



Happy Valentine's Day!

My Rose of Tralee Experience... Page 7
Irish Music - Best of Decade (Part Two)... Page 19

2010 Midwest Rose of Tralee Julia Rose and Irish Regional Roses presenter Will Leahy. Cover photo by Dominic Walsh, www.dwalshphoto.ie



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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



A Dose of Reality

Estonia joined the Euro on January 1st 2010. It was the latest step by this small Baltic state to distance itself from its grim recent past. At a time when there is so much doom and gloom and whinging about loss of sovereignty in Ireland it is worth reflecting briefly on this past. Talk to the Estonians about loss of sovereignty. Ireland survived the Second World War unscathed and, whatever else we can say, we have been the authors of our own destiny since 1922.

Estonia was not so fortunate. In 1939 it enjoyed a standard of living roughly on a par with other Nordic countries. It was then occupied by a Soviet army of 100,000. In 1940 its status as an independent country was abolished. Over the next year 7,500 Estonians were murdered, at least 11,000 more deported. By 1943 half of the country's M.P.s had been murdered by the Soviets – you can see their names and dates of death on a plaque outside Ireland's Embassy in Tallinn. Their President died in a KGB prison "hospital" after 16 years; his chain of office has yet to be returned.

After 1945 thousands more were imprisoned (where 6,000 died) or were deported to Siberia. 25,000 people, mainly farmers and their families, were deported in 1949, to facilitate collectivisation of agriculture and to break a rural guerrilla resistance movement. All this out of a population of little over a million. Over the next 40 years several hundred thousand Russians and other non-Estonians were settled in the country, a move seen by Estonians as a long term project to destroy Estonian nationalism. Even today Russians constitute 25% of Estonia's population. Yes, talk to the Estonians about loss of sovereignty.

Estonia did not regain independence until 1991 and the Russian armies did not withdraw until August 1994. Estonia quite literally dragged itself up by the bootstraps. It dramatically

restructured and privatised its economy. It abolished virtually all its tariffs. It successfully launched its own currency, tied to the Deutschmark. It joined NATO and then the EU. Estonia still has some way to go, with incomes and living standards still well below most of the EU, including Ireland. Its economy has had ups and downs in this period. It faces a demographic crisis. It faces the challenge of the Russian minority. Its politics is volatile. Yet there is acknowledgement of what has been achieved and consensus that there can be no going back.

By contrast, to listen to the chat shows and some commentators, one would think that Ireland has fallen back to historic levels of hardship and poverty. There has been anger at every cut in welfare and increase in taxation. Yet the existing unsustainable welfare levels are of recent origin and well ahead of inflation while the tax increases likewise have merely rolled back some of the cuts of the Tiger era. And very few of the punters who benefitted on either front complained at the time about the government's largesse. The public search for scapegoats has now shifted. First were the bankers the speculators and Finna Fail. Now our EU partners, the European Central Bank and Germany are in the frame, as is our membership of the Euro.

It is surely time for a reality check. We were not invaded seventy years ago; we did not endure a subsequent 50 years of occupation, dictatorship and murder. Now is a far cry from the 1950s, popularly regarded as the nadir of independent Ireland, when the last great wave of emigration (over 1% of the population annually, including my own family) took place. Older readers will remember the tremendous sense of hopelessness then prevailing. There was no inward investment. There were no jobs. They will also remember—I do—the very real rural and urban poverty of the

time. Welfare payments were derisory then and for long afterwards.

The country was socially backward, Church dominated and, as we now know, at least complicit and tolerant of a brutal sub-culture involving physical and sexual abuse of children in state supported institutions and of vulnerable women in set-ups such as the Magdalen laundries. Censorship was rife (almost exclusively preoccupied with sexual references). Contraception was illegal. Married women were excluded from most state occupations and women generally were paid far less than their male counterparts in similar jobs. State jobs and, indeed, school graduation, were contingent on graduating in Irish, a neat way of excluding both Northern Protestants and any emigrants with families contemplating a return (it certainly deterred relatives of mine).

Fast forward to the 1980s. The parallels with the current fiscal situation are close. Indeed the borrowing levels in the late 80s, as percentages of GDP, were worse than those projected in the current four year plan. Yet there the resemblance ends. There had been no boom. Inflation and interest rates were through the roof. Official unemployment was 20%, the real figure much higher. Emigration was heading for the 50s level. Taxation rates (for those who paid—evasion had become a way of life for many) were punitive. There was little disposable income; it was the era of home-made beer. Welfare payments, though improved, were still miserable. There was no agreement on a solution; the most popular T.V. talk show actually featured a debate on Ireland defaulting on her national debt, with the case for doing so being put by a schoolboy!

Ireland has made a quantum leap in the last two decades, economically, socially and culturally. *Ceteris paribus*, like Estonia, there is no going back. Yet unlike Estonia, this does not seem to be acknowledged. 2010 saw the end of a lot of illusions, and perhaps the dawn of reality has made the sudden stall in prosperity that much more difficult to accept. There are tough times ahead, certainly, but the plateau we are now on is significantly higher than 20 years ago. There may be no return to the Tiger levels of growth but our

recent experiences will surely equip us better for a more structured future. "Sadder but wiser" may be the new appellation. We will still be a far cry from the 80s or the 50s.

The Borrowing Elephant which now preoccupies us has two elements. The first, the fiscal gap, has to be bridged, as in the 80s, like it or not, and this should not be shirked. The banking element on top threatens to overwhelm the country. There are divided counsels on this, but there is also a bigger picture – the European one. The future of the Euro will be determined over the next year or so. Finding

a solution presents an enormous political challenge to all EU states. The seriousness of the problem, and the threat to the whole European Project – from which Ireland has benefitted so much—has become more apparent in recent months. Any solution will have to grasp several nettles, including that of the date for burden sharing by bondholders, as well as refining the relationship between weak and strong Eurozone states Who can foresee the outcome? It may well be that time, and events, will solve the banking debt issue for Ireland. "Hard pounding, gentlemen."



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Traits for Business Success in 2011

When I prepared my January 2004 column, I used a list of ten traits for business success developed by Robert Callan, president of Callan Associates, Ltd an executive search firm, located in Oak Brook, IL. Bob had developed this list of common traits by observing the successful senior people he had been recruiting over the past 30 years. As we prepare for 2011, I thought it might be appropriate to review the original ten traits, plus a few additional ones for your consideration.

#1. INTEGRITY. The scandals of the last few decades have clearly indicated the need for executives to conduct themselves at the highest levels of personal integrity. We have seen premier firms implode due to their lack of ethical standards. Investors lost enormous amounts of money because some executive violated his company's code of ethics. Many people lost their jobs and pensions because of greed mani-

festated by these companies. Surely, you can think of more than a few companies that stretched the ethical constraints to their breaking point. The name, Enron, might sum it up for a number of us.

As a leader, you must continually guard your integrity. No one states directly that they are asking you to sell your corporate soul, for an improper, possibly illegal, activity. It is more subtle. It is so easy to fall victim on the slippery slope of ethical relativity. How often do you examine your own ethical standards? Have you slipped this past year? If you find yourself in a potentially troublesome ethical situation, consider seeking some outside advice. Perhaps your priest, minister, rabbi, or a tough minded mentor could help.

#2. HIGH ENERGY. Given the hours that people are working, everyone needs their energy. Peter McLaughlin, a noted authority on the subject of energy says it is a function of good eating and sleeping habits, exercise and a sense of humor. Do you spend any time exercising? Just 20-30 minutes of exercise, three or four times a week, will have a tremendous effect on your energy. Do you have a defined exercise program? Get your rest! Eat right!

#3. LEADERSHIP. One of the most overdone subjects in business literature is leadership. Many of us have difficulty defining leadership, but we know leaders when we see them. Almost anyone of reasonable intelligence can accede to a position of leadership, if they are willing to **accept the responsibility.** President Harry Truman had a sign on his desk that said it all "The buck stops here".

Leaders are held to a higher standard of responsibility. They are expected to work harder; be more fair; and to challenge themselves and others. Have you accepted a role as the leader of any activity, or organization during the past year? If not, how about in 2011?

#4. EXCELLENT PEOPLE SKILLS. You need to understand the other person's point of view, so you must listen. It's an absolutely critical people skill.

Do you intentionally practice your people skills when you are dealing with colleagues? Challenge yourself to go into the next staff meeting with the specific intention of listening. Express some genuine interest in the other person's issues.

#5. BALANCE. If you don't have balance in your life, you are on the road to failure. People allow themselves to be tethered to their jobs by iPhones, iPads, email, and other electronic devices. Do you turn them off as a normal practice?

Have you been taking your full allotment of vacation days? I spoke to a client executive who said he could not remember when he had taken more than one week of vacation. Would one week really allow you time to decompress and get "into" your vacation? Is one week enough to fully refresh you?

#6. SENSE OF HUMOR. There are people who could find humor in any situation. Such people are a valuable asset to an organization. They bring levity to stressful situations. Can you enhance your sense of humor? Watch or listen to comedians who have some edge in their presentations. Their comedic view of the world can help you to see the lighter side of situations. How do you recommend a person develop a sense of humor?

#7. CHEMISTRY. For a person to succeed, s/he must find an organization where his style works. Does the person fit in! Don't expect to succeed in an organization that is diametrically opposed to your natural self; it simply takes too much energy. Many organizations want their personnel to fit a certain image. I visited a major Chicagoland corporation several years ago for a luncheon meeting. Eighty percent of the males in the cafeteria were wearing coats? Do you want to work in such an organization?

#8. INTELLIGENCE. When you think about the leaders in your company, are you awed by their intellectual firepower? If the world's population conforms to a bell shaped curve, and you're average, you may still be smarter

than 50% of the other people. How smart do you have to be to run a company? Conversely, we all know people of extraordinary intellect who do not have the skills to run any organization. Mature judgment must accompany intelligence.

Virtually all studies indicate the importance of feeding one's intellectual engine. So regardless of how smart you are, are you working on improving yourself? When did you last read a substantial book or attend an outside seminar in or out of your field? What is the focus of your self development program?

#9. PROVEN ACHIEVEMENT. People decide on what you can do for them in the future based on what you have done in the past. Should a potential boss (or employer) be impressed with your resume? People commonly fail to give themselves credit for significant achievements. Life time achievers simply don't see their achievements as clearly as others do.

Analyze your background thoroughly; look at yourself with the eye of a stranger. You might be surprised to realize that you do have important achievements in your background. How about achievements in your life outside of your work? In your church? In your professional association?

#10. GLOBAL ORIENTATION. Obviously companies are continuing to move manufacturing and other services off shore. We may tend to see our wonderful country as the center of the universe. But, we need to remember that Americans represent only about 5% of the world's population. Educate yourself on the cultures and languages of the countries where your company does business. Develop some conversational skills.

Bob Callan recently suggested one more desirable trait that has surfaced in the last decade: **successful negotiating skills**, particularly necessary when dealing with the US government and/or its agencies.

I feel comfortable with Callan's expanded list of traits. But we all know that any one list is never totally encompassing. I asked another friend, Tim Gardner, EVP at Illinois Tool Works, for any additions that he might suggest. Tim's suggestions were these three: the ability to develop others; the ability to drive innovation; a sense of humility, understand that "ego" is a weakness.

As we begin a new year, you might want to assess yourself against these criteria. Ask three of your friends to grade you on these traits. *Carpe Diem.*

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and career transition firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. NEW email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com.

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Authors Marketing Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Authors Marketing Group will be on Wednesday evening February 9th at 7pm at the Woodridge Public Library.

Our guest presenters will be some of our members of the group. They will address questions from our moderator on important questions that authors face, including but not limited to: how to get your writing critiqued, how to get your book published, some interesting ideas on marketing your book, etc.

All meetings for the Authors Marketing Group are held at the Woodridge Public Library. The address is 3 Plaza Drive in Woodridge, Illinois. It is located north of 75th Street in Woodridge within the Town Centre. The meeting is held in the Community Room located on the 2nd Floor. More information about the library can be obtained by visiting their website at: <http://www.woodridgelibrary.org>

The meetings are free and open to the general public. However, there is an annual fee to join as a member of the group.

Additional information can be obtained from our website at <http://www.authorsmarketing-group.org> or from calling Jim Durkin at (630) 921-0118 and soon on the group's page on Facebook.

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Slow, Slow, Slow

With apologies to the author of the children’s nursery rhyme, the prospects for any genuine movement seem destined to be: *Slow, Slow, Slow we go, gently down (the political) stream, sadly, sadly, immigration reform, is for now a dream.*

I say that because since I last wrote, you will be well aware that one of the least controversial pieces of the immigration reform package, namely the Dream Act failed to pass the Senate in the “lame duck” session before Christmas.

So, with a new Republican controlled House of Representatives just sworn in (Jan. 5th), the prospects of any meaningful development look rather slim. One of the first major efforts of the 112th Congress is a move to repeal President Obama’s health care reform package. This, despite the fact that in a recent poll 69% of voters wish their elected officials to deal with THE ECONOMY. In fact, in the same poll only 5% of folks wanted Congress to tackle the health care issue.

One consequence of the failure of Congress to act on immigration reform is a renewed push by (at last count 14) states to introduce Arizona “style” laws to deal with “illegal” immigrants. This, as I’ve often stated is a sad reflection on our political system. The proper way to deal with immigration issues is for the federal government to take care of the business for which the citizens have elected it.

It is of course early days in the new Congress, but the signs are not very encouraging for immigrant rights advocates. There are two proposals, which are going to do “sweet little all” to address the real issues.

The first is a recent statement from Senator John McCain, who has said that he would be willing to look at comprehensive immigration reform: “Once we get the border secured — and we can get the border secured — I would look forward to working on comprehensive immigration reform,” the 2008 Republican presidential nominee said on NBC’s “Today” show. The question I have for Senator McCain is, at what point can we consider the border secure? The 111th

Congress passed a bill to pump a further \$600 million into this effort, how long will it take to have the border “fixed.” We have been going back and forth on the border issue for many years now and still there is no consensus on what constitutes a “secure border.” Also, in most people’s minds reference to the border only includes the border to our south, whatever happened to the border to the north?

The second issue concerns a proposal by the new chair of the immigration subcommittee in the House of Representatives, Peter King (R) of Iowa. Mr. King wants to amend the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Section 1 states: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law, which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

This section makes it clear that according to the 14th Amendment, anyone born or naturalized within the US territories is therefore a citizen of the United States. The opponents of the 14th Amendment want to exclude this right from those whose parents are not citizens of the United States. According

to experts, it is also clear that states due not have the power to revoke or adjust this provision of the Constitution. The law therefore cannot be change in the view of experts without an amendment to the Constitution.

Opponents of the Dream Act also raised opposition to the 14th Amendment. They claimed that allowing a million plus young people to become citizens would by extension allow them to immediately claim millions of extra people to enter the US. This point of view is clearly an example of people who do not take the time to study the law or the provisions of the proposed Dream Act. In fact, anyone benefiting from the Dream Act would have to wait for 10 years before applying for citizenship. Furthermore, each beneficiary of the Dream Act would have to wait until he/she reached 21 before claiming immediate relatives.

On a more positive note, one of the newly elected governors has taken a common sense approach to dealing with “illegal aliens.” Lincoln Chafee shortly after his being sworn in as Governor of Rhode Island rescinded an executive order that cracked down on illegal immigration, and said he had directed state police to end a federal agreement under which troopers directly assist with immigration enforcement. The agreement, known as 287(g), gave specialized immigration enforcement training to some state troopers, allowing them direct access to an electronic immigration database to quickly check if a suspect in custody is in the country illegally. “My view is that Rhode Island can grow economically by being a tolerant place to do business,” Chafee said. “The immigrant-rich areas, I want to see them prosper, and they need it.” Chafee, a former Republican Senator, reiterated his belief that immigration enforcement needs to be dealt with on a federal level and said he would support measures that provide a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Let hope that more of the State legislators through the country will follow Governor Chafee’s example and come up with sensible and workable solutions to the nations immigration woes.

Don’t We All

I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was waiting for my wife to get out of work.

Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a bum.

From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous but there are other times that you just don’t want to be bothered. This was one of those “don’t want to be bothered times.”

“I hope he doesn’t ask me for any money,” I thought.

He didn’t. He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop but he didn’t look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus. After a few minutes he spoke. “That’s a very pretty car,” he said. He was ragged but he had an air of dignity around him. His scraggly blond beard kept more than his face warm.

I said, “thanks,” and continued wiping off my car.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came.

As the silence between us widened something inside said, “ask him if he needs any help.” I was sure that he would say “yes” but I held true to the inner voice.

“Do you need any help?” I asked. He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never forget.

We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments. I expected nothing but an outstretched grimy hand. He spoke the three words that shook me.

“Don’t we all?” he said. I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a bum in the street, until those three words hit me like a twelve gauge shotgun.

Don’t we all? I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much you have, no matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too. No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can give help.

Even if it’s just a compliment, you can give that. You never know when you may see someone that appears to have it all.

They are waiting on you to give them what they don’t have. A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos, that only you through a torn world can see.

Maybe the man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets. Maybe he was more than that.

Maybe he was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in themselves.

Maybe God looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum, then said, “go minister to that man cleaning the car, that man needs help.”

Don’t we all? *Author Unknown* Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions please fee free to contact me at 312-534-8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.

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My Rose of Tralee Experience

By Julia Rose

Small clouds of fog form around each puff of hot breath as it leaves our mouths and evaporates into the chilly air. Some of us are taking short, anxious breaths. Others are drawing in deep, steady gulps. We're pressed against each other, twenty or so of us, on an outdoor stage at Chicago's annual Irish Fair, awaiting our fate. The colorful lights burn into our exhausted eyes. We flash our smiles and gracefully wave to no one in particular, so tired are we. I can't believe I'm here, I think to myself as I look out upon the sea of eager onlookers. Parents, grandparents, cousins, young girls in Sunday dresses and little boys in colorful Adidas track suits; they're all gathered here to cheer on and support their Irish American girls—young women from all around the Midwest of America, who are here tonight for the opportunity of a lifetime. And as I scan the crowd for my mom's face, I wonder where this moment will go... where this adventure might take me.

I didn't know then, on that cold Chicago night, that a door would be opened. It would open to a world that was beyond anything I could have ever imagined for myself. A world that I now call "home."

It all started for me on January 20th, 2010. While sitting in my room in my raggedy college apartment, I received an email that (unbeknownst to me at the time) would change the trajectory of my life. It was a simple, brief email from my mother with only a link as the message. The link was to a "Rose of Tralee" application. I had heard of the Rose of Tralee competition only once before. Two years earlier, I had gone to Ireland to study abroad. This was at a time during which I had a feverish desire to re-connect with my neglected Irish roots and rebuild what had been lost by way of generational time and geographical distance. I had come to find out more about my heritage.

Early on in my visit, I went to my cousin's home in Ashbourne, Co. Meath. The moment I walked in the back door, I was inundated with a collage of family photographs, cutouts of articles, poems, awards, paintings, and miniature fiddle figurines that covered the walls and adorned the cabinets. My cousins' lives were plastered on every wall, in every nook and cranny. As I made my way around the house exploring each and every artifact, my cousin's wife Bernie took the liberty of telling me the story behind each memento. When we got to one particular photograph, she paused briefly before picking up the frame. There was Bernadette NicGabhann—her daughter (my cousin)—smiling and stunning, wearing a sash that read: "Ros Fodhla." Gazing proudly down at her daughter, Bernie explained, "She was the Irish language and culture Rose back in 2005." I took the picture in my hands, curious and wanting to know more, yet nearly overwhelmed by the myriad stories I had already heard. I decided I would ask more about the Rose of Tralee later. Little did I know it would be two years later... after I received that email.

Figuring the Chicago Rose competition to be an opportunity to now reach out to the Irish American community, I decided to apply. Down into the navy-blue mailbox fluttered the long yellow envelope containing my one-page applica-



(L-R) Shaylin McNamara, Julia Rose McDermott Polk, and Deirdre McNulty

tion and a single color photograph of myself. As I walked away from that somewhat sacred spot on the corner of Clark and Lincoln, I sent up a quick prayer to the cosmos: If it's meant to be, Universe, let it be.

I guess it was meant to be.

On March 13th, after interviews and autographs, I was crowned the 2010 Chicago Rose. On that day, I stepped into the unique and fantastical world that is the Rose of Tralee competition and festival. I haven't looked back since.

I can say this now, as I reminisce over memories from this past year, that becoming the Chicago Rose sent me on one of the most extraordinary journeys of my life. In June I would go to Co. Laois for the Regional competition. In August I would fly back to support my fellow-Roses as they competed in the R.O.T. Finals down in Co. Kerry. I would then spend twelve days traveling the length of the country with friends on a trip that will go down in my memoirs as one of the best holidays of my life. In October, I would experience the craziness of Las Vegas with the Cavan Rose, just before officially moving to Dublin in November.

You see, winning the Rose of Tralee competition may not have been my true destiny, but it surely opened me up to another one. It served as the impetus for a move I would have never imagined for myself, a risk that I might never have taken. And, as I sit here in a coffee shop just a few blocks away from my Dublin flat, having just received a friendly text from a fellow Rose, and as I look through options of what movie to see tonight with my good friend and flat-mate (a two-time former Escort himself), I can only believe that it was a stroke of divine guidance that brought me to this very spot at this very moment. A divine guidance I can gladly name the "Rose of Tralee."

*To purchase your tickets to see the Chicago Rose of Tralee, please go to www.Irish-American.org. Or call: 773-282-7035.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



Chili: The Bowl of Blessedness

Will Rogers, the great journalist, cattleman and profound sage of the above motto and many others, reveled in a good serving of chili. In fact, during his years of traveling, Rodgers kept detailed records of his favorite restaurants and cafes serving the beloved chili. His choice among many was a small café in Coleman, Texas.

Throughout the centuries, chili has fascinated people. The origins, correct herbs and spices and even the debates over ‘beans versus no beans’ have all been hotly (no pun intended) contested and challenged. Old cowboys and the gold and land prospectors of the wild west set up the folklore around this trail standard.

Some legends go far back to the Incas and Aztecs with chili historians stating those early cultures had rough recipes scrawled out about ‘a meat, spices and chile pepper’ mélange, declaring it a bonafide recipe. Others claim it came from Spanish influences, including a Spanish St. Mary, ‘woman in blue’ who actually recited the ingredients. Whenever and wherever it may have originated, all chili aficionados along with most from Mexico emphatically state it is not of Mexican origin. It may have similar ingredients as many Mexican dishes, but Chili con carne is very American.

The ingredients of a classic chili are the meat – usually beef, but can be anything from venison to buffalo to chicken – tomatoes, cumin, oregano, onion and chiles of any dimension, be it dried, powdered, fresh, ground. (Quick note: the pepper is spelled chile and the meat/pepper ‘soup mix’ it is put into is chili).

Many cooks will add their own ‘secret ingredient’ to the pot such as coffee, chocolate and cinnamon. Those additions can enhance a great pot of chili as they do for the renowned Cincinnati chili. But the classic recipe will win the debate. One ingredient however has only

made its way into the pot within the last century, the beans.

To have or have not is the separating line among chili fanatics and the every day chili consumer. The bean is not among the original ingredients and was only added during the Great Depression to fill out a meager serving of meat while keeping the protein counts high. Today, many people wouldn’t even dream of chili without their red kidney beans filling the pot along with an even ratio to meat. However, wander into a chili competition and ask for a bowl of chili with beans and you may be renounced as a greenhorn.

Regardless of the bean affiliation, chili eaters all know what they like. Some may like a slightly spicy or smoky flavor. Others like it hot; still others mild and sweet. The recipes are as numerous as the peppers in the fields. But whether chili is kept for the cold days of fall and winter or entire summers are spent traveling the States with the Chili competitions, it is a long developed, long appreciated recipe that defines the culinary history and creativity of the American southwest. Back in the late 1800’s recently released prisoners of the Southwestern states would write the wardens asking for their big house recipes. Just like Will Rogers, a good bowl of chili is hard to forget.

I included two recipes for chili. The first one was made in my crock pot and from beef. The second is a white chicken chili. It is a little lighter but still packed with flavor. All ingredients are ‘eyeballed’. If you like one flavor more than another, adjust accordingly.

Classic Chili with Beans in Crockpot Serves 4-6

- 1-1/2 lbs. ground beef (I used 85/15)
- 1 can whole peeled tomatoes and juice in can
- 1 can tomato paste
- 2-3 cups low fat, low salt beef broth
- 1-2 T. dried onion
- 2 tsp. to 1 T. each (according to taste)
- Garlic powder
- Onion powder
- Cumin

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 T. olive oil, separated
- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 t. dried oregano
- 1/2 t. chipotle powder
- 1 t. cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1-2 cans white kidney beans (canellini), drained
- 4 cups baby spinach
- Garnish with cheddar cheese and green onion



In medium soup pot, add 2 T. olive oil and heat over medium high heat. Cook chicken in batches until lightly brown. Remove from pot and set aside. Add remaining 2 T. olive oil to pot and cook onions until translucent. Return chicken to pot and sprinkle in flour. Stir chicken and onions until flour coats everything and begins to brown. Add 1 cup of chicken broth and stir, scraping up brown bits. Slowly add rest of broth, stirring to thicken. Add herbs, spices and one can of beans to pot. If chili is too thin, puree 2nd can of beans with a little broth and add to pot. Let simmer for 10 minutes on low, stirring occasionally. Add

- Oregano
- Chili powder
- Salt and pepper
- Red pepper flakes
- 1 can of white (canellini) or red kidney beans
- Garnish with sour cream, cheddar cheese and green onion

Brown beef in skillet. Combine all other ingredients, sparingly at first, in a crockpot. Add drained meat and stir. Adjust all seasonings. Let cook on low in crockpot for 6-8 hours or on high 4-5 hours. Can be made on stovetop, but on simmer for half hour on low to prevent burning.

White Chicken Chili Serves 4-6

- 2-3 large chicken breast, cut into small 1/2 inch dice

spinach to chili and stir in to wilt. Serve hot with shredded cheddar cheese and green onion.

To finish the table, I made an easy recipe of cornbread found on the back of the Quaker brand corn meal. I chopped one jalapeno and added a pinch more salt to bring out the pepper.

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

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Tim McDonnell (center) and Frank Gleeson of the Irish American Heritage Center traveled to Ireland with Irish American News publisher, Cliff Carlson, on a 10-day mission to raise awareness and support for iBAM! Chicago 2011. Pictured on the University Cork College campus are: (l to r) John Fitzgerald, Cronan O Doibhlin, Frank Gleeson, Karen Kelly, Michael Murphy (president), Tim McDonnell, Fiona Kearney, Prof James Knowles, Dr Caroline Crowley, Dr Mel Mercier, Dr Jean van Sinderen-Law.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

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Valentine's Day is fast approaching and love is in the air, or at least in the Fifth Province at the IAHC. We will celebrate the holiday again with our annual Valentine's Day Hooley.

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

To celebrate the holiday, there will be a Lisdoonvarna corner. Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, Ireland, is home to the Lisdoonvarna matchmaking Matchmaking Festival, where each year, swarms of singles travel to meet that someone special.

The IAHC's foray into matchmaking will be set against the backdrop of the Fifth Province's fireplace, with facilitators available to make that perfect match. We have had many folks meet that special someone during the hooley, one match even resulting in a 2008 wedding!

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

The Hooley is Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 8pm. The cost is \$12 and includes light refreshments, live music with Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine, dancing and a cash bar. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or purchase at the door.

A Rose Blooms at the Center

The Center hosts its first annual IAHC Rose of Tralee Selection Night in the 5th Province on February 11th, 2011. One lucky woman between the ages of 18-27 who has never been married and of Irish heritage will be chosen to represent the IAHC in March at the Chicago Rose of Tralee competition.



The Rose of Tralee contest provides enrichment opportunities that encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world.

The Rose of Tralee woman will compete for a spot to win a trip to the Irish Regional ROT Selection in Ireland and other great prizes. To enter the selection in February at the Center, call Deirdre McNulty at (847) 668-0940 or email info@deirdremcnulty.com.

At the Chicago Rose of Tralee in March, up to 40

Celebrate St. Patrick's MONTH at the IAHC

The IAHC continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2011 at the IAHC.

What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof. People wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay late, beating the bar crowds and cold weather.

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the IAHC kicks off the holiday with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish dance event at 7pm. The event showcases more than 150 dancers in one night, from the ages 5-18. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish dancers, all on one stage.

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, the IAHC holds its St. Patrick's Festival

following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities run from 1pm to midnight with live entertainment by

IAHC holds its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Center's Fifth Province Lounge. The day-long event runs from noon until midnight. A St. Patrick's Day Mass will be held at 11:30am. Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish



Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 10. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

On Thursday, March 17, 2011 the

music and food. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

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

St. Patrick's Festival Sat., March 12, 2011

1pm-midnight

Fifth Province

1pm	Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley
3pm	Shannon Rovers
3:30pm	Dooley Brothers
6:30pm	Sandcarvers
9pm	Sullivan Brothers

Erin Room

2pm-2:45pm	Wiggleworms
3:15-4pm	Wiggleworms
5pm	Anish
7:30pm	Mulligan Stew
9:30pm	Ceili

Auditorium

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

Room 310

Time TBA Irish Heritage Singers

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Thurs., March 17, 2011

Noon-midnight

Fifth Province

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



THE HERITAGE LINE

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HERITAGE CENTER CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



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President's Message



What's next for The Irish American Heritage Center?

That sounds like a simple question and its one that I get asked almost every day, but it can be a very loaded question. One of the best things about our Center is that so many people view it as something that they have a personal stake in—and they should. But when people

ask you that question, it's often couched by their own personal expectations of what the Center should be. Sometimes its asked in the way that a parent might question a young son or daughter who is just out of college; what are you going to do with your life? Or maybe it will be asked in the vein of a disappointed teacher who sees a student with so much potential not living up to the teacher's standards. Think about this for a moment, we've all had those moments in life where we were being measured by others' expectations. Now extrapolate that out to the community of thousands of Irish in Chicago each with their own set of

expectations of what an Irish heritage center should be, it's a daunting task, but one that we are up to tackling.

Outside looking in, one might think the Irish in Chicago would be a very homogenous group. Yet we all know that not to be the case. The fabric of that community is extremely diverse and their appetite for Irish culture is as diverse as the beautiful land that creates it. You have people who have immigrated to this land as recently as several days ago to many who have been here 50 years or longer and everything in between. Think of how much Ireland has changed in that time. What constitutes Irish culture to those groups is vastly different. Then you have the whole mass of Irish Americans; first generation, second, third and on and on. Their expectations of Irish heritage and culture are very different again and all over the map. How does one begin to create a place where all these expectations are met?

Not easily, that is for sure. Yet, the Irish American Heritage Center is uniquely poised to do just that. Over the last 25 years, hundreds of dedicated volunteers and members have built a community center that not only has the space and resources to house all these varied versions of culture, but they have built a home. They have built a home for all

Irish: there's a pub, there's a Library, and there are dance lessons, music lessons, theatre, concerts, festivals, parties, benefits, meetings and family gatherings. The sum of all totals is more than 50,000 people coming through our doors on an annual basis! Yet the potential is there for so much more.

So, we get it when people ask us what's next; they want us to live up to those expectations. So after 25 years in our Center, we are that young adult/that student who is now fulfilling potential and setting new expectations. Our goal is to be a home for the entire Irish community while providing experiences for all audiences from tradition music to cutting edge, from bagpipes to step dancing, from poetry to comedy, from pub songs to sold-out concerts, from family parties to festivals of thousands. Our goal is to do all that and do it in a Center that is thriving, authentic, vibrant, exciting, happening and welcoming to all.

We feel that we are well on our way, and as we have done in the past, we plan on getting there together.

Bob McNamara
President, Irish American Heritage Center

Discussion Provides View Into Irish Economy

Join the Center for a lecture and discussion on the current state of Irish affairs and its prospects going forward.

A View Into the Irish Economy features writers Peter Schiff and David Lynch and is moderated by Tom Wright, Executive Director of Studies at Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Schiff delivers lectures at major economic and investment conferences, and is quoted often in the print media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *L.A. Times*, *Barron's*, *BusinessWeek*, *Time* and *Fortune*. He regularly appears on CNBC, CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News Channel, as well as hosting a weekly radio show. As an author, he has written four bestselling books, including his latest: *Crash Proof 2.0: How to Profit from the Economic Collapse and How an Economy Grows and Why It Crashes*.

Lynch returns to the IAHC after his appearance at the

2010 iBAM, where he promoted his new book, *When The Luck Of The Irish Ran Out: The World's Most Resilient Country and Its Struggle to Rise Again*, an account of modern Ireland's journey from rags to riches and back again.

He is a senior writer with *Bloomberg News* in Washington, D.C., focusing on the intersection of politics and economics. Previously, he covered the global economy for *USA TODAY*, where he was the founding bureau chief in both London and Beijing. He covered the wars in Kosovo and Iraq, the latter as an embedded reporter with the U.S. Marines, and was the paper's first recipient of a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University. He has reported from more than 50 countries.

A View Into the Irish Economy is Sunday, March 13 at 4pm and the cost is \$15.

Tickets can be purchased on line at www.irish-american.org, by calling 773-282-7035 or at the door.

Irish Boot Camp

Love all things Irish? Want to learn more but don't know where to start? Join the IAHC for an Irish Boot Camp and learn the basics; down and dirty, in a fun way.

Boot Camp includes basic training in Irish music, dance, history and more. Learn an Irish jig with the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, how to make a real Irish toast and pour the proper pint from a bartender, learn Irish words or phrases from an Irish language teacher to impress your friends or perhaps curse them out!

Irish Boot Camp is Saturday February 26th in the Fifth Province, from 2pm-6pm, with "graduation" beginning at 5:30pm. The cost is \$10 per camper; 21 and over only.

Get ready for St. Patrick's Day active duty by learning what you need to know about all things Irish!

School of Celtic Art

The IAHC's School of Celtic Art continues its classes for art lovers.

Beginning and intermediate art students can take Traditional Celtic Art classes for teens and adults or a Book of Kells Class.

The Celtic Art class is an introduction to easier-than-you think techniques for knotwork, interlacing and color theory. The ten-week class is Tuesday evenings from February 8 to April 19, from 7pm-9pm. The cost is \$135.

The Book of Kells: Its History and Art is a



course that reviews the manuscript's history and examination of its decoration. Students will learn basic easy-to-learn techniques that will add an artistic addition to experiencing the magnificent Book. The 8 week class is February 10 to April 7, with no class March 17, on

Thursday nights from 7pm to 9pm and the cost is \$135.

Want a sneak peek to see if this class is right for you? Attend a *Book of Kells* free introductory lecture and discussion on February 6, from 1pm to 3pm in the IAHC Art Gallery. Come and learn about the Book and its importance in history and see what makes it the most elaborate manuscript of its kind to survive from the Middle Ages. The IAHC Museum has a facsimile of the Book which replicates each page down to the smallest detail.

To register, call Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American
heritage center Chicago, Illinois



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Executive Director's Message

The Streets of New York

On Friday, January 7 in New York City, I proudly represented the Center at a press conference and reception at Lincoln Center for the announcement of a Culture Ireland- sponsored program called Imagine Ireland. Culture Ireland is the Irish government agency responsible for promoting Irish arts worldwide.

The gathering featured speeches by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Mary Hanafin, CEO of Culture Ireland, Eugene Downes, Cultural Ambassador to the United States, Gabriel Byrne, as well as a reading of a Seamus Heaney poem by Colum McCann and music by Martin Hayes, Cathal Hayden and others.

After visiting with my Aunt Margaret and Uncle Henry Austin for a couple of hours of old Irish songs and banter on Friday evening, I had dinner with my cousins and took in a Mickey Finns show with my uncle and cousins at Paddy Reilly's. Great show – look forward to seeing them back at the Center on Saturday, February 5.

Later in the weekend, my Uncle Henry dropped off a batch of photos of my mom from when she was a child in Kildare and then in New York City. Priceless stuff, really, and it was fun to listen to him go through the photos and his recollection of the day that my grandfather picked up my mom and took her to the boat for America. He said he cried the whole walk to school. Who would have thought that less than 20 years later, he would end up intro-

ducing my parents in New York?

On Sunday, I brought my family (mom, dad, sister, brother-in-law and the three children) to attend the Culture Ireland exhibit at the APAP, the Association for Performing Arts Professionals Conference at the Hilton in Midtown. Unfortunately, it was not open to the public, but I was able to get back to the exhibit anyway and ended up meeting a great deal of the talent being exported from Ireland as part of the Imagine Ireland program. I then joined the talent and the Culture Ireland officials for a cocktail reception at the residence of the new Consul General in New York, Mr. Noel Kilkenny. In addition to enjoying some of the best views in the City and seeing old friends of the Center like Dennis Cahill, I made several great new contacts and was invited to take in a reading of *Eva the Chaste* at the American Irish Historical Society (AIHS) on Sunday night. The reading, delivered by Aedin Moloney of Fallen Angel Theatre Company, was gorgeous and a highlight of the weekend for me. The AIHS is a classy, 3-story former residence across from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and was the perfect host for this fine program. Kudos to Mr. Chris Cahill for his hospitality.

What a weekend.

Direct From Ireland

In the interest of theming iBAM! 2011 Direct From Ireland, Cliff Carlson, Frank Gleeson and I took a trip to Ireland for ten days

in late January to begin lining up a program and establishing some support for the event. In a whirlwind tour through Cork, Mayo, Derry, Belfast and Dublin, we met with officials from University College Cork, Crawford Art Gallery, Business-to-Arts, Cork School of Music, 174 Trust, RTE, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Culture Ireland, the Abbey Theatre, Fishamble Theatre and Benbo Productions. We also met with many individual authors, artists, and musicians, as well as the venerable John Hume and Minister Mary Hanafin. We also were able to briefly visit my family in Portumna, Galway, Westport, Mayo, and both my family and Frank's in Dublin. We were very successful in building awareness in Ireland for the Center, its assets and its current endeavors. A sincere thank you to Pat Garvey for his generous donation of our Aer Lingus flights and to Irish American Partnership for coordinating the arrangements. 2011 may be the year where iBAM! becomes the Heritage Center's cornerstone event. Details to come in the months ahead.

Onwards,

Tim McDonnell, Executive Director,
Irish American Heritage Center



A TRIBUTE TO THE CLANCY BROTHERS & TOMMY MAKEM

A special night of song and music in tribute to the men who brought the love of Irish music to millions.

Starring the next generations of Clancys and Makems

THE HIGH KINGS & THE MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS and THE CLANCY LEGACY



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The IAHC Presents
A Tribute to
THE CLANCY BROTHERS and TOMMY MAKEM
Featuring
**THE HIGH KINGS,
MAKEM and SPAIN BROTHERS
and THE CLANCY LEGACY**

From the moment they broke into the music scene in the late 50's and early 60's, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem redefined Irish music. They were instrumental in introducing the music and songs to a new generation in Ireland, America and beyond. They helped to create a passion for Irish music that has lasted for decades and across genera-

tions. In December of 2009, the last of these great troubadours, Liam Clancy, passed away and another chapter in history was closed.

Fortunately for Irish music lovers, the Clancys and the Makems passed on their love of music and their talent to their children. Three groups comprised of the next generation of these families are coming together at the Irish American Heritage Center to pay tribute the group that started it all, with *A Tribute to The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem*.

The High Kings featuring Finbarr Clancy, son of Bobby Clancy, are one the top touring Irish groups internationally. Fresh off of a tour and recent PBS special, The High Kings showcase their incredible versatility and skills as multi-instrumentalists, playing 13 instruments between them, bringing a rousing acoustic flavor to brand new songs as well as some old favorites.

The Makem and Spain Brothers, featuring Tommy Makem's sons; Rory, Shane and Conor are long time favorites at the Center. These lads have made their own way in the world quite nicely. Their rich harmonies and arrangements are second to none, and the passion and joy they give to the music is something in which their parents took great pride.

The Clancy Legacy features Aiofe Clancy, daughter of Bobby, and Robbie O'Connell, a nephew of the Clancys. Both stand-out performers in their own right, Robbie toured with his uncles in the late 70's and 80's and Aiofe toured with Cherish the Ladies. Together they form part of a powerful trio that keeps this famous musical name alive for new generations.

A Tribute to The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem is Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035 or online at www.irishahc.org.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Frankie Gavin & De Dannan in Concert

Saturday, March 19, 2011
8pm
\$25

For tickets, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035.



The Irish in Texas Lecture



Join the IAHC Cultural Committee as it hosts Joan Moody for a lecture on the Irish heritage of Texas.

Moody is a long time member of the Harp and Shamrock Society of Texas. She has served as a Board member, Cusack Award Member, Irishman of the Year and President of the society. Currently, she is a Board Member of the Harp and Shamrock who has worked with the chairman of the San Antonio St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in the development of that parade.

She is a published writer and has written articles on the acculturation of the Irish in Mexico and of the Irish names which became Hispanicized.

Moody will discuss the Irish heritage of her home state and will explain how many of the original Irish names have taken on Hispanic variants.

The Irish in Texas is Sunday, February 27 in the Library at 2pm and is free.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Center continues the tradition of its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this March.

The Fish Fry begins on Friday, March 11 and runs through Friday, April 24, 2011 from 6:30pm-9pm in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music begins at 9pm.

On March 11, kick off the St. Patrick's Day Weekend with the first Fish Fry of the year, which starts at 5:30pm for folks who want to attend Irish Dance Chicago or just start the fun early. Stick around for live music at 8pm with The Chancey Brothers. As an added treat, the authors of the new book, *Chicago's Historic Irish Pubs* will be on hand to sign, sell and discuss their new book at 6:30pm.

Save the Date for Larry Cunningham in Concert!

Saturday, March 26

7pm
\$20

This event is a benefit for Phase 2 of the IAHC Kitchen Renovation.

Think You're So Smart?

Test your trivia knowledge with Quiz Night

The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province Pub.

Remaining Quiz Nights are Friday, February 18, March 18, April 15 and May 20, 2011 at 8pm.

For more information, call 773-282-7035.

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IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

IAHC Annual Appeal

Thanks to all who donated to the 2010 Annual Appeal. The Appeal raised \$51,940, which includes the Pat and Peggy Burke Challenge Grant. The Burkes donated \$1 for every \$2 that was raised.

Your donations to the Appeal enable us to complete and develop projects that will help set the organizations's course for its next 25 years.

We are still accepting donations to the appeal and the names below are donors that gave from October 21 through January 20. The generous donations of the Burkes, the Center's members, volunteers and friends have always been our strongest asset and we appreciate your generosity.

Center Champion (\$1,000-2,499)

Thomas J. Cashman
Tim and Amber McDonnell
John T. McEnroe
Robert and Mary Ann Sheehan
Anonymous

Benefactor (\$500-999)

Thomas J. Boyle
John E. Callahan
James Convery
Jo Ann Fergus
Bernard L. Hollywood
Michael O'Regan and Karen M. Reshkin
Jeanine M. Sheehan

Advocate (\$100-249)

Ann Ahern
Peter Connolly
Eileen M. Costello
Karen Crotty
Walter Crowley
Agnes Curtin
Alan Duggan
Jacquelyn Edwards
Rita Emmett and Bruce Karder
Brenda Fergus
Patrick and Kathleen Fergus
A.M. Freeman
Margaret M. Fric
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gregory, in memory of son Kevin
Charlotte and Tom Hanley
Jane Hayes
Eileen M. Helfenbein
James and Martha Hogan
Mary Ellen Johnston

Advocate (\$100-249) (cont'd)

Jean Anne Kennedy
Margaret E. Lally
Donald Launius
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Luby
Kathleen Mallon and Edward Lesniak
Joseph and Patricia McDonagh
John and Barbara Morrison
Thomas and Ann O'Brien
Peggy O'Grady Trelford
Mary Phee
Elizabeth Rochford
Teresa M. Rupprecht
Bernard H. Ryan, in memory of Patricia E. Ryan
James M. Sheridan, in memory of
Emmett and Eileen Sheridan
David and Bernadette Sippel

Friend (\$1-99)

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Scott Cabaj
M. Kevin Connors
Robert Cribben
Elizabeth Crowley
Robert Dempsey
John A. Donohue
Eileen M. Elenz
Joanne F. Festle
Susanne French and Michael Flug
Henrietta Gallagher
Ann and Tim Geraghty
Michael Gill
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Deborah Hobson
Michael and Agnes Howard
Geraldine B. Liss
Anne Maloney, in memory of husband Patrick
Marialice McCarthy
Martin McDermott
Marianne McGlynn
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGovern
John and Sally McLaughlin
Mary C. McNamara
Mary McTigue
Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Meade
James and Maryann Moseby
John Murray
Anna M. O'Grady
James and Patricia O'Malley
John J. and Donna Quirk
John and Barbara Savage
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Bob and Maryann Smith

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THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN heritage center CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

February 2011

February 2	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Room 109	11am
February 4	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
February 5	Winter Warmup	Fifth Province	7:30pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	7:30pm
February 6	Book of Kells Lecture and Discussion	Art Gallery	1pm
February 10	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
February 11	Rose of Tralee IAHC Selection Night	Fifth Province	8pm
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
February 13	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
February 18	Quiz Night	Room 111	8pm
February 19	Valentine's Day Hooley	Fifth Province	8pm
February 24	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
February 26	Seanachai Theatre's <i>That Was Then</i>	3rd Floor Theatre	7pm
	Irish Boot Camp	Fifth Province	2pm
February 27	Seanachai Theatre's <i>That Was Then</i>	3rd Floor Theatre	3pm
	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	The Irish In Texas Lecture	Library	2pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Celtic Art Class	Room 304	7-9pm
	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Am Rm	6:30-8:30pm
Wed.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
Thurs.	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
	Book of Kells: Its History and Art	Room 304	7pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac. & Dance	Room 111	8pm

Show Your Colors with Dinner Dance

March is practically St. Patrick's Month at the Center and what better way to kick it off in style with the fifth annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance.

Festivities include dancing and music by Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, a sit-down dinner, catered by Harrington's Catering, spot prizes and a raffle. The menu will include corned

beef and cabbage, chicken entrees and more. There will be a cash bar available.

The dance is Sunday, March 6, 2011 from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40.

Reservations are necessary as this event does sell out and tickets will not be sold at the door. To reserve tickets by February 27, call 773-282-7035.

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, 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 _____
Credit Card # _____ Exp _____

3 Digit code on card's back: _____

Individual Membership

Annual dues

\$30/year or \$50/2 years

Family Membership

\$40/year or \$60/2 years

\$250 - Harper

3-year membership
no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership
no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

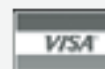
10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2010

Fri, 2/4	Ceili Mor
Sat, 2/5	Winter Warmup 7:30pm, \$5
Fri, 2/11	Gerry Carney Direct from Ireland 8pm, \$10
Sat, 2/12	The Dooley Brothers
Fri, 2/18	Matt Stedman
Sat, 2/19	Valentine's Day Hooley, 8pm, \$12
Fri, 2/25	Joe McShane
Sat, 2/26	Barry Fagan's Band



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

No Cover
Free Parking

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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways, follow the IAHC on



Facebook and Twitter



Question about Membership?

Change of address? Email us at membership@irishahc.org with your membership questions.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors:

Mary Griffin
Deirdre McNulty
Leslie Singel

Tim McDonnell
Mary Morris

Bob McNamara
Sheila Murphy

Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Time Tested Values For The Future

"...people want their garbage picked up, police and fire protection, safe neighborhoods, a livable city..."

In this time of heightened political awareness (with so many candidates vying for office), those are the basic needs of citizens.

When our ancestors arrived in this country there was no governmental support, or any other form of help. They were despised by the political and social establishments. They tolerated them only because they worked in their factories, mines, etc. Who helped them, and who provided those basic services for them? The political machines did. Of course, it was understood you would support the ward leaders with your vote. But who were they going to vote for anyway, the people who despised you?

The ethnic neighborhoods, with their strong ward organizations, are things of the past. But the human values prized and epitomized by them are valuable today and tomorrow.

Mark Quinn has written two exciting novels about city politics and the values of loyalty, courage and quick thinking. Those books are: *The Chairman: A Novel of Big City Politics* and *The Chairman's Challenge: A Continuing Novel Of Big City Politics*.

These marvelously imaginative books were created by Mark Quinn. Who is Mark Quinn? He is a Chicagoan, who grew up in a "machine dominated ward." He lives now in Naperville with his wife, Susan, and their three children.

Quinn produces a blog called www.insightfulpontificator.com. I read it everyday- for its brilliant insight into current events and for its beautiful

use of language. I strongly recommend it – to anyone interested in city, state or national politics, current news items, and for its vibrant, powerful language.

Who is the Chairman? He is Eamon DeValera Collins. He is a fictional ward leader: alderman and ward committeeman. He is the former chairman of the City Council Zoning Committee. Hence, he is called Chairman by everyone. He personifies the values of loyalty, courage and quick thinking. He is loved by the people in his ward. And his political foresight has brought him to the heights of power and influence.

Why do sanctimonious do-gooders call ward leaders, like this Chairman, "corrupt ward bosses?" But when a CEO ships jobs to China, thereby destroying the lives of American workers, he is called a business visionary? And what does corrupt mean, anyway?

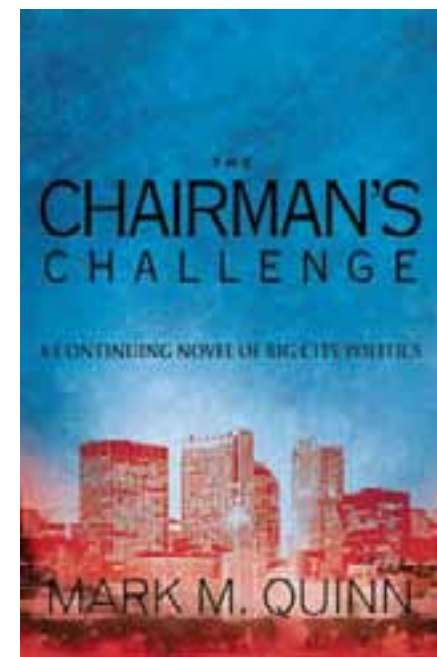
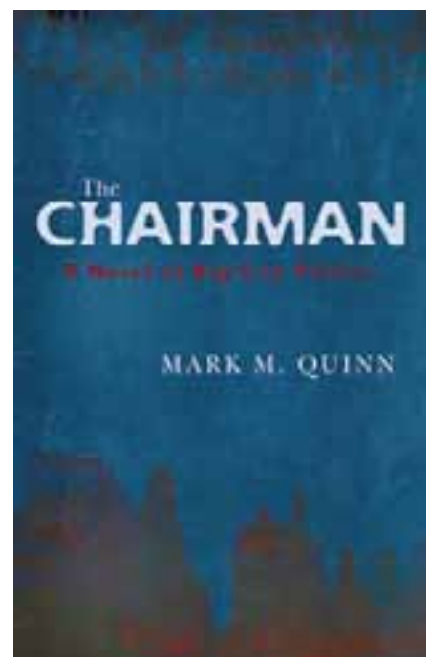
Wow what books! They are well written, have great character development (the characters are so real I can see them), and show excellent use of language.

They are so well written, that I frequently read passages over and over.

The powerful use of words and the structure of sentences are beautiful things themselves. Every word is meaningful, sentences are long and complete (no journalistic style writing here), dialogue is concise and to the point. There's no wasted word in these books.

Also Quinn develops a constant sense of excitement—life is on the move, something is going to happen next.

The characters in these books are not based on



real people in Chicago's political world. Authors receive ideas for plots and characters from many sources. Thoughts from the present, impressions of events and people from years of experience enter the author's conscious and subconscious mind. The author then creates believable characters. Quinn peoples these books with lively, energetic characters.

I am constantly amazed at how topical the books are. And you definitely don't have to be a political junkie to appreciate them. This is because they reflect human needs and values. Loyalty, courage and quick thinking are valuable goals for anyone now and for the future.

By loyalty, the Chairman and Mark Quinn, mean steadfast loyalty to your friends, your beliefs, to the place where you live, and above all—loyalty to your own sense of self.

The Chairman discusses a national trend: "After all, what's more conservative than family, neighborhood and church? We're involved

in these things that really matter, so we are the essence, really, of conservatism."

Someone then asks the Chairman if he is a good government guy. He answers: "Yeah... I am a good government guy. And you know why? Good government is good politics. If we don't deliver effective government... clean streets, good police protection, efficient services, and low taxes, then we're [not going to be reelected]."

I wish all of our public servants had the self respect and nobility to pursue the Chairman's goals.

The Chairman: A Novel of Big City Politics by Mark Quinn. Amazon Group/Amazon.Com, 2009. 378 Pages, \$15.99

The Chairman's Challenge: A Continuing Novel Of Big City Politics by Mark Quinn. Trafford Publishing, Bloomington, In/888-232-4444 or Trafford.Com: 2010, 320 Pages, \$19.99.

Both of these outstanding books are available at many local bookstores.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Shattered Globe will present Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, through February 27, 2011, at the



(L-R) Linda Reiter (Mag) and Eileen Niccolai (Maureen) star in Shattered Globe Theatre's production of Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* running through February 27, 2011, at the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago. Photo Credit: Kevin Viol.

Athenaeum Theatre, Studio 2, 2936 N. Southport in Chicago. Filled with

biting humor and unforg-

gettable characters, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* tells the story of Maureen, a sardonic 40-year-old Irishwoman, whose brash exterior masks an uncertain past. Embittered by years of servitude under her demanding mother, Maureen unexpectedly crosses paths with a man from her girlhood, who sparks the hope of escape and unleashes a series of events that disrupts the rural tranquility of County Connemara.

800-982-2787 or www.shatteredglobe.org.



Flanagan's Wake

Flanagan's Wake, sponsored by Ballydoyle Irish Pub, is the hilarious interactive wake which debuts Feb. 12, and runs for 12 weeks every Saturday and Sunday through May 8 at the Copley Theatre, 8 East Galena Blvd. in Aurora, IL. Ballydoyle restaurant extends the Irish tradition of sipping a good brew by offering ticketholders a free mug with the purchase of a McCaffrey's Ale when they show their ticket stub after a performance. Ballydoyle Irish Pub, 28 W. New York St., is a short walk from the Copley Theatre.

Set in the beautiful fictional village of Grapplin, County Sligo, Ireland, audience members join the villagers as they tell tales, sing songs and mourn the passing of one of their own, Flanagan. Spectators are welcome to share tales of their personal experiences and misadventures with dear old Flanagan or simply enjoy the stories and songs of the locals as they recall life with "Himself." Be prepared to grieve as only the Irish can! According to Brian Ballybunion, Flanagan's best friend and drinkin' mate, "We'll keep waking him until we get it right!"

www.ParamountAurora.com or call the box office at (630) 896-6666.

The Boys Room

Victory Gardens will present the world premiere of *The Boys Room* by Ensemble Playwright Joel Drake Johnson. The production runs through February 20, 2011 at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Park.

When the going gets tough, just move in with mom! Middle-aged brothers Ron and Tim are

running. One is running away from his marriage, and the other is simply tired of running after the American dream. They return to the empty nest and set up a sanctuary in their boyhood bedroom. On the other side of the door, the women in their lives urge them to grow up.

773-871-30001; email tickets@victorygardens.org; or visit www.victorygardens.org.



Nominate a Rose

roseoftralee

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Chicago Rose of Tralee

Enter to represent Chicago in Ireland for the 2011 Rose of Tralee Regional Selection in June and compete in Ireland to return for the International Selection in August for the experience of a Lifetime!

There will be only 40 girls chosen from the Chicagoland area to participate in this year's selection to be held March 11, 2011 during the Irish American Heritage Center Festival weekend in Chicago. The selection will take place in the elegant Erin Ballroom and the 40 winners will participate in the entire weekend festival that will include bands, vendors, parades and more. The staged event will be held Friday and the winner will be announced on Saturday evening.

DEADLINE: All preliminary applications need to be in the hands of the Committee no later than February 28, 2011.

Chicago Rose of Tralee Rose Entry Form

THIS PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS FREE!

Name: _____

Date of Birth: (MM-DD-YY) _____ Email: _____
(Must be 18 years old by January 1, 2011)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

In a paragraph, tell us why you want to be the Chicago Rose of Tralee:
(You can add a sheet of paper to this application if you do not have enough room)

Irish Organizations and Clubs you are affiliated with:

Irish surnames in your family: _____

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

For more information visit our website at www.chicagoroseoftralee.com and the International website at: www.roseoftralee.ie

Rules:

- *You must be available the entire weekend, March 11, 12 & 13th.
- *You must be 18 by Jan 1, 2011 and not more than 27 years old as of the last night of the Rose of Tralee International Festival on August 23, 2011.
- *Able to travel to Ireland for the Rose of Tralee Regionals - Rose 2-5 (plus travel) and if chosen at the Regionals, return for the two-night televised Rose of Tralee International Festival - August 14-23 (plus travel).
- *Preliminary Application is in the hands of the Committee no later than February 28, 2011.
- *If chosen as one of the 40 Chicago Finalists from the preliminary application, you agree to accept a \$300 sponsorship fee. (This can include businesses, friends and family).
- *If selected, must reside in the Chicagoland area during region. Exception if selected an International Rose of Tralee, then may elect to exercise option to reside in Ireland during International Rose of Tralee, then may elect to exercise option to reside in Ireland during her reign.

Please mail completed entry to:

Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo | Chicago Rose of Tralee | 11137 S. Artesian | Chicago, Illinois 60655 | 773-239-3927

Or complete Preliminary Rose entry form on our website at: www.chicagoroseoftralee.com

Hurry - Once the 40 spots are filled - registration will be closed!

So Turn The Door and Open A Life of Possibility

By Frank West

The New Electric Ballroom by Enda Walsh, is about needing human closeness. And Walsh suggests what we can do to fulfill this very basic human need.

However, typical of Irish playwrights—like Shaw, Wilde and McPherson—this theme is presented in a gentle, subtle way—very subtle.

Enda Walsh, the playwright of *The New Electric Ballroom*, is a part of that great tradition.

The focus of the play is on three middle aged sisters who compulsively relive their teenage years, with their lost opportunities for life. They never could, and can't, answer the question "What it is to be a woman?" These bitter and reclusive women complain about the human need to talk and to desire human warmth. One of them even says: "...far deeper than the talking, is the need to connect somehow. To belong."

In the same scene, a short while later, she says: "And the 'hard truth' reminds us that we'll always be alone..." Walsh has a character state (quoted in the title), what we can do to fulfill this very basic human need.

Robin Witt, director of the play, says it is a sad, lyrical and funny play about sisters who avoid life by reliving over and over, a traumatic event from their long-past teenage days."

Later Witt says: "Walsh hints at the possibility of escape from the devastating cycle of heart-break... he writes one of the most profoundly moving descriptions of love won and lost that I have ever read."

The play has four characters- the three intensely frustrated sisters, and a man who delivers fresh fish to their house.



He is played by Guy Van Swearingen. Some years ago, I saw him in *Gargarinway*. I still remember the scenes his acting made so memorable. These scenes were quietly powerful. I am looking forward to enjoying his acting skills again.

The New Electric Ballroom is a play that is strongly evocative of the possibilities of life. It is full of insight and is performed by an excellent ensemble.



It will be produced now through March 6 at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 M. Wells (at North Ave. and across from O'Briens).

It is performed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8:00, and Sundays at 3:00. The box office number is 312-943-8722 or redorchidtheatre.org.

Lord of The Dance Tour at Rosemont For Two Shows Only

Bill Clinton was President when Chicago native Michael Flatley created and launched *Lord of the Dance* (lordofthedance.com). Fifteen years later, the world's highest grossing Irish Dance show is still selling out around the world. Generations of audiences have seen *Lord of the Dance*. Presented by Magic Arts & Entertainment and Global Entertainment Group, *Lord of the Dance* performs at the Rosemont Theatre for two shows, Saturday, Feb. 26 at 2pm and 8pm.

Lord of the Dance is a classic tale of

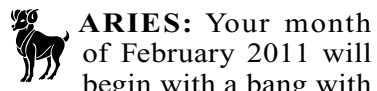
good versus evil, based on Irish folklore that brings a passionate love story to life. Flatley, along with Dance Director Marie Duffy-Pask, hand picked the cast of more than 40 dancers; each has achieved individual recognition as a national or worldwide dance champion.

The story is based upon mythical Irish folklore as Don Dorcha, Lord of Darkness, challenges the ethereal lord of light, the Lord of the Dance. Battle lines are drawn, passions ignite and a love story fueled by the dramatic leaps

and turns of dancers' bodies begins to build against a backdrop of Celtic rhythm. The action is played out over 21 scenes on a grand scale of precision dancing, dramatic music, colorful costumes and state-of-the-art staging and lighting. rosemonttheatre.com or Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000.



Photo by Ken Howard



ARIES: Your month of February 2011 will begin with a bang with planet Jupiter entering your sign of Aries. This is big news because the great planet of luck hasn't been here since 12 years ago! For a whole year you will be able to have your cake and eat it too! Play the lotto, or go on a health and fitness improvement regimen.



TAURUS: You will have some hidden benefactor(s) while Jupiter hovers in your 12th sector of behind the scenes activity. The folks and or the circumstances that are benefiting you in subtle ways may never be known to you, but know that this could well be due to your good karma.



GEMINI: Your friends are going to be key to your development in the future while Jupiter joins forces with planet Uranus to bring swift recognition to you. The combination of this special duo can often bring some measure of fame. Make sure you become famous for the right reasons and not notorious for the wrong ones.



CANCER: You may well be the recipient of the benefit of the resources of others. This could come in the form of

Horoscope



Theresa Castro

an inheritance or insurance payment. Some of you may sadly reap the benefits through the death of another. We hope this is not the case. Anyway, some "crabs" may also get relief in the home environment.



LEO: You are due to see a change within your personal life this February 2011. Some may tie the knot; others will separate from or terminate a close emotional tie. While some of you will enter a rivalry with respect to your personal life or career world. You'll know.



VIRGO: Your finances are growing tighter by the month these days. You are now finding new creative ways to budget the income with the outgo and trimming unnecessary expenses. You can also find ways not to feel deprived of your favorite stuff but on a much smaller scale. It's a Virgo thang!



LIBRA: You are finding the energy to do great things now that planet Mars is assisting you. You could be successful in educating somebody special or

gaining some advantage in the competition in your chosen field. Nobody can keep up with you now because the planets of action and initiative are in your blood right now. However or whatever is in your cross hairs cannot escape you!



SCORPIO: Planet Venus is in your second sector of financial interests is helping you pay for your necessities and budgeting yourself so that you can meet your obligations. It is a tough time but you will be able to make the most of rising costs with dwindling resources. Good job!



SAGITTARIUS: You will be able to woo the person of your dreams as planet Venus is in your first sector of first impressions. This time will help you to improve your looks or spruce up your wardrobe to look and feel your best this February 2011. It is the perfect time also to get a jump on that New Years resolution to quit the beer and focus on the mirror!



CAPRICORN: Planet Pluto is in your sign until 2023 so you have plenty of time to make yourself over! Pluto is the ultimate planet of transformation that if it hits your chart in specific places can bring the experiences of a lifetime! Planet Venus will join Pluto in February 2011 to bring possible changes in your finances and or your personal life. Hold on for the ride!



AQUARIUS: Planet Neptune is teaming up with asteroid Chiron to get you hooked up with something good. Depending on how your chart is arranged, you could find yourself in a binding relationship with your significant other. Don't worry if you do not have a sweetheart in your life. You may have one soon!



PISCES: As Jupiter moves into your second sector of finances, Chiron is moving into your sign with his magic to bring you whatever it is in life you like. Usually Chiron brings love, and romance but also marriage and children. Having said that, now take proper precautions not to get more than you bargained for!



Thomas G. Mulvey
M.S., P.T., M.B.A.

Thomas Mulvey founded **Athletex Sports and Orthopedic Physical Therapy** in 1992 with the mission of offering quality rehabilitation that educates the patient from acute onset to their maximal functional level.

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WHERE EVERY PATIENT IS TREATED LIKE A CHAMPION!





Piping It In

Jack Baker



Okay, I goofed. I freely admit it. It doesn't happen too often (no snickering) but when it does I admit it. Several months ago Anita Daly, one of the best music reps in the business, sent me a CD which I just went silly over. Played the bloody thing on Shay's radio show and he went silly over it, and the phone lines lit up because the folks hearing it went silly too. It was just that good. The album was George Murphy and the Black Donnellys' *The Ballads of Archie Thompson*. Blew me away, it did. George is from the North Dublin suburb of Beaumont and has one of the best voices I've ever heard. Described as a "wildly evocative Dublin Howl" in Irish music magazine *Hot Press*, George's voice lends itself superbly to tunes like "The Foggy Dew" and "Peggy Gordon." I have to say that, to me, George Murphy performs the definitive version of "The Auld Triangle," even better than my previous favorite Luke Kelly (lightening

strike me on the spot if I'm lying). The rest of the tunes on the CD are a nice mix of traditional and contemporary, having one thing in common, that being George's outstanding performance. So why did it take so long to review this classic CD? Actually, I thought I did, but somehow it slipped thru the cracks in my mind, more of those every day. When I was lamenting a shortage of new music to review, Anita sweetly reminded me that I hadn't mentioned George Murphy yet, and she was right. I felt terrible, because I consider it my duty to alert my readers to great music when it pops up, and this is one of the best to appear in 2010. Okay, I feel better now.

Speaking of feeling better in these cold miserable days of midwinter (I really don't like winter) I find that there are certain CDs that really tend to do the trick this time of year. I find myself listening quite a bit to Tommy

Makem, Eric Bogle, Ed Miller, Brian McNeill and Stan Rogers. My collection of Stan Rogers recordings has just increased with the addition of a lovely new CD called *The Very Best of Stan Rogers*. Stan's widow, Ariel, recently undertook the huge job of remastering the first five of Stan's albums and, in answer to the call for a "Best of," did one. Choosing her 16 favorite tracks had to be difficult, but I think she did a great job. Everyone



will have at least one of Stan's classics that they feel belongs here, but didn't make the cut (for me it's "Bluenose") but I think you'll love this CD all the same. Being newly remastered, the tracks make it sound like you're front row center listening to Stan in the flesh. It's a lovely experience. Also, speaking of Stan Rogers recordings, you can find the best version of "Bluenose" on the 1993 recording *Home in Halifax*. Recorded March 12, 1982, at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, this recording has many of Stan's most popular songs plus all of the stage talk that his concerts were famous for. A hot cup of tea with just a taste of whiskey, a comfy chair, good friends, and

Stan Rogers singing "Field Behind the Plow" will warm a winter's day and make you feel just fine. Stan was with us for too short a time, but he left us some wonderful music. It has always been a special pleasure of mine to turn people on to Stan Rogers. I always keep his stuff in stock.

Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band Fundraiser

One of Chicago's oldest pipe bands, the Chicago Highlanders, is planning to warm up the first Saturday in March with an afternoon fundraiser. Always one of the most family-friendly bands, the Highlanders have come up with a novel method to raise money in a manner in which you can involve the whole family. The event will be on Saturday, 5 March, at Durty Nellie's Pub, 180 N. Smith Street in Palatine. The cool part is that it takes place from 2 till 6pm, in the afternoon! You can bring the kids, have lunch, listen to the band and solo pipers, try a chance at the raffle and no drunks. If you've been interested in joining a band, or in having the kids learn piping and/or drumming, here's your chance to talk to members of one of the finest organizations around and, at the same time, do your bit to help keep this fine group solvent. As I've harped on many a time, it takes a good bit of change to put a pipe band on the street. All the bands have to hustle to stay in the black, and we can help. Admission is, I think, \$5 at the door, a deal for a fun afternoon of piping with a great bunch of folks. See ya there.

My son, Ian, is currently playing drum with the Dundee Scottish Pipe

Band and he asked me to invite anyone interested in playing drum with a pipe band to contact him. They're short of drummers and they'll train you to do it. Again, it's a good band for kids to learn in. Their practice is held on Monday nights in West Dundee. You can reach the band manager thru dundeescottish.org.

Final item this month is that most unique festival, Reenactor Fest. This year, their seventh, the folks putting this puppy together have decided to change the name to "Military History Fest" in an attempt to clear up some of the most commonly asked questions on their web site. Running three days, February 18th, 19th & 20th, it will be held in Wheeling, IL, at the Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel. The website is www.reenactorfest.com and you really need to check it out to get an idea of all the stuff that will be going on there. This year, for example, they've added dance instruction for Irish dance, Scottish dance and swing dance. Military reenactors from all periods, ancient Greece to Viet Nam are in attendance. Civilian reenactors are also represented extensively. It's a great place to take the family; everybody gets to learn here, not just the kids. There are also ample opportunities to shop for all things historical. If you're looking to join a group, or work up a historical impression of your own, this is a super opportunity to talk with individuals and groups who will have displays at the show. Saturday night will feature the most interesting dance you can imagine, where you can see uniforms of all historical eras and celebrants in a multitude of costumes. It fairly boggles the mind, but it's all fun. Another good way to brighten up February.

Reports keep coming to me about Irish import stores closing and pubs laying off workers due to poor sales. We all need to remember to keep our community healthy by shopping at your local Irish store and dropping by your local pub for a pint. Times may be tough, but they've been tough before, and we're no lightweights at coping with tough times. We are doubly blessed in the Chicago area with the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park. We need to keep these fine places healthy. So stop in for a meal or a libation, and attend the functions they put on. Together we'll make it through to Spring.

Thanks to all who help me put my musings on paper; your input is very special to me. You can catch me at the store in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or email pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainté.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Female Singer of the Decade

Cathie Ryan is the pre-eminent singer/songwriter of her generation in Irish music. We have said that to you 20 times over the last 20 years. No secret. If you have heard her, you know it is true. If you have not heard her, you have not heard real Irish music. She is the Queen. Since she wisely left Cherish the Ladies 15 years ago, she has

blazed new creative paths down which scores of other singers have followed. But, she is the leader. A perfectly gorgeous voice blends with unexcelled songwriting abilities. To a small degree, we are all played out about Cathie. We have used all the adjectives we know. She won this Award 10 years ago, and here she is again. An unstoppable beacon of taste and excellence. What else can we say, except get her music! You'll hear the greatest female Irish singer of all time. There. It has been said. Because, it is true. Beautiful music from a beautiful soul.

Male Singer of the Decade

Len Graham. No man has done more for Irish song than this sensational voice from Co. Armagh. He and his wife, Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, have both done so much for the real Irish music. Hundreds of songs, both in Irish and English, have been discovered or rediscovered by Len Graham. He is a researcher, as well as a wonderful singer. His voice. How to describe it? Think, cognac meets cream.

Smooth. Lovely. Real. In every generation, there is a singer and student like this. Thank God that in our generation it is Len Graham. There is none better. The King. Long will he rule.

Vocal/Instrumental Group of the Decade

We are out of words about the Munnelly Band. Whether it be with Andrew Murray, Shauna Mullin, or Kat Eggleston at the vocals, this talented group IS the best, driven by the Bullet from Belmullet (we love that phrase and wish we would have come up with it!) on button box. This group has consistently purveyed the very tops in Irish music for the last 10 years. Another surprisingly easy choice. The best live show in the business, and superior musicianship fused into something indescribable, as is an indescribably wonderful Munnelly, himself. Dear God. Munnelly. No act more fun and no act with more talent.

Composer of the Decade

The alpha and omega of Irish composition is Shaun Davey. Everyone else simply watches what he is doing, listens carefully, and tries to catch up. We don't use

Continued on Page 31

Part Two

Thus is Part Two of the "Best of The Decade in Irish Music" list in the *Irish American News*. (Part One appeared in the January edition.)

Male Newcomer of the Decade

Paddy Homan burst onto the Irish music scene in the late 2000's. His first, self-titled album redefined what it means to be an "Irish tenor." When we think of an Irish tenor, we think of some lad in a tuxedo and patent leather shoes on a concert stage. Paddy is more comfortable in a shirt and slacks. But, the voice. A gift from God. Paddy has done his homework, all right. He knows the music, he knows the songs. But good Lord, does he know how to sing them! Paddy Homan is the



Male Newcomer of the Decade - Paddy Homan

best male Irish singer we have ever heard. We said that when his album first came out, and we say it still. It is really no "choice" at all. Like Jimmy Keane, anyone who hears Paddy says, "Sure, he's the best, I mean... he's the best." He's a great guy, and all the rest. But what he really is, is a provocateur of the soul. It is as if God said, "I guess after all these centuries, I'll make the perfect Irish voice." That's Paddy. Perfect.

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Celebrating 90 Years of Forming Families

The Feast of St. Valentine offers us a great opportunity to appreciate and recognize all those we love and value in our lives.

Everywhere I go, I am reminded that Catholic Charities has a rich history of caring for children and families; and of all the ways that we enable people to create joyful, loving family relationships.

At board and committee meetings, Catholic Charities fundraisers and social events, I often hear happy, touching exclamations: "My sister is adopted from Catholic Charities!" or "We have wonderful children and grandchildren because of Catholic Charities!" or a note enclosed in a donation letter: "I want Catholic Charities to know how blessed I feel..." because a grandchild has been added to

the family through adoption.

The Institutional History of the Archdiocese of Chicago states: "In February of 1921, the Catholic Home Bureau [now known as the Catholic Charities Maternity/Adoption Department] was incorporated so that it would have the legal authority to place the infants from the Misericordia Hospital and Home for Infants in adoptive homes." In succeeding decades, Catholic Charities would also place thousands of children from St. Vincent's Orphanage in Chicago in adoptive homes. Today, we still have loving, caring birth parents who believe that the courageous decision of adoption provides the best opportunity for their newborn's future.

As we have for the last 90 years, we continue to listen with compassionate understanding to families and teens in whatever circumstances they find themselves; and to assist them as they make decisions for their lives and the lives of their children. And we provide professional services to all members of the Adoption triad: adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents. We place infants and children who do not have a permanent home with loving adoptive parents; and we prepare and educate adoptive families for the life-long commitment of raising children.

Since our founding in 1917, Catholic Charities has served the cause of life through all our programs by strengthening and supporting families and children. We particularly welcome the opportunity to provide permanent, loving homes for children through domestic and international adoption.

Norene Chesebro, Director of the Department of Maternity/Adoption, and her professional staff assure that life-affirming support for families is available

to assist women or families experiencing any difficult situation or decision regarding pregnancy.

- Catholic Charities can support a pregnant teen with an unplanned pregnancy; or a new parent who needs supportive services as she cares for her newborn child.

- We can ensure that a mother and child, or mother and father, receive the time and space to put together a realistic plan for the child, mother and father as they begin care for their newborn.

- Catholic Charities provides counseling, registry services and ongoing support to birth parents, adults who were adopted, and adoptive families through our Post-Adoption services.

- Catholic Charities Maternity-Adoption Department also provides Outreach Services, and Informational and Educational Meetings, to schools, hospitals, community organizations and parishes.

The Adoption Guild of Catholic Charities was founded in the 1970s by adoptive parents, and encouraged by Catholic Charities' beloved Father Roger Coughlin of happy memory, to provide mutual support, education, and fund-raising for our Maternity and Adoption Services. The

Guild brought together adoptive children, parents, grandparents, adult adoptees and other family members on several occasions each year to celebrate and share their experience. Thankfully, their work goes on today to inspire other families.

To celebrate our Maternity/Adoption Department's 90th anniversary, please join us on Thursday, February 10, at McCormick Place, for the Chicago Auto Show's "First Look for Charity," which will benefit Catholic Charities Maternity and Adoption Programs, as well as Catholic Charities "Neighbors in Need" program that provides food, clothing and shelter for low-income and homeless individuals and families. For information about this event, call (312) 948-6797. To register to attend, go to www.catholic-charities.net/firstlook.

For more information about adoption services, call (312) 655-7086; or e-mail: adoptions@catholiccharities.net.

God bless you and your families.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago was founded in 1917 to serve those in need. Today, Catholic Charities serves Cook and Lake Counties with 156 programs for children, families, seniors and our neighbors in need.

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Ed McElroy, host of "The Ed McElroy Show" recently interviewed Michelle Holmes, editor of the SouthtownStar newspapers and Mort Franklin, retired Army, Navy and Merchant Marine who was deployed in the Pacific, Okinawa and Korea. He is now a resident of Crestwood. Pictured (L-R) are Michelle Holmes, Ed McElroy and Mort Franklin.

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Irish Crowd Can Help Brian Magee Overcome 'World Best' Lucian Bute

By Leonard Gunning



March 2011 could turn out to be the most memorable month in Irish boxing history.

New York-based Andy Lee is still being muted as a potential challenger for leading middleweight Sergio Martinez on HBO, Limerick's 122-lb whirlwind, Willie Casey now firmly securing a fight with WBA super-bantam champion Guillermo Rigondeaux and Belfast's experienced battler Brian Magee put pen to paper and landing an opportunity to face IBF super-middleweight champion Lucian Bute, Irish eyes could be smiling even brighter than they usually do in the merry month of March.

Magee's good fortune came as a host of super-middleweight contenders have been ruled out of a bout with Bute as a result of either being injured, unavailable through participation in Showtime's Super-Six tournament or having been already defeated by Bute, so Magee has snapped at the chance to challenge the Romanian-born boxer fighting in his adopted home of Montreal, Canada on March 19.

Magee, 34-3-1 (KO 24), is undaunted by the prospect of stepping through the ropes of the Bell Centre in Montreal, a venue Bute has now firmly made his home turf over the past 7 seven, and the Belfast fighter is looking for some of the locals to back him instead of his interloping foe by making a plea to the thousands of Irish-Canadians in Montreal to come out and support him on the day before their St. Patrick's Day parade, which is the longest running parade in the world.

"It's a good time of the year - St. Patrick's Day!" exclaimed Magee, "there are 160,000 Irish in Montreal,

so I would say a few of them will get into the stadium to support me."

The Irish boxer, who recently made the first defence of his European crown, is on somewhat of a roll being unbeaten in 5 years and 10 contests, a record stretching back to an 11th round stoppage defeat at the hands of current WBC champ, Carl Froch.

After a move to join Belfast-based Panamanian trainer Bernardo Checa at the St. Agnes Gym, Magee has enjoyed probably of the best year of his pugilistic career. First dismantling Mads Larsen in Denmark back in January and then defeating Armenian Roman Aramian at Dublin's National Stadium.

It was anticipated that Magee would then tussle against German-based Dimitry Sartison, for his WBA title, but now fellow southpaw Bute, 27-0 (KO 22), has handed Magee the chance of a lifetime and the Lisburn boy is not underestimating the enormity of the task he has been set.

"There is a lot of homework to be done. He (Bute) is rated as the best in the world in the division by all the critics, 27 wins with 22 knockouts, so he is at the top of his game and fighting at his peak at the moment, so it's going to be a tough fight," acknowledged the softly spoken Continental champ.

"Once I get in there it's just the two of us, it's like the fight I had again Larsen, a guy with 50 odd fights and 38 knockouts, but a record is a record, at the end of the day it can be padded up but you have to be focused - it's just you and him and nothing else matters," added Magee, who is rated as the #1 Irish super-middleweight in the latest Boxing-Ireland.com rankings.

The clash with Bute will be beamed live across North America and provide Magee which the level of exposure which has eluded him for the majority of his career.

"The fight is going to be seen worldwide. If I beat this guy it's better than winning the Lottery - it's the EuroMillions!" laughed Magee, "It's the biggest fight of my career to date, I said that about the last one as well but this one is even bigger again, God knows what the next one is going to be!"

Magee may need that Irish-Canadian crowd fully behind him as Bookmakers consider Magee's chances of victory to be slim, with odds of 1/14 being offered on the Romanian champion retaining his IBF title.

The Pat Magee managed fighter will enjoy his underdog status, a tag he also carried into his bout with Mads Larsen, and value may be garnered from the 20/1 odds being offered for a Magee points victory in the French-speaking province of Quebec.

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Chicago Celtic Soccer Club is looking for new players for their Men's Over 30's and Sunday Morning teams. All games are played in the Northwest suburbs.

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Celtic Woman Coming to Chicago

Celtic Woman, a smash hit around the globe, returns with their most recent live show! The awe-inspiring vocalists along with their mesmerizing violinist continue to capture the hearts of fans across the country. Their Emmy-nominated television special, *Celtic Woman—Songs from the Heart*, filmed live from Powerscourt House

Street in Chicago, will welcome Celtic Woman to the stage on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 8pm and Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 2pm. In this special performance, fans will have the opportunity to experience Celtic Woman’s most dazzling production yet, featuring renditions of “Amazing Grace,” Andrew Lloyd Weber’s “Pie Jesu,” and Irish



and Gardens in Ireland, is a blockbuster on PBS. Come see Celtic Woman with their 6 piece band and the Aontas Choir perform unique renditions of Irish standards, classical favorites and contemporary hits. Celtic Woman—Songs from the Heart promises to be a live concert event that you and your entire family will never forget!

The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State

classic “My Lagan Love.” The tour is a true celebration of Ireland and the pure essence of Celtic Woman.

Tickets are available at the box office, all Ticketmaster outlets and Ticketmaster phone charge (800-745-3000).

Online: thechicagotheatre.com and ticketmaster.com.

Please note: No Camera/Video/Recording

Goodman Theatre Invites the Belarus Free Theatre to Chicago

Belarus Free Theatre’s *Being Harold Pinter* opens January 27-29 at Goodman Theatre; limited Chicago debut engagement continues at Northwestern University (February 4-6, 11-13), and Chicago Shakespeare Theater (February 18-20)

Being Harold Pinter, adapted and directed by Vladimir Shcherban, produced by Nikolai Khalezin and Natalia Koliada, at three Chicago venues, January 27 – February 20, 2011. This Chicago premiere is presented by Goodman Theatre in association with Northwestern University, Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the League of Chicago Theatres.

Being Harold Pinter arrives in Chicago on the heels of its sold-out engagement at New York’s Under the Radar Festival—for which the Belarus Free Theatre, facing persecution in their homeland, escaped imprisonment in December 2010. *Being Harold Pinter*, adapted and directed by Vladimir Shcherban, produced by Nikolai Khalezin and Natalia Koliada, was hailed

as ‘truly passionate, truly political theater (that) isn’t just admirable, it has virtues beyond its relevance and bravery’ (*The New York Times*). *Being Harold Pinter* runs 1 hour, 15 minutes and is presented in Russian and Belarusian with English supertitles. Venue, performance schedule and ticket information will be announced shortly; call 312.443.3800 or visit GoodmanTheatre.org for updates.

“We found it imperative to extend this brave, bold theater company’s stay in the United States by offering them the opportunity to perform in Chicago,” said Artistic Director Robert Falls. “These are artists struggling against an oppressive state, and their work is both essential and powerful.”

Being Harold Pinter runs 1 hour, 15 minutes and is presented in Belarusian and Russian with English supertitles. Tickets are \$20 (some discounts apply); to purchase, contact the box office or visit the website of the respective venue.

312.443.3800 or www.goodmantheatre.org.



Shadowlands

Provision Theater Company’s *Shadowlands* will run from February 2-March 20, 2011 at Provision Theater, 1001 Roosevelt in Chicago.

Based on a true story, C.S. Lewis is a world-renowned writer and professor. Unmarried, he leads a gentleman’s life filled by intellectual pursuits, until he meets Joy Gresham, a feisty, abrasive, intelligent New York divorcee whose sharp-edged, no-nonsense attitudes take Lewis by surprise.

Joy shocks his associates and awakens Lewis to deep emotions he has written about, but never experienced. He slowly opens his heart to this woman and experiences love on a whole new level. But life is made up of delicate balances, and Lewis must confront a difficult truth: “that a heart awakened to great love is also opened to great pain.”

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my favourite nephews and retired Principal of a Chicago school.

The hour long interview covered U.S. Immigration laws changed in 1967, which knocked out the old National Quota System passed in 1920, under which most of us Irish came to America. The old law favoured western Europeans Irish, English, Germans etc. because of their hard working experience and their loyalty to America in the wars they fought. Each country was given a quota, some got none.

Pres. Harry Truman started the ball rolling when he called for a "fair and equitable immigration." Pres. John Kennedy, and Pres. Johnson agreed, and so the law was passed. The Irish Immigration Committee, a national body which included a Chicago delegation tried to amend the bill stressing the unusual pattern of Irish immigration, coming here as one, with no family etc. Whilst the others under the new Rodina bill claimed that their pattern of immigration, coming as one person instead of whole families, would also discriminate. The amendment bill passed the House but "died" in the Senate. And so the Irish were forced to go to the bottom of the Totem pole getting one visa to 7 or 8 for others. (To be continued...)

Three Former Chicago Irish Families Bereaved

Three Chicago-Irish families were bereaved recently and we offer our sincere condolences and prayers for the deceased and the families. Those who died were, the well known Galway hurler who played some great games for the famed Harry Boland team back in the formative years, Billy Coen, in Chicago. *Ar dheis De go raibn an ainm.* Others are Phil McQuinn, a great GAA supporter from the Kingdom of Kerry, and brother of Martin star hurling goalkeeper, although hailing from a great football count, the late Phil was a wonderful supporter and never missed a game, especially when his star teams would be in action, Kerry, or St. Brendans in football and the legendary Shannon Rangers. The third deceased is Stephen Fahy, son of Nicholas, one of the great hurlers with his brother Mike. The Fahy brothers were John, Mike, Nicholas, and Joe and there were no better gael's in Chicago during the formative years than the Fahy family. John, Mike, Nicholas and Joe. *Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.* They are going, going from us, and we cannot make them stay. May we all meet in Heaven. *Ar dhais De go rianb an ainm.*

Hurling Comes to Notre Dame

Over 80 years ago a famous man, Knute Rockne, head coach at Notre Dame University, one of the most prestigious in the United States, is reported to have said, "A stick

in the hands of an Irishman is a dangerous thing." He was referring to Ireland's national pastime, hurling, which was being discussed for introduction into college sports.

The reason why this statement is remembered is that Knute Rockne was at that time one of the most popular men in America. His college team had won five national championships in a row, a record which still stands, even for professional teams. This was and is a tremendous achievement that made the Norwegian a legendary figure of his time. Particularly because of the fact that his Notre Dame team adopted "The Fighting Irish" slogan, which no doubt endeared him and his squad to Irish-Americans.

His statement carried and hurling was not introduced at that time. And not until 1962, when a reactivated Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association was established, did any effort succeed in proving the error of the statement. Replying to an invitation from the university, made possible through the efforts of some prominent Chicago alumni, the Chicago GAA gladly took up the challenge.

Six bus loads of Chicago gael's left Chicago that historic day bound for South Bend, Indiana, over 100 miles east of the city. The group included hurling and gaelic football teams, and some members of the Irish musicians who brought along their instruments and played some stirring Irish music along the way. It was a festive occasion as the group realized the importance of the trip, namely to promote the games of the gael, and the song, dance, and music of Ireland. And to correct an error of speech, said to have been made over 40 years ago.

The contingent received a hearty *cead mile failte* from students, teachers, and alumni, and soon the familiar clash of the ash could be heard all over the huge campus and famed playing field. It was a glorious sight and sound and the players in both games, hurling and football, realizing the importance of the occasion, provided brilliant displays. It was as if they were inspired to display their finest caman craft and good sportsmanship. The footballers also performed magnificently, and also greatly impressed the good crowd that had assembled. At half time, spectators went onto the field and talked with the players. Some even tried to swing the old caman. Only to find that its easier to watch than play hurling.

At the large reception for the teams that night, views expressing favourable comments about hurling and gaelic football were heard all over the hall, and it was readily apparent that the seed had been planted, the players and games had made a tremendous impact. The ill advised statement, if it was made, was corrected and some day it was reasoned that hurling and gaelic football would be played by Notre Dame students, in the stadium and at other locations, in competitive contests.

Thanks to Our Readers as We Begin Another Year

As we begin our New Year, we would like to thank our readers for their comments, pro and con, during the past year. Writing a column is a two-way street, as it allows our readers to express their views, pro and con. So as we begin another year, comment as you please. My home phone is 219-756-3852. *Gur a mile mait agat* (thank you very much). With God's help we will all be around.

Ireland in Dire Need

Last year was a rough and tumble year for our families and friends in Ireland. It was that way too for some of our good friends in this country, and many others all over the world. But Ireland seems to have taken the biggest leap, from "Celtic Tiger" best European economy a few years ago, to a recession last year is a big drop. But now that we have acknowledged things and with a "bailout" of 80 billion, hopefully all parties will work together in making amends; not only in Ireland, but also in our own country.

In the meantime, some of our good friends with families are suffering the loss of jobs also. Whatever way we look at it, help is needed, especially in Ireland, the smallest and poorest. And whilst we are looking at the politicians trying to agree, for the sake of our countries, we can help Ireland by visiting three of the best Irish Import stores in Chicago, or indeed any place else, Maureen O'Looneys Irish Import store at 3150 No. Laramie, Chicago, 773-286-6866; Alex and Shiela McGrath, 5538 West Devon Ave, Chicago; and Rose Mary Teahan at Chicago Navy Pier. Any one of those stores can get you what you want or perhaps something else you may see, "Made in Ireland." This is a good way to help Ireland and to make friends with three of the best and proudest Irish Americans in our country. Drop by as soon as possible and help keep someone in their jobs. *Gur a mile mait agat.*

Interview by College Student

We were honored recently be being interviewed over the phone by a bright young student named Ian Cogland, who is studying History and Immigration at North Park University, Chicago, Illinois. The young man is a relative of the charming Donna Haran, wife of the well known Bill Haran, one of

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\$ Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



2011 To Do List

2010 is behind us and it ended up to be a good year for the stock market. The S&P 500 finished the year up 15%, the Dow Jones was up 11%, and the Lehman Aggregate Bond Index netted a 7% return to investors. The start of the new year is always a good time to reevaluate your overall financial

situation and make the necessary changes to put yourself in a better position for the future. Here are some tips that make good financial sense in 2011.

Create or revise your budget. A budget is a great way to keep you on track to achieve your financial goals. Review last year’s records

and create a realistic spending plan. Remember to keep in mind unexpected expenses. That is why I always recommend clients keep an emergency fund with 3-6 months of expenses in it. Also, make it flexible. You might find yourself off track, which is OK, as long as you make the necessary adjustments to get back on track.

Review your portfolio. Annual reviews of your investment portfolio are a good way to make sure your portfolio is still in line with your goals and risk tolerance. As mentioned earlier, the markets had good returns last year. Some sectors such as small cap stocks had returns of +25% in 2010. Those returns can cause your portfolio to become out of balance and might expose you to “too much” risk. Make the necessary adjustments to realign your portfolio with your goals and risk tolerance.

Participate in your company’s retirement plan. Employer-sponsored 401ks and IRAS are a great way to save for retirement. Tax deferred compound interest, generous employer matches, and associated tax deductions really make contributing to these plans a must. Review your budget and figure out how much you can afford to contribute per pay check. The limit for employee contributions in 2011 is \$16,500 for anyone under age 50. Folks over age 50 are allowed to make a catch up contribution of \$5,500, which puts their total contribution limit at \$22,000.

Fund your IRA. If your company does not offer a retirement plan or if you have excess funds to put towards retirement, IRAS

are the next best option. Just like a 401k, your money within an IRA will grow tax free, the fastest way to accumulate wealth. You have until April 15th of this year to make your 2010 IRA contributions. The limits for 2010 are \$5,000 for individuals under 50 years of age and \$6,000 for 50 years and older.

When deciding between a Roth IRA vs. Traditional IRA, know the difference. With a Traditional IRA, contributions can be either pretax or after-tax (depending upon income levels) and the money grows tax deferred until the time of withdrawal (must be over 59 ½). When you take distributions out, you owe ordinary income tax on those withdrawals. With a Roth IRA, the contributions are always after-tax but when you take the funds out (again after 59.5) you don’t have to pay any tax on the withdrawals. In general, I tend to prefer the benefits of a Roth IRA, but it does depend on your specific situation. The Roth IRA phase out income limits have increased in 2011 to \$169,000 - \$179,000 for couples filing joint returns. For single filers, the range for 2011 is \$107,000 - \$122,000.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. Phone: 312-239-1317 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or Financial Planning.

WTTW11 to Host Chicago Television Premiere of Her Majesty, ‘da Queen

WTTW11, Chicago’s premier public television station, will debut Mike Houlihan’s engaging new documentary *Her*



Majesty, ‘da Queen on Sunday, February 27 at 4pm, with a repeat on Tuesday, March 1 at 4am.

The 60-minute film is a sneak peek backstage at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade Queen Contest and captures all the humor, heartbreak, and excitement shared by over 100 young women each year as they vie for the crown. Many of Chicago’s most endearing Irish-American personalities are also featured in the film in intimate interviews during the pageant.

Her Majesty, ‘da Queen was edited from video shot at both the 2009 and 2010 queen contests. This one-hour program is a prologue to Mike Houlihan’s epic documentary *Our Irish Cousins*, which is currently in post-production. *Our Irish Cousins* was shot all over the U.S. and in Ireland, and reveals the Irish American experience in all its glory, humor, and spirit.

Mike Houlihan is a former features columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where he penned the “Houli in ‘da Hood” column from 2002-2005. He has written the “Hooliganism” column in the *Irish American News* since 1996. Mike contributed humorous essays to public radio in Chicago on WBEZ-FM for several years, and also appears regularly on-stage in Chicago as a stand-up comic and character actor.

www.mikehoulihan.com.
www.wttw.com.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Undeniable

On Monday January 10th, sixty plus Leo High School students of Ms. Margarita Silva's classes sat fixed and attentive while 78 year old Aaron Elster explained how, as a ten year old Jewish boy in Nazi occupied Poland, he survived two years of hiding from murdering thugs in forests, sheds, sewers and a tiny attic.

Leo students, all but one student (Eder Cruz, a proud Mexican American) are black teenage males, and one hour from fourth period lunch they collectively uttered not a sound. Principal Phil Mesina, President Dan McGrath and I attended out of interest. Like the gentlemen Lions, we were riveted.

Aaron Elster and his sister Irene were the only two children out of almost seven thousand Polish Jews in the region of Sokolow, and about 1,300 in the village, in eastern Poland to survive the Holocaust. Some people claim that the Holocaust was a fiction, like Neil Armstrong's moon walk. Some people are badly wired.

A couple of weeks before Christmas I wrote about Aaron Elster's lecture in *Chicago Daily Observer*. I wrote about the Nativity and Herod's slaughter of the innocents. The Saturday before Aaron Elster's lecture, a maniac shot a United States Congresswoman, murdered a Federal judge and a nine year old girl and more than a score more wounded and killed in a Tucson, Arizona Safeway Super Mart. Immediately, politicians and pundits tried make political hay of the blood spilled by a lunatic. How can human beings be so disgraceful? Easily.

Two thirds of the Jews living in Europe, prior to 1939 were murdered. There were 3,500,000 Jews in Poland before Hitler and Stalin invaded that proud nation in 1939. In the town of Sokolow, there were 1,351 Jews. At the end of World War II, 90% or 3,000,000 Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered by the Nazis and Communists in Poland. I know that two children survived from the town of Sokolow. One child is now an elderly gentleman, a naturalized American citizen, Korean War Veteran and retired MetLife agent and raised his family in the Chicago area.

Aaron Elster was hidden from the haters by a Polish family by the name of Gorski. They were none too happy to hide the little boy, but they did feed the little human being in short pants and coat who had watched as Einsatzgrup-

pen soldiers dragged his father and little sister away to their deaths in Treblinka. Aaron's mother was executed a few months later in the town square after her escape. Aaron Elster spent years hiding in an attic—freezing in the winter and stifling in the summer months. The little boy could play and make some level of noise only when there was a pounding rain storm.

Einsatzgruppen were policemen recruited to perform one task—Kill Jews, Gypsies, and the mentally challenged. This was Planned Parenthood without the makeup—pure Eugenics—scientifically backed health care and social engineering. The Einsatzgruppen were ordinary men who believed that people, not like themselves, were subhuman and almost akin to today's video game targets—Avatars. Infants were unwanted social diseases as well as elderly Juden. Machs nicht!

The men of Einstazgruppen were family men who killed 1.3 million Jews, Polish officers and intellectuals, the mentally retarded, gypsies, and the few heroic people who objected to the murder of their neighbors. These family men shot, clubbed and stabbed their victims and then went home to a good meal, a few beers, and church on Sunday and sent letters home to wife and kids about their work for the Thousand Year Reich. The Germans were efficient. They not only used the Einsatzgruppen troopers; they developed the scientific Death Camps in order to accelerate the extermination process. Family men and women helped bring this about by driving trains, typing rosters of the doomed, and herding people into pens, box cars, gas chambers and ovens. The Triumph of Will! Well, not every will.

A ten year old boy refused to die. He obeyed his father's command to live! For two years without any change of clothes from his little boy shorts and coat, without soap and water, without love and affection, in cramped dirt floored and tin ceilinged attic, where winter was everything it can be and summer a blast furnace, Aaron Elster refused to die.

Aaron Elster remains a quietly spoken man who endured the terror of the Holocaust and was graced by God to bear witness to the Holocaust. Fools and frauds play with numbers and bigoted balance sheets to offer a denial to the State generated genocide. Aaron Elster makes gentle the rage of injustice by

directly touching the hearts of children born in a nation that balm his wounds. Aaron Elster tells children and young people about his experiences as a little boy who escaped the slaughter that took one of his sisters and his parents by hiding in the forests and farms around Sokolow during WW II.

The Holocaust is real—every one of them. The Irish Holocaust is denied or ignored out of ignorance comfort, or complacency. Millions of Irish were starved to death and dumped into mass graves. Chris Fogarty writes with poetic poignancy on this topic every month; yet. There are Holocaust deniers. Haters. The Cosmetic Holocaust—Abortion—remains as a national disgrace—parsed by sophists as "choice." There is a Holocaust on Chicago's streets that the Media and charlatans chalk up to guns alone.

Every morning the Chicago Breaking News in the *Chicago Tribune* and *The Chicago Sun Times* tell of the continuing Urban Holocaust. Savage and senseless slaughter of young men and women and children in black and Hispanic neighborhoods—Englewood, Gresham, Brainerd, Back of the Yards, Austin, Garfield Park, West Lawn, Grand Crossing, and Chatham are the Treblinkas, Kelnos, and Sokolows.

In our own urban Holocaust, youngsters try to find protection, shelter and warmth from a savagery that is not linked to any ideology, other than the entertainment of savages. Aaron Elster is bringing his experiences to young men trying with all of their time, talents and treasure to end this madness. Aaron Elster survived the greatest horror in human history and he wants young people to work to make that one the last group horror. Mr. Elster has his work cut out for him.

His message is one of hope and challenge—"Aaron challenges young people to explore their strengths and encourages them to be the master of their destiny, realizing that they have the power to change the world." Aaron Elster challenges young people to treat others with dignity, respect and kindness—"Be Stand Uppers and Not By-Standers."

On January 10th 2011, Aaron Elster spoke to scores of Leo High School students here in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood—no stranger to the slaughter. The young men of Leo High School heard Aaron Elster loud and clear. They can survive and remember to treat every human being with respect, dignity and kindness. Toughness is measured by how much one can take—not how much one can dish out. Aaron Elster is tough.

Contact Aaron Elster for a speaking engagement at the *Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center* at www.hmfi.org or at www.aaronelster.com.

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Election Date Set In Ireland Polling Disaster Looms For Fianna Fáil

By Sean Caniffe

After two weeks of high drama in Irish politics, beleaguered Taoiseach Brian Cowen has finally pulled the plug on his increasingly unpopular coalition government and agreed to dissolve the current Dáil and call an election.

At press time we know that the announcement will be made on February 1 and the constitution requires that an election be held within 30 days of the dissolution, making Friday, February 25 the most likely date for polling day.

Cowen's made his announcement after opposition parties Fine Gael and Labour agreed to shepherd the last stages of the Finance Bill through the Dáil. Fianna Fáil had insisted this be done before they went to the country.

Agreement between the parties was reached on January 24 to allow the critical tax-raising bill to pass in order to have an election as soon as possible.

Cowen's government was plunged into crisis earlier in the month. Amid calls from opposition benches, and even some of the coalition's own backbench TDs for an early general election, Cowen was besieged with requests from his own party and members of the cabinet for a Fianna Fáil leadership contest. The Taoiseach spent a full weekend meeting with all his party's parliamentary members—who would vote for leader—after which he shocked insiders by calling a contest himself. It was widely believed at that time that he had the support of the majority of TDs and this was borne out when he prevailed in the secret ballot on January 18 against then Foreign Minister Micheal Martin.

Cowen's success was shortlived however. Martin resigned his cabinet post immediately after the leadership vote and it became apparent that other Ministers also wanted out. Between the evening of January 19 and the morning of January 20 five more ministers tendered resignations—a third of the Cabinet—from the departments of defense, justice, health, transport and trade. In all cases the outgoing ministers revealed that they would not be seeking re-election. This added to the growing number of Fianna Fáil lawmakers who have decided to hang up their political boots. The Taoiseach decided to reshuffle his Cabinet and tried to promote six backbenchers to the Cabinet along with six more to junior ministerial positions. This was his constitutional prerogative but nevertheless he still needed the support of coalition partners the Green Party to accomplish the reshuffle.

What happened next was borderline farce. After a meeting with the Greens on the night of January 19, the plan was announced to the Dáil on the morning of the January 20. Somehow wires had got very badly crossed. Cowen clearly thought he had the support of the Greens but they were insisting otherwise, claiming that during the meeting they had unequivocally told the Taoiseach that they would pull out of government and force an election should he go ahead with the new appointments. At the Dáil session on the morning of January

20, lawmakers were in uproar. Cowen was not even in the chamber and as soon as it became obvious the planned reshuffle was not going to be allowed, he entered the Dáil and announced that he would reassign the duties of the outgoing ministers to other Cabinet members. He also set a date for the next general election for March 11.

Opposition TDs believed the entire episode was designed to raise the profile of some backbench TDs so that they would have a greater chance of retaining their seats in an election in which Fianna Fáil is expected to suffer huge losses. It was, they argued, a return to 'stroke' politics.

In the ensuing 48 hours, Cowen came under huge pressure from within his own party to step down. His actions were seen as a monumental blunder that could lower even further Fianna Fáil's standing in the polls. On Saturday January 22, Cowen did step down as leader but announced his intention to remain as Taoiseach and to call an earlier election once the Finance Bill, in all its stages, had been passed.

Even that was not enough. Motions of 'no confidence' in the government were threatened unless an election was called immediately and on Monday January 24 the argument was finally settled with Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour agreeing to get the Finance Bill passed as expeditiously as possible to make way for the election.

On Wednesday January 26 Fianna Fáil held another leadership contest. This time Micheal Martin easily won out beating challenges from Finance Minister Brian Lenihan, Minister for Social Protection, Defense and Environment Éamon Ó Cuív and Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Tourism Mary Hanafin.

What happens now could be the stuff of history. Fianna Fáil, the party which has held the reins of power in Ireland for three quarters of the Republic's history, faces enormous challenges. Reports are that the party has very little money to spend on the upcoming campaign. Many of its long established TDs will be stepping down, surely in some cases because they believe there is no hope of them winning. More ominously perhaps, the party's standing in public opinion polls is at an all time low. They are averaging about 14 percent but there have been polls showing them with as little as 8 percent support. Given the fact that most of the country blames Fianna Fáil and Cowen for the financial meltdown that has affected everyone in Ireland, many analysts are predicting that "Ireland's party of government" may be wiped out in a few weeks time.

Fine Gael are predicted to be the biggest seat-getters, with their leader Enda Kenny, becoming the next Taoiseach. Labour too, should win big, especially if they can become the beneficiaries of any collapse in the Fianna Fáil vote. The Greens will likely be reduced to either one seat in the Dáil or none at all and Sinn Féin, who are the only opposition party to have argued against the austerity packages and for revisiting the bailout deal, will hope to more than double their TD count, currently at five.

Meet a Candidate - Don Blair

Don Blair is running for Alderman of Chicago's 45th Ward, a hopeful challenger. Well positioned as a businessman and economist, Blair is running on a platform devoted to job creation and economic development for the Ward.

Q: What inspired you to run for Alderman of the 45th Ward?

A: I started hearing from the people in my neighborhood how much they love the community and just how desperate they all are to see positive change. I hear the same things over and over; people want new leadership that's more responsive to their needs. We need to bring businesses to the empty storefronts we all see. We have one of the strongest communities in the City, but we are not supported by a strong and vibrant business community. We need to change that, and I believe we can.

Q: So what is your family background?

A: I come from a family with strong Celtic traditions. Half of my family is from Northern Ireland and the other from Scotland. Like many Irish families, my family came over with virtually the clothes on their backs and had to work and build from the ground up. My father was a Teamster and a truck driver who never made it past the eighth grade. I am the first person on either side of my family to both attend and graduate from college and the only one with a graduate degree. I have been able to achieve because my family supported and encouraged me. We did not have much, and I had to pay my own way through school. I owned a small business that sold hot dogs at Home Depot's to pay for my undergrad degree. I ended up graduating with High Honors from a Big Ten School (Michigan State) and earning an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Q: What makes you the best person for this job?

A: Right now, what the 45th Ward needs most is economic development. Not another career politician or someone who woke up one morning and decided they wanted to be an alderman. What we need is a leader with business sense who knows how to improve economic conditions. I am an economist with over 18 years' experience in business strategy. I have developed and implemented strategies for large corporations and family-owned businesses alike. I am the only candidate with the right skills and experience to get the job done.

I served as chairman of the Six

Corners Association Economic Restructuring Committee, securing funding from the city for a long-term economic restructuring plan for Six Corners. That funding is already allocated and the project is about to commence. Once elected, I will extend that economic development plan across the entire Milwaukee Corridor from Gladstone Park through Jefferson Park down to Six Corners. I will also do the same for other areas like Edgebrook and Mayfair, who have seen their share of businesses vacancies and a lack of development. I've worked to remove blight from abandoned storefronts and make the area more modern and attractive so more businesses will consider opening here. Now we will have an 8,000 square foot restaurant opening after the new year. This would not have been possible without first cleaning up the area. I've talked at length with banks, putting programs in place to provide lines of credit to entrepreneurs who want to open a business in our community or improve their existing business. Things are not happening overnight, but we are starting to see economic growth at Six Corners and we have made this kind of progress in less than one year.

I know that in order to rebuild our economy, we need to create businesses within our community. It is crucial that we begin filling these empty storefronts which are so vital to our local economy. We need to use TIF funds the way they were intended, to create economic development and job opportunities. I will create an environment which fosters economic development, marshalling the resources and programs through the City, County and State which provide incentives to invest in job creation, façade improvements and infrastructure investment. I will market these specifically to businesses which have expressed an interest in coming to the Ward and reach out to other businesses that we think would be a good fit for our community. The economic revival beginning in the Six Corners Area speaks directly to the kind of results I know how to achieve all across the Ward. What I offer the 45th Ward is simple: New Leadership. Proven Results.

Q: What can you offer to people in the Ward who aren't looking to open a business or find a job?

A: I can protect our tax dollars by ensuring that TIF funds are managed and used appropriately. I will work with the State Legislature to enact real TIF reform. The TIFs raise

taxes for all residents and currently are providing nothing in return. I will work with the State Legislature to enact real and meaningful TIF reform. One of the first things I will do is a portion of the aldermanic budget to clean up the blighted areas of the Ward. I will work to enact



real property tax reform that ties assessments to the actual current fair market values. I will hold building owners accountable for renting to illegal massage parlors which are

lowering our property values. I will recommend or support common sense cuts in city government but I will not do so on the backs of our first responders. I will ensure that our infrastructure, including pothole repair, streetlight replacement, garbage collection and road mainte-

only make service requests online but can also track those requests and know that they're being taken care of. I will also implement an annual State of the Ward survey to ensure that the needs of our residents are being met.

I will immediately form a Strategic Leadership Council for the 45th Ward, comprised of business owners and community leaders. They will have oversight review on every major decision that affects residents or businesses. When I'm elected, I will be accessible, and I will continue to reach out to the residents of the Ward. Every request for service will receive a response within 24 hours.

Q: You say "when" you are elected. Are you really that confident about a win in February?

A: Yes, but with so many candidates in the race there will definitely be a run-off in April. Since the petition drive started, I have knocked on over three thousand doors. The people I've talked to want someone to step up and bring new leadership to the Ward with the right experience to get the ward back on track. It won't be easy, but I am confident we will get there.

Chicago Aldermanic elections will take place on February 22, 2011. To learn more about Don Blair and his campaign, please visit www.blair2011.com.



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The Fighter Takes Big Stride Toward Oscar

By Mark Connor / *TheWildGeese.com*

“I could a been a contender” is a cinematic watchword, uttered by Irish-American longshoreman and one-time fighter Terry Malloy (played by Marlon Brando) in the 1954 epic *On the Waterfront*. The film garnered eight Oscars. Now *The Fighter*, a movie about Irish-American boxer “Irish” Micky Ward, seems likely to join the Oscar queue.

The Fighter, released Dec. 10 by Paramount Pictures, has garnered widespread critical praise and fast-growing box-office. With its inclusion in January in the lists of 2010’s best films by both the Writers Guild of America and Producers Guild of America, the movie stood poised to get several Oscar nods.

But beyond the “Tinsel town” buzz, there is real meat for Irish film connoisseurs, beyond the fast-paced dialogue and Oscar-worthy performances by Christian Bale and Amy Adams. If you’re interested in Irish immigrant history, and have a keen eye for the unspoken peripheral story, and understand how religion and culture connect a community to a geographical place, the portrayal of working-class Massachusetts life in *The Fighter* alone makes the film a worthy investment of a few bucks and two hours.

Also starring Mark Wahlberg, as Ward, *The Fighter* is a compelling adaptation of *Irish Thunder*, Bob Halloran’s biography of Ward. Chronicling Ward’s career from its stall in the midst of tough fights and dysfunctional family melodrama to his November 2000 upset of unbeaten Shea Neary in England for the World Boxing Union (WBU) Light Welterweight Championship, the film bluntly displays the emotional oppression of alcohol, drugs, and regret with a tempering humor that keeps it from going over the edge.

The Fighter, directed by David O. Russell (*Three Kings*, *Flirting With Disaster*), is a celebration of personal endurance and family love



that saves viewers from a pessimistic conclusion as much as from the fluffy formula of a Hollywood happy ending. Additionally, it portrays life in Lowell, giving viewers a glimpse of Massachusetts working-class culture so familiar to Wahlberg, who also produced the film.

Wahlberg (Donnelly on his mother’s side) is one of nine children from Dorchester, a working-class Irish neighborhood in Boston. In a Nov. 20 interview with CBS News’ newsmagazine *60 Minutes*, Wahlberg told how he dropped out of school at age 13 and was convicted as an adult at age 17 of assault. Upon his release from jail 45 days later, he found success as a rapper, gaining fame as Marky Mark, before moving into acting. His motivation to tell Ward’s story, he explained to *60 Minutes*, was fueled by the desire to share

the Boston-area experience and celebrate a local hero he greatly admires.

While Ward’s hometown of Lowell is distinctly separate from Boston, the cultural historical experience, correlating directly to the rise and fall of industrial manufacturing, is very similar. While both Boston and Lowell have experienced demographic shifts with an increase of immigrant communities of color, a generally European and specifically Irish Catholic history has indelibly characterized them both. Wahlberg’s experience, for example, is greatly influenced by his childhood counselor and very close friend, Catholic priest Father James Flavin. Ward was influenced by faithful boxing trainer and Lowell police officer, Mickey O’Keefe.

“When you were a kid in Boston, your world was your parish,” observes Father Kevin McDonough, a parish priest in St. Paul, Minn., who lived till age 10 in Dorchester and still has many relatives in Boston. McDonough is the eldest of 11 children, whose four grandparents were born in Ireland. He knows the world of Wahlberg’s formative years, the insulated Dorchester of limited opportunities that fosters a mental toughness. With the days of massive Irish immigration over, it is still a neighborhood where Irish identity means something and still a place where the old stand-bys—like a parish priest to mentor you—might make the difference, as it did for Wahlberg.

“You may be only one-quarter Irish, but you still identify as Irish in Boston,” McDonough observes. “That is the pattern; they’re Irish if they’re Irish at all because it’s part of the social life in the city. The Irish organized to have a sense of identity over the Boston Yankees—the WASPs—and that identity then became Irishness even though it was Catholicism.”

The stories within the story—those of Ward’s brother, former up-and-coming professional welterweight Dicky Eklund (Bale) who went the distance with Sugar Ray Leonard, and Charlene

(Adams), Ward’s new girlfriend, juxtaposed to an overbearing but endearing mother (Melissa Leo)—provide the emotional pressure needed to achieve the film’s polished presentation. Bale exhibits the essentials of an addict, fighting his urges while his generous attempt to assist his little brother’s career is contradicted by a desperate need for redemption; Adams displays the emotion of a former collegiate athlete falling in love with a fighter grasping at his very last chance, and she knows the compromises of her past mirror the frustrations of the family attempting to protect him from her.

The Fighter does not follow Ward’s career after the Neary fight. He went on to compete against the late Arturo Gatti in a three-fight series through which he solidified his reputation and earned his only seven-figure payday. But that wasn’t the point of the story. The point was to portray the experience of the Massachusetts town that nurtured Ward, and to celebrate the triumph not only of Ward, but his brother, Dicky, and Ward’s eventual wife, Charlene, as they each reconcile past failures with the promise of the present.

Rocky from the 1970s, *Raging Bull* from the 1980s, and *Million Dollar Baby* from 2004 are boxing films that have won Oscars. In 2005, *Cinderella Man*, a film about former heavyweight champion James Braddock, received three Academy award nominations. *The Fighter* stands poised to join that distinguished club. With its unstinting portrayal of the working-class experience and an honest treatment of the boxer’s life, *The Fighter* is full of, well, fight, along with drama, poignancy and knowing glimpses of life amid the ashes of New England’s Industrial Revolution.

Mark Connor, the editor of *BoxersAndWritersMagazine.com*, resides in St. Paul, Minn. Mark was Up-per Midwest Golden Gloves Lightweight Champion in 1987, at age 17. He still trains with professional boxers and runs a personal training business in Minnesota.

Irish ‘Family’ Feud:

‘Rapid’ Johnny Rafuse Tests Mettle of Micky Ward

By Mark Connor / *TheWildGeese.com*

The Irish brand has been a winner for professional boxers from time immemorial. Irish heritage clearly is a special badge of honor for fighters in the United States, considering the likes of Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney and Jim Braddock. That affinity comes to mind again with the hit film, *The Fighter*, narrating the improbable rise of former welterweight contender “Irish” Micky Ward.

“Rapid” Johnny Rafuse, who resides and trains fighters in Savage, Minn., is another example of a boxer as proud of his Irish ancestry as of his accomplishments in the ring. The latter includes a hard-fought loss to Ward. “I don’t think I lost the fight,” Rafuse remembers. “I ain’t gonna tell ya I beat him, but I don’t think I lost.”

Rafuse is a German name, but Johnny Rafuse’s maternal grandparents are Cornelius Kelleher, from Macroom, Co. Cork, and Catherine Mulvihill, from Williamstown, Co. Galway, Ireland. “Rafuse is German, Canadian and Dutch,” he says, but because of the mater-

nal side, “we always said we were Irish. Plus I trained in [heavily Irish] South Boston.”

Rafuse fought out of Malden, Mass., a couple of towns over from Ward’s native Lowell. Rafuse lost a competitive eight-round fight by unanimous decision to Ward at Lowell Memorial Auditorium on August 29, 1986, providing Ward with the first big challenge of his career. Although not depicted in *The Fighter*, Rafuse is mentioned with admiration in the biography on which it is based, *Irish Thunder* by Bob Halloran. ESPN commentator Al Bernstein praised both fighters for their valiant efforts in that fight.

“They are both going for the home-run ball,” Bernstein said from ringside. “They say Micky Ward is quite a prospect in the junior welterweight division, and if he is, he will look back on this one.”

Halloran mentions that before the bout, Rafuse, who was 25 years old at the time, said this fight could determine whether he’d pursue a boxing career.

“If I win, I’ll know I should continue,” he’s quoted in the book. “Otherwise, you know, I’m a Teamster, and maybe I’ll have to find

punches right up until the final bell.” Not only that, but he fought another five years.

Before switching to South Boston, Rafuse trained in the predominantly Italian North End of Boston. In 1988, he sparred with his old nemesis, Ward, to prep for his fight that September with Harold Brazier for the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) Light Welterweight title. Rafuse lost to Brazier by 12-round unanimous decision.

Rafuse sustained a competitive professional boxing career for eight years, from 1983 to 1991, fighting a number of top-level boxers, including World Lightweight Champion José Luis Ramirez and Light Welterweight Champion Jake Rodriguez. Like “Irish” Micky Ward, he has earned a place in Massachusetts’ boxing history, where solid, determined fighters of Irish descent are produced each generation.

“I got all the respect in the world for the kid,” Rafuse says of Ward. “I really like Micky, and he stuck around long enough to make some money, and God bless him.”



“Rapid” Johnny Rafuse at American Top Team gym in Savage, MN.

other ways to make a living.”

As Halloran wrote, “Rafuse had done himself proud. He continued to throw hard



Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



I recently took a three day improv class at The Second City. Didn't that surprise you—that I do other activities other than dance? I like to act and a lot of Chicago celebrities went there, so I thought it would be cool. As soon as I walked in, I could tell I was going to have a fantastic time. In the morning, my class and I did games and scenes where my teacher, Amanda, would give me a topic. Then my partner and I would come up with funny things about that topic. There were some pretty funny things that came up. One of my favorite games was Four Square—the acting version. You basically had four people and rotated either left or right and for every pair of two people there was a topic or scene. But you had to pay attention to what way you had to rotate. Then after the games and activities were over and Amanda stopped teaching, it was time for lunch. After lunch, I would have something called sing-prov. Now you may be thinking that all you have to do is make up songs, right? Well you are partially right. It was that, but when my teacher played music on the keyboard during a scene, we had to act how the music made us feel. Then we had to do a scene where we sang a song about a line that was important in the scene I was doing. I was very sad when my three days of improv were over. I had a great time, and met a lot of nice people. I am definitely going back to The Second

City again!

I just found out that I am doing Nationals again in July! It is going to be in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel. I have seen pictures of the hotel and saw it on the show *Toddlers and Tiaras*. Can I just tell you it looks pretty amazing! I can't wait until July. I know I am going to have to give up every Saturday soon but it will all be worth it. I know this for a fact because, like last Nationals, (which by the way was in Disney World!) it will be fun. I need to get some cowgirl boots.

I found out a few weeks ago that I am the new editor of my school newspaper! I think I will be good at this job and it will surely help me write *Reel Jiggy*. It is a blast too, because I get to go to all of the meetings and share my ideas with the rest of the newspaper team. I also get to collect things from other classmates, so I have to stay organized. At our first meeting, I offered to do a St. Patrick's Day parade report. I am going to be good on that article. So wish me luck with this new, delightful job!

Well, before I say goodbye, just want to remind you that next month is March. You know what that means, don't you? It's one of the busiest months for me—St. Patrick's Day! I can't wait to tell you all about mine. Good luck to all the Mullane Healy Godley dancers who are going to the All Irelands Championship!

CIIS Extends Senior Activities at IAHC

As many of you may already know, the Irish American Heritage Center is launching its Golden Diners Program on February 1st, 2011. Hot, nutritious lunches will be served to seniors Tuesdays thru Saturdays, providing access to a healthy daily meal and the company of good friends. Lunches are open to all adults over the age of 60, with a suggested payment of \$1.50, but those unable to pay are also welcome.

In conjunction with the IAHC's

meal program, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support will run activities and events for seniors two days a week. Programs will include movie screenings, bingo, a book club, and informative presentations by guest speakers. Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's extended senior programming will commence on the 1st of February, in line with the launch of the Golden Diners program. To celebrate the commencement of both programs there will be a Mass with Fr. Karl Landsdorf

at the Irish American Heritage Center on February 1st at 10:30am. Following Mass, they will have a social hour and learn to make St. Bridget's crosses. Everyone is welcome to attend.

They are also keen to get the input of seniors regarding the kind of programming they would like to attend. To give them your input or for more information about the extended seniors' programming at IAHC please call the CIIS office on 312-534-8445 or visit www.ci-is.com.

Special Olympics Chicago 8K Run March 20

SCC/Special Olympics Chicago (SCC/SOC) has teamed with the 10th annual St. Paddy's Run/Walk, to launch a brand new, competitively-timed race, the "Special Olympics Chicago 8K Run." The race will take place in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood (Fullerton and Cannon) on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 10am.

Registration for the Special Olympics Chicago 8K is now open by visiting the Special Olympics Chicago website at www.sochicago.org. At that website, participants can create personal fundraising pages where supporters can make tax deductible donations. The top fundraiser for the

Special Olympics Chicago 8K Run will win two round-trip airline tickets to Ireland. All participants who raise



\$300 or more will receive a commemorative fleece blanket.

This is the first year that Special

Olympics Chicago will be a charitable partner of the St. Paddy's Run/Walk. In addition to the 5K and 8K runs, the event will also feature The Leprechaun Leap, a free children's dash, beginning at 11:15am. Additionally, a post-run/walk party will take place after the races have concluded at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, featuring live music, awards and prizes, and food and beverages.

The Special Olympics Chicago program is the largest in the State of Illinois. Chicago is the birthplace of Special Olympics and is now held in over 150 countries, worldwide. In Chicago alone, more than 5,000 athletes are involved in the program.



Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, and 2nd Vice President Frank DiMaria, presented the Distinguished Service Award to Chicago Police Officers Mohammad Shamah, Rishi Desai, Brendan McWilliams and Sgt. Margaret Morrissey. The officer rescued three children being threatened with a knife by an offender after responding to a domestic battery on S. Lowe.

Pictured (L-R), are Frank DiMaria, Officers Mohammad Shamah, Rishi Desai, Sgt. Margaret Morrissey and F.O.P. President Mark Donahue.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



for an election on March 11th and six of his cabinet members resigned this morning.

Cowen does not have the confidence of the Irish people. My “Irish cousin” Mike

Monaghan over in Galway tells me everybody calls Cowen, “Biffo,” an acronym for “Big Ignorant Fecker From Offally”.

Mike is a “true Blue Shirt,” an ideological descendant of Michael Collins and a big Fine Gael man.

The Fianna Fail party is on the rocks, and that sets the stage for the ascendancy of the Fine Gael party. Smart money is betting on the election of Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny to become the new Taoiseach.

In Kilmallock, County Limerick, my friend and former all-Ireland champion hurler Mike Houlihan is a county councillor from the Fine Gael Party. Send Mike to Chicago!

Who Will be Visiting Chicago Next Month from Ireland?

Each year Chicago welcomes lots of Irish politicians visiting for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and all the festivities associated with the High Holy Day. Of course they are treated like royalty here in the windy city. The Irish government also sends their emissaries to New York, Boston, and all parts of the globe.

That’s because Ireland is not really an island. It’s made up of every person on this earth with Irish blood pumping through his or her heart. We are all Ireland.

But things are not so ducky in Ireland these days. The recession here in the States could best be described in Eire as an implosion. As I write this, the Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, has called

Monaghan over in Galway tells me everybody calls Cowen, “Biffo,” an acronym for “Big Ignorant Fecker From Offally”.

Mike is a “true Blue Shirt,” an ideological descendant of Michael Collins and a big Fine Gael man.

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He can host “The Skinny & Houli Show” while he’s here and I’m sure most of our listeners would call that an improvement!

With an election on March 11th, how will the Irish government coordinate the travel arrangements for all the ministers coming to the States? Please don’t send us the lame ducks from the Fianna Fail administration of Biffo. Here in Chicago we want to meet the folks in charge.

We invented clout, so I’m sure Mayor Daley won’t be thrilled about spending his last St. Patrick’s Day as Mayor with somebody who doesn’t have any. There’s an old political saying in Chicago, “We don’t want nobody, nobody sent!”

So take heed Enda Kenny. Please start planning your trip to Chicago now so we can be sure when your emissaries arrive in Chicago this St. Patrick’s Day, there won’t be any of Biffo’s boys in the lot.

I know of one group of lads who will be here that won’t disappoint. The Saw Doctors are playing the Vic Theatre on Saturday night March 19th. They’re my favorite band and I last saw them in May at Millennium Park. They put

on a terrific show on a chilly rainy night and it was the last night I spent with my old pal Richie Golz. He dropped dead of a heart attack playing golf a week later.

Richie and I had started a Saw Doctors tradition each St. Patrick’s Day by taking in their concerts. One night back in 2007 we were lucky enough to walk into a bar after the concert and there they were: Leo Moran and Davey Carton and the rest of the lads from the Saw Doctors. Richie and I had a blast, and while the memory is still but a blur, I hope to see them once again to lift a glass with the Saw Doctors, as we salute my old friend Richie. He’ll be there in spirit, I know.

Last week I got a note from Saw Doctors manager Ollie Jennings asking me to mention the concert in March. So here’s the word, please come out to the Vic on March 19th and join me for the Saw Doctors show. You won’t hear better Irish music anywhere, and the spirit of my old pal Richie Golz will join us as well.

Book your tickets now! And that goes for you too Enda Kenny! Hope to see you in Chicago this St. Patrick’s Day.

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(L-R) Tony M. Carsella (Art) of Blue Island and John A. Neumann (James) of Chicago's Beverly Theatre Guild. Photos taken at Shirey Cadillac in Oak Lawn by George Miller.

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 Seanachai Theatre Company will present the Midwest premiere of *That Was Then* by Gerard Stembridge, February 24th–April 3rd, 2011 in the 3rd Floor theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago.
 Anglo-Irish tensions simmer beneath the surface as Dublinites Noel and May host a dinner party for an English couple in hopes of securing a substantial loan. Five years later, the invitation is reciprocated, but the tables have turned. Set in two time periods simultaneously (pre- and post-Celtic Tiger), *That Was Then* ingeniously weaves together the events of both desperate evenings, in this dark comedy.
 www.seanachai.org or 866-811-4111.



Tradition in Review

Continued from Page 19

the word a lot. He is a genius. From his most brilliant composition, Beal Tuinne, to his current work in Romania, joined with Granuaille to the Symphony for the Relief of Derry, no one since Sean O' Riada has shone as brilliantly as Shaun Davey in Irish composition. His wife, Rita Connolly, is a perfect musical collaborator and singer of his songs. We have no idea what to say about Shaun Davey and his contribution to Ireland. Someday we will get to meet him, and we hope he is not too embarrassed as we immediately fall to our knees and try to kiss his shoes. Another master. Big time. We are continuously amazed and stunned by this man and his creations. Genius.

Trad/Fusion

Album of the Decade

Rubai by Flook is another masterpiece. No group in the decade more brilliantly combined all the threads of music together rattling around out there in the world. No longer together, their final split-up was more than friendly, and the lucky fan in England can see their rare reunion concert and marvel again at what Flook brought to all of us. We saw them perform about seven times in person, and were blown

away each time. The apotheosis of it all was *Rubai*. We introduced them in several concerts and were always mystified by the link that they instantly forged with an audience. Sarah Allen. John Joe Kelly. Ed Boyd. Brian Finnegan. They were magic, and we had them for most of the decade. Like a great kiss, they linger in the memory. We are continuously amazed and stunned by this group, and what they brought to the musical table.

Female Musician of the Decade

We have loved Liz Carroll on fiddle for 30 years. She may kill us for telling you how long it has been, but she was a child prodigy and now she is an adult wizard. No one has written more tunes, more great tunes, and played them as brilliantly as Liz. So many people in the world consider her the greatest Irish fiddler. Who are we to argue? Wow! 30 years on, we are still overwhelmed every time we hear her play. We love Liz Carroll. Hell, the world loves

Decade Awards in Order 2000-2010

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Performers of the Decade | Lunasa |
| 2) Male Musician of the Decade | Jimmy Keane |
| 3) Song of the Decade | "My Bonny" (Laura Smith) |
| 4) Instrumental Group of the Decade | Brock McGuire |
| 5) Female Newcomer of the Decade | Eilis Kennedy |
| 6) Trad Promoter of the Decade | Copperplate |
| 7) Creative Project of the Decade | People and Songs of the Sea |
| 8) Male Newcomer of the Decade | Paddy Homan |
| 9) Female Singer of the Decade | Cathie Ryan |
| 10) Male Singer of the Decade | Len Graham |
| 11) Vocal/Instrumental Group of the Decade | David Munnely Band |
| 12) Composer of the Decade | Shaun Davey |
| 13) Trad Fusion Album of the Decade | <i>Rubai</i> (Flook) |
| 14) Female Musician of the Decade | Liz Carroll |
| 15) Album of the Decade | <i>Live at St. James Church, Dingle</i> (Beal Tuinne) |

Liz Carroll. She is an American. She is an Irish traditional mega-talent. And she is a sweetheart. Does that sound sexist? So be it. We could care less. Liz Carroll is the total deal and there is none better. An easy lay-up of a choice for Female Musician of the Decade. La Liz.

Album of the Decade

The name of the album is *Live at St. James Church, Dingle*. The group is Beal Tuinne. Shaun Davey, Rita Connolly, Eilis Kennedy, and Seamus Begley joined others at this now-legendary concert and produced the most beautiful Irish album we have ever heard in over 25 years of writing

about the music. We're supposed to be professional. We're not. We are this album's acolytes. This album was brought to us by Alan O'Leary from Copperplate, and that means we owe him something forever. We have never been so completely moved in the thousands of albums we have listened to over the years. This isn't a masterpiece. We don't know what this is. But, it is way past a masterpiece. We are still speechless from the perfection of it. So, we'll shut up. Just go find this album from Copperplate or anyone else, and get it. It is everything. It is Ireland in your hands, your ears, and your heart.

That's it, and that is everything!



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

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

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Winter Weather Legal Forecast

Whether ice-skating at Millennium Park or cross-country skiing in the Forest Preserves, winter brings to Chicagoland many opportunities to enjoy the ice and snow. Yet, caution signs near storefronts and other businesses that warn of slick conditions remind us that Chicago's freezing temperatures are not without risks. Property owners and visitors alike are well-advised to know their rights and responsibilities regarding injuries caused by ice and snow.

The Law in Illinois Concerning Ice and Snow

The law in Illinois is well-established that property owners and business operators have a general duty to provide a "reasonably safe" means of entering and exiting their premises.

For example, it is the owner's responsibility to properly illuminate the area and to give adequate warning of any known, dangerous conditions. However, Illinois law also provides that property owners are not liable for injuries resulting from the "natural accumulation" of ice, snow, or water on their premises. The term "natural accumulation" includes conditions such as the ordinary buildup of snow and the resulting water tracked inside a building by visitors. Nevertheless, when property owners create an "unnatural accumulation" of snow and ice, they can be responsible for injuries caused by it.

Keeping the Premises Safe

Illinois courts have held that when ice, snow, or water natu-

rally accumulates on the premises, the property owner has no legal obligation to remove the condition or to warn visitors of the potential danger.

It should be noted that if a property owner voluntarily assumes the duty to remove ice, snow, or water, he does not automatically assume liability simply by undertaking these safety measures. When an owner decides to take extra steps to keep the area safe, such as regularly mopping an entryway, laying down mats and placing caution signs, an owner would only be liable for injuries if his actions were deemed less than reasonably careful. For example, when a patron sued a laundromat after she slipped and fell on a puddle of water formed inside the facility, at the door, by other customers as they entered, the court found the owner did not have a duty to remove the water—even though the laundromat had deviated from its own protocol of placing floor mats near the entrance.

Moreover, to further encourage homeowners to remove ice and snow from sidewalks, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the Snow and Ice Removal Act. The Act provides that residential property owners removing ice or snow from sidewalks abutting

their property will not be liable for injuries unless their acts amount to willful and wanton behavior, as opposed to simply negligent behavior. In other words, such a homeowner's actions would need to be more than simply careless; the actions would need to rise to the level of an utter indifference to, or conscious disregard for, the safety of others.

Claims for Injuries Resulting from Snow or Ice

Generally speaking, in order to establish a claim for an injury from falling on snow or ice, the claimant must first be able to show that the accumulation of ice or snow was unnatural; that is to say, the hazard was man-made. Unnatural accumulation can include negligent design of a walkway, roof, or parking lot. Secondly, the claimant must show that the owner knew or should have known about the condition and the risk. Next, the claimant must show that it was the unnatural condition, and not some other natural condition, that caused the injury. Lastly, the claimant must show that the owner would not reasonably expect visitors to discover or realize the danger.

Of course, this general discussion of rights and responsibilities relating to snow and ice should not be considered a substitute for individual legal advice from an attorney based on the facts of a particular case. It is clear that the courts in Illinois have struck a balance between protecting property and business owners from circumstances beyond their control, while also providing visitors and customers an opportunity to recover for their injuries under certain circumstances. The hope is that everyone can safely enjoy the snow and ice of the winter months as we wait for spring to come.

By Matthew J. Healy & Brendan J. Dailey



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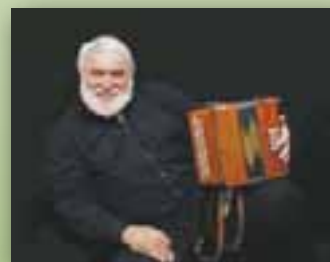
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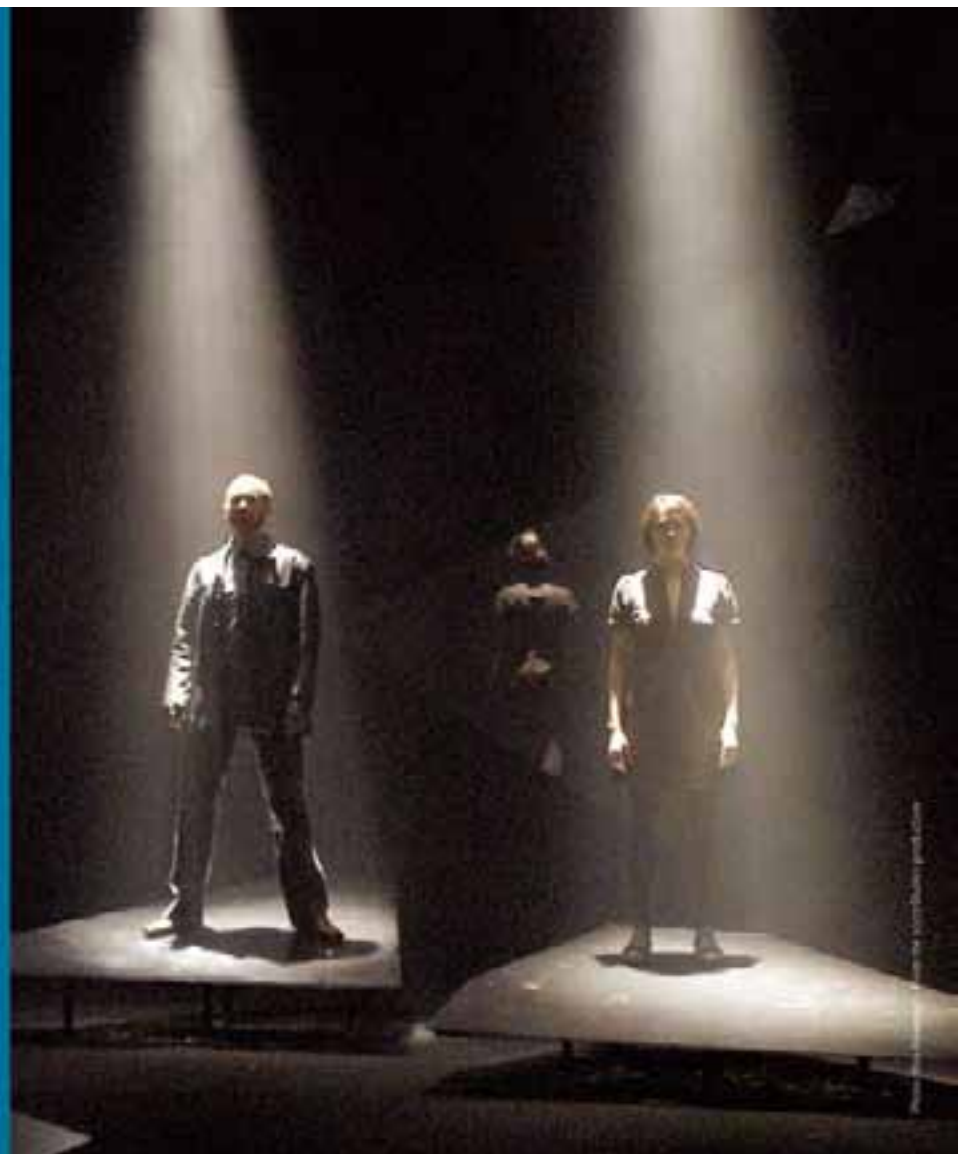



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Major Fest at Peggy Kinnane’s in March

Downtown Arlington Heights will melt away the bitter winter blues next spring with the extreme heat and electricity that radiates from Peggy Kinnane’s Irish Restaurant & Pub 10 Year Anniversary Music Fest, Thursday, March 17th through Saturday, March 19th. The commemorative bash is destined to be the hottest St. Paddy’s Day ticket in Chicagoland, with top local and national acts helping spread Irish cheer over three full days.

Escape your cabin fever and get outside under a giant heated big top tent packed with entertainment covering a city block. The setting—Arlington Heights—boasts a charming downtown that has turned into a vibrant hub, chock full of appealing architecture, retail, dining and entertainment. This Chicagoland Irish Pub embodies the true spirit

of Ireland. To celebrate 10 years as a cornerstone fixture in the revitalization of downtown Arlington Heights, Peggy Kinnane’s is literally pulling off the St. Pat’s party of the decade with three days of live, top notch music, great food & drink and good time frills.

The talent lineup features live music all day from 11am to midnight capped off with a national act every evening.

Thursday, March 17

- Baal-Tinne: Traditional Irish Music with a Twist
- Screaming Orphans: Lively Traditional Irish Music
- Elevation: U2 Tribute Band
- Shannon Rovers: Bagpipers
- Scythian: Celtic Rock with an Edge

Friday, March 18

Ideas of March: 1970’s Powerhouse Rock and Roll Band

Sister Hazel: Alternative Rock Band (“All for You,” “Change Your Mind”)

Saturday, March 19

Neverly Brothers: Retro Rock and Roll Revival

American English: Premier Beatles Tribute Band

High Infidelity: 1980’s Cover Band

38 Special: 1980’s Southern Rock Band (“Caught Up in You,” “Hold on Loosely”)

Catered completely by Peggy Kinnane’s, there will be a variety of delicious Irish / fest food available in the tents, including Corned Beef Sandwiches, Italian Sausage, Hot Dogs, Italian Beef Sandwiches and more. There will also be full bars serving everything from draft Guinness to cocktails. Neither food nor drink is included in admission price.

The event site is located smack in the middle of downtown Arlington Heights [under a giant big top tent] in the town’s utility field (located

catty-corner to Peggy Kinnane’s Irish Restaurant & Pub, 8 N. Vail Avenue). The site is two blocks away from the Metra stop, which runs throughout the day offering affordable and convenient access to / from the city and suburbs. There are also several covered parking lots near the event site, offering free parking.

Individual day tickets are \$40 per person on March 17th, \$45 per person on March 18th and \$50 per person on March 19th. A limited number of tickets will be available online. This is a 21 and over event. General admission only (no seating). For more info, call 847.577.7733 or visit www.peggykinnanes.com.

Operated by Owner and General Manager Derek Hanley, Peggy Kinnane’s has become an absolute cornerstone in northwest suburban Arlington Heights. What makes Peggy’s so unique is the fact that virtually every piece of the structure came directly from Ireland. The interior consists mainly of original Irish stone from County Clare. All of the woodwork, including the bars themselves, were constructed and shipped directly from Ireland. The spectacular layout features several bars, dining areas and even private party rooms. Warm weather allows for tables outside around the beautiful perimeter. Children are welcome and free parking is available on the street and in a municipal garage just down the block. A professional staff, an inviting menu and an atmosphere that feels like Ireland all combine to make a visit to Peggy Kinnane’s Irish Restaurant and Pub an authentic and charming experience.

Visit peggykinnanes.com for more info.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Pass Me the Sick Bucket—Quick!

We'll get to the ghastly Rosanna Davison later, because for now:

They sought her here and they sought her there, they sought that Death's Head everywhere.

Yeah, that's right: the famous Minister for Health—you know the one I'm talking about: looks anything but like somebody that should be promoting health—Mary Harney.

Now we put out a search for this missing person.

There had been more sightings of her than there have been of Elvis Presley. Was she in Hong Kong? Was she in South Africa? Was she here under a disguise?

Can you imagine what that disguise would have been? Was she dressed as King Kong of the Health Service that she doesn't give a damn about?

You couldn't get through to her office unless you wanted to talk to one of her flunkies and most journalists don't. They just wanted to know where they hell she was!

One thing is for sure: she was still on her well-earned Christmas break in the middle of January when normal people have long gone back to work. Still, who said anything about this government was ever normal?

I'm sick and tired of saying this, but just look at her record, and just look at her and her immovable face, and tell me that this one who scarpers off to foreign climes every time there is a problem here has a heart. She has never given one jot for the people who died under her watch.

When there's a crisis you don't just bugger off on your unfeasibly long holidays and hit the five star hotels of Thailand and New Zealand or whatever you're having yourself. When you are a paid representative of this country, you just don't shrug your shoulders and say that you are

off to stay for a week in a five star hotel.

That doesn't even take into account where she spent the other two weeks.

Ah, for heaven's sake, lads, you really are taking the p*** now.

And as for all of you Fianna Failures who are jumping ship now, have you no shame whatsoever? You just throw the towel in, knowing that you are in award of a huge pension?

You are, each and every one of you, a total disgrace. Your pension should have been capped at €50,000 and believe me that is way too much for the ineffectual job you have done.

You pretend to be the Soldiers of Destiny; let me tell you, that whirling sound that you hear? That's the real patriots who died for eff all in this country who are whirling in their graves. They would be ashamed of you, and since you have even sold out our sovereignty to Europe for a grubstake in nothing at all, well, I hope to Christ they haunt you for what you have done.

Anyone who reads this column regularly knows my utter distaste for Sinn Fein but here I'm going to swallow pride and say that come this election I might—might, mind you—find myself voting for them.

Let's be honest, anyone of my

age (52 in case you're having sleepless nights wondering about it) has suspicions about them. Yet this new bunch that are in make me wonder about my own entrenched ideas.

It's never a bad thing to change. God knows I find it hard to bite the bullet—geddit?—and be on the side of Adams and McGuinness but as I say, times change.

This has been a slow process for me, but I think the culmination came yesterday (as I write) when in the Dail the hapless Brian Cowen, facing off a takeover of his own party over his dubious dealings with the likes of his golfing partner Seanie FitzPatrick of Anglo Irish Banks, decided to lie through his teeth and tell us that there had never been any discussions between him and Seanie over the state of his bank.

He was the Minister for Finance at the time!

For crying out loud, why wasn't he talking about the state they were in?

Just a sociable game of golf? Give me a freaking break!

So while our supposed opposition leaders like Enda Kenny of Fine Gael, and the increasingly laughable Eamon Gilmore, were being handed a gold plated opportunity to give a seriously well-deserved kicking to Cowen, what do they do? They mumbled a bit, made damn all sense, and came out with the same old platitudes, and generally behaved like the kind of clowns that they saw themselves as taking over from.

Up steps Sinn Fein's Caomhghin O Caolain to throw a hand grenade into the proceedings (metaphorically speaking of course, even though there was a day when you might have had to temper those words),

by asking a simple question: Who else was there when Seanie and Brian were playing this curiously silent golf game?

Then of course it all came out; and let's be honest about this: it had to be dragged screaming from Cowen's lips. Yes, there were also in the company of the Smurfit executive Gary McGann, and the "economic consultant"—I loved that one—Alan Gray. McGann, of course, was an Anglo Bank director, and as much as Cowen tried to fudge it, let's be honest here. It just beggars belief that Cowen didn't discuss the state of the banks. It's a bit like when his predecessor Bertie Ahern told us he won all that loot on a horse whose name he can't remember.

And it took my detested Shinners to drag that out of him. Rumour has it that he was afraid that they had the goods on him. I don't think so. I think that they were just smart enough to call his bluff.

Now I like that; especially since it got such unexpected results.

So yeah, I'm going out on a limb here: I'll be voting for certain Sinn

Feiners this time around. God, did it kill me to say that?

You have no idea.

If I was in any doubt, I know now that I will definitely burn in Hell.

I can't possibly go without mouthing my utter disgust at the usual yearly travesty that has been made of the ruling on who is exempt from paying tax under Charles Haughey's originally well-intentioned bill.

To see the ghastly, smug Rosanna Davison being given tax exemption, just because she drew a few illustrations for a book is sickening beyond belief. Then again, so is she. The daughter of that other creep, Chris de Burgh, was given the news while on yet another sun holiday. She was interrupted while tweeting to her fans—who are these sick people by the way?—that she was finding it difficult to decide what bikini to wear.

Haughey had his many, many, many faults, but I've a feeling that this wasn't exactly what he set up the tax exemption law for.

Could someone pass me the sick bucket, please?

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Denis Leary's New Book

On December 6th, Denis Leary—one of America's most original and biting comic satirists—will turn his irreverent eye and scathing humor on everything you love and cherish with a hilarious, illustrated collection of Tweets. *SUCK ON THIS YEAR: LYFAO @ 140 Characters or Less* will hit you where it hurts—and you'll love it.

Leary's first reaction to the Twitter universe was to run the other direction. But then he realized that all of the jokes he was making casually to friends were going to waste unless he had a stand-up comedy tour coming up. The jokes just came and then disappeared. So he decided to give Twitter a try, and once he started, he couldn't stop. Thus—this book. Or mini-book. Or celebrity coaster.

A portion of the proceeds from this book will go towards Leary's charity—The Leary Firefighters Foundation—so not only are readers improving their own lives by reading this and laughing out loud, they're also helping a firefighter somewhere in America gain some invaluable training. Plus, *SUCK ON THIS YEAR* will make the perfect gift book this holiday season, and let's be honest, it's a lot more fun than those winter socks or hand-knit sweater or most of your relatives.



Denis's first book *Why We Suck* was on the *New York Times* Bestseller List for six months—or long enough to really upset many real authors. Denis promises this latest little book is a perfect stocking stuffer crammed with lots of pictures and very large print that will not only make you laugh your ass off but only takes about 15 minutes to read. Or one long trip to the bathroom.
(Viking; \$18.00; 978-0-670-02289-2.)

Students Dine With Judges in Irish Tradition



Gathered at the first Brehon Society Dining-In Program are (from left) Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Thomas J. Byrne; John Marshall students Jennifer Sullivan, Joseph Kearney, Timothy O'Gorman, Alexandra Bobbit; Chicago Alderman Edward M. Burke; Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke; John Marshall students John Eagan, Megan Sullivan, James O'Shea and Adjunct Professor Lance Northcutt.

The 40 members of The John Marshall Law School's Brehon Society followed the tradition of Irish law students when they hosted a "dining-in" program last November that gave them an opportunity to meet with judges from various courts in the Chicago area and legal practitioners.

In Ireland, law students are required to dine several times during their law school education with practitioners and members of the judiciary as a way to learn about legal traditions and become part of the legal fraternity. The John Marshall dining-in was the first held by the Brehon Society, and is likely to continue, said Adjunct Professor Lance Northcutt, associate director of the law school's Trial Advocacy Program, who initiated the dinner with Brehon Society officers.

Honored guests were Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke and Chicago Alderman Edward M. Burke who served as "honorary benchers" in the Irish tradition of senior members of the bar who oversee the dining-in program. They delivered a poignant and captivating two-person monologue about the history of Brehon law, which pre-dates common law.

Other special guests at the dining-in were United States 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Justice William Bauer; United States District Court Judge John Darrah; and Circuit Court of Cook County Judges Clare McWilliams, Thomas Byrne and David Sterba. Students Dine With Judges in Irish Tradition

For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



CHICAGO'S HONEST COP is retiring—a tragedy for Chicago. Deputy Chief James Keating's departure will make it more dangerous to support democracy in Chicago. On Sundays for the past decade while our group rallied against the criminal war in Iraq, Chicago cops routinely muttered obscenities and threatened us. They also would arrest us, and perpetrate criminal battery on us after hand-cuffing us. Then, they never, not once, showed up in court. A policeman once became passionately violent but was overpowered by two larger, law-abiding officers who managed to drag him away. After years of this, Keating arrived on the scene. No cop has criminally assaulted us since his arrival some three years ago. The scandal here isn't the occasional cop committing crimes; it is that the other cops wink at those crimes. Thus, last summer scores if not hundreds of Chicago cops revealed themselves by showing up, in uniform, outside the Federal Building in loud SUPPORT of a Chicago monster, Ex-Police Lt. Jon Burge, the torturer. If only a few cops had shown up to uphold the honor of Chicago and its police by protesting official torture; but none did. All the more reason to salute a true American patriot, Dep. Chief James Keating.

DARK DAYS AHEAD? We hear of the imminent removal of Commissioner Weis (who had backed Keating and didn't coddle criminal cops). It will restore criminal cops' impunity, making it too dangerous for patriots to continue rallying against criminal wars.

MAYORALTY RACE. You know I don't endorse pols or suggest how to vote, but here're useful data. **Carol Moseley Braun** was a US Congresswoman. Pleasant; we once campaigned for her. She is damaged by reports of her official association with a Nigerian dictator and current financial problems. I first met **Gery Chico** in Ald. Eddie Burke's office. As the engineer managing construction of the Southeast Services Area of the O'Hare Airport Expansion in the mid 1980s, I noticed contracts being granted wrongfully such that \$200 million was wrongfully spent. My two superiors (out-of-town-ers) replied that Chicago corruption is invincible and refused to act. Ditto the Dept. of Aviation chief. The City of Chicago Finance Dept. was my next hope, and there, as I informed Eddie Burke he summoned two lawyers; one female, the other Gery Chico. Upon inspecting O'Hare with me the next day,

Chico said: "What we want is a film of a contractor putting his hand in his pocket and handing a wad of cash to a City employee." I replied; "Mr. Chico, you learned the details of many crimes here, but you say you seek only one kind." Chico and colleague departed and I was fired a week or two later (so, for the same reason, was Engineer Walt Metzke). I later notified news media and after my departure, TV Reporter Pam Zekman exposed some of the crimes, and prosecutors destroyed one company, Palumbo, "The Earth Moves With Palumbo." One or two of its execs went to prison, but other perpetrators were never touched. That's my experience with Gery Chico. I later learned that avoidable losses stopped at the cited \$200 million. **Miguel Del Valle** is a scandal-free, veteran Illinois Senator. In 1988-89, he became an early supporter of the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland which became Illinois law. It prohibited Northern Ireland branches of companies in which Illinois pension funds were invested from participating in Britain's policy of denial of jobs to Catholics (a policy established to counter the 1973 right of Catholics to vote). To us, Del Valle proved his integrity. **Rahm Emanuel**, the machine favorite, made \$millions as a Wall Street banker; is also a military veteran—but not for America. As an Israeli soldier he would have participated in routine massacres of Palestinians and robberies of Palestinian lands.

MORE FBI SKULLDUGGERY. Long-time readers know of the FBI's crime-sprees against us in 1990-1993. Weeks before the crimes began, FBI Agent Joe Doyle informed my wife Mary and me that Britain's MI5 had bribed and subverted some of his colleagues and were planning to "silence"

us. Soon, 16-year-old David Biro, using FBI Agent Lewis's 357 Magnum, murdered his Winnetka neighbors, the Langerts and their unborn child. Local police promptly identified Biro, but next morning FBI agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley arrived, took over, and prohibited the police from pursuing Biro and sent them after others, especially the IRA. The FBI then got TV "reporter" Carol Marin to plant the lie of IRA involvement, which other reporters parroted. Meanwhile Biro entertained his school friends with murder scene tours. Then, in brief: Biro blabbed through his FBI cover into Downstate Pontiac prison for Life Without Parole. I am grateful to him beyond words. I had made the mistake of speaking to Buckley's men and they had framed me by making notes of "my" words of using "different-type bullets to escape detection" followed by their own words: "Note: Different-type bullet casings were found at the murder scene." It was in signed murder investigation reports.

Case Closed: their criminally-fabricated words had doomed me if Biro had kept quiet. An anonymous tipster (Winnetka police?) directed our attorneys to inspect the Langert murders investigation reports at Winnetka's police HQ. I possess photocopies. Before these FBI crimes were exposed, the FBI had begun a separate series of crimes by "doctoring" an audiotape which they used as evidence and had incarcerated us in Chicago's Federal Correctional Facility. Three days later it helped greatly that Chicago's Irish showed up, jamming the hearing room. We bonded out and fifteen months later we proved in Federal court that the evidentiary audiotape was a criminal fabrication and we walked free. But so did the criminals. MI5 sent Agent Buckley to Ireland along with a life-long criminal, David Rupert. They repeated their Winnetka deeds in Omagh and 29 more died. Using their failed Chicago tactics in a Dublin courtroom they successfully framed Michael McKevitt. Testimony revealed that Buckley flew to "investigate" the Atlanta Olympic bombing, and yet another innocent was framed,

Security Guard Richard Jewell. Before he died, young, Jewell received some \$2.9 million in damages. Similarly framed and dying young was Tony McCormick, one of the framed group of Mary, Frank O'Neill, and me.

The foregoing serves to warn: Because the FBI are untouchable criminals, NEVER talk with them absent your attorney. For foreign genocidists and war criminals they attack patriotic Americans. They were on Britain's MI5 payroll while framing us and people in Ireland. They have recently targeted some twenty-three Minneapolis, Michigan, and Chicago antiwar, anti School of the Americas, and pro-justice advocates for Palestinians. The FBI has used the same old tactic against Minnesota activists. May FBI mole

"Karen Sullivan" fail as an accomplice/agent provocateur against Minnesotans like the FBI's pathetic John Tuttle did against us.

U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK FITZGERALD is leading the FBI attack against the peace activists. If he is successful his beneficiaries will be the world's supreme criminals, the teachers of torture at the School of the Americas, and Israeli genocidists of the Palestinians. Now we know why Fitzgerald failed to prosecute FBI criminals and the Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld gang. He's proving to be their accomplice.

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

Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651.



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Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



A Chairde:

It is the dead of winter, and one of the last things you would be thinking about would be an outdoor festival. Thankfully, Frank Bradley and his committee work year-round on the Festival and have recently announced the lineup of entertainment for this year's Festival on Memorial Day weekend. Because this is the 25th anniversary of the Festival, Frank wanted to bring some names that haven't performed in a few years along with some new names. The lineup is outstanding.

There is something for everyone. Leahy, the high-energy family act from Canada, is back. De Danann, one of Ireland's premiere traditional bands, is returning. The Fenians, Tartan Terrors, Declan Nerney and the Makem & Spain Brothers will all be present. The country's hottest Festival group, Gaelic Storm, is returning. New this year is well-known Irish tenor, Ronan Tynan. Another new act, Girsá, which is a group of eight young ladies singing and playing traditional Irish music, recently performed at the Irish American Heritage Center. They were a huge hit and we're looking forward to their performance at the Festival.

In addition, all of the top local groups will be playing during the four-day Festival. I don't think there will be a better gathering of Irish entertainment in the United States this year.

Watch for special ticket prices and packages that will be available on line in the very near future. For example, in honor of the 25th anniversary, a four-day pass can be obtained for \$25. We owe a debt of gratitude to Frank Bradley and everyone who works so hard on this great event.

The second edition of Craic-A-Palooza will take place on February 12. Last year's inaugural reunion was a huge success. There is free admission, free hors d'oeuvres and "Irish sandwiches", rolled back prices on refreshments and live entertainment. Most of all, there are a huge number of people that you haven't seen for a long time. We look forward to seeing everybody at this mid-winter celebration.

There's loads of activities at Gaelic Park, including trivia on Tuesday night, traditional music on Thursday night, live entertainment on Friday and Saturday and the Celtic Supper every Sunday evening.

We hope to see you soon!

Yours very truly,

John C. Griffin, President

GAA St Jarlath's

Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling clubs season is almost upon us, and we are always looking for new players from ages 5-18 with all skill levels to play. Football practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 pm, and Hurling practices are Friday evenings from 6:30-8 pm. All practices are held at Gaelic Park. For more information visit our website www.chicagosjarlaths.com

Save the Date....

2/19	Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones	\$25
2/25	All Ireland Quiz Night	
2/26	The Four Courts	\$20
3/04 thru 3/17	Ireland on Parade	
3/13	South Side Irish Sunday	
3/17	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	\$25
3/17	Dave Coady Farewell Concert/Dance	\$25
4/02	Conal Gallen Comedy Night	\$25

See our web site www.chicagogaelicpark.org for all current information on scheduled events or call the office at 708.687.9323

Derek Warfield & the Young Wolfe Tones

Irish Musical Tradition the way it's meant to be! Derek Warfield has enjoyed a lifetime of success as a founding member and leader of the legendary Wolfe Tones. So a new day dawns on The Wolfe Tones legend. The Young Wolfe Tones, Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones are known throughout the world for their quality musical presentation of Irish patriotic "Rebel Songs" & Traditional Irish Music.

The Four Courts

The Four Courts are a group of the finest musicians well known in the Chicago area. Paddy Homan, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon and Dennis Cahill each have played throughout the US and all over the world and now bring their talents together as The Four Courts.

Craic a Palooza

Craic or crack is a term for fun, entertainment and enjoyable conversation, particularly prominent in Ireland. Under either spelling, the crack/craic has great cultural currency and significance. So says the dictionary! On Saturday, February 12 we are going to add to the definition of craic at Gaelic Park. Come be a part of cultural history by adding your own flavor to our second Craic-A-Palooza. This event is designed to rekindle "the good old days" and meet up with friends you haven't seen in a while. So here's the deal, come and bring your friends...the party is open to all ages, as long as you are over 21. There is no cover charge and reservations are not necessary. Drinks will be available at rolled-back prices, same as last year, and complimentary appetizers will be served along with Irish sandwiches. There will be live music and special giveaways. Tables will be available, and as always, we will have the bar to lean against if that makes you more comfortable! The craic starts at 8pm and will run til midnight. We hope you will come and build on the fantastic time we all had last year. This is a great opportunity to contribute to those most honored Irish cultural traditions of friendship and conversation. Remember, this is two days before Valentine's Day, so what better way to start that celebration of love and affection than joining us at Gaelic Park for Craic-A-Palooza.



Irish Festival Queen Contest

A new Irish Festival Queen and a Queen's Court will be chosen at our Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 6. Each of the contestants will be introduced and the winners will be announced. The 2011 Irish Festival Queen and her Court will enjoy participating in many events in the months ahead: Parade floats in Chicago and suburban locations; Ireland On Parade Celebration week; Irish Fest's 25th Anniversary weekend; and a host of other ceremonies and festivals planned throughout the coming year. Gifts and prizes valued at over \$1000 will also be presented. All single girls of Irish heritage aged 18 to 26 are invited to enter with a fee of \$10. You can pick up your applications at the Chicago Gaelic Park office or by calling 708.687.9323. Deadline for entries is Monday, February 28.

Is That Your Final Answer?

All Ireland Trivia Quiz Night

Gaelic Park Players will host their annual All-Ireland Trivia Quiz on Friday February 25 at 8pm. This is a fun event for young and old which has attracted 25-30 teams the past four years. The goal is to have 32 counties represented from Ireland; in reality we have had several teams representing Mayo and Kerry in recent years. In 2010 the Quiz Night attracted 150 contestants (28 teams) representing 17 different counties and a fun night was had by all. The Quiz Masters, Mick Kenna, Tim Tobin and John Devitt emphasize that this is a trivia quiz with 75% of the questions being of a general nature and 25% having an Irish flavor. The Roscommon team were champions in 2010 for the second time, with Kilkenny winning in 2007 and 2008. The winning team takes home "The Cup", as well as individual trophies and a \$250 cash prize. The runners-up also receive trophies with a \$50 cash prize. There is a team entry fee of \$50 with a maximum of 5 members per team. Individuals are welcome and will be placed on one of the teams. All teams are advised to balance their teams as there is a wide variation in questions. The Gaelic Park Players group has plenty of volunteers on hand to distribute spot prizes and ensure that this event, as always, is completed in a fun environment. Mark your calendar and contact John Devitt (devittj62@yahoo.com) to register your team.



Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



"Who Is Your Hero" Cultural Essay Contest 2011

Chicago Gaelic Park's annual Scholarship Essay Contest is open to all students in good standing. The topic this year is "Who Is Your Hero?" Students will be awarded in the following categories:

Grammar School—Grades 6 through 8

Maximum of three typed pages (8-1/2x11)

High School—All Grades

Maximum of five typed pages (8-1/2x11)

Awards in each category will be: \$1000; \$750; \$500. Awards are issued jointly to



student and parents. All essays are evaluated by an independent academic committee.

Random Draw of \$250 for all participants rewarding effort and recognition to

other than six winners.

Entry forms are available at the Chicago Gaelic Park office and all essays must be returned by **Monday, February 14** with the properly completed

Entry Form attached (hand delivered, mailed or faxed). Office hours are 9am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Essays can be mailed to: Chicago Gaelic Park Scholarship Committee, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452, or faxed to 708.687.0120. Essays will not be accepted by email and will not be returned. Individual winners will be notified by phone and announced at the Gaelic Park monthly 10am mass on Sunday, March 13. Individual awards will be presented to the winners on Sunday, March 27 at the Celtic Supper. For further information call 708.687.9323.

February Special Events at the Carraig Pub...



Super Bowl at the Carraig on Sunday February 6. Admission to this year's party is \$35.00, and this includes open bar from start of game to final whistle, half-time buffet, snack tables and raffle prizes such as pub memorabilia, electronics, t-shirts and more.



Valentine's Day dinner special on Sunday February 13. The dinner includes a stuffed Portobello mushroom appetizer, an entrée of Filet Mignon with Shrimp, Dessert, and choice of red or white wine. The cost is 65 per couple; reservations are necessary and can be made with any of the bartenders on duty, or by calling the front office at 708-687-9323.

Ireland on parade March 4-17

Gaelic Park is proud to host Ireland on Parade, a multi-generational tradition, also known as "Irish Week." It is a 10 day celebration at Gaelic Park and each evening includes traditional Irish music entertainment followed by performances from the Irish step dancing schools. There is no admission fee and doors open each evening at 5:30pm with the first dance show starting at 7pm. Food will be available for purchase beginning at 5:30pm and the bar will be open to purchase refreshments.

South Side Irish Sunday, March 13, the celebration begins with 10am Mass followed by a full Irish breakfast. Doors will reopen again at 1:30pm with four stages of continuous live entertainment and fun for the entire family going on in every room of Gaelic Park. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 12 and under.

St Patrick's Day the Emerald Room doors open at 11am for the annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon with music and dancing for just \$25 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance. At 4:30 pm doors open to the Tara Room with live music and children's entertainment. There is no admission fee and a delicious hot food

Women's Little Christmas annual party was held on January 6 with more than 300 women in attendance. Everyone had a fantastic evening of fun and games and the waiters were absolutely superb! Events like this highlight the strong traditions of the Irish, which is the very mission of Gaelic Park.



Chicago Gaelic Park 25th Anniversary Irish Fest Memorial Weekend 2011

gaelic storm • ronon lynn • leahy • de danann • tartan terrors • declan nemej • fenians
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crossroads • chicago reel • red rebel county • kathleen keane • tommy goodwin & sharon • larkin moran
bernie glim country roads • joe cullen • baal finne • irish musicians • geard huaghey • sean odonnell
shannon rovers • emerald society • pipes drums • joe moshane • ray gavin • solid-aire • character fleadh
olearys lantern • week back • celtic sounds • patrick guinea • pat daly • mulligan stew • sean & charlie
irish music club • pat finnegan • billy odonoghue • murphy roche



Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



treating each other with more civility. All this after two years of the Democrats, "in your face" attitude in the house and senate ala Nancy Pelosi.

The Blago Legacy

The state of Illinois is deep in debt, thanks to Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, and his flippant laxity in the budget process. Absentee management always produces a negative result. Rod gave us six years of that.

Chicago Mayoral Race

The mayoral race is not turning out to be a post-racist world contest. The black candidates have done the most posturing, and after dropping out one by one, Carol Moseley Braun emerges as their standard bearer. The Reverend Meeks didn't like Bill Clinton coming to town to raise money for Rahm Emmanuel, who already has a commanding lead in the polls. I would imagine President Obama would have come himself, if he thought he could get away with it.

State, County and Chicago Pensions

BTK said it before, the pension plans are pulling us down. We are circling the drain, and Governor Quinn is no help at all. Most people who work in private industry will tell you the benefits are nowhere near the benefits you can get by working for the City of Chicago, Cook County, or the State of Illinois. The biggest problem is people retiring at age 50 after 30 years on the job. Most pensions in private industry don't kick in until you hit the magic 65.

Boyle & Mann

Brendan Boyle and Holly Mann were married December 18th at St. Thomas More Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A Chicago reception was held on Thursday, December 30th at Courtright's Restaurant in Willow Springs, IL, an elegant setting for the celebration. The Boyle and McLaugh-

lin clans, along with their notable guests, enjoyed the evening from the champagne toast to the wedding cake. Sister Anne McLaughlin traveled from Santa Rosa, Peru. Santa Rosa is just North of Lima, and her brother, James McLaughlin, came in from Malinhead, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Granda Mallon

Jim Mallon's daughter Debby, gave birth to a baby girl, Gabriela Rose, December 12th 2010. Debby's husband, Dave Boczowski, is proud of his 8 pound 8 ounce daughter.

Philip Francis Crough

Phil passed away on December 31st, 2010, at the age of 80. His daughter, Karen, is married to my nephew, Kevin Shaffer. Phil lived in Geneva, NY, where he married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor, and raised four children. He volunteered with the Fire Dept., Charles J. Folger Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, Inc., since 1957. When life went full circle and Eleanor passed away, Phil was in an assisted living facility, The Vienna Gardens, which happened to be in the old Geneva high school that he attended, and the room he lived in was his old Senior home room when he went to school there. Several men he went to school with also lived in the home. The Knights of Columbus and the Firemen from the Hook & Ladder company escorted his body from the Church after the funeral mass. His family, faith, and community were the important things in his life. He was highly regarded by those who were lucky enough to know him.



Holly Mann and Brendan Boyle

"The members of the C. J. Folger Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 lament the call of Philip Crough to his last alarm, and command that a copy of these, our humble thoughts, be spread upon the minutes of said Company, and that a true copy be sent to his family as testimony of our esteem, and that the Company Headquarters be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days."

Illinois Income Tax

Because they all played the election year game, and didn't raise the income tax a year ago, we are now faced with a quantum leap 2% increase. The new income tax was passed by one vote in the lame-duck session of the state legislature—60 to 57 in the House, and 30 to 29 in the Senate. The new law limits spending to \$36.8 billion starting July 01, 2011. That's a 10% increase over the present budget. How's that for fiscal responsibility?

The \$6.8 billion in new taxes which will come from the taxpayers discretionary income will be offset by a \$748 million loss in sales tax revenue.

Illinois Corporate Tax

The job market in Illinois has just been suffocated by the Democrats, who are the biggest hogs at the public trough. Other states and countries have low corporate tax rates in order to attract companies to set up shop, and ultimately employ people.

Jody Weiss

Why are all of the Mayoral candidates vowing to replace Jody Weiss, Superintendent of Police? Could it be that crime is down in all categories but one? He's working with fewer men because of the budget crisis, and still getting the job done? My friends, it is all about votes, and the endorsement of the Fraternal Order of Police. Nobody has got the guts to buck the tide!

Gabrielle Giffords

Gabrielle Giffords, a Democratic Congresswoman, was shot in a Tucson, Arizona shopping plaza by Jarad L. Loughner, a man who has been exhibiting psychotic behavior for years. Now, once again we will here the cry for gun control even though it would not have prevented this lunatic from killing 6 people, and wounding 19 others.

Some Congressman like Jesse Jackson Jr. are asking for more security to insure their own safety. Some Congressmen are talking about carrying sidearms. Now they are talking about stopping the harsh rhetoric, and

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Honesty Best Policy For New Irish Gov't

By Sean Canniffe

You have to feel a little bit sorry for Brian Cowen... don't you? He will probably go down as the worst Taoiseach in Ireland's history. Long after the bankers, (non) regulators and assorted other gurrriers responsible for the calamitous state of the Irish pocketbook are forgotten about, the big man from Offaly will loom large as the central figure of the Shakespearean tragedy that has befallen Ireland. Is it all his fault though?

The self-imposed austerity measures, rising unemployment, falling property market and the huge EU/IMF dig-out have left the regular folks all over the country scratching their heads and wondering how it all went wrong so quickly and will it ever go right again? There were and are a great number of people in Ireland, particularly in the older generation, who never really trusted the Celtic Tiger. They didn't see it as real. Ireland was never going to be a prosperous country, doesn't history tell us that? Many of these people lived through long periods when high taxes devoured already meagre wage packets and when for large numbers of the population the only way out was across a body of water. The Irish Sea or the Atlantic Ocean, take your pick. Recent events feed this type of defeatism. But is that seriously any way to view the future if you are Irish? Optimism, when it is blind and groundless, is worse than useless. But in the story of Ireland's most recent couple of decades there is a lot to be optimistic about. Ireland gained a foothold in the global markets of the industries of the 21st Century—information technology and bio-technology. It stemmed the flow of losing its best and brightest to

other countries and actually managed to reverse it for a period. The Peace Process in the north finally brought an end to The Troubles. Most of all, national self confidence went up exponentially. This was not all built on sand, there were many sound reasons why Ireland got it's mojo. Sadly during the last few years of the 'Good Times' confidence gave way to over-confidence, mainly in the banking and building sectors, and politicians made unforgivable mistakes dealing with the consequences.

For that Cowen and Fianna Fáil rightly stand in the dock. It was their governance, their too-cozy relationships with bankers and developers, and their policies which, along with an almost infinite supply of cheap money from Europe, led us to the precarious state of the Irish financial sector in September of 2008. After that, it was Cowan's bank guarantee that condemned the country to years of austerity.

The people will vote in the coming weeks and for once the result is not in doubt. Fianna Fáil will be hammered on election day and there are those who even sense the total demise of the party which has ruled the Republic of Ireland for three quarters of its existence.

We still don't know if Brian Cowen will even defend his own seat, even though he won it last time with one of the biggest majorities in the country. In fact, up to a third of all sitting Fianna Fáil TDs will not seek re-election and that includes some ministerial heavyweights. Defeat is always the price for failure and there is nothing wrong in that. But others were at fault also over the last several years, and ironically, they may be about to be rewarded.

Banking aside, one of the major

challenges facing Ireland is it's budget deficit. In the years when property prices were rising, the government derived a highly disproportionate percentage of its revenue base from taxes associated with property, notably but not limited to stamp duty. Moreover about 15 percent of the workforce was employed in the construction industry, which is now a desert for jobs. This overdependence on one sector for tax revenue was always destined for disaster. When the crash came, it emptied the government's coffers and to add insult to injury, much of the extra expenditure the government is faced with is to pay for unemployment benefits to those same construction workers who used to be such a valuable asset. So, almost overnight, one of the most disciplined economies in Europe, in terms of budget deficits, became a basket case, with the worst deficit in the continent.

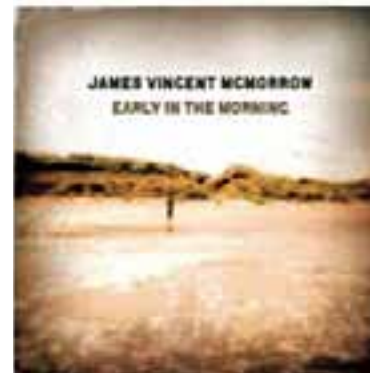
Who could not have seen this coming? Back in the heyday, people in Ireland were buying property that was valued at ten times their annual salary or sometimes even more. It was clearly unsustainable, but the politicians would have no talk of a collapse. That includes opposition politicians too. It was the emperor's new clothes on steroids. The feeling was that no-one better say anything about the property boom lest it disintegrate. So on we went, nationally believing that property prices would go on rising endlessly. Cowen and Fianna Fáil knew the end was coming and so did those on the opposition benches. For fully two years before 2008, we were treated to platitudes about a 'soft landing.' Given this then, shouldn't the government have tried to reign in spending a bit, maybe even squirrel away something for the future. They didn't, largely because

they couldn't. At every opportunity, Fine Gael and Labour were demanding more and more spending. More and more for the health service, more and more for education, more and more and more.

Politics is politics and the end game is power. Fine Gael and Labour may well get the office they seek in the next

election, but it won't be because they have done anything really to deserve it. It will be because Fianna Fáil screwed up so badly. And if the new government doesn't want to go the same way as the old, it must face up to the hard things about politics. Being honest with the people, right from the start, even when it hurts, is lesson one.

Early in the Morning



James Vincent McMorrow announced the US release of his debut full-length, *Early In The Morning*, in January. After having self-released the album in Ireland, James and Vargrant Records have come together in an effort to release the album which

contains some of the most honest music the "singer-songwriter" genre has seen in years. Self-recorded over five months in a secluded house by the sea, *Early In The Morning* is 'one of the first truly great albums of the decade says *The Dubliner*.

Laced with hauntingly gracious melodies, mythical story lines, and musical structures that lend themselves to the traditional folk style that emerged in the states in the 1960's, James' debut is an eleven song recollection of his journey through a time of change and transition.

Early In The Morning was first released in Ireland in March 2010 and was incredibly well received. The album landed the #1 spot on iTunes in the country and enabled James to embark on his first proper Irish tour. www.jamesvmcmorrow.com.

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Guest Appearance by a member of the Cunningham Family on 2/19 at the IAHC Hooley

Chicago Police Run for FOP Election

Bill Dougherty, Greg Bella, and Jim Bailey, all have something in common—the Chicago Police Department. Together, they are working to help patrolmen, officers, tactical units and others involved in law enforcement get the best in benefits, wages, and job security.

Dougherty, running for reelection as 1st Vice-President, became an officer and served on the Southside. Jim Bailey, did the same. Around that time, Greg Bella began duty on the Northside. Now, they are all coming together to serve on The Citywide Team, running for office at the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #7.

Since Mark Donahue is stepping down after the maximum three terms as president of the FOP Lodge #7, Greg Bella is stepping in as a candidate to fill those shoes.

Greg, currently serving as 3rd Vice President, began his career in 1985 at District 14, and served as a patrolman, and on tactical teams at District 9 and 25. In 2000, he became a detective.

Bill Dougherty started with the force in 1987 as a patrolman in the 9th District. He worked 15 years as a patrolman, and on a tactical team for both the 9th and 8th District.

Dougherty got involved with the FOP when he became a tactical representative in 1993. In 1999, he became a trustee for Lodge #7 Board of Directors which consists of 28 board members, most on active duty. He became first Vice President in 2002, and gave up active duty to work full-time for the FOP.

Jim Bailey, running for 3rd Vice President and the youngest of the group, became an officer in 1994 and served as a patrolman and tactical officer in the 9th District for 11 years. He became an instructor at the officer training center in 2005 and stayed there until 2008. Jim taught scenario-based training which put recruits through actual circumstances that happen on the streets of Chicago.

In 2002, Jim was elected to be a tactical representative, and in 2005 he became a trustee—one of the 28 people who sit on



(l-r) Fraternal Order of Police candidates Bill Dougherty, Greg Bella, and Jim Bailey.

the board of directors and make all the business decisions for the FOP. In 2009, Jim started working in the FOP office full-time as a field representative.

Accomplishments

Some of the things Bill, Jim, and Greg are most proud of accomplishing while at the FOP are, putting together a new work schedule, making sure that anyone filing a complaint against an officer has to sign a sworn affidavit, and free health insurance for those age 55 and older.

This health benefit creates a tax savings to the city of 23 million dollars over a three year period, and that’s if retiring officers are replaced. So far, that has not been the case so the city is actually saving more. Another accomplishment the trio is proud of is wage increases for the rank and file, and compression of those increases. In the past, an officer didn’t reach top pay until he or she had served 30 years. With

the compression of those rules to 25 years, an officer can reach the highest pay scale in 25 years. Last but not least, in the last nine years there hasn’t been a ‘bad’ shooting. When an officer shot a citizen, it was justified.

The Fraternal Order of Police is not just a fraternal organization. They are also a contract bargaining unit for anyone below the rank of sergeant.

When asked what they would like to see in a new mayor, it was agreed that the most important things were: an open door policy, hiring more officers, and quicker contract settlement.

If you are an officer in good standing, active or retired, Jim, Greg, and Bill would appreciate your vote.

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Chicago FOP Endorses Gery Chico for Mayor

FOP President: Chico “By Far” Best Prepared To Lead

Chicago’s largest police organization, the Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge 7, today endorsed Gery Chico to be the next mayor of Chicago. Standing with Chico at FOP headquarters, police leaders said they chose Chico because he is by far the most qualified candidate to lead Chicago.

“We live in this city, our kids go to these schools, we use our parks and we attend our City Colleges,” said FOP president Mark Donahue. “We are supporting Gery Chico because nobody in this race is more qualified to be the next mayor of Chicago. Gery is the best prepared to help police officers keep our citizens safe.”

Chico is committed to protecting Chicagoans and will roll out his comprehensive public safety plan in the coming weeks. His plans will include adding 2,000 police officers to our streets, reducing gang and gun-related violence, and making every neighborhood safer and more secure.

“It is an honor to have the support of the people who fight to protect our citizens each and every day,” Gery Chico said. “Chicago’s

police officers are on the front lines, and their service to our city is invaluable. As mayor, I will



put the safety of our citizens first and we will not allow our police department to go understaffed moving forward.”

Donahue said Chico was selected after the FOP seriously considered all the top candidates. For them, it came down to qualifications and experience.

“Nobody knows Chicago like Gery Chico and nobody understands how to address the challenges that face our city better

than Gery Chico,” Donahue said. “Chicago is one of the largest cities in the country and we need a mayor who is tested and ready to lead. Gery’s track record is one of results, not rhetoric. Time and again, Gery has proven that he knows how to get things done for the City of Chicago.”

Chico has a longstanding record of working to make Chicago’s neighborhoods safer. As mayoral chief of staff, Chico helped deploy more than 1,000 new officers on the street. Chico also created and implemented Community Policing programs, and helped facilitate the construction of new police facilities that increased police presence in neighborhoods city-wide. Chico has been endorsed by several police associations including the Mexican American Police Organization (MAPO), the Latin American Police Association (LAPA), and the Chicago Police Sergeant’s Association.

Founded in 1963, the FOP represents more than 11,000 active Chicago police officers and is dedicated to supporting the health of Chicago’s law enforcement community.

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Taste of Trinity Invites Students to Step Into Summer the Irish Way

The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, one of the most renowned Irish dance programs worldwide, invites Chicago-area children to sample its award-winning instruction with its annual summer program, Taste of Trinity. Each six-class workshop is designed to introduce students to the unique and exciting world of Irish dance.

available in multiple sessions from late June through mid-August at six Chicago-area locations (see schedule below), Taste of Trinity offers boys and girls ages four through 12 a chance to discover the basics of Irish dance, learning the proper techniques of movement set to the rhythm of Irish music. Each session concludes with a 15-minute special performance for family and friends. No previous dance experience is necessary.

"Taste of Trinity offers a wonderful opportunity for children to experience the fun and artistry of Irish dance, taught by our highly respected instructors," said Trinity Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard. "It's also a healthy form of exercise and a great way to make new friends."

Registration for Taste of Trinity is now open; space is limited. Cost per six-class session is \$95, which includes a Trinity t-shirt. Contact Cynthia Oblein at 773-529-4822, ext. 35 or cynthia.oblein@trinitydance.com for information or visit trinityirishdancers.com.

For nearly 30 years, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance has thrilled audiences with inspiring showmanship. From humble beginnings in church basements to recent engagements as U.S. ambassadors on international stages, Trinity dancers consistently deliver a unique energy and passion for Irish dance and culture.

Trinity's unique program gives dancers the power of choice in their journey with lessons of commitment, hard work and team building. As one of the best Irish dance schools in the world, Trinity offers unique experiences including monthly visits from athletic trainers, rare and exceptional performance opportunities, consultants from Ireland, dedicated classes for boys and a plethora of fundraising options. Trinity teachers truly shape the lives of their students by pass-

ing down not only impeccable dance technique, but also lessons in gracious sportsmanship and how to act with dignity and integrity. Trinity was founded on these principles and is unwavering in its dedication to the next generation of Irish dancers and their communities.

Trinity Academy of Irish Dance has convenient locations throughout Chicagoland and Wisconsin. For more information, call 773-529-4822 or visit trinityirishdancers.com.



Taste Of Trinity Locations And Schedules—Illinois

Chicago/Lakeview

St. Alphonsus Academy/Center for the Arts

1439 W. Wellington, 3rd Floor

August 2–12 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 1–1:45pm

Born 2005 or earlier: 2–3pm

Chicago/Northwest

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox (at Wilson)

Session 1: June 21–July 1 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 1:30–2:15pm

Born 2005 or earlier: 2:30–3:30pm

Session 2: August 2–12 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 10–10:45am

Born 2005 or earlier: 11am–noon

Elmhurst

First United Methodist of Elmhurst

232 S. York Road

Session 1: June 21–July 1 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 10–10:45am

Born 2005 or earlier: 11am–noon

Session 2: July 11–28 M/Th

Born 2006–07: 1–1:45pm

Born 2005 or earlier: 2–3pm

Downers Grove

Academy of Dance Arts

1524 Centre Circle Drive

July 19–29 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 10–10:45am

Born 2005 or earlier: 11am–noon

Palatine

Ukrainian Youth Center

136 E. Illinois St.

July 11–28 M/Th

Born 2006–07: 10–10:45am

Born 2005 or earlier: 11am–noon

Western Springs

Village Club of Western Springs

4221 Lawn Ave.

July 19–29 Tu/W/F

Born 2006–07: 1–1:45pm

Born 2005 or earlier: 2–3pm

(Classes are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment.)

O'Donnell to Sing New Song in Nashville 2-12

Joe McShane Co-writes Song

Daniel O'Donnell, one of Ireland's most popular singers and a household name throughout the United Kingdom, co-wrote the song and will debut it when he performs February 12th at the Ryman Auditorium, the home of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

O'Donnell's co-writers are Forrest Lee Jr. of Waverly — the man

with the most local knowledge — and Joseph McShane, a friend of O'Donnell's who lives in Chicago. Lee and McShane met when McShane visited Middle Tennessee while buying a guitar from Lee.

The title of O'Donnell's song — "Erin, Tennessee" or "A Little Bit of Ireland" hasn't been decided yet.

Cherish The Ladies March 19-20 at The McAninch Arts Center

New Philharmonic and Music Director and Conductor Kirk Muspratt celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend with one of the most popular engaging ensembles in the history of Irish music, Cherish the Ladies, on Saturday, March 19 at 8pm and Sunday, March 20 at 3pm. at McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at

College of DuPage, located at 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Tickets to New Philharmonic's performances with Cherish the Ladies at the McAninch Arts Center are \$55 adult/\$53 senior/\$45 youth. To order tickets, call (630) 942-4000, or visit: www.AtTheMAC.org.

Cop Killer Denied Parole

Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, Chicago Police Officers and



representatives of the F.O.P. traveled to Springfield to attend the En Banc Hearing before the Illinois Prisoner Review Board considering granting or denying parole for the convicted murderer of Police Officer Terrance Loftus on October 12, 1976.

President Donahue stated "the full Prisoner Review Board listened to the facts of the case as presented to both of the hearing officers and a summation was made about the case by the State Attorney of Cook County, who spoke at the hearing."

Upon completion of the testimony, a motion was made to deny parole and the vote was taken carrying the motion 13 to 2. President Donahue added "a second motion was made to grant a three year set for this matter and the vote was taken granting this motion." He went on to say "...we extend our thanks to the Chicago Police Memorial for their participation."

President Donahue concluded,

"Chicago Police Officer Terrence E. Loftus, while off duty and in civilian dress and on his way home, observed a gang fight in progress. He immediately stopped his vehicle and attempted to intervene, shots rang out and he fell to the ground fatally wounded."

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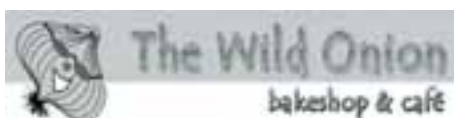
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We Get Letters...



What I've Learned:

The Irish American Heritage Center has been in existence for 35 years - the last 25 in the great facility on North Knox. I'll admit that I've only become a regular visitor in the last ten years or so and a formal member for just the past two years. The reason is time and other priorities, not excuses, but just the way life goes when you're raising a family.

In my visits my appreciation of the mission of the Center has grown. It is vital for continuing our connection to our Irish culture and heritage that we have a vibrant Irish American Heritage Center. We have that today and I am truly grateful to the volunteers who started the Center and keep it going. My hope is that I will celebrate a 50th Anniversary of the Center.

In my visits to the Center, I look around to see who is attending and who is doing the work. I've taken the opportunity to go to the Center on a couple of Saturdays and lend a hand

with doing odd tasks about the building and intend to continue when I have the free Saturday.

I have to say working "The Big Dig" was hard work but an enjoyable and educational experience. While working and over lunch with the lads, I would be asked how did I hear of the Big Dig or coming to work for the day. There would be comments about 'the young fella.' I wondered who the heck they were talking about, I'm 52! Looking around the kitchen, I guess I was one of the young lads.

The volunteers I've worked with and see about the IAHC are some of the youngest at heart folks I've ever met, and can outwork a young lad of 52!

The volunteers I see are getting on in years. Who is going to take their place? They've been keeping the Heritage Center going for all these years, but I'm concerned that Irish-Americans of my age and those younger won't see the importance of maintaining the Center.

My experience is no different from most of you. I grew up in Chicago surrounded by relatives who spoke with brogues. Most have gone to their eternal rests. Our children have less of a connection to our Irish heritage as families spread out and the older folks pass on. The Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park are in place to keep that connection alive and meaningful.

We're all busy in our lives. We have our work, our families, our hobbies that take our time. When I've been involved in other volunteer work, I don't ask people for their money - I can always find some that are willing to write the checks. What I ask of people is their time, and I find it is harder to get their time than their money. Sure it's trite to say, but time is more precious than money.

I don't mean to speak for the Heritage Center, but I'm willing to wager a pint or two that the greatest need for the continued success of the Center is people and their time. The next time you come to the Heritage Center for the quiz or some other event, look around. Think about who scraped, replastered and painted the walls. Think about the functions that are held and the work

involved to plan them. For those of you about my age, the people who have done and continue to do this work are our parents' age. We need to commit to taking their place to keep the Center going. I want to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Irish American Heritage Center sitting in the kitchen on a Saturday morning asking who the young fellas are.

Go mbeannaí Dia dui!

May God Bless You!

From: Terry Sweeney

To the Editor

February is the month we honor the memory of our First President. It is appropriate to remember some of George Washington's words. These are some he spoke in gratitude and encouragement for the Irish.

"Ireland, thou friend of my country in my country's most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation. May the God of Heaven, in His justice and mercy, grant thee more prosperous fortunes, and in His own time, cause the sun of Freedom to shed its benign radiance on the Emerald Isle."

Washington spoke no empty words. Irish, driven out of Ireland as victims of England's cruelty, were the immigrants Washington cited when he said: "When our friendless standards were first unfurled, who were the strangers who first mustered around our staff, and when it reeled in the fight, who more brilliantly sustained it than Erin's generous sons?"

In addition, Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, wrote: "...In the War of Independence, Ireland furnished one hundred men for every single man furnished by any other nation, let America bear eternal gratitude to Irishmen."

These quotes may not be available in most American history books, for various reasons, but they provide food for thought around Washington's birthday.

From: Robert E. West

Irish American Unity Conference
Author and Historian

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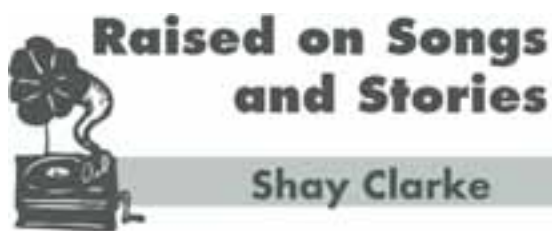
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Raised on Songs and Stories

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man" for making everybody on stage sound even better; thanks to Nancy Moore for looking after the girls and giving them the tour; and as always, thanks

to the management and staff of the Irish American Heritage Center for all that they do to make the Center a little bit of Ireland.

The High Kings

The High Kings return to the Irish American Heritage Center on March 3rd and after their sell-out concert last year, it is sure to be a sellout again. Their new album, *Memory Lane*, has been a huge hit already and if you have not seen them live, call for tickets at 773-282-7035. See you there.

Kevin O'Donnell

Chicago native, singer, songwriter and author, Kevin O'Donnell is about to record a solo album and I have been lucky enough to hear him perform recently at McNally's Traditional Pub in St. Charles at our Sunday sessions. I have always loved Kevin's voice and most of you will know him from his Aranmore days. Something to look forward to.

Chicago's Historic Irish Pubs

By Mike Danahey and Allison Hantschel

It's a year since Mike and Allison began this project and *Chicago's Historic Irish Pubs* will be released on February 28th. This book traces the history of Irish pubs, taverns and "watering holes" from the early days of the city to McGonigal's and McNally's that opened in 2010.

As with any book about Irish pubs, there

are lots of stories, photographs and anecdotes. Mike and Allison roamed the city and suburbs for months last year gathering interviews and info and have presented it in a historic and often humorous fashion.

Chicago's Historic Irish Pubs will be available on amazon.com and signings are already scheduled for the Irish American Heritage Center and at McNally's Traditional Irish Pub in St. Charles. Mike and Allison will be joining me on *Blarney on the Air* on Monday February 21st.

St. Patrick's Day Parades and Events

Yes, it's almost that time of year again, so get out there and have fun. The Dundee parade is scheduled for Saturday March 12th at 11am, and the St. Charles parade is scheduled for that afternoon at 3pm, to honor our Patron Saint. McGonigal's in Barrington are hosting Barrington Celtic Fest on March 17 & 18 and the McNally's Irish Fleadh will run from March 12 to March 18 in St. Charles. *Get your Irish on in the suburbs!*

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Blarney on the Air

Don't forget to join us on Monday nights at 7pm at 90.9 FM or at wdcb.org for some great Irish music. *Ceol agus Craic Eistigi!*

Girsa at the Center

The girls from Pearl River, NY, made their first Chicago appearance in January at the Heritage Center and what a performance it was as Maeve, Deirdre, Pamela, Emily, Blaitthin, Bernadette, Margaret and Kristen treated us to a mighty show.

Girsa had come to the Midwest for the weekend and played Friday night in Grand Rapids, MI, before their visit to the Center. My good pal Liam Lynch, aka The World's Largest Leprechaun, had hosted them in Michigan and indeed had driven them back to Chicago. Liam has dubbed his vehicle "Eire Force One" to transport the girls, and from all accounts they had a grand time in Michigan. Did someone say, "Dancing on tables?" Enough said.

The Center was packed on that night with events on all floors. The S.C.A. were celebrating Twelfth Night and Kings, Queens and Jesters were everywhere. I thought I had fallen down the proverbial "rabbit hole." There were hundreds of them in medieval dress; even the babies were in costume.

The ground floor had Fr. Karl hosting the St. Patrick's Fathers dance, music from Seamus O'Kane and Johnny Gleeson. The Fifth Province had The Dooley Brothers and we had Noel Rice's Academy of Irish Music open for Girsa. All of that talent in one place makes the Irish American Heritage Center quite unique, and probably one of the very best Irish venues in the USA. Remember this was a cold snowy night in January and our visitors from New York were really impressed by our Center and the atmosphere of craic and camaraderie that night.

Girsa treated us to a spirited set of tunes and songs from their debut album *Irish Traditional Music*, my album of the year for 2010, as well as some really great stuff from their new, yet to be released follow up album. They just get better all the time, and we look forward to seeing them play at Gaelic Park Irish Festival on Memorial Day Weekend.

Thanks to you all for braving the weather that night and supporting Irish music. Thanks to John Halliburton, sound engineer and "sound

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Memorial Cards: Celebrating A Loved One’s Life

In Irish culture, remembering loved ones who have died is extremely important. A celebration of life and a memorial can help with the grieving process.

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The Cosgrove family, father and sons have been part of the Irish print business for 25 years plus and have built a reputation of quality and service. They firmly believe in Irish is best. The Company employ 22 members of staff, all striving to make Irish products appreciated world wide.

At Memoriam Card Company they take pride in the quality they provide and the range of memorial stationery they produce. After many years of printing memorial cards as part of the business, they realised that is was a very specific and personal service, and decided to create a dedicated company and website.

Memorial Cards are a celebration of a loved one’s life; a lasting keepsake which one can cherish forever. They are avail-

able in a range of sizes as: folded, single, credit card sizes, bookmarkers, keyrings, A4 framed etc. They offer professional graphic design and printing of memorial cards where one can choose from a wide selection of beautiful designs ranging, from scenic, including serene views of the lakes or mountains of Ireland, contemporary, patriotic, hobbies, musical, and religious to Irish/Celtic flavours, which have been very popular in Ireland and abroad, and at no extra charge their team of graphic designers can also help you with the design of a unique memorial card for your loved one so any design you need is made possible.

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Shalom and Top of The Morning to You

By Roberta Sotonoff

I told a friend of mine I was doing a story on the Jews of Ireland.

“Are there more than a dozen?” she laughingly asked.

Well, when you think of Ireland, shamrocks and leprechauns come to mind—not Jews. But the truth is that they have dwelled in Ireland since biblical times. In fact in 1555, a Jew, William Annyas, was mayor of Youghal in County Cork.

Many Irish Jews are of Lithuanian descent. Funny how they got there. Between 1864 and the early 1900s, they emigrated for the usual reason—to escape the pogroms. They were off to the Golden Medina, America, when the boat stopped at Cork. They didn’t speak English. When they heard Cork, they thought they were in New York. They got off the ship and that was that.

Good they did. The Emerald Isle can lay claim to some legendary lansmen.

“Ireland is the birthplace of a famous Jew that never existed,” says Debbie Briscoe of Dublin’s Irish-Jewish Museum.

She is referring, of course, to Leopold Bloom, the protagonist in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.

A non-fictional one, Chaim Herzog, served as the sixth president of Israel. Shortly after he was born in Belfast, he moved to Dublin’s Liberties neighborhood. His father, Yitzchak HaLevi Herzog, was the first Chief Rabbi of Ireland (1936-1959). Herzog never forgot his Irish heritage. During his presidency, St. Patrick’s Day became an Israeli holiday. Irish UN forces soldiers would come from Lebanon to celebrate.

And let’s not forget Dublin’s Lord Mayors, Robert Briscoe, who served two one-year terms in 1956 and 1961 and Ben in 1988. Just like Chicago’s Richard Daleys—both father and son mayors, and both Irish.

During World War I, Robert Briscoe was interned in Germany. A bishop got him sprung if he promised never to fight for the Brits. An easy promise for an Irishman to make. On his way back, he befriended Éaman de Valera, who served as both president of Ireland and head of

the IRA. Briscoe helped secure arms for the organization.

Debbie and Carol Briscoe—daughters-in-laws of the late Robert and sister-in-law and wife of Ben—greet us at the museum. Located



Debbie and Carol Briscoe at the Jewish Museum, Dublin

in a non-descript building on Walworth Road, the delightful facility houses a mishmash of memorabilia—posters, pictures and letters here, a menorah there and everywhere objects relating to Jewish life—bris (circumcision), bar mitzvahs, holidays and weddings. My favorite things are a white satin kephah (skullcap) decorated with shamrocks and a can of Guinness with Hebrew writing.

We climb upstairs to the old Walworth Road Synagogue, which is no longer used, except with special permission for weddings and bar mitzvahs. It too contains artifacts including a collection of ark covers.

The sanctuary confuses me. Though most of the Irish Jews came from Eastern Europe, the bima (alter) is in the middle like a Sephardic shul. Women are separated from men (orthodox tradition) but there is an organ (more likely found in a Reform temple). Most practicing Irish Jews consider themselves Progressive—like the synagogue, a goulash of tradition and customs.

The museum, located in the old Jewish area known as “Little Jerusalem” or Portobello in the Liberties section, was bounded by Clanbrassil Street, the Grand Canal, Camden Street and South Circular Road. Most of the shops were located on South Circular Road. In the day, those stores were a boom to Christian Sunday shoppers. None of their shops were open. Today, it is no longer a Jewish neighborhood.

“Irish Jews have not assimilated, but integrated,” says Debbie Briscoe.

That is a good thing. Over the years, there have been few cases of anti-Semitism. When the Jews came, they were very poor and sold wares from door to door. They made friends with rural peasants with who they could identify because peasants were also persecuted.

In 1846, with the help of Daniel O’Connell, the renowned champion for Catholic Emancipation, the British “De Judaismo” law, stipulating that Jews must dress in a certain way, was repealed. A few years later during the Potato

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Famine, the biggest charity givers to Irish plight were Jews, the Baron Lionel de Rothschild family.

The two worst episodes in the 20th century include a small pogrom that emerged in Limerick in 1904. Father John Creagh, a fire and brimstone orator, urged his congregation to boycott Jewish businesses warning, among other things, that the Jews were usurers preying on the poor. The priest was later banished to the Philippines but the Jews left Limerick anyway.

The second began right before World War II, Charles Bewley an anti-Semitic, Irish envoy to Germany made the Jews feel unwelcome.

He was afraid if more immigrated to Ireland, they would live off the land like many Irish did and take their jobs. Untrue. The Jews were mostly merchants and moneylenders. Even so, most Irish were indifferent to the Holocaust.

On the whole, Jews and gentiles always got along well. They often lived next door to one another. On the Sabbath, a Christian kid would be hired to turn off the stove, lights, or whatever needed to be done.

Like other Irish, many of the young people have migrated to places like the U.S., Canada, England and Australia. But, non-practicing Jews seem to materialize around Passover. This year, over 200 showed up in Cork—I guess a good bowl of matzo ball soup brings people out of the woodwork.

The population of Irish Jews is

declining. When Stuart Rosenblatt of the Jewish Genealogical Society talks about dwindling Irish Jewry—which now numbers only about 1,100—he relates a minion story. (Jews must have 10 men, a minion, for prayer services.)

“Every morning a man would come to the shul. Instead of praying, he would read the newspaper. The eight others complained about his unacceptable behavior to the rabbi.”

“The rabbi thought for a minute and said, ‘If I talk to him and he gets mad, he won’t come. Where will that leave you? No minion.’”

“There will always be a (Jewish-Irish) community,” Rosenblatt adds. At least enough for a minion.

If You Go:

The Irish Jewish Museum is located at 3-4 Walworth Road (off Victoria Street), Dublin. It’s two blocks south of South Circular Road, just east of Victoria Street. Hours: Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 11am-3:30pm, May thru Sept. and Sundays only 10:30am-2:30pm throughout the winter. For group tours which should be arranged in advance or for information, call +353 857 067 357.

For Irish-Jewish walking tours, contact Pat Liddy’s Walking Tours of Dublin, Ltd.; tel: 353 87 252-6701; website: www.walkingtours.ie; email: info@walkingtours.ie.

To contact the Irish Jewish Genealogical Society, tel: 353 1 677 3808; email: masterc@medianet.ie.

Irish Radio in Chicagoland

If you have a radio show to add to this list or if information changes for your show, please email us at editor@iannews.com.

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9-11am WPNA 1490 AM
requests@irishhour.com
www.irishhour.com
708-524-9762

The Mike O’Connor Show
11am-1pm
WPNA 1490 AM
708-524-9762

Good Morning Ireland
1:05-3pm
WCEV 1450 AM
www.goodmorningirelandradio.com
773-777-1450
224-715-8292

The Skinny & Houli Show
3-4pm WCEV 1450 AM
<http://skinnyhouli.com>
info@skinnyhouli.com

SUNDAY

Gaelic Park Radio
7:05- 9pm
WCEV 1450 AM
www.chicagogaelpark.org/Radio_Show.htm
708-687-9330

MONDAY

Blarney On The Air
7-8pm Shay Clarke
www.facebook.com/blarneyontheair
630-942-9322

Blarney On The Air
8-9pm Bill Margeson

MargesonB@wdcb.org
630-942-9322

WEDNESDAY

Maureen O’Looney Show
8:30-10pm
WSBC 1240 AM
773-792-1240
773-286-6866



Seán McKiernan is shown here in early 2011 with proud student, Lucy Murphy, during lessons at the Cork School of Music. Seán divides his time between Carna and Cork, where he teaches classical piano in the school. In recent years he has performed at Tionóls in Ireland and in the U.S.A. He has performed in the Pipers Club in Dublin, and is regarded by many as one of the great living pipers. He won the prestigious TG4 Traditional Music Award in 2010.



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