**Singers Bring Out the Dead For Fundraiser**

The Irish Heritage Singers would like to invite you to an old-fashioned Irish Wake!

Finnegan's Wake and Estate Sale is Sunday, Nov. 21 in the Fifth Province Pub. This will be the Singers' annual FUN(d) RAISING event.

The event is an interactive show with lots of singing, dancing, stories and of course, pints!

"Visitation" is between the hours of 3-5pm.

Tickets/Donations will go on sale Aug. 16 at the IAHC office. Prices are:

- \$10 - Acquaintances
- \$15 - Friends
- \$20 - Family
- \$25 - Enemies

Many "guest mourners" to appear! More FUN details to follow!

**The Heritage Line Staff**

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

**Contributors:**

- |               |                     |               |               |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mary Griffin  | Mary Johnson Gorski | Tim McDonnell | Bob McNamara  |
| Mary Morris   | Sheila Murphy       | Leslie Singel | Maureen Smith |
| Kathy Werning |                     |               |               |



**the  
Fifth Province**

**UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT**

**All shows start  
after 9 p.m.**

**July 2010**

- Fri, 7/2 Ceili Mor
- Sat, 7/3 Tony Leonard's Band
- Fri & Sat, 7/9&10 Irish Fest
- Fri, 7/16 Joe McShane
- Sat, 7/17 Bloomsday, the Band
- Fri, 7/23 Joe Cullen
- Sat, 7/24 Jim Perkins with Finvarra's Wren
- Fri, 7/30 One of the Girls
- Sat, 7/31 The Dooley Brothers



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## WIN a Trip to Ireland!

### 2010 IAHC Membership Drive Member - Get A Member Contest

The drive to 2010 New Members in 2010 continues! 612 new members have joined The Irish American Heritage Center so far this year. That's just over 30% of our goal and the registrations keep coming in.

In an effort to strengthen our organization, we are looking to expand our membership and bring our mission to as many people as possible. As members you are the best possible sales people we could find to spread the word about our organization. In fact, we are so confident that our members will do a great job of recruiting our membership that we are offering a trip to

Ireland as incentive! *That's right, you could be going to Ireland.*

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, 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.

**The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members!**

**Get your family and friends to join and Win a Trip to Ireland** or other great prizes.

Here are the contest rules:

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

2. Multiple referrals are allowed. For each person that you recruit, you get an additional chance to win! The more new members you find, the better your chances are 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 the IAHC, have them fill out an 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.

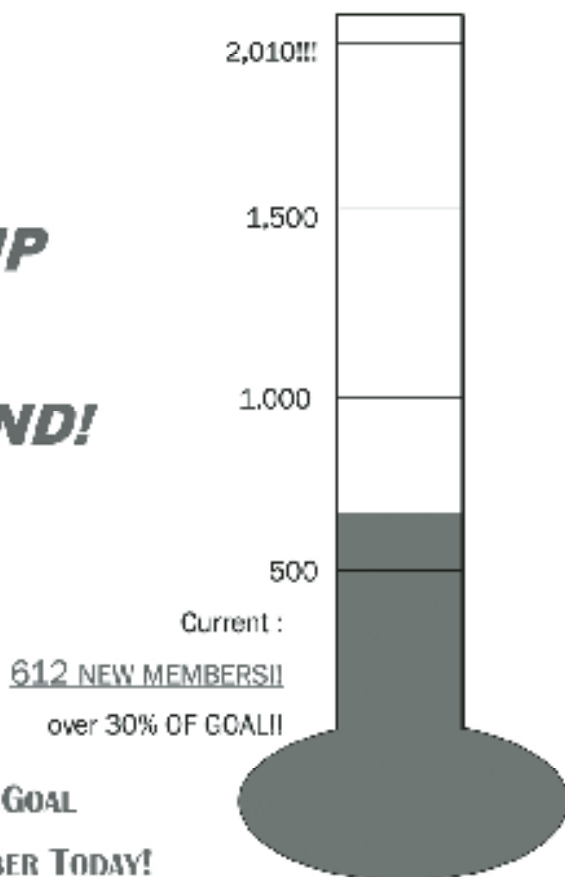
Membership Forms are available in this issue or on-line at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by 12/31/2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at a 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January 2011.

#### 2010 IAHC Membership Drive

#### Member - Get A Member Contest

**WIN A TRIP  
 FOR TWO  
 TO IRELAND!**



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

**2010 NEW MEMBERS IN 2010!!**

I was recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it.

Running, maintaining, and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org), or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

The Irish American Heritage Center  
 Membership  
 4626 N. Knox Ave  
 Chicago IL 60630

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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3 Digit code on card's back: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Individual Membership

Annual dues  
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Family Membership  
 \$40/year or \$60/2 years

\$250 - Harper  
 3-year membership  
 no annual dues

\$500 - Bard  
 5-year membership

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

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

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





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Aug. 19 **MCNALLY'S PUB** IN ST. CHARLES

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Only 15 songs will be judged per night

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announcement  
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Irish Fest  
July 9-11, 2010

[www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org)

## O'BITUARIES

### Irish footsteps between a father and a son

*As I stand in front of his marker  
I bow my head with tear  
As I say a little prayer  
for someone I hold so dear*



*My Irish Uncle Jimmy  
A humble husband, dad and papa  
With a comical sense of humor  
And a smile that would adopt ya*

*He was a Chicago Fireman  
Heroics are many to list  
With catholic medals in his helmet  
To protect him from the risks*

*He was always very proud  
To serve a city so true  
So much so that his son Shawn  
Followed in those Irish shoes*

*Shawn knew his shoes were big to fill  
But he gave his very best  
His dad was always very proud  
Of all his accomplishments*

*Shawn is now promoted  
To the position of lieutenant  
The news came right after  
His father was called to rest*

*You see... God had other plans  
That cold February day  
When he called Uncle Jimmy  
To come home with him and stay*

*Grandpa and grandma  
came by to take the walk  
a beautiful stroll into the light  
to heaven..the final walk*

*When it comes time to place  
Shawn's pin  
someone else will have that  
honor*

*His father's spirit will be with him  
for he will guide the hands with  
honor*

*Written by Tammy M. Donahue-  
McGing*

*Dedicated to my Uncle Jimmy  
(Murphy) and to my cousin Shawn*

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### Learn Irish with Raidió Fáilte 107.1 FM

Take the opportunity to learn Irish this summer with the only all-Irish radio station in the North, Raidió Fáilte 107.1 FM. Raidió Fáilte began broadcasting over three years ago, as a registered charity, and is available in the Greater Belfast area at 107.1FM or throughout the world at [www.raidiofailte.com](http://www.raidiofailte.com).

A new series for learners called ‘Cúpla Focal’ has been created in response to feedback received from the community radio station’s online listeners.

As a result, a brand new series of 30 lessons has been created, recorded and edited by Dónall Mac Murchaidh, Creative Industries Co-ordinator with Raidió Fáilte, to help learners of the language the world over, tuning into [www.raidiofailte.com](http://www.raidiofailte.com), as well as local Gaeilgeoiri listening in on the frequency 107.1 FM.

Each lasting 30 minutes, the 30 classes contain excerpts from the renowned learning course Buntús Cainte as well as a mix of songs, stories, proverbs, phrases and poems in Irish. The lessons will be broadcast every Sunday at 8pm EST and again on Monday at 4pm EST and Saturday at 9am EST.



Dónall Mac Murchaidh, Creative Industries Co-ordinator with Raidió Fáilte.



**Boyle the Kettle**  
We'll Have A Sup Of Tea  
**Tom Boyle**




**Nun Excommunicated**

Sister Margaret McBride, Vice President of Mission Integration at a Phoenix, AZ hospital (owned by Catholic Healthcare West) served on the ethics committee.

A pregnant woman suffering from pulmonary hypertension, a condition which prevents the heart and lungs from functioning properly was considered by the ethics committee which included medical doctors for an abortion. If the pregnancy were to continue it would most likely cause her to die. The treatment (abortion) was performed to save the mothers life. Bishop Thomas J. Olmstead, head of the Phoenix Diocese, in a statement said, "the Catholic involved (Sister Margaret McBride) was automatically excommunicated. I sent Bishop Olmstead the following email: "Bishop Olmstead, When did you get your degree in medicine? Excommunicating a Nun who acted in good faith! May God help you to understand the real world, and the difficult decisions that have to be made. If the pregnancy continued, both mother and child would have been lost."

The Church acted swiftly in the case of Sister Margaret McBride, why then did the Vatican take over ten years to defrock a pedophile priest after AZ Bishop Manuel Moreno convened a trial that found Rev. Michael Teta molested children?

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger aka Benedict XVI took over the case in 1992. Bishop Moreno followed up five years later (1997) urging Cardinal Ratzinger to defrock Teta, since only the Vatican has the power to do so. Nonetheless, it took the Vatican another seven years to accomplish that.

**Martin McGuinness**

Martin McGuinness visited Chicago to have a ceremony at Union Park at 8am to pay tribute to James Connolly. Martin McGuinness' plane was held up in New York and it was decided to have the brunch at O'Brien's Restaurant on Wells St. late morning. Martin arrived and was warmly welcomed. During his speech he said, "We will have a united Ireland through peaceful and democratic means..." Amen!

**Cook County Board**

Although they don't seem to be able to manage the business of Cook County, they have approved an irrisolute boycott of the sovereign state of

AZ to appease some Hispanic board members. They then turned around and awarded a red light camera company, an AZ company-American Traffic Solutions, a contract. This was done when they could have given all the business to an IL company, Red Speed Illinois, of Lombard. The story has it, the AZ company was minority owned. So now we have a politically correct irrisolute boycott that only offends Caucasians.

**Arizona Law**

What's with President Obama and his cabinet members? They were quick to condemn the AZ law. President Obama, Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Eric Holder, Attorney General, admitted they had not even read the law.

Maybe they haven't heard about the drug wars and the death squads along our southern border. What about the thousands of illegal aliens crossing the border at Nogales, smuggling millions of dollars in marijuana, some of which was seized.

Drugs suck up the money that could otherwise be spent on necessities and help drive our economic recovery.

Now, the Presidente of Mexico Felipe Calderon has the cajones to criticize the AZ law while addressing a joint session of Congress and the Democrats applauded. Adios amigo, and the burro you rode in on.

The Presidente also stated that "if we remain with our arms crossed, we will remain in the hands of organized crime, we will always live in fear," in an essay which also blames Mexico's violence on the United States and its voracious appetite for illegal drugs. Do you have any other problems you would like to blame us for?

**BP Gulf Oil Disaster**

This environmental disaster is far more serious than the Exxon Valdez. The ecosystem on our southern shores may never recover. I've heard a lot of hollow promises and presidential bluster, what we need are the best environmental biologists in the world to give us a plan to clean up the mess.

**The Saville Report**

Bloody Sunday, Derry, January 30th, 1972. Thirteen people who died, and another who eventually died from his wounds, may now find peace. The British Army has been found guilty of murder after 38 years. Hopefully, they will be prosecuted for their crimes.

**Helen Thomas**

Helen Thomas made a major mistake politically by publicly stating that Israel should get out of Palestine. Unfortunately, anybody who would stand up and take issue with Israel's tactics would be quickly torn to shreds. Helen should have left out the part about sending people back to various countries in Europe, and she might have survived the firestorm.

**Apostolic Ireland Visitation**

Four archdioceses will receive a visitor: Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Emly, and Tuam. The visitation will be extended to some dioceses, the communique revealed.

The visitors named for each archdiocese include: Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, retired archbishop of Westminster, for the Archdiocese of Armagh; Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, for the Archdiocese of Dublin; Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto, for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly; Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of Ottawa, for the Archdiocese of Tuam.

The Apostolic Visitors will set out to explore more deeply questions concerning the handling of cases of abuse and the assistance owed to the victims; they will monitor the effectiveness of and seek possible improvements to the current procedures for preventing abuse, taking as their points of reference the Pontifical *Motu Proprio "Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela"* and the norms contained in *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland*, commissioned and produced by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

But according to a report in the *Irish Independent*, the real mission is to reestablish the old time Irish Catholicism: doctrinal strictness, regular sacramental observance, and ancient devotional practices. Not to mention "to restore a traditional sense of reverence among ordinary Catholics for their priests" and "counteract materialistic and secularist attitudes." [Lots of luck!]

That does seem to be the approach being promoted by the Visitor responsible for seminaries, Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, who recently told a gathering of Irish priests "to return to basics" and to ground their ministry in "prayer, humility and a rediscovery of identity." Not surprisingly, his talk pleased the Irish Primate, Cardinal Sean Brady, the unwavering defender of the past.

All of this is totally inconsistent with the thinking of Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, who now is a proponent of progressive reform in the Irish Church. "Any remnants of the culture of clericalism should be challenged."

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Low Keys: A A<sub>b</sub> G F<sub>z</sub> F E E<sub>b</sub> D C<sub>z</sub> C

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**Athlone & District**  
**Tourist Guide**  
[www.athlone.ie](http://www.athlone.ie)



**Tradition  
In Review**

Bill Margeson



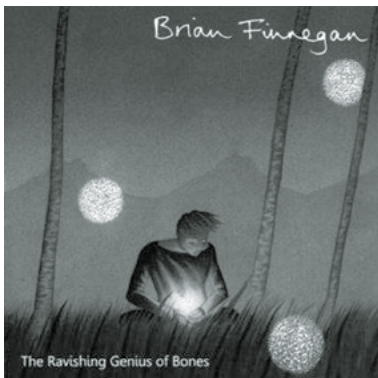
Well, this column is supposed to be about Brian Finnegan’s new album, *The Ravishing Genius of Bones*. The great temptation is to write a travel article, instead. Finding Brian Finnegan. Unbelievably, I found myself on a spotty cell phone connection to Brian when he was in Moscow. Moscow! “I’m over here doing some concert work with Boris Grebenschikov. He’s great! You should see where we’re playing! It is like the Royal Albert Hall of Russia!” Moscow?

The Irish music lover well knows Brian’s name from his 13-year stint as a founding member of the incredibly popular band, Flook. The four all-instrumental albums of the group are treasured for their musicianship and innovation. All natural enough, as they were formed by Brian, Sarah Allen and Michael McGoldrick. It started as a project for the trio called, *Three Nations Flutes*. “We’d no idea at the time where the first few gigs would lead, but folk seemed to dig that we could cover a lot of sonic space with the three flutes, so we drafted in Ed Boyd on guitar to lend us more dynamic and changed our name to Fluke. (Flook’s spelling came later.) We were incredibly lucky that the right people were nurturing us in those early days, making things happen. It also helped that Mike had just won the BBC Young Folk Musician of the Year Award, so in our first year together we were playing the big stages at festivals like Cambridge and Sidmouth. ...we really hit the ground running!” Making it all short, the band then added John Joe Kelly on bodhran, and the rest is... well, you know what the rest is.

It is so tempting to write the whole article about Flook. There is no more popular group in those 13 years on the scene than Flook. Every Award. Every major festival. Always asked back. Huge concerts. The whole bit. When they announced they were retiring the group in 2008, the news hit like a thunder clap. You always assume there must have been some aggro. Fights? Tensions? Boredom? No. They all remain extremely close to this day. Look, 13 years IS 13 years in

a business where you can often be surprised if a group stays together 13 months. They had all become extraordinarily popular as studio musicians and guest stars for other musicians. Sarah had a baby. Life was moving on. So did Flook. Are they really still close? Well, John Joe and Ed Boyd are on this album almost as much as Brian. Sarah is Brian’s agent, helping manage various components of his career. Brian concludes it all best from a perspective gained after two years away from the group. “The 13 years I spent with Flook are like an island now. They cast light on everything that went before and everything that is still to come for me in music. I know that it’s unlikely that I’ll ever devote myself entirely to only one band again, but back then we were on fire with the adventure of it all; Flook was the only thing we had time to do. We’d be out on tour for 3/4/5 weeks at a time, and then home for 4 or 5 days and away again. In the considerable space that Flook left behind in 2008, I discovered for the first time I could say yes to other projects. It took a little while for the colour to come back to life after Flook, but the last two years have been as diverse and varied as I could have ever imagined, and I’m loving the freedom to wear a few different musical hats.”

But, enough about Flook. We LOVE Flook, but... discipline here. This is about *The Ravishing Genius of Bones*. You have to be wondering, as did we, where did that title come from? Brian’s sister, Morna is a gifted poet, and the title comes from a line in one of her poems, *Tomas*. The album is



nine cuts, all very different. Obviously, flutes and whistles create the basic ambience. We counted 26 guest musicians on the cover list. There is a Finnegan sound to it all. It IS similar—a little—to Flook. How could it not be? Most of the tunes are by Brian, after all. And, as with Flook, it is creative, traditional and innovative, all at the same time. It is like, well, Finnegan himself. Growing up in Armagh, he found the whistles early thanks to extremely supportive parents, and so he and his siblings were off to the races. All of this propelled through the iconic Valley family, the Armagh Pipers’ Club and his teacher, Eithne Valley. You know the story with musicians well by now. Tons of sessions as he goes mad for trad. Fleadhs. Early concerts. Contacts. Magic times for all young musicians.

All of Brian’s music is deeply grounded in trad. But, then... then the other parts kick in. A musician once said, “He took that reel and turned it absolutely inside out. 180.” True. We assume that was said as a compliment, as it should have been. The soft spoken flautist looks at the future, and states, “Right now I’m an open book. I’m doing some work with my favourite singer in all the world, Cara Dillon. I’ve a little bit more work out east in Ukraine and Russia coming up with Boris Grebenschikov. Some fantastic gigs in Hungary and later in Asturias over my birthday with the dream team of Ed and John Joe from Flook. And a trip to California in October to play some gigs with ace guitarist, Bill Coulter.” This all comes, apparently, pretty naturally to Brian. Unselfconsciously, places and artists he is performing with fall from him in passing. The Ukraine. Siberia. (Siberia?) Asturias. California. The world.

Of course, he is a wonderful musician. A marvel, really. Were he not, none of this would be happening. But in the album, all the old fire and passion is still there. Leavened now with the magic ingredient of maturity. A year ago, he married the other half of his heart, Eva in Mexico. He is living now back home in Northern Ireland. When he is there. Siberia?

There is an arc to all of our lives. Brian’s arc seems about half way composed. Be it this new album, or his coming work with a new group, Kan, or his full schedule of studio and concert work for and with others, this is a very, very busy and successful musician. One of the most obvious views of his professional maturity can be found through all of these guest musicians on this album. Unlike so many solo artist albums, Brian gives each plenty of light to shine. When you are a master musician you become generous with your guests. Perhaps no quote expresses this better than when we asked him how he planned to move forward with the career. What were he and agent, Sarah cooking up? “I don’t know what’s round the next corner. I don’t harbour any ambition as a musician; I still have so much to learn from so many. But someone very wise once told me, ‘The Bird Of Paradise does not light on the hand that grasps.’”

You can get this album on Brian’s MySpacepage, [www.myspace.com/brianfinnegan](http://www.myspace.com/brianfinnegan). Full distribution will have it officially on August 9th when it will also go on sale at your favorite traditional music outlets and online.

*The Ravishing Genius of Bones* gives us this remarkable musician as he is today. Tomorrow will be fun, just to see where he goes next artistically and geographically. Siberia? The world.

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## Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

(Part One)

### What are the Characteristics of the Most Admired Leaders?

There is an excellent book called *The Leadership Challenge* by Kouzes and Posner in which they list the twelve characteristics that our most admired leaders possess. At some level many of us want to be seen as leaders. If that is true, perhaps you could review this article with an eye towards measuring yourself against each of the twelve characteristics that these authors have found in their research.

The twelve characteristics, in order of their importance, are listed below:

- Honest
- Broad-minded
- Forward-looking
- Intelligent
- Inspiring
- Straight forward
- Competent
- Dependable
- Fair-minded
- Courageous
- Supportive
- Cooperative

As your eye travels down the list, are you instantly assessing how you would rate yourself against each of the twelve?

#### Honesty

It seems so obvious. As school children, we have all heard that the Father of our country, George Washington, never told a lie. President Lincoln is commonly called “Honest Abe.” As Americans we seem to deeply resent our leaders lying to us; even in those few instances where a “lie” is understandable. Maybe it is our Boy Scout/Girl Scout mentality, but we admire people who tell the truth and denigrate those who lie. Even our court system plays to this belief. If the accused tells the truth and confesses; normally the jail sentence will be less than if there is a trial.

Do you find yourself resentful if your management lies to you? Or was the Marine Colonel in the movie, *Few Good Men*, right (played by Jack Nicholson), when he said “you can’t handle the truth”? Do you have a right to expect that your company’s leaders will be truthful to you all the time? I can recall one of my neighbors saying that the new foreign owners of his employer told them that there



would be no changes; everything was going to be same under the new leadership. I told him he was a fool (or simply naïve) if he believed that.

Many of our political leaders play games with the truth. Some would say they don’t respect our intelligence or again, they think the American (working) public simply isn’t very smart. What do you think?

#### Forward-Looking

We have all experienced the truly remarkable thinker who sees tomorrow when many of us are still struggling to finally understand yesterday. Don’t you experience wonderment when you try to understand how or why someone thought of sending your voice through a wire or more recently, transmitting your voice, thoughts, words without a wire. How would you rate yourself on this trait? Would interaction with people of different orientations help you to see more into the future? Are you receptive to looking at the world through the eyes of others? In my experience, children seem to be able to envision some elements of the future more clearly than we adults do. Perhaps it’s because they aren’t inhibited by the parameters that restrict us. Spending time observing children at play could be invaluable to someone who has an open mind.

Linkedin, Facebook and Twitter are only the baby images of the future to come. Would directed curiosity (albeit research to some) help you shape the future of your company? If you’re the boss, do you encourage and value the person whose ideas seem to be so far out at times? Do you welcome strange or possibly weird ideas once in a while? To quote George Bernard Shaw, “Some men see things as they are and say ‘Why’. I dream things that never were, and say ‘Why not’?” Do you dare to choose Shaw’s approach or are you more comfortable following where the path leads?

#### Inspiring

If you have been lucky in life, you have met some inspiring people. They may have been teachers who brought their subject alive. They may have been athletes who climbed off the floor to lead their team to victory. They may have been your parents who got up and went to work everyday, even though they were sick or bone weary. In my case, I was inspired enormously by the generosity of my parents, par-

ticularly when things were especially tough.

How does one acquire the trait of Inspiration? I am not sure I know. The people I have known seemed to be living out their dreams and/or ideals. Surely they had been inspired by others. What’s the old expression, “They stood on the shoulders of giants”? Who are the “giants” in your life? Do you consciously strive to emulate them? For my money, the most powerful moment in the movie, *Saving Private Ryan*, was when the mature Ryan was standing at Captain John Miller’s grave, and tearfully asks his wife, have I lived a good life? Clearly Ryan had been inspired to lead his life more fully by virtue of having met this Ranger captain.

To be an inspiring person doesn’t mean that you have give a great speech on the steps of the Lincoln Monument. It simply means, “to infuse an animating, quickening, or exalting influence into.” So as you look at your future growth in your organization, do you think you can develop the ability to inspire others?

#### Competent

The dictionary says competent means “having suitable or sufficient skill, knowledge, experience, etc, for some purpose.” I have difficulty with this trait, given my competitive nature. I have always wanted to excel at things. Perhaps that is why my golf career lasted just two games. I quickly concluded that I might become competent some day but I was equally convinced that I would never be anything but (marginally) competent.

Do you look to achieve competency with all your core skills? If you have acquired basic competency, are you willing to work beyond that level? Are you willing to strive for excellence? We hear a great deal about the concept of Six Sigma; do you apply it to your skill base? Are you current in the study of your subject matter?

I have enjoyed writing about this subject so much that I have reached my word limit for this month’s column. I will continue the exploration of the other eight traits over the next month or two. Please give some thought to all twelve of these traits over the next few weeks. Hope this article has spoken to you. *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. NEW email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com.*

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## From the Motherland

**Sean Farrell**



### “Big Boys Games, Big Boys Rules”

A process of change has begun which seems destined to alter fundamentally the Eurozone. Precisely where this will end is not clear, but there have been mutterings from the German Chancellor that the entire European project could be at risk unless firm remedial action is taken. The cumbersome EU decision making machinery is now beginning to grapple with the task.

Recent weeks have not been good. The sticking plaster solution designed

to bail out Greece and forestall bankruptcy failed from the off to inspire international confidence. With fears growing of potential threats to Portugal and Spain it became necessary to revisit the situation. A much larger rescue plan was hammered out involving agreement on a bailout fund of a trillion dollars to be financed partly by the IMF and reluctant agreement by the European Central Bank to buy government bonds from the weaker Eurozone

economies.

The brave face put on the plan was that it would forestall speculation and thus might never have to be activated. The omens are not good. Overall deficits (i.e. more borrowing) continue to mount, there is evident resistance in the weaker economies to the spending cutbacks and extra taxation being demanded and clear differences between and within countries on the best approach to follow. The plan’s call for increased monitoring from the centre on individual annual budgets of member states has had a mixed reception.

Economic comment has been that Europe has bought time—the suggestion being three years—but in a globalised economy this may prove over optimistic. Market reaction has seen the value of the Euro drift down against the Dollar and Sterling, shares fall and worry that the international economy may be precipitated into the much feared “double dip” recession. This last would, of course, cancel all bets for the short term, but assuming it does not there is little doubt that the Euro saga has some way to run.

The nuclear reform option would be full or decisive fiscal control from the centre over individual countries’ budgets. This is feared, particularly in Ireland, as opening the door for eventual central control over national taxation, threatening our advantageous—and vital—rate of company taxation and with it our attractiveness to foreign investors. The anti-Lisbon lobby has now re-emerged to shout “hands off”, citing threats to our sovereignty. The government has uttered reassurances that no change to our fiscal independence within the EU is on the cards and pointed to our continued power of veto over taxation issues.

This is true in respect of the EU. Whether and for how long it will apply within the context of membership of the Eurozone is another matter. Ireland continues to borrow \$450 million per week just to run the state—including generous provisions for unemployment benefits and (untaxed) children’s allowances. Our continued ability to borrow rests ultimately on the confidence of lenders. If there is no confidence there will be no money. This was about to happen with Greece. Hence the rescues. Hence also the need to address the emerging weaknesses in the Euro.

Crucial to this confidence is the attitude of Germany and what happens to the Euro. There is a big picture here, one that is not immediately apparent and is often overlooked. The last 40 years have seen the slow emergence of a European superpower built primarily around Germany and her economy. This emerging power is within but not synonymous with either the European Union or NATO. At times its progress

has been slow or stagnant. At times it has made quantum leaps, which have then had to be digested and accommodated. Its institutions and borders are incomplete or ill defined yet their general shape is emerging.

Veteran observers of the Brussels scene will be familiar with the landmarks in this process. In the 1970s the transformation institutionally of the EC with the creation of the European Council structure and the groundwork for a common EU foreign policy (now a common foreign and security policy). Next the establishment of regional and cohesion funds to assist poorer areas, the first groping towards a system of economic and monetary union and the launch of the Single European Market in 1992, aimed at eliminating internal national barriers to trade.

In foreign relations there was the opening of serious dialogue with the communist bloc, through the CSCE, which, at a non-military level acted as a stimulus to dissent and fragmentation of the bloc. When communism collapsed there came German reunification. The EU then moved swiftly to begin a process which led, in just over a decade (2004) to a major expansion incorporating most of the former communist states of Central Europe, with the promise of more to follow. Under the Schengen Agreement most continental EU members, including the newcomers, as well as Iceland and Switzerland, have relaxed or eliminated border controls (one visa fits all). Britain and Ireland

have remained outside.

There was also, most importantly, the launch of the Euro, with Euro currency circulating from 2002 in (now) 16 of the 27 EU states. One major player, Britain, has stayed outside, and most of the 2004 accession states are not yet ready to join. Here’s the rub. The original rules for the Euro, including fiscal prudence, have proved inadequate, hence the current crisis. Germany, which gave up its beloved Deutschemark for the Euro, and prompted by an increasingly impatient electorate, is pressing for greater controls over national budgets with enforceable sanctions for laggards.

There is a clear division within the Eurozone, with the PIGS plus Italy, the major offenders, with yawning budget deficits and heavy national debt. In recent negotiations the carrot option seems to be out; the stick remains, with modalities to be worked on in the coming months. There are emerging public differences between the German Chancellor and the President of the EU Commission on the need and desirability of revising the Lisbon Treaty. Given the way Europe normally disposes of problems, in the short run a compromise solution seems likely. It may prove unpalatable, but one that can be lived with, for now.

But if the Euro is to survive, more radical measures will eventually be called for. At a certain point in this process, possibly sooner rather than later, all cards are likely to be on the table. The Eurozone is a major plank in the world’s financial structure with four of the world’s ten largest economies in it. Ireland is a minnow. The German and French economies are roughly 15 and 11 times the size of Ireland’s. It would be naïve to assume that our sensitivities will count for much if the very future of the common currency, fundamental to the European project, is at stake.

It should not be forgotten that our existing favourable company tax rate itself has evolved from zero, under pressure and after negotiation. Europe has been good to Ireland, and we have been lucky, partly because we are small. At present our budgetary strategy has found favour. We cannot go it alone. We should be wary of declaring anything unacceptable from the outset.”



Michael Londra signs a bodhran for Natasha at the IAHC benefit for Natasha McShane, 6-13-10.

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## Dooley Brothers Celebrate 25 Years Performing at The Irish American Heritage Center

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Irish American Heritage Center and The Dooley Brothers are celebrating 25 years of performances at the Center. The Dooleys have played at every IAHC Irish Fest, going way back to when it was called "Taste of Ireland" and held in September. Since the IAHC first opened their doors in 1985, the Dooley Brothers have logged about 300 appearances at the Center, consisting of concerts, festivals, benefits, parties, wedding receptions, and weekend gigs in the Fifth Province Pub.

The Dooley Brothers - Mike, Jim,



(l to r): Bill, Joe, Mike, and Jim Dooley.

Joe and Bill - have been a Chicago area favorite for more than thirty-five years. They have given thousands of performances throughout the Midwest and elsewhere, at such venues as Taste of Chicago, Celtic Fest, Navy Pier, Milwaukee Irishfest, Gaelic Park Irishfest and FitzGerald's Nightclub, and of course the Irish American Heritage Center. The brothers have appeared in live concerts on National Public Radio and were featured on the Emmy-Award winning Channel 11 WTTW Chicago television show "Nightclubbing". This group is known for its vocal harmonies, good-time music, musical variety, and rousing renditions of Irish songs. The band has also recorded four critically acclaimed albums, the latest of which is called "Black Sunshine".

Coming from a family of six boys, they grew up around music and the

arts, and they have been singing and playing music together all of their lives. One of their grandfathers played the fiddle. Their other grandfather sang and played mandolin professionally and the young boys learned lots of Irish songs from him. Their mother, Avis Mac, played piano and was also a well-known Chicago artist of the 1930s, painting portraits of such Hollywood movie stars as Jean Harlow and Wallace Beery and other celebrities of the era such as Sally Rand and Knute Rockne. Thomas Dooley, their father, worked for the Chicago Tribune in

and inspirations were many and were diverse - folk, classical, dixieland jazz, barbershop quartets, show tunes, 50s & 60s doo-wop & rock, and among others included the likes of John McCormack, Bing Crosby, the Clancy Brothers and the Kingston Trio. Just out of college, the Dooley Brothers entered the thriving folk music scene in Old Town and the North Side of Chicago. "We played anywhere and everywhere we could, from The Earl of Old Town to Mr. Kelly's to all of the music clubs along Lincoln Avenue," relates Joe. "There were a lot of college concerts and we even spent a couple of summers dressing up and playing at some Renaissance Faires in southern Wisconsin. Then we started to travel."

And travel they did - to the Caribbean, Paris, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, England, and ending up in Ireland, where they rediscovered their roots, as well as many of the Irish songs that both of their grandfathers sang to them as kids. They spent many a summer living at their cousin Den Cooney's farm in east Clare, and playing in the pubs in the evenings. "Our family comes from a town called Tulla, in County Clare. It's there we met members of the famous Tulla Ceili Band, did some jamming with them, and became totally captivated by the music!" says Mike. When they returned from Ireland, they couldn't help but incorporate all the music into their show. They began playing at such storied Irish music clubs as the Kilkenny Castle Inn and the Irish Village in the late 70s and early to mid 80s, and when the IAHC opened in 1985, they naturally gravitated there and have become a fixture there ever since.

"In January of 1988, we had the good fortune to be invited to go along with a big group of IAHC members on a Caribbean cruise and be their personal band", says Jim. "We had a blast!"

"We've seen an unbelievable amount of changes at the IAHC since it first opened up," says Mike. "Over the years, hundreds and hundreds of volunteers have transformed the old

school building on Knox Avenue into a magnificent jewel and they keep it going strong. I can't imagine what Chicago would be like without it! The best part though, is that we've met and gotten to become friends with so many terrific people at the Center!"

The IAHC Fest is July 9-11 and the Dooley Brothers are on the Mainstage on Saturday at 12:45 p.m. They will also be at the Fifth Province Pub on Saturday July 31 at 9:00 p.m.

Contact them at 708-366-9458 or email [dooleyinfo@dooleybrothers.com](mailto:dooleyinfo@dooleybrothers.com); [www.dooleybrothers.com](http://www.dooleybrothers.com); facebook: Dooley Brothers (Chicago).

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# An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



## Celebrating Independence—Waiting Patiently

One of the greatest gifts this country has to offer all immigrants is undoubtedly the freedom it bestows on all who come to its shores. This freedom is at the very heart of what our annual 4th of July celebrations are all about. It can be difficult for those born into such a free and democratic society to truly appreciate what an enormous relief it is to be able to live in an enjoy the freedoms this nation offers to all.

This is especially true for people who come here having been forced

to leave their countries of birth for a variety of reasons. The obvious reasons such as lack of religious freedom, political freedom and persecution because of race, ethnicity or more basic human rights find sympathy from most people. What forces the vast majority of Hispanic immigrations to enter the US without the proper papers are reasons which are less well known. A high percentage of those living here undocumented are here because of the really long waiting time that exists for them to get a visa allowing them to come and live with close family members who are already legally here. They majority of the remainder who enter without papers are what are often called “economic refugees.” These are people forced off the land in South America because they can’t make enough to support their families at home. This is often due to the trade policies of NAFTA and the control of market prices that make it practically impossible for farmers in developing countries to get a fair price for their produce.

This point is well stated and supported by Catholic Relief Services and the US Bishops Conference. The following quotes are taken from one of their statements.

*Migration has been a consistent aspect of the human experience throughout history and continues to be a defining characteristic of the*

*United States. Migration is closely linked to economic, social and political realities that influence the decision, and often the necessity, for people to migrate. Currently close to 200 million people live outside their country of birth worldwide. Although this number includes refugees, asylum seekers and others, economic migrants make up the largest proportion. These economic migrants—who could often be described as economically displaced people—have few other options to remain in their country and meet the basic needs of their families.*

*In the context of globalization, goods and capital cross borders with increasing ease, but workers are unable to move to where job opportunities exist or to where their jobs may have moved. At the same time, many wealthier countries are experiencing declining birth rates and aging populations that would lead to a labor shortage were it not for immigrant workers.*

*Currently, restrictive migration policies throughout the world have resulted in few avenues for legal or safe migration. Instead, many migrants experience abuse and exploitation as they travel in dangerous conditions. They are subjected to extortion and physical and sexual violence, and die of exposure, dehydration or drowning. Many migrants have little access to protection, legal representation or basic services.*

*U.S. immigration laws and policies have become increasingly restrictive and even harmful to some immigrants and asylum seekers. Between 10 and 12 million people in the U.S. live on the margins of our society for lack of proper immigration documentation. Immigrants who are legal permanent residents in the U.S. who want to*

*reunite with close family members must often wait 10 or more years for visas for their relatives. Enforcement strategies employed along our southern border have resulted in thousands of deaths. Asylum seekers who flee persecution in their home countries and look for safe haven in the U.S. instead find themselves detained as criminals.*

*People have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families where conditions do not exist to meet their basic needs. Our current immigration system often separates families for years as migrants take great risks to find work and send resources to families left behind. Even when a family member is able to establish U.S. legal permanent residency and attempts to reunite with loved ones, visa delays often keep husbands and wives, parents and children apart for years. The number of unaccompanied minors attempting to migrate to the U.S. to reunite with family has risen in recent years. Minors are particularly vulnerable: there are increasing reports of children disappearing in transit and, in some cases, becoming victims of human trafficking.*

So as you celebrate your independence please spare a thought for those who do not enjoy the full benefits of our freedom.

### Golf—Thank You

I am happy to report that last month we had a very successful Golf fundraising outing for Chicago Irish Immigrant Support. Even a couple of nasty showers couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the 90 competitors.

St. Tar’s was well represented among the winners with Dave McNaughton and Steve Heinol the winners on course two. The golfing gods smiled on myself and a visitor from Lexington Kentucky, Tommy Harrison helping us pick up first place on course one.

I take this opportunity to thank all who sponsored ads in our book, who donated prizes for the raffle or who came to play in the event. Your support is truly appreciated, many thanks.

### Parable of Two Screws

Once upon a time there were two screws fastening a vital part of a gasoline engine. One of the screws was haughty and proud of it’s shining head. The second screw was quiet, intent only on doing its job to the best of its ability.

One day a speck of rust appeared on the head of the second screw. Filled with vain pride of its own beauty, the first screw began to laugh at the second. “Your head is tarnished,” the first said to the second. “Look at you. Your perfect luster is gone.”

The second screw said nothing. Instead, it concentrated on what it was doing.

“How ugly you have become,” the first screw chortled, “and how beautiful I have remained.” Then it began to laugh so hard at the second screw that it failed to notice that it was working itself loose. Finally it dropped off the engine and plunged into a small pool of dirty oil below.

With the first screw no longer holding up its end of the load, the second was faced with doing the work of two. Meanwhile the first screw, now covered with grimy oil, wailed and lamented. “Just look at me! I’m dirty and filthy and all my beauty is gone. By laughing at the blemish on my friend the second screw, I worked myself loose and fell into the muck. Now I’m doomed.”

Now, it just so happened that a short time later the owner of the engine started it up. He immediately noticed that something didn’t sound right—the engine was running rough. When he checked, he instantly saw that one of the two screws holding the vital part was missing. “Ah ha!” the owner said. “One of the screws must have worked itself loose and fell to the ground, but I don’t see it. Maybe it fell into that puddle of old oil.”

The owner reached into the oil and found the missing screw. “Look at you,” the owner said. “You’re all covered with grime and oil. How ugly you are. But I will fix that right away.” The owner reached for a nearby rag and wiped all the oil and grime off the first screw until it shone even brighter than before. Then he replaced it on the part. Before he turned away, he noticed a little speck of tarnish on the head of the second screw. With the second rag, he wiped the head clean and bright. Then the owner walked away.

Finally the engine was started. The two screws, now equally beautiful, held the part tight. “Forgive me, my friend,” the first screw said to the second. “In my vanity, I was so busy laughing at your blemish that I did not notice that I was working myself loose.”

“And what have you learned?” the second screw quietly asked.

“I learned not to judge others because I have my own sins to deal with.”

“Then,” the second screw said, “I forgive you.”

“Thank you, my friend. And rest assured, my vanity will remain forever at the bottom of that dirty puddle of oil.”

*Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me at 312 534 8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.*

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### Benefit for Kevin McGuire

Kevin McGuire has been a driver for Prairie Material in Bridgeview since 1999 and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. Shortly before Christmas, Kevin found out that his lymphoma returned for the third time. He underwent chemotherapy and received a stem cell transplant in March. He has been unable to work this year and a return date has yet to be determined. Kevin has a wife Jackie from Gort, County Galway, two young children, Ava (4) and Austin (6.) With family medical bills already mounting, all proceeds will help manage current and ongoing medical costs. They appreciate all the prayers, support, and assistance everyone has given to them.

On July 23, 2001, from 7pm-Midnight, a benefit will be held for Kevin at 115 Bourbon Street, located at 3359 W. 115th Street in Merrionette Park, IL 60803 (708-388-8881). Donations are \$25 per person, or \$30 at the door, and include dinner buffet, beer, wine, soda, bottled water, dessert buffet, entertainment, and valet parking.

There will be raffles, silent auction, and split the pot raffles.

Contact Information for donations or tickets: Dean 708-516-8610, Patrick 708-612-1950, or Georgia 708-903-1866.

Contributions can be made by check to **Benefit for Kevin McGuire** at Standard Bank, 7800 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL 60457.

<http://sites.google.com/site/kevinmcguirebenefit/>



Young residents of Bucktown who were appalled by the vicious attack on Natasha came to her fundraiser at the IAHC and worked to raise money to help her.

### GOLF FOR NATASHA! West Suburban Irish Committee

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### Online Only This Month

Due to the large quantity of columns this month and the lack of extra space, several columns will be online only.

- The Irish Rover
- Horoscopes
- Celtic Kitchen
- Hooliganism

They will all be back next month for your reading pleasure!

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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.

### Social Host Responsibility: Adults Beware

There is a law on the books for a number of years, the consequences of which are still not fully appreciated by many adult individuals. As we move into summer, whether it is a graduation party, Fourth of July party, or just a summer barbeque, alcohol will likely be part of the celebration. With all these parties comes adult responsibility and even more so since the passage of the Drug or Alcohol Impaired Minor Responsibility Act. Currently, most states have some type of social

host responsibility law. Since 2004 in Illinois, the Act imposes responsibility on a parent or any adult who serves or provides alcohol to a minor or permits the use of alcohol by a minor. The statute specifically imposes civil liability for "any person at least 18 years of age who willfully supplies alcoholic liquor or illegal drugs to a person under 18 years of age." Under the statute, the victim can recover economic damages, non-economic damages, attorney's fees, and even punitive damages.

The Act was passed by the Illinois legislature in response to two high profile cases. The first case involved a 16-year-old girl who died after she drank a quart bottle of liqueur at her friend's house. The second situation involved a hazing ritual between junior and senior high school girls from a north suburb in 2003. In both cases, parents turned a blind eye to underage drinking.

In the first case, the mother of the 16 year-old girl brought action against two brothers and their father for negligence in providing a bottle of Goldschlager to the teenager. The plaintiff's daughter lost consciousness after drinking the bottle of liqueur and died later that day. The mother argued that her daughter, a minor, could not appreciate the dangers associated with consumption of excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages.

While the mother could pursue a "voluntary undertaking" theory because the defendants undertook to help the daughter, but refused to get her medical treatment, the mother could not pursue a "social host" theory against them because there was no statute imposing that duty on them.

The second case involved the highly televised hazing ritual that was caught on videotape between the junior and senior high school girls. The video of the drunken battle between the high school girls was played on

national television. Five girls were hospitalized. Thirty one students, twenty eight females and three males were suspended from school, some later expelled due to the off campus incident. The media focused on how such a large number of minors were able to obtain alcohol for the event. Two mothers of students were later charged for providing alcohol to the teens.

Under the current law, if a parent or homeowner over the age of 18 serves alcohol to anyone at their home under the age of 18 and causes the impairment of that person, they will be liable for injuries to persons or property caused by that impairment. The statute covers not only injuries to the teen but also to any third party victims of the intoxication. So if the intoxicated teenager leaves the home and gets into an accident, the homeowner providing the alcohol may be responsible not only for the injuries suffered by the teen but also the injuries suffered by any other person involved in the accident.

### No Contributory Negligence of the Minor

Looking to place responsibility on the responsible adults, the legislators specifically eliminated any theory of contributory negligence of the minor from the statute. The Act states, "Neither contributory negligence nor

contributory willful and wanton conduct shall apply to any injured party claiming damages under this Act." So, it doesn't matter how carelessly the minor may be acting, the homeowner could still be found liable for their actions.

### Liability in Non-Residential Settings

The statute makes a distinction between residential and non-residential settings. In a residential setting, an adult will be held liable for the actions of the impaired minor if any person over the age of 18 "willfully supplies" alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs. In non-residential settings (not specifically defined in the statute), the Act provides that the adult may be held liable for simply "permitting" consumption of alcohol by a minor on their non-residential premises. So in a non-residential setting an adult doesn't have to buy or supply the minors with alcohol, but merely allow it to be consumed to be found liable.

The Act is another example of the no nonsense approach to teen drinking. Everyone should be aware of it. Not only should you make every effort to comply with the Act, but, also check to make sure you have adequate insurance coverage in case an issue like this arises.

Jack Cannon  
Matt Gannon

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## Reel Jiggy

By Deirdre Kozicki



The exciting thing I did last month was go to Ireland! I had the best time. I loved it there! We rode on Aer Lingus. The plane ride was long, but I had my own tv with shows and movies to entertain me. I wasn't crazy about the airline food. I couldn't sleep on the plane, so I pulled my first all-nighter. The first place we went was Tourmakeady in County Mayo. We stayed with friends. They had farms surrounding their whole house. There were sheep and donkeys but I like the donkeys the best.

We went to an elementary school and a high school. They call the high school a college. (And if you were wondering, a college is called a university.) In the elementary school, we met some of the kids and watched their music class. One of the kids moved there from Chicago. It was an Irish speaking school. Most of the families are bilingual.

The next day we were on our way to Galway. We stayed in Salthill. Galway Bay is so pretty. We went for a walk on the beach. I found a lot of shells. We went into Galway. It was

very crowded because it was a bank holiday. Then it was off to Ennis. We went to the same exact street my great grandmother lived when she was little. It was pretty cool. We went to morning mass which happened to be a funeral. It was a little weird, but interesting.

Then we went to Dublin. That was



(l to r): Maeve, Deirdre, and Cormac Kozicki with kids from the Tourmakeady National School in Ireland.

the only day it rained. We went on a double decker bus tour. I sat on the top. We went to Kilmainham Gaol (jail). It was pretty eerie to think kids my age were sent there. We went to the Writers' Museum. I loved that. It was pretty cool to think how all the artifacts in there were so old. I saw the Book of Kells at Trinity College. I went shopping on Grafton Street. I saw the Molly Malone statue. I saw an Irish dance show in Temple Bar. The dancers had danced with *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*. They were incredible. I took a tour of Aviva Stadium (the new soccer/rugby stadium), which hasn't officially opened,

yet. I had a wonderful time in Ireland. No, wonderful doesn't describe it. It was even better.

I also went to Gaelic Park for a feis on Memorial Day. I only completed one dance before they cancelled the rest of the dances. I can only say it felt like a monsoon hit us. It was scary when I thought the tent might fall over. They couldn't even post

the results because it was raining too hard. When we headed back to our car, it had flooded so bad the water was half way up my leg. At least I didn't ruin my dress or wig, and my shoes recovered nicely.

*Have a great 4th of July! That reminds me, next month I'll have my team results from North America Nationals.*

### Heather A. Begley



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The Law Offices of Jeffrey J. Krull represents individuals and families in personal injury and wrongful death matters including, motor vehicle collisions, construction negligence, work related injuries and medical malpractice.

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## Heritage Center Opens Doors for Disadvantaged Kids

Summer may mean vacations and relaxation for many adults, but for kids, it's no time to take a break from learning. The months between the school years offer kids the chance to learn important life lessons about work and responsibility. But in this economy, jobs that give kids valuable work experience are at an all-time low.

Thankfully, the Center is once again providing opportunities for disadvantaged young people who live at Chicago's Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. Several young people from the full-time residential facility will lend a hand at Irish Fest this July. In turn, they will add successful work experience to their resumes. "We are so grateful to the Irish American Heritage Center for giving our young people experiences to learn and to grow this summer," said Fr. Scott Donahue, President of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

It's a relationship that benefits all involved. "Mercy Home sends us some of the best workers," says Center volunteer Mike Neary. "They work very hard for four solid days to make the event a success." In fact, the Center has provided work opportunities for Mercy Home's kids at its other events, including its St. Patrick's Day Festival and recently at its

benefit for Natasha McShane.

Connecting kids to work opportunities during the summer, and in fact throughout the year, is a critical component of Mercy Home's program for troubled youth, along with therapy and educational support. Kids come to Mercy Home from chaotic backgrounds of serious family dysfunction, academic underachievement, or neighborhood violence. Neglect, abuse, and even abandonment often undermine their chances of creating lives of success and self-reliance. Opportunities to earn work experience are especially scarce in neighborhoods from which many kids come to Mercy Home. And for kids like these, a little work experience can go a long, long way toward turning their lives around. By working at summer jobs like those provided by the Center, Mercy Home's kids develop a sense of ownership of over their own futures. This can have a profoundly positive impact on their commitment to succeeding in the classroom once school resumes. The experience helps these young people visualize the steps necessary to achieve their goals and helps them focus on succeeding in other areas of their lives.

The Irish-American connection is

also significant for Mercy Home. The eight presidents that have guided its mission to change kids' lives since its founding in 1887 have been Irish-American priests. And, each year in March, Mercy Home holds a month-long outreach campaign called "Shamrocks for Kids." During the campaign, hundreds of volunteers hit the streets of Chicago at area St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations, distributing shamrock pins for donations Mercy Home. Following last year's event, several business and civic leaders from Cork County Ireland toured Mercy Home and were so impressed with its young people that they offered eight kids a scholarship to attend an outdoor wilderness adventure in Ireland later this summer. Mercy Home is grateful for anyone in the community who can help cover some of the costs of travel and supplies for this once-in-a-lifetime experience for young people. For more information, contact Joe at 312-738-9520. If you are interested in helping young people build successful and independent futures by being a "Shamrocks for Kids" volunteer next March, please call Julie at 312-738-9245. For more information about Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, visit [mercyhome.org](http://mercyhome.org).

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by Maureen Callahan



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Tony Bennett left his heart here. Prepare to leave part of yours. Or improve the condition of it, anyway. Anyone who has traversed this west coast gem will advise you on the steep hills one must mount to get around. Those without calves of steel should not despair, however. I found that nearly every excursion which involves a steep hill can almost always be rerouted. You might have to go a little further to find a more thigh-friendly path, but it's usually a only a few well-worth-it blocks out of the way.

San Francisco is one of few cities in which the journey from A to B can truly be more about the ride than the destination. Try to reserve one day for wandering on foot, as some of the city's best treasures are easily found this way. The traditional pairings of BART (like the el) and buses are available. And while reliability is golden, why go to San Fran to ride the bus? Hop on one of the city's historic streetcars. Purchased individually from cities around the world, each bears the name and flag of its country of origin. Depending on your route, you can probably get to where you're going faster than on the iconic cable car counterpart. Driving is a possibility, but parking is tough. And if you've never driven stick, don't start today.

This city is among the most cycling-friendly. Don't let the backside-shaping hills intimidate you. There are several bike rentals offering decent daily and weekly rates. Bike and Roll offers five convenient locations to pick up a bike, along with equipment and maps. Pick one up on or near the Wharf and you're ready to check out the ominous waves washing ashore along the path in Golden Gate Park. Larger than New York's Central Park, it is now host to an average of 75,000 people a weekend. Hit it on a weekday morning for thinner crowds and less foot traffic. Follow the trail through a variety of colorful landmarks to one of America's proudest symbols. There is no better way to appreciate the historic architectural marvel of the Golden Gate Bridge than while riding across it. Once to the other side, ride downhill through colorful scenic neighborhoods to the quiet seaport town of Sausalito. Stop in at Scoma's for some excellent cioppino, (San Francisco-born fish stew) in this picturesque port. From here, catch a ferry back to San Fran Wharf, or continue on to Alcatraz. Bike and Roll-353 Jefferson St., Fisherman's Wharf, SF, www.bicyclerental.com/Golden Gate Park, open daily, all day/Scoma's-588 Bridgeway, Sausalito, www.scomassausalito.com/ Alcatraz-open every day except certain holidays, www.alcatraztrips.com/ Ferry schedules-www.goldengateferry.org.

Cable cars, though more expensive and slower, are fun. Learn the heritage of this historic mode of transport while checking out the Cable Car Museum. Sometimes, it really is about the journey. If you're not riding, but just want a picture on one, go to the cable car turn-

around at the corner of Taylor and Bay streets, four blocks south of the Wharf. Cable Car Museum-1201 Mason St, SF- Open every day except

some holiday; free, www.cablecarmuseum.com.

Pick up the Powell-Hyde line in Union Square to ride up Nob Hill. Hop off atop at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. For a spectacular view of the city and bay, ascend to the Top of the Mark Lounge. During World War II, people gathered in a corner of the lounge to watch loved ones ship out to war as they passed the Golden Gate, dubbing it Weeper's Corner. Peek into stunning Grace Cathedral, catty corner across the square. Meditate your way through its outdoor labyrinth, modeled after the ones created centuries ago at European cathedrals. Mark Hopkins Intercontinental-One Nob Hill, SF, www.intercontinentalmarkhopkins.com/Grace Cathedral 1100 California Street, Nob Hill, SF, www.gracecathedral.org/City transit maps and schedules, www.sfmta.com.

Hop back on cable car to get down to the Wharf. It's touristy, but if you're here, have a look. Wander through the constantly arriving and departing fishing rigs. Sample some local fish delicacies wrapped to eat as you walk. On your way back into town, pull up a stool at the long mahogany bar in O'Reilly's Irish Pub. Have brunch any day of the week under the mural of world-class Irish writers. O'Reilly's Irish Pub-622 Green St, SF, www.oreillyirish.com.

If you're interested in architecture, The Victorian Home Walk departs Union Square daily at 11am for Pacific Heights. Check it out for a 2.5 hour leisurely stroll through beautiful neighborhoods and a visit to a Queen Anne Victorian, all under the direction of an expert guide. Daily at 11am, except some holidays. \$25 includes tour and round trip bus ride Union Square to Pacific Heights. www.victorianwalk.com.

Upon return to Union Square, you're around the corner from Johnny Foley's Irish House. Stop in for the best Guinness in town, complete with a Golden Gate Bridge carefully poured into the head. Chef Larry Doyle prepares a varied menu of entrees ranging from traditional pub favorites to prime rib and wild salmon. Take a rest from touring in one of the wooden snugs and enjoy the live music and great craic almost every night of the week. Johnny Foley's Irish House-243 O'Farrell St, Union Square, SF, www.johnnyfoleys.com.

Stop by Notre Dame des Victoires, the French-American National Cathedral, for mass en Français. Just down the street, the Irish Bank has the look of a cottage but the feel of a rural pub. Sip your Bushmills on a barrel top or church pew inside, or have a seat on the cozy patio/alley. It's a convenient stop in an otherwise bustling area of town to have a bar snack, sandwich or dinner. Notre Dame des Victoires Cathedral-566 Bush St, SF, www.ndvsf.org/The Irish Bank-10 Mark Lane, Union Square, SF, www.theirishbank.com.

San Francisco is one place you'll not soon forget. Leaving your heart isn't a hard thing to do.

Maureen Callahan is a Chicago writer and seasoned traveler. missmaureencallahan@gmail.com.

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## Piping It In

Jack Baker



trash and cleaning floors and moving furniture and working soundboards and making coffee and numerous other tasks to get their name on a

I'm still in shock. I've a big grin pasted on my puss and it's been there for two days now. I'm so tired I can't even think fast and my legs are so sore that I'm hobbling like a geezer. You see I'm writing this two days after Natasha Day. That was the day set aside for the biggest benefit ever put together by the Irish community in Chicago. A day set aside to put together help for the young lady from Armagh that was so viciously attacked on the streets of Chicago. She got to see the evil that resides in the city and the community, horrified by the attack, set out to show that there's a better side and a bigger side.

I've promised myself not to name names here, other than that of the young lady whose name became the community's battle cry, Natasha McShane. The people who banded together to plan and execute this great undertaking didn't do it to get their name in the paper. They didn't spend endless hours baking and preparing food so that someone would pat them on the back and tell them what a good soul they were. They didn't spend 10 hours scrubbing tables and carrying

list of good folk. No, they did it all because they are good folk. Good folks who care about each other and who come together when someone's in need to work hard and create the biggest, best, most amazing benefit I have seen in my 59 years on this planet.

I only got to see half of it. Natasha Day took place in two separate locations, Gaelic Park on the south side and the Irish American Heritage Center on the north. Many of the musicians played at both sites and from what I've heard it was as good a party at one as it was at the other. I spent my day at the Center and the things I saw are the reason for the aforementioned two-day grin.

There were three stages of music going almost all day. The library was opened up to accommodate all the musicians who were willing to play acoustic sets and they played all day in there. The Erin Ballroom on the 4th floor was the site of the largest stage and it was full of fine musicians all day providing some of the finest music you'd ever want to hear. Local celebs volunteered their time to act as MC and introduce the acts and let us know which cars had parked in fire lanes and needed to be moved. The third stage was in the Fifth Province Pub on the 1st floor and it kept the crowd in there entertained all day and night.

Up on the 3rd floor, the food committee set up a line of tables in the hallway and kept it full of wonderful food all day. They started serving at 1pm and were still hard at it the end of the day. Hot dishes, cold dishes, several types of meat, the best potato salad I've ever had (tried to get the recipe for that one but couldn't find out who made it), piles of sandwiches, fresh vegetables and fruit, it went on and on and was all home made and delicious. I wonder if anyone kept track of how many pots of coffee and tea were made that day. I do know that every time I wandered in for a cup of tea there was a smiling face handing me a fresh cup and asking if I'd eaten yet. I didn't mention the piles of brown bread and soda bread and the cakes and the cookies and the pastries and brownies. How long to prepare all this? I couldn't guess but I know it took us about 9 hours to make it all disappear. How many people were fed? My guess is thousands and yet the tables in

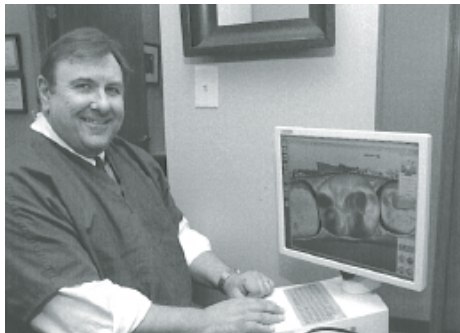
the dining area were always spotless. As soon as people got up from eating, the folks working the room descended on the tables to remove trash and clean the area. How many work hours were involved in that one area? I don't think anyone took the time to worry about it, they were too busy. On that day no one went hungry.

Back up in the Erin Ballroom the silent auction was set up along one wall and an Aladdin's cave full of treasures it was. Stuff, wonderful stuff, had come in from literally all over the world and was arrayed for bidding. Again a whole staff of workers put in countless hours cataloging, arranging and managing the silent auction. You can't imagine the time and effort involved in putting a silent auction together but these folks did the job and did one fine job of it too.

On and on it went, hundreds of people working, partying, dancing, eating, drinking and having a pretty good time of it with a soundtrack supplied by some of the best musicians in the world. Natasha's parents were there, buoyed, I hope, by the waves of good wishes they received. Later they went south to Gaelic Park and met the same type of reception there. Famous folk came by too, sports figures from Chicago teams and politicians too. They dutifully dropped their contributions in the box and were swallowed up by the crowd.

My poor words do not do justice to the Herculean efforts of the folks who put this benefit together and worked so hard to insure its success. To the people who came and partied and contributed their money, bless you too.

It was a remarkable day and my jaw still hurts from grinning.



Dr. Christopher Pallotto, D.D.S., recently announced an innovation in dentistry which now will make tooth restoration easier, more convenient, more accurate and overall less worrisome for patients. "Our office recently installed CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) equipment which provides for on-site creation." Dr. Pallotto concluded by saying "CEREC equipment is a shining example of recent advances in the dental profession and we at Oak Dental Associates, located at 10232 S. Central Ave. in Oak Lawn, are proud to be among the first in the area to offer patients this new approach to tooth restoration."

If you didn't get the chance to come to the benefit but you'd like to help Natasha, you can donate at [www.helpnatasha.net](http://www.helpnatasha.net) and bless you all.

\* Reach me at [pipingitin@comcast.net](mailto:pipingitin@comcast.net) or by phone at 630-834-8108. Slainté.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Marching to the Wrong Tune

A couple of hours ago I was handed an interesting clipping from the letters page of a local Galway newspaper. I honestly wish that I knew the person’s name as I would agree with him a lot, but his name is with the editor and, anyway, that’s his business.

For once someone is talking some sense over the Israeli debacle. I doubt that anyone would disagree with the fact that Israel screwed up here. But when I see the usual rent-a-crowd of clowns demonstrating in Dublin and elsewhere over things that they don’t have a shagging clue about, the hackles just rise on me.

This letter said:

“Last Thursday you had a story saying that the Galway Left condemns Israel. At the end of the article Free Gaza declares that they have footage claiming that Israel started the violence that claimed nine lives. The videos that I have seen are of a mob of men waving steel bars and broken bottles, waiting for the soldiers to board and of beating and throwing soldiers from one deck to another; also on Sunday Turkey has released photos of the soldiers being beaten and dragged through the boat.”

“The group leading the flotilla has links to al-Qaida. Ten years ago when Turkey had an earthquake the Turkish government refused help from this group because of its links to terror. Also, why is there a blockade on Gaza—before the sea blockade, Israel’s navy

stopped two boats coming from Iran full of not aid, but weapons to help destroy Israel. Cyprus stopped a boat, also from Iran, again full of not food or medical supplies, but weapons to help Hamas destroy Israel.”

“Only three weeks ago Hamas attacked and destroyed a school run by the UN which was being prepared as a summer school for girls and boys. Why? Because Hamas don’t want girls and boys to mix. So let’s show two sides to the story and then let people make up their mind about the problems in the Middle East. Also it is not just Israel which has a blockade on Gaza, it’s also Egypt, a fellow Muslim state.”

Now I have a couple of problems with that letter but overall I found it hell of refreshing to see an opposite side to this. (Of course I also found it nice to read someone who thinks like me for a change.) Not to worry, though: we have Tony Blair in their sorting everything out.

If it was anyone but that war criminal I’d almost feel sorry for the mess that he’s dealing with.

I’ll be damned—and probably will be anyway—if I can understand the outpouring of hate in Ireland towards Israel. It’s not the first time and it certainly won’t be the last; but I just don’t get it.

When I’ve said this to people I might as well have said that I’ve just been found guilty of interfering with farmyard animals, considering the looks I get. Actually, forget that: I would have had more sympathy if I actually had been found guilty of that rather than—gasp, shock, horror—saying that the Israelis might just have had legitimate concerns here.

After all, the wife of Ali Haydar Bengi, a Turkish national who was killed aboard the ‘Mavi Marmara’ came out with this beauty:

“He used to help the poor and oppressed. For years, he wanted

to go to Palestine. And he constantly prayed to Allah to grant him Shahada (martyrdom).”

Come again? This aid worker or whatever the hell he was prayed every day for martyrdom? Am I missing something?

Yet here in Ireland in the last weeks we have the usual bunch of gobshites marching on the Israeli embassy, screaming for the removal of their ambassador and then whining about police brutality when they are not allowed to behave like the clowns that they are.

I’m aware of course that in Ireland these are not popular views, but what the hell: I have couple of people that I can call friends, I don’t need anymore.

I loved journalist Ian O’Doherty’s comment in the *Irish Independent* of June 4:

“...make no mistake, hatred for Israel far outweighs any love for the people of Gaza for many of these activists who tend to be a rag-bag collection of fundamentalists, extremists and ill-informed do-gooders who know that in the current climate it is far easier and socially acceptable to be seen as being on the Palestinian side than it is to be on the Israeli one.”

“In fact, this sense of moral and intellectual confusion was perfectly illustrated at the anti-Israel march outside their embassy earlier this week.” [One of them, Ian, one of them.]

“Pictured at the front of the demo, a bunch of people brandishing the Hamas flag.”

“And, just behind them, was a flag from the Labour Party’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered membership.”

“So. Let’s get this straight—a bunch of LBGT rights activists are happy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the party which has branded homosexuality a moral perversion which can only be dealt with by execution?”

“How far out of whack does your moral compass have to be before you go marching, as a gay person, beside people who openly declare that they want you dead?”

You have to admit, he has a point.

For a race that never stops moaning about eight hundred years of Britain poking their unwanted noses into other people’s business, the Irish are great at poking theirs into that of Israel.

I personally think that Israel made a total mess, error of judgement or just plain hames of this—call it what you will. Yet I still fail to understand why the Irish in particular are so vehement on this. What has happened to Gaza is not right and I doubt that anyone could argue convincingly that it is.

Yet if I was a Jewish guy sitting having a coffee with his girlfriend and enjoying the sun in Tel Aviv I think that I would have the right to do that without worrying about some suicidal nutter coming into the café and blowing us both to bits in the name of freedom.

Oh, wait: I get it now. We had thirty years of homicidal maniacs doing just that right here in Ireland.

It’s all so clear to me now.



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