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owner Derek Hanley

Irish American News



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What It Is To Be An Irish American

By *Seán Canniffe*

This month, no matter where you are in America, you won't be very far from a St. Patrick's Day Parade. Millions will turn out in cities all over America to see hundreds of thousands of Irish dancers, cops, firefighters, pipers and various other groups troop down our main streets, and bring to the world the joy of our Irish American culture.

But what does it mean to be an Irish American? Erstwhile commentator Lou Dobbs made news a couple of years ago when he argued that Americans should not be anything else but American, that Irish Americans, Italian Americans, German Americans or whatever, should drop the first part of the title because being an American should be enough for anyone. Unfortunately, Lou is not alone in this. OK Lou, we get it, you're a patriot... but so are we.

The Irish have been coming stateside for hundreds of years. Back in the 1700s it was mainly Protestant and Dissenter, who came here for the same reason a lot of others did, for the freedom to practice their religion—in their case to get away from persecution by the English. Then came An Gorta Mór, the great famine of the mid to late 1840s and the coffin ships that brought over a million Irish, this time mostly Catholics. In the late 19th Century and right through the early part of the 20th Century hundreds of thousands more came, seeking a

new life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

What the descendants of all these have in common is that we all stand proud. Proud of our country, America that is, and proud of what we have been able to do as a race of people to enhance it, to shape it. Emigration was never an easy thing. Whether forced from the homeland by persecution or starvation, or whether like some more recent arrivals, by economic stagnation and lack of opportunity, the road for an Irish emigrant, like that of all emigrants, was an arduous one. Remember hearing about ‘The American Wake’?—when family and friends would gather to see off the person leaving for the New World. It was called a wake because those present knew they would never see that soul again.

The Irish succeeded here, though, like they never could at home. In politics, in business, in organized labor, in sports, in religion, in the arts, in just about every sphere of interest that comes to mind.

Our forbears played a major role in shaping our country's—again America's—destiny. From the first Irish American President, Andrew Jackson, who did as much, if not more than anyone else, to secure America's status as a nation (think about the Battle of New Orleans), to modern day Irish American Presidents Ronald Reagan, who ended the Cold War,

and Jack Kennedy, who saved us from nuclear destruction during the Cuban missile crisis.

Henry Ford, whose ancestors hailed from County Cork, gave us mass production of the automobile and with it cemented America's place as a leading industrialized nation. Without the water systems devised by William Mulholland and Michael O'Shaughnessy it is doubtful that either Los Angeles or the San Francisco Bay Area would have grown into the huge population centers they are today.

Irish America has produced some of the finest stars of the silver screen, some of the best writers and some of the greatest musicians the world has ever known. The list of Irish American achievements literally goes on and on.

The point is that American history and culture are inexorably linked with the history and culture of the Irish that came here. We are not seeking any special treatment. We are not looking to be lauded above others, but we have plenty of which to be rightly proud. Not one single Irish American I have ever met is anything less than one hundred percent American, so no one values their heritage above their dedication to country. On the contrary, Irish people in America have always been to the fore when it comes to defending their country and wearing the patriot's badge of honor.

To be an Irish American is to stand with 40 million others and to cherish the land that gave us our freedom. All immigrant communities have different experiences and histories and ours

is most certainly unique. The persecution, devastation and starvation that brought our ancestors to these shores engendered a strong bond of love for the freedoms that America afforded them.

This St. Patrick's Day, as we gather to remember the great Saint Patrick and watch the throngs parade down the street in his honor—and if you're in San Francisco that street is part of a streetplan laid out by Jasper O'Farrell, another Irishman—remember that until recently, St. Patrick's Day Parades were nearly unheard of outside America. But they have been here for 250 years. You see, when the Irish came here they became something different. They became Irish Americans, part of the melting pot. Who says we have to forget where we came from to be truly American?

Sean Canniffe publishes The Irish Herald in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and is celebrating his tenth anniversary in San Francisco. His wife, Olivia, is his “right hand man.” They have three children, Mary Rose, Maeve, and their latest addition, Oliver!

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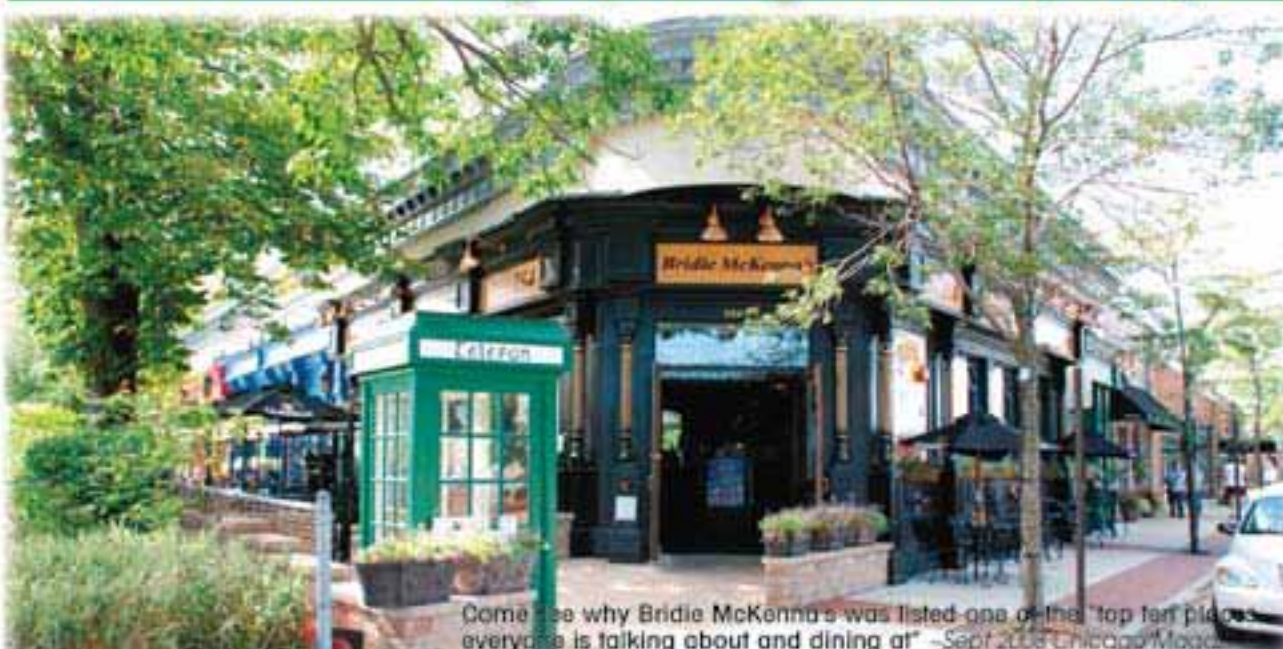
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The Wearing of the Green

As we enter the festive season of all things Irish, we should give some thought to 'yer man', Patrick. You know, the outsider. Was he Welsh? Or maybe he was Scottish? It is claimed, though there are those who contest the idea, that one man, Saint Patrick; was responsible for the wholesale conversion of Ireland to Christianity in the fifth Century.

This tortured soul, sold into slavery, brought against his will to the green Isle, would later find himself drawn back to the Celtic folk by his dreams. I wonder what Freud would make of those subconscious imaginings? Would he interpret those cries of the Irish as 'stockholm syndrome', Patrick overly sympathizing with his captors? Would Jung see it as the 'collective unconscious' inspiring this devotee of the High King of Heaven to the mystical higher plane?

However, we might revise, re-visit, re-interpret the event that is foundational to Christianization of Ireland, there is much

to appreciate about the Irish openness to new ideas. The outsider, in this situation, becomes a catalyst for change.

And since he is a pre-reformation saint, his appeal is universal. The new Irish church had not yet been assimilated into the Roman tradition, and therefore had its own unique identity. St. Paddy's legacy is celebrated by opposing ends of the Irish political spectrum; both Protestants and Catholics celebrate his religious orthodoxy. A man, whose faith inspired, and powerfully transformed a whole nation's religious identity, is worthy of veneration. The foreigner becomes one of us, so much so that we see him as the benchmark of all that is Irish. He has become the cause for national pride.

In the North, the saint became the olive branch, the mediator of reconciliation. The divided communities of Protestant and Catholics could embrace him as the shared hope of unity, the icon of faith. He could legitimize Prot-

estant individualism, and the Catholic communion of the saints as required. As a universal symbol of protestation, or legitimization, he would bless the Children of Erin's green valley in whatever mood they fancied, as a man for all political seasons.

The tradition of celebrating the saint's day was less of a festive occasion while I was growing up in Derry, and more of a solemn day of remembrance; a Holy day of obligation, mass, and not much more than a school holiday. It was not until much later when we discovered the American-Irish take on the carnival potential of the day, and commercial profit of all things Irish, that we began to exploit the tourist commodity that he has become.

The party spirit began spilling beyond the shores of America and back to the homeland. A Celtic tiger was eager to devour a saint who would begin to shine as a light of capitalism and prosperity, a symbol of a financially secure nation ready to meet the modern world on its terms.

But as distrust of the foreigner grows, will our perception of the great man change? The idea of the foreigner having profound influence over us, especially as victims of colonization, is repugnant. The shifts in Ireland, attributed to him, may be seen as the death to an

ancient culture, a complete destruction of a Celtic way of life. The saint's halo may become tarnished in the light of growing secularism. Will we continue to want to endorse a faith discredited by recent claims of clerical abuse?

As the world scrutinizes the realm of the sacred, we find its legacy significantly bruised by the misappropriation of power, sexual abuse, and antiquated ideas regarding modern relationships. And, as such, our acquired cynicism leads to us revise our understanding of the founder of Irish Christianity. As the direct power of the church wanes, so too will our image of its Irish figurehead become nothing more than a cultural icon, a relic of idealism whose impact could be viewed with derision. Or, since he developed a tradition not yet under the direct influence of Rome, his interpretation of the faith might be seen as emancipating and empowering, a man in the church, but not of it.

Presently, as the Republic of Ireland finds itself at the mercy of Europe, the days of wine and roses are over. A tsunami of corporate discrepancies has left the Republic bankrupt and dependent on larger power brokers. Emigration continues to rise; the government has lost support as the terms of the proposed loan puts pressure on future generations, leaving us to ask, what is there to celebrate? Ireland's fear of selling out its sovereignty is a very real and present danger. What was hard won, autonomy; shrivels in the face of a huge debt. Ireland's fate is once again in the hands of the foreigner.

Since we are all revisionists at heart, constantly re-viewing our choices in the light of present circumstances, the decisions we make today may or may not hold up in the future, which means that we act on a certain measure of informed faith. In accepting the suggested 'bail out', Ireland may live to regret it. Or, it may be that in years to come the country will learn from its past mistakes, and emerge a stronger nation. No man is an island, and the influence of the foreigner has changed us for good and ill. We should both we wary, and realistic.

What may seem like a golden opportunity, might in hindsight be an albatross around our necks, or it could enable us to fortify our standing with the rest of the world. We have navigated through colonization, famine, and emigration. We have crested the wave of financial gain and we have shown that we are at our best when forced to fight. Whatever happens we can only hope that the luck of the Irish does not run out. We can celebrate our tenacity, and determination to become what we once were, a land of saints and scholars.

*Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in Chicago and teaches Irish and British Literature at Loyola University, Chicago. terenceboyle@sbcglobal.net.

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Faith in the Future

By Frank West

She is only 21 years of age, but already she has some amazing accomplishments. She sang the American National Anthem for the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, for Ambassador James Kenny’s Fourth of July party, and for the Irish Fellowship Club.

She is Sarah Gorecki the St. Patrick’s Parade Queen. She has a beautiful smile that shows cheerfulness, and confidence. Not only is she beautiful, but she is a person with many goals and ambitions.

She is a freshman at DePaul University, majoring in international studies. And, her teacher told her that there are powerful examples of world change happening right now. And, it seems to me that there is a new, profound change in the Middle East every time I listen to the news.

If Sarah pursues a career in international affairs, she would like to work at the United Nations. However, she is also considering majoring in biology which leads to becoming a medical doctor. If she pursues this, she would like to help humanity by joining Doctors Without Borders.

She says a possible solution to deciding for one or the other area of studies is to pursue a double major. This would be biology and international studies.

She has great praise for the American Irish. She finds them to be open, pleasant, and to have great “pride in their heritage.” They maintain this cultural pride despite the many changes in contemporary America.

Sarah points out how the parade “brings people together.” And reminds us that the St. Patrick Parades are strong reminders “of the struggle we had when we came here.”

When I asked her what she is passionate about she immediately answered with a big smile of pleasure, “my family.” Her parents have a “close

relationship.” They are “very much in love.” And this loving, nurturing environment encouraged her to be able to say, “my brothers and sisters are my best friends.”

Early in life her parents, David and Joanne, gave her the ability to laugh, and to look on the positive side of events. Sarah asked that I include a “thank you” for her parents. As she says, “they’re always there for me.”

A special word of thanks to the Plumbers

Union, Local 130, for renewing our faith in the future of Irish America. They bring together these beautiful, and very accomplished young women for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and for the queen contest. They have done this faithfully since 1956,

when Major Richard J. Daley entrusted the union with this responsibility.

When I looked into Sarah Gorecki’s dynamic face I could see this renewal of faith in the future of Irish America.



Sarah Gorecki
photo by Dean Battaglia



(L-R): Kelley McKenna, Sara Collins, Mayor of Orland Park, Dan McLaughlin, the 2011 St. Patrick Parade Queen Sarah Gorecki, Margaret (Peg) Flisk, and Erin Mulcahy.
photo by Cathy Curry, www.4girlsphotography.com.



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Irish American News Celebrates 35 Years on March 17, 2011

By Cliff Carlson

March 17, 1977 Bob and Jean Burns (pictured on the right) launched the first edition of Irish American News, and continued to publish through 1991, when the Burns sold the paper to me, the current publisher.

A combined 35 years later, we are still working hard to bring you all the news about Irish America.

To commemorate our 35 year anniversary, and as a way to encourage advertisers to participate in 2011/2012, we are offering a 35%

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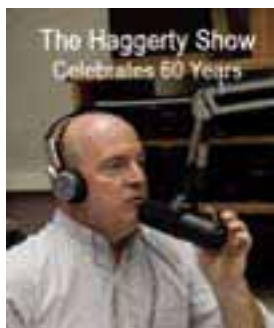
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Ashley Byrne Pays It Forward

By Nuala Byrne

I have to say, I’m a pretty proud mom! It was one of those bitter cold evenings! I was sitting at the kitchen table as I have done many an evening chatting with my good friend, Carmel Jordan, and enjoying a nice cup of Barry’s tea. I thought I had finally grabbed a moments peace! The house was nice and quite when in walks my beautiful 9 year old daughter Ashley.

The thing about Ashley is she has been alive almost ten years and is now entering a new decade that must be marked. She is rapidly accelerating towards the teenage years. When I look at her I am sad my little girl is growing up so fast, but I am so proud of her. She is a wonderful musician and great student. Little did I know she was about to make me even prouder!

Ashley began to speak “Mum I would really like a birthday party for my double digit birthday.” Her birthday falls on the 30th day of December—the best Christmas present I ever had. It’s not a great time for a party, it’s right after Christmas and literally just before New Year.

I told her we would think about it, but she wouldn’t take no for an

answer. Not only did she want a party, she wanted to invite her whole grade! I nearly dropped my cup of tea all over the place. “Are you mad?” I asked. As I said that to her I had visions of my good china, plates, pots, pans, furniture—you name it—being smashed, and throw all over the place, victims of the 63 kids or so in her grade. Would we get through the day without a trip to the emergency room?

The conversation went something like this, voice of reason me. “You can’t expect to get presents from all those people that’s 65-70 gifts, that’s crazy.” Voice of insanity, Ashley, “but mum please, please? I really want all my friends and cousins there. I am friends with every one of them. You haven’t even listened to what I want to say. My voice of sanity verging into insanity “alright Ashley, what do you have to say? You have my undivided attention.”

Ashley had a plan. She wanted to do something really special, and I waited to hear what that was. She wanted to cut her beautiful long, thick

red hair and donate it to locks of love That wasn’t what I expected to hear, I was flabbergasted! Carmel grabbed the computer to see how much hair she would need to donate. The minimum was ten inches which Ashley had,

Chicago or to Locks of Love.

I couldn’t believe my ears. I was so proud! It was an amazing idea. I called my Husband Chris in to the kitchen and shared the news He couldn’t believe it either. We looked at

cousins and friends outside of school as well. We had a total of 78 kids!

It was an absolutely amazing day, her sisters Gwendoline and Sarah had a ball. The festivities kicked off at 1 o’clock. Two lucky kids got their names pulled out of hat to be Ashley’s stylist that day! They cut off 11 inches (two pony tails) of beautiful red hair. There were a couple of tears shed, but not Ashley. I will let you guess who the guilty party was.

I felt so happy that day, a lot of my family and friends where there, but mostly, I felt proud of Ashley’s gesture. As you are raising a child in life there is no manual. We just hope that we teach them good qualities that they will carry with them, and pass on in life themselves, and that they will help someone in need in the future—pay it forward so to speak. My husband, Chris and I looked at each other, and we both knew we must be doing something right to raise a child like this one. This was something we never expected at such a young age. We hope this gives encouragement to some of her friends and anyone who



and then some. Ashley went one step further. In lieu of gifts, she requested her friends make a little donation, between 3-5 dollars to the Make a Wish Foundation, headquartered here in

each other and knew then and there we would be having 63 re-adolescences running around our home.

I decided I might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb and invited the

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is reading this article.

Ashely raised a total of \$175 and donated enough hair to cover three wigs for Locks of Love, and \$400 for the Make a Wish foundation.

Check out their websites at www.wish.org and www.locksoflove.org.

Ashley made a big impression on Mary Phillips of MB Financial Bank who sent this note to me: "It was a regular Wednesday afternoon when Ashley Sadie Byrne was sitting in the lobby counting quite a bit of cash. We told her it's not good to count your cash in the open and brought her to an office. It

was then we found out what a special young person Ashley is.

Ashley had just celebrated her 10th Birthday and invited all 62 classmates at Hawthorne Scholastic Academy plus 16 additional friends from other classes to help her celebrate. The real surprise is that Ashley thanked them for

celebrating with her, but asked if they wouldn't mind making a small donation to Make A Wish Foundation in lieu of a gift? Not only did she give up her gifts, she cut her hair with two other friends and donated that to Locks of Love!

Congratulations Ashley for being one terrific kid!"

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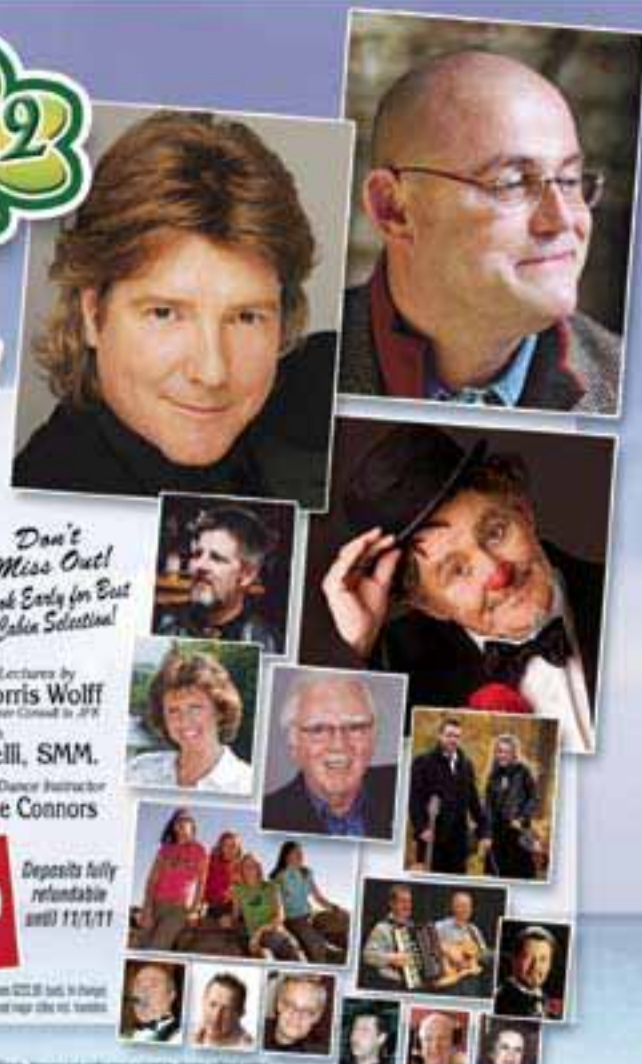
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IRISH DANCERS // 1PM LARRY NUGENT & GUESTS // 5PM DANNY
BURNS // 8PM MULLIGAN STEW // 9PM IRISH DANCERS & BAG
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Peggy Kinnane's 10th Anniversary 3-Day Music Fest

38 Special, Sister Hazel, and Scythian

Perhaps no other Chicagoland Irish Pub embodies the true spirit of Ireland more than Peggy Kinnane's Irish Restaurant and Pub. To celebrate 10 years, Peggy Kinnane's is spreading that Irish spirit with a huge 3-Day Music Festival, kicking off on St. Patrick's day, Thursday, March 17th and running through Saturday, March 19th. The commemorative bash is destined to be the hottest ticket in Chicagoland, with performances all day-every day from top local and national acts.

Irish Music
Elevation: U2 Tribute Band
Shannon Rovers: Renowned Chicago Bagpipers



Scythian: Celtic Rock with an Edge
Friday, March 18
7th Heaven: Chicago's own rockers
Ides of March: 1970's Powerhouse Rock and Roll Band
Sister Hazel: alt-rockers from Gainesville
Saturday, March 19
High Infidelity: 1980's

"I wanted to celebrate our 10th Anniversary as a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Arlington Heights in a unique way," says Derek Hanley, Music Fest organizer and owner of Peggy Kinnane's. "So I thought why not create a huge music festival not only to commemorate our anniversary, but also our community and the Irish heritage, in which music is so important."

Cover Band
American English: Premier Beatles Tribute Band
Neverly Brothers: Retro Rock and Roll Revival
38 Special: 1980's Southern Rock Band - "Caught Up in You", "Hold on Loosely"

The Music Fest is a great way to escape cabin fever and get outside under giant heated big top tents packed with entertainment. The

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



38 Special

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 in downtown Arlington Heights [under a giant big top tent] in the town's utility field (located one-block away, from Peggy Kinnane's Irish Restaurant & Pub, 8 N. Vail Avenue). The site is three 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 through

setting—Arlington Heights—boasts a charming downtown that has turned into a vibrant hub, chock full of appealing architecture, retail, dining and entertainment. Peggy Kinnane's is pulling off a bash unlike anything the town has ever seen, with three full days of live, top notch music, great food & drink and good time frills.

brownpapertickets.com. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. This is a 21 and over event. General admission only (no seating). Call 847.577.7733 or visit peggykinnanes.com.

The talent lineup features live music from 1-11pm Thursday and Saturday and 5-11pm on Friday, capped off with a national act every evening, including Celtic rock superstars Scythian, alt-rock Gods Sister Hazel, and 80s southern rock powerhouse 38 Special.

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

Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day)
Baal-Tinne: Traditional Irish Music with a Twist

Screaming Orphans: All Female Group
Direct From Ireland Playing Lively Traditional



The Ides of March

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 an authentic and charming experience. Visit peggykinnanes.com.



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Healy Law

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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.

Big Business Targets the Working Man

Recently, the General Assembly in Springfield featured much discussion of "reform" of the Illinois Workers' Compensation system. Not surprisingly, the business lobby was once again targeting the rights of injured workers in the State of Illinois. These proposals were being made under the guise of encouraging job opportunities in the State by restricting injured workers' rights under workers' compensation, thereby creating a "favorable" job market for prospective employees.

None of the pro-business proposed

reforms mentioned insurance reform. The plain, undisputed facts show that in the last decade workers' compensation claims have dropped almost 50%, while insurance premiums continue to rise. The proposed changes instead would include the following:

- (1) Stripping the injury worker of the right to see his or her doctor;
- (2) Restricting the injured worker from filing claims for aggravations of pre-existing conditions; and
- (3) Limiting an injured worker from recovering for wage differential benefits when their work-related injury prevents them from returning to their prior employment.

Let's take the three proposals and analyze what they mean for the injured worker.

(1) Requiring An Injured Worker To Be Treated By A Doctor Of The Employers Choosing

At present, in Illinois, a worker who is injured on-the-job has the right to treat with a physician of his own choosing. However, the employer also currently has an absolute right to have the worker examined by a physician of their own choosing. This right may, and quite often is, exercised by the employer many times throughout the claim. Under the proposal, the worker who has already suffered a work-related injury would now be leaving their choice of treater to the employer, or in actual fact, to the employer's insurance company.

This essentially leaves an injured workers' potentially life changing medical decisions in the hands of someone whose allegiance is at best questionable. In practice, insurance companies many times hire the same doctors again and again to formulate the pro-insurance, anti-worker medical opinions.

(2) Restricting The Injured Worker From Filing Claims For Aggravations Of Pre-Existing Conditions Which Would Heavily Target Repetitive Trauma Type Injuries

Currently, a worker whose shoulder, knee, elbow, wrist or back gives out due to repetitive activity of the job may file a claim for a work-related injury. Under the proposal the injured worker must prove based upon a preponderance of

the evidence that the repetitive trauma activity has been primarily caused by the employment rather than the employment playing only a role in the advancement of the condition.

Also, currently, if a worker is able to perform his job, the fact that he may have had a prior injury, does not preclude him from receiving benefits if he has aggravated that condition on-the-job. The proposed changes would make aggravated claims extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prove.

(3) Limiting an injured worker from recovering for wage differential benefits when their work-related injury prevents them from returning to their prior employment

Currently in Illinois an injured worker who is no longer able to perform his or her employment due to a work-related injury, but can work in some lesser paying capacity, is entitled to receive two-thirds of the difference between what he was previously earning and his post-accident earnings. For example, a worker who was making \$35.00 an hour in a trade who is no longer able to perform and can only do a job paying \$10.00, is entitled to two-thirds of the wage differential. As it is, that injured worker will no longer receive the benefit that that prior employment provides in terms of health insurance, pension, 401K etc. as that has never been provided for under the law. Any future payments towards any of those plans will be on the \$10.00 an hour job if in fact such benefits are offered.

The proposal would allow only the employer to come back and review the differential if the wage differential decreases due to raises in the employees lesser paying job. However, if the wage differential increases (due to layoffs,

etc.), the employee has no right to reopen his case.

As usual, the attempts to produce savings for insurance companies are being borne by working men and women.

Conclusion

The current proposed "reforms" unfairly target the injured worker. As many readers will agree, the current job climate places employees in fear of their job thereby heavily discouraging employees from filing any sort of a claim. Injured workers are afraid that their employer will replace them with someone else.

The proposal will only compound these fears. Imagine that you or your spouse or your child has suffered a work-related injury and is required to undergo a serious back surgery. The risks of such a surgery are many including paralysis, infection and death. Would anyone hand over the choice of this physician to an unknown insurance company representative? The relationship between a patient and a doctor is a sacred one and should remain so. The place or nature of injury should not change that relationship.

Likewise, as stated, the carpenter, plumber factory worker, or secretary, who suffers a repetitive trauma on the job will have a harder and harder time establishing their legitimate work injury.

These proposals unduly impinge on workers' rights.

Contact your State Senator or Representative if you have concerns about these alleged "reforms."



By Jack Cannon



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Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



The example most often used by critics is New Trier High School, who spends \$17,500 a year per student.

gan in the last three years. Why would anybody give up that kind of money to work for President Obama? What does that say to the ordinary man about the money that is thrown around in our financial institutions, when you have a hard time getting more than 1% interest on a jumbo CD at your local bank. Is anybody really worth \$5 million a year? What is the real payoff for Bill Daley? This has to lead to bigger and better financial opportunities.

There were a number of accusations back and forth, the race card, and the anti-semitic card were both played. The candidates collectively courted the minority vote. Miguel DelValle made a most favorable impression. He seemed to be more sensible in his approach. Gery Chico's ads were quirky, "another brick on the back?," and nobody cares if you grew up in the Back-of-the-Yards, Gery, or if you grew up in Wilmette.

St. Patrick's Day

The annual celebration of our heritage takes place on March 12th this year. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will march up Columbus Drive at Noon. The Co-Grand Marshalls are Maggie Daley, and Mayor Richard M. Daley. The theme of this year's parade will be Irish Family Traditions.

Traditions encompass many aspects of our lives—everything from the food we eat, the way we dress, the work we do, the music we enjoy, and the stories that we tell.

During my childhood I remember my mother getting letters from Sister Joseph and Sister Therese, my fathers sisters who were both Nuns in Ireland. When the letters arrived in March there was usually a sprig of shamrock in the envelope. One year there were stickers of harps and shamrocks that you could stick on your shirt.

When I was in the 4th grade my teacher, Sister Clarasine, said all the Irish children had to sing an Irish song for the pastor, Fr. Patrick Byrd, (a Back-of-the-Yards Irishman) who was to visit our class the next day, St. Patrick's Day. When I got home from school I told my mother I had to learn an Irish song. She taught me how to sing 'Mother Machree.' I stayed up late that night singing the song over and over. When it was my turn to sing at school everyone discovered I was a boy Soprano; two years later the Nuns had me singing in St. Mary's Choir.

From then on, I always had to sing at family gatherings. When Mike and Ellie O'Connor visited our house, their son Billy would have to dance a hornpipe in the kitchen while Betty Jane and Rita Konecny would play their accordions. Recitations were also in the mix. My uncle, Bill Boyle, would recite the Irish jubilee, and when he was not singing, 'Down By the Glenside,' my step-father, Bill Kent, would recite, 'Sam Magee.' This is how traditions are born.

Have a great St. Patrick's Day, and celebrate with dignity!

Chicago Public Schools

Year after year the politicians hold out the promise of spending more money on education. The dismal record of the Chicago Public School system is born of a recipe for failure that has many ingredients.

Bureaucratic bungling, the teacher's union, political correctness, boycotts, the Chicago School Reform Act of 1988, raced-based appointments, lack of discipline, gangs, bussing, bullying, lack of parental involvement... Folks, it begins in the home. Parents must spend time reading with their children and keeping them out of gangs. Since property taxes fund the school system why did Mayor Daley always refuse to increase the property tax?

They are in the wealthiest school district in the state. If you live on the North Shore, you get New Trier, if you live in Englewood, you get Englewood Prep Academy. Chicago Public Schools spend \$11,300 a year per student. There are other choices if you don't want your children to attend Chicago public schools. There are over 127 private schools for you to choose from in Chicago, but most people can't afford those either.

Make English your first language. Speak English at home and at work. Push one for English. I grew up with people who spoke Italian and German at home with their parents and grandparents, but they were also fluent in English. I often eat at a Thai restaurant, and I used to spend some time helping them with English, but as soon as I was out the door, they would only speak Lao, their native language. They still can't say April.

Remember ebonics? My God, get a grip! The only Shakespeare they heard of was the Chicago Police Dept. Shakespeare Station in the 14th District. Get rid of the pierced ears, tattoos, bling, weird hairdos, baggy pants and join mainstream society. Don't tell us that we don't understand you or your financial circumstances. I can match any hard luck story you've got.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

On their website they list restricted Diocesan priests. About 33 priests altogether—sixteen of which are deceased. These are priests that were accused and convicted of sex abuse. The Archdiocese of Chicago website has a heading called, Protecting Children. If you click on that you get the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. Under this category you can choose, English, Spanish, Polish or Black. Also in the menu on the website is Misconduct. There are priests named who have substantiated allegations of sex abuse from 1950 forward. They do not list any deceased priests on this website.

Saudi Crude/Wiki Leaks

My good friend, James B. Sloan, pre-eminent anti-trust attorney from Lake Forest, IL, filed an antitrust class-action price fixing suit against OPEC. See the story on www.iannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2090:local-lawyer-takes-case-to-supreme-court&catid=82:usa&Itemid=199 which says: *Saudis Threaten U.S. Government.*

Bill Daley

Now White House Chief of Staff, Bill Daley, made \$15.4 million from J.P. Mor-

Election Results


It's all over. Rahm Emanuel won the race for Mayor. Many would have preferred a runoff election which, no doubt, would have matched Gery Chico and Rahm Emanuel.

What is disturbing is that the candidates all made appearances at the Black megachurches. The forums didn't really cover the issues. They amounted to other candidates criticizing Rahm Emanuel. The real problems facing the city were never discussed, such as pension plans.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Faceless, Nameless and Shameless—the Dublin City Council

Two days later, they switched the communal heating on again. By that time, of course, it was far too late. It was far, far too late. After all, she had been dead for over 48 hours at that point.

The bastards who made that decision probably thought that it was a damage limitation exercise. Faceless they were, and faceless the Dublin City Council remain, over what I consider to be no less than manslaughter by proxy.

Faceless, nameless and most certainly, shameless.

As I look and look endlessly at the photographs of Rachel Peavoy, who froze to death in the second week of January, 2010, I can't help but wonder what we have become as a nation in this, the 21st century, where a thirty-year old woman can freeze to death in a lonely flat.

I've deliberately put off writing about her until the finding on her inquest came through. Well, it came through this first week of February, and was pretty much as I expected.

Rachel Peavoy was born and lived her short life in Ballymun. She had a boyfriend called Jason Douglas, who was a baker by trade. In 1998, she gave birth to their son, Warren. In 2002, their son Leon came along to the happy couple.

God of the almighty, when you put it like that, you can see how you can reduce a life to the basics.

When Leon arrived on the scene the council moved them to the dump that was known as the Shangan tower block. Even at that stage, it was going down the tubes, as it was almost empty. So no need to turn on the heating for the unfortunates that were there in January of 2010. It didn't matter to the jobsworths of Dublin City Council. All that they saw was an opportunity to save a few lousy quid.

At this point she and her boyfriend had split up. It happens.

Yet she continued to visit Jason's mother. A friend of hers said: "She didn't have to do that, but she loved her kids and wanted them to see their grandmother. There wasn't a bad bone

in her body. She didn't even drink."

That seems an unimportant detail, doesn't it? Yet it's not. One of the most asked questions I've had when talking of this is: "Was

she a drinker? Was she a junkie?"

No, on both counts. Rachel Peavoy was a good person and a good mother. To look at her with her smiley, immaculately dressed kids is enough to bear that out. It's also enough to tear your heart out.

She just got dealt that really bad hand that some people get. Rachel was poor. There's no other way to put it. She had a couple of little electric heaters but she did her best to go without, as there was the electricity bill to think about.

There's an awful lot of nonsense written about being poor, as if there is something almost glamorous about it. I am reminded in particular of Mother Teresa and her remarkable statement: "I think it is very beautiful for the poor to accept their lot, to share it with the passion of Christ. I think the world is being much helped by the suffering of the poor people."

Well, that statement is remarkable for all the wrong reasons; but then that woman always did come out with the most amazing gibberish.

To his credit, Rachel's local TD Noel Ahern took on her case, but even he wasn't able to get through the hard shells of the Council bureaucrats. Her neighbour, Dawn Sherry, gave us an insight into these creatures when her complaining resulted in the council sending out some people who only felt the need to measure the temperature in one room: one room where an entire family were trying to stay warm.

Says Dawn Sherry: "They were telling me that there was heat in the flat when there wasn't. They said they could test only one room. Christmas was horrible. My brother and his two children ended up having to go home because it was too cold."

Something tells me that the Christ would have had something to say about that.

Rachel went to her General Practitioner on December 15 to get a letter from him that would support a claim for help with the heating costs; but by this time it was pretty much

too late, and the council wasn't just moving slowly. It wasn't moving at all.

She survived through Christmas and by January was literally begging the council goons to turn the heating back on. Of course she might as well have been talking to a brick. As things hit an all time low on January 11, Rachel asked her elderly mother to take in the boys. Her brother Leon and here friend Jacqueline Johnston found her dead body in the main bedroom the following day, frozen to death in Ireland, in the 21st Century.

There's no sense to it. No, there really isn't, and to try to find sense is just futile; and with Dublin City Council still refusing to comment, we're not likely to be getting any.

One Ballymun resident said that the heating was turned on shortly afterwards. He claimed: "The council knew they messed up and that's why the heating was put back on."

Her sister Leontia gave up her job in order to raise the two children, and the council found a new house in the area.

"It was too late then. Why couldn't they have done that when their mother was alive? They knew they made a mistake and were trying to make up for it. But it was too late."

At the inquest her family's barrister, Dr. Ciarán Craven asked "how a young woman with no other system disorder died of hypothermia" in this day and age. He also called for an inquiry but that's too late now to help a shattered family.

Rachel Peavoy. 1980 – 2010. Rest in Peace.

CIIS Moves Office to Irish American Heritage Center

By Fr. Leonard

I am delighted to report that we are early this month completing a move to a new office space at The Irish American Heritage Center. The IAHC is located at 4626 North Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630. We at Chicago Irish Immigrant Support are excited about this move and I would like to take this opportunity to say a very sincere thanks to all the folks at the Heritage Center who have helped make this move happen. Our contact details (with the exception of our postal address) remain the same and we hope that you will come visit us at our new location.



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Still Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions?

Most of our New Year's resolutions for 2011 are likely to be lost in our rear view mirror already. Perhaps they were too challenging, so we slowly discarded them. Maybe we found them to be inconvenient or inconsistent with our life style. We concluded that they weren't important enough to give up one of our favorite pastimes. In my experience, New Year's resolutions disappear pretty quickly as we approach Spring. So I have a suggestion, why not adopt some practices that we might call our Spring Cleaning?

Spring Cleaning is an old concept. One or both of our parents decided that we should purge our closet of ill-fitting or worn clothes. Everyone in the family went around the house and eliminated all vestiges of a winter's wear. Dust in the corners of every room was systemically purged. Wooden floors were waxed and prepared for summer use. Carpets were shampooed thoroughly. You get the idea. Spruce up the house, the yard, the garage, the storage area and anything else that warranted such efforts.

Well, what about a Spring Cleaning of your own? What are the "bad" habits that you have developed over the past year? Are you tackling the inertia that prevents you from acquiring the tools necessary for you to move up in your organization and/or career? Some readers have told me that it seems that my columns are focused primarily, if not exclusively on management people. I categorically reject that notion. I believe that most of the ideas espoused in my columns have application to the proverbial butcher, baker, candlestick maker, doctor, lawyer or Indian chief. I am a dedicated junkie when it comes to training or education. I am thinking of the retired elevator repairman I spoke to last night at a wake. He said he went to night school to improve his elevator repair skills for virtually his whole working life. Think about the enormous changes that every tradesman has encountered in the last 30-40 years. There was a time that the image of a mechanic would evoke an image of a wrench; now it is more likely to evoke the image of a diagnostic computer.

Of the many things we can work on, I am convinced that business relationships should be right at the top. Things happen in our daily lives that

interfere with us interacting comfortably with our fellow workers. If you took just one hour during this month and carefully reviewed your working relationships with the people most important to you, you might be surprised to realize that you have some work to do to enhance or reestablish some relationships.

Back to the elevator repairman, he was trying to break up an altercation at a Christmas party when his boss grabbed him from behind. He turned and leveled his boss, without realizing who had grabbed him. One by one the people involved in the altercation (aka fight) were terminated. Fearful that he was about to be fired, he sat down with his boss and explained the entire incident. The boss fixed him with a stare and said, "Why didn't you tell me this three weeks ago, rather than waiting until now?" The repairman said he was hoping the situation would be forgotten. This overdue conversation resulted in an improved working relationship between him and his boss. The repairman showed himself to be a "stand up" guy, even though he had walked around for three weeks waiting to be fired. Set aside the fisticuffs in this particular situation. Have you stepped on someone's toes over the last few months? Would a friendly candid conversation over a cup of coffee put the matter in your "rear view mirror?"

There is an old adage which says if you want to know what's important to an individual, look at the person's calendar or checkbook. Does your calendar reflect your focus on your most important goals?

Perhaps you allow yourself to be distracted throughout the day. You need to keep your "eye" on the ball-target-goal. Many of us allow our-

selves the luxury of doing the "urgent" things rather than the really important things.

We allow ourselves to be trapped by our old habits. I had lunch with a client recently; he said he had "handled" more than 2000 of the 6000 emails he had received in the first three or four weeks of the new year. He could spend his entire day just reading and answering emails. He needs to have a knowledgeable IT person help him set up a system that will dramatically reduce this horrendous number of emails. He also needs to re-think "why" he gets so many emails. It certainly appears that he has allowed himself to be captured by the system. I recently read an internet story about a company president who threatened to end people's careers if they sent him innocuous GYA emails. Seems to me, he had an answer however indelicately stated.

So what two or three activities could you discard this Spring? Even if you can't totally rid yourself of them, which ones can you diminish?

Personal Note

This is my 100th column for the *Irish American News*. I am very grateful for the opportunity to communicate my thoughts on job searching, career management and leadership; so I would like to thank our publisher, Cliff Carlson. I would also like to thank those readers who over these past 12 years have encouraged me. And I would like to especially thank my faithful editors; my wife, Sandee Wask Fitzgerald, my brother, Joe and my occasional editor, my son, Neal, who was the person who recommended that I do a Career column for the paper. I would welcome any thoughts that you might have for future columns. *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 NEW web site: www.jamesffitzgerald.com



David James, Tony Jenacek, and Jim Thornton entertain at the Chicago St. Patrick's day Parade Queen contest, February 20, 2011

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Hooliganism
 Mike Houlihan



I'd seen dead people before but that was at a wake and they were wearing clothes. But when I saw a lady combing the hair of a man with no pants in the back of Lane & Son Funeral Home that was... well it was just creepy is what it was.

I was about eleven years old, past the cusp of "little wiseass" by about six months. It had been a rough winter in Chicago and as soon as the weather broke in early March, I was eager to get out on the street with my pals.

We used to hit Waxman's drugstore at 95th and Hoyne, cruise the magazine rack, get a nickel coke and snickers, and one of us would tell one of the weirdoes who worked there to "sell me a pack of Parliaments."

We'd shoot baskets in Danny McDermott's backyard and smoke the cigs like we were the Bowery Boys. The alleys of the hood were our turf. We knew every garbage can and garage for blocks on both sides of 95th Street.

Most of the folks we knew got waked at Heeney Funeral Home. It was directly across the street from Waxman's. Mr. Heeney was the undertaker and we hung out with his sons, Joe and Mike, and he always helped out at football games and stuff.

Somehow it was okay for Heeney. But a block

west was Lane & Son Funeral Home. Somebody told me that only Protestants, "Prods", got buried there. I'm not sure if that was true, but I don't re-

member any Catholics going to any of the services there. But Lane is an Irish name so, who knows? Lane & Son had a huge parking lot that was ringed by stone walls. The whole joint had a medeival feel to it with turrets and such. Like a castle for the croaked.

We used to play "king of the mountain" in the parking lot at the top of the snow hills that the plows had left behind. They were just starting to melt after months of grime and freezing kept them barely alive. One day our game disintegrated into flinging snowballs at east bound cars on 95th Street.

We loved to get chased in those days. It was our antidote to ennui. We'd fire a snowball or even a rock at a car and try to get them to stop, and then antagonize them until they started chasing us. It was nuts of course, in retrospect, but in those days it was fun. And we never got caught.

Ah... sure we didn't. We were immortal then, thought we were anyway.

That day we bombarded a Chevy as it cruised down 95th Street in front of Lane & Son. The car slowed, almost in disbelief, and then we all ran up to it and attacked it with ice balls laughing.

The driver was a man in his fifties. He was wearing a suit and hat like he was Dick Tracy or somebody. He finally slammed on the brakes and put the car in gear. He slowly opened the door and stood by the car and yelled obscenities at us as he glowered from his perch behind the driver's side door. We laughed because we knew he wasn't about to chase five crazy hooligans.

Somebody fired an ice ball that skidded perfectly across the top of the car. I don't remember who threw it. It might have even been me. I do remember it looked like just a wild chuck that somebody had let loose cuz the game was ending.

The frozen glob slapped just over the windshield and then slammed into the man's face and left his glasses encrusted with a dirty vanilla slushy. Uh oh.

We all tensed and everybody went "Oooohhh!" We hadn't intended to hit the guy, but everybody knew that a line had just been crossed and now he was pissed. The chase was on!

We broke like gazelles through Lane & Sons Parking lot and up the snow mountains. They had been plowed up against the stone and mortar walls of the funeral home and we flipped over them and

hang-dropped to the alley below.

That was the end of the chase we figured. Unless the guy was Steve Reeves, he wasn't about to scale the wall to catch us. We caught our breath and ambled down the alley behind the Funeral Home where I noticed a window just a few feet above our heads.

Two of my pals entwined hands and gave me a boost to look in the window. It was about the size of a big screen TV with lead casing separating the view into four distinct panels. I put my elbows up on the concrete lentil and looked in.

All I could see was a couple of yellow double doors with a round glass window in each swinging door. I could just barely see images of people through the little portholes.

"I don't see anything!"

Just keep looking!

I hunched onto the windowsill for balance.

And then the doors opened.

I watched a woman in a white dress, sort of a nurse outfit, she had a lavender sweater sort of pinned at the top of her neck and she was talking to a guy who was straightening the tie of a corpse laid out on a gurney in his boxers. The lady was combing the dead guys hair and then she put his glasses on his face and smoothed the hair with her hand. She was yakking away the whole time and what made it really vile was her matter of fact regard for Mr. Kelsey. Just another stiff.

The nightmare scene kicked into my stomach and I cried "Holy Moly!"

Suddenly Nurse Night-Night turns and our eyes meet. She heard me. She points at me and shrieks. I pushed my body away from the wall and all three of us kids fall backward into the snow of the alley.

A Chevy speeding down the alley stops in front of us as a squad car pulled up from the other direction. The back door of the funeral home flies open and the nurse and two guys in white orderly shirts are out in the alley screaming at us about climbing up on the window. The guy we'd snowballed leaps from his car and starts telling the cops to grab us.

Caught?

We pointed to the window and told the cops, "They're playing with a dead body in there!"

The old cop looked up at the window, looked at the snowball victim, looked at the nurse and the two embalmers, and then looked at our young startled faces.

The Twilight Zone.

Go home boys. Go home.

Like jackrabbits we scattered.

Running.

Immortal no more.

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Beannact Naoimh Padraid Cairde Gaels

St. Patrick's blessings to our readers as our great city gets ready to pay tribute to Ireland's national Apostle, St. Patrick. It's 55 years by the way. The big parade will wend its way along Columbus Drive adjacent to Lake Michigan on Saturday, March 12 starting at noon from Balbo after the dyeing of the Chicago River green at Wacker Dr. at 10am.

Our great leader, Mayor Richard M. Daley will again lead the parade with dignitaries. Unfortunately this will be his last as he is retiring in the near future. We wish he and his charming wife Maggie, every success and happiness, and thank him for all he has done for Ireland and its many causes.

Slainte a carde agus beannact de leat. Health and blessings to you dear friend.

In 1956, just a year after being elected Mayor of Chicago, the legendary Richard J. Daley led the first parade ever in honor of St. Patrick, accompanied by Fr. Tom Byrne, and another national, legendary hero, retired U.S. Navy Admiral Dan Gallery, the brave man whose ship captured the first German submarine in World War II. Dan had it towed to a neutral country where inspection revealed many secrets used successfully by the Allies afterwards.

The great Saint that we Irish all honor was born in Britton, South France. As a youth he loved to play by the seaside and then one day he was captured by Irish pirates, brought to Ireland and sold to a farmer to mind sheep on the hillside. Patrick was good and kind to his sheep and the Irish people got to love him. Eventually they managed his escape back to his parents.

Back home he informed his parents that he wanted to go to Rome, become a priest, and be sent back to Ireland as a missionary to help the other priests working to convert the Irish Druids and people. He had his dream fulfilled and was sent back to Ireland to work with the other missionaries. Eventually, after some hard work

many hardships that he endured, especially as a youth on the hills of Ireland. Although he was not Irish, he loved our ancestors and perhaps became more Irish than the Irish themselves. As we sing his song, "*Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear Saint of our Isle, on us thy poor children, look down wearing a smile. And now though art high in the mansions above, on Ireland's green valleys look down with thy love.*" March with dignity and pride for St. Patrick and Ireland.

Our sincere thanks to the Tinley Park Association, who sponsor a big parade along Oak Park Ave. in memory of the great St. Patrick, and have allowed Gaelic Park's big float and a marching group, and the Hennessy Clan with their coach and marching group to participate. *Gur a mile mait agat a cairde.* The parade starts at 2pm; assembly is at 1pm at Central Middle School, 18146 S. Oak Park Ave, Tinley Park, on Sunday, March 13.

Cheers for Mayor Rahm Emanuel

It goes without saying that taking over Mayor Richard M. Daley's tasks as Mayor of Chicago is a big job, but incoming Mayor Emanuel's congressional experience, and as Chief of Staff for President Barack Obama's office, is as good as any one city, even Chicago, can get. He has it all. Candor and dogged effectiveness. Just what Chicago needs now, if its to survive and not become another Cleveland or Detroit.

Cardinal Mahoney Calls for Fair Immigration Reform

Cardinal Roger Mahoney, in a great story in a recent *Irish Echo* newspaper, called for a fair and equitable U.S. Immigration Reform. He said, "We have pursued enforcement only policies which have not significantly stymied illegal entry into the country since 2001. For example, we have spent over 100 billion dollars on enforcements and during that same period the number of undocumented have grown

he was named a saint, and the National Apostle of Ireland.

So, as we celebrate Patrick's big day, lets remember the greatness of our saint and the

from seven million to eleven million."

The Cardinal goes on to explain that immigrants historically have helped build this diverse nation into the greatest democracy and superpower in the world. And, we might add that they have helped fight and die for our causes on every battlefield we have fought on, for freedom for ourselves and others.

The good churchman goes on to tell us that our immigration laws are outmoded and inadequate for future labor needs, especially when the economy recovers. There are simply not enough visas made available for unskilled labor, and jobs that our own people shy away from. He makes a great point when he says, "As a moral matter we should no longer tolerate a system that preys upon the vulnerability of our fellow human beings, and benefit from their labors, yet fail to guarantee their human rights."

Unfortunately, the good Cardinal leaves out the unfairness of the law where it concerns Irish, and other wester Europeans. Back in 1965 when the National Origins System law was being discussed, the American-Irish Immigration Committee fought tooth and nail to consider patterns of immigration when entry is being considered, due to the fact that they never immigrate as a family. For example, one single man or women will emigrate, and in time, send for a brother or sister. This system gets a small amount of visas, whereas other countries immigrate as a family of five or six at least, and get six visas to the Irish one. This unfairness must be remedied if we are to have any kind of a fair and equitable law.

At the time that the law was changed in 1965, Congress refused to consider Ireland's cause, and therefore they have settled for hundreds annually, while other countries get thousands of visas. The State Department at the time promised that "No country will be handicapped."

This promise was not kept. So, the Irish and others with a similar pattern go to the bottom of the totem pole. In order to make up for the difference, Irish immigrants received a fair share of Amnesty visas in the 80's, but the laws being enforced exclude the Irish without regard to the great work that the Irish performed in helping build and defend their beloved America down through the years. Today's would-be Irish immigrants are well educated in high tech, and would be a great asset to our country when the economy fully recovers. Today they are being almost excluded. An unfairness that needs to

be corrected.

Thank you Cardinal Mahoney for your wonderful write-up on the present Immigration problem. Hopefully, when the time comes to correct the present Immigration laws, men like yourself will be asked to help Congress pass a fair and equitable law. We all need to keep our representatives in Congress well informed on this problem.

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Singers on New Ground celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Land of Song: Irish Songs by Modern Composers

Singers on New Ground (SONG) kicks off their 2011 season with the belief that there is more than one way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Chicago. Land of Song: Irish Songs by Modern Composers showcases contemporary arrangements of traditional Irish music. The concert takes place

on Saturday, March 12th, 4pm at Piano Forte in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL.

Dedicated to showcasing young emerging performers, this concert will feature some of the city's most talented young artists performing a variety of new arrangements of tunes that are centuries old. Featured pieces include John Corgliano's three songs for voice and flute, titled "Three Irish Folksong Settings." The concert also includes world premieres by Chicago composers Randall West, Brian Baxter, Eric Malmquist and Seth Boustead. Some of these works set the familiar Irish tunes of "Foggy Dew," "Down By the Sally Gardens," and "The Minstrel Boy."

"I wanted to put this concert together to display a different side of Irish culture from what the city usually experiences, one of deep poetry, patriotism, suffering, and love. These traits are universal among the many different groups that make up the city, but are uniquely and beautifully expressed in Irish song," says SONG founder and composer Eric Malmquist.

Land of Song: Irish Songs by Modern Composers is open to the public and suggests a \$5 donation at the door. The concert begins promptly at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12th at Piano Forte in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL. A small reception will follow the concert. For additional information, contact SONG's founder and director, Eric Malmquist, at emalmqui@gmail.com. Visit www.singersonnewground.com.

Imagine Ireland Visits Chicago Now and Later

In its visits across America, Imagine Ireland recently launched in Chicago with the play, Terminus, the first week of March. Cultural Irelands CEO, Eugene Downes, gave attendees at a late February get-together at the Museum of Contemporary Art a rundown of what was coming soon, and what to expect later in the year. Watch these pages and www.iannews.com for updates through the year.

The Chieftains, and the Coronas representing the music world will be in Chicago this month, along with the wonderful play, The Cripple of Inishman, by Martin McDonagh. The Cripple of Inishman will play at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Courtyard Theater, 800 East Grand Avenue on Navy Pier Chicago, March 16 through March 27.

Paint the Town Green - Help Kids

The Irish American Heritage Center is helping Mercy Home for Boys & Girls paint the town green this March. Through its support of the residential youth home's 16th annual Shamrocks for Kids campaign, the Center is rallying the public around a solution for kids in crisis.

Shamrocks for Kids raises funds and awareness to help at-risk kids living at Mercy Home. Running throughout the month of March, Shamrocks for Kids features fun, family-friendly and Irish-themed activities and events throughout Chicagoland.

Attendees at the Irish American Heritage Center's St. Patrick's Day events this month can get their Mercy Home shamrocks and help give kids a fresh start.

The Center is also helping encourage volunteers for Shamrocks for Kids. Right now, Mercy Home needs volunteers to help distribute shamrock pins for donations at area events.

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to distribute shamrock pins on streets in and around downtown Chicago on Friday March 11. As a special incentive, anyone who signs up to be a Shamrocks for Kids volunteer at Irish American Heritage Center events this March will receive complimentary admission. It's a great way to give back while celebrating our Irish heritage.

If you are interested in helping young people build successful and independent futures, consider being a "Shamrocks for Kids" volunteer this March. Just visit mercyhome.org to learn more or to volunteer.



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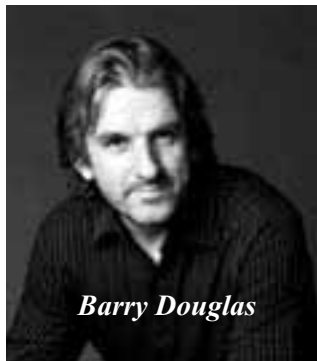
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Camerata Ireland March 12 at Dominican University

Acclaimed for its sensual musicality, Camerata Ireland brings together the best Irish musicians from all over the world in a 40-piece chamber orchestra under the artistic direction of celebrated pianist Barry Douglas. Enjoying the unique joint patronage of Mary McAleese, president of Ireland, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Camerata Ireland's inaugural concerts were presented in 1999 in Belfast and Dublin in association with Co-operation Ireland, an organization dedicated to bringing lasting peace to Ireland. Today, the orchestra maintains an active touring schedule on four continents.



Barry Douglas

At the heart of the ensemble's work is its commitment to nurturing the talents of young Irish musicians, as evidenced by its annual Young Musicians Programme, a week-long residential series of master classes with Maestro Douglas and other international artists.

Barry Douglas has established a major international career since winning the Gold Medal at the 1986 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow, the only non-Russian since Van Cliburn in 1958 to receive this prestigious award. Best known for his performances of large-scale Romantic works by Brahms, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky, Douglas is also a champion of 20th and 21st century composers such as Reger, Britten, Corigliano and Pendericki. He received the Order of the British Empire in 2002 for his services to music. Douglas is a Fellow of the Royal College of Music where he is Prince Consort Professor of Piano, and artistic director of the International Piano Festival in Manchester, England, and the Clondeboye International Festival and the Camerata Ireland at Castletown Series Festival, both held annually in Ireland.

Publisher, Cliff Carlson, chatted with Douglas by phone.

Originally from Ireland, Barry is currently living in Paris, but maintains a house in the Green Country. Mr. Douglas has been in music since "coming out of my nappies", he laughs. He plays piano, clarinet and cello. He always wanted to play guitar, but never seemed to get around to learning.

This is a "shortish tour, about seven or eight towns. We have been in the States every three years since we founded the orchestra in '99. The last tour was a month long, it was a very big tour in 2008. This tour is a bit shorter because of time constraints and budget constraints. But we're thrilled because in the past we have been all over the country, which has been great, but on this trip we are able to concentrate on the East coast, Mid-West and Florida" Says Barry.

"This orchestra is the only all-Ireland orchestra and it's formed from all young Irish people. Not only are they all from Ireland, but it's only Irish people who play in the orchestra, or people who have lived their working lives in Ireland. Mostly they are young people between 20 and 30. There are some more established people who are in as well. New people are popping up all the time and they write to us. We have a panel and a team to consider it all. It's not just that they must be good players, but they must also buy into the ethos of the orchestra, which is about playing at a very high level, and also playing with enthusiasm and warmth, sending a message out there that

here are some great Irish musicians."

When looking for new talent, Barry is aware of the accredited music schools all over Ireland. "In fact, most of our founding string players are from Cork. It's just been a great school of string fruition there, through the Cork School of Music. When you have a kernel of very knowledgeable and very enthusiastic teachers, it shaped a generation of young Irish string players."

"Ireland is known, rightly so, for bistro music or for U2 or for its theatre and its beauty and the warmth of the people, but it's not often known for its classical music. And coming out of Ireland is an all Ireland orchestra which aims to bring harmony through even though it's a cliché, breaking down the barriers between North and South. And we are very, very committed to that, that we are an all-inclusive affair. When that all started to happen, I said 'My goodness, what an amazing opportunity. Let's build a pair of wings and let's play a part.' I mean obviously I'm not a politician and I can't change the world, but I think if we all play our own small part I think it's worthwhile."

Tickets for the benefit concert are \$25, \$55 and \$75; and \$350 for the concert and a gala following the concert. For more information, please visit the website www.dom.edu/benefit or contact the university box office at (708) 488-5000. Proceeds from the gala support scholarships at Dominican University.

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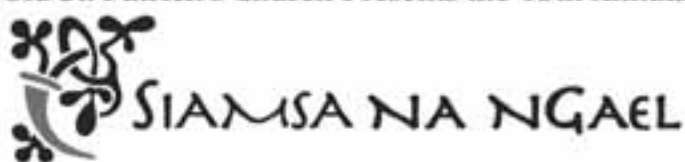
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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



Celtic Thunder – Heritage

With six albums, five CD’s and a million units sold, Celtic Thunder are back on our TV screens with their new PBS special *Heritage*, and special it is, as they return to their Celtic roots.

I spoke to their legendary musical director, Phil Coulter, recently and got the low down on their latest project, *Heritage*. You are going to love this one. The album has 13 tracks and the DVD concert has 16, including some great renditions of classic favorites like “Red Rose Café,” “A Place in the Choir” and “The Dutchman,” as well as a few great songs written by Phil himself.

We welcome Emmet Cahill to Celtic Thunder. Emmet, from Mullingar, takes over from Paul Byrom and he brings his unique talent and gifted voice to this multi talented ensemble.

It’s hard to believe that Celtic Thunder only began in 2008. They have matured and fused into one of the most popular musical acts in the business, while each of them retain their own individual on stage style and personality. Young Damien McGinty

has grown up before our eyes into being a veteran performer while George Donaldson, the “Daddy” of Celtic Thunder, seems to have dropped some years and indeed, a few pounds, and is more vibrant than ever. I sense Sharon Browne’s alchemy at work here.

Sharon of course is the unstoppable producer of Celtic Thunder and along with Phil Coulter, they must feel really proud of their well-deserved and continued success.

Neil Byrne’s performance of “Noreen” just blew me away on the video. Neil has been lead guitarist with Celtic Thunder from the beginning, and Phil wrote this song to suit his voice and style. This hauntingly beautiful song left us speechless as we watched. Stunning love song—an instant classic. Phil wrote the melody originally as a wedding gift for Liam Neeson and Natasha Richardson, and only recently added the lyrics.

Keith nails “The Dutchman” and Damien’s version of “Buachail ón Eirne” just showcases his maturing voice and his comfort in it. George takes the lead on “Red Rose Café,” and they all deliver on a rousing version of “The Galway Girl.”

Ryan and George combine on another Phil Coulter song, “Gold and Silver Days.” Phil had written this great song for Paddy Reilly’s 30th Anniversary Album.

Ensemble piece “Home From The Sea” will be a huge favorite, and Keith “rocks out” with Neil on “Whiskey in the Jar” with more of a nod to Thin Lizzy than the Clancy Brothers.

The album features another new song from Phil as Emmet Cahill makes “Kindred Spirit” his own—another treasure.

Honestly, the songs just come tripping over each other, each one vying for attention, each one seemingly better than the one before, until you listen again. Then it dawns on you that this is what Celtic Thunder is all about, great voices, individual styles, and yet collectively and in the ensemble pieces, it’s superb entertainment.

Heritage, the album and DVD is in release now, the PBS show will be on the telly on your local PBS station through the month of March, as the lads tour the country from station to station during the March pledge drive, and the fall *Celtic Thunder Heritage Tour* of the USA and Canada is set for September 7th to December 18th. This coast to coast tour is coming to a city near you and I highly recommend you to book tickets—details on their website.

In the meantime, the boys are set for a promotional tour of New Zealand and Australia.

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European Union Film Festival Ends March 31

The Gene Siskel Film Center presents the 14th Annual European Union Film Festival, from March 4-31. This year’s festival, their largest yet, boasts 64 films representing 24 nations, with three Irish entries. In all, the festival includes nine films that were selected to represent their nations in this year’s competition for Best Foreign Language Film. In addition to *Bibliothèque Pascal*, the official Academy Award contenders from Austria (*La Pivellina*), Belgium (*Illegal*), the Czech Republic (*Kawasaki’s Rose*), Estonia (*The Temptation Of St. Tony*), Italy (*The First Beautiful Thing*), Portugal (*To Die Like A Man*), Slovakia (*The Border*), and Slovenia (*9:06*) will be screened.

The three Irish films are:

CRACKS

Sun, Mar 13th at 3:00pm

2009, Jordan Scott, Ireland/UK, 104 min. With Eva Green, Juno Temple.

“The film is gorgeous, with impeccable period detail.” —Jay Seaver, eFilmCritic.com

Life in a snooty British girls’ school circa 1934 is made bearable for the repressed boarders by the presence of Miss G (Green), the glamorous, daring youngest teacher. Glorifying in the worship of her girls, Miss G smokes, flouts authority, and regales her wide-eyed charges with tales of her exotic foreign adventures. The outside world is moved a little closer with the arrival of Fiamma, a beautiful Spanish aristocrat. Director Scott (daughter of di-



Eva Green

rector Ridley Scott) builds the suspense in teasing increments as the new girl becomes the catalyst for jealousy, erotic ambitions, and more--much more. In English. Special advance screening courtesy of IFC Films. 35mm. (BS)

MY BROTHERS

Sat, Mar 19th at 9:15pm

Thu, Mar 24th at 6:00pm

2010, Paul Fraser, Ireland, 90 min. With Timothy Creed, Paul Courtney

A deceptively simple but profound story, MY BROTHERS follows 17-year-old Noel and his two younger siblings Paudie and Scwally, on an impromptu but urgent trip to a working-class seaside resort on a mission to replace the cheap but dearly treasured watch of their dying dad. Set over Halloween weekend, this character-driven road movie

gets extra spark from the quirkiness and audacity of misfit middle brother Paudie (Courtney). The Irish countryside plays a starring role as the boys together learn the strength to face the end of the journey. In English. HDCAM video courtesy of Treasure Entertainment. (BS)

NOTHING PERSONAL

Sat, Mar 26th at 7:15pm

Mon, Mar 28th at 6:00pm

2009, Urzula Antoniak, Ireland/Netherlands, 85 min. With Stephen Rea, Lotte Verbeek

“A pleasure to watch.” —Ernest Hardy, Village Voice.

A female hitchhiker (Verbeek) arrives at an isolated Connemara cottage and strikes a deal for food in exchange for work with the owner, a congenial but hermit-like widower (Rea). Hostile, withdrawn, and demanding to remain nameless,

the visitor appears to have something to hide, but so does her host, a lonely man who, in time, seeks to wheedle her friendship with home-cooked meals and music. Their spare and prickly relationship finds its opposite in the sensuality of the film’s imagery, from the awe-inspiring beauty of the western Irish landscape to the food on the kitchen stove. In English. Special advance screening courtesy of Olive Films. DigiBeta video. (BS)

The festival closes on Thurs. March 31, with Michael Winterbottom’s hilarious road comedy *The Trip*, followed by a closing night reception hosted by Whole Foods Market.

Tickets to each screening are \$10/general admission. Other ticket prices are \$7/student and \$5/Film Center members. All tickets may be purchased at the Film Center Box Office. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets are available through all Ticketmaster outlets, 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com.

European Union Film Festival passes are available—\$50 buys six movies for the price of five, plus one free small popcorn with each film, an \$83 value for \$50, available in-person only at the Film Center box office.

312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

To learn more about the European Union Film Festival, please visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org/



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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



What Would St. Patrick Do?

This question was prompted by a pastoral situation that arose again for me recently. It is the question of how to respond to one (in this case a young undocumented woman) who lost a

parent in Ireland. This is a scenario that I have had to face again and again during the past eight years, and no matter how many times I encounter the issue, it is still heart rending. People

are faced with an impossible situation. They have lived here for years, have put down roots and in many cases have a young family, home and business. If they go back to Ireland for the funeral, there is a high possibility that they will not be able to return. They ask, what should I do father? I have no answer to that question, at least no easy answer. I try to console the grieving individual and be as supportive as I can, but it is heart breaking to see a person torn by grief and often burdened by guilt, in what is a truly such a difficult situation.

St. Patrick, I’m convinced would of course do the compassionate thing. I believe that Patrick would be a great example of one who preached the Gospel, with a big emphasis on the “social justice” content of the Good News. As such, Patrick would also be out there working to change the laws. He would pray for and with his people in distress, but would work equally hard to remove, “the burden from their backs.” In practical terms, Patrick would fight for sensible solutions to problems that we face in society in general.

Here are a few pieces of advice that I am convinced that Patrick would offer as a means to fixing our broken immigration system.

1. COMPASSION: Yes, compassion for those who are for various reasons trapped in “legal limbo”. God does not hold our misdeeds against us, for those who have no criminal convictions, allow those folks a second chance at achieving the American dream.

2. REALITY I: Frank Sherry the executive director of America’s Voice, an immigration reform advocacy group, says “The mass-deportation, ugly fantasies of anti-immigrant law-

makers are just that—ugly fantasies. Despite unprecedented spending and energy on immigration enforcement efforts, the undocumented population remains durable and inextricably part of the fabric of American communities.” I think Patrick would say, deal with the reality these folks are not going away. Yes, remove the criminal elements but those who are hard working, law abiding, and God fearing people are just what America needs, therefore, allow them to stay.

3. REALITY II: It is a fact that removing approx. 8 million workers from the country would seriously damage the US economy. If these folks are sent away, American companies are going to have to export more jobs. That does not make good economic sense. By following such a plan we would not only lose these peoples skills but their purchasing power and their ability to do work that US born folks are unwilling to do.

4. REALITY III: I am convinced that Patrick would tell our lawmakers, “Do not try to re-invent the wheel.” The folks in DC have been talking about Immigration reform for at least six years and more than enough bills have already been written. On each side of the divide there is more than sufficient material available to come up with a workable solution. What is lacking is the political will, particularly in the US House of Representatives, to actually make a genuine effort to dealing with the issue.

Graham & Schumer

As I go to press, Senator Lindsey Graham (R) of S. Carolina and Senator Chuck Schumer (D) of New York, have once again begun to send signals that they are seriously looking at making

another attempt to pass comprehensive immigration reform in the Senate. It is too early to say if their efforts will produce any results. My own concern is that even if these Senators do produce a bill from the Senate it is not looking very good on the House side.

In politics, it is good to remember the adage: “never say never,” however, I would not be one to present false hopes to folks who’s hopes have been dashed more than enough in the past.

The onus is on the Republican controlled House, to ignore the extreme elements within their ranks and together with those members who have the best interests of the country at heart to push creative and problem solving proposals.

Growing Good Corn

Author Unknown

There once was a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon.

One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors.

“How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?” the reporter asked.

“Why sir,” said the farmer, “didn’t you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn.”

He is very much aware of the connectedness of life. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor’s corn also improves.

So it is with our lives. Those who choose to live in peace must help their neighbors to live in peace. Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

The lesson for each of us is this: if we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn.

It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself.

Proverbs 11:24-25

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

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Fine Gael Win Big In Election, Enda Kenny Leads Government

by Liam Cassin

There was a huge turnout of over 70 percent as voters flocked to the polls in Ireland's general election held February 25, to elect members of the 31st Dáil Éireann. For Fianna Fáil, outgoing coalition leaders and the Republic's pre-eminent party of government for over three quarters of its existence, the result was the bloodbath that had been widely predicted. The voters punished them severely for the economic collapse that has ushered in harsh austerity measures, a return to high levels of emigration and a national bailout by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Fine Gael, under leader Enda Kenny, made major gains and will lead the next government. Labor and Sinn Féin also made massive improvements over the 2007 election.

The collapse in Fianna Fáil's vote was monumental. With most of the votes counted it is projected that they will win only 20 seats, down from 77 in 2007. Nowhere was their failure more evident than in Dublin, where Brian Lenihan, the outgoing Finance Minister was the only Fianna Fáil candidate to win a seat in the entire metropolitan area (where a total of 47 seats were up for grabs). Fianna Fáil's leader, Micheal Martin, who was elected again in Cork, described the overall results as "disappointing," adding that "we were aware that we had a huge challenge in this election for a variety of reasons."

Pre-election polling proved very accurate this time around. Fine Gael are projected to win 77 seats, 7 short of an overall majority. There are 166 TDs in total.

It is Fine Gael's best performance ever. The victorious Kenny, addressing supporters at a rousing gathering at Dublin's Burlington Hotel, said that the people of Ireland had given his party a "massive endorsement." This was, perhaps, overstating the case as even with all their success Fine Gael still only got 36.1 percent of the first preference votes cast. Kenny said: "We now stand at a transformative moment in Ireland's history. We stand on the brink of fundamental change in how we regard ourselves, how we regard our economy and how we regard our society."

Labor will be happy, as they stand to win either 37 or 38 seats and were very successful in the capital. Per-

haps not that surprising as Dublin is home to vast numbers of public sector workers, who were hit hard by the outgoing government in terms of both pay cuts and tax hikes. Dublin is also the epicenter of the collapse in property prices around Ireland.

Sinn Féin met their highest expectations and will win either 14 or 15 seats. Gerry Adams, party leader, topped the poll in the County Louth constituency and rising star Pearse Doherty won the second biggest vote share of the day with 33 percent in Donegal South West, taking the first of three seats available there.



At the start of a bright new day, Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny (R) together with Lord Mayor of Castlebar, Ger Deere (L) and Billy Lawless at the polling station as they voted in the St. Patrick's Boys National School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Photo by Liam Sweeney.

The strength of Doherty's support was also a key factor in the defeat of former Tanaiste Mary Coughlin. Adams vowed that Sinn Féin would use their expanded role in opposition to fight against the "swingeing, anti-citizen, economically illiterate measures" being proposed by the establishment parties.

The Green Party were annihilated, losing all six of their seats.

Independent candidates will end up with either 15 or 16 seats, and their combined role may be very important in deciding the make up of the next government.

With Fine Gael short of the 84

seats they need for an overall majority they have several options. They can try and go it alone and enlist the tacit support of a number of Independents who don't demand to be part of the government. They can become senior partners in a coalition formed with a bloc of Independents—an idea already floated by newly elected center right Independent Shane Ross who claims he can put together a group of eight for such a coalition. Fine Gael also have the option of inviting the Labour Party to be junior partners in a coalition.

On the day after the election Kenny was playing his cards very close to his chest, saying that no decision had been made as yet. Other senior Fine Gael members did suggest that a coalition with Labour was their preferred option, but as the seat count got higher for Fine Gael, even those seemed to walk back their comments.

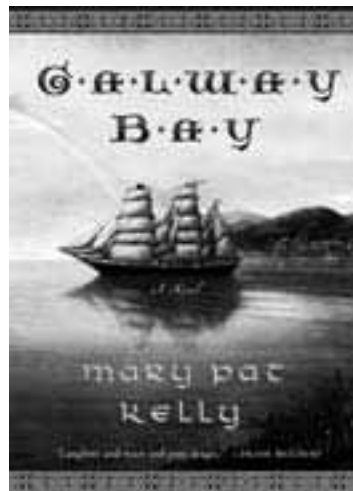
The major advantages to having Labour in a coalition are stability and cover. Such a coalition would almost certainly get to serve the full five years and would be impenetrable to challenge. Both parties could also argue that the failure to keep all their election promises was a function of the compromise needed for a coalition. And there would definitely be broken promises as the two parties are fundamentally opposed to each other on some of the major issues. Fine Gael might instead see it as being to their long term advantage to have Labour on the opposition benches as that would further diminish the part played by their real nemesis Fianna Fáil.

Galway Bay Released in Paperback

In the spellbinding tradition of Frank Delaney and Colleen McCullough comes a bestselling historical family saga that Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt calls "pure magic." *Galway Bay* (Grand Central Publishing Trade Paperback; February 28, 2011; \$15.99) is the poignant and captivating story of one family's journey from the horrors of 19th century Ireland's Great Starvation to triumph in America.

Galway Bay is also currently being developed for television by Jean Doumanian Productions.

hachettebookgroup.com.



O'Connor in 41st Ward Runoff Election

Mary O'Connor is a candidate for Alderman of the 41st Ward in the April 5th run-off election. She is the owner of the popular O'Connor's Market in the ward for 20 years, and is an involved community leader.

Q: Why are you running? I have lived most of my life in the 41st Ward and have a deep connection to it. I grew dissatisfied with the level of constituent services provided by the Ward office. The incumbent leadership had grown complacent. The Ward wasn't seeking out best practices

whom attended local schools, including Immaculate Conception Grade School, Resurrection, St. Patrick's, and Notre Dame High School.

Q: How will your business background serve you if you're elected?

With my business partner Mary Ellen Stanton, I started a catering business in 1990 in the basement of my parents' home. In the years since, Unforgettable Edibles Catering Company and O'Connor's Deli & Market have become cornerstone businesses in the 41st Ward. I have



When Geraldine O'Connor, of Edgebrook, was born in 1909, federal law prohibited women from voting. On April 5, Mrs. O'Connor, 102, intends to cast a ballot for her granddaughter, Mary O'Connor, a candidate for Alderman of Chicago's 41st Ward. "It will be the most important vote of my life," said Mrs. O'Connor. (For those of you too young to remember, Congress finally granted women the right to vote in 1918, when it approved the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That Amendment was ratified by enough states to become law in 1920.)

from other Wards or communities and applying them here. The incumbent wasn't inspired sufficiently to attract new investment to our community. Rather than complain about the situation, I decided to stick my neck out and do something about it instead.

Q: Specifically, What can the Alderman's office do better?

Fulfill the interests of the ward vigorously during City Council proceedings. And push for local city services like public safety, infrastructure, transportation, and schools to be reliable, efficient, and economical. I want to showcase the assets our Ward has to businesses and encourage them to invest here to create new jobs, add to the tax base, and rejuvenate our business districts.

Q: Tell us about your family.

Both sides of my family trace their recent history back to Ireland. Names like O'Connor, Grealis, Fitzpatrick, and Connolly. Of my immediate ancestors, only my paternal grandmother, who still lives at home in Edgebrook, is still alive and recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. My father was a pipe fitter and my mother worked in customer service for a local manufacturer. They gave birth to five children, all of

learned firsthand how bureaucratic and burdensome city processes are. I've seen the effect onerous property taxes have on small businesses and how reluctant businesses are to relocate here because of the unpredictability for how high those taxes will rise. My experience helped me keep two small businesses afloat during the worst economic downturn in our lifetime, and my leadership experience with the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce, form the underpinnings of my business background.

Q: Why should we vote for you?

As the Chicago Sun-Times pointed out in its endorsement of me for Alderman, my business experience and community involvement have been a great training ground for the Aldermanic position. I have proven my commitment to my community by serving on the Edison Park Community Council, and also serving as President of the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce. Lastly, when the Democratic Party in our Ward appeared to be on life support, I challenged the long-term incumbent for the unpaid Committeeman position and won because our neighbors decided it was time for a change.

Fraternal Order of Police Awards

Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, presented the Distinguished Service Award recently to Police Officers Luis Molina, Andrew Cuomo, Carrie Steiner, Sgt. Anargyros Kereakes, Sgt. Thomas Lamb and Lieutenant Jeffry Murphy.

Last May, Lt. Jeff Murphy and PO Carrie Steiner, who are members of the CIT (Critical Incident Team) along with police officers of the 7th District, responded to a S. Bishop address regarding an individual who had made telephone threats to blow up the Union League Club. The individual was a former chief engineer of the building and the threats were taken very seriously because the President of the United States was going to visit this location on an upcoming trip

to Chicago.

Upon arrival, they were admitted by a family member, and encountered the offender brandishing a knife. Lt. Murphy shielded PO Steiner, falling in the process and injuring his hand as they retreated from the apartment and the offender locked himself in a bedroom. After notifying the Zone that they had a barricaded subject an HBT was called and after several hours of negotiations, a decision was made to forcibly enter and Sgt. Lamb, Sgt. Kereakes, and PO's Molina and Cuomo set up a formation. Upon entry, they ordered the offender sitting on a bed holding a knife, to drop his weapon. He approached them with the knife in hand and PO Cuomo discharged his Department Taser, striking the offender with a probe which had no effect. The



(L-R) Frank DiMaria, 2nd V.P. of F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7, Officer Carrie Steiner and Lieutenant Jeffry Murphy. Officers Molina, Cuomo, and Sgts. Kereakes and Lamb are not pictured.

offender continued directly at the Police Officers with the knife and PO Molina, fearing for his as well as his partners' safety, discharged his weapon striking the offender who fell to the ground still holding

the knife.

The offender was immobilized after having to be tased a second time and was taken into custody. He was transported via ambulance to the hospital where he was admitted in critical condition. Lt Murphy was also transported to the hospital where he was treated and released for his injured hand.

Due to the dedication to duty and courage during a difficult situation which was displayed by PO's Molina, Cuomo, Steiner, Sgt.'s Kereakes and Lamb, and Lt. Murphy, a dangerous offender was removed from the streets of the City.

Horoscope



Theresa Castro

ARIES: The new moon of March 2011 is in your 12th sector of hidden circumstances. There are some things that could be happening behind your back. This does not necessarily have to be the case if you have been realistic about some relationships in your private or business life.

TAURUS: The trend of this month of March 2011 is for you to gain ground in some of your hopes and wishes. Your social connections are key to getting what you want. You can especially make great strides where employment is concerned.

GEMINI: You will do well to pay attention to your image in the public view. You are unusually high viz this month whether you like it or not! So be aware of your actions. Also you could be in line for a great opportunity personally or professionally!

CANCER: The emphasis for you this month will be on distant matters and family that may be far away. Your ruler, the moon, is poised with the sun and planet Mars to give you some extra energy for study or travel. Learning for your job will also go well at this time.

LEO: You will busy with your tax matters this March 2011. Your ruler, the sun, is traveling with planet mercury, mars, and the moon. You will be on top of your personal financial affairs and those of the people closest to you!

VIRGO: You are in line for some extra attention from a possible romantic interest. The new moon of March 2011 sits in your sector of "significant others" and could bring a new love into your life!

LIBRA: Your health will be the focus in the month of March 2011.

Lucky for you, if you've been feeling unwell the planetary weather will boost your physical energy and your powers of recuperation.

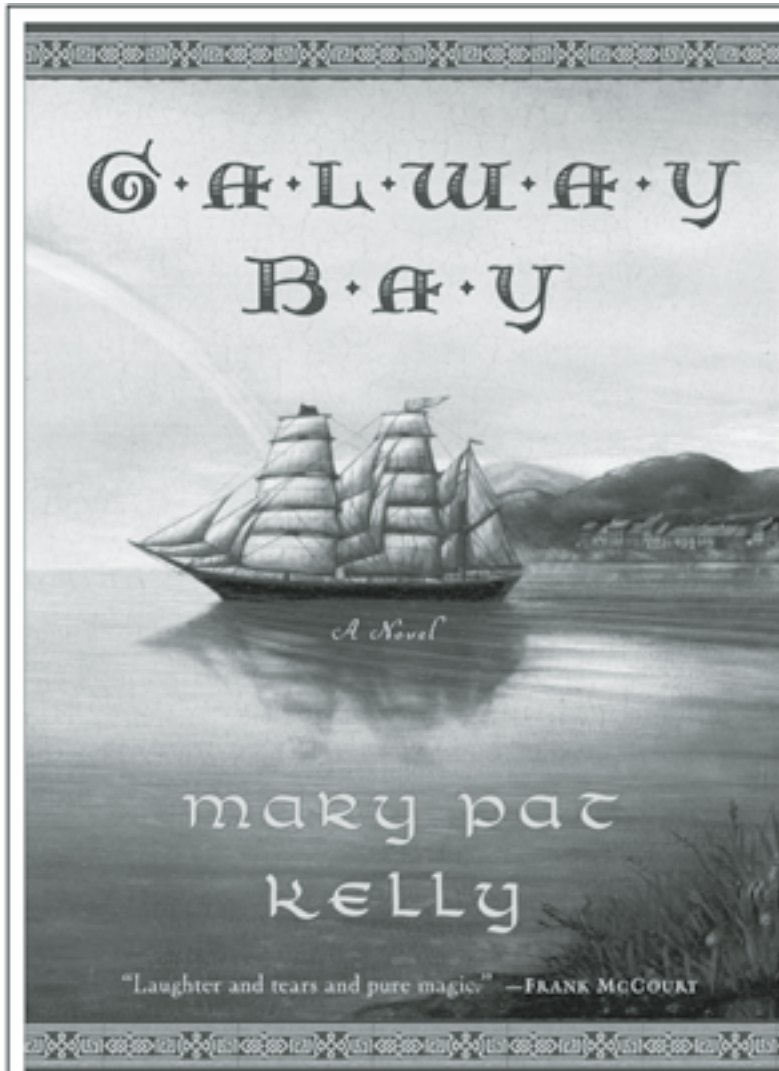
SCORPIO: You are in a rare state of carefree hopeful expectation. March 2011 brings you to a spot in life where, if only for a moment, you can get away from the stresses of everyday dull reality! Be the child you may not have been allowed to be then!

SAGITTARIUS: You are in a phase where decisions about your family are paramount. Now you are reviewing decisions you have made about living arrangements and your home base in general. You are also seeing other alternative lifestyles that you thought might not be possible. You are confronted with choices!

CAPRICORN: You are now considering a residential move! Getting away from a situation that has outworn your life and sense of repose has you considering a severance of what you have outgrown long ago. You could feel as if life could be passing you by. Press on to greater horizons!

AQUARIUS: You want your finances to improve and you won't stop until you have greater peace of mind in these areas! If you feel where the next dollars will come from take heart! By willing it so and doing something about it, you can move mountains!

PISCES: This March 2011 is the one month all year when the new moon is happening in your sign! How great is that? This year planet Mars along with Mercury and Uranus are giving you an exciting and energetic time! Use this to enhance your life!



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G A E L I C P A R K

A Chairde:

St. Patrick's Season is a great time for families at Gaelic Park. Martin Fahey has been organizing Ireland on Parade for 44 years. He is now yelling at the children of children he yelled at many years ago. We hope and expect he will be around to yell at their grandchildren. Each night during Ireland on Parade, two or three Irish Step dancing schools perform. New this year is the Katie Noonan School of Irish Dancing and Triallta School of Irish Dance. Besides the Step dancing, there's Ceili dancing, Set dancing and, for the first time, the Garrity School of Music will be performing. The admission for Ireland on Parade is free, and there are refreshments and modestly priced food available for purchase. The event draws huge crowds, including proud grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and neighbors. It's a great tradition and we're very proud to host it at Gaelic Park.

Thanks largely to the South Side Parade, the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day has become a huge Irish celebration in the Chicago Southland. Gaelic Park has a full day of family activities, starting with Mass and an Irish breakfast at 10:00 a.m. The afternoon is filled with all kinds of entertainment on three stages. In addition, one room is dedicated to children's activities such as face painting and magic acts. There are all kinds of Irish activities and celebration on South Side Irish Sunday, but Gaelic Park is the place for family fun. Once again this year, Gaelic Park will have floats and marching units in four parades. The Kerry Association has donated their float to Gaelic Park, so we now have two floats to accommodate all of the parades. We are always looking for marchers, so please feel free to join the Gaelic Park contingent at any of the parades.

Traditions are an important part of everyone's life. The memories and Irish traditions created and perpetuated at Gaelic Park, particularly throughout the St. Patrick's Day Season, are very important to Irish families. We look forward to celebrating our Irish heritage and culture with you and your relatives at Gaelic Park.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Griffin, President

Ireland on Parade Celebration

Chicago Gaelic Park will host this celebration over two weeks. It has become a multi-generational tradition that began in 1992. Also known as "Irish Week", Ireland on Parade is part of the two weeks of celebration at Gaelic Park in honor of Ireland's patron saint. In addition to the wonderful dance school performances each night, Ireland on Parade will include exhibitions of both Ceili and Set Dancing. Music is provided by The Irish Musicians Association, an organization which consists of local artists who are dedicated to the perpetuation of traditional Irish music. Doors open at 5:30pm with the first dance shows starting at 7:00pm each evening. Admission is free and delicious, hot food will be available for purchase.

Friday 3/4

7:00 Jerry O'Loughlin
7:30 Shaylyn McNamara
8:00 Triallta

Tuesday 3/5

7:00 Mullane Healy Godley
7:30 Katie Noonan
8:00 Gaelic Park Ceili Dancers

Wednesday 3/9

7:00 Weber
7:30 Geraldine Foy

Thursday 3/10

7:00 Katie Hughes
7:30 Eilish Sullivan
8:00 Session with Pat Finnegan

Friday 3/11

7:00 Blackbird
7:30 Lavin-Cassidy
8:00 Garrity Music School

Sunday 3/13

7:00 Dennehy
7:30 Gaelic Park Set Dancers

Tuesday, 3/15

7:00 World Academy
7:30 Mulhern

Wednesday 3/16

7:00 McCormack Fay
7:30 Crosskeys



Gaelic Park Players Spring Play

Don't miss the GPP upcoming Spring 2011 production *The Castlecomer Jukebox* written by Jimmy Murphy, directed by Larry Coughlin, assistant director Kate McNally and Stage Manager Myra McWilliams.

The story tells of a President of America who visits Ireland and what better way to entertain him than a showband from the good old days! The members of The Castlecomer Jukebox are ready to reform; it's

been years since they dusted off their instruments and took the house down. Can they pull it off and shine in the limelight once more? Or will past hurts, crooked politicians and greedy business dealings strike a sour note and send the bad crashing down...?

The Cast: Robert Reidy, Bridget Christianson, Mick Kenna, Dave Denham, Meek Azarkiewicz, Barney Farrelly, John Devitt and Phillyis Bierdiz.

Show Dates

Fridays, April 1, 8 & 15 - 8pm
Saturdays, April 2, 9 & 16 - 8pm
Sundays, April 3, 10 & 17 - 3pm

Ticket price is \$12 and non refundable

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

On the 17th of March, there will be a full day of celebrating your Irish roots with music and dance! The annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon begins at 11 am - **reservations required!** Tickets are available for \$25 for a complete Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner with entertainment by Joe Cullen on stage as well as a performance by the Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing.

The Tara Room will have children's entertainment from 4:30-6:00pm, followed by the music of The Ploughboys starting at 6:30pm - no cover charge!

In the Emerald Room, Dave Coady brings his St. Patrick's Cabaret Show to Gaelic Park. Tickets are \$25 and reservations must be made in advance!

Doors will open at 7pm and the Lavin Cassidy School of Irish Dance will open his show beginning at 8pm.

There is no cover in the Carraig Pub with lunch beginning at 11am. The Pub will have music by The Griffins at 2pm and Gerard Haughey will follow at 7pm.



CGP Members join the Chicago & South Side Parades!

Gaelic Park has had the wonderful opportunity to march in many Saint Patrick's Day Parades. This year will be no different, and you can find us at the following parades: Manhattan (3/5), Chicago Downtown (3/12), Oak Forest (3/12), and Tinley Park (3/13). We will have bus service from Gaelic Park for those that would like to march with our float in the Chicago, Oak Forest or Tinley Park parades. If you are interested in joining us, please call the front office at 708.687.9323 for more details.

South Side Irish Sunday March 13 will be a full day of celebrating our Irish heritage and begins at 10am with our monthly mass, followed by a traditional Irish breakfast. The doors then reopen at 1:30pm, with four stages of continuous entertainment in the Emerald and Tara Rooms and the Carraig Pub. A variety of food choices will be available on our buffet table for a small cost. Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

- 1:30 Larkin Brothers
- 1:30 Joe Cullen
- 1:30 Joe McShane
- 2:00 Children's Entertainment
- 5:15 Arranmore
- 6:00 Ploughboys
- 6:00 Mulligan Stew
- 7:30 Dennehy School of Irish Dance



Irish Story Teller - Batt Burns is

appearing at Gaelic Park on Wednesday, March 16 beginning at 8pm (admission \$10). As a young boy Batt lived with his grandfather who was a traditional seanachie (storyteller) in the hills of Kerry. In this remote part of southern



Ireland before the advent of TV, the old customs were preserved and he heard the ancient tales of Ireland being recounted by the fireside during the long, harsh winter nights. He was fascinated by what he heard and today he draws on this rich childhood experience to recreate on stage, with great authenticity, the ancient world of storytelling. Steeped as he is in the twin traditions of storytelling and verse, and having served his apprenticeship to a master teller makes Batt a truly authentic Irish seanachie.

The Carraig Pub will have a Lenten fish fry every Friday from 5-10pm in the Pub. The menu includes a variety of fish and will also be available on Ash Wednesday (3/9) starting at 5pm. There is also a variety of other choices on the menu. The fish fry is followed by

live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights.

Gaelic Park is host to the St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser on March 6. All donations benefit the fight against children's cancer. St. Baldrick's volunteers, sponsored by donations from friends and family, shave their heads in solidarity for children with cancer. St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer driven fundraising event to fight childhood cancer. More information on the foundation can be found on their website at www.stbaldricks.org.

Conal Gallen at CGP on Saturday, April 2

The Irish Comedian Conal Gallen will be on stage at Chicago Gaelic Park. This show was originally scheduled for April 2010, but with the volcanic eruption in Iceland, all flights from Ireland were cancelled during that period of time. Donegal born Gallen has been performing all over the world for over 25 years with sold out concerts. Gallen was voted Best Irish Comedian in the UK at the Irish World Awards and has 25 albums recorded and released. Conal Gallen will have you in stitches from start to finish and, as one critic says, "with Conal Gallen you get exactly what its says...doubled over, belly laughter till the tears run down your face". Doors open

at 7:30pm and **tickets to the show are \$25 and must be purchased in advance.**

St. Jarlath's Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling clubs 2011 season is almost upon us, and we are always looking for new players, boys and girls ages 5-18 with all skill levels to play. Football practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm, and Hurling practices are Friday evenings from 6:30pm. All are held at Gaelic Park. For more information, visit our web site, www.chicagostjarlaths.com.

Ladies Auxiliary meetings are set for April 13th and May 11th. No meeting in March.

Sunday Celtic Supper entertainment for 3/6 is Joe Cullen, 3/20 is Sean O'Donnell and 3/27 will be Gerard Haughey. The Celtic Suppers are held every Sunday and for the cost of \$16, you'll enjoy music, dancing and a hot buffet meal. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and children under 3 are free. Call the office to reserve your table!

The CGP Gift Shop is the place to shop for jackets, hats, golf and tee shirts, mugs and more, all with the famous CGP crest logo. We offer gift certificates that can be used for most any thing here at the park and never expire!

CGP Sunday Radio Program Sundays, 7:05-9pm, WCEV 1450 AM

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Live Music in the Pub

- 3/04 Joe Cullen
- 3/05 The Rockets
- 3/11 Joe McShane
- 3/12 John Dillon 1:30pm
Week Back 6:00pm
- 3/13 Joe McShane 1:30pm
Mulligan Stew 6:00pm
- 3/17 The Griffins 2:00pm
Gerard Haughey 7:00pm
- 3/18 Pat Smillie
- 3/19 Richie Z
- 3/25 Gerard Haughey
- 3/26 Bernie Glim & Country Roads

Friday night entertainment begins at 7:30pm
and Saturday night at 9:30pm.

Check Website for Full Schedule

Chicago Gaelic Park
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www.chicagogaelpark.org





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Memorial Day Weekend 2011 Celebrating 25 Years of Irish Fest on Six Stages

Irish Fest is celebrating 25 years at Gaelic Park this Memorial Day Weekend. To celebrate this major milestone, we are promising to have some of the best international and local Irish entertainment. Here is a just a sneak preview:

gaelic storm 🍀 ronan tynan 🍀 leahy 🍀 de danann 🍀 tartan terrors 🍀 declan nerney 🍀 fenians
american english 🍀 infinity 🍀 girsá 🍀 sean wilson 🍀 liz carroll 🍀 sandcarvers 🍀 7th heaven 🍀 four courts
crossroads 🍀 chicago reel 🍀 red rebel county 🍀 kathleen keane 🍀 tommy goodwin&sharon 🍀 larkin moran
bernie glim country roads 🍀 joe cullen 🍀 baal tinne 🍀 irish musicians 🍀 gerard haughey 🍀 sean o'donnell
shannon rovers 🍀 emerald society 🍀 joe mcshane 🍀 ray gavin 🍀 solid-aire 🍀 character fleadh
o'learys lantern 🍀 week back 🍀 celtic sounds 🍀 patrick guinee 🍀 pat daly 🍀 mulligan stew 🍀 sean&charlie
irish music club 🍀 pat finnegan 🍀 billy o'donaghue 🍀 murphy roche

Ronan Tynan is truly a modern day "Renaissance

Man." Faced with numerous challenges throughout his well documented life, he has persevered with enormous passion and determination. Introduced to international audiences as a member of the Irish Tenors, Tynan quickly became known for his unique voice and irresistible appeal. Following his mother's advice to always follow your dreams, Tynan decided to launch a solo career, and has achieved the fame and adoration that could have existed only in the farthest reaches of his dreams.



Leahy is a Canadian powerhouse of eight musical brothers and sisters who have been playing together their entire lives. The band's three acclaimed CDs—Leahy, Lakefield, and In All Things—have world-wide sales of over half a million copies. The family continues to move forward as musicians and performers. PBS audiences are currently watching Leahy's third television special. On their recent American tour, new audiences learned that this



family of instrumentalists, singers, and dancers brings a rare level of originality and musicianship to the stage. This originality includes music that Leahy writes, arranges, and produces. Known for their unique blend of musical styles and genres, their repertoire is more distinct than ever.



"Ireland, sir, for good or evil, is like no other place under heaven, and no man can touch its sod or breathe its air without becoming better or worse."

- George Bernard Shaw

Connect to your Irish Heritage 🍀 Membership in Chicago Gaelic Park

There's not a finer way to become connected to your Irish roots than being a member of Chicago Gaelic Park. As a member, you will be part of a fantastic group of people who continue to promote and foster their Irish heritage and pass on traditions from generation to generation. You will immediately be eligible for all member benefits for the coming year which include: complimentary adult admittance ticket(s) to the Memorial Day Irish Fest, monthly subscription to the Irish American newspaper, and an invitation to our yearly convention and dinner. For all the present members, watch for your yearly membership renewals in the mail and return your form and check to the office as soon as possible so that you are kept active and eligible for all the member benefits in the New Year. We encourage each of our members to promote a new membership to Gaelic Park in 2011 and help preserve Gaelic Park for the present and future generations.

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The Celtic Traveller

By Maureen Callahan



No Redrum As Stanley Hotel Shines On

Whether you are planning a spring ski holiday in Colorado, or just taking in the views at Rocky Mountain National Park, detour to nearby Estes Park. It is here that you will come upon Colorado’s oldest hotel, the beautiful and historic Stanley Hotel. Featuring panoramic views of the Rockies, it stands proudly its near-original stately elegance.

The hotel was presented by Freelan Oscar Stanley (of Stanley Steamer

fame) to his wife Flora to celebrate their moving west from Maine in retirement. Arriving in Estes Park in 1903, Stanley found the town lacking in amenities and commissioned this grand guesthouse. The Georgian-style inn opened in 1909, catering to the rich and famous.

Though a vessel of Colorado history long before Stephen King arrived, the Stanley Hotel is best known as the inspiration of the writer’s classic horror novel, *The Shining*. In the late 70s,

King and his wife happened upon the Stanley on a weekend getaway. Reception clerks tried to dissuade them from checking in, explaining that the hotel would be closing the next day for the season. Mr. King, refusing to take no for an answer, assured the staff that they would be gone first thing in the morning. The couple was offered only one meal for dinner that night, as there was little food left onsite. After dinner, Mr. King settled in near Lloyd, the barkeep on duty telling tales of ghostly guests who have never left.

Before retiring that night, Mr. King sat at the desk in room 217, with half of the book already in his head. By the next morning, he had composed the outline of a justifying example of humanity’s greatest fear—isolation.

The ferocious winds, heavy snowfall and few guests on the early January night that I checked in made King’s vision of a deserted hotel closed for the winter all the easier to appreciate. The unknown mysteriousness lurking behind so many closed doors off of stark corridors made this hotel a plausible ghost story in itself. One can almost hear the faint melody of “Midnight,

the Stars and You” while dining on the almost-gourmet fare in the copper ceilinged, 1920s-style Cascades restaurant.

With its wood-paneled lobby, grand staircase and turn of the century chandeliers, the Stanley Hotel has a much

the same name, as he thought it should have been.

A few guests refuse to check out. Many visitors stop for the night between Denver and the ski resorts, or to enjoy Rocky Mountain National Park. Others come to explore The Stanley’s haunted history. F.O. Stanley still sits behind the desk in room 217, recording the daily operations of the hotel in his ledger as he did over a century ago. He is sometimes also seen inviting himself to a game of pool in the billiard room/smoking lounge. His wife, Flora, still tickles the ivories in the Colorado Lounge, but only when the ballroom is empty.



Mr. Stanley’s faithful housekeeper, Mrs. Wilson, personally looks after the guests in room 217. She might even unpack your bags for you, if you are a welcomed guest. Depending on her mood, she might even tuck you in at night. However, if you are not in her good graces, be prepared to find your clothing tied around the four-poster bed and the rest of your belongings hidden throughout the room when you return. Your jewelry and watches are at risk in a fourth floor room, as a ghastly, unidentified thief clips these items.

The subject of several television shows investigating the paranormal, the hotel offers daily ghost tours of its haunted rooms and places. Reservations for the tour at least a week in advance are recommended, and you do not need to be a hotel guest.

The supernatural residents tend to be friendly, for the most part. If haunted hotels are your style, be sure to enjoy the supernatural hospitality at the Stanley Hotel.

The Stanley Hotel is located at 333 E. Wonderview Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517. www.stanleyhotel.com.

Maureen Callahan is a Chicago freelance writer and IAN columnist. [.com](http://www.com).

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Introducing the Basketweave Covered Pot, the 2011 Edition Piece from Belleek.

Basket weaving and pottery are possibly the oldest crafts known to mankind. Both use naturally abundant materials found everywhere on Earth. Over a century ago Belleek first combined these two elements and crafted many timeless and beautiful pieces of fine Parian China. With this in mind, Catherine Townshend was inspired to create this elegant Basketweave Covered Pot, the Edition piece for 2011. It is dishwasher and microwave safe and features an exclusive trade stamp and personalized signature of its designer. Limited to production in 2011. 5" tall.

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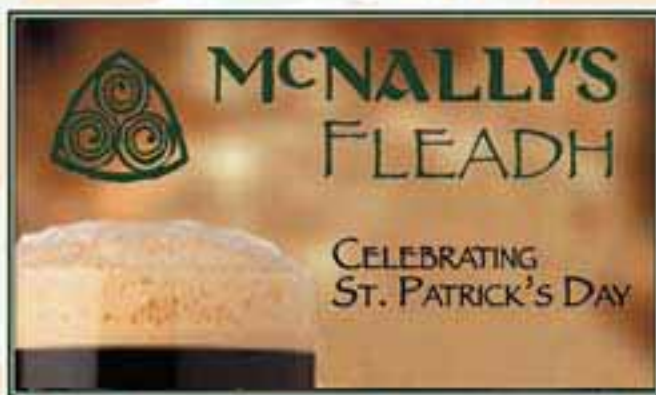
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Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



The Book of Kells—Its History and Art

Beginning this month the *Irish American News* and the Irish American Heritage Center will present an exposition and discussion of Ireland’s greatest treasure—the *Book of Kells*; a magnificently illuminated eight-century manuscript of the four Gospels. The richness of the *Book* (as I will refer to the *Book of Kells*) proves to be endlessly fascinating to scholars throughout the world who study the *Book* and its history. Their research is presented at



Gospel of St. Molaise 6th century.



Abbey of Iona

universities and regularly at seminars and in journals. This survey is presented from the point of view of an art educator. As a teacher of Celtic art and mythology at the IAHC, I have researched the history of the *Book of Kells* and studied the astoundingly detailed reproduction of the *Book of Kells* housed at the Center. I developed interesting insights into the production of the *Book*, and will expand the understanding of the work, as I imagine it, through the viewpoint of the scribes. Throughout this series, we will follow the journey the *Book* has endured to its final location at Trinity College Library in Dublin. Also, we will examine the damage and additions made during the tumultuous 1200+ year history of the *Book*. The *Book* and its history is very broad and deep. To make the series manageable and to prevent going too far afield, I will suggest online links to historic references (usually Wikipedia.) For those readers without access to the Internet, please send a note through *IAN* and I will answer ASAP. I have an extensive library on this subject and accumulated



Map of Iona

over 200 website bookmarks pertaining to the *Book*. As you can imagine, websites are not always reliable regarding historical facts. I have read that errors are often included in research and are picked up so often that they become accepted as true. There are many speculations on the Internet and some are more likely to be true than others. Therefore, a guiding principle I’ll use will be Occam’s Razor, i.e., when competing explanations each seem to be plausible answers, the one with the fewest new assumptions is the most likely. This always leaves open a possible revision if new information is discovered.



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Hooley at The Celtic Knot

It’s St. Patrick’s 2011, and that means it’s hooley number seven at The Celtic Knot, a week long celebration of the best in music, song and dance.

The Knot in Evanston is bringing together a top lineup of musicians and singers from across the midwest—and from Ireland—for the event. The seventh hooley will feature Kerry’s own Tim O’Shea with Patrick Buckley, The Beggarmen out of Iowa, and the Muck Bros’, and Aidan O’Toole with his band Anish. While traditional Irish music, ballads and foot tapping tunes will be bursting from the Church Street venue, the Knot knows plenty about how songs and melodies, like people, have been battling back and forth across the Atlantic. Indeed the week kicks off at 6pm on Saturday, March 12 with One of the Girls, whose second album released recently is entitled *Blueirishfolkgrass*, which to some might just sum up this celebration of Ireland and Irish America. This will be followed at 10 that evening by Mad Bread mixing it up with their signature boot stomping bluegrass and folk ballads.

Killarney man, Tim O’Shea and Patrick Buckley headline a day of music and dance on Thursday, March 17, St. Patrick’s Day itself. In addition to their 9pm St. Patrick’s Day gig, O’Shea and Buckley also play Sun-

day March 13, starting at 6pm.

The Iowa City-based Beggarmen perform at the Knot on St Patrick’s Day at 6.30pm.

And from 4pm, the lads from The Public House Band, led by Gus Friedlander and a collection of players from the Knot’s regular 7 to 10 Tuesday night session, start the musical end of that day’s mini-festival. From noon to 3pm, the champion dancers from the multi-award win-

ning Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance perform.

Also during St Patrick’s week, from 8pm on Monday, Knot regulars, The Mudflapps, with their own unique take on American roots and who know a thing or three about Ireland, take to the front bar stage.

To finish the week in style on Saturday it’s Anish with Aidan O’Toole, a hard working 20 year Chicago Irish music scene veteran.

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Paddy Houlihan, Cliff Carlson, and Mike Houlihan, on a recent Skinny and Houli Radio Show, 1450 AM, Saturdays 3 to 4 pm.

Joe McShane, Daniel O'Donnell, and Forrest Lee Jr. in Nashville, February 12, at the Ryman Auditorium where

Daniel sang an original song written by Joe and Forrest. Look for the song on a new CD by Daniel to be released in August.

Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Center, Tim McDonnell; (c) meets with Jackie Lavin and Bill Cullen in Dublin discussing iBAM! Chicago 2011. Bill plans on being one of the first people on a commercial space flight, and has passed all the tests to be able to go. We'll let you know when!



Milwaukee Fest founder, Ed Ward, musician extraordinaire, Dennis Cahill, and Irish Consul General Martin Ruane at a recent function for Imagine Irelands foray through the Midwest in 2011.



Dolores Connolly, CEO Sterling Engineering / Concern Worldwide Board of Directors; Linga Mihowa - Chief of Staff; Right Honourable Joyce Banda, Vice President of Malawi; Dominic MacSorley - Operations Director, Concern Worldwide at the 2011 Brigid Awards, 2-25, 2011.

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March is St. Patrick's MONTH at the IAHC



Festivities are some of Chicago's Largest Events: All Under One Roof!

The Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2011 at the IAHC. This month, we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit 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. These events showcase the best of what the IAHC offers all year; dance, music, culture, education, lectures and family fun.

On Thursday, March 3, it all begins with a **Tribute to Clancy Bros. and Tommy Makem Concert**, honoring the epic musicians who were instrumental in introducing the music and songs to new generations in Ireland, America and beyond. The concert features the High Kings, The Maken and Spain Brothers and The Clancy Legacy; sons and daughters of the legendary band.



The High Kings

The concert is at 7:30pm and tickets are \$35. Reservations are highly recommended as this concert may sell out.

On Friday, March 11, the IAHC kicks off the holiday with **Irish Dance Chicago**, a large-scale Irish dance event. The event showcases more than 150 dancers in one night, from the ages 5-18. Performers include the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, the World Academy of Irish Dance, the Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance and the Mullane-Healy-Godley School of Irish Dance. They'll be joined by musicians from the Academy of Irish Music, who are also children and teenagers. The show is at 7pm and tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free.

Also, on March 11, the IAHC hosts the **Chicago Rose of Tralee Contest**.

40 women from the Chicagoland area have been chosen to represent Chicago in Tralee, Ireland at the Rose of Tralee International Festival. The selection takes place at 8pm in the Erin Room and the cost is \$20 for adults to attend the evening and \$5 for children. The winner will be announced on Saturday evening at the St. Patrick's Festival.

Congratulations to Meghan Johnson, the 2011 Irish American Heritage Center Rose! Johnson is daughter of IAHC member and volunteer, Mary Johnson Gorski and husband John Gorski's stepdaughter. We wish Meghan best of luck as she competes for the 2011 Chicago Rose.

On Saturday, March 12, 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 begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. The celebration runs from 1pm to midnight and 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. (See Schedule on 3rd page of this newsletter.)

On Sunday, March 13, join us for a timely lecture and discussion on the current state of Ireland's economic affairs and its future prospects.

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

Schiff is an investment broker, author and commentator who is quoted often in the print media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Barron's*, *BusinessWeek*, *Time* and *Fortune*. He regularly appears on CNBC, CNN, MSNBC and Fox News Channel, as well as hosts a weekly radio show.

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.

Martin Rouine is the Consul General of Ireland, based in Chicago. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1973. Before his appointment to Chicago as Consul General, his diplomatic postings included New York, as Ireland's Deputy Consul General, and Brussels, as a member of Ireland's Delegation to the European Union.

John Gleeson is Senior Lecturer in Ethnic Studies and Director of the Celtic Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Gleeson also manages the Irish Immigrant Service in Milwaukee, has lectured extensively on Ireland, and is a regular consultant and contributor to print and broadcast media on Irish issues.

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

On Thursday, March 17, the 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 music and food. The event runs from noon to midnight and tickets can be purchased at the door. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free. (See Schedule on 3rd page of this newsletter.)

On Saturday, March 19, we continue the fun with **Frankie**



Frankie Gavin & De Dannan

Gavin & De Dannan in concert. Irish Musician Frankie Gavin is one of the genuine legends of Irish music. He is also the original founding member and band leader of internationally acclaimed traditional super group, De Dannan.

For many years, De Dannan was the forerunner in the Irish traditional music world but after 33 years, 14 albums and changes in the lineup, the group disbanded in 2003. In August 2009, Gavin unleashed a new De Dannan line up. Frankie Gavin & De Dannan has opened for the Rolling Stones, performed with the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra and performed at The White House on three separate occasions for Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

Frankie Gavin & De Dannan in concert is at 8pm. Tickets are \$25.

We wrap up the month's celebrations with **Larry Cunningham in Concert**, for one night only. See the legendary Irish musician for a night of Irish Country music.

Cunningham is the first Irish-based artist to make the UK Pop charts and his hit, *Lovely Leitrim* sold more than a quarter million records. He has performed throughout Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry.



Larry Cunningham

Cunningham will be backed by the Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, for a night of unforgettable music. The concert is Saturday, March 26 at 7pm and a dance in the Erin Room follows the concert. Tickets are \$25. The concert is a fundraiser for the Phase II of the IAHC Kitchen Renovation Project.

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

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President's Message



St. Patrick's Day!! The holiday season is upon us. What was once a quaint little holiday has bloomed into a month-long celebration of everything Irish. The celebrations range from obnoxious to subdued with parties for the masses and concepts for the intelligentsia. It's a holiday that prompts quiet family celebrations while at the

same time igniting a giant economic machine to promote, produce and sell everything and anything green. But, what does any of it mean?

There are those who criticize the whole green nonsense as not being Irish enough or even consider it as an insult to the real Irish. Truth be told, there really isn't anything remotely Irish about drinking green beer or wearing green hats and shirts and running around town, partying like a fool. Those things definitely help to perpetuate the

old stereotype of Irish drunkenness which is something that as a community we have worked hard to put behind us. Yet I'd like to take the position that these things are not inherently negative, but rather something to embrace.

Every ethnic group has its own holiday, but none of them are celebrated as widely as St. Patrick's Day. In fact St. Patrick's Day is the only ethnic holiday that is celebrated by thousands of people from other ethnicities. There are more than a dozen parades in the Chicagoland area alone, there are hundreds of corned beef and cabbage dinners and parish parties, dozens of theatrical productions and countless concerts. Yet, for the most part, people are not celebrating the greats of Irish literature or Ireland's long struggle for independence. They may be more willing to listen to Irish music (of any kind) or watch step dancers, but that alone is not the driver behind this phenomenon.

While I love to consume all things Irish and enjoy many aspects of our culture, I recognize that most do not (even those of Irish descent). So what drives this St. Paddy's Day madness? It's something less quantifiable but something

we should be just as proud of as it is part of our make-up. The Irish love a good party. We love to dance and sing. We love to be with family and friends. We are a social people by nature. We love to tell stories and engage with people young and old, old friends and making new friends. There are exceptions to every rule, but in general this is what people are celebrating. People want to be associated with the joy of being Irish. People want to laugh and sing. People want to enjoy and embrace life.

St. Patrick's Day provides people with an excuse to celebrate. It provides us with a platform to celebrate our heritage. We should be proud that everyone wants to be a part of it (even if for only a day). We should be proud that those things that make us special as a people are things that are universally desired and celebrated. So, wear your green proudly and celebrate in whatever way you want. Be proud of the fact that you get to be Irish all year round!

Bob McNamara
President, Irish American Heritage Center

A View Into the Irish Economy

Join the Center for a lecture and discussion on the current state of Ireland's economic affairs and its future prospects.

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

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David Lynch

pean Union. He also spearheaded a number of significant technological changes for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

John Gleeson is Senior Lecturer in Ethnic Studies and Director of the Celtic Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Gleeson also manages the Irish Immigrant Service in Milwaukee, has lectured extensively on Ireland, and is a regular consultant and contributor to print and broadcast media on Irish issues.

A View Into the Irish Economy is Sunday, March 13 at 4pm and the cost is \$15. Tickets can be purchased at www.irish-american.org or by calling 773-282-7035.

St. Paddy's 5K Run/Walk

Runners, get on your marks for the St. Paddy's 5K Run/Walk benefiting the Center! A proceed from each registration goes to the IAHC. This event is sponsored by the Special Olympics and Special Events Management.

Participants are encouraged to don green attire as there will be awards for the most innovative garb. The event also features the Leprechaun Leap, a fun-filled kids' dash that's popular with children and families. There will also be a post-run/walk party at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum with live music, awards and prizes.

The race is Sunday, March 20 at 10am at Cannon Drive and Fullerton.

For more information and to register for the race, visit www.chicagoevents.com.



The Midwest Fleadh Cheoil Comes to Center This Spring

The Francis O'Neill Club is pleased to host the The Midwest Fleadh Cheoil at the Center this April 8,9, and 10.

What's a Fleadh Cheoil? Why should you come and join in the fun? Here's a little bit of background.

Every Friday night the club meets at the IAHC for Céilí (kay-lee) and Set dancing. For more information, visit www.irishdancechicago.com.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (kol-tus kyol-tori air-in) means Society of the Musicians of Ireland. Comhaltas is an Irish organization, founded in 1951, and headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. They're dedicated to the promotion and preservation of traditional Irish music, song, dance, and culture. Lots of people share in that passion because they have more than 30,000 members in 400 branches throughout Ireland and around the world! The Francis O'Neill Club is one of those branches.

Fleadh Cheoil (flah key-ol) is Irish for Feast of Music. In Ireland, Comhaltas wanted to create standards for Irish traditional music, so they held competitions which

take place at the Fleadh Cheoil. Competitors of all ages use their skills in the areas of music, dance, and song. The winners then go to Cavan Town, Ireland in August, 2011, for the final round of competitions in the All-Ireland. Comhaltas always emphasizes that the goal is not just to win a prize, but to excel and continue in the great traditions.

The Center will utilize the whole building for the Fleadh Cheoil weekend for concerts, dancing, traditional sessions and workshops. There will be hundreds of competitors and their families, plus people like you who may or may not be Irish, but love the culture. For the available competitions, full schedule or to register, visit www.midwestfleadh.com.

The Fleadh Cheoil needs your support! For sponsorship opportunities, email support@midwestfleadh.com or contact Kathy Medic at 773-412-5082. To volunteer, contact email volunteer@midwestfleadh.com or call Linda Green at 708-280-9045.



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Executive Director's Message

Arm in Arm

At the close of 2010, we were the very fortunate recipient of a grant by the American Ireland Fund (AIF). The AIF is part of the Worldwide Ireland Funds, an international charitable network operating in 12 countries that have raised more than \$350 million for worthy causes in Ireland and around the world. The mission of the Ireland Funds is to be the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland. Founded in 1976 (like us), they have assisted more than 1,200 organizations, with the IAHC being one of the newest beneficiaries of their support. A big thank you to Thomas Meagher, Chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the AIF, our friend Roseann Finnegan LeFevour, Midwest Regional Director, and the entire AIF Chicago board for your generosity. We hope that you will be proud of our work in 2011.

One of my top priorities in 2011 is to create enriching relationships for the IAHC with other Irish organizations that are doing great work in Chicago and beyond. There are several great stories already developing in this regard early in the year. We are partnering with the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS) group, Concern Worldwide, St. Patrick's Fathers, and the City of Chicago on a seniors dining program, which has gotten off to a roaring start under the direction of Mary Gorski. CIIS plans the programs and activities, Concern provides volunteer support, St. Patrick's Fathers lends their spiritual support and guidance, the City of Chicago provides the foods, and the IAHC provides the space and also volunteers. CIIS and IAHC

working arm-in-arm to help seniors come together and St. Patrick's Fathers and Concern working arm-in-arm to help put food on the table and to advance people's lives spiritually. Mission synergies abound.

Another great example of partnership is around our *View Into The Irish Economy* panel discussion on Sunday, March 13th at 4pm. We are partnering with the Ireland Network, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the Irish Consulate to produce the event. In what should be a very insightful dialogue on the current state of affairs in Ireland, the program will feature a 'heavy-hitting' set of panelists, including best-selling author and economist Peter Schiff (regular on CNBC, Fox Business, MSNBC, host of a nationally syndicated radio show, president of an investment management firm, and headliner at the Kilkenomics festival in Ireland in November), writer for *Bloomberg News* and author of *When the Luck of the Irish Ran Out*, David Lynch, Chicago Consul General Martin Rouine, and John Gleeson, the head of the Celtic Studies program at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The discussion will be moderated by Tom Wright, the Irish-born Executive Director of Studies at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. After several insightful panels at iBAM!, we got numerous requests to organize similar discussions throughout the year, and we have reacted with this as a substantial first step in that direction. Hope you enjoy.

New Faces

Stepping into a role that has not been filled since 2006, the Center is pleased to welcome as our new Manager of Events and Operations, Mr. Kevin O'Kennedy. Originally from Detroit, Kevin comes to us after having spent 25 years working in hospitality and restaurant

management in Hawaii. A graduate of Michigan State with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management, Kevin rose through the ranks in the food and beverage department in 7 years at the Westin, before spending 12 years rising to become the Director of Banquets at the Four Seasons in Maui, one of the signature resorts at one of the highest volume tourist destinations in the world. Kevin left the Four Seasons after opening his own Irish pub and restaurant, Mulligans on the Blue, and ultimately opened a second before selling both before moving to Chicago to settle down with his significant other, Katie Clancy. Kevin plays the tin whistle and is an Irish music and sports enthusiast. The apple certainly didn't fall far from the tree. A native of Doonbeg, Co. Clare, his father Dan O'Kennedy was a founding father of North American County Board (NACB) of the GAA, founded the Detroit Irish Music Association branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eirann, and founded the Detroit Feis. Somewhere Maureen O'Looney is smiling about the sweet providence of Kevin coming to help take the Center forward. A friend of Dan's, Maureen remembers "Kevin walking around her house in knickers as a kid." Please join me in giving Kevin a warm welcome when you come to the Center. He will be a big asset to us, and we are lucky to have him.



Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

St. Patrick's Festival March 12

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 Sean Ryan Ceili Band

Auditorium

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

Room 310

TBA Irish Heritage Singers

St. Patrick's Day Celebration March 17

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
6:30pm The Boils
9pm Barry Fagan's Band

Exhibits Showcase Photography and Paintings

The IAHC Art Gallery and Museum will feature two exhibits this spring.

The Old Neighborhood features the paintings of Chicago area artist, Tim McCarthy, who is well-known for his commemorative paintings of schools, churches and buildings that are reproduced as lithographs. In 2005, he was commissioned to paint the IAHC building and the prints were given to IAHC members at an event.

The exhibit features artwork that showcases churches and schools in the Chicago area, including Leo High School, St. Rita High School, St. Sabina Church, St. Mary of the Angels Church, Holy Name Cathedral and Old St. Patrick's Church. He has also painted buildings and churches in Ireland and some of those paintings and prints will be on display. McCarthy is a Chicago firefighter who lives in West Beverly.

The Old Neighborhood opens on Friday, March 4, 2011 at 6pm, with a reception on the second floor. The exhibit runs from March 4 through Sunday, April 3, 2011 and gallery hours are 1pm-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment by calling Gallery Curator, Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

The IAHC Museum also features an exhibit, *The Photography of D. James Galbraith*.

Galbraith was one of the most celebrated American photographers of the 20th century. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his work on documenting Hartland, a small town in Michigan. His photography was featured in a series of 50-year retrospective exhibitions held in museums, libraries and arts centers across America.

The photographs in the exhibit at the IAHC Museum belong to the Slainte portfolio and were taken on Galbraith's multiple visits to Ireland. They capture various aspects of Irish life that changed

dramatically during a period spanning almost thirty years. In particular, the photographs provide insights into daily life in rural areas as well as in small towns and villages in Cork, Kerry and Clare. The exhibit includes photographs of well-known traditional musicians Micho and Gussie Russell pictured at home as well



as performing in O'Connor's pub, Doolin, Co Clare.

The Photography of D. James Galbraith exhibit opens on Friday, March 4 with a 6pm joint reception for *The Old Neighborhood* exhibit. Hours are Saturday, March 5 from noon to 4pm, Saturday, March 12 from noon to 4pm, Thursday March 17 from noon to 4pm and Saturday, March 19 from noon to 4pm, with additional hours available by appointment only. Note-During the 3/12 and 3/17 hours, there is an admission fee to attend the St. Patrick's Festival and St. Patrick's Day Celebration.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Barleyjuice in Concert in the Fifth Province

Saturday, April 16th
8pm
\$15



Golden Diners Program

The City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services Senior Services Division invites seniors to attend its Golden Diners Program at the IAHC.



The Golden Diners Program provides a hot lunch for people 60 years old Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30-2pm. You can register by just showing up for lunch. There is a suggested donation of \$1.50 per meal that goes to the City of Chicago.

Stop by for a hot meal and warm conversation. Want to volunteer for a few hours and get a free meal? Contact Kathy O'Neill at 773-282-7035, ext 13.

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, 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.

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, March 18, April 15 and May 20, 2011 at 8pm.

For more information, call 773-282-7035.

Intersection of Interests: Nationalism, Labor and Women's Suffrage

Celtic Women International's Chicago Branch and the Center's Cultural Committee present the 4th Annual Revolutionary Women Series Program: Intersection of Interests: Nationalism, Labor and Women's Suffrage

This program examines three major movements in the early 20th century by presentations on some of their leaders; Maud Gonne, Nora Connolly O'Brien and Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington. The 1916

Rising saw a convergence of their support toward a free Irish Republic, through which their other issues would be addressed.

The program features slide show lecture presentations, poetry readings, music, theatre, handouts and refreshments.

Intersection of Interests: Nationalism, Labor and Women's Suffrage is Sunday, March 27, at 2pm. Tickets are \$12 for IAHC or CWI members and \$15 for the general public.

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- Dinner and evening entertainment at Taylor's Three Rock.
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- Guided tour of Dublin.
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 - Kylemore Abbey
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March 2011

March 3	Clancy Brothers Tribute Concert	Auditorium	7:30pm
March 4	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
March 4-April 3	The Old Neighborhood Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	Sat & Sun Noon-4pm
March 4	Art & Photography Joint Reception	2nd Flr	6pm
March 5	Photography of D.James Galbraith Exhibit	Museum	Noon-4pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	7:30pm
March 6	Wearing of the Green Dance	Erin Room	5pm
March 10	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
March 11	Fish Fry	Fifth Province	5:30pm
	Irish Dance Chicago	Auditorium	7pm
	Rose of Tralee Contest	Erin Room	8pm
March 12	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
	Photography of D.James Galbraith Exhibit	Museum	Noon-4pm
	St. Patrick's Festival	Whole Building	1pm
March 13	A View Into the Irish Economy	Auditorium	4pm
	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration	Fifth Province	Noon
	Photography of D.James Galbraith Exhibit	Museum	Noon-4pm
March 18	Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
March 19	Photography of D.James Galbraith Exhibit	Museum	Noon-4pm
March 20	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
March 24	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
March 25	Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
March 26	Larry Cunningham Concert	Auditorium	7pm
March 27	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	Celtic Women Revolutionanary Women Series	Room111	2pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.-Sat.	Golden Diners Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Th-F-Sat (Sun)	Seanachai Theatre's <i>That Was Then</i>	3rd Flr Thtr	7:30pm (Sun 3pm)
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
	<i>Book of Kells: Its History and Art</i>	Room 304	7pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac. & Dance	Room 111	8pm



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

MARCH 2011

Fri, 3/4	Ceili Mor
Sat, 3/5	Steve Davern Band, Playing U2
Fri, 3/11	The Chancey Brothers, 8pm
Sat, 3/12	St. Patrick's Festival
Thu, 3/17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Fri, 3/18	Gerry Haughey
Sat, 3/19	Blue Stack
Fri, 3/25	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 3/26	The Dooley Brothers



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Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in Grand Style Martin Sheen Narrates at the 15th Annual Siamsa na nGael

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

Back by popular demand, singer and Chicago native, Catherine O’Connell returns to enchant us with her breathtaking singing for Old St. Pat’s 15th Annual Siamsa na nGael on Wednesday, March 16 starting at 7:30pm. This musical extravaganza, in honor of St. Patrick’s Day, is held at the Chicago Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Avenue, and is an amazing celebration of the Celtic arts combining beautiful vocal performances, enthralling dance moves, and inspiring historical narrative. The theme this year is Make Them Hear You and the music will mingle Latin rhythms with Celtic beats. This year’s special guest narrator is Martin Sheen, multiple Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor, who is America’s most celebrated, colorful, and accomplished actor. The narration will explore the Irish championing the cause of liberty south of the border. It details the stories of Bernardo

O’Higgins, John Riley, and the San Patricios, and brings to light the tales of farmers and fiercely brave ‘Colorados’ struggling for independence in Chile and Mexico.”

Catherine’s distinctive voice was honed while performing in dozens of pubs, saloons and cabarets in Chicago, New York and the Caribbean. Bill Fraher, director of music at Old St.



Martin Sheen

Patrick’s Church, calls her “the best communicator he has ever worked with.” Rev. Thomas J. Hurley, pastor of Old St. Patrick’s Church stated, “We are blessed to have some of the best vocal soloists performing at this event

as well as in the Old St. Pat’s Church Choir. Catherine’s beautiful voice is one we are fortunate to hear at this extraordinary concert.”

Guests will also enjoy selections from the Chieftain’s new album, *Santiago*, as well as performances by Rodrick Dixon, renowned performer and astounding vocal soloist, who’ll also do double duty as a narrator this year. Michael Boschert, a vocal soloist with incredible range; plus, captivating music arranged by Scott Stevenson and Gary Fry and innovative dance from the Trinity Irish Dancers. For more details, go to www.oldstpats.org. To purchase tickets (\$25-55), go to the Chicago Symphony Center Box office by calling 312-294-3000 or visit www.cso.org.

Join us as we celebrate your Irish heritage by joining ranks with centuries of “Silent Soldiers,” commissioned by the Gospel, to speak out for those

marginalized in a myriad of ways both around the world and in our own city of Chicago.

Proceeds support Old St. Patrick’s Church, 700 West Adams, and the Center for Social Concerns on the Old St. Pat’s campus, which houses the following outreach programs: Horizons

for Youth; Career Transitions Center of Chicago, Harmony, Hope and Healing, Coprodeli U.S.A., and Global Alliance for Africa. To learn more about the vibrant, exciting programs and events at Old St. Pat’s follow on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-St-Patricks-Church/11066008345>.



Rodrick Dixon



Michael Boschert



Catherine O’Connell

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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



Connected And Caring

It’s finally March, and hopefully, we can put one of the worst winters we’ve ever experienced behind us. I’m sure that the severe cold and heavy snow caused some serious safety concerns and inconvenience in your families, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

I’m also sure that many of you were thinking about and checking on your older relatives, friends and neighbors—especially those who live alone or don’t have family members nearby. Perhaps you or your children shoveled a walk, brought over a hot meal, or just ran in to say “Hello” and to make sure their heating system was working.

The upside of natural disasters or crises is they make us think of others: especially our senior neighbors and family members who are home-bound or not connected, for a variety of reasons, to

their families or communities. We reach out. It’s a great opportunity to reconnect with those neighbors, and it can make a huge difference in their lives and attitudes.

A wonderful part of our mission at Catholic Charities is reaching out to seniors who may be isolated. Perhaps they have lost loved ones, or some of their ability to get around. We help by connecting them to others in a variety of ways, so that they can continue to share the richness of their lives with new friends in secure, comfortable settings.

Catholic Charities has lots of experience in bringing people together. Actually, almost all our programs originated because someone noticed someone else’s needs. For instance, seniors living at Bernardin Manor in Calumet City have kitchens in their apart-

ments – but we realized that a lot of seniors in the area were living alone in their homes or apartments. Some were isolated, because no family members lived close by; or because friends had passed on or moved away. We sought a way to bring together this community of seniors to improve the quality of their lives and health.

Sharing a meal is a great “ice-breaker.” New friendships form and groups coalesce as they eat, play cards and take trips. So social life and good nutrition came to life together as Catholic Charities’ many Senior meal programs spread across Cook and Lake counties. At noon each weekday, older adults “drop-in” at about a dozen community centers and restaurants in the North, Northwest and South suburbs, including Catholic Charities’ Bernardin Manor in Calumet City, and St. Peter Claver Courts in Robbins, to enjoy a hot meal and recreational, educational and health programs. For home-bound seniors, “Meals on Wheels” are delivered to hundreds of seniors five days a week in Lake County and Chicago’s south suburbs.

Senior individuals or couples

on lower incomes can “stay connected” while living in their own apartments in Catholic Charities’ 17 beautiful affordable housing buildings in Chicago and suburbs. For those who need personalized supportive services and assistance with daily activities, the Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence on Chicago’s near northwest side is an option.

All in all, Catholic Charities offers scores of options for living that keep seniors active, healthy and socially connected, and can provide a whole new lease on life!

For more information about issues relating to seniors’ lives and concerns, keep reading Catholic Charities’ *Keenager News*. For a free subscription, please call (312) 655-7425.

I am deeply grateful to all *Keenager News* readers and supporters. Therefore, I invite you and all seniors and your families from all over the Archdiocese of Chicago to attend Catholic Charities’ **Senior Unity Mass** on June 10, 2011 at Chicago’s Holy Name Cathedral.

This is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to celebrate together in thanksgiving to God for His

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life-long gifts of faith, family, life, love and friendship. I hope to see you there!

In the meantime, as we begin the Lenten Season in preparation for Easter, may we reach out with the charity of Christ to our lonely and hungry neighbors in need. May God bless you and your families!

For information about Catholic Charities Housing, or Senior Services and Health Care, please visit: www.catholiccharities.net; or www.caridadescatolicas.net.



Happy Saint Patrick’s Day

We urge you to make 2011 the year to go beyond the normal festivities surrounding our favorite day.

Ireland, one of the world’s oldest countries and civilizations, has been struggling under the unnatural condition of partition since 1921. The country was divided against the wishes of the vast majority of its people.

We believe partition is the root cause of the many woes that Ireland now faces.

The six counties of the North represent a failed sectarianian statelet, alienating Irish men and women of all faiths from their natural compatriots in the South.

The Republic in the South has not succeeded, which is apparent in the huge economic collapse over the last two years.

It is time now to push for an end to partition. It is time to re-unite both parts of Ireland so that the country can recover and continue to develop as a single entity.

The re-unification of Ireland has enormous political, social and economic advantages for all the people of Ireland and beyond.

Re-unification of Ireland requires the support of Irish Americans like you.

To learn more about the issues please visit:

www.aunitedireland.org

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WTTW11 March Specials

New Celtic Thunder: *Heritage*

Sat., March 5 from 7-8:40pm

This all-new special from the popular group Celtic Thunder focuses entirely on their Celtic and Irish roots. Featuring traditional standards such as “Whiskey in the Jar,” “Black is the Color,” “Skye Boat Song” and “Red, Red Rose” as well as a few beautiful love songs such as, “The Dutchman,” “Noreen,” and “Just a Song at Twilight.” Celtic Thunder fan favorites “Ireland’s Call” and the new “A Voice in the Choir” are featured also. Filmed in Poughkeepsie, NY in front of a live audience, this new show is a celebration of Celtic Music and the Celts Heritage, a joy for all the family, performed as ever with Celtic Thunder magic.

Authors Meet Up

The next meeting of the Authors Marketing Group will be on Wednesday evening March 23rd at 7pm at the Woodridge Public Library, with Guest Speaker Brittany Ashcroft. She is the Managing Editor of *West Suburban Living* magazine. She will offer insight on the state of the publishing industry, and share how an author should approach a magazine editor to obtain a news story about their book, share marketing efforts, etc.

www.authorsmarketinggroup.org or Jim Durkin at (630) 921-0118.



President Terrence O’Brien, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, announced that the MWRD was recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense as a Patriotic Employer. This honor is in recognition of the MWRD’s support of employees who are enlisted in the National Guard and Reserves and are called into active duty, MWRD employees on active military duty continue to receive pay and benefits. Jack Vollriede, Electrical Mechanic at North Side, who has served on two tours of duty as a Master Sergeant in the Air Force, nominated the MWRD for the award. He has been in the Air Force for a total of 21 years. Pictured accepting the award is Commissioner Kathleen Meany.

And two that are older, on Sunday, March 13:

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: An Irish Parade of Stars

Sun., March 13 from 5:30-7pm
Pulitzer-prize winning author

Malachy McCourt wrote and produced this warm and nostalgic parade of Irish favorites from the past. The archival program will focus on Ireland’s most beloved ballads and folk songs, performed by some of the world’s greatest vocalists. Among the traditional favorites to featured are “Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ra (An Irish Lullaby),” “Molly Malone,” “McNamara’s Band,” “It’s A Long

Way To Tipperary,” “Danny Boy,” and “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” as well as such Emerald Isle-influenced classics as “Look To The Rainbow,” “The Unicorn,” and “A Great Day For The Irish.

Celtic Woman: Songs from the Heart

Sun., March 13 from 7-9pm
The special was recorded in En-

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



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Seanachai Presents *That Was Then*

By Frank West

Seanachai Theatre Company is presenting *That Was Then* at the Irish American Heritage Center.

The playwright is Gerard Stembridge, and until the production was announced, I had never heard of him. But, I read the script—and have greatly impressed—and have quickly made up for my lack of knowledge.

I have found biographical information and pertinent newspaper articles, and have asked artistic director, Sarah Wellington of Seanachai and an actor in the play to make a few comments about the play.

Gerard Stembridge was born in 1958 in County Limerick.

After graduating from UCD, he began a career as writer, director, novelist, and playwright. He created many films and plays. In fact, he was so insightful and such a good writer that he became director and producer of RTE!

About him the *Irish Independent* says, “Stembridge has managed to publicly articulate what many felt but couldn’t express.” Referring to the Celtic Tiger, *The Times* says, “Stembridge has long had a knack for capturing the essence of the era.” The *Times* goes on to say that he is “the scourge of the Gombeen culture.”

This is tellingly said about a major character who prospered during that period of wild speculation. “Land deals, backhanders, he was up to his bollox in it.”

That Was Then is a dark, satirical comedy about that period. I asked Sarah about this. “We were drawn to *That Was Then* initially because of its clever, fast paced, and extremely funny script. It is an enormous

fun show to produce with plenty of physical and visual gags, as well as linguistic witticisms in the vein of Wilde and Coward.”

The play focuses on “two dinner parties set five years apart, but performed simultaneously, quite a challenge for our director and actors, but one which they are relishing!”

Wellington goes on to say: The play “highlights the stereotypes



and prejudices still shared between the Irish and English. As the play progresses, each couples plight becomes more desperate, their pain more tangible, and yet the long-standing Anglo-Irish mistrust remains steadfast to hilarious effect.”

The play will be presented through April 3rd at the IAHC, 4626 N. Knox Ave. It will be presented on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, and on Sundays at 3pm. Get your tickets at 773-878-3727 or visit www.seanachai.org.

Cripple at Inishmaan: Martin McDonagh

By Terry Boyle

Much of what we have seen in Ireland over recent years is quite bleak. Its economic struggles, political fragmentation, immigration on the rise, all have worked to present Ireland as yet another country on the verge of financial collapse. Ireland itself has seen the need to change this negative perception. Imagine Ireland is an attempt to show the world that despite the current downturn in the economy, Ireland still has much to offer. The country wants to celebrate its culture with the rest of the world by sponsoring Irish artists to take the best of what Ireland has to offer and showcase its many talents.

As part of this impetus to encourage tourism, and investment, the Druid Theatre from Galway will be coming to the Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier with Martin McDonagh’s play *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.

Garry Hynes and Druid have been on a remarkable journey since the company was founded in 1975. Druid has toured the length and breadth of Ireland and has toured extensively overseas making it one of the premier theatre companies in the English-speaking world. Throughout her career, Garry has received numerous awards, notably when in 1998 she made history

on Broadway by becoming the first woman to win a Best Director Tony Award (the theatre industry’s equivalent of the Oscars) and in 2005 when she was the recipient of the Freedom of Galway City, the highest honour a city can bestow upon one of its citizens. Outside of her work with Druid, Garry has worked with The Abbey and Gate Theatres (Ireland) and internationally with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court in the UK, and with Second Stage, Signature Theater and Manhattan Theater Club in New York; and with The Kennedy Centre in Washington.

I had a short conversation with Garry about the upcoming visit to Chicago. I raised this question about the Irish government wishing to present a more positive view of the country, and how some skeptics might see that approach. Garry was quite candid in her response, highlighting that the cultural traditions have always been an important aspect of Ireland, and that during the years of the economic boom the arts were temporarily forgotten. She did not believe that the current emphasis on

exporting the arts was, as she put it, a sneaky way of selling the country. In Hynes’ opinion the economic decline has brought Ireland back to what it had lost sight of, its rich culture. She decades. It is also part of Imagine Ireland, a yearlong cultural initiative on the part of the Irish government and implemented by Culture Ireland. Ireland is a country with a lot of problems right now, yet there is so much to be proud of and optimistic about and our culture is



Garry Hynes

one of those things.”

While there are funds available for strengthening bonds, between Ireland and the U.S., there have been cuts to the Arts council in Ireland. As Garry told me the recent cut of 5%, which could have been worse, makes the acquisition of funding harder to get, the funding that there was no longer exists. The Druid theatre, in this respect, is lucky, since it has an international reputation, and therefore is demand outside of Ireland.

Since 1986 and by the end of 2011, Druid will have toured to sixteen cities in the US, winning four Tony Awards in 1998 for its production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, also by Martin McDonagh.

McDonagh and the Druid have enjoyed a very successful relationship. In her programme notes, Hynes writes:

“Sixteen years ago I travelled to London to meet a young unknown writer whose plays I had just read. I rarely experience the excitement that I had felt, when reading these plays by the then unknown Martin McDonagh. Two years ago I travelled again to London to meet Martin to begin discussions for Druid’s new production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. This time as I leave the tube station at Leicester Square the walls are lined with huge posters advertising and celebrating the success of Martin’s brand new feature film *In Bruges*. A lot can change in fourteen years but the brilliance of Martin’s writing, whether for stage or screen, remains the same. I am very proud of the part Druid played in that story.”

Garry, and the actors, are excited about coming to the Shakespeare theatre in Chicago. They have won international renown through their talent and determination, and as such, bring a sense of national pride. It would seem that the silver lining to the Irish dark cloud of debt is what we know and love best, the arts. I, like so many others, who enjoy what ‘we’, the Irish, do best, enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to see a terrific dramatic performance at Navy Pier. The play will be running at the Shakespeare Courtyard Theatre, March 16-27.

Heather A. Begley



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Tommy Sand at Nine Irish Brothers

Ireland's legendary County Down performer Tommy Sands will appear at Nine Irish Brothers Traditional Irish Pub in West Lafayette, IN, with his children—and accomplished musicians—25 year-old Moya and 26 year-old Fionán Sands. The performance is Wednesday, March 16th at 9pm.

A native of north-Ireland, Tommy demonstrates that in a tumultuous political environment, his music speaks louder than violence. Touring the world with his music of peace, Tommy will arrive in the U.S. after organizing a musical tribute to peace

in Northern Ireland on February 21, attended by dignitaries of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. While Tommy's charm and warmth create an intimate solo concert setting, the addition of Moya and Fionán for this upcoming performance promises a fuller and more dynamic sound. With fiddle, bodhran, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin, and other instruments, the concert gives the feel of a true Irish céilí, where music and dancing lift the spirit well into the wee hours.

Seating will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.



High Kings Tour

By the time you read this the High Kings will have already been through Chicago on their most recent tour, but their new music is available now!

The High Kings exploded onto the folk scene in Ireland in 2008 with their self-titled CD and DVD and quickly achieved platinum sales status there. Since then, they have become the most exciting Irish ballad group to emerge since The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem electrified the worldwide folk revival of the 1960s. The High Kings now return to the US in March with a new album and tour. *Memory Lane* will be released in the US on March 8th (on Ard Ri Entertainment/EMI Music) arriving on our shores just in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

They are a favorite spin of the Irish music radio shows here and performed to large crowds in Minneapolis, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Boston this past summer.

Memory Lane will be available at Amazon.com and iTunes



on March 8, 2011.

For a complete tour date

schedule you can visit

www.thehighkings.com.

Kathleen Keane: Spring CD Release Celebration Concert

It has been over ten years since Kathleen Keane has released a solo CD, but the wait is over. The highly anticipated album, *Where the Wind Meets the Water*, will be released on March 18th, 2011. It beautifully captures Kathleen's angelic vocals along with her virtuosic whistle playing and moving fiddle stylings in an array of original and traditional selections. The CD has already garnered enthusiastic critique.



Chicago twist. This promises to be a magical night filled with great music, entertainment, dance, celebration and the return of Mom's complimentary Award Winning soda bread!

(There is reserved seating if dining in Act One before the concert.)

Purchase tickets at www.mayne-stage.com; or call 773-381-4551.

www.kathleenkeane.com. www.jamesconway.net.

On Friday, March 18th, at 8pm, Kathleen Keane's Spring CD Release Celebration concert will take place at Mayne Stage, located at 1328 Morse Ave. in Chicago. Kathleen will feature tracks off of her new CD and will be joined onstage by an elite group of musicians: Dennis Cahill, a master guitarist in the Irish tradition, Jimmy Moore, also a triple threat on guitar, bouzouki and bass, and Jackie Moran, a virtuoso on the bodhran, a groundbreaking percussionist in Irish music. Special guest artist, critically acclaimed singer/songwriter, Al Day, will join her to perform their original song and title track of the album, *Where the Wind Meets the Water*. Local master musicians James Conway and John Hasbrouck will start off the evening, churning out blues, rags, bluegrass, and more out of their National guitars, harmonicas, and mandolins, singing the classic sounds of yesterday with their own modern

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O'BITUARIES

Friends we will miss

James Francis O'Neill

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things we can go through; so much more if it is a parent. No words can express what I am feeling right now and I'm sure only time can help me accept the fact.

Because although mom is usually the glue that holds a family together, dad is the person who has to make sure that the family is okay. For every dad there is a different way of doing this. The bottom line is that if you look for it, usually the love is there. You might not understand that love because it comes in a form that's different than you think it should. Maybe his love is shown in ways you never imagined, such as working 12 hours a day; sometimes longer. My father was one of those hard working fathers. He would leave the house around 5 in the evening and return home from the bar at 6 in the morning. Seven days a week; 365 days of the year.

As kids we were thrown out of the house to play so my father could sleep during the day. Which of course made for some very interesting adventures. But that's for another time. But I do remember when we were little my Mom sending us in to wake him up. We would try to surprise him, but the doorknob squeaked when we slowly turned it. It would wake him up every time. But we would open the door and jump on the bed and play London Bridges on his knees. It was one of the best games we ever played.

As I got older, I remember all of us eating dinner and then watching *All In The Family* together. He taped every episode of *All In The Family* and would watch them at the bar late at night. And no matter which one, you could always hear him laughing. The first time I saw my Dad cry was when Mike and Gloria moved out of Archie's house. At the time, it scared the living you-know-what out of me because my Dad was a rock and here he was crying. In retrospect, he was really a softie at heart.

My dad was not big on words. He didn't say I love you's, but kissed us hello and goodbye all the time. He was very proud of us. He told Mom all the time that he had great kids and how proud he was of them.

As for his 13 grandchildren, he loved them all. He was a good grandfather. I remember him giving my son, Devin, a \$20 bill just for losing a tooth. My daughter Ava's fondest memory is playing tag with grandpa; which isn't easy to do in a wheelchair! But he did it and had a fun time doing it.

To his friends he was a very kind person and was always ready to help. He always had a solution to every problem and had his ways of making things simple. He never asked anybody for help but he was a very generous man, and he never wanted to be acknowledged for

anything he did. When he helped, he simply helped.

As for politics, we all knew where Frank O'Neill stood: Free Ireland at any cost! He was stubborn, hard

headed and very knowledgeable. He gained and lost many friends over his way of fighting for that cause. The Troubles were his life.

He gave us a great life and made each of us kids and his grandkids feel special in our own way. He was a good man and a great dad and grandpa. We will all miss him dearly. Thank you for coming to remember him with our family.

Let me end with this thought of my Dad:

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.

Eulogy, given Feb. 9th at St. Giles Church by Brian O'Neill, for his dad.

John "Frank" McGowan D.D.S.

McGowan, John "Frank", D.D.S., age 51, passed into eternal life on February 16th surrounded by his close, loving family. Loving husband of Annie Therese. Devoted father of Kelly Ann, Kerry Therese and Eileen Ann. Beloved son of Bridget "Bridie" Lynch McGowan and the late Frank McGowan. Cherished brother of James, Thomas (Kathy), William (Marie), Robert (Laurel) and Bridget (Jerry) Rickert. Fond son-in-law of Allen and Joan McCann. Dear brother-in-law of Allen, Larry (Marian), Linda (Jerry) Salwierak, Eileen (Tom) Brown, Neal (Valerie), Michael (Beckie), Catherine (Jim) Patula, Christopher (Penny) and Nick (Kay). Adored uncle of many nieces and nephews.

D.D.S. Loyola University 1985. Practiced Dentistry for 25 years in Mt. Greenwood. Member of Ridge Country Club, Mayo Assn. of Chicago and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Frank will be remembered for his love of his family, friends, dentistry, golf and drumming in many bands, such as The Crabs and Graffiti. Funeral from Blake-Lamb Funeral Home. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Loyola Bone Marrow Research at Loyola University Medical Center, 2160 S. First Avenue, Bldg. 112, Room 255, Maywood, IL 60153. For info, 708-636-1193 or www.blakelamboaklawn.com.

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we went back to her house and built our own sledding hill. We also made an igloo with her brother. We even made a sunroof in the igloo! It was one of the more fun snow days I had. Then it was

Happy 2nd anniversary to me! I can't believe I made it to my 2nd year. This has been an amazing opportunity and I love every second of it! I can't wait to write many more articles.

I feel very sad. I should feel happy because of St. Patrick's Day, but I won't be dancing at the Irish Fellowship Dinner this year. I am still excited about St. Patrick's Day. I can't wait for the parade. It is always so much fun to ride the float. I get to have fun with my family and maybe get to be on TV. I can't wait to tell you next month. Speaking of dancing, I went to the Milwaukee Winter Feis. I thought I did awesome, but I got a 2nd in my Reel. It made me feel better that I missed 1st by a whole point. Well I have a few feises coming up, so I know I will do better. I will get to the next level eventually. I have been practicing really hard, and as I know from experience, hard work pays off.

Snow-MG! What did everybody do during the snow day? I had 3 snow days! It was so much fun. The night of the blizzard the wind was blowing so hard, it was banging my windows. I almost couldn't fall asleep. When I woke up that morning, I rushed to the window. It was like 25 blankets of snow. I couldn't even get out of my front or back door. My neighbor had to shovel us out. Later that day everybody was on the street shoveling the roads and shoveling the cars out. It was like a mini block party.

I played in the snow all day that day, and I played in the snow all day the next day. On Friday I went sledding with my friend. It was a blast. Then

the weekend, so I had two more days off. It was really fun, but the worst part is I'll have to make up the 3 days. Oh well, it was still fun anyway.

Well have an ah-mazing St. Patrick's Day! I know I will.

2011 Chicago World Cup Soccer

If you can't wait for the summer tournaments, don't miss the new Spring Outdoor Soccer Leagues starting April 9th on the best turf fields in the Windy City (Lincoln Park South and Montrose). League winners will play for free in the Chicago World Cup finals!

The Chicago World Cup has organized soccer tournaments, festivals and special events since 2006—and major FIFA World Cup celebrations in Chicago's Daley Plaza, Montrose and Soldier Field in 2010, gathering more than 25,000 spectators over a month of events. In 2011, they will launch their new 7v7 Outdoor Soccer Leagues, a new Adult Soccer Club, and organize their second annual Chicago Soccer festival and tournament finals on the beautiful Lincoln Park South Artificial Soccer Field.



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Chris Fogarty



FRANK O’NEILL (R.I.P.) died Friday, Feb. 4 at 6:20pm surrounded by his wife, Ann, children and sister. He was born in Bangor, Co. Down in 1922 and was a life-long, active Irish patriot and fine American. For many years he was the congenial owner and host of O’Neill’s Pub on West North Avenue. He helped to found Chicago’s Irish Northern Aid, and later, the Chicago branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom.

Frank was possessed of perfect integrity and believed the same of everyone he met, which made him vulnerable. He will remain an inspiration. We’ll not see his like again.

IRELAND’S WEALTH, per capita, was the greatest in the world, excepting Norway, just a few years ago. Today it is sharply reduced and continues to decline. The most noticeable feature of the loss is that those forced to pay it aren’t those who created it. A combination of European and Irish bankers poured €billions into mostly housing developments in Ireland, far in excess of population growth. Irish government officials had been in the pockets of the developers for years. They authorized housing development anywhere, even in workhouse cemeteries, desecrating the remains of tens of thousands of martyrs of the 1845-1850 Holocaust (whose murders the government covers up by all means possible).

A CLASSIC BUBBLE was created by those bankers, and though their misallocation of funds was grossly negligent it wasn’t a criminal operation like our Wall Street’s Collateralized Debt Obligations and Credit Default Swaps or the \$trillions spent in our criminal wars. In Ireland the inflow of European bankers’ funds created a boom in housing and, more importantly, house prices. There were no means by which Irish buyers could stop the price rise. In any event, for decades, buyers were vindicated by the increasing market value of their homes; an increase far more extreme than that experienced here in

the U.S. Irish developers were wiped out by their debts following the crash. Owners of “upside-down” houses are in similar trouble. The extortionate pols lose only their future pay-offs; they get to keep the bribes received to date. But there is one class of winners, the banks, and they are huge winners, like in the U.S. But unlike their U.S. banker counterparts such as Hank Paulson, Ireland’s failed bank executives are not dictating government policy to their own benefit.

AFTER IRELAND’S CRASH an American bond-holder in one of the ruined banks tried to salvage something, anything, from his misjudgment. He offered his bonds at 50% off, but before an offer came in the Irish government mandated payment of failed bank bond-holders at 100%. The American couldn’t believe his luck; but he wasn’t alone. The Irish government is forcing its taxpayers, who had nothing to do with the bubble’s creation, to be the sole responsible party for the misjudgments of Europe’s bank speculations in Ireland.

WHY? Why didn’t the Irish government let the free market work? Why did it hold harmless the European bankers from their poor judgments? The answer is not very sensational: it doesn’t involve Irish gov’t crime. An analysis published in Vanity Fair and elsewhere reports that the Irish gov’t had paid Merrill-Lynch €7 million to advise it how to proceed in the gathering storm and M-L had issued a memo to Finance Minister Brian Lenihan that “All of Ireland’s banks are profitable and well capitalized” and induced him to publicly indicate that bank debts were backed by the “full faith and credit” of the Irish gov’t. It was obviously hoped that this would make the problem evaporate. The choice between immediate catastrophe and a probable future one was easy. Merrill-Lynch made its best guess and it proved wrong. (Having proved so disastrously wrong did Merrill Lynch return the €7 million?)

A COLOSSAL ERROR! All

bond-holders in European banks lending to Irish developers are being held harmless. Thus, the transfer to Ireland’s population of some 3.8 millions, the €34 billions of Anglo-Irish Bank’s debts constitutes a transfer of debt from that one bank alone of €8,950 per man, woman, and child, people utterly unconnected to Anglo-Irish. The transfer of all bank debt onto the Irish taxpayer will exceed that imposed on German taxpayers by the Allies’ post-WWI Versailles Treaty of 1919. The Germans finished paying it off on October 3, 2010. The amount Germany paid yearly was reduced in 1924, and in 1929 the total debt was reduced by over 50%; yet it is generally agreed that the injustice of those reparations created an anger that gave rise to someone expressing it—Adolph Hitler. Thus, the Irish government’s error in following Merrill-Lynch’s flawed advice must be undone. Can it be that Ireland’s non-nuclear status subjects it to the whims of nuclear powers, so that Ireland’s people can be exploited—saddled and bridled—again? The running of Ireland’s government has been taken over by officials sent in by the European Union; mostly Germans. Ireland has lost its sovereignty. Why did it not follow the path of Iceland, or Argentina, and reject IMF and banker usurpation of their country? It was far less culpable than, say, Iceland, yet Iceland is far more respected than Ireland today; its government has demonstrated more national self-respect.

EMIGRATION, again! The Irish outflow is massive, but unlike earlier eras, the relative number coming here is far smaller. Many are going to Australia, where a boom is underway. The U.S. government, with its option for the super-rich and the Military/Industrial complex, is impoverishing America’s middle class and it no longer attracts immigrants. The \$trillions spent in our invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan speak for themselves. A few days ago Anderson Cooper asked a leader of the Egyptian rising; “What do you want from America?” He replied: “For thirty years America has been funding our oppressor. We have freed ourselves and do not need you.”

Egypt was the greatest recipient of our aid, second only to Israel, and

Egyptians must know that it was a bribe to make them accomplices in Israel’s genocide of Palestine, especially Gaza whose Rafah Crossing the Mubarak regime blocked to urgently-needed food and medicine. So our \$1.5 billion annually to Egypt for the past thirty years has only enraged its decent people. And it was impoverishing most Americans. We will have to be lucky to not be ruined by our empire (on which “the sun never sets”). A recent Wall Street Journal article is headlined; “U.S. Wealth Disparity Widens.” It states that in 2006 America’s richest 1% garnered the highest share of the nation’s adjusted gross income for two decades, and possibly the highest since 1929. Meanwhile the tax rate paid by the top 1% is the lowest in the

past two decades. One of the greatest threats to our national security and wellbeing is that so many Americans “know” so many things that are untrue. Tea-partiers, to their own detriment, parrot what the Koch brothers (their funders) want. Some 53% of Repubs believe Obama is a Muslim.

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

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

Also; the Brits have resumed their violent abuse of republican prisoners as in pre-Hunger Strike days.

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 By John P. Daly



Inflation Concerns

Concerns about high inflation have once again been reignited. Increased government spending, the recent economic recovery, and higher food and energy prices have investors worried about the possibility of increased inflation in the not so distant future. This is causing much anxiety, since the U.S. has experienced low and stable inflation since the early 1990's.

One goal of investing is to protect your portfolio against long term inflation in order to maintain your purchasing power over time. While I'm not here to predict a wave of hyperinflation for the future, I do believe it is beneficial to evaluate how investors can protect themselves again the risk of inflation.

Stocks Stocks usually struggle in the short term during times of inflation. One of the tools to combat inflation is raising interest rates. This makes it more expensive for companies to borrow which leads to slower economic growth. In the long term however, stock returns have been almost immune to inflation. Companies learn to adjust to the increased costs and eventually pass those costs on to the consumers to maintain profits. Since 1926, the US stock market has given investors an annualized return of 9.6%, while the average inflation rate during that time has been below 4%.

BONDS Typical fixed income investments like corporate bonds or Treasury bonds struggle

during times of inflation. This is mostly due to their fixed income payments. A fixed return makes it impossible to keep up with rising inflation, especially if you start to see 2, 3, or 4% price increases. As I mentioned earlier, interest rate increases are a way to combat inflation. The rise in interest rates leads to price decline in bonds. Actively managed bond funds are a good way to minimize this effect. Within the fund, the manager will be reinvesting cash from coupon payments into new issues with the higher rates. Over time this softens the effect of inflation by increasing your interest payments or return.

TIPS Not all bonds suffer during inflation. TIPS or "Treasury Inflation Protected Securities" offer investors protection against inflation. Their principal and coupon payments are linked to inflation. So when inflation goes up, so does the principal and interest payments. With their direct correlation to inflation, they give investors a sort of "insurance policy" against inflation. TIPS have historically outperformed Treasury bonds during times of inflation or feared inflation; however they have underperformed Treasuries during normal economic conditions.

GOLD Contrary to popular belief, gold has a mixed track record during times of inflation. In our most recent high inflationary environment during the 1970's, the price of gold did increase. Coincidence? Maybe. We all know the price of gold has soared over the past 5 years, a time when inflation has been relatively low. Historically, most commodities tend to do well during the early stages of inflation. Is the recent increase in gold prices a sign of future inflation? Will gold prices continue to rise if we enter a high inflation environment? As an investor, I would recommend that you use gold as a way to diversify your portfolio and to give you exposure to a low correlated investment versus the stock market.

Just like any future prediction, there are compelling arguments for either scenario; high inflation or low to normal future inflation. The high inflation argument points to recent government spending as one of the main reasons we will see high inflation. A loose monetary policy with increased spending has historically led to inflation, during normal economic times. The

low to normal inflation view insists that these are not normal economic times. Employment wages have historically been the biggest driver of inflation. With the unemployment rate at 9% and slow job creation on the horizon, that increased wage pressure might not come into play for a long time. Again, only time will tell what the inflation rate will be in the future. As a smart investor, you need to position your portfolio to protect your purchasing power over time.

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.

The Lion in Winter

The Stray Dog Theater Group will present the witty tragicomedy, *The Lion In Winter*, by James Goldman, at the theater in Veteran's Memorial Middle School, 12320 S. Greenwood in Blue Island on Friday, March 11th & Saturday March 12th at 8pm, closing Sunday March 13th at 2pm.

The first production opened on Broadway in 1966, but the popularity of the stage play soared when the motion picture with Katherine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole came out in 1968. The movie won 3 Oscars, including best actress for Ms. Hepburn. The story is based on actual historical figures, but the actual events are embellished.

The play opens on Christmas 1183, in Chinon, France, King Henry II of England, is discussing his plans for a successor to his throne, with his mistress Alais Capet, sister to the king of France. Henry's estranged wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, has been released from Henry's custody for the holiday. She favors her son Richard (The Lion Hearted), as his heir, whom she also feels can win her freedom. Henry favors his son John. The middle brother, Geoffrey, is also involved in political maneuvering, switching allegiances at a moments notice. In addition the young King of France, Philip Capet, arrives for a tense meeting with Henry. Though all the characters left their marks in history, King Henry II and Eleanor were true history makers, who either ruled or held strong influence over land throughout Europe for over thirty years.

Call 708-841-7396 for tickets which are \$12 per adult, \$10-senior citizen.

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The Gift Theatre Presents
Night and Her Stars

The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee in Chicago, tackles Richard Greenberg's *Night and Her Stars*, an elegant play about the quiz show scandals of the 1950's, reacquainting themselves and their audience with the cautionary tale of Charles Van Doren, the young academic who made and destroyed his name on the question-and-answer show *21*.

Show opens Thursday, March 10th at 7:30pm, and runs through April 24. (773) 283-7071 or www.thegifttheatre.org.

The Man Behind The Long Green Lines (And It's Not Patrick)

By James Doherty/TheWildGeese.com

Waterford City, Ireland – From his perch as rector of the Irish College of St. Isidore in Rome, Waterford-born Franciscan Friar Luke Wadding welcomed a steady stream of refugees from the land of his birth—men forced to leave Ireland to pursue their vocations. He came to understand then, perhaps better than any man, that the fate of the beleaguered land of his birth was tied to the fate of the Church in Ireland.

Fortunately, Wadding, despite a humble mien, was shrewd, committed and in a unique position to bolster both church and country, though today his role as a relentless advocate for Ireland is little known. Perhaps his most astounding legacy is, quite simply, the hundreds of St. Patrick's Day celebrations worldwide that will unwind in the coming weeks. By his unstinting and largely unsung support for his countrymen, he vastly extended the fame of the Irish for centuries to come.

Wadding was born October 16, 1588, in the city of Waterford, in what must have seemed a particularly dark time for the Irish. Only weeks prior to Wadding's birth, dozens of ships from the defeated Spanish Armada wrecked on Ireland's Atlantic coast. The defeat of the Spanish fleet two months prior represented a defeat for both the Irish, who counted on Spain for help in freeing itself from English control, and the Church, which the English would suppress with renewed vigor for decades to come.

Luke's deeply religious parents christened him two days later, on the feast of St. Luke, and gave their son the saint's name. At the age of 14, Luke Wadding lost both of his parents, and his care was entrusted to an older brother, who sent the young Wadding to a seminary in Lisbon, Portugal.

In those years of religious suppression, Waterford sent so many sons abroad to train for the religious orders that the city earned itself the sobriquet of *Parva Roma*, or "Little Rome." One of Luke Wadding's brothers, Ambrose, became a Jesuit, and he had cousins who joined the Franciscans and the Jesuits. Wadding maintained close contact through his life with members of the religious orders in Ireland, which helped him remain well-informed on developments there.

In 1613, while in Portugal, Wadding was ordained and started to preach in Portuguese and Catalan. Indeed, Wadding would go on to master Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Italian and Spanish. He initiated what would become a glowing academic career, and would go on to write the history of the Franciscan order and to edit the first edition

of the writings of the order's founder, St. Francis of Assisi.

Wadding wrote copiously, covering every aspect of political and theological life in the 17th century. A survey of his voluminous writings was launched in 2007 at University College Dublin, which holds thousands of manuscripts



Statue of Luke Wadding at Greyfriars, outside the ruins of the old Franciscan church, in Waterford City. Photo by James Doherty.

in its library, and is far from complete. More manuscripts are held in Dublin, by the Franciscans, and in Rome. He wrote in Irish, Old English and Latin, complicating the work of curating his archives.

The young Wadding's potential as a theological scholar was recognized when, in 1618, Spanish monarch Philip III, who allied himself with the Franciscans, requested that Wadding join a delegation being sent to Rome. Based in the Eternal City, Wadding found himself at the heart of the spiritual and temporal power of the Church.

Arms & Envoy for Ireland

Two passions drove Wadding: his Franciscan order (Order of Friars Minor) and the advancement of the Catholic cause in Ireland. In 1625, Wadding established the Irish College of St. Isidore in Rome. Dozens of St. Isidore's Franciscans were martyred after they returned to Ireland. Under Wadding's leadership, St. Isidore's served as an unofficial embassy and refuge in Rome for Irish Catholics. In the preface to one of his books, Wadding wrote, "I could only write this work in the early hours of the night, since I was so taken up by many cares during daytime hours."

Wadding's support for the Irish cause was not limited to matters of faith. When revolt broke out in Ireland in the 1640s, Wadding encouraged Owen Roe O'Neill, a nephew of "The Great O'Neill," Hugh, to return to Ireland to support the rising. Wadding also gained the assignment of Giovanni Battista Rinuccini as papal nuncio to the Irish Confederate government (along with arms, 20,000 pounds of gunpowder and 200,000 silver dollars). With this, Wadding was the first to achieve diplomatic recognition for an independent Ireland.

When the Irish forces under O'Neill were victorious at Benburb, County Tyrone, on June 5, 1646, Wadding performed a *Te Deum* (a liturgical ceremony of celebration) and hung the captured English standards in St. Peter's Basilica. Wadding's role was highlighted when the Franciscan liaison to the rebels told Wadding "should your health fail... our enterprise will come to naught." After O'Neill's mysterious death near Cavan in November 1649, the rising was doomed. When Oliver Cromwell arrived in Ireland, he crushed all resistance. Indeed, Father Richard Sinnot, a close friend of Wadding's, was one of many killed when Cromwell sacked Wexford.

Wadding's most enduring achievement was the addition of St. Patrick's Day to the official Christian calendar. Prior to Wadding's intercession, St. Patrick's Day was not recognized by the Vatican as a feast day. Despite this, while rector of St. Isidore, Wadding encouraged his students to remember St. Patrick every March 17, the date of Patrick's death, but the commemoration was not widespread, even in Ireland.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Vatican strove to formalize the writings and practices of the Christian church, and thus began the ascent of St. Patrick to international celebrity. When Pope Sixtus V published the first comprehensive list of saints in 1588, it included Patrick, despite his never being canonized. That was not unusual, as the canonization process was adopted hundreds of years after Patrick's death.

Another focus for Vatican reform efforts was the breviary, which comprised the daily prayers to be recited by members of the Church's religious orders.

A Saint Becomes an Occasion

Due to the increasing number of saints and the Masses accorded to them, the correct recital of the neces-

sary daily prayers became an ever-more complicated task. In 1629, Pope Urban VIII appointed Wadding to a commission to reform the unwieldy breviary. During this process, Patrick Comerford, bishop of Waterford, wrote to Wadding, stressing the importance of including St. Patrick in any new list of feast days accorded to saints. Comerford wrote, "for your life... endeavour that at least a semi double (a type of feast day) be accorded to St. Patrick."

As part of his work on the breviary, Wadding campaigned successfully to insert March 17 into the official Christian calendar as a feast day. This gave the Irish Catholics an officially recognized patron and figurehead, which would act as a rallying point through the ages. This recognition was, in fact,



Oil painting of Luke Wadding by Carlo Maratta held in the National Gallery of Ireland

the major impetus in the creation of St. Patrick's Day as we know it. When the commission concluded its work in 1632, John Roche, another Irish bishop, wrote to Wadding to thank him for including St. Patrick, stating, "God reward you for including his feast in the Roman calendar." The inclusion of St. Patrick in the breviary was a major coup for the Irish church.

With the Church's recognition of March 17 as the feast of the patron saint of Ireland, the date became a day of obligation for Irish Catholics, meaning that they became obliged to attend Mass that day, a requirement

that continues. In fact, until 1961, pubs in Ireland were obliged to close every March 17.

For the Irish and, in particular, the Irish abroad, St. Patrick became as much a symbol of Ireland as the harp or the shamrock, and there were numerous instances of the name of St. Patrick applied to the names of Irish units serving in foreign armies. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York by Irish troops serving in the British army in 1762, and today it is the longest and oldest in the world.

Throughout Wadding's life, he declined opportunities for promotion, repeatedly spurning offers to become a bishop. Indeed, the rebel generals who had fought to defend the faith in Ireland wrote to the Vatican requesting his advancement, but Wadding intercepted the letter. There is even speculation that Wadding received votes during the papal elections of 1644 and 1655. Throughout his life, he believed that he could best serve his faith and his homeland as a humble friar.

After a monthlong illness, Wadding died Nov. 18, 1657, in his 70th year. He lies buried in Rome, in his beloved Church of St. Isidore. A mural of St. Patrick watches over the humble tomb of friar Wadding. To this day, Wadding is remembered with reverence in both the college and by members of his Franciscan order.

In 1903, Wadding's hometown became the first city to declare St. Patrick's Day a public holiday. Wadding is remembered in Waterford with a statue and a street that bears his name. He is also the namesake for the library at the Waterford Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, the faithful in those long green lines parading through cities and hamlets, large and small, far and wide, can be forgiven if they believe they get their marching orders from St. Patrick. The modest *Port Lairge* friar, Luke Wadding, OFM, would prefer it that way.

James Doherty is a Waterford-based writer who focuses on the preservation of the history of the Irish worldwide.

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Saw Doctors Come to Chicago

The Saw Doctors are known in Ireland for ridiculously catchy songs and for rocking the road week after week from Galway to Melbourne—and, come March 2011, from New York to Las Vegas. The Saw Doctors have a Springsteen-like ability to get at the poignant perspectives of ordinary folks: the lovesick pub regular, the guys on the corner, the wise old woman who greeted all comers with a slice of bread and butter. This ability flows from the roving group’s strong ties to Tuam—and to the lives and stories of the people in it. It’s a town of wits and eccentrics, folks like cartoon artist Squigley McHugh, who humorously sketched the Saw

if you can’t make out a word: Tuam, explains Moran, has its own secret code, a slang and a love of peculiar turns of phrase incomprehensible to outsiders. Tuam’s citizens relish slang and constantly invent new words. Expressions like “Well-Byes,” the greeting of choice among young guys in jogging suits, speak volumes: “you know where you are and you’re from Tuam,” Moran says. Yet words, like the band itself, have a far more winsome side, connecting people with their history and the land. In “Friday Town,” the Anglicized place-names in the chorus hint at a lost Irish past, as Moran sings of people long gone, either overseas to America or to their graves. More introspective moments still ring with bright guitars, catchy melodies, and up-beat energy, which make The Saw Doctors shows fun, even at their deepest. Sometimes when playing live around Ireland, the exuberant singing from the audience has nearly drowned out the band. The group loves to drop their vocals out altogether, providing only instrumental accompaniment for the chorus of enthusiastic fans, who seem to know every song by heart. The down-to-earth feel and the Tuam wit have universal appeal.

The Saw Doctors North American Tour will bring them to the Vic Theatre in Chicago on Saturday, March 19th.

The Saw Doctors North American Tour will bring them to the Vic Theatre in Chicago on Saturday, March 19th.



Doctors as superheroes for their stage backdrop. Tuam is known for its gregarious, sometimes overly curious conversationalists. It’s a place where people still pop down to the pub in the afternoon, looking for a pint and a good gossip. But don’t be surprised

Celtic Thunder New CD/DVD Heritage

Approaching sales of one million units combined, the wildly entertaining Celtic Thunder pay homage to the musical culture of Ireland with their new CD and DVD concert special, Heritage. Just in time for St. Patrick’s Day, Heritage will also be broadcast across the U.S. on Public Television stations during the March 2011 pledge period, with an estimated one thousand airings (check local listings). Both the new CD and DVD were released everywhere on Decca late February.

Heritage, produced by Sharon Browne and longtime collaborator Phil Coulter, features performances by fan favorites—each with their own unique stage personas—Damian McGinty, Keith Harkin, Paul Byrom, Ryan Kelly and George Donaldson, along with the newest member of the ensemble, Emmet Cahill, who takes over for Byrom on future tours and recordings. Delivering stirring and show-stopping performances in the tradition of their previous

releases (*Celtic Thunder: The Show, Act Two, Take Me Home, It’s Entertainment* and most recently, *Christmas*), Celtic Thunder now return to their distinct Irish roots with this inspired collection of songs. Their 60-minute DVD was shot in high-definition and filmed in front of a live audience in Poughkeepsie, NY—a fall tour of the show will follow later this year.

<http://celticthunder.com>. www.deccarecords-us.com.



Cherish the Ladies at 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, 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. The Irish-American all-female band, Cherish the Ladies, is known around the world for their traditional repertoire of Irish songs, dances and roaring humor, culminating in enormously entertaining performances. The group will team up with the New Philharmonic to dazzle audiences with a wide array of festive Irish music in the true spirit of St Patrick’s Day.

To order tickets, call (630) 942-4000, or visit: www.AtTheMAC.org.

March has been designated as national Orchestras Feeding America month. New Philharmonic is honored to join with orchestras across the country in this noble effort to combat hunger in America and encourages the audience to bring canned and non-perishable goods to the March 19-20 performances. All proceeds will go to benefit the Peoples Resource Center in Wheaton, IL.



Cherish the Ladies
photo by Larry Shirkey

The Corona’s and the Kin at Lincoln Hall March 17th

Hailing from Dublin, Ireland, The Coronas are a dominant force in a country with deep-rooted rock traditions. A combination of high-energy live shows and hit albums has made them one of the country’s most popular attractions. Now, The Coronas bring their signature rock show to America for their first headlining tour. The month-long Heroes and Ghosts tour ends with a St. Patrick’s Day show in Chicago.

The Coronas play St. Patrick’s Day at Lincoln Hall with The Kin on Thursday, March 17th. Show starts at 9:00 PM (21+). Tickets are available in advance for \$10 at Lincolnhallchicago.com.

Their debut LP - 2007’s Heroes or Ghosts - achieved platinum sales in Ireland, and spawned massive singles such as “San Diego Song”, which became an anthem in clubs and radio stations all across the country. The Dublin quartet quickly followed its’ release with



sell-out shows nationwide, two meteor award nominations and a spellbinding set on the main stage at Oxegen. The Coronas have surely established themselves as one of Ireland’s biggest new bands.

The Coronas even caught the attention of Sir Paul McCartney, who personally asked the band to open his Dublin show earlier this year.

Lead singer Danny O’Reilly credits close friendships as the key element of their dynamic live shows. Don’t miss The Coronas play St. Patrick’s Day with The Kin at Lincoln Hall on Thursday, March 17th. Show starts at 9:00 PM (21+). Tickets are available in advance for \$10 at www.Lincolnhallchicago.com.

St. Fabian 11th Annual Irish Mass

St. Fabian Church, 83rd & Oketo in Bridgeview, IL, (2 blocks west of Harlem) will be hosting their 11th Annual Irish Mass on March 15th, with ministers drawn from throughout Chicagoland. Fr. Gerald F. Mulcahy will preside, Pastor Emeritus of St. Patricia Parish in Hickory Hills. Music will be provided by Dennis J. Newman, Music Dir. of St. Fabian’s, along

with soloists Mary Harvey, Ann Klochan, and Jim Poynton, plus Becky Scherer of the NW Indiana Symphony Chorus, violin teacher Imelda Kaminski, Mel & Bridget McGuiggan on Hand Bells, gifted flautist and Archdiocesan Music Dir. Anna Belle O’Shea, and bagpiper (& Music Dir. of the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums) Bruce Quintos.

The event begins at 7pm with

Irish preludes; Mass itself begins at 7:30pm. Refreshments will follow at 8:45pm in Kash Hall, accompanied by the lively steps of the Weber Irish Dancers, along with raffles and prizes.

Profits from the evening will go to benefit The Greater Chicago Food Depository and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Fabian Chapter.

For more call 708/594-7540.



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Chips and Salsa with The King

I often tell friends that the beauty of *The Irish Rover* column is that with such a title one can conceivably get away with writing about lasagna.

This month's column will be even farther afield.

Travel with me to McHenry, Illinois, and an encounter with the last person I expected to see in a Mexican restaurant.

Las Palmas Restaurant is part of a chain of restaurant-bars across Chicagoland. It's larger than most restaurants of its class, with huge murals, seating for nearly 200 and a large outdoor courtyard.

The food is cooked to order and fresh as can be (which is more than I can say for the microwave specialties of the once-popular Carlos Murphy's Irish-Mexican café experience), and the all-you-can-eat buffet option is out of this world. Add in the taped sounds of Mexican trumpeters and troubadours and you have the perfect evening out for a quiet romantic couple or a family birthday celebration set for two dozen.

I usually restrict my people-watching to the more exotic climes, like international airports and downtown Chicago shopping districts, but something was amiss in McHenry one Saturday night, beneath the watercolor frescoes of Salma Hayek, Richie Valens and *The Three Amigos*.

For just around the corner from the bar with a standup life-size cut-out of a muy caliente gal in beach cutoffs hefting a Hispanic beach brew of some sort, was a quiet soft-spoken man with a shock of black pompadoured mane and sideburns that made you think of a 1960's performer other than Herb Alpert and the Tijuana brass.

The dark eyelids, the ice blue eyes and the electric blue shiny sportcoat all added up to... well I asked my girlfriend. "Doesn't he look like...?"

"Oh my gosh," replied Ginny. "He must be related or a cousin!"

For there before us in a crowded waiting area was the spitting image of The King.

Viva Las Palmas!

The man stepped over to a sound system and a few minutes

later he was Elvis personified. He filled the big dining area with the large sound of the King of Rock and Roll, and somehow the music and food just goes together perfectly.

Travis Morris, who hales from near Zion, Illinois, gives the image of a slightly older young and trim Elvis circa 1968. His appearance and talents are so dead-on that he has no need for the hackneyed props of a rhinestone jumpsuit and huge silver sunglasses.

No, this is Elvis come to life before your eyes, not to mention your enchiladas.

I'm at a loss to explain why the combination appeals to me. The



closest connection I have between south of the border fare and the man from Tupelo, Mississippi is that I happened to be sitting in the used car I bought from a Mexican high school classmate the night I heard on WLS radio that Elvis had died. Or maybe that the most infamous sighting of Elvis alive after death was at a Burger King in my home town of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

This live Elvis confines most of his travels to Illinois and Michigan. Like the real deal, he does have a bit of Irish in his blood. Travis Morris was born in El Paso, Texas to a German-Irish mother and grew up in Southern Illinois where he acquired a semi-Tupelo twang.

But come on. Elvis and Mexican food? "I

had a hard time seeing it myself to tell you the truth," admits Morris, who was hired by the Las Palmas chain about a year ago. "But it's worked out real well."

No doubt. He energizes the crowd, and doesn't hurt sales either. When I returned to Las Palmas in McHenry to catch his full gig I asked the hostess how long the buffet lasts.

"It starts about 7 with the singer and stays open as long as he's performing."

Travis Morris as Elvis does it all, from the booming ballads to the soft gospel, with all the hip swinging, arm pumping and floor splits you can handle. Hombres get a hearty handshake and a friendly smile and señoritas get a photo and kiss on the cheek if they wish. Travis has been doing his tribute in every venue imaginable for 19 years, and seems to love every minute.

"What they say is true, if you find something you love, you'll never work another day in your

life," says Morris.

Travis Morris will be back in McHenry on March 12th at the Las Palmas Restaurant on Illinois Highway 31.

You can eat what you want, but don't step on his blue suede shoes.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

Altan Concert in Batavia

Fermilab Arts Series will present Altan on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 8pm. The show will take place at Wilson Hall, the central building of Fermilab. Celebrating 25 years of playing together, Altan has established themselves as one of the most important live acts to play traditional Irish music in Ireland and on the world stage. Altan has proven to be important ambassadors of the music and culture of Ireland, so much so, they were invited to accompany the Irish President, Mary McAleese, on several State visits. Altan was asked to play at the White House twice by President Bill Clinton, and played again for him when he visited Ireland. In 2006, the Irish government honored the band by

putting them on an official Irish postage stamp, one of the highest honors bestowed upon any living artist in Ireland (the only others honored in this set of four stamps were The Chieftains, The Dubliners and Makem and Clancy). "Tommy Bhetty's Waltz" was featured in the Oscar-winning film *Good Will Hunting* in 1997.

For further info or reservations, call 630-840-ARTS. Ramsey Auditorium is located in Wilson Hall, the central building of Fermilab. Wilson Hall, a high-rise, is visible from the lab entrance from the west on Kirk Road at Pine Street. The address is simply Kirk Road at Pine Street, Batavia, IL 60510. For more information visit www.fnal.gov/culture. www.altan.ie.



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Irish Thunder Biographer Discusses Micky Ward’s Fall, Rise, ‘Irish’ Brand

By Mark Connor / *TheWildGeese.com*

Five years after *Cinderella Man* and six past *Million Dollar Baby*, the “Irish brand” in the ring is again on display on the silver screen with *The Fighter*, a new film from producer Mark Wahlberg and director David O. Russell highlighting the grit and determination of “Irish” Micky Ward.

The Fighter, at press time a contender for seven Oscars, including Best Picture, was informed by a 2007 biography by former ESPN reporter Bob Halloran. In his book, *Irish Thunder: The Hard Life and Times of Micky Ward*, he chronicles the ascension of the Lowell, Mass.-based fighter to the upper ranks of the light-welterweight division.

Halloran recently sat for an interview about Ward, his biography and the Irish brand in boxing, as well as the hit motion picture that shares his book’s focus. Halloran served as a technical advisor for the film, starring Wahlberg as Ward; Christian Bale as Ward’s crack-addicted brother, Dicky Eklund; Melissa Leo as Ward’s mother, Alice; and Amy Adams as Charlene, Ward’s sweetheart and eventual wife.

While Halloran’s 338-page book

covers much more than the film ever could, the 47-year-old New Jersey native admires how the producers condensed over 13 years into the cinematic presentation. Recounting the yearlong research and writing of the book, Halloran discussed the unique Irish working-class crucible that helped temper Ward’s character and skills.

“A phrase that kept coming up several times—and one of the reasons Micky was given chances that other fighters were not,” Halloran explains—“was the phrase, ‘He’s a white

Irish kid who can fight.’ So each of those elements was important to the whole thing; the fact that he was a white Irish kid meant that he would have a backing, a following, people who would pay to see him; the fact that he could fight was very important, too, because you didn’t want to have a tomato can up there getting knocked out.”

Halloran continues: “So the fact that he was a prideful Irish fighter, the kind of fighter—I’m sure it’s true of



book signing in Lowell, Mass., in December 2007. Photo courtesy of Bob Halloran.

other ethnicities, as well, but it does feel to me that a lot of the Irish guys are this way—who absolutely will not quit; Micky was like that.”

Ward’s record bears that out, as does the dramatic story of the real-life challenges behind it. Ward had a 51-fight career, beginning June 13, 1985. Disappointing losses, family problems and management issues led him to retire in 1991, but he returned to the ring in June 1994. By final retirement at age 37 in June 2003, he’d fought six world champions and a slew of continental champions, compiling a record of 38 wins, 13 losses, 0 draws and 27 wins by knockout. These successes reflected not only his toughness in the ring, but also his ability to maintain focus while in the midst of a perpetual storm outside it.

‘In The Eye Of A Hurricane’

Ward came of age in The Acre, Lowell’s working-class Irish neighborhood, during a troubled time for the city, in the 1970s and 1980s, when the city faced an epidemic of drug abuse. Eklund, Ward’s older half-brother and eventual trainer, was a fringe world-class boxer in the 1970s who went the distance in a 10-round loss to rising star Sugar Ray Leonard. Eklund eventually succumbed to crack, and this led to much agita for Ward.

Halloran explains that Ward, seven years younger, really looked up to his brother, adding, “I think it’s another credit to Micky that, when his big brother fell into crack and drugs and crime, Micky didn’t follow him into it. ...I always thought Micky was in the eye of a hurricane. There was so much wildness around him, and he stayed right in the center of it—focused, determined, hard-working, didn’t get caught up in any of that stuff.”

There was also the failed attempt of their mother, Alice Ward, at managing Ward’s career and the stress of

his seven sisters, “any one of whom,” Halloran explains at one point in “Irish Thunder,” “could barge into his locker room drunk at any time.” Although not mentioned in the film, Halloran documents that even Sal LoNano, the manager who steered Ward’s career to bigger fights, came into his life because Ward’s father, George, met him while both were incarcerated. But in the middle of the tumult, Ward glimpsed clarity, a combination of fatherly guidance from a trainer and a characteristically Irish resolve leading him to it.

Lowell police officer Mickey O’Keefe trained Ward when his father and brother were both in prison. An accomplished amateur coach, O’Keefe’s only professional experience was assisting Dicky a couple of times in Ward’s corner.

“He and O’Keefe were both tough, hard-working, hard-drinking Irish guys who had managed to stare into the bowels of Lowell and walk away from the precipice with good clean hearts,” Halloran writes in *Irish Thunder*. O’Keefe’s own sobriety and fatherly concern were the supports Ward needed to foster his focus, talent and determination at the time.

“Micky’s story is unique in the respect that he was able to come back and humble himself, which is one of my favorite parts,” Halloran says. For two years, Ward fought in small venues for little money before getting fights on the level he’d previously reached. After eight consecutive victories, LoNano insisted O’Keefe leave, replacing him with another trainer, and Eklund eventually returned to the corner after emerging from prison.

Quitting ‘Not An Option’

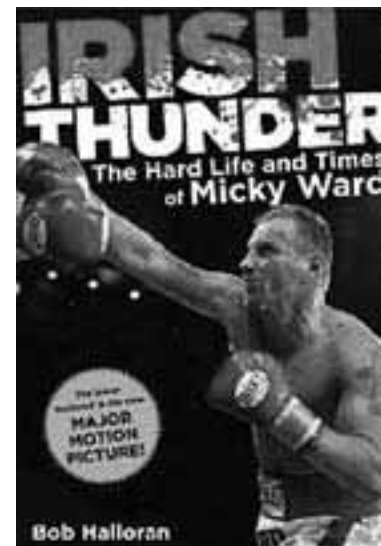
“O’Keefe did not hold it against Ward for making the decision because it was professionally necessary to get the opportunities,” Halloran says.

O’Keefe’s Irish-American pedigree reinforces a sense of Irish omnipresence in the boxing world, as well as in law enforcement, two defining professions for the Irish in exile. Whether their partnership reinforced Ward’s Irish identity is open to conjecture, but, in Halloran’s view, the “Irish” brand name that Micky Ward adopted certainly marked Micky as a fighter committed to a cause bigger than himself.

Halloran recalls that expert trainer Teddy Atlas, of partial Irish descent himself, told him that, in taking punishment, some fighters “mentally pack it in” while trying to go the distance, but others “continue to try to win

while trailing. Micky was that kind of guy,” Halloran explains, adding that it came “from his background in boxing and the pride of knowing you can’t quit, (that) it’s not an option.”

Ward’s final fight, a 2003 10-round, unanimous-decision loss to Arturo



Gatti, a former world light-welterweight champion, was the last in a series of three between the two boxers. The first of their matches, in May 2002, ended in a majority decision for Ward, who lost their second fight, in Nov. 2002, by the same margin that he lost their final match. The series sealed Ward’s reputation in boxing and grossed just over \$3 million for him, which he has seemingly invested well. They were epic wars that thrilled boxing experts and casual fans alike, boldly underscoring Ward’s character and tenacity.

“I always try to tell people that those three fights you saw against Gatti, he had about seven other fights just like that against guys” who were world-class boxers, Halloran says.

Ward now holds a Teamsters book, moving film sets near his native Lowell, where he resides with Charlene in a modest home in The Acre. His lack of a world title keeps him out of an exclusive Irish-American club that includes iconic heavyweight champions Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, as well as Seán O’Grady, a former lightweight champion from the 1980s. But Ward’s extraordinary skills and pluck are now on display for millions on movie screens worldwide, reinforcing the “Irish brand.”

Ward’s saga suggests that Irish contenders in the ring lead with their hearts as much as their fists. In doing so, they generate the kind of adulation fight fans typically reserve for champions. Mother Ireland would be proud.

Writer Mark Connor resides in St. Paul, Minn. A boxer himself, he is the editor of the webzine *BoxersAndWritersMagazine.com*.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Patrick’s Breastplate
In 2000, Deirdre and Thomas McNamara learned that their son Patrick was afflicted with eponymoma – in children, the formation of intracranial tumors and in adults, spinal tumors develop. Patrick McNamara was two years old. Pat McNamara (Pat Mac) is a quite a man. He has endured nine (9) surgeries, four (4) different chemo therapies (three on clinical trials) and has had three (3) types of radiation

therapy. At Chicago’s Children’s Memorial Hospital Pat Mac is under the care of Dr. Tad Tomita (surgeon) Dr. Stew Goldman (oncologist), their wonderful nurses Wendy and Monica, and a host of many other doctors and nurses according to Patrick’s Care Page on the Children’s Memorial site – more about that singular weapon of hope further along.

Deidre McNamara (nee Lewis) is my cousin. Joan Hickey married Tom

Lewis – a Chicago fireman, electrician, WWII battleship sailor, world traveler, and a studied reader of Russian literature. Tom Lewis introduced me the writing of Alexander Solzhenitsyn long before the Gulag became a part of the American vernacular. Aunt Joan looked like Audrey Hepburn and cursed like St. Teresa of Avila. Aunt Joan’s foulest blasphemy was Oh, Jinkies! Together they raised two beautiful girls, Deirdre (Dee) and Angela. Deemarrried Tom McNamara. Tom is the son of Tom McNamara who was the radio voice of Irish Chicago and leader in the



development of the Irish Heritage Center. Dee and Tom have three boys – Conor, Patrick and Tim and adopted Cara, beautiful little lady.

The McNamara’s live in St. Barnabas Parish in Beverly neighborhood. Through Pat Mac’s decade and change of fighting recurring tumors and battling back from the side effects of treatments his neighbors and cousins have helped sustain his spirits and restore his energy with activities.

I was sent an e-mail from my cousin John who has been very close to Pat Mac and the McNamaras all through this ordeal. Pat Mac calls him John Candy, because there is never an event or family gathering that John does not fill lunch bags with every sample of candy allowed by law and distributed to every child with teeth up to and including teens. More so, John Candy sweetens the toughest days for Pat Mac with praise, prayers and encouragement. John informed me of Children’s Memorial Hospital’s site that keeps family and friends updated about the little heroes in their care who have been handed the toughest deals in the game of life. It is called the Care Page – each child has one and it allows news of the medical progress to be checked up on and notes of encouragement to the little hero can be sent with speed of the internet. From thisCarePage I learned this about Pat Mac. I believe that was written by Dee McNamara,

Here is the latest – Pat and his dad beat the blizzard of 2011 and flew out to New Jersey on Tuesday. He had his second ablation today and all went well. Dr. Danish feels he got about 85% of the tumor. Being so close to the optic chiasm he wanted to be very conservative. Because this is such a new procedure, we do not know how this tumor will respond. Will it continue to grow or die off. Only time will tell. Dr. Danish was thrilled with the results and so are we. Being so close to the pituitary, they want to

watch Pat for a few more days. He is anxious to come home to see all the snow. Once again thanks to all for all the prayers, well wishes, and to all the kids big and small who helped build the giant snow fort in front of our house. Pat will love it!

I include the photo of the snow fort built by the neighbors for Pat Mac.

When any one is beset with the worst possible circumstance, we see the greatness of the human heart pour out blessings of deeds that humble our arrogance. Nothing is more telling about the truth of God’s grace than the active impulse of people helping in the smallest ways as well as the most heroic sacrifices. These acts of good were learned at a very early age. They come about from the recognition of acts like filling a school lunch bag for children because kids like candy, or bringing a sick kid a Mount Carmel football jersey, or writing a check to Children’s Memorial or a fund for Brain Tumor research. We are good people who help others. I witness this daily on the streets of Chicago. A young girl, Natasha McShane, was brutally attacked and the same people, John Candy included, reached out to raise vast sums of money for her family, because she was our family. Operating Engineers Local 399 opened its doors; Gaelic Park opened its doors; The Irish American Heritage Center opened its doors, because people who fill lunch bags with candy and build giant snow forts for a young guy coming home after brain surgery opened their hearts took action to help.

These are prayers at their most fervent. God hears our prayers because they match up with what we do. Nothing quiets my whiney self-pity, like a good dose of family and neighbors forming a protective circle around a suffering loved one. The Breastplate around our hearts and giving warmth and strength to our souls is forged by deeds. Patrick McNamara’s Breastplate is solid.



Emerald Society of Illinois

Irish American Police Association

Annual St. Patrick's Day March and Celebration

March 12th

Local 399's (Operating Engineers Hall) • 2260 South Grove St.
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honoring... Marie Connelly-Owens

The first female Police Officer in the nation, who was assigned to the Chicago Police Dept We will have a float in her honor.

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Entertainment:

- The Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society / Chicago Police Dept
- Music by Barry Fin Barr Fagan and Band

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with all the trimmings and beverages (Miller products) will be served. The Emerald Society Commissary will be available also.

Celebration begins when the first busload of marchers arrives at the Hall from the Parade Route and continues until 6pm. Taxi Cabs will be available at the Hall.

The Holiday Inn Mart Plaza is offering a discounted room rate. Just mention the Emerald Society of Illinois when you are making your reservation, at (312) 836-5000.

Additional Information and Map can be obtained at
www.emeraldsocietyofillinois.org



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Irish Cottage Boutique Irish Céilidh, April 1-2

Join in a special weekend of traditional Irish song, dance and feast!

Legendary Irish entertainers Jimmy Keane and Paddy Homan will light up the Frank O’Dowd’s stage, plus their Irish dancers will energize Frank O’Dowd’s Irish Pub with dynamic performances. Since no Irish celebration is complete without traditional Irish food and drink, for this weekend only, our complimentary Hot Irish Breakfast will return!

Jimmy Keane

The son of a sean nos (old style) singer, Jimmy Keane was All Ireland accordion champion for five consecutive years. Keane has performed and recorded with some of the best musicians in Irish music over the years including Liz Carroll, Michael Flatley, Mick Moloney, Eileen Ivers and Seamus Egan.



Jimmy Keane

the winner of two 2010 Livies awarded by Dublin-based *LiveIreland* which touts that “His self-titled, first album is an instant classic... This is the real voice of Ireland. Simple. Unadorned. Clear. Perfect.”

Traditional Hot Irish Breakfast

Hotel guests will enjoy a complimentary Traditional Hot Irish Breakfast complete with meats (bangers, rashers and black pudding) imported from Ireland, eggs, American sausage, mushrooms, oven-roasted tomatoes, cereal, toast, bagels, muffins, yogurt, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, milk and juice. Limited Hot Boutique Irish Breakfast items available too.

Don’t miss this special opportunity; book your room today.

The Traditional Hot Irish Breakfast will be served to hotel guests in Frank O’Dowd’s Irish Pub & Grill

Originally from Cork, Paddy Homan is from 7am-10:30am.

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Paddy Homan: Man On A Mission!

For people who know Paddy Homan, he is a man with two hats, depending on his role; social worker by day, musician by night and weekends. To others, however, he is a proud member of the Irish American community, always willing to lend a hand in whatever the community’s need. But Homan now admits to having come full circle in his professional career, as he takes up his new position as Community Services Advocate with Lutheran Life Communities which is based in Arlington Heights and serves the entire Chicago and Metropolitan area. “Lutheran Life Communities is recognized as one of the leading non-profit health care organizations in the U.S. with a big commitment to supporting those in need.

In his new role, Homan will be making regular presentations in social service settings, church halls and fraternal organizations as well as business and financial organizations to educate the public about the community services available. These presentations will no doubt include a bit of song and story as he focuses on issues of life transition. Since his arrival from Cork on the Chicago scene, Homan has made a wide imprint on the social services and music landscape. His four years work in eldercare and homecare with responsibilities for direct client services have equipped him well for his new position. He is highly attuned to the requirements and sensitivity which are necessary to provide round the clock quality service to his clients and their families in the home and community. Homan sees his new position as the opportunity to integrate his sense of mission in social service, legacy of Irish music, and philanthropy, the seeds of which were sown in his youth in Cork City.

While working full-time, Homan is also in his second year of graduate studies for a Master’s Degree in Applied Professional Studies at De Paul University where his current research is focused on integrating music and social work into philanthropy and fund raising for non-profits. He somehow finds time

also to lay down tracks with his music partner, Jimmy Keane for another CD of traditional Irish music. More on this later!

There would be few devotees of traditional Irish music in the greater Chicago community who would not have heard Paddy Homan perform, whether at his weekly sessions at the Galway Arms Pub, or the many Irish and Celtic Fests from Chicago to Milwaukee and Detroit, as well as at the Mayor’s St. Pat’s reception. Homan is about to launch monthly



‘networking sessions’ for the enjoyment of business professionals at the Metropolitan Club at Willis Towers. The first of these will take place on March 16th. On March 17th, Homan will join WGN host Rick Kogan and others at The Chicago Theater for a special St Pat’s celebration.

You can catch Homan at many of the big Irish festivals this year, including Chicago Gaelic Park’s 25th anniversary Irish Fest on Memorial Weekend, Cleveland Irish Festival and Milwaukee Irish Fest. Or go to his homepage at www.paddyhoman.com.

John Brogan Wins WBBM Teacher of Week Award

Recently, De La Salle Institute proudly announced that faculty member John Brogan was recently chosen as a Teacher of the Week in a joint initiative sponsored by the Chicago Bears, WBBM Newsradio 780 and St. Xavier University.

Brogan (Roscoe Village) teaches Advanced Placement United States History at De La Salle’s Institute Campus for Young Men, as well as serving as De La Salle’s Dean



of Social Sciences. In addition, Brogan also is the lead assistant coach for De La Salle’s

varsity boys basketball team.

“This is quite an honor,” Brogan said. “I am humbled to receive an award of this magnitude. Teaching is something that has great meaning for me, and I am thrilled to be able to share this recognition with all my colleagues, as well as the students at De La Salle.”

www.dls.org

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THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB OF CHICAGO

IFC History

In 1902, a group of Irishmen formed The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago to preserve and promote their heritage. They dedicated themselves to continuing the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Chicago and sharing their Irish Culture and values with the citizens of our beloved city, Chicago. While promoting friendship and fellowship among the members of the club, the ideals and traditions of their Irish ancestry became a part of the new traditions of Chicago.

The legacy and fellowship of the club has passed down through generations making the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago the city's oldest and most celebrated Irish organization, hosting presidents, prime ministers and many other Irish Government officials over the years.

Today the club continues, through its many programs and events to uphold and expand on the objectives of its founders including the funding of educational grants to needy Chicagoland high school students.

Educational and Cultural Foundation

Through its affiliated organization the Irish Fellowship Club Educational & Cultural Foundation, the IFC has provided over \$1,600,000 in tuition assistance to 38 local Catholic high schools. This year the Foundation provided \$76,000 in educational grants to needy students, and the demand is only growing.

Proceeds from the IFC events fund the work of the Foundation.

Scholarship Recipient Quotes:

"Thank you for the generosity of the education grant. Your generosity has been a tremendous help to my family in many ways. God bless you and your work."

"I appreciate what you have done for me - more than words can describe. I am looking forward to three more successful years. I am so grateful."

Christmas Luncheon

The IFC Christmas Luncheon is where Chicago's Irish gather to begin the Christmas Season. Congratulations to 2010 Luncheon Chairman Patrick Heneghan whose diligent efforts attracted nearly 1,000 guests and a record in sponsorship donations, resulting in one of the most successful Christmas Luncheons in the history of the Club.

The festive celebration was held in the magnificent Grand Ballroom at the stately Chicago Hilton and Towers, where Christmas carols and Irish music enlivened the afternoon. Be sure to visit www.irishfellowshipclub.com later in the year for details on the 2011 Luncheon, scheduled for Friday, December 2nd.

The Irish Open

The Irish Open will be held on July 18, 2011, at the renowned Beverly Country Club. More than 120 golfers will gather for a beautiful day of golf and fellowship. Beverly's course always plays superbly, offering exciting challenges for all golfers.

The Fellowship Board and distinguished guests compete for a number of prizes, and following the game are nourished with a fabulous outdoor dinner overlooking the beautiful course.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Foundation. Call Kathy Taylor at 312 676 4120 for more information.

St. Patrick's Dinner To Honor

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Maggie Daley

The 2011 IFC St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Friday, March 11, in the International Ballroom, of the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chicago's First Lady Maggie Daley, the Grand Marshals of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, will be honored at the dinner by the Irish Fellowship Club. Mayor Daley served as IFC President during the Club's 100th Anniversary Year, 2001.

"The club is proud to pay tribute to these two extraordinary individuals whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of life for the citizens of Chicago. Their efforts in enriching our city have greatly contributed to the recognition of Chicago as one of the greatest cities of the world," said IFC President Patrick Thompson.

Dinner Chair Peg O'Ryan Lombardo promises a beautiful evening celebrating the Mayor's last official commemoration of St. Patrick's week-end.

Tickets for this momentous evening are \$150 each, which includes open bar reception, dinner and music provided by the renowned City Lights Orchestra. For additional information please visit www.irishfellowshipclub.com or call Kathy Taylor at 312- 676-4120. All proceeds from the dinner benefit The Irish Fellowship Club Educational and Cultural Foundation.



Join the Irish Fellowship Club

For more than 100 years, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has comprised the brightest Irish-American minds and the stoutest Irish-American hearts in Chicago. Our members have helped weave the political, economic and social fabric of this city, while honoring the Club founders' desire to "build up a spirit among the people of Irish descent here, of dignity, of cultural activities."

Any person who has demonstrated a knowledge of and sympathy for the ideals and aspirations of the Club is invited to join the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. Annual dues are used to fund the Club's Educational and Cultural Foundation.

Join today and new members will be entered in a drawing to win place in the Front Line of the Irish Fellowship Club Contingent in the 2011 Chicago St Patrick's Day Parade!

In addition, all new members will receive a 1-year subscription to the *Irish American News*, compliments of Cliff Carlson.

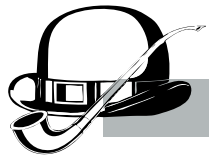
Please kindly enclose a \$50 check for membership dues with mail application to:

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago,
P.O. Box 31604, Chicago, IL 660631-0604

www.irishfellowshipclub.com

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Mick

Mike Morley



Black Irish

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education describes genocide as: “Any tragic events that result in the murder of a specified group of people... and slavery, loss of names, families, values, etc.” The commission decided: “Many genocides do not have any constituency, let alone a strong constituency, calling attention to them. Very few materials addressing such genocides have been designed for use in secondary schools.”

The Irish Famine Curriculum was approved in September 1996 by the New Jersey Commission for inclusion in the Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum at the secondary school level. That year the New York legislature also passed an amendment “with enthusiastic bipartisan support,” for an appropriation bill supporting the development of a Great Irish Famine curriculum in that state. As far as I know, both efforts were then quietly

sidelined and studiously forgotten.

I was talking online recently with a retired teacher living in New Jersey, and mentioned the curriculum. I was not surprised she had never heard of it. Curious, she brought it up the next evening during a dinner with colleagues. She wrote back: “Neither of my colleagues ever heard of the famine curriculum. They were as surprised as I was, and also as interested. Little good it will do.” Sadly, I have to agree.

In this land once ruled by England, there appears, even 235 years after independence, an ingrained reluctance by its institutions to countenance any shadow falling on “the mother country.” That has ever come at a cost to the interests of those 12% of Americans claiming Irish heritage; Irish Catholics in particular.

Black History month is behind us, a month of Irish doings on deck. What better time to let loose the bugbear of: Irish slavery.

Did it exist? Wikipedia says: “Chattel slavery virtually disappeared after

the Norman Conquest. It was finally abolished by the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.” (One wonders the need to abolish that which had disappeared.)

Irish slavery: it was either widespread or nonexistent, depending on who’s writing the history. Some samples from the literature reveal the conflicting opinions:

“The first recorded Irish slaves were sold to a settlement on the Amazon River in South America in 1612.”

“Irish men and women had been freely emigrating to the West Indies for at least a quarter century before the Cromwellian cruelties.”

The Irish slave trade began when James II sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. His Proclamation of 1625... officially establishing a policy that was to continue for two centuries.”

From 1641 to 1652, over 550,000 Irish were killed by the English and 300,000 were sold as slaves, as the Irish population of Ireland fell from 1,466,000 to 616,000. “Although it was not a crime to kill any Irish, and soldiers were encouraged to do so, the slave trade proved too profitable to kill off the source of the product.” (If that’s true, the “Prod ethic” may have spared the Irish

much wider, total extermination.)

“Few people today realize that from 1600 to 1699, far more Irish were sold as slaves than Africans.” “Although African Negroes were better suited to work in the semi-tropical climates of the Caribbean, they had to be purchased, while the Irish were free for the catching.”

“Banished soldiers were not allowed to take their wives and children with them, and naturally, the same for those sold as slaves. The result was a growing

population of homeless women and children, who being a public nuisance, were likewise rounded up and sold.”

“In time, the English thought of a better way to use these women to increase their market share: The settlers began

to breed Irish women and girls with African men to produce slaves with a distinct complexion. These new “mulatto” slaves brought a higher price than Irish livestock and, likewise, enabled the settlers to save money rather than purchase new African slaves.”

“England shipped tens of thousands of Irish prisoners after the 1798 Irish Rebellion to be sold as slaves in the Colonies and Australia.”

“... servitude, no matter how long, brutal and involuntary, was not the same thing as perpetual slavery... those who did survive were free to leave or stay, and to raise families without condemning their children to slavery.”

“By the mid 1600s, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. At that time, 70% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.”

Britannica: - “(Montserrat) was colonized in 1632 by Irish Catholics from nearby Saint Kitts (Saint Christopher), who were sent there by Sir Thomas Warner, the first British governor of Saint Kitts. More Irish immigrants subsequently arrived from Virginia.” (Elsewhere we read that the Irish were transported from St. Kitts and also Virginia to Montserrat because of intolerance of their religion by the English in both colonies).

Ireland’s own little empire on Montserrat was much like England’s: brutal and oppressive; iniquitous and racist “The Montserrat Irish were, to an unprecedented extent, ruled by Irishmen: at least six of the island’s 17th-century governors were Irish.”

(It should be kept in mind that since 1632, Montserrat has been ruled by Britain, except for its capture by the French for a few months in 1782-83).

“A failed slave uprising on 17 March 1768 led to Montserrat becoming one of only two places in the world that celebrates St. Patrick’s Day as a public

holiday, the other being Ireland.” Nine slaves were subsequently hanged—allegedly by “Irish planters.”

Montserrat, 95% black, now celebrates that “fact” with green beer and shamrocks. (Just as Americans celebrate July 4 by lighting bonfires and marching with red roses in lapels, waving union jacks?) The question is, were any slaves in the uprising Gaelic speakers? We read that “Most Montserratans spoke Irish Gaelic until about 1900.”

“About 100 years after the 1768 rebellion, a ship crewed by Irish-speaking Corkmen dropped anchor at Montserrat. At the dock, they were amazed to hear black Montserratans speaking Irish. It’s said the Montserratans also informed the Corkmen with good humor and a straight face ‘*Tá sé sin ait, ní fheictear mar Gaeil sibh*’ - ‘That’s funny, you guys don’t look Irish.’”

Even today an Irish teacher from Long Island tells of “a little black girl who walked up to her, confirmed she was an Irish teacher, and then recited a Gaelic poem taught to her by her Montserratian grandmother.”

Slaves or masters? Irish or English? Black or white? Through either design or neglect, or both, the history has been muddled. We read that the islanders celebrate St. Patrick’s Day by: “dancing Irish jigs one night then mocking their one-time masters the next by cracking whips and masquerading in tall hats like bishops’ miters.” “We are celebrating the rise of the African freedom fighters,” says historian Sir Howard Ferguson.

Take a look online. Here are those dancers the travel brochures tell us are dressed as former Irish slave masters, “bishops in miters,” with whips: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S1PTFE93Ks&feature=related> (about 2 minutes into the clip)

Now ask yourself—if these dancers are imitating Irish slave owners of 1768 (supposedly bishops, no less) what’s wrong with this picture?

The first thought that struck me was: Why are these “bishops” dressed in tattered red jackets? And why the knee-breeches and stockings? Digging ‘round in 17th century costumes I found this guy. Now, that makes a lot more sense to me because Montserrat has been under British rule since 1635, except for one year (1782-83) under the French. And Sir Howard claims St. Peters parish on the North of the island, the area where most of the light-skinned natives were grouped, has never had a Catholic church.

And last, but not least, have a look here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QHYFXDGf4Y> Grenadier Guard, 17th Cent.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
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Papas Celebrates First Anniversary

By Cliff Carlson

You wouldn't know it was Irish owned when you drive by Papa's Fresh Foods at 12207 S. Harlem, but if you go inside, you will know it soon. Besides the gondola of Irish packaged foods sitting front and center, all owner, Allan Byrne has to do is speak, and you are back in the Old Country.

I persuaded Allan to stop working for a few minutes and tell me about his business which just celebrated its one year anniversary.

Cliff: So Allan, where did the name come from?

Allan: A lot of people think its Greek or Italian or some other nationality, but I let my daughter name it when she was three years of age. I told her she could name it after whoever or whatever she wanted. So she called it after her grandfather. She calls him Papa, and that's Dennis Gallen, a native of Castlebar in County Tyrone.

Cliff: Open six days a week?

T: Yes, we are open Monday to Friday 10-7, Saturday 10-6 and closed on Sunday at the moment, but hopefully, in the near future we can be open for the half day on Sunday.

But, we do open for catering.

C: It looks like you can handle a lot of catering?

T: Yes, we have a big kitchen back there.

C: How big is Papa's.

T: At least 2500 sq. ft.

We have a lot of parties for March coming up, from 10 to 400 people, and we will take care of them all from that kitchen.

C: I noticed you have a lot of specials for serving 12 people right now.

T: Yes, our catering menu says its priced for 12, but it may be able to feed 15 people. The menus say for 12, but with the trays it usually fills up for about 15 or even more with generous portions.

C: So you give them a little more than they pay for?

T: We try to.

C: That's a good policy. I see you carry a lot of Irish items here, grocery items. I see the tea over here, I see flakes, I see biscuits, Tatos, etc.

T: We have a full line of Irish groceries, plus we carry the Irish

sausage and bacon, black and white puddings, brown breads, soda breads. Then we do a lot of the homemade Irish foods. I'm a qualified chef myself, I've trained in Killybegs in County Donegal. I worked in the Nuemore Hotel and carried them across. Worked there for a good few



years. Then I worked at the Carrigdale, between Louth and Down, for three years.

All the dishes we do here are all homemade. Soups, lasagna, chicken kiev, beef and vegetable stew, shepherd's pie, bacon and cabbage. And, these are all the same, everything is to go. Just come in, pick it up and take it home, you know.

C: I see you can dine-in also. Irish breakfast rolls for \$5.95, that's a pretty good deal.

T: Yeah, we have the option to dine-

in as well. So you can have the option of having it here or taking it with you.

Full Irish breakfast is available if you want it, plus the whole sandwich bar, and salad bar. We have a hot plater over in the corner with all the hot foods in it every night. We have the dinners-to-go, a selection of 12

to 15 different kind of dinners. These are based for everyone. You got doggy dinners, meatloaf, meatballs, Italian sausage and peppers, lasagna, a whole bunch of choices.

We have a menu of maybe 150 different salads.

C: Do you have a website?

T: No. But if you Google us, you will be able to bring us up that way.

C: You carry the *Tribune*, the *Sun Times* and the *Irish American News* here also. If your customers come in, they can up *IAN* for free.

T: Yes, they can pick up a whole line of desserts while they are here! Individual desserts, then you have the loaf desserts and cakes and that. We also have a whole line of cheeses.

We do homemade Italian beef and fresh oven-roasted turkey that we cook here ourselves, so we carry a lot of the ones that are low in sodium, no preservatives, you know.

C: What's your number?

T: 708-923-0109.

If you want to order ahead, fax your order in at 708-923-6086. They are located at 12207 S. Harlem Ave, in Palos Heights. It's right off of

Harlem and right across from a great Irish gift shop, Celtic Cottage.

They have vegetarian dishes, hot entrees, salads, appetizers, sides and probably 100 or so items on the menu. Plus, all the grocery items. And, you can just come in and just take dinner home with you if you like, it's all ready made. Hot chicken, lasagna, and Allan's specials every week.

Come support and enjoy an Irish owned establishment, conveniently located on the Southside in Palos Heights.

Congratulations to Maggie and Richard Daley

Grand Marshalls of the 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade

"May the Road Rise to Meet You, and the Wind Always Be at Your Back"

Dan McLaughlin


Mayor
Orland Park

(L-R) Dan and Patricia McLaughlin, and Maggie and Richard Daley

NACTA Honors Outstanding Retailer

The Irish Shop in Oak Park turned 20 this year, and owners Jim and Anne August are still as hands-on as the day they opened. So it was no surprise to us that NACTA, the

These include attending networking events, meetings, and trade shows; using the NACTA website and members forum; participating in NACTA programs; purchas-




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(l to r): Annde August, Fran Siefert, President of North American Celtic Trade Association, and Jim August.

North American Celtic Trade Association, presented the annual Celtic Warrior Award to The Irish Shop on January 24th, 2011 in Dublin, Ireland. The award was presented in conjunction with the annual Supplier of The Year Awards.

The Irish Shop was selected by their peers and vendors based on a number of criteria related to participation in the association.

ing NACTA products; providing feedback; sending comments and suggestions from time to time; and communicating ideas and opinions to benefit the association.

In recognition of their milestone, and their many loyal customers, The Irish Shop will be holding special sales events throughout the year.. www.theirishshop-online.com.

Lord Of The Dance at the Cliffs of Moher

Michael Flatley’s *Lord of the Dance* will be performed at the world famous Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare on September 1-2, 2011. The shows, which represent the first open air performances of the world famous dance extravaganza, are expected to attract up to 10,000 people to the iconic Cliffs.

The show features 40 precision dancers acting out the mythical Irish folk story of a battle between Don Dorcha, the Lord of Darkness, and the Lord of Light, also known as the Lord of the Dance.

Local musicians Michael O’Connell, Hugh Healy and friends with special guest folk legend Finbar Furey and the world famous Kilfenora Ceili Band, will share the finale with the *Lord of the Dance* troupe at the top of the Cliffs of Moher.

Tickets (€75) are now on sale from www.ticketmaster.ie.

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Live Irish Music, 1-3pm, Sunday, March 20

The Trinity Knot
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815-926-2184
www.thetrinityknot.com - blog.thetrinityknot.com
*It’s Free but Call for Reservations

Local Irish Shops Offer Win a Trip to Ireland!

Several Irish shops in our area are offering readers a chance to win a trip to Ireland. All you have to do is visit one of the shops listed below before St. Patrick's Day and sign up—it's that easy! No purchase necessary and no strings attached. In association with CIE Tours International and NACTA (the North American Celtic Trade Association) these Irish shops are hosting a chance for a lucky winner and his or her guest to travel to the Emerald Isle and experience the wonders of Ireland. As guests of CIE Tours International, they will enjoy a 9-day luxury coach tour, which will take them to Dublin, Waterford, Clare and Killarney stopping along the way to experience the rich history and awesome beauty of Ireland.

As well as an opportunity to acquire the 'gift of the gab' by kissing the famed Blarney Stone, and to see some of Ireland's finest horses at the National Stud in Kildare, the tour also includes a visit to the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, the medieval city of Kilkenny and Cobh Heritage Centre which traces the history of emigration from Ireland to North America. The grand finale

to this trip of a lifetime is an elegant farewell dinner and overnight stay at the spectacular 5-star Dromoland Castle Hotel. Dromoland Castle has an extraordinary history dating back to the 5th century and was originally the ancestral home of one of the few families of Gaelic Royalty; direct descendants of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland.

Voted one of the top ten tour operators in the world by readers of Travel & Leisure Magazine, CIE has been taking travelers to Ireland for 79 years. In addition to this opportunity to win the trip, this year they are offering a generous 5% discount on all tours in the 98-page CIE brochure making it less expensive to book with them than to book directly.

Readers can pick up a copy of the CIE brochure and a savings coupon in their local Irish shop or have one mailed to them by calling 866-622-2244.

Visit one of these shops before St. Patrick's Day and enter to win the trip of a lifetime!

For a complete list of Irish/Celtic shops in the USA and Canada, go to www.CelticShopsInAmerica.com or call 866-622-2244.

The Gluten And Allergen Free Expo

Do you need to be on a gluten free diet or have food allergies? Many Irish suffer from these allergies. At the Gluten & Allergen Free Expo you can sample and purchase products from over 70 vendors, and learn how to cook from the top specialty chefs, authors and bloggers. In 2011, the GFAF Expo will be held in Chicago and Dallas. Visit www.gfafexpo.com for full details and to purchase tickets. The vendor fair is open to the public and the cooking classes require advance registration. The Chicago GFAF Expo will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Lisle, IL on April 29th through May 1st. The Dallas GFAF Expo will be held October 1st and 2nd at the Dallas Westin Park Central.

Gluten Intolerance and Allergy Facts in the US:

- 12+ million Americans have food allergies
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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West

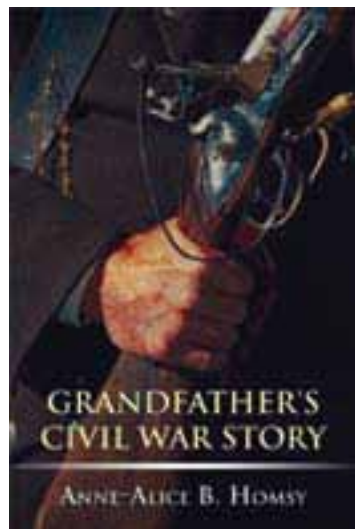


You Are An Honest Man

For the last several months this column has featured Irish Americans with amazing characters. We can admire those qualities and hopefully adopt some of them.

Thomas Tilden Bailey was born in 1830 near Plymouth, Massachusetts. He was a man of outstanding character: morally upright and transparently honest. His example of honesty, or rectitude, is especially valuable today, when it is easy to become cynical.

Bailey grew up only one generation after the American Revolution. There were plenty of people around who had sacrificed and struggled to establish the



Republic. They were people like Bailey, with a simple belief in right and wrong. They felt a personal responsibility to work to establish the United States.

Ordinary people like him had faced professional and highly trained British soldiers at Lexington, at Concord, and at Bunker Hill. They faced almost certain defeat and death. Yet, they felt that right was on their side. And, they didn't flinch from what they considered their responsibility.

Thomas Bailey had similar virtues. He supported the Union and felt it his duty to fight for its preservation. He joined the 7th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and was a soldier from 1862 to approximately 1864.

In *Grandfather's Civil War Story*, Anne-Alice Homsy, Tilden's great, great, great granddaughter tells his story. Homsy uses the device of having Tilden tell his story to his three grandchildren. This would have been in the 1890's, and she presents the family tree to show that this time frame would have been quite possible.

Homsy is a lifelong Chicagoan. She is a young woman with a love of

history. She has a wide diversity of interests, including singing opera and campaigning for learning disabled students' rights.

How does Homsy know how soldiers talked and lived during the Civil War? She was very careful about that, and used 24 sources to answer that question. Those sources are composed of books about the war, period newspapers, and websites. She even researched an 1862 Act of Congress, and consulted websites devoted to soldier's illnesses of the period, and the medicines used to treat them.

I especially appreciated and enjoyed the information the author provides in the footnotes. They are unobtrusive and answered many of the questions I had.

The quote in the title is from a colonel who questioned Tilden about his being trusted to go about without guard. The colonel says about the camp's officers: "I guess they think you are an honest man."

In *Grandfather's Civil War Story* there are several observations about New England society and that of the South. I think this one is particularly illuminating.

When Thomas Tiden was so sick that he couldn't keep up with his regiment, a Virginia farming family, despite the political differences, took him in and helped him to recover.

Of the many questions the Virginians asked him about New England was this, about the social equality there. "Do you know any rich men and do you dare to speak to them if they do not first speak to you? For I have no conception of a state of society where there are no aristocrats nor poor whites."

"I told him that I am only a storekeeper, or trader, living in an ordinary country house. I was chairman of the school committee. One of the members of the committee [was rich]. However, when I was visiting schools in his section of the town, I went to his home to dinner, and when he was in my section, he came to my house for dinner."

Officers in the camp made a lot of money by cheating the soldiers out of their fair amount of rations. Tilden describes his struggle to get proper rations for them. "Our bread was always stale—often sour or moldy salt pork, beans or a small piece of beef was all the soldiers received for the week. These rations grew poorer and lesser in quantity till we had one loaf of bread a day and twice a week the small piece of beefspoke of. I believed we were being cheated out of our rations."

He set out to do something about it. His fellow soldiers laughed at him. "What can you do about it? You are only a private," they said.

After Tilden wrote to the Massachusetts Military State Agency, a man dressed like a Maryland farmer, and talking like one, came into the camp.

He was "dressed in a long overcoat and slouched hat," and asked many questions. He asked, "What rations do you receive? What is the death rate at the camp hospital? etc., etc. Tilden thought him pesky and very inquisitive. He hoped that he would soon leave.

However, when they were in private, the stranger revealed himself to be Colonel Gardiner Tufts from Massachusetts.

A few days later, another high ranking officer, disguised in an overcoat came to the camp. And, soon the soldiers received proper rations. Large quantities of fresh meat, vegetables, coffee, and well made bread. All of this, thanks to Bailey's letters that no one in the camp knew anything about.

Bailey felt he had strength of honesty and righteousness. He was a fearless, brave and upright man.

Thomas Tilden was a true example of the Irish proverb, "character is better than wealth."

Grandfather's Civil War Story by Anne-Alice Homsy. Publish America, publishamerica.com, Baltimore, 2010. 210 pages, \$27.00.

Executed For Ireland: The Patrick Moran Story

Patrick Moran's exploits and ultimate sacrifice in Ireland's War for Independence are the themes of this book.

In 2001 his remains were exhumed from Mountjoy Jail, a prison in Dublin used by British forces. They were given the great honor of a State funeral.

Who was Patrick Moran?

He was an Irish Nationalist and trade unionist before the 1916 Uprising. During the rising, and after, Moran was a brave and innovative volunteer.

One of his many adventures should be noted: he was the leader of the group that attacked the Gresham Hotel on November 21, 1920. That date is famous, and is called Bloody Sunday, because it marked the day British intelligence in Ireland was destroyed. It was the turning point in the war. By the following June, Britain would negotiate a truce.

The British Empire had been ransacked to find the best intelligence agents. They were to be sent to Ireland to crush the rebellion.

Michael Collins was the director of intelligence for the IRA. And, as such directed the brilliant guerilla war against the British.

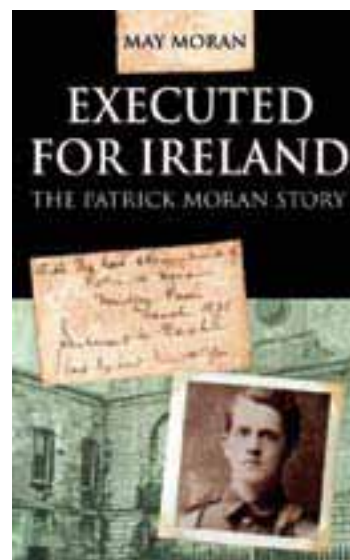
The IRA was small in numbers and poorly equipped—but Collins kept the

Army in the field and it would attack the huge British Army at unexpected times and places. It would then disappear into the local population.

With the coming of Britain's best spies and intelligence agents, Collins knew it was only a matter of time before they captured him. He knew it was life or death. He decided to strike first.

The places where the British agents stayed were carefully checked. Only members of his squad of assassins and members of his staff were to be used in the attack. Captain Patrick Moran was the only person from the general army chosen to lead a strike force.

The Gresham and Shelbourne



Hotels were particularly dangerous targets. Many armed British officers stayed in them. Nothing could be done about their huge fire power, but Collins had the powerful weapons of surprise and audacity.

At 9am, when the church bells rang, the IRA men entered and killed their targets. Fourteen of Britain's best intelligence agents were killed. This panicked the British forces in Ireland.

Why did Collins choose Patrick Moran to lead the attack on one of the most important targets? He must have had enormous respect for his leadership qualities and bravery.

A big part of the book is about the answer to that question.

What an example, Patrick Moran, was of courage and fortitude. His steadfastness is an example today.

Executed for Ireland: The Patrick Moran Story, by May Moran, Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. Info@dufour editions.com, Chester Springs, PA 02011. 285 pages, \$24.95.

I Never Knew That About the Irish

This an amazing collection of facts about Ireland. The book is divided by counties and focuses on

the people and events of each. The author is Christopher Winn. Winn is a quiz master and producer for theatre and TV who has written for many of England's most prestigious papers.

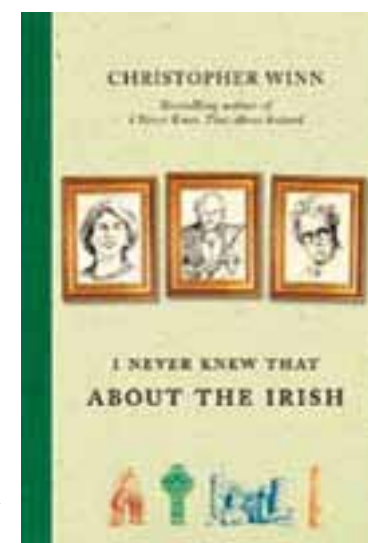
Did you know that James Bond's boss, "M," was based on an Irishman from County Kerry? He was William Melville, and in the early 1900's he founded Britain's Secret Service Bureau. It became today's MI5 AND MI6. Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, worked for the secret services and knew of Melville and based "M" on him.

I knew that the Lambeg drum is played in the North each July 12th. But, what is a Lambeg drum? A Lambeg is a large drum, beaten with malacca canes, of a type that was brought over to Ireland by the Duke of Schomberg, commander of William of Orange's Army at the Battle of the Boyne. The drum is thought to be the loudest acoustic instrument in the world.

There are three pages of artistic folk born in Dublin. This caught my attention Dublin can be especially proud of Oscar Wilde—playwright, novelist, and poet—because he is the most quoted writer in history after Shakespeare.

I own several prints of paintings by Jack Yeats. His paintings are powerful with meaning. This book says Jack Yeats is the best known Irish artist of the 20th century. He grew up in Sligo, and the scenery of the west of Ireland strongly influenced his emergence as an Irish Expressionist.

This is a fascinating book of



wonders. On each page are little known facts about persons who are a part of Ireland's cultural heritage

I Never Knew That About the Irish, by Christopher Winn. Thomas Dunne Books - St. Martin's Press. 646-307-5151, New York, 2011. 320 pages, \$24.99.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Season at the Irish American Heritage Center

A Tribute to The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem

Thursday, March 3rd, 7:30pm
\$35

A concert honoring the epic musicians who were instrumental in introducing the music and songs to new generations in Ireland, America and beyond. The concert features three groups comprised of family members of the Clancys and Makems: the High Kings, the Makem and Spain Brothers and The Clancy Legacy.



Irish Dance Chicago

Friday, March 11, 7pm
\$10, children under 12 are FREE

The dance concert showcases more than 150 dancers in one night, from the ages 5-18. Performers include the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, the World Academy of Irish Dance, the Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance and the Mullane-Healy-Godley School of Irish Dance. They'll be joined by musicians from the Academy of Irish Music.



Chicago Rose of Tralee Contest

Friday, March 11, 8pm
\$20 for adults and children are \$5

40 women from the Chicagoland area have been chosen to represent Chicago in Tralee, Ireland at the Rose of Tralee International Festival. See what makes these contestants the Irish role models of the future as they vie for the title.



A View Into the Irish Economy

Sunday, March 13, 4pm
\$15

Join us for a timely lecture and discussion on the current state of Ireland's economic affairs and its future prospects featuring business leaders, journalists and scholars Peter Schiff, David Lynch, Consul General Martin Rouine, John Gleeson and moderator, Tom Wright, Executive Director of Studies at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Thursday, March 17, noon-midnight and Mass at 11:30am
\$10, children 12 and under are FREE

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



Frankie Gavin & De Dannan in Concert

Saturday, March 19, 8pm
\$25

Irish Musician Frankie Gavin is one of the genuine legends of Irish music and the original founding member and band leader of internationally acclaimed traditional super group, De Dannan. The band has opened for the Rolling Stones, performed with the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra and performed at The White House on three separate occasions for Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.



St. Patrick's Festival

Saturday, March 12, 1pm-midnight
Tickets \$12-\$15, children 12 and under are FREE

This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. Performers include Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, Anish, the Sullivan Brothers, the Sandcarvers, the Dooley Brothers, the Shannon Rovers, the Irish Heritage Singers, Mulligan Stew, the Wiggleworms and more.



Larry Cunningham in Concert

Saturday, March 26, 7pm
\$25

See the legendary Irish musician for a night of Irish Country music. Cunningham is the first Irish-based artist to make the UK Pop charts and his hit, *Lovely Leitrim* sold more than a quarter million records. He has performed throughout Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry. He will be joined by the Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, for a night of unforgettable music. The concert is a fundraiser for the Phase II of the IAHC Kitchen Renovation Project.



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Piping It In
Jack Baker

March, time to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day, the end of Winter and a whole bunch of new music. But before we do, there is some sad news I must share. The patriarch of the Rampant Lion Celtic Traders clan, Jack Baker, Sr., my old man, passed on to his well-deserved reward on February 3rd. He was instrumental in helping us start the business, spent his share of days under leaky tents in wet cow

pastures, and loaded more than his share of boxes of CDs. He made it to 91 before his heart gave out. He will be missed.

Pipe Band Parties

There are a bunch of pipe band fundraisers coming up in the near future. No matter where you are in the area, you’ll be able to catch some fine piping. Starting off will

be the debut performance of the only Grade 1 band in the Midwest, City of Chicago! They’ll be performing at their fundraiser at the Irish American Heritage Center in the Erin Ballroom on Saturday, 2 April, 7:30pm til midnight. Also performing will be the City of Chicago grade 4 band and the Chicago Academy of Piping and Drumming. Simply some of the finest piping in the US, in one of the best places to hear it.

A week later, on Saturday, 9 April, the Chicago Stockyard Kilty Band will be hosting their 90th Anniversary Celebration, 4-8pm at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street in Merrionette Park. Admission is \$25 per person and includes entertainment, beer, wine & food. SYKB always throws a good party.

Finally, on Saturday, May 7th, the Lake County Indiana Sheriff’s Department Pipes and Drums will be hosting their annual shindig at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, IN. The event lasts from 5-10pm and always has 3 or 4 guest bands in attendance. It takes me less than an hour to drive there from my home in Elmhurst, and it’s always a great time. Pipe Major Tom Houts has whipped these coppers into a pretty good band in the few years they’ve been playing, and it’s always fun to see what new arrangements they’ve come up with over the winter.

St Patrick’s at IAHC

I’ll be celebrating St Patrick’s at the Irish American Heritage Center on Saturday, the 12th, and I hope you’ll come and join me. Stop by our booth and say hi.

New Music

There will be new CDs out soon from Paddy O’Brien and Kathleen Keane, but we’ll talk about those next month. There’s almost too much good stuff this month, but I’ll do my best to cover it all.

The first one stopped me in my tracks, literally. Originally released in 1976 on Mulligan Records and brought now to the US by Compass records, *Dark Horse on the Wind* is a collection of traditional songs and original compositions by one

of Ireland’s great singer-songwriters, Liam Weldon. His interest in the songs of the Irish Travelers and his social awareness are evident in his unique song styling. Featuring accompaniment by Donal Lunny on bouzouki and Paddy O’Brien on accordion, a powerful recording that merits your undivided attention.

One of my favorite bands is a group from California called Molly’s Revenge. They’re working on a new CD but it isn’t ready just yet. David Brewer plays pipes, whistle, flute and half a dozen other instruments with the band. A year or so ago, I wrote about David’s first solo, which rocked. And now he’s turned me on to his latest release called *Inspired*, and it is aptly named. David teams up with an astonishing fiddler by the name of Rebecca Lomnicky. Mark that name folks, because we’ll hear more from this girl. She plays Cape Breton style but isn’t stuck in just one style and she fairly sparkles as she plays. I haven’t heard fiddle like this since early Natalie MacMaster. Together David and Rebecca produced a CD of tremendous depth and beauty. Two master musicians showing just how varied their talents are and the depth of their love for the music. David also sent me a copy of Rebecca’s first release from 2006, *The Call*. Here you can see her earlier talent, more traditional, but stunning nevertheless. I hope we get to see more of Molly’s Revenge playing here in the Midwest, and especially the duo of David Brewer and Rebecca Lomnicky. We owe it to our ears to bring these folks here and let them play.

Norah Rendell, that fab flute player from Minnesota, seems to be everywhere these days. Her group, Two Tap Trio, has a hot CD, she’s on Mairtin de Cogain’s new CD and now she turns up in another group, The Outside Track on their new CD *Curious Things Given Wings*. Besides Norah on flute, whistles and vocals, the group consists of Fiona Black, accordion, Cillian O’Dalaigh, vocals, guitar and bodhran, Mairi Rankin, fiddle, stepdance & vocals and Ailie Robertson on harp. Trad and more, the group knows their business and they show it. They’re on a huge tour at the moment, and are scheduled to play at Milwaukee’s Irish Fest. I can’t wait to see them.

My buddy “Big Eric” Johnson, on

his last visit to the shop played a CD for me from a group with the interesting name of Cutthroat Shamrock. It was awful! Eric explained that this was their first recording and that they’d improved. He promised to send their new CD and whisked away into the night as is his practice. A couple days later Cutthroat Shamrock’s new CD, *Blood Rust Whiskey*, showed up in the mail. Okay, I thought, for Big Eric I’ll try it and, surprise, I liked it. Yeah, it’s rock and a wee bit punky, but it’s obvious that there are musicians in the group. I could understand the words and the singer wasn’t trying for the “drunk Irish pirate” sound, as so many Celtic rock groups seem to do. Almost in spite of myself, I liked it, and found myself playing it for other folks as well. I played it for some younger customers as well who really liked it. I’m pretty much a trad music fan but I’m not locked out of any music style on principle. This was fun, and could you ask for a more evocative title than *Blood Rust Whiskey*?

I was worried last year that we’d seen the end of CDs, but I’m not so sure anymore. Sales are leveling out and artists are putting out better and better recordings with extensive liner notes. I’m seeing collections that have meaning as a whole—not just a bunch of songs, but a bunch of songs that collectively express an idea. CDs that, in themselves, are an event. Eric Bogle has been doing that for years, but now others are making the effort to create, rather than merely record. It’s encouraging, and not just for business. The CDs I spoke about this month fall into that category, not background music, but exciting stuff that focuses the mind and enlivens the spirit. It’s been heady times in the shop, sitting around with other music fans listening to music that, even after all this time, gets my blood moving and my mind reeling. And there’s more to come from artists like Kathleen Keane, Paddy O’Brien, Burning Bridgit Cleary, and Molly’s Revenge, all of whom will have new CDs out by this time next month. It’s an exciting time and I’m glad to be living it.

I wouldn’t have a column without my readers and contributors. Thanks to all of you. You can reach me at the shop, 630-834-8108 or at pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainté.

2011 Midwest Regional Fleadh Cheoil

COMHALTAS CAVAN

The Francis O’Neill Club is delighted to host the Fleadh Cheoil this year at the Irish American Heritage Center 2646 N. Knox Ave Chicago, IL 60630 www.midwestfleadh.com

FRIDAY APRIL 8TH

- * 7:00 PM – Opening Ceremony
- * 7:45 PM – Concert * 8:15 PM – Céili
- * TBD – Duet and Trio Competitions

The concert and Céili will feature the Templeglantine Céili Band, the reigning 2010 All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Champions.

SATURDAY APRIL 9TH

- * 8:00 AM – Doors Open for Packet Pick-up
- * 9:00 AM – Competitions Begin

SUNDAY APRIL 10TH

- * 9:00 AM – Mass in the Auditorium
- * 10:30 AM – Workshops
- * 12:30 PM – Closing Remarks
- * 1:00 PM – Closing Party / Session

All are welcome!

The Francis O’Neill Club would like to thank the sponsors of the 2011 Midwest Fleadh: Irish Music School of Chicago and The Irish American Heritage Center

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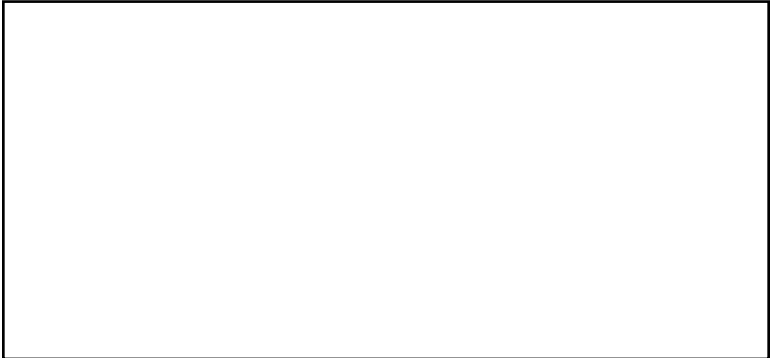


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*Pictured standing from left to right: Dennis M. Lynch, Terry Sullivan, Kevin T. Veugelst, Matthew J. Healy, Terence Geoghegan, David P. Huber, Jack Cannon
 Pictured sitting from left to right: Martin Healy, Jr., John P. Scanlon*



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