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JULY 8-9-10

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Signal Ensemble Theatre 2011-2012 Season

Signal Ensemble Theatre has announced their 2011-2012, 9th anniversary season, continuing to perform in their own space, a permanent, leased venue in Chicago's North Center/Lincoln Square district.

Signal's 2011-2012 Season includes: the Chicago Premiere of *East of Berlin*; the American Premiere of *The Russian Play*, October 15-November 13, 2011, by Hannah Moscovitch, directed by Ronan Marra; the World Premiere of *Motion*, January 28-March 3, 2012, by Ronan Marra, directed by Aaron Snook; and the Chicago Premiere of the musical *Hostage Song*, May 5-June 9, 2012, by Clay McLeod Chapman and Kyle Jarrold, directed by Ronan Marra.

In *East of Berlin*, Rudi is standing outside his father's study in Paraguay, working up the courage to go in. It has been seven years since Rudi left his family and its Nazi past behind him. Questioning redemption, love, guilt and the sins of the father, this play is a tour-de-force that follows Rudi's emotional upheaval as he comes to terms with a frightening past that was never his own.

Set amidst the doomed men and rotten ideals of Stalinist Russian, *The Russian Play* tells the story of a flower-shop girl who falls in love with a gravedigger—a bleak, bittersweet and darkly satiric ode to the dangerous joys of love.

This evening of two one-acts will offer *East of Berlin*, then an intermission, then *The Russian Play*.

In the World Premiere of *Motion*—How hard can it be for two organizations to split a nine-billion dollar pie? Impossible, apparently. Drew is a hotshot agent hell bent on making his blue-chip but troubled client the number one pick in the pro football draft, until the team that owns the pick hires his ex-wife to rebuild the long-suffering franchise. Obstacles surmount as Drew angles to get the best possible deal for his client, but does any of it matter when labor discord threatens the very existence of the game?

In the Chicago Premiere of the indie rock musical *Hostage Song*—Bound and blindfolded in a war-torn country, two hostages take refuge in music, memory and each other in this provocative indie-rock musical. The *New Yorker* called it "A high-decibel romantic comedy with a seriously unnerving edge" and *Time Out New York* called it "A devastatingly poignant, strangely philosophical meditation on salvation that just happens to sport a sick downbeat."

25th Anniversary Day for Special People

On Sunday, June 26, 2011, The Clare Association of Chicago will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our "Day for Special People" at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. We are very proud to sponsor this day and as in the past, our day will start with 10 am Mass on the Patio, with our main celebrant being Archbishop James

Keleher of the Kansas City Diocese. A delicious Irish buffet breakfast will follow, as always there is no charge to our "special guests," and a nominal fee charged to all others.

Our Grand Raffle, one of the highlights of this day will follow the breakfast. All of our special guests' names are placed in a drawing upon entry to the park that morning.

Names of winners will continue to be drawn until all the prizes are gone. The grand raffle prizes consist of televisions, DVD players, video recorder/players, stereo equipment, bikes, musical equipment, large toys, etc. All the prizes are displayed on the stage awaiting our winner's selection. Following the Grand Raffle, all the guests are invited to play four games from a choice of ten, for which they are guaranteed a

prize. They may choose their game prizes from an array of gifts such as headset radios, games, videos, stuffed animals, tee shirts, sport bags, drink cups, balls, puzzles, children's toys, etc. A wonderful day is promised for all.

Anyone wishing to register a "special guest" must register before June 18, 2011. To register, please call Maureen Bennett at 708/301-9773.

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Concern Worldwide

Traditional Irish Toast *Aíthnítear duine ar an ndéirc* — a person is known by his charity

Imagine yourself helping others every day, 365 days a year, 24/7. Well that’s what you do if you support in any way a group like Concern Worldwide, an Irish-based charity that not only helps others, but helps them become self-sufficient.

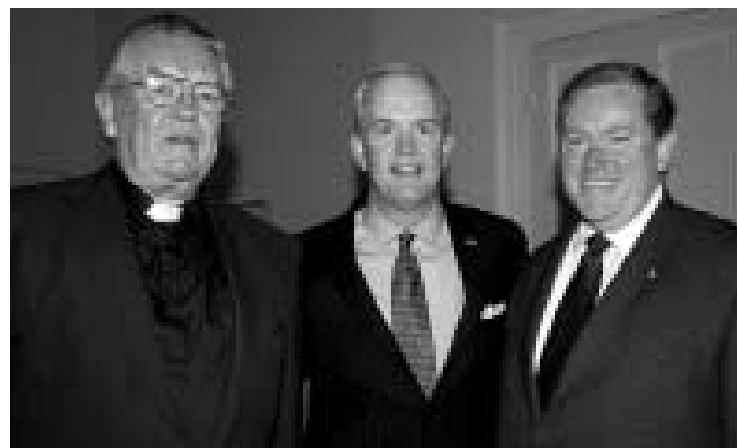
The saying “Do as much as you can, as well as you can, for as long as you can, for as many as you can” is a favorite slogan for Concern Worldwide.

Chicago Golf Outing

The 2011 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing, presented by Collins Engineers and The McShane Companies, will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at Harborside International Golf Center. The event format is a scramble with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Golf Committee Chairperson Rich McMenamin is pleased to announce that Reverend John P. Foley, S.J. Executive Chair, Cristo Rey Network will serve as this year’s Honorary Chairman. Funds raised from the 2011 golf outing will support Concern’s Education Program in Nairobi, Kenya. After the golf outing, all are invited to attend a buffet dinner and awards program for sponsors, players and guests. Individual player spots are \$325 and various corporate sponsorship levels are available. To register for the golf event or for additional information, please contact Concern’s office at 312-431-8400 or visit www.concernusa.org.

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international, humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest countries.

With its headquarters based in Dublin, Ireland, and a staff of 3,600 people, the majority of which are local to their own communities, Concern has a working presence in 25 of the world’s poorest countries. Concern engages in long-term development work, responds to emergency situations, and seeks to address the root causes of poverty



L-R: Aengus Finucane, James Kenny, Former Ambassador to Ireland, Tom Moran, CEO of Mutual of America, Chairman of Concern Worldwide US

through development education and advocacy work. It is widely regarded as one of the world’s leading humanitarian organizations.

Global Vision

During the past decade, Concern’s expertise has strategically focused on five sectors: Livelihoods, Health, HIV and AIDS, Education and Emergency Response. Within these sector programs, Concern prioritizes the two themes of Health and Hunger—improving health and tackling hunger. Concern also is known for its additional specializations:

prevention of under-nutrition, maternal and newborn health, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Tom Arnold, Chief Executive Officer of Concern Worldwide, is an economist by training. Prior to joining Concern in October 2001, he worked for 13 years with the Irish Department of Agriculture and Food (1988-1993) and as Assistant Secretary General (1993 to 2001). He travels extensively across the world visiting Concern’s staff members working on the front lines of countries that are experiencing crisis and conflict, and speaks at high profile symposiums. Concern mobilizes the best of global expertise, local resources and its own considerable experience in the field to find better

ways of delivering aid. It is increasingly contributing to international policy on development issues. Arnold wants to make the most of a global corporate culture to find solutions to local problems. He believes that harnessing the strengths of the global scientific and industrial network is the intelligent way to deliver development solutions

in situations of extreme poverty and crisis.

Concern’s partnership with the Kerry Group demonstrates this synergy. The Kerry Group was asked to fund a researcher who would provide an expert link between Concern and the International Food Policy Research Institute



(IFPRI). This expert researcher is now working on the ground with Concern and communicating what he finds at the highest level. The Kerry Group is playing an active role in the partnership, far beyond just signing checks. Arnold believes that this kind of support, that utilizes the expertise of the contributor, is the future of corporate fundraising.

On June 13, 2011, Tom Arnold and David Beckmann, CEO of Bread for the World, are hosting a 1,000 Days advocacy initiative summit in Washington, D.C. The conference focuses attention on the 1,000-day window of opportunity between pregnancy and a child’s second birthday, when nutrition has the greatest impact on saving lives and on cognitive and physical development. This summit provides the opportunity for national governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations, development agencies, academia, foundations and the private sector to commit themselves and ad-

dress the issue of maternal and child malnutrition, bolster and reinvigorate champions of this issue and help recruit new supporters. A global momentum and financing is needed to scale up nutrition in developing countries.

Innovation

Concern US is an affiliate of Concern Worldwide and supports the Concern network of recruiting staff, supporting program development, creating public awareness of humanitarian issues, and financially supporting programs. Under the leadership of Executive Director Siobhan Walsh, the organization continues to grow in size and influence with a staff of 30 divided between its headquarter office in New York and regional office in Chicago.

In 2009, Concern Worldwide US received a five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the development and field testing of bold and inventive ways to overcome barriers to delivering proven maternal, newborn, and child health solutions. The countries of focus are Malawi, Sierra Leone, and India (Orissa state).

Impact

In 2009, Concern directly reached some 10 million people on the ground with a budget of \$120 million. Concern has always worked in extremely poor countries, most of which are prone to emergencies and have high levels of vulnerability. A number of key trends in the external environment such as climate change, severity of natural disasters, population growth, urbanization, migration, health epidemics and disease, global economic crisis, political stability, and conflict and security issues substantially impact Concern’s work.

History

Father Aengus Finucane, C.S.Sp. (1932-2009), a native of County Limerick, was one of the co-founders of Concern Worldwide. In his first assignment as a parish priest with the Holy Ghost Missionary Congregation in Uli, Nigeria, Aengus found himself in the midst of the bitter civil war between Nigeria and Biafra. He came face to face with famine when thousands of starving men, women and children flocked to his rectory doorstep. Aengus and his brother, Father Jack Finucane, alongside colleagues from all faiths, knew they could not be bystanders—they had to act immediately and do what they could to alleviate the suffering.

The area that was Biafra had huge associations with Ireland through the Irish missionaries working in schools

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and hospitals. During the 1960's, almost everyone in Ireland had a relative or friend working in Africa. At that

distributing food, blankets, and medicine amid active warfare in extremely dangerous conditions. Uli was bombed



L-R: Steve Fitzgerald, Rev. John Foley, S.J., Rich McMenamin

time in Nigeria alone, there were 2,500 Catholic missionaries and another 700 were in Biafra. The crisis changed the nature of the work of many priests and missionaries from educators and managers to full-time aid workers. They turned their schools into refugee camps, set up food distributions and emergency hospitals, and worked tirelessly to bring aid to hundreds of thousands caught up in the conflict. At the height of the crisis in the summer of 1968, it was estimated that 6,000 children were dying every week due to lack of food and medicine.

Aengus and Jack Finucane turned to their home country—Ireland—to raise awareness of the severity of the famine. The response was extraordinary because hunger resonated with the Irish. This was the first time that images and reports of the starving in Biafra were televised throughout the world. This footage had particular resonance in Ireland—having had its own experience of famine that made the word itself strike a special chord with the public. They raised more than £100,000 within six weeks to Send One Ship (SOS). People immediately understood the urgency of the crisis, and united themselves to launch an appeal to raise funds, and find ways to deliver supplies. Donations poured in from all over the country and they sent the ship, MV Columcille, filled with supplies to Africa. The Irish went on to raise more than £3.5 million in less than two years and sent four additional chartered ships filled with supplies to help the starving people of Biafra.

Because the ports and airports had been taken over during the conflict, an emergency airstrip in Uli was widened in order to accommodate the shipments and flights of relief supplies that were flown in from Ireland every night. Aengus and his colleagues lined the runways with lanterns to guide the landing of the planes, unloading and

every day, but the Biafrans were lined up in the forest with truckloads of gravel to fill the holes in the battered runway. Between 1968 and 1970, more than 5,000 flights were made.

From these conditions of hardship, suffering, and conflict—and from great courage, commitment and generosity of the Irish people—Concern Worldwide was born. The famous Concern fast began soon after and more than £2,800 was raised.

For the next 30 years, Father Aengus Finucane and highly skilled staff members worked among and fought for the poorest of the poor in conflict zones, disasters and famines. They lived in and traveled to the world's poorest countries, including Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Cambodia, Uganda and witnessed the horrors of Rwanda firsthand.

In 1981, Aengus Finucane became Chief Executive of Concern, a post he held until 1997, when he came to the United States to set up Concern Worldwide U.S., where he was Honorary President. He worked alongside Executive Director Siobhan Walsh and Chairman Thomas J. Moran, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mutual of America.

Mary Robinson

In October 1992, Aengus and Jack Finucane contacted the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, about the grim situation in Somalia. On live television at *Áras an Uachtaráin*, President Robinson agreed to go to Somalia and help draw attention to the conflict.

She visited a Concern feeding center in Baidoa and saw starving children, destitute people, and gross violations of human rights that profoundly affected her. President Robinson publicly issued a global call to action, and stated that the world could not stand by as a people were destroyed and requested that the international community stand up for the most basic human rights of the Somali people.

Haiti

Recently, Concern's most challenging work followed the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti that killed more than 250,000 people and left 1.2 million homeless. Concern responded immediately and distributed plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and clean water to the underserved residents of Martissant and St. Martin in Port-au-Prince. Concern was the only aid agency working in this area. In the wake of the disaster, donors from across the United States responded immediately and rallied to the cause. Donors supported fundraising events and were incredibly generous with their support of the emergency appeals. More than 17 months later, Concern is still pres-



Siobhan Walsh, Executive Director, Concern Worldwide US

ent and helping those affected by the earthquake.

This past March, Irish tenor, Michael Londra traveled to Haiti with two Concern staff members to visit Concern's programs and film footage for a DVD that he is producing for his PBS special in the autumn. This was Michael's first trip since the earthquake. Previously, Michael had traveled to Haiti and visited the island of La Gonave. There he learned how Concern workers listen to the needs of the community and help find solutions that were locally appropriate—the experience changed his life. Among the programs visited

were Temporary Learning Spaces, the Nutrition Stabilization Center at Port-au-Prince Hospital and the newly formed community, Tabarre Issa.

In March 2010, Concern was assigned to design, construct and manage Tabarre Issa, the first officially designated resettlement site for displaced people in Port-au-Prince. Prior to the earthquake, this area had been 27 acres of muddy land. Within six weeks, it was leveled, proper drainage installed, and the land was transformed into a planned community with temporary tents. Concern is providing shelter, clean water, and managing other services for 1,500 families who are now living at Tabarre. In May 2010, Concern began work at the site to build hurricane-proof transitional houses that were constructed to last for at least

three years. The T-shelters take the place of the tents. Each new home includes two sleeping areas, a wash room with a latrine and a small porch with an eco-cooking stove. In addition, the residents have the security of locally available safe drinking water, proper hygiene facilities and solar lights. Concern offers safe and dignified transitional living quarters where families to live while they pull their lives together again. The community also provides residents with jobs. Tabarre residents build the temporary homes in the on-site carpentry workshop through Concern's cash-for-work program. Concern has received recognition for meeting international humanitarian standards and for the



L-R: Kelly Waller, Concern Committee Member; Dolores Connolly, Concern Board of Directors; Dominic MacSorley, Director of Operations, Concern Worldwide; Carol Deely, Co-Chair Women of Concern Award Luncheon

high quality of services provided and managed at the site.

Hand-washing has become an everyday priority in response to the Cholera outbreak. Throughout Concern's programs, you will find adults and children vigorously rubbing soap on their hands. At the Temporary Learning Space, children line up for their turn to wash their hands before and after lunch. A total of 210 hand washing stations were installed throughout Port-au-Prince, La Gonave and Saut d'Eau. Concern works with local volunteers who act as hygiene promoters. These volunteers visit households and schools to promote effective hygiene practices and train on cholera prevention tactics. Concern is also distributing soap, disinfecting latrines, and monitoring water quality. Since the earthquake, Concern has delivered more than 5 million gallons of water to 70,000 people.

Continued on Page 7

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50 Years: Butch McGuire’s Tavern — 1961-2011

By Joe Paschen

**“On the day I was born, said my father, said he,
I’ve an elegant legacy waiting for ye;
Tis a rhyme for your lips and a song for your heart
To sing it whenever the world falls apart.
Look, look, look to the rainbow;
Follow it over the hill and stream;
Look, look, look to the rainbow;
Follow the fellow who follows the dream.”**

—Finian’s Rainbow

Robert Emmett “Butch” McGuire was a gregarious, ambitious young lad who grew up on Chicago’s far southwest side Beverly neighborhood. From Morgan Park Military Academy to the University of Michigan engineering school, Butch was always on the move. There would be no flies sticking to this boyo.

He worked as an architect in the 1950’s until he decided to borrow \$560

from his mother to begin the process of following his dream of opening a saloon.

“Are you nuts? You’ll be your best customer!”

When a 31-year-old Butch McGuire asked his friend, attorney Mel Peretti to help him with a lease deal on a shuttered saloon he wanted to buy on the short sleazy opening block of West Division Street, Peretti uttered the above reaction.

McGuire had already become a popular host at the spacious Old Town apartment he shared with a few friends.

“Actually, I’d been thinking about going into the saloon business since I was twelve,” Butch told *Chicago Tribune* columnist Clifford Terry in a 1965 *Sunday Magazine* article. “Sometimes my father would let me go into the bars with him on Sunday afternoons. I’ve always liked the excitement and the color and the people.”

The site Butch chose was a shuttered bar at 20 W. Division Street which had been, for the most part, a shot and a beer strip joint since the 1920’s. The last such joint was Bobby Farrell’s Duchess Show Lounge, which closed in 1959. A crescent shaped oak bar built in the 1940’s stared at a long narrow stage on the curtain covered east brick wall.

Few would have foretold that on **June 16, 1961** Butch McGuire was about to take the first step toward building a legacy that would dramatically change forever the face of the Division-Rush Street district.

The Roaring 20’s

The colorful stories and adventurous establishments began on Division Street between State and Dearborn Street’s years before Butch was born.

Dozens of new structures were erected on the near north side during the last building phase of Chicago



in the early 1920’s until reappearing in the mid-1950s. A three-story L-shaped design built in 1920 by the architectural firm of Lebenbaum & Marx from the alley in the middle of the north block, wrapping around Dearborn.

A close look at the exterior handcrafted concrete trim, existing terracotta and window frames identify their era.

With these new buildings came another era—Prohibition.

Originally, small store fronts lined the 24 W. Division Street

window looking out onto Division Street during the Duchess Tavern years. Butch installed one in the early 1960’s. A small piano was pushed up against the plywood and brick front wall at McGuire’s, which hosted nightly sing-a-longs when the jukebox would take a rest.

There was no sign advertising Butch McGuire’s, other than an old wooden beer barrel hanging high above the entrance, until the late 1970’s.

When Butch opened the doors for business in 1961, the only beer

the mid-1920’s. It was the first saloon in the tiny 20 W. Division Street space. Nothing fancy here. A long wooden bar faced a long narrow stage for the “dancers.” Management kept “book” on all things sporting.

After prohibition was repealed, business there got a wee bit sweeter.

In 1933, a Fanny May Candy Shop adorned this address for several years.

There was no front

“It’s more fun to eat in a bar than drink in a restaurant.” —Butch McGuire

Within the first year of operation, Butch McGuire’s became the most popular saloon on the near north side. Paul Risolia, who owned The Allegro piano lounge across the street, envied how McGuire was making money hand-over-foot.

“Butch was the first one to cater exclusively to young people and it didn’t take me very long to decide to remodel completely,” Risolia told Chicago Sun Times Dave Hoekstra in a 1980’s column.

By 1962, Risolia revamped his black leather lounge into a more rustic pub with a 4am closing license, which he named, The Lodge. *That makes Butch’s the oldest tavern on Division Street and next to Gene and Georgetti’s, the longest running family owned lounge on the near north side.*

Butch became the pied piper of a slew of new bar lounges and restaurants that were to open up the Rush and Division Street district over the next several years.

By 1968, Mother’s had supplanted the Spirit of 76 dance club next door downstairs to the west. In 1970 She-nannigan’s replaced the Ambassador Grocery Store to the east.

It was Butch McGuire’s that was the first tavern in the USA profiled in media as “a singles bar.”

The thousands of young professionals, including hundreds of stewardess’ living in the newly developed Sandburg Village apartments and other nearby apartment buildings, several of which Butch owned, found McGuire’s the place they had been looking for.

Among the many “new rules” of this new saloon included men being told to give up their bar stools for

women and strong standards of courtesy by employees, and customers—to all customers. (Women’s Lib and political correctness put a dent into that practice by the 1980’s.)

It is estimated by longtime McGuire’s watchers that several thousand married couples first met at Butch’s. (No one dares estimate how many have divorced.)

“If you screwed as slow as you work, you’d be the best piece of ass in Chicago!” —Butch McGuire



Butch McGuire’s, 20 West Division Street, Chicago

building. *Many of them fronted speakeasies. The upstairs floors in the 1920’s and 1930’s housed nightclubs, brothels, gambling and horse race wire rooms.*

Following the Great Depression and the WWII years, sleaze flowed over from the dark North Clark Street dives onto Division Street. Outfit controlled piano lounges, strip joints, cabarets, porn shops, flophouses and restaurants burst from the seams in the Division-Rush Street district.

Kelly’s Pleasure Palace, a book-making and strip joint, opened in

was an 8oz. glass of Old Style draft for 35-cents. Mixed drinks were 65-cents. Back up kegs were kept in a walk-in refrigerator at Lane’s Drug Store on the northeast corner.

One of the first customers was an attractive, young red-headed stewardess named Mary Jo Donovan. She met Butch at the nearby Easy Street saloon. He invited her and her roommates to the opening.

Two years later, Butch married Miss Donovan, who would manage the books while Butch instinctively managed the tavern.



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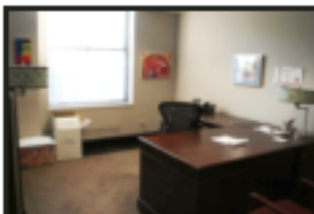
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It wasn't always easy to work for Butch. He was a tough taskmaster.

In the early 1970's Butch wrote a rarely devised industry copyrighted *Bar Manual*, the first of its kind on the street.

"There were 10,000 liquor licenses in Chicago," stated Liquor Commissioner Neil Hartigan at the time. "McGuire's was the only one with a bar manual."

Butch's is also where the drinks, "Harvey Wallbanger" and "Skip and Go Naked" were invented, and where Bloody Mary's were first served with celery salted rims and celery sticks.

The first pub in America to serve Guinness and Harp on tap was Butch's.

McGuire's was also the first saloon to



Butch McGuire

use... bar high cocktail tables; seating at the window; barmen as servers; and the first to serve breakfast and brunch.

As more bars and restaurants opened up along the Rush-Division Street district in the 1970's and 1980's McGuire's expanded its space.

Butch opened the kitchen in 1968, the antique room in 1974 and extended north of the main bar towards the back of the building in the late '80's, becoming the Chicago Bar (C-Bar).

The basement bar serviced VIP and private parties from the mid-60's into early 2001. City code regulations brought that social space to an end.

Between 1971-73, the antique room was an actual Antique Store run by Butch's friend, Zachary Moore. That space also served as Mayor Richard J. Daley's near north campaign headquarters in the mid-60's.

The cabinets and shelves now behind the main bar was a customized back bar designed in 1978. It was installed after New Year's weekend in 2010.

"Butch kept talking about putting that back bar up, but we were always too busy to close down the bar to rebuild it," recalls Eddie Carr, who began working at Butch's in 1978. Carr, a professional artist, has been in charge of artwork at McGuire's for many years, including managing the holiday decorations.

The famous Christmas displays at Butch's began in the late 1960's and grew more each time Butch returned from one

of his extravagant antique shopping sprees. He also bought numerous holiday items from downtown store window displays that were no longer used.

It takes a crew of half-a-dozen, five-to-six weeks to complete the Christmas decorations, including multiple working train tracks. The displays stay up from mid-November through Super Bowl Sunday.

Irish decorations then go up for that week of merriment in mid-March for St. Patrick.

The walls in Butch's have been covered with original artwork since the door first opened, including early paintings by starving artists such as Le Roy Neiman and Bill Olendorf.

"I started working at Butch's when I was six. He asked me how much I wanted. I said three dollars a day. He said, OK." —Bobby McGuire

All three of Butch's children worked at Butch McGuire's Tavern. Lauretta worked the floor on weekend brunches during high school. Terrance cooked on and off before moving to Colorado to start a small chain of sandwich shops. The eldest son, Bobby, started early on and worked part-time for years to come.

He worked every job in the place until departing for the Chicago Board of Trade, running Sedgwick's Bar in Lincoln Park, JAM Productions as an assistant stage manager and managed Shoreline Shipping for a time.

Like many youngsters, he wandered on his own until returning to his own during Butch's last few years.

"At times he discouraged me about managing Butch's and other times he encouraged me," admits the man who carries the McGuire torch. "In his latter days he encouraged me to take over the family business and run it the way I want. That was nice to hear him say that to me."

On May 17, 2006, Butch McGuire died at his home in Rochester, Minnesota due to complications from heart and kidney failure. Butch was 76-years-old.

A successful heart transplant in 1995 "allowed us the miracle for him to see his children marry and to play with his grandchildren," Bobby McGuire told those at a standing room only funeral mass May 23 at Holy Name Cathedral that week.

The street "Irish wake" that followed on the short historic first block of West Division Street is still talked about with warm admiration.

There will always be that argument about whether Rush Street or Division Street was labeled the Street of Dreams, but there can be no argument about the dream that came true for the large leprechaun of a man in the Butch McGuire's logo, and his family and friends who carry on the spirit that has spawned generations of memories at one of Chicago's, and the World's, most famous saloons.

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Concern Worldwide

Continued from Page 5

Roots in Chicago

In 1996, a group of committed donors with deep Irish roots met to discuss how they could give back and make a difference in Chicago. The steering group included Bob Fitzgerald, Mary Jule Durkin, Mary Pat Lyons O'Connor, Dan Casey and Dolores Connolly, and Mary and Tom McCauley. On October 24, 1999, Concern Worldwide supporters were present at Gaelic Park for the dedication of The Famine Memorial at Chicago Gaelic Park. They had contributed funds to honor the men, women and children in Ireland who died of starvation or were forced to emigrate during the Irish Potato Famine (1845-1850). In addition, this group of supporters began raising money for Concern and introduced an annual fast to call attention to hunger during the autumn.

In 1998, a group of dedicated women hosted the annual Women of Concern Awards luncheon that honored extraordinary women for their accomplishments based on the qualities of justice, compassion and generosity. During the past fourteen years, this luncheon has become the hallmark event of Concern's Chicago office and has raised significant funds for Concern's overseas programs.

Fundraising

Four members of Concern Worldwide's Board of Directors are from Chicago. They include: Dolores Connolly, CEO of Sterling Engineering; Jim Houlihan, former Cook County Assessor; Joe King, retired executive of Molex Incorporated;

and Jim McShane, CEO of The McShane Companies. They are part of a 20-member governance board that meets quarterly.

Concern, like all organizations has been challenged by the global economic downturn, especially as it has affected Ireland, which has always been a major source of Concern's funding. Despite this, and because of the generous support received from donors, corporations and foundations in Chicago and New York, Concern has been able to adapt rapidly and act to counterbalance the economy's negative effects by maximizing and diversifying funding.

"The contributions that Concern receives are invaluable—without them, the progress would not be possible. Concern is very fortunate to receive strong support from the Irish community in Chicago. They should be very proud of their accomplishments in helping those less fortunate across the world. Gaelic Park, the Irish American Heritage Center, The Ireland Network, The American Ireland Fund, the Irish Fellowship and Young Irish Fellowship Clubs, *Irish American News*, Hagerty Irish Hour and O'Connor Show are just a few of the organizations that contribute in significant ways to support and promote Concern's message across the region," said Mary Ellen Johnston, Regional Director of Concern.

"During my visit to Sierra Leone, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, I met the most generous people who helped me in so many ways. I reflect on the Irish surviving the Potato Famine and the powerful spirit they had at that time—and yet, you see the same thing in Africa today. I have every confidence in their ability to overcome the adversities that they face."

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



CHICAGO-IRISH HISTORY remains neglected, a loss. The life-stories of even those arriving post-WW2, though a prosperous era, are full of drama and heroism. But the greatest loss is the absence of records of those without whom Ireland would still be a starving British colony. One such group is Clan na Gael (the real one). To honor its members who had mostly foregone marriage and personal prosperity to concentrate on freeing Ireland, bought burial sites for them. On September 11, 1912, Clan na Gael bought from Archbishop Quigley plots in west-suburban Hillside’s Mt. Carmel cemetery. They bought Lot A, in Block 1 in Section G, and erected there a tall granite monument; an obelisk topped by the statue of a soldier at parade rest. After 99 years it’s pristine. The honored Clan members buried there are: James Gerrity, 46, 11/23/13; Nicholas Delancy, -, 3/18/17; Charles O’Donnell, 46, 11/5/17; Edward Cullinane, 34, 3/11/18; Philip F. Duffy, 48, 6/21/20; John G. Geary, 50, 12/17/20; Michael Punch, 58, 2/6/22; Patrick O’Connor, 58, 2/17/22; Dennis Griffin, 42, 2/20/24; Dennis Dennehy, 46, 4/7/24; Michael J. O’Shea, 53, 4/4/28; Vincent Kelly, 22, 6/28/32; James F.

Delaney, 49, 2/22/41; Charles Dantie, 64, 8/16/43; Peter Gannon, 61, 10/11/45; John Kearns, 57, 4/2/49; Michael James Gallagher, 54, 12/12/52; John Lafferty, 77, 10/9/58; Daniel O’Shea, -, 1/14/59; and John Johnson (unaffiliated; inappropriately interred here by a mortician). Many of these had lived to see most of Ireland free. All but one had lived to see the 1916 Rising.

A MORE TOUCHING GROUP repose in Chicago’s Mt. Olivet cemetery at 2800 W. 111th Street; touching because they never saw the dawn of Irish freedom. Most of them died while the English government was genociding Ireland, its army evicting and killing for its landlords who still “owned” Ireland. In October, 1887, the Irish Nationalist Brotherhood purchased space for ninety-six graves in Mt. Olivet. More on this next month.

THE PEOPLE VS. COUGHLIN in Cook County Circuit Court on December 16, 1889 Martin Bourke, Police Sergeant Daniel Coughlin, and ice-house owner Patrick O’Sullivan were sentenced to life for murdering Dr. Patrick Henry Cronin, “the Crime of the Century.” At about 8pm on May 4, 1889, Cronin left his North Clark Street

office and entered a buggy drawn by a white horse. A man from O’Sullivan’s ice house told him that a worker had been injured. Cronin was taken to an isolated house nearby. Ten days later his body was discovered in a sewer near the corner of 5900 No. Evanston in Lakeview (now 5900 No. Broadway in Chicago). His colleagues had discovered he was a British agent. Bourke died in Joliet prison on December 9, 1892. Bourke’s conviction was dubious due to the corruption cited in Northern Illinois U. Law Review, Vol. 28, pages 508-522, and the Law Review’s conclusion was reinforced by Bourke’s fellows who honored him by interring him at their Nationalist Monument. Cronin’s burial in Calvary cemetery was reported (*The Ava Advertiser*, Jackson Co., Illinois, May 5, 1890): Ultimately, the public’s sympathy lay with the accused and Coughlin was released and the others spared the gallows. Britain had its supporters in Chicago then, too, as attendees at its spy’s funeral are named in the same report: The Sheridan Guards acted as guard of honor, with muffled drums; the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) in green regalia, and the Catholic Foresters, turned out in large numbers. By attending, the AOH was fulfilling its traditional role; colluding with the Catholic hierarchy to keep Ireland British, and British p.r. required the execution of its agent to be spun as “murder.” Absent from Cronin’s funeral was Clan na Gael. As Chicago’s most powerful

supporter of Irish freedom it obviously wouldn’t participate in honoring a Brit agent; not while British forces were murdering thousands of innocents in Ireland. Twelve years after erection of the Nationalist monument the AOH installed one a stone’s throw away from it. This doesn’t condemn the AOH. For years I was a member of Unit 59; its members were salt-of-the-earth; it’s just that AOH leaders in Chicago adamantly acquiesce to British crimes in Ireland.

THE “TRIAL” was later exposed as travesty. N.I U. Law Review volume 28, page 521 states: “Defense Counsel also objected to the fact that members of the jury were predominantly Protestant, even though a large proportion of Chicago’s population was Roman Catholic...” Then, in page 522: “In the end, the jury selected to hear the trial contained no men with Irish surnames and no Catholic.”

VINDICATION! On pages 515–516: In January, 1893, the Illinois Supreme Court reversed the verdict for all three (Bourke had died) on the grounds that two jurors should have been excluded for cause. The retrial began in December, 1893, and ended with Coughlin’s acquittal in March, 1894. The *Chicago Tribune*

scoffed at the claim that pre-trial publicity tainted the jury pool; but the *Trib* itself on Dec. 20, 1889, had run an article headed; “How the *Tribune* Helped the Prosecution” in which it reprinted articles from the *Adrian Times* and *Exporter* (Michigan) prais-

ing the *Trib* for helping the prosecution in many ways.

CHIEF O’NEILL’S *Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago*, written in 1931, is a GREAT read. Born in 1848 near Bantry, Co Cork, and having sailed around the world for four years while a minor, O’Neill became a Chicago cop in 1873, Captain in 1894, and Chief in 1901 until forced to retire in 1905. Chicago police Sergeant James O’Neill (no relation), a musician and writer of musical notation, had captured the music Chicago’s Irish played at the time. In the 1940s it was O’Neill’s Irish Music book that I used in learning the fiddle on our farm outside Castlerea. Chief O’Neill reinforced management during strikes. The news media rewarded him. He opposed Governor Altgeld’s posthumous pardon of the innocents executed for the Haymarket killings. He opposed Clarence Darrow. When opposing picnics were scheduled for 15 August 1902, one on the South side the other North; the choice was stark. The South side one was for the freedom of Ireland; the North side one was Redmondite, for the status quo in Ireland. Chief O’Neill chose to attend the



Clan na Gael monument, Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Hillside, IL

Redmondite picnic. Later, Redmond, by being Britain’s main recruiter of cannon fodder in Ireland during WWI, destroyed his own political career.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



diana. The band has had some organizational problems this year and has reluctantly decided to take the year off to try and get back on track. I will miss their

I know I’m supposed to review new music recordings, but there are times that I just got to share something that is new and cool and worth your looking into. Here’s the word—go have dinner at the Irish American Heritage Center! No kidding, here’s the story. Last month Gayle and I went to the members meeting at the Center and heard Kevin O’Kennedy, the new food and beverage manager, explain that he was expanding the hours of the 5th Province pub and the kitchen to 5 days a week, Wednesday thru Sunday and that he was expanding the menu. After the meeting we decided to wander down the hall to the 5th Province and check out the expanded menu. Boy, am I glad we did! We had lovely food with the usual great service that the 5th Province is noted for. I had one of the best bowls of stew ever and I am a great stew aficionado. We came back the following Wednesday to kick off the new expanded hours and had cabbage and bacon to die for. I am a huge cabbage fan but it is not always cooked right, but this was and the bacon was perfect. With a nice salad and boiled potatoes, and a couple of pints, it was as close to a perfect supper as I’ve had in awhile. In addition to the fact it was there at the center, with friends and it helped to support an institution I am passionately interested in. All pluses, no minuses. Price was very reasonable and serving size was perfect. I, for one, plan on making the IAHC my choice for dinner out regularly. Try it.

June has always been a good month for those of us who love good piping and this year should be the best yet with the best pipe band competition at the Saint Andrew Society Highland Games, June 17–18. This year the games will be held at Hamilton Lakes in Itasca, a much nicer site with much better parking. Pipe bands from all over will be coming into town to compete for a slice of the prize money, ensuring a great afternoon of piping. There will be bunches more to see and do at the games and you can get full rundown at www.chicagoscotts.org.

Unfortunately this year the competition will be missing the Pipes & Drums of Northwest In-

presence. They are a great bunch and I hope next year will see them back in the competition circle.

Plenty of other good festivals in the month of June, starting with one of my favorites, Oshkosh Irish Fest in Oshkosh, WI; the opening weekend of the month starts the month’s festivities. It features a great lineup of talent, a great facility and a nice bunch running the show and it’s only a couple hours north of Chicago. The second weekend will find me at Lyon Farm in Yorkville, Illinois for the Yorkville WWII Timeline event. Kind of a different show but it promises to be interesting. You can find more info on it at yorkvillewwii.weebly.com.

There are a couple new CDs out that deserve notice. First is a local product from one of the most popular Chicago bands. The Larkin & Moran Brothers released *Eistigi* last month to huge popular interest from their legions of local fans. I had folks in the store asking for this one before I got it in stock. Six of the tracks are written by the band, showing off a real talent for creating new songs. They also perform one of the better renditions of Steve Earle’s “Galway Girl.” All in all, a very nice addition to their extensive body of work and another way for their fans to enjoy their music every day. The CD is dedicated to the memory of band member Mike Murphy who can be heard on “Tropical Drink Song,” the only cut finished when Murph was tragically taken from all of us in June 2008. The album is a proud memorial to a great guy.

Another talented set of brothers have released an album of songs. The Makem & Spain Brothers have put together another nice collection of new and traditional songs on their Red Biddy Records label. *Up The Stairs* is the new release and it contains a flock of songs you’ll find yourself singing hours after the CD player is shut off. These guys are consummate professionals, in the tradition of the Clancy Brothers that came before them. Lovely harmonies and

tight musical accompaniment are the hallmarks of the Makem & Spain Brothers and you’ll hear the touch of Tommy Makem’s teaching in every track. The boys will be performing at the Irish American Heritage Center’s festival on July 8, 9 & 10 and you’ll get the chance to hear a lot of these tunes done live, always a pleasure. One of my particular favorites on this album is a wee ditty written by Conor Makem called “It’s Been a Very Hard Year.” This could be our new theme song.

More great work from a bunch of brothers is our next CD, *Buille 2*, by Niall Valley on concertina and Caoimhin Valley on piano. Cillian

It’s just stupendous and worthy of intense listening. These brothers knock out great music like it’s easy. Dancers would be wise to give this one a listen if they’re looking for new music for choreography, there are several cuts that would lend themselves well to dance.

A little news from the record labels. Compass Records reports that they will be bringing the Navigator Catalog to the US next month. This will make a whole bunch of previously hard to find music available. I can’t wait to see what musical treasures turn up. They also let me know that the month of July will see a new release from Beoga and John Doyle and a new lullaby album called *Lullabies for Love*.

New Folk Records, the up and coming label from Minnesota, announces a new CD in the works by Daithi Sproule and “friends”. Titled *Lost River*, it will feature Randall Bays, Billy McComiskey, Liz Carroll and Altan. How’s that for an all-star lineup? I can’t wait to hear it. It might be available by the festival at IAHC, I hope.

I want to close with a big thank you to everyone who turned out last month for the Friends of Maurice Lennon benefit. It was gratifying to see how many people made it. My thanks also to the Abbey Pub, 3420 West Grace Street in Chicago, for hosting this worthwhile event. For those of you who weren’t able to make it out but still want to give a bit to help, you can send your check to Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, c/o Maurice Lennon, 4626 N. Knox #308B, Chicago, IL 60630.

Thanks to all of you for your help and support. You can reach me online at pipingitin@comcast.net or call me at the store at 630-834-8108, *Slainté*.



Valley is also featured on uilleann pipes, plus a host of other musicians. It’s all instrumental and all composed by the brothers Valley. Anybody that says that they’re not writing good music these days needs to give this CD a listen. To say that it blew me away is to understate its impact.

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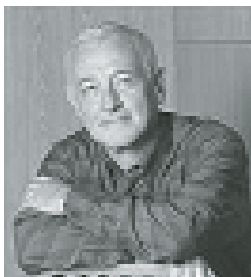
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Seanachai Fundraiser with Special Guest John Mahoney

Seanachai Theatre Company announced John Mahoney as the distinguished guest at their upcoming benefit event. Long celebrated for his work in Irish drama, Mr. Mahoney will be performing a special poetry reading as part of "An Evening of Entertainment" on Monday, June 13th, from 7pm to 10pm at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door (subject to availability.) All proceeds to help fund Seanachai's 2011-12 season.

The evening also features dramatic readings with the Seanachai ensemble and venerable Chicago actors, Brad Armacost and Steve Pickering. Traditional Irish Music, hors d'oeuvres and



John Mahoney

a cash bar round out this one-of-a-kind fund raising event.

The Benefit will also serve as an appreciation and farewell event to Consul General of Ireland, Martin Rouine, member of the Seanachai Board of Directors, who returns to Ireland later this year.

Advance reservations for "An Evening of Entertainment" are strongly recommended and can be made by calling (773) 878 3727.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox in Chicago and boasts two large, FREE parking lots. Take I90/94, exit 43a, Wilson Avenue, or the Blue el line to Montrose.

All proceeds will benefit Seanachai's 2011-12 season. www.seanachai.org.

Broadway Bound at Drury Lane

Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oak Brook, presents Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning dramatic comedy *Broadway Bound*, previewing June 9, and runs June 16-July 31.

Set in the late 1940s in Brooklyn, New York, *Broadway Bound* is the story of two brothers, Eugene and Stanley Jerome, who are determined to break into show business as professional comedy

writers. As their parents' relationship unravels, the brothers convene in the upstairs bedroom of their Brighton Beach home to write and rehearse material. When the brothers use their real-life family situation as inspiration for a radio comedy skit, they learn quickly of the complications that ensue when life informs art. *Broadway Bound* is a hilarious, warm tribute to family and the ties that bind. 630-530-0111; or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling MSW, LSW

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support An immigration and social services provider; www.ci-is.com

Welcome to the first installment of *Our Take on Social Services*. My name is Paul Dowling, a native of Gorey, Co. Wexford, and I joined Chicago Irish Immigrant Support as a social worker in January 2010. Chicago Irish Immigrant Support has long been committed to serving the needs of older Irish and Irish Americans, and my coming on board only serves to strengthen that commitment. Since joining the CIIS team, I have tried to reach out to older adults in our community and have worked to develop our seniors' services program. We want to reach out to seniors in our community and each month we will bring you practical information that will be useful to you or someone that you know. First let me tell you all about the services that we offer to older adults and how you can get involved.

There are two components to our senior services program, the first being a weekly drop in group. These groups are run regularly at both the Irish American Heritage Center on the north side of Chicago and Chicago Gaelic Park in Oak Forest. These are informal groups with no membership or cost. Most of our meetings feature expert guest speakers from a variety of fields including healthcare and wellbeing, the arts, Irish history and culture, and issues relating to elder law. We meet between 10am and noon every second Wednesday at Gaelic

Park (excluding July and August) and at the Irish American Heritage Center every Thursday. Groups will continue to run over the summer at the Heritage Center, so why not call us to get a copy of our schedule? Meetings are always informative, fun, and open to everyone. For more information about upcoming meetings you can check out our website at www.ci-is.com or contact me on 773-282-8445.

The second component to our program involves community outreach to those homebound seniors who are unable to make it to our events. Our goal is to find more isolated and vulnerable seniors and offer them support and assistance. We can do friendly visiting, assist seniors to access information and benefits, or simply provide a listening ear. We can visit seniors in their homes to make it easy for them. If you think that you or someone you know could benefit from our community outreach service, or you simply would like to learn more call me on the number listed above. We'd be glad to hear from you!

Time to Checkup On What You're Entitled To

We are all feeling the pinch in these economically tough times but seniors, often on limited incomes, can feel it more than most. Many older people need help paying for prescription drugs, health care, utilities and other basic needs. Ironically though, millions of older people—especially those with limited incomes—are eligible for, but are not receiving, benefits from existing federal, state and local programs ranging from heating and energy assistance to prescription savings programs to

income supplements. There are many public programs available to seniors in need, if they only knew about them, and knew how to apply for them. We are here to help.

Understanding the difficulties that many seniors had in accessing the programs and benefits they were entitled to, the National Council on Ageing (www.ncoa.org) designed a program called the Benefits CheckUp®. This is a web-based questionnaire that searches thousands of programs to see what you may be eligible for. Completing a Benefits CheckUp is completely free, takes almost no time at all and is always confidential. The questionnaire asks for information about your current level and sources of income and your living situation. Once the questionnaire is complete it will provide you with a list of programs that you may be entitled to, as well as information about each program and how to apply. It really is that easy!

The Benefits CheckUp is available on the Internet at www.BenefitsCheckUp.org. If you do not have a computer at home or would like assistance with the process, please contact us. We would be glad to help you with your free CheckUp. For those who have difficulty leaving their home or who lack transportation, we also do house calls, but it is also possible to complete the questionnaire over the phone. Remember though, even if you have done a Benefits CheckUp in the past, it is always worth doing it again, as eligibility criteria changes. So seniors, be sure that you are getting all that you are entitled to, and complete a Benefits CheckUp soon. We can be reached at 773-282-8445 to help you through the simple process.

Be sure to watch out for the article in next month's *IAN* and we look forward to seeing you in the future.



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Available now at Rampant Lion and other fine Irish Music stores



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You can also order on line at www.newfolkrecords.com

Irish-Speaking Teddy Bear A Big Hit

Bábógbaby is a new children's toy company based in Co. Galway, Ireland.

After seeing a gap in the market for Irish speaking educational tools, young entrepreneur Adrian Devane went about designing a teddy that speaks Irish to help toddlers and children learn some *cupla focal*.

Adrian is married to Karen and they have 2 daughters, 4 year old Robyn and 6 month old Romy. Robyn is the voice of the teddybear. They speak as much Irish as they can at home.

BB is the world's first Irish Speaking toy. It teaches toddlers and children 33 words in Irish. With 3 modes—numbers, colours and shapes—the child can press the buttons and hear the teddy speak friendly sounding Irish words; great for motor skills, great for learning some basic Irish words, and it's soft and cuddly.

See and hear BB on the interactive section of www.babogbaby.com. BB is now available to buy on the same website and in most toyshops across the country. After launching in October 2010, 24,500 BB bears have been sold to date with some of them reaching Alaska, New York and Sydney.

This month sees the launch of the Babog Baby app for the iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

In production at the moment are a Scots Gaelic, Welsh and English bear.

Work has also started on the animated pilot for TV based on the BB character.

About Adrian Devane

From Newcastle Galway, Adrian is the youngest of four boys. Both his parents are from a farming background from Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway.

Educated at St. Joseph's College Galway 1988-1993 (The Bish), Adrian went on to study Business Management at FR Griffin Technical College. Between the ages of 15 and 20, Adrian worked in local sweet shops, Supermacs, bingo halls, wine shops, computer sales and bars before taking a job in Ger-

many when he was 20.

While working in Frankfurt,

film producers which opened his eyes to a new industry in its infancy back in Ireland. This propelled him to return home to train in all aspects of film and TV production.

In 2000, Adrian Devane established his film production company 2000AD Productions, and has successfully built the business over the last 10 years, providing production services to the film and television industry in Dublin at Ardmore Studios. Key productions included: *Ballykissangel* for BBC; *Reign of Fire*, *King Arthur*, *Veronica Guerin* and *Apocalypto* for Disney; along with a dozen other feature and short films for the Irish Film Board, working alongside Jerry Bruckheimer, Cate Blanchett, Mel Gibson, Christian Bale, Matthew McConaghey and Clive Owen.

With the onset of the recession in 2010, Adrian decided to switch his focus to a business idea which he had been developing for a number

of years that could be based in Germany, managing an Irish pub, Adrian was introduced to

Galway with his family.



BB bear teaches toddlers and children 33 words of Irish. Bábógbaby in Moycullen Co. Galway has come up with an award winning teddy that will help those wishing to learn some Irish numbers, colours and shapes. Voiced by the owners 3-year-old daughter, BB bear can be ordered on www.babogbaby.com and comes with two AA batteries. €29.99 plus postage.

Order BB online now at www.babogbaby.com

Midwest Connemara Pony Show

Martin J. Prendergast came from a family that was involved with horses. His father Henry, was a lifelong horseman, and in 1961 traveled to Connemara in search of a Connemara Pony stallion. Out of a herd of 40 colts he picked one he named Cree Silver Cloud.

Forty years later, his son Martin, bought a farm with his good friend, Seamus Flanagan, and they put their horses on it. But, Martin wanted a Connemara. With the help of his father, Henry, Martin met with Bobby Bolger in Ireland, and bought a colt he named, "The Quietman," and had him shipped to Chicago soon after with three fillies to start a breeding program at Windy Isles farm.

When Martin's dad, Henry, passed away in 2007, Martin traveled between Ireland and Chicago, attending shows, and breeding ponies.

Martin's passion for Connemaras was contagious, and several of his friends in the Irish community began buying and importing Connemaras.

On May 17, 2009, Martin passed away at the age of 43. On August, 29, 2009 the first Midwest Connemara Pony Show—the show he had dreamed

of creating—was hosted. It was a fantastic success, and a true tribute to Martin. His ponies have done well in shows and have been sold far and wide. The horses and the Midwest Connemara Pony Show are his legacy.

Now you can see what Martin and



Martin Prendergast with his Connemara colt "The Quietman"

his many friends were so excited about. The 2011 Midwest Connemara Pony Show will take place on July, 23rd beginning at 8am at the Windy Isles Farms, 32263 S. Egyptian Trail in Peotone, IL 60468. For more info go to www.midwestconnemarashow.com.

Atlantic Steps

Coming to Chicago's BEVERLY ARTS CENTER Saturday, June 18th 8pm

Don't Miss the Sensational New Irish Old-Style Dance Show Featuring Connemara's Cunningham Family

A seriously talented young dancer from Connemara is bringing one of Ireland's oldest dance forms to the world stage with Atlantic Steps, an international touring adaptation of his phenomenally successful Irish show "Fuaim Chonamara."

Atlantic Steps is the inspiring epic story of Ireland's oldest dance form, portrayed through the music, song, dance and Atlantic-Ocean-inspired energy of the Connemara region. Centered around the joyful dance and unbridled enthusiasm of the Cunningham family, the show continues to move festival and theatre audiences to their feet, bringing sean-nós dance to its rightful place on the world stage.

Tickets (\$20/\$18) available from www.beverlyartcenter.org or www.ticketweb.com

www.atlanticsteps.com



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WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Emma-Kate Tobia in Concert

The Center presents classically-trained Irish Soprano Emma-Kate Tobia in concert in the Erin Room this June. Tobia performs traditional Irish music with a classical twist. The musician sings many of her songs in the Irish language.

Direct from Kinsale, County Cork, this rising star has worked with many of Ireland's best loved musicians such as Pat Crowley, Johnny McCarthy and Andy Cooney. She has performed at the National Concert Hall, the Westport Arts Festival and many other venues in 2010.

She'll appear with Chicago musicians Cormac McCarthy on piano and Kevin Carey on flutes and whistles and perform songs from her debut CD, *Aisling na nGael (An Irish Dream)*. The CD is a combination of classical and traditional songs. The Irish Heritage Singers will open the show.

Emma-Kate Tobia in Concert is Friday, June 3 at 8pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.



Emma-Kate Tobia

CWI Mother/Daughter Tea

Celtic Women International's Chicago Branch hosts its 2nd Annual Mother/Daughter Tea this June.

Bring your grandmother, aunt, sister or any special woman in your life for an afternoon of tea, sandwiches and live Irish music.

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

The Mother/Daughter Tea is Sunday, June 12 at 1pm. Tickets are \$30, which includes a ticket for both you and your guest, and includes tea, tea sandwiches, punch and desserts.

To purchase tickets, contact Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057 or tchoske1942@sbcglobal.net.



Heritage Camp — Calling all Kids!

If you have children or grandchildren aged 7 to 18, consider sending them to Heritage Camp this summer to learn more about the cultural roots of Irish America and of other passionate ethnic communities around the City of Chicago.

Heritage Camp is organized into two 5-day segments: Irish Heritage Camp and World Heritage Camp.

Irish Heritage Camp is July 18-22 and serves as full immersion into all aspects of the Irish culture, including music, dance, language, sport, art, literature, theater and history. The cost is \$150 and includes lunch each day at the IAHC,

featuring Irish cuisine. The program consists of fun lessons and demonstrations provided by the Center's partners: Trinity School of Irish Dance, Francis O'Neill Ceili Club, The Cunninghams Sean N6s Dancing, Irish Music School of Chicago, City of Chicago Pipe Band, Seanachai Theater Company, Chicago Rose of Tralee and Chicago Celts Youth Gaelic Football Team. The camp will be kicked off on Saturday, July 16th with a fun mini-camp and orientation for parents.

World Heritage Camp is July 25-29 and serves to build awareness and appreciation for the diverse world around us in Chicago, one of the world's great multi-ethnic hubs. Campers will experience the vibrant arts and cultural

elements of other ethnic centers around the city, including visits to the Swedish, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Scottish and Mexican communities—and will also visit other sites of cultural and historical importance.

The cost is \$200 and includes a visit to an ethnic restaurant with a fixed menu. Campers who attend both weeks will get a 15% discount on both weeks.

Both camps meet each day from 9:30am to 3:30pm. A small group of teens aged 17 to 18 can also join us as counselors-in-training, with a compensation of \$100 per week.

To register children for the sessions, call The IAHC Office at 773-282-7035.

An Evening with Susan McCann

Susan McCann is the First Lady of Country and Irish Music and performs at the Center for one night only, with Dennis Heaney and Joe McShane.

James Conway opens the show and Joe McShane provides music for the post-show dance.

**Saturday,
June 11**

**7pm
in the Erin Room
\$25**



Susan McCann

IAHC Celebrates End of 25/35 Anniversary Year with Open House

Since last summer, the Irish American Heritage Center has been celebrating the dual anniversary of 25 years in our building (1985-2010) and 35 years as an organization (1976-2011). The anniversary year officially ends with Irish Fest in July, but a special Open House is Thursday, June 23 to commemorate these milestones and to cel-

ebate our accomplishments as a community (please note date change).

The evening starts at 6pm with a special viewing of the new Irish American Hall of Fame exhibit on the second floor followed by

a celebration in the Erin Room featuring music, food, dance and

refreshments. To mark the occasion, the Center will be decorated

with old photos and mementos from our past.

We will also announce our latest membership initiatives and incentives for gaining new members and celebrating

our current ones.

The past year has been one of tremendous growth for our Center and one where we celebrated our anniversary by introducing new programs, concerts and events. As we build our membership and plan for the future, we will always look back on 2010-11 as the year that laid the foundation for the next 25 years.

25  **35**
1985 **1976**

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President's Message

ROCK THE VOTE!

The Center holds its annual elections for the Board of Directors on Friday, June 17. Our Board consists of 16 members serving four year terms, and each year four members rotate off the Board. This provides continuity from year to year and adds new ideas and perspectives to the Board. This year, nine candidates have been nominated for the four open spots. Each candidate brings a sense of dedication and commitment to our Center and helps play a part in shaping the future of our organization.

Our Center has gone through some tremendous change and growth over the past few years. Please take the time to consider the candidates and to cast your vote for the four candidates you feel are most capable to lead and serve our organization going forward.

Information on the Election and candidates' bios were mailed to each member's home with instructions on casting an absentee ballot if you cannot attend the meeting. Remember, it is your Center and your vote counts!

The Irish Strut Their Stuff!

The Inaugural Irish American Hall of Fame Gala was held at the Center on Saturday, May 14. By all accounts, it was an amazing night. The Gala Dinner Committee provided elegant decorations and transformed our Center's second floor and Erin Room. The food was excellent, the service first-rate and more than 200 people from the Irish Community were dressed to the nines to help celebrate this momentous occasion for our Center and the entire Irish American Community.

The inaugural inductees were honored through the evening's program which featured speakers, videos, dramatic readings and music. Each presenter and acceptor for the evening showed deep personal commitment to the inductee and a real sense of honor at the recognition being paid to that individual. Our own Irish boxing champ, Henry Coyle, was the surprise of the night with a light-hearted, yet heart-felt speech on what Jack Dempsey and the litany of great Irish American means to him and the sport of boxing today. Sister Rosemary Connelly brought the house down



as she spoke of the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame and of how her life of service and commitment to her "family" at Misericordia has brought her rewards beyond any imagination. With rare footage of President Kennedy in Ireland, a moving speech by the Daley family and others the night's

program was varied, inspiring, entertaining, insightful and best of all finished a bit ahead of schedule!

I would like to recognize our extremely hard working Hall of Fame Committee which was chaired by Pam Marshall. Their efforts culminated in a triumph for the brand new Irish American Hall of Fame and a great start to this exciting new venture for our Center. For more information on the Irish American Hall of Fame, visit www.iahof.org

Bob McNamara, President
Irish American Heritage Center

Hall of Fame Inductees Honored at Gala

The Irish American Hall of Fame inaugural class of inductees was honored at a Black Tie Gala Dinner on Saturday, May 14 at the Center.

More than 300 people attended the event, which featured a black tie dinner, award ceremony and live music, drama readings and video presentations. NBC 5's Mary Ann Ahern was the evening's emcee.

It was a night of remembering and honoring as the audience viewed a poignant video representing the tale of the Irish in America from the American Revolution to the present day. The purpose of the Irish American Hall of Fame is to tell the story of the impact of the Irish in America. The evening accomplished that and more.

Among the highlights of the night were readings from the Eugene O'Neill plays, *The Iceman Cometh* and *Long Day's Journey into Night* by veteran Chicago actors from the Seanchai Theater, Steve Pickering and Kevin Theis. The award for Eugene O'Neill was accepted by Preston Whiteway, Executive Director, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut, who will display the award at the Eugene O'Neill Museum.

Chief Francis O'Neill needed no introduction to the primarily Chicago-based audience and his music was celebrated by a performance by internationally-recognized traditional Irish musicians, Sean Cleland, Jimmy Keane and Brendan McKinney. Chief O'Neill's award was accepted by Brendan McKinney, owner of Chief O'Neill's Pub in Chicago.

Irish Consul General, Hon. Martin Rouine, gave a heart-warming introduction for Maureen O'Hara and the audience was surprised with a personal video acceptance of the award by Ms. O'Hara, who currently resides in Ireland.

The Rev. Patrick Francis Healy, SJ, born to an Irish-born plantation owner and bi-racial slave, who rose to become president of Georgetown University, was honored by Rev. Brian Paulson, Rector of Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit Community and a Georgetown alum. Fr. Healy's award was accepted by his great grand nephew, Dr. Thomas Riley, Dean of Arts, Human-

ities and Social Sciences at North Dakota State University.

Henry Coyle, a professional boxer from Geesala, Co. Mayo, who currently resides in Chicago, charmed the audience with tales of growing up in Ireland and admiring Jack Dempsey and telling amusing anecdotes from Dempsey's life. Dempsey's award will be given to his daughter, Barbara Dempsey Phillips of New York City.

Henry Ford's impact on business and industry is known worldwide. But Edsel B. Ford II, great grandson of Ford, educated the audience on the impact the Ford Motor Company had on the Irish economy back in the 1920s and how proud Ford was of his Irish heritage. Edsel Ford accepted the award on behalf of his great-grandfather via a specially recorded video from the Ford family home in Michigan. Ford's award was presented by Thomas Cashman of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, the American Ireland Fund and CME Group in Chicago.

Inductees in the public service category needed no introduction but were recognized with great fanfare. Senator George Mitchell of Maine and most recently President Barack Obama's Special Envoy to the Middle East, could not attend but accepted his award via letter which was read by Dr. Adar Cohen, Mitchell Scholar, Director of the Civic Leadership Foundation and member of the faculty in DePaul University's Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies Program. President John F. Kennedy was recognized by a special video presentation sent to the Hall of Fame by the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. Finally, Mayor Richard J. Daley was introduced by Hon. Richard Devine, former Cook County State's Attorney. Accepting the award on behalf of her father, Patricia Daley Martino remembered his twinkling blue eyes, his strong faith and his dedication to his beloved City of Chicago.

Bringing down the house toward the end of the evening was Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director of Misericordia Heart of Mercy. In addition to reflecting on what it has meant to serve the developmentally disabled through her works at Misericordia for the last 40 years, Sr. Rosemary reminisced about her childhood



L-R: Micaela Shevlin; Linda Shevlin; Mike Shevlin; Mary Ann Ahern, NBC5; Tim Taylor; Pam Marshall; Devin Myers

growing up on the west side of Chicago. She stated how proud her parents, who hailed from Co. Mayo, would be to see her receiving this induction into the Irish American Hall of Fame. Concluding her remarks, Sr. Rosemary said, "We are promised two things in life: a life worth living and to live forever. If you get a better offer, take it!" The crowd roared with laughter and enthusiasm.

Nominations for the 2012 class of the Irish American Hall of Fame will open in July.

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) was established in 2010 to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States. The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) and operates under the Center's auspices. The IAHOF is overseen by a separate governing committee and has a national focus. www.iahof.org.



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Executive Director's Message

Powerful Blend Of Old And New

An enormous amount of sweat equity has accumulated through twenty five years of creating an Irish American Eden of sorts; a representative place to celebrate one of the most vibrant cultures on earth and celebrate the sweet existence of being of Irish descent. This sweat equity has been earned by people who have given incredible amounts of time, skills and dollars to the physical transformation of the property, to the production of cultural and historical events and programs showcasing the best traditions of Ireland and Irish America, to the production of fundraising events that help generate the significant amount of money needed just to keep the doors open and the lights on, to the daily operations of the Center and to countless other Center-related concerns.

The outcome is the bellwether facility for those who care about where they come from, Irish or otherwise. More than 60,000 people visit the Center on an annual basis now and enjoy the fruits of this collective labor of love. What an incredible testament to the vision of the founders and the efforts of everyone who has pitched in along the way; that the Chicago Irish and Irish Americans from around the country come by the tens of thousands on an annual basis to experience it. And I believe that

this number will grow dramatically as the Center's programs and capabilities continue to expand, along with the quality and reach of our communications.

The Center is on a clear path toward being a world class and internationally recognized institution. This means that there is no better time to be a member but also no more important time to contribute to the Center's future. Nine able-minded and dedicated Center members have stepped forward to be considered in this month's election for the next class of Board members. I would ask that each of you take a few minutes of your time to consider the candidates for the talent and experience that they can bring to bear for the Center and its membership and to submit your votes, either via mail or at the Elections Meeting. Thanks in advance for taking part in one of the Center's most critical annual member 'asks.'

The Next Line of Proud Irish Americans

If you have children or grandchildren aged 7-18, and you care to pass on a knowledge of and appreciation for the land that your family comes from, as well as for the diverse cultural and historical



heritage of the City of Chicago, I would encourage you to consider sending them to Heritage Camp in late July. In two one-week segments, Irish Heritage Camp and World Heritage Camp, the camp will serve as a very fun but educational experience with all aspects of Irish and Irish American culture, as well as the Scottish, Swedish, Chinese, Puerto Rican and Mexican cultures. Caring about where you come from matters, as does being conscious of cultural nuances in the complex communities, city, and country in which we live. We will be doing our small bit this summer to build the next generation of people proud to be of Irish descent, interested in all things Irish, and equally interested in and curious about the world around them. Hope to see your family joining us for what should be a wonderful two weeks.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

SHAM-ROCK!

INTO

SUMMER

Saturday, June 11th

Music starts at 6:00



Starring

THE LARKIN AND MORAN BROTHERS

THE CHANCEY BROTHERS

PLUS

BAGPIPERS, STEPDANCERS, AND MORE!

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!



ONLY \$5

For more information
www.irish-american.org
(773) 282-7035

Get Out the Vote!

Each June, we elect four new members to our Board of Directors to replace the four who rotate off of our 16-member Board. This system assures us continuous and consistent management of our Center and development of policies that reflect your interests. This year we have nine candidates for the Board. The election of new Board members is critical for the future of the organization. We encourage all of our members to vote to ensure that your voice is heard in determining the leadership of our organization.

As a dues-paying member, you are entitled to vote in this important election and to select candidates to represent you. The Directors you elect will serve on the Board for the next four years. Memberships such as Family, Charter and others with two names on the membership are entitled to two ballots. Individual memberships are entitled to one ballot. Only current, paid-up members are eligible to vote. To vote in person, join us at our Membership Meeting on Friday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. You will be able to meet the candidates and cast your ballot. Voting takes place between 7:30pm and 9pm. Bring your membership card to the election to help expedite receiving your ballot.

Beginning June 1, you may request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you. The last date absentee ballots will be mailed to members requesting them is June 8. This allows enough time for the mail to be received and returned to the IAHC office. Absentee ballots can be mailed back or can be delivered to the office up to, and including the date of the election.

You may also request an absentee ballot in person at our Center office. Absentee ballots may only be given out by authorized staff, as membership needs to be verified. Absentee ballots may be completed at the time of request or mailed in as described above.

Following this election, all directors will attend our monthly Board of Directors meeting in July and will elect officers for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary for 2011-2012.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. If you cannot attend, request an absentee ballot. If you have a question about the process or your membership status, call the office at 773 282-7035, ext. 10.

Tee Time for Golf Open

The 22nd Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Sat., Aug. 13. The outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC.

The price is \$100 per person and includes greens fees, a cart, dinner, cocktails, entertainment and prizes. For tickets, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603, Maureen O'Looney at 773-286-6866 or the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10. We are also offering sponsorship opportunities. Among them are:
a) Hole sponsorship: \$100; b) Gift basket sponsorship: \$150; c) Golf ball sponsorship: \$400; d) Dinner sponsorship: \$800
In exchange for sponsorship, participants will have a sign acknowledging their support on the hole of their choice and will be listed in our September issue of the Heritage Line of the the Irish American News, reaching more than 30,000 households.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603.



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Irish American Heritage Festival 2011 Entertainment Schedule

Friday, July 8 6pm-midnight Saturday, July 9 Noon-Midnight Sunday, July 10 Noon-11pm

Main Stage

7:00-9:00 Switchback
9:30-11:00 **THE TONY RICE UNIT**

Raffle Stage

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

Fifth Province Stage

6:00-7:30 The Boils
8:00-9:30 All Kinds
10:00-Close The Great Whiskey Project



Art Gallery

6:00-9:00 IAHC Member's Exhibit - Paintings, photography, sculptures and installations from IAHC Members

Folk Tent

TBA



Main Stage

12:45-3:00 Dooley Brothers
3:30-5:00 Larkin & Moran Brothers
5:30-7:00 McPeake
7:30-9:00 Scythian
9:30-11:00 The Tossers

Raffle Stage

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

Fifth Province Stage

12:00-1:30 Baal Tinne
2:00-3:30 Kennedy's Kitchen
4:00-5:30 Sandcarvers
6:00-7:30 Finbarr Fagan's Band
8:00-9:45 Kevin Flynn & The Avondale Ramblers
10:15-Close **The Mickey Finns**

Auditorium Stage

2:00-2:30 O'Hare School of Irish Dance
4:30-5:00 Trinity Academy of Irish Dance

Erin Room

4:30-6:00 Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine
6:30-8:30 Homankeane
9:00 Ceili Mor with Ceoltoiri Chicago

Room 111

2:00 Sham-Rock Stars Contest

Art Gallery

1:00-6:00 IAHC Member's Exhibit - Paintings, photography, sculptures and installations from IAHC Members

Folk Tent

TBA

Museum

1:00-6:00

Shamrock American Room

3:00-6:00 Tea Room with Pianist and Tenor, Mark Piekarz

3rd Floor Theater

2:00 Irish Heritage Singers Performance
3:00-5:00 Irish language film *The Irish Language / Scéal na Gaeilge* and Irish language basics
5:00-6:00 *The Castles of Ireland* multimedia presentation



Main Stage

12:00-1:30 Dyed in the Wool
2:00-4:00 Bua
4:30-6:30 The Makem & Spain Bros
7:00-9:00 Gaelic Storm

Raffle Stage

2:00-2:30 Misericordia Heartbreakers
4:00-4:30 Sham-ROCK Stars! Finals
6:30-7:00 Shannon Rovers

Fifth Province Stage

12:30-2:00 Mulligan Stew
2:30-4:30 Gareth Woods & Sugarbeat
5:00-6:30 Fast Eddie & Billy O'Donoghue
7:00-9:00 **The Mickey Finns**
9:30-Close The Chancey Brothers w/Special Guests

Auditorium Stage

2:30-3:00 Mullane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy
4:30-5:00 Mulhern School of Irish Dance

Erin Room

2:00-2:30 McNulty School of Irish Dance
3:00-5:00 Joe McShane & The Silver Bridge Band
5:30-6:00 Academy of Irish Music
7:00 Johnny Gleeson's Band

Art Gallery

1:00-6:00 IAHC Member's Exhibit - Paintings, photography, sculptures and installations from IAHC Members

Folk Tent

TBA

Museum

1:00-6:00

Shamrock American Room

3:00-6:00 Tea Room with Harpist, Lillian Reasor

3rd Floor Theater

2:00-3:00 Uilleann Pipe Workshop





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IRISH FEST

July 8, 9 and 10!

The annual Irish American Heritage Festival is July 8, 9 and 10. During the past several years, our Irish Fest has gained a lot of notoriety for bringing in incredible talent and creating a fan friendly environment. This year is no exception. The Center is extremely excited to announce an amazing lineup of headliners for 2011:

Gaelic Storm
The Tossers
Scythian
The Makem and Spain Brothers
McPeake
and featuring bluegrass legends,
The Tony Rice Unit

Scheduled over three days, the festival is a great celebration of Irish culture and entertainment. It is truly a showcase of everything the Center has to offer throughout the year. The festival boasts five stages for music, dance, and other forms of entertainment, a children's area, cultural exhibits throughout the building, shopping, as well as the staples of any good festival; beer and food! It's a great weekend to enjoy with the whole family.

The festival also showcases our expanding events: our very own ShamROCK! Stars Contest will be highlighting the youngest stars in Chicago and again will bring back the adult category this year. This might be the year your dream of becoming an Irish folk singer finally comes true. The Mashed Potato Eating Contest returns for all ages, and the Hooley Hook-Up will kick-off Friday night of the festival with lots of dancing and matchmaking possibilities for the singles crowd.

The festival also features traditional music, ceili dancing, step dancing, Irish theatre and so much more. Other acts include Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, Homankeane, The Sandcarvers, The Mickey Finns and The Chancey Brothers and so many more of our local favorites will be on the lineup. If you can't have a good time at Irish Fest, you must not like being Irish!

We hope to see you all this summer. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the the Center at 773-282-7035 or visit www.irishfestchicago.com.

The Center is Paving the Front Courtyard

Makes a Great Father's Day Gift!

Buy an engraved brick for your family, business, friends or yourself. Each brick is guaranteed for 100 years!

4 x 8 brick

\$100

8 x 8 brick

\$250

(IAHC Mbrs

\$200)

12 x 12 brick

\$500

(IAHC Mbrs

\$400)

IAHC
Walk of Names

Buy your Brick today!

773-282-7035 x 10

online at
www.Irish-american.org

or pick up an order form at
the IAHC



IAHC Members' Gallery Exhibit

The IAHC Art Gallery features an art exhibit of the work of IAHC members this summer.

Are you an artist or photographer? The deadline to enter your artwork is Friday, June 3rd. Members can be considered by contacting Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

The exhibit features paintings, photography, sculpture and installations by IAHC members and runs from Friday, July 1st to Sunday, July 24 and during Irish Fest. The exhibit Opening is Friday, July 1st, 6pm to 9pm and gallery hours are

Saturdays and Sundays
1pm to 4pm.

Special Irish Fest
hours are Friday July 8th,
6pm to 9pm, Saturday
July 9th and Sunday July
10, 1pm to 6pm. Note:

There is a cover charge
to attend Irish Fest.

Not an IAHC member but want to join? Contact
Leslie Singel at 773-282-7035.



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Chicago, Illinois



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June 2011

June 1	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
June 2	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
June 3	Emma Kate Tobia Concert	Erin Room	8pm
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
June 11	ShamROCK into Summer	Fifth Province	6pm
	Susan McCann Concert	Erin Room	7pm
June 12	Mother/Daughter Tea	Sham Amer Rm	1pm
June 13	Seanachai Theatre Fundraiser	Fifth Province	7pm
June 16	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
June 17	Shamrock American Club Social	Fifth Province	8pm
June 18	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
June 21	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7pm
June 23	IAHC Anniversary Open House	Whole Bldg	6pm
June 26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.-Sat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Celtic Art Class	Room 304	7-9pm
	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Am Rm	7pm
	Celtic Art Class	Room 307	7pm
Wed.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
	Sean-nós Dancing	Room 310	7pm
	Memoir Writing Class	Fifth Province	7pm
Thurs.	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
	Book of Kells: Its History and Art	Room 304	7pm
	Irish Social Dancing	Room 111	7:30pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac. & Dance	Room 111	8pm
Sat.	Sean-nós Dancing	Room 109	4:15pm

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the fifth province

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Fri, 6/10	Matt Stedman Band
Sat, 6/11	ShamRock Into Summer 6pm
Fri, 6/17	Mulligan Stew
Sat, 6/18	The Dooley Brothers
Sat, 6/24	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 6/25	Blue Stack



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4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 • 773-282-7035



Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



Chapter 3 MEEHALL: Memories of a South Side Lad Cool Hand Luke At The Hickory Pit

Every year on the anniversary of my adoption, my parents would take me out to the Hickory Pit restaurant in Bridgeport for my “second birthday” dinner. Remarkably liberal and progressive in their attitudes by early 1960s standards, Mary and Joe would never be one of those couples who hushed up or lied about their child’s adoption. Instead, each year at my special dinner they proudly retold the tale of the day the nuns handed me over, and how on the ride home from St. Vincent’s, my father paid more attention to the new baby than to his driving, made a wrong turn and got us lost in a South Side coal yard. My Dad even once called me ‘the chosen one.’ They were great that way. And so I was the only one in the family who had two birthdays.

Mom made sure my hair was combed and face washed and my shirt clean

before we went out in public. Once I’d passed her inspection, we climbed into Dad’s ’66 Ford and he drove the three of us up Western Avenue and down Archer, and then over to Union Avenue. As we turned the corner I spotted the pink neon sign: Original Glass Dome Hickory Pit. The glass dome was installed over the bar, illuminated by softly glowing lights which turned the bartender’s face green as a Martian or red as the devil, depending on where he stood. Apparently domes had been a big deal back in the 1930s. It was the first thing you noticed as you walked in the front door. The Hickory Pit had been famous for decades on the South Side as one of the top rib joints in the city; they even bottled and sold their own sauce. But being the weird and obstinate little kid that I was, I ordered what would become my Usual: the ever-

popular Sardine Plate. This was actually a side dish, not an entree, and in any case the sort of repast ordered only by the broken-down horse track players in porkpie hats who sat at the bar under the green and pink lights of the dome, chain-smoking cigars and perusing the racing forms over a cheap whiskey. Naturally, my six year old palate had the same sort of refined taste.

My mother would attempt to get me to order something sensible and tasty like ribs or chicken or spaghetti, but no! I was heart and soul and stomach set on that Bounty of the Sea. Dad, whose general policy was “don’t stifle the kid’s creativity,” just glanced askew at me and asked if that’s really what I wanted. Yes yes yes, sardines for me and don’t skimp on the pâté! And throw a couple extra hardboiled eggs on top as well. I’m not kidding about that, and no, it isn’t only a half-baked “Monty Python’s Meaning of Life” reference.

“Alright then, it’s his day. Give the kid his sardines!” proclaimed Joe.

I knew he’d relent. He was a sardine man himself; never in all my years do I remember there not being a tin of King Oscars and a box of saltine crackers in the kitchen cabinet. I was my father’s son alright, adopted or no.

The waitress arrived with our dinners, handing my dad plates of ribs and spaghetti and dinner rolls and mashed potatoes. I peered up from my seat, attempting to get a glimpse of mine coming down the pike.

“Ok kiddo, here ya go, the big Sardine Plate! Are you really gonna eat all that?” She grinned and hoisted onto the table a huge pewter platter,

artistically fringed with leaves of lettuce and parsley and heaped with row upon row of headless fish. Perfect little oily three-inch bits o’ paradise with fins tucked at their sides, they stood in ranks like soldiers amid a mound of chicken liver pâté piled high against the trenches. Topping it all off, a lovely garnish of soda crackers, and sliced hardboiled eggs which lay scattered across no-man’s land like baleful, yellow, unseeing eyes, or maybe artillery craters. Ahhh... I dug right in. While Mom twirled spaghetti on her fork and



pounded into a brown pulp and all that remained of the troops was a large pile of tiny fish tails. I burped loudly, chugged down the last of my milk and reached for the ice cream, now slightly melted.

“Michael! You’re not going to eat ice cream, after all of those sardines, are you?” Mom asked in her mock-horrified voice.

“I sure am!” I picked up the spoon and re-ladled chocolate syrup from the bottom of my bowl over the mound of vanilla, letting it drip back down deliciously in brown-black rivulets. She leaned over, and dipping her napkin into the water glass, wiped off my greasy little face before I commenced to recoat it in a different foodstuff. My dad, sipping his coffee, tilted his head at me curiously. Then, he reached over and hauled my chair out from behind, pulling me away from the table and my ice cream.

“Hey...!!!”

“Look at that, willya Mary? Good God almighty,” he roared in laughter.

Mom half stood up and peered over the table, then her hand flew up to cover her mouth, but not fast enough, and she too fell back into her chair laughing.

My father’s swift action revealed what previously had been kept hidden safely away under the crisp white linen tablecloth, and now unfortunately lay exposed for everyone in the Hickory Pit and the world beyond to see in all its infamous glory: my round, taut, supple and much too ample gut, now extended to its last, fullest measure of duty. I looked exactly like Cool Hand Luke after his boast “I can eat fifty eggs,” laying stretched out like Jesus, afflicted with a huge bloated egg-belly.

But nobody can eat fifty eggs. My six year old stomach had been stuffed to its bursting point, and luckily my parents recognized the fact and got me home as quickly as possible... after I’d finished my ice cream, of course. I don’t remember if or how sick I became as a result of my broken-down old horse-player’s palate, but one thing I do know is that every year thereafter when we visited the Hickory Pit for my “second birthday” dinner, my folks made sure the waitress brought me the Kiddie-size Sardine Plate, no matter what.

Chicago native Michael Carroll is an internationally known Celtic artist, working in the style of the Book of Kells, and more recently has authored three books. These stories are excerpted from his memoirs Meehall: Memories of a South Side Lad and its sequel The Trouble With Meehall. Both books are available at www.lulu.com.

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The Largest Annual Scottish Festival in the Midwest Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

By Katharine Nichols

Beads of sweat trickle down the furrowed brows of the kilt-wearing, intense competitors preparing for the Caber Toss, which entails flipping a 20-foot, 140-pound tree trunk so that it will fall directly away from the thrower after landing. Nearby spectators gasp in awe of the demonstration of raw power while munching on shortbread and enjoying Scotch Whiskey.

Heavy athletics competitions, thousands of bagpipers and drummers, and dogs of Scotland presentations are only some of the staples at the 25th Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games on June 17-18, 2011 at Hamilton Lakes in Itasca, Illinois. Presented by the Chicago Scots, this weekend-long summer spectacle features a wide variety of activities, competitions, and performances to celebrate Scottish traditions and culture.

The Chicago Scots is proud to organize this event to celebrate Scottish culture and identity. All proceeds from the festival directly support the Illinois Saint Andrew Society, the oldest 501(c)3 charity in Illinois. In addition to organizing initiatives to promote Scottish culture, the Society offers a range of elder care services at its Scottish Home. The Chicago Scots welcomes everyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage or simply by inclination.

"This is the largest and best Scottish festival in the Midwest," said Gus Noble, President of the Chicago Scots. "We pride ourselves on making families feel like they've been transported to Scotland for a weekend of fun while enjoying a unique opportunity to learn more about Scottish culture."

The festival is open to the public on Friday, June 17 from 4pm-10pm and Saturday, June 18 from 8am-9pm. The festival will be held at Hamilton Lakes, Itasca, Illinois which is located at I-290 and Thorndale Avenue. Tickets can be purchased at the admission gate, by visiting www.chicagoscotts.org or by calling (708) 447-5092.

Ticket prices vary per day. On Friday, children ages 12 and under enter for free and adult tickets cost \$12.00. On Saturday, tickets for children ages 3-12 cost \$5.00 and adult tickets cost \$17.00. Also available is the Patron Weekend Pass, a two-day pass for \$75.00, which includes entry into the festival, premier seating inside the Patron Tent, complimentary food and beverages, and a private access VIP Parking Pass. Parking is available for \$5.00 per vehicle per day or a two-day parking pass for \$8.00.

The 25th Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games offer an extensive array of unique Scottish traditions, activities, and revelry for the whole family.

Friday evening highlights include the Highland Dance competition, Heavy Athletics Friday Night Fling, crowning of the Heather Queen and Court, and a Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee), a lively celebration of traditional and contemporary Celtic music, from 7-10pm on the Celtic rock stage.

The festival continues Saturday with the Champion Supreme Piping and Drumming competition and the Heavy Athletics U.S. Open Championship, which features traditional Scottish contests such as the Caber Toss (flipping 20-foot, 140-pound tree trunk),

participate in the Haggis Hurling Contest for women, Knobbly Knees contest for men, Haggis Eating Contest, and Shortbread Contest.

In addition to friendly competition, the festival celebrates Scottish culture with the Dogs of Scotland and other animal presentations, genealogy and cultural exhibits, the British Car Show, and the Parade of Clan Tartans. Children's activities include mini golf, crafts and carnival attractions. Attendees will also enjoy musical performances on the Celtic Rock Stage, Whisky tastings and seminars, traditional Scottish or



the 22-pound Hammer Throw, the Sheaf Toss (flipping a bale of hay over a high bar) and the Clachnert (throwing a 16-pound river stone). Other competitions include the Highland Dance competition, Rugby Sevens Highland Challenge, the Kilted Mile Fun Run/Walk, and Coerver Cup 3v3 youth soccer tournament. Attendees can also

participate in the Haggis Hurling Contest for women, Knobbly Knees contest for men, Haggis Eating Contest, and Shortbread Contest.

The festivities culminate with the Closing Ceremonies and Massed Bands Show, a breath-taking spectacle of 1,000 bagpipers and drummers, all joined in performing several traditional musical selections including "Amazing Grace."

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tional Network." Author Claire Sterling claimed there "is massive proof that the Soviet Union and its surrogates, over the last decade, have provided the

Minds And Hearts

Thirty years ago, May 5th, 1981, 1:17am—after 65 days on hunger strike, Bobby Sands, M.P., died in the H-Block prison at Long Kesh. Your opinion killed him.

In July '78, Cardinal O'Fiach was appalled when he visited the Maze and saw the prisoners' condition during the "dirty protest." He was told of the routine beatings and humiliating searches which led the men to refuse to leave their cells. He insisted the prisoners deserved political status. The Northern Ireland Office was furious. And despite his firm stand against violence, Protestant churchmen insisted O'Fiach was an IRA surrogate. Paisley claimed "the Church of Rome is to blame for the hunger strikes..."

The Irish Council of Churches, representing all of the mainstream Protestant churches backed Thatcher 100% saying (we) "are emphatic that there are no people in Northern Ireland prisons who are there for their political opinion."

Sands began his fast Sunday, March 1st. That same day *The New York Times Magazine* cover story was: "Terrorism: Tracing the Interna-

weapons, training and sanctuary for a worldwide terror network aimed at the destabilization of western democratic society." She singled out the Provisional IRA.

The message: Sands insistence on being classified a POW was meant to undermine democracy. Two weeks later "Oisín" responded in *Irish People* that "the article was a deliberate effort to assign to the anti-Marxist PIRA the views and activities of the pro-Marxist 'Officials.'" But the Irish People had an insignificant voice compared to the *NY Times*.

I'll wear no convict's uniform
Nor meekly serve my time
While Britain labels Ireland's fight
800 Years of crime.

(Francie Brolly lyric—rephrased)

Sands was facing the cannons of the establishment unarmed, save for his last weapon—own his body.

Thatcher's remark that "crime is crime, is crime" was a bold but ludicrous refusal to acknowledge there could be any political aspect to actions against Britain. Cardinal O'Fiach met Thatcher during the unger strikes and was appalled when she asked if they were "dying to prove their virility."

Seven days before Sands death, the *Chicago Tribune* editorialized: "Mahatma Gandhi used the hunger strike to move his countrymen to abstain from fratricide. Bobby Sands' deliberate slow suicide is intended to precipitate civil war." The *Trib* did not mention that Gandhi was also opposing British rule. It is now known that Churchill and his Viceroy in India, Lord Linlithgow were "strongly in favour of letting Gandhi starve to death" on hunger strike. Other ministers, including Lord Halifax, persuaded Churchill that it would be bad p.r. for Gandhi to die in a British prison.

British efforts to keep the press in line increased after Sands' death. He was more dangerous dead than alive. Michael Daly, a *New York Daily News* columnist resigned May 8, when the British army charged that an article he wrote about rioting after his death was a 'complete fabrication.' The *London Daily Mail* charged

that his story was 'a pack of lies,' saying his report from Belfast was "a malevolent piece of lying propaganda." It accused the United States news media in general, and the *Daily News* in particular, of 'spearheading a campaign to persuade American politicians to take an increasingly anti-British line...' (*Chicago Tribune*, 9 May 1981)

That same day the *Tribune* ran an article by Edward Langley ridiculing most Irish-American Catholics as dupes: "a chorus of our politicians and prelates implored British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to legitimize Sands, who finally killed himself by starvation, and his murderous friends as 'political prisoners..." Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York begged Thatcher to give special treatment to Sands and his army of Lee Harvey Oswalds. When you can get a cardinal to hedge on murder, you have wrought a propaganda triumph.

The IRA has done it. They have snookered not only the cardinal, and much of the American news media, but nearly all Irish-American Catholics, into backing their ostensible cause of "Brits out for a reunited Ireland... most IRA true believers in America have been had... They swallow IRA propaganda as if it were taffy. The Irish war will fade in direct proportion to the Irish-American's willingness to challenge the IRA's line, to hear the British side, and to realize, one hopes, what the IRA is: less than 500 Oswald-Hinckley freaks, supplied with Soviet bloc weapons, intent on turning both Irelands into an Allende-type Chile. There isn't a patriot among them."

Speaking of taffy, *The Boston Globe* on May 13 also tried to downplay riot coverage: "Authorities have complained that some foreign television crews and photographers have encouraged rioters by offering money, candy or just the inducement of having one's picture recorded sending a rock or a firebomb in the direction of a soldier, policeman or armored car."

On July 4, *The Washington Post* reacted to ABC TV's *Good Morning America* interview with 10-year-old Bernadette McDonnell, who asked viewers to get President Reagan to help save her dad, Joe. She asked Reagan to urge Thatcher to settle the strike. *The Post* noted that London's *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail* gave the story heavy coverage, with *The Mail* headlining its centerfold display "The Propaganda Child." Bernadette's father, Joe McDonnell, jailed for possession of a firearm, died four days later after 61 days on hunger strike.

The prisoners refused to be labeled common

criminals for seeking a united Ireland. Britain refused to budge. And men died for principle. But was there a third agenda? Sinn Fein's policy was against standing in elections, and it's been charged that Gerry Adams wanted to change it. Sands' election was a big breakthrough, but after his death a month later, Britain changed the law, preventing another prisoner standing for election.

Thirty years' time has meant many documents are now available under Freedom of Information. Republican writer Rusty Nail (a pseudonym) claims that in July '81 there were two offers on the table to end the strike, one from Michael Oatley the MI6 officer known as Mountain Climber, the other from the Irish Commission on Justice and Peace, and that the offers were essentially the same. "What we see from the historical record is that the Brits, the ICJP, even the prisoners were prepared to end the strike. Evidence is all over the place of this—but no record exists of the Adams committee doing anything but what they could to prolong the strike... when the hunger strike ended months later in October, the prisoners got what was on offer in July. So the question of who was really prolonging the strike, the British or Adams, falls on Adams. He kept secret the fact of his negotiations from others on the Army Council; he withheld details of the negotiations from the prisoners; he kept the offer and negotiations secret from the IRSP and INLA, who also had men dying on hunger strike; and used the prisoners, who were not informed of the details of what he was doing, as cover to prolong the hunger strike to the election of Owen Carron."

Sinn Fein's Danny Morrison disputes this, saying there were no offers made.

Had six more men unwittingly starved to death for an election? Owen Carron, Sands' election agent, was nominated as a "proxy prisoner." If he could win Sands' seat for Sinn Fein, it would set the precedent Adams needed. But, for that to happen, the hunger strike had to continue until August 20, the date of the by-election. The date Michael "Red Mickey" Devine, the tenth hunger striker breathed his last.

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net

Watch: IRISH JOURNAL TELEVISION

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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.

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

Summer is

Motorcycle Riding Season—Be Safe!

Summer is traditionally a popular time for motorcycle riding. Nationwide, motorcycle ridership increased 51% between 2000 and 2005. As gasoline prices continue to increase, there will be increased incentive to use them. In the Chicagoland area, the motorcycle riding season is short, but all too often, as statistics show, can be deadly.

Because many view any motorcycle riding as dangerous or even reckless, they assume motorcycle riders are at fault in most crashes. The reality is that some crashes are the result of rider error, some are the fault of other drivers that do not see or react appropriately to nearby motorcycles, and some others are due to defects in the bike or the roadway.

Newly Released Statistics

Some newly published statistics point out instances of rider error:

- Speeding is involved in 35% of fatal motorcycle crashes, compared to 23% for passenger cars and 19% for light trucks.
- Alcohol is present in about 1/3 of total fatal crashes. In 2009, 29% of fatally injured motorcycle riders had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit of .08. An additional 7% had alcohol in the system but at lower levels.

Helmet Use

The majority of all fatal motorcycle crashes were single vehicle accidents. Motorcycle helmets have been shown to be

very effective in preventing death, but many motorcyclists do not wear them.

Studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that helmets are 37% effective in preventing fatalities to operators. In 2008, 42% of fatally injured riders were not wearing helmets. NHTSA estimated 822 of these riders would have lived if they had worn a helmet. Nevertheless, helmet use rates dropped 13% in the first nine months of 2010.

Twenty states have adopted mandatory helmet laws for all riders. An additional twenty-seven have helmet laws, but only applying to minors. Three states, Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire, have no helmet laws at all.

In addition to the helmet usage rates dropping, those using helmets are not necessarily getting the proper protection. Internet and retail sales of helmets that look similar to helmets that comply with Department of Transportation (DOT) helmet standards have increased. Riders wearing lightweight, non-DOT compliant “novelty helmets” rose 9%. These so-called “novelty helmets” which come in many shapes and styles, are made to look like protective helmets. Unfortunately, such helmets offer little or no protection. Such helmets are banned from sale in certain states, including Virginia.

The DOT publishes guidelines for helmet selection to assist consumers in purchasing a safe helmet. Novelty helmets typically

have a thin outer shell and little or no foam padding inside. Chinstraps may be absent or fastened with flimsy rivets. Novelty helmets typically weigh a pound or less whereas DOT helmets typically weigh 3 pounds or more. Careful examination is warranted, since counterfeit DOT stickers are widely available on eBay and used inappropriately.

Since the DOT does not test all helmets on the market, helmets sold as compliant sometimes fail to offer adequate protection in a crash.

Defects in Motorcycles

Sometimes, riders who take appropriate precautions and operate properly are involved in crashes because of defects in the bike. Due to the way motorcycles operate, even relatively minor equipment failures can lead to catastrophic crashes. Loss of throttle control, stalling or brake failure are subjects of frequent recalls and service campaigns by manufacturers. Each year, nearly every motorcycle manufacturer typically has several recalls on the books. Failures including fuel fires, frame failures, brake failures and stuck throttles or engine stalling are not uncommon. Any such failure can quickly lead to a crash through no fault of the rider. Careful examination of the motorcycle and awareness of recalls can help minimize the risk.

Any time there is a suspicion that equipment failure played a part in a crash involving serious injury or death, first, if possible, ensure that the motorcycle is preserved and not changed, disassembled, or altered before a professional inspection. Then contact a law firm experienced with motorcycle accidents for advice.

The increasing popularity of motorcycle riding is proof that it is a fun, exiting activity. However, because of the nature of motorcycles and the potential dangers posed by riding in a car dominated environment, much care must be taken. Proper precautions, equipment, training and common sense riding will, hopefully, ensure a safe, fun summer of riding.

By:

David P. Huber



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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



I think president Kennedy may have paraphrased Sean T. Kelly's words in his inaugural address... "Ask not what your country

can do for you... ask what you can do for your country." The hidden message is, we know what social welfare has done to Ireland and to the USA—stem the tide of socialism before it pulls us all out to sea.

Kevin Moran

Last month we lost a great Irishman, Kevin Moran. A founding member of the Irish American Heritage Center passed from this life to the next. Kevin built all of the fireplaces, and put down the slate floor in the Fifth Province Room at the IAHC. He also laid thousands of bricks, cement blocks, plastered walls, poured concrete, and much more.

I had the pleasure of working for and with him on many occasions. Bill McDonagh helped Kevin put down the slate floor in the 5th Province Room, while I carried the slate into the building. Kevin served one term on the Board of Directors, and served on the Building Committee from day one.

I sent a message to Kevin Sherman, our architect who designed the 5th Province Room and our Library to let him know the sad news. Part of his reply follows... "Having worked side by side with him, he taught me by example that craftsmanship is an expression of love by giving the best of oneself for the benefit of others. No matter that they may not know who laid the floor they stand on, or built the hearth they stand around, I will miss the joy of being in Kevin's presence, but find solace in what he taught me about living a life of love."

Kevin Moran was also awarded the Golden Nail by Habitat for Humanity. Up Mayo, Kevin, and may God bless you!

Boun Giorno Pope Benedict

This is your wake up call! On April 4th, Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, spoke at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The occasion was the International Conference sponsored by the Marquette Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative. Archbishop Martin urged church officials to come clean about their responsibilities. Speaking on the 2009 Murphy

report into abuse at mostly Catholic institutions in Ireland, he said, "I still cannot accept that no one can accept responsibility... the responsibility seems to be the fault of others or the system." He explained that the only way for the Catholic church to overcome the abuse crisis is to open up its files and divulge all of its secrets, allowing abuse victims to heal properly.

No wonder Archbishop Martin was passed over for promotion to Cardinal. Lest you forget, Pope Benedict the XVI was the prefect of the Congregation of Faith for sixteen years, then known as Cardinal Ratzinger.

Pope Benedict the XVI has fired Australian Bishop William Morris for suggesting the church consider ordaining women and married men. Bishop Morris was the Bishop of the Too-woomba Diocese, just west of Brisbane. It just so happens that my father's first cousin, Sister Loyola Boyle RSM, a retired Mercy nun, lives there. At one point, Sister Loyola spent 25 years living in a dirt-floor hut, and speaking pidgin english to the aborigines in New Guinea.

The community has rallied around Bishop Morris, and eight priests signed a letter of support calling the Bishop's removal disrespectful.

The Vatican has failed miserably in acknowledging their own short-comings. I must join the voices of others like Barbara Blaine from SNAP, to say that fast tracking Pope John Paul II for sainthood is wrong. He had to know what was going on in the church, and did nothing about it.

Philadelphia/Harrisburg, PA

Bishop McFadden, in the Harrisburg Diocese, has denied knowing anything about the sex abuse of children in Philadelphia, although he spent 30 years there as an auxiliary bishop. Tom Doyle, a canon lawyer who has served as a witness and as a consultant on several hundred Catholic clergy sexual abuse cases, including the two Philadelphia grand juries, said, "he would be surprised that an auxiliary bishop in the inner circle of the archdiocese would not have known about the alleged abuse." Meanwhile, the Jesuit Order of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus, agreed to pay \$166,100,000 to settle claims for 450 victims who were mostly Native Americans and Alaskan natives. "Schools in remote villages, and on reservations, were used as dumping grounds for problem priests."

Bill Donohue

Lastly, Bill Donohue, President of the American Catholic League, differentiates between pedophilia, rape, consensual sex, and homosexual contact on the basis of whether or not the victim has reached puberty. His logic is that a post-pubescent minor male who is a victim of a homosexual priest, can't be called pedophilia, but what he doesn't say is if that act is non-consensual, it's rape of a minor! Splitting hairs between pedophilia and homosexual rape of a minor, to me, is ludicrous logic. I see Mr. Donohue as the Rush Limbaugh of the American Catholic League. Believe it or not, this man has a PHD in sociology, and loves to rant.

Jack Leonard

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mike Leonard and his family on the loss of his father, who passed away at the age of 94. Jack said, "The joy of life is children." If you recall, several years ago Mike Leonard wrote a book titled, *The Ride of Our Lives*, the story about a cross-country journey with his mother, father, children and wife in two motor homes. I recall that Jack Leonard spent a good part of his youth living with relatives in County Cavan, Ireland. I met Jack and his wife, Marge, (affectionately known as Moose) at Ravinia Park a number of years back. The night I met them, Marge was wearing an All-Ireland football medal around her neck from around 1914, I believe. May God bless and keep him, and may we all meet again somewhere in time.

Bin Laden

A story circulating on the internet is saying that Valerie Jarrett advised President Obama not to invade Bin Laden's compound, (<http://socyberty.com/issues/white-house-insider-obama-hesitated-panetta-issued-order-to-kill-osama-bin-laden/#ixzz1LLRp2GTh>.) The story, which is credible according to a former member of the diplomatic corps makes one wonder about the president's advisors. More importantly, on the strength of the intelligence reports alone, the decision to go in should have been a no-brainer. Why then, was President Obama so indecisive?

Ask Not! JFK

While reading the book *The Lives and Times of the Presidents of Ireland*, I came across a statement Sean T. Kelly once made in August, 1953. The President appealed for a revival of the spirit of Sinn Fein—the spirit of self reliance. "Long ago, the attitude of the young men of Ireland used to be expressed thus: 'What can I do for my country? What can I do to help Ireland?' Nowadays, it seems to me, the attitude is: 'What is the country going to do for me?' This seems to be the spirit of all classes. What benefit is my class or trade or profession going to derive from this measure or from that measure? What am I going to get out of it?"

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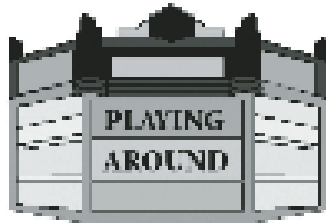
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Theatre Y Presents *Exiles*

Theatre Y presents *Exiles*, James Joyce’s only play, at the Lacuna Artist Lofts, 2150 S. Canalport, through August 27th.

Exiles is the story of an encumbered



sync performance, and dance. The ensemble will undergo intensive physical performance training this Spring and Summer in order to enable a training and movement based staging process.

For more information visit theatre-y.com.



Cast members from Theatre Y’s *Exiles*

author’s return to Ireland in 1912 after nine years of exile, and his unrelenting, and ultimately disastrous, quest to free himself from moral bondage. Theatre Y’s performance of the text will explore ideas of gender inequality within the structures of early twentieth century society, critiquing even those biases so fundamental that Joyce himself could not rend his thinking from them. The highly physical staging will feature “female-to-female” drag, lip

World Premiere of *The Detective’s Wife*

Writers’ Theatre is producing the world premiere of *The Detective’s Wife* by Keith Huff, through July 31, 2011 at Writers’ Theatre, 664 Vernon Avenue in Glencoe.

Three of Chicago’s finest talents come together to create a tour-de-force evening of theatre: playwright Keith Huff, fresh from his box office record breaking Broadway debut and award-winning writer for AMC’s *Mad Men*; Broadway director and multi award-winning favorite Gary Griffin and Barbara Robertson, one of Chicago’s greatest actresses.

Alice Conroy is the mother of two grown children, owner of a book store and wife of a Chicago homicide detective. When her husband is gunned down on the job, she is determined to find out who did it... and why.

847-242-6000; www.writers theatre.org.

Illinois Passes Dream Act

By Billy Lawless

The Illinois Senate passed the Illinois DREAM Act, SB 2185, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 45 to 11. The bill creates an “Illinois DREAM Commission” appointed by the Governor, which will raise a privately financed scholarship fund for undocumented immigrant students; allow Illinois undocumented families to participate in the state’s college savings programs; and requires high school counselors to learn about the higher education options open to immigrant students in Illinois, including in-state tuition that passed in Illinois in 2003.

In addition Illinois Governor Quinn

sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security withdrawing from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Secure Communities program. The letter states that the stated purpose of the Secure Communities program is the deportation of immigrants “convicted of serious criminal offenses.” The letter further states, “by ICE’s own measure, less than 20% of those who have been deported from Illinois under the program have ever been convicted of a serious crime.”

Illinois proves that it is a state with a big heart that wants serious immigration solutions, and does not support the cruel destruction of families through pointless deportations.

Thank you to all.

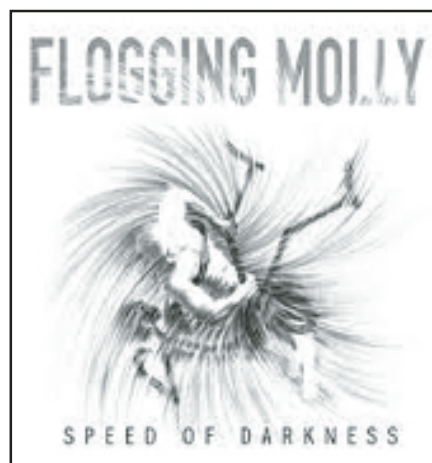
Online Only This Month

Due to the large quantity of articles this month and the lack of extra space, *A Word With Monsignor Boland* and *Careers* columns will be online only. A portion of *An Immigrant’s Musings* will also be online only.

They will be back next month for your reading pleasure!

Speed of Darkness Released

Speed of Darkness, the new album from celebrated Celtic punk ensemble



Flogging Molly, is set for a May 31st release on the group’s newly founded Borstal Beat Records. *Speed of Darkness* is Flogging Molly’s fifth, and arguably most important album.

From their beginnings as a raucous pub band in Los Angeles in the late 1990’s, King, Regan, guitarist Dennis Casey, bassist Nathen Maxwell, accordion player Matthew Hensley, banjo/mandolin player Robert Schmidt and drummer George Schwindt wore their blue collar ethos proudly and loudly, especially during their incredible live performances. And now, as the country and the rest of the world rise up to recover and rebuild, never has that ethos been more apparent and important than on *Speed of Darkness*.

www.floggingmolly.com.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



comprise the best of the best. The band has won virtually every award available. Enough said. So, what are we to do when they are joined by the iconic multi-

There are many who would consider the Brock McGuire band as the best all-instrumental band in Irish music. We would not disagree. So, it was hardly with a sense of objectivity that we came to the band's new album, *Green Grass Blue Grass*. Superb. The regular reader would well know the Brock McGuire band. Paul Brock on button box, Manus McGuire on fiddle, Enda Scahill playing banjo and Dennis Carey on keyboards

instrumentalist Ricky Skaggs, and five-time International Bluegrass Music Association Guitarist of the Year, Bryan Sutton? Then toss in the wonderful Aubrey Haynie on fiddle, and the answer to the question of what to do becomes obvious. Buy the album. The album was recorded at the Skaggs Studio in Nashville and the Irish Chamber Orchestra Building in the University of Limerick. There is a distinctly traditional feel to the entire album, with



nine of the 15 tracks sharing both bluegrass and Irish musicians. Three or four of the tracks display the combination perfectly, none better than "Fish on a Snag/Wheel Hoss/Ships are Sailing." Another highlight of the album must be the fabulous set of French Canadian reels. Oh, this is great stuff! We know the Instrumental Album of the Year when we hear it. We hear it. The album is available through the Brock McGuire Band website. You know the drill. Google. This is a masterpiece.

The Sailor's Cravat is next from the legendary Paddy O'Brien. Paddy is well-known and loved as being not only a tremendous button box player, but also as a human jukebox. The rumors as to how many tunes he carries in his head and can play instantly, range up to 1,000 and more. That's right, Buck-o. 1,000. A lovely guy now living in Minnesota and a massive fan of the Minnesota Twins baseball team, Paddy is one of the most well-regarded musicians and fountainheads of Irish music in the business. Years ago we did an article on him for *Irish Music Magazine* and it just gets better and better. He is joined on this album by Tom Schaefer on fiddle, Paul Wheling on bouzouki, and Erin Hart doing some lovely vocals. (Erin Hart is a terrific singer and one to watch in the future.) There are 17 cuts on this album, and every one is tasty. Our pal, Mary Caraway, is the co-host of *A Feast of Irish Folk*, Chicago's best traditional Irish music radio program. Along with radio partner Erik Carlson she is a massive fan of Paddy and his music. She gave us the head's up on this album raving, "It's incredible!" She is right. It is a winner. There are certain artists from whom we just come to expect excellence, and Paddy O'Brien is one of them. Great stuff.

Next up, is a new treat from Christy Leahy and Caoimhin Vallely. It has no title, apparently. Figure that one out. But you know who these musicians are. Untitled or not, it is a lovely album and one to be treasured. You know Christy and Caoimhin. Christy is the box player, and Caoimhin the fiddler/pianist, for one of our favorite groups of all time, North Cregg. He is of the famous Vallely clan of master musicians from Armagh. This album has 13 cuts and is an all-instrumental treat of the first order. If you love traditional music, and if you don't why are you reading this in the first place, you will love this album. Probably the best way to find it is through the local legend, The Rampant Lion in Villa Park. Great stuff, altogether.

Two of the best harpists in Irish Music are Lily Neill and Ailie Robertson. Both are out with new albums. Lily's is entitled *The Habit of a Foreign Sky* and Ailie's is *Traditional Spirits*. We are not going to compare these two harpists. Oh, to heck with it. Yes we will. They are both wonderful and are the new breed of Irish harpists. No longer content to simply play wonderful O'Carolan tunes, these harpists are forging new directions for both traditional music and their instruments. The top four in the harp lineup nowadays would be Ailie and Lily, joined by Michelle Mulcahy, and the incomparable Maire Ni Chathasaigh. Both Ailie and Lily compose their own tunes, and are unexcelled when they play the traditional stuff. Both are major talents and both albums are well worth your dollars. Now, be aware—this is not all pure trad. They do a lot of trad, and they do it beautifully—as well as anyone. BUT—there are also some more modern tunes. However, rest assured that most of these albums are traditional in substance and form, with some additional creations sure to please. If you love Irish harp and creative musicians, here are two to of the best with new treats for you.

Of course, you are eagerly invited to Maryann Keifer and my Monday night radio party, Ireland Tonight on WDCB. 90.9 fm, and also available around the world on www.wdcb.org. We play only the best of real, traditional Irish music and you are welcomed through our perpetually opened garden gate. (We have been told that we feature more world premiere plays of new trad releases than anyone else. Green Grass Blue Grass, reviewed above, is an example!) Mondays at 8pm Chicago time.

*Ta!

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Get Me the Car Battery and the Electrodes... There's a Politician Around

Well, straight up I have to tell you that I might have to change the title of this column to something other than *Swimming Upstream*. You see, it doesn't seem to be swimming against the tide anymore. How could it be when most people agree with me that we have just swapped one donkey government for another donkey government?

They were braying all the right donkey noises when they wanted to be back in power, but it has just once again turned into a case of: "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

So welcome to Fine Gael, the guys who were going to change everything, but who now stand naked in front of us as just another bunch of greedy, grasping venal swine who, now that they're in power, could not give two hoots about the working person.

I left them alone for 62 days, yeah

that's right, 62 whole days and I hoped against hope that they would be different.

I didn't vote for them. This time around I voted Independents all the way, praying that at least that would give some sort of balance to the Dail and knowing in my heart that it wouldn't.

You wonder why young people don't vote? You wonder why they say: "What's the point?" This is why. Because the gravy train rolls on and endlessly on, that's why.

I can't bear to look at one these suit and tie Johns anymore, because when I do the only image in my head is of me, their nether regions, electrodes and a great big bloody car battery. And that would be just for a start.

Why should we have expected any of them to be different? Once they jump on the joy stick and realise that

they are our new masters, why should we expect them to behave like some dreamy Hollywood idea of ethics. They have proved this week—after only nine weeks in power—that the only people who are going to bend over and take it are the poorest.

OK, I suppose that nobody was really surprised that Enda Kenny and his Merry Band of Thieves who steal from the poor and give to the rich, would headline a decision to dip unlawfully into the pension funds of those who had been putting a little away for decades in order to have a reasonable amount of loot to spend in their twilight years.

[And kid yourself not, my friends, we are only one short step away from them being able to dig into our personal bank accounts.

You think that's being paranoid? They have already given the go ahead for your emails to be checked. George Orwell, where are you when I need you?]

Well, this is Ireland, so you can forget about spending your old age in comparative comfort for a start. These natural inheritors of the kind of thinking thing that Charles Dickens wrote about a century ago are not interested in your rights. They never were.

I speak this in bitterness and totally unobjectively of course, because I saw

my own pension wiped out—and I mean that, WIPED OUT.

Now I can understand a guy who has lost money on the horses or on the stock exchange. I would have no sympathy. You take your gamble and if it doesn't work out then don't come crying to me. That's life.

But your freaking PENSION? Now that is just immoral.

OK, so none of Enda and his fellow thieves really surprised me when he continued the grand old tradition of stealing from the working man.

What I think disgusted most people, however, is that good old Enda confirmed that the wealthy WILL NOT BE TOUCHED BY THIS STEALTH TAX. As a matter of fact, I take that back: it is not a stealth tax. They are blatantly doing this in a retrospective manner.

They're trying to make it sound more complicated than it is, because they are a shower of bastards.

But let me spell out this to you: this is not just a new tax; this is a RETROSPECTIVE tax. In other words, and let's cut through the horse manure that they are trying to feed you, they can go back to the seventies in order to tax you again on money that you have ALREADY PAID TAX ON!

And if that isn't clear enough for you, then can I ask Enda Kenny or

Michael Noonan to refute what I am saying? Prove me wrong.

I'm betting you can't, because unlike the flunkeys that you have hanging on to your every weasel words in order to keep their miserable jobs, I have a brain in my head. You prove to me that I am wrong on this, and I will apologise in this paper, at my own expense.

But back to how the wealthy won't have to take a hit on this.

Recently Enda really did spring a surprise when he announced his musings on the ARF tax exemption, something that can only be used by the extremely wealthy.

Kenny said: "They are not actually pension funds. They are similar in nature, but they're not free of tax either. The pension levy is temporary for a four year period only."

Break that down: they are not ACTUALLY pension funds—of course they bloody are—and it is ONLY for a four year period.

Only four years, eh?

I can promise you this: there will be even more suicides than the horrendous amount we had under the previous bunch of crooks.

For myself, if I came across a politician who was on fire, I wouldn't waste my time even urinating on him to put it out.



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The waterfall and landscaping upgrades to the area adjacent to the covered patio at Gaelic Park have just been completed and it is a stunning addition. The new waterfall, pergola, stone walkways, trees and shrubbery will enable Gaelic Park to compete with local golf clubs who can offer young couples an outside location for their wedding ceremonies with a banquet inside or outside. We are very grateful to our construction guru Eamon Malone and general manager Marian Ryan for envisioning this project and taking it off the drawing board to completion. The bonuses are that the landscaping is visible from the Tara Room which will enhance any function in that room, and will add to the viewing experience of fans who seek the shade of the patio in the summer GAA season. The most pleasant surprise is the therapeutic effect of the sound of the waterfall; I just could not envision that on the drawing board. Make plans to visit our patio on Sundays during the GAA season which started May 15th or anytime of your choosing and enjoy this beautiful addition to Gaelic Park. The All-Ireland championships in football and hurling are commencing, check The Gaelic Park website to see if your favorite team is on the telecast schedule this weekend. The warmer weather is here and I look forward to seeing you all at Gaelic Park.

John Devitt, President



Pictured: Marylaine Fitzgerald, daughter of Eileen Fitzgerald and granddaughter of Mike and Eileen Kelly.



Facebook CGP Business Page



It's up and running! The new page will have all the current Gaelic Park happenings plus we will be able to message all people who "like" us. It's easy to be part of our group! Just sign on to Facebook and type *Chicago Gaelic Park* in the search box. You'll know you're on the right page when you see our Irish fest logo. Now all you do is click "like" and you will soon begin to receive our CGP updates!

Gaelic Park Membership For almost 30 years, Gaelic Park has developed into a magnificent location in the promotion and fostering of Irish Culture in the Chicagoland area. Throughout the year, Gaelic Park hosts a wide range of events for all ages. During the summer months, you will see the best in Gaelic: games of hurling and football. The Carraig Pub is a great place to meet up with friends and have the best pint in the Chicagoland area with live entertainment on most weekends. Come join us and be a part of something very special! A yearly Membership is \$30 for single and \$50 for family. With this membership you will receive the following: a complimentary invitation to our annual convention dinner; two free admission tickets to Irish Fest held on Memorial Day weekend; a monthly subscription, sent to your home, of Irish American News that will keep you informed on all the goings on around the Irish community in the Chicagoland area and here at Chicago Gaelic Park; and regular email updates and discount coupons to be used at the Park. More importantly, becoming a member of Chicago Gaelic Park helps us to continue to promote and foster all what is best about being Irish.



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Chicago's GAA Launches New Website

ChicagoGaelicSports.com will feature clips from the games, photos of players, and a streaming feed of upcoming events from the clubs within the Central Board of North America's GAA. Greg Miller, the Central Board PRO, says "We want this site to serve as the central hub for all the latest on games, events & new promotions for the league. It's time to get our name out there again in the Chicago community as a whole." Make sure to visit the site regularly as Miller promises that there will be constant updates and new developments to promote the league throughout the summer. There is

even talk of two of the league's most prominent voices, Tommy Dolan & Zack Hamilton, giving a short weekly podcast running down the outcomes of each game with a bit of banter about each performance. With these two giving you a peek behind the scenes, it's safe to say that this season might be one of the most entertaining we've seen thus far.

June 3rd will mark the beginning of the Chicago GAA 2011 regular season for Gaelic Football, Hurling, & Camogie. Games will be played every Sunday from Noon until 6 on the main field at Gaelic Park. Drinks & concessions will be available, as well as free parking, and live broadcasts of the GAA Championships in the Carrig Pub.

Midwest Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is

pleased to announce our 11th Annual Golf Open this year to be played at St Andrew's Golf and Country Club on Sunday June 12th at 12 noon. We invite you to join us for a day of golf, tournament contests, and dinner. The entry fee is \$100 per person, proceeds of which will help keep the center's doors open. Prizes will be awarded for lowest gross, lowest net, nearest the pin and longest drive. Our biggest expenses in running the Golf Tournament are green fees and catering.

We are seeking major sponsors to help us cover these costs. We are the only immigration and social services agency in the Midwest dedicated to the Irish community. We offer a full range of senior services and assistance to vulnerable people in times of need. To keep our doors open we are requesting help from our community in the form of sponsorship of our golf open with an ad book page or tee/hole sponsorship. Please help in whatever way that you can by contacting Brendan G. Magee at 773.282.8445.

St. Jarlath's Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling

season is upon us, and we are always looking for new players, boys and girls from ages 6-18 with all skill levels to play. Football practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 pm, and Hurling practices are Friday evenings from 6:30-8 pm. All which are held at Gaelic Park. Our second annual golf outing will be held on June 11th at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. For more information visit our website www.chicagostjarlaths.com.



Set Dancing is held year round on Monday nights, 7:30-9:30pm and there is a \$8 weekly fee.

*"For the good are always the merry,
Save for an evil chance,
And the merry love the fiddle,
And the merry love to dance"*

- W.B. Yeats

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- 6/17 The Griffins
- 6/18 Roy Conlan
- 6/24 Bonnie Glen & Country Roads
- 6/25 Joe McShane

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

Check Website for Full Schedule

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

CGP Sunday Radio Program broadcast on Sundays, 7:05pm-9pm on WCEV 1460 AM.



Family Music Sessions are held on Thursday evenings with traditional Irish music played by students from the Irish Music School. Instructors are Sean Cleland and Pat Finnegan. For more information email LearnIrish-Music@aol.com.



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Jay Levine's Narrative and the Facts About Leo High School

On March 15, 2011 there was a Leo High School Advisory Board Sub-Committee meeting in the office of President for Institutional Advancement Daniel B. McGrath. Scheduled for 4pm, Board Chairman Bob Sheehy and members Bill Holland, Rich Finn, and Jack Fitzgerald joined President McGrath and me in the board room. Admissions Director Mike Holmes, Leo football coach and Dean was busy on 79th Street supervising the boarding of buses and pick-up by parents. Mike, Dan and Leo Principal Phil Mesina keep an eye on the Leo men as they arrive and leave the school.

The meeting concerned fund-raising and budget and the upcoming March 21st meeting with Sister Mary Paul McCaughey, Superintendent of Catholic Schools. At about 4:15, Mr. Holmes came into the board room, "CBS... Channel 2 was just outside filming the front of the school. I walked up to the camera men to ask them what us up and all of sudden Jay Levine steps out of another vehicle. I asked him about the camera and he said, 'the story is not about Leo... it's a peripheral piece of a bigger story, but it is going to be great for Leo High School. This is a positive story.'"

We all wondered if there had been something going on about 79th Street redevelopment, or the upcoming run-off election in the 17th Ward, but more than likely something had to do with St. Sabina Parish. We went forward with our meeting, assured by a CBS journalist that Leo would be the beneficiary of a positive story. The meeting ended at about 6pm and we were looking forward to our meeting with Sister McCaughey.

I rarely watch the ten o'clock news, because by that time of night I am generally deep in the comforting arms of Morpheus. I get up at 4am, say the Memorare and a prayer to St. Jude, hit the showers, get dressed, eat some oatmeal and practice writing until it is time to head to Leo. This has been my practice and ritual for years—prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, personal hygiene ablutions and the donning of snappy habiliments, breaking fast and practicing what I have preached and taught.

After writing for an hour and change, I checked my emails and read the news. I received an e-mail from an Alumnus of Leo living in New Jersey—"Pat, what's up with the Cardinal? Is Father Phleger taking over? What about Dan? Tom called me from Chicago at 11pm about something on Channel 2. Get back

to me will you?"

Okay, Hickey, put two and two together—Holmes + Levine = Positive Story?

Via the information highway, my stubby fingers walked to CBS Chicago—

CHICAGO (CBS 2) – CBS 2's Chief Correspondent Jay Levine reports that during a meeting last Friday that Francis Cardinal George allegedly asked Father Michael Pflieger to leave St. Sabina for the Presidency of struggling Leo High School.

Pflieger tells CBS 2, "I can neither confirm nor deny that at this point. That's not something I can respond to at this point..."

Get to Leo! I arrived as is my wont, sometime around 6am. I am usually one of the first persons in the building, but there is always a group of early bird students. Leo High School is more than a place to go to school. It is a culture of respect for commitment and courage. The mission is unchanged since 1926—provide a quality college preparatory education for inner city young men in the Catholic tradition. Many of the young men attending Leo High School defy 'street culture' and it can be a signal victory just to get to school. Once behind the doors, kept open by the heroic Bob Foster and the Leo Alumni, inner city kids get the support, mentoring and love needed to overcome poor scores on placement exams and even poorer preparation for high school.

The gents who start my mornings with "Hi, Mr. Hickey, take a look at my last history paper—a B+ from Coach Schablaske! Have you ever read *Last of the Mohicans*? Mrs. Latifi has me applying for the Gates Millennium Scholarship" all had heard about CBS 2 Jay Levine's 'positive story.' I said, that we will go about our business as usual and they all agreed

Principal Phil Mesina had heard the story on WBBM A.M. on the way in to school. Mike Holmes, Noah Cannon, and other teachers arrived with the same—"What's up with this?" Mike Holmes had seen piece on the news and had immediately called Dan McGrath, Leo's President for Institutional Advancement.

Dan McGrath, Mike Holmes, Phil Mesina agreed to get out in front of the struggling school narrative and Dan and Phil explained the larger situation as we knew it—absolutely nothing. We would do what we do every day—take care of the needs of the students. Our concern was for putting the mission of Leo High School and taking care of our guys before anything else—the usual.

Our concern had absolutely nothing to do with Archdiocesan personnel issues, transfers, controversies, parishes or pastoral centers.

It was agreed that our only concern as a school community would be telling the truth about what goes on here at Leo and countering the narrative tag crafted by Jay Levine without his ever once contacting anyone within the school itself—Jay never called the Principal and Jay never called the President for Institutional Advancement. Where did Jay Levine get his narrative tag pasted

to his "positive story?"

Here is Jay Levine's positive story, "Leo High School, just a few blocks from St. Sabina, suffers from declining enrollment and an uncertain future."

I got a call from Mary Ann Ahern of NBC Channel 5. Mary Ann has met Leo students and knows the Leo story. More importantly, Mary Ann Ahern called Leo High School to ask, "What is going on?" Mary Ann Ahern is a pro. One can always expect a fair shake from her and not get blind-sided with some skew of story and context. Jay Levine had a narrative—where he picked up that narrative, God only knows.

After consulting with Sister Mary Paul McCaughey and other Archdiocesan spokespeople, Dan McGrath met with Mary Ann Ahern and explained what Leo High School had been accomplishing prior to Jay Levine's narrative. Leo had:

- Conducted a very successful Fall fund-raising campaign in a very bad economic climate
- Developed a wonderful young faculty through the efforts of Principal Phil Mesina
- Established a Freshman Academy in which the class 2014 forms up for inspection, states a daily mission to be met, prays together, studies, eats and bonds as a unit. The Freshman Academy was designed by Vice Principal Frank Wilson, a Marine. The Academy boasts a 3.2 Class GPA and reports the fewest absences, tardies, and detentions in the school
- Attracted new sources of support from outside of the Leo Alumni
- Continued its successful Boxing Program with support from Jordan Family Foundation and Under-Armor through Baltimore Raven and Pro Boxer Tommy Zbikowski and Coach Mike Joyce
- Forged a partnership in an after school mentoring program with a Chicago sports legend's foundation
- Increased ACT scores by two full points across the board with help of Alumni volunteers Dr. Jack O'Keefe and Denny Conway
- Added an energetic, beautiful, talented and thoughtful young woman, attorney and Fox Television legal analyst, Tamar Holder, to the Advisory Board long dominated by dashing and handsome African American and Irish American middle age males
- Sought the counsel of Latz/Wall consultants about Board formation and conducting a capital campaign
- Reported college acceptances for Leo Class of 2011 at Marquette, DePaul, Valparaiso, Iowa, University of Illinois, Purdue, Bradley, Ripon, Ferris, International College of Design, EIU, NIU, ISU, St. Norbert, etc.
- Registered the largest incoming freshman class in twelve years—70 applicants registered as of March 15, 2011, including white and Hispanic students.

Continued on Page 36

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Irish American Hall Of Fame 2011 Inductees Honored at Awards Gala

The Irish American Hall of Fame inaugural class of inductees was honored at a Black Tie Gala Dinner on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at the Irish American Heritage Center.

More than 300 people attended the event, which featured a black tie dinner, award ceremony and live music, drama readings and video presentations. NBC 5's Mary Ann Ahern was the evening's emcee.

It was a magical night of remembering and honoring as the audience viewed a poignant and telling video representing the tale of the Irish in America from the American Revolution to the present day. The purpose of the Irish American Hall of Fame is to tell the story of the impact of the Irish in America. The evening accomplished that and more.

Among the highlights of the night were readings from the Eugene O'Neill plays, *The Iceman Cometh* and *Long Day's Journey into Night* by veteran Chicago actors from the Seanachai Theater, Steve Pickering and Kevin Theis. The award for Eugene O'Neill was accepted by Preston Whiteway, Executive Director, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut, who will display the award at the Eugene O'Neill Museum.

Chief Francis O'Neill needed no introduction to the primarily Chicago-based audience and his music was celebrated by a performance by internationally-recognized traditional Irish musicians, Sean Cleland, Jimmy Keane and Brendan McKinney. Chief O'Neill's award was accepted by



Maureen O'Hara

Brendan McKinney, owner of Chief O'Neill's Pub in Chicago.

Irish Consul General, Hon. Martin Rouine, gave a heart-warming introduction for Maureen O'Hara and the audience was surprised with a personal video acceptance of the award by Ms. O'Hara, who currently resides in Ireland.

The Rev. Patrick Francis Healy, SJ, born to an Irish-born plantation owner and bi-racial slave, who rose to become president of Georgetown University, was honored by Rev. Brian Paulson, Rector of Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit Community and a Georgetown alum. Fr. Healy's award was accepted by his great grand nephew, Dr. Thomas Riley, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at North Dakota State University.

Henry Coyle, a professional boxer from Geesala, Co. Mayo, who currently resides in Chicago, charmed the audience with tales of growing up in Ireland and admiring Jack Dempsey and telling amusing anecdotes from Dempsey's life. Dempsey's award will be given to his daughter, Barbara Dempsey Phillips of New York City.

Henry Ford's impact on business and industry is known worldwide. But Edsel B. Ford II, great grandson of Ford, educated the audience on the impact the Ford Motor Company had on the Irish economy back in the 1920s and how proud Ford was of his Irish heritage. Edsel Ford accepted the award on behalf of his great-grandfather via a specially recorded video from the Ford family home in Michigan. Ford's award was presented by Thomas Cashman of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, the American Ireland Fund and CME

Group in Chicago.

Inductees in the public service category needed no introduction but were recognized with great fanfare. Senator George Mitchell of Maine and most recently President Barack Obama's Special Envoy to the Middle East, could not attend but accepted his award via letter which was read by Dr. Adar Cohen, Mitchell Scholar, Director of the Civic Leadership Foundation and member of the faculty in DePaul University's Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies Program. President John F. Kennedy was recognized by a special video presentation sent to the Hall of Fame by the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. Finally, Mayor Richard J. Daley was introduced by Hon. Richard Devine, former Cook County State's Attorney. Accepting the award on behalf of her father, Patricia Daley Martino remembered his twinkling blue eyes, his strong faith and his dedication to his beloved City of Chicago.

Bringing down the house toward the end of the evening was Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director of Misericordia Heart of Mercy. In addition to reflecting on what it has meant to her to be able to serve the developmentally disabled through her works at Misericordia for the last 40 years, Sr. Rosemary reminisced about her childhood growing up on the west side of Chicago. She stated how proud her parents, who hailed from Co. Mayo, would be to see her receiving this induction into the Irish American Hall

of Fame. Concluding her remarks, Sr. Rosemary said, "We are promised two things in life: a life worth living and to live forever. If you get a better offer, take it!" The crowd roared with laughter and enthusiasm.

Robert McNamara, President of the Irish American Heritage Center, remarked on the evening, "it was successful beyond our wildest dreams and it will truly be a legacy for future generations."

Nominations for the 2012 class of the Irish American Hall of Fame will open in July.

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) was established in 2010 to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States. The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) and operates under the Center's auspices. The IAHOF is overseen by a separate governing committee and has a national focus. www.iahof.org

The Irish American Heritage Center, founded in 1976, located at 4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL, fosters the practice, study and celebration of Irish, Celtic, and Irish-American cultural traditions. For more information, call 773-282-7035, or visit www.irish-american.org.

Local Irish Dancer Increases World Ranking at Irish Dance Championships in Dublin

McNulty Irish dancer McKimmon Engelhardt, 11, won Sixth Place at the World Championships of Irish Dance held Easter week in Dublin, Ireland. His placing indicates an outstanding improvement of six ranks from 2010, the first World Championships where in he was old enough to compete.

A twice-reigning U.S. Midwest Champion, McKimmon has been a member of the McNulty School of Irish Dance for the past five years and attends classes in Aurora, Villa Park, Naperville, Glen Ellyn, and Palatine, IL.

The Sugar Grove native is a fifth grader at Holy Angels School in Aurora and a member of the Holy Angels football and basketball teams. He has two sisters and a brother, all members of the McNulty School of Irish Dance.

McKimmon and the McNulty School of Irish Dance extend their gratitude to everyone who came out and supported him for this exciting occasion, especially Ballydoyle Restaurant & Pub in Aurora for sponsoring him and another World qualifier, Colleen McCoy of Aurora, for the



(L-R) Barbara McNulty and McKimmon Engelhardt

2011 World Championships.

The McNulty School of Irish Dance seeks to preserve the rich traditions of Irish music and dance by celebrating them now and passing them down for future generations.

Please visit www.mcnultyirishdancers.com or contact mcnultydancers@aol.com for more information on their upcoming summer classes and workshops for preschool, youth, teen and adult levels.

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Real Ireland



By Rachel Gaffney



the Pepsi challenge (showing my age here!) Remember when you were given both cola’s and you had to tell which one was better? I do that

I remember only all too well what it was like for my Aunt and Uncle when they had to leave weddings early, couldn’t travel too far for too long and couldn’t simply relax like the rest of us on Christmas Day. Why?

Cattle do not know about these occasions! Farming is a year round activity and one that Ireland has relied upon for a very long time.

As some of you know I have been saying for almost twelve years now that Irish fish, dairy products, lamb and beef are at the heart of our economy. I believe passionately that Irish dairy products are probably the best and finest in the world. I travel around the United States teaching in culinary schools, hosting TV cooking segments and, wherever possible, I use Irish dairy products. Cast your minds back to

frequently with Irish butter, rygold Unsalted butter in my baking. I kid you not... it wins hands down EVERY TIME. The reason for this is because Irish cattle are grass fed, and it is for that reason that our grass and agriculture will secure the future of Ireland. Pretty bold statement. Passion is belief and when you believe in something you will be unwavering amidst criticism, scoffing and doubters.

Times have indeed been good in Ireland, but as we all know only too well, times are particularly tough right now. With a new government in place we have a young man who has possibly the toughest and most exciting role right now. This young man is Mr. Simon Coveney from Cork and he is the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food. You know when you hear people speak and your gut tells you that you don’t believe them? This young man is not one of those people. Recently, I came across a web site that I urge you to check

out, www.ayearontheland.com. This is a blog about Irish farming and food. Embedded on this site is a series of interviews with Minister Coveney and his words resonated very loudly with me. I am writing about it, what does that tell you? I am an out-of-the-box thinker and when you are, it can be very difficult because, more often than not, people do not see where you are going. And because they can’t, they scoff or abandon your ideas. The following

of causes in Ireland. Surely this could be one of them? I am merely suggesting that we support the idea of sustainability. Farmers markets are all over Ireland. Fresh Fish is some of the best in the world. I have written previously about Galway oysters and mussels from Bantry Bay and Connemara. I consider myself one of the unlikely alliances to which the minister refers. Just recently, I launched my national recipe competition in Ireland looking for the winning 32 recipes that will highlight EVERY county in Ireland for the new television series I am working on, with a former supervising producer for *Martha Stewart Living*. It will be designed to drive the sale of quality Irish consumer goods in all categories, including food.

During the week of May 9th-15th, a farmer in Co Roscommon, Brendan Allen, who is a 5th generation farmer decided to “Eat Only Irish For A Week.” RTE (Irish Television Station) aired, on their popular show *Nationwide*, a documentary featuring this lovely farmer. Together with host Mary Kennedy, they visited the farm and showed us all how it has evolved in a modern way, whilst still holding on to tradition. You can watch for yourself by going to www.rte.ie/player. Then simply search for ‘Heartland/Nationwide.’

One key word that resonated with me from both Minister Coveney and Brendan Allen was the word “traceability.” This is hugely important to consumers all over the world, not just Ireland. Don’t you want to know where your food comes from? Fortitude is a word that springs to mind right now for me.

Quoting the great William Butler Yeats, “Being Irish, he had an abiding sense of tragedy which sustained him through temporary periods of joy.”

www.Rachelgaffney.blogspot.com. Twitter: @Rachelgaffney. Facebook: Rachel Gaffney.



quote from Minister Coveney was one that resonated.

“We need to be clever in agriculture about how we build alliances with unlikely partners in order to get done what we need done, which is to protect the beef industry here as an industry that produces the best beef in the world.” He also adds that the same applies to dairy products and lamb.

This brings me back full circle to “out-of-the-box thinking” and Mr. Coveney’s comments about alliances with unlikely partners! Over 42 million Americans claim Irish ancestry. They love Ireland. Even those who have never had a chance to even visit. Living here for the last 15 years, I now understand why. People need to belong. We need to know where we are from. Monies are raised over here for all sorts

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Terrence J. O’Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, recently announced that Dr. Cecil Lue-Hing was inducted into the Inaugural Class of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Hall of Fame, established to commemorate the accomplishments of its exemplary members and officers. Dr. Lue-Hing was the Director of Research and Development at the MWRD and served as a member of NACWA’s Board of Directors and as President from 81-83. He was the recipient of the Environment Award in 1988 and the President’s Award for major contributions toward achieving the goals and objectives of NACWA in 1992.

Pictured (L-R) are MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila, Dr. Cecil Lue-Hing, MWRD Board President Terrence J. O’Brien and Commissioner Mariyana T. Spyropoulos.



From the Motherland

Sean Farrell

Nurturing The Elephant

Of all the misleading balderdash written about the European Union, pride of place must go to the claim that the Union brought peace to the European continent for fifty plus years after World War Two. It did NOT. After 1945 and until 1989, the military borders in Europe calcified into political borders separating the two competing superpowers and their allies. The leading Western Europe states were very much second division, and would not have been permitted to fight each other, even had the desire or the means been there. As time passed, economic reconstruction and cooperation ushered in an era of prosperity, out of which the European Union developed.

This is not to deny the many achievements in Europe since 1945. The European Union and its earlier versions have contributed a great deal to the peaceful and prosperous Europe we have today. Ireland has benefitted enormously from membership and continues to do so; indeed the EU is currently supplying us with economic life support. But now, as the EU faces perhaps its greatest challenge, there is a need for cold dispassionate analysis of where we are at, and where we are going. Any "Post hoc ergo propter hoc" line of reasoning, and the mind-set that encourages it, should be avoided.

I wrote last July, in the context of the developing crisis in the Eurozone, of the gradual emergence of a European super state built around Germany. This entity was still in embryonic form, its institutions and even its borders were evolving; it had taken a particularly significant leap forward in 2001 with the launch of a common currency—the Euro. All this happened over time and on an ad hoc basis, rather than as part of a master plan. Certainly people from Schuman on down had dreams of a united Europe, but no one had any idea how it would pan out in reality. What we have now is a peculiar institution. And, as the Eurozone crisis has deepened, this institution is entering uncharted territory.

The crisis has exposed a weakness at the heart of the European project. You can have a customs union. You can have a free trade area. You can have a common travel area. You can even legislate Europe-wide across a broad range of social and environmental issues under powers delegated by the member states. But you cannot have genuine economic and monetary union, embracing a common currency, without a supranational political and fiscal authority with comprehensive powers to discipline and override individual member states. To date, member states have been loath to give up this fundamental facet of sovereignty. There is, frankly, little sign of this situation changing.

The immediate major practical issue is whether the bailouts provided to date to Greece, Ireland and Portugal will enable the three countries concerned to meet their financial obligations without wrecking their economies in the process. The ECB and the heavy hitters of Germany and France remain



firmly opposed to any restructuring of debt through altering the calendar or through writing off some of the amount owing. Whether that resolve will

survive for much longer is for debate. Last year's sticking plaster solution for Greece has proved inadequate, and the Greek situation needs to be addressed urgently and definitively. This may not be possible without a fundamental restructuring of the Euro project.

The Euro was launched in 2002 on a wing and a prayer, with much pious waffle and fiscal and administrative controls that proved to be aspirational rather than binding when the going got tough. The first countries to breach the 3% deficit guidelines (albeit mildly) were Germany and France; they got away with it, something which did not go unnoticed. And, (shades of Ireland's situation writ large) as long as the world economy was doing well, the growing imbalances and contradictions in the system could be glossed over. With recession, all this changed and the weaker economies found themselves beached and exposed, with large borrowings and rising debt.

Whither now? The usual European muddle through may not work this time. Policy is in flux and is being made largely on the hoof. The European banks which provided the easy credit are exposed and would lose out in any debt restructuring or write-off. However, default by one or more countries could collapse the whole house of cards with consequences even more dire. Europe has a habit of doing too little too late when faced with a problem until at the eleventh hour some solution, usually temporary, is found and the system staggers on. What will emerge and will it work this time?

Ireland waits with interest. Emotions are rising here as the message sinks in that even a change of government has not altered the fundamental economic reality. The gathering head of steam in Ireland is focussed firmly on the ECB and (largely) Germany as being to blame for not reining us in during the Years of the Tiger, with our own tiger excesses being ignored or dismissed. There is talk of restructuring or even reneging on some of our debt, though there is enough cautionary evidence and opinion around to counsel against this. Our immediate concern is to secure some relief on the interest rate we are paying on our bailout.

Some have suggested even deeper budgetary

cuts here, to bridge the fiscal gap at one or two fell swoops. (This would be the de facto consequence of any reneging on debt, since we would immediately have to live within our fiscal means.) Yes, an immediate 25% cut in government spending, including all public sector wages and welfare

payments, combined with some sharp increases in taxes, could, by eliminating our current budget deficit more rapidly, give us the leeway to thumb our nose at the ECB, the IMF et al. Given that politics in a democracy is very much the art of the

Continued on Page 38

Horoscope



Theresa Castro



ARIES: You will be concerned this month of June 2011, and for the better part of this year, with the affairs of family members and their wellbeing. You may be called upon to take charge of affairs for them and issues regarding healthcare coordination. You will take this all in stride!



TAURUS: Finances will be in a busy state of flux for the rest of the year. We all need to be more frugal these days, given the world economics that affects most of us. A bit of extra planning will go a long way in helping you stay afloat!



GEMINI: This is the only time all year when the new moon is in your sign! To add to that, this new moon is also a solar eclipse that adds to the power of this positive influence in your first sector of self! Add this to your arsenal of self improvement and go for the thing that will help you most!



CANCER: You can use the eclipse that occurs in your 12th sector of seclusion and respite to recharge your batteries for the upcoming full moon eclipse in two weeks that happens in your sign of Cancer. Do not feel guilty for taking some time to relax and prepare for the inevitable.



LEO: The eclipse in Gemini happens to be in your sector regarding your hopes and visions for your life in the future. You have come a long way to this point, and now you can look back and use the keys of the past to craft a strategy for your future! Your friends can help you with a lot of these things and can show you the appreciation you so richly deserve!



VIRGO: You are high viz this month as your career sector is highlighted! The bosses will be watching so be good. This shall bode well for most Virgos if things you have done in the past at work warrant. If you are looking for work chances, you will be a



top contender for the position. Great timing!

LIBRA: Your mind is filled with high ideals this month of June 2011. The solar eclipse in your 9th sector of legal matters and far reaching changes is highlighted. You want to make long range adjustments to your life in a direction that



will give you peace of mind and bring your heart's desire closer to reality!



SCORPIO: You are trying to tie up loose ends before embarking on a new chapter in your life. Let your intuition be your guide as you prepare for exciting changes that will lift your spirits! Someone special could show a great interest in you and make an offer that will add to your happiness and wellbeing!



SAGITTARIUS: This is the only new moon eclipse opposite your sign in 18-1/2 years! This will give you a boost in health and work matters to your satisfaction. You will be able to consolidate business matters and clear away a portion of the annoying red



tape associated with these issues.
CAPRICORN: Your focus this month is your beloved significant other. If you have more than one you will depend on both in different ways. If you are transitioning from one relationship to a new one, your lover will champion your efforts. Lucky you!



AQUARIUS: Keep a close watch on your finances all year with Jupiter making stressful aspects to your sign. All is not so bad with the new moon in good aspect to your Sun, easing the impact of Jupiter's influence at harsh angles. It is a mixed bag of fortunes, but you will land on your feet!



PISCES: Planet Neptune is traveling closely with the asteroid Chiron making a romantic tryst with your sign! You will not be left out of the excitement at all, with the solar eclipse also contributing to the magic. You will also be lucky in real estate matters.

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



W.A.S.P Or W.A.S.P. Which Kind of Wasp Are You?

The term W.A.S.P. meaning White Anglo-Saxon and Protestant is an informal term, often used, for an elite group of high-status Americans usually of British descent with a Protestant background who supposedly wield disproportionate financial and social power. The term more generally refers to high society Americans of Northern European and Northwestern European descent (not necessarily British), but it usually excludes Catholics, Jews, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians.

I thought about this recently when reading a piece from the anti-immigration lobby and their approach to the issues surrounding our undocumented brothers and sisters. There are a small but vocal percentage of people

through the US who approach the question of “illegals” with what can only be described as a very narrow and in some cases blatantly racist mind set towards such folks.

I have read and seen many references to those who object to “the browning” of America. These folks have much in common with the white supremacists that object to non-white people from other countries living here and stealing from our resources.

I detect in such writing in particular an anti Hispanic element and the perception that these people should pack up and “go home and stop taking our jobs,” as one contributor put it again recently.

One historian has commented that it wasn’t until the 1970s,

newspapers curtailed or discontinued their daily “Society” page to institute a Sunday “Style” section.

In historical terms of course, this is a relatively recent development. The “Society” has been dropped from the newspapers, but it has not been dropped from the mentality of people who like to exclude “the other” on the basis of race, skin color and belief as not being really fit for our “society.”

The element of “Protestant” may be more difficult to detect but nonetheless is, I think, still beneath the surface. In the reluctance to welcome the stranger or be open to an encounter with “the other,” we see a mentality of exclusion, which is very alien to the principal that “all men (women) are created equal.”

I am convinced that this kind of Waspish mentality is more prominent than it was just a few years ago. And I link its resurgence to two events. Firstly, the election of “the first black” man to the White House and secondly, the recession in our economy. During times of recession there is always a tendency for people

to point the finger of blame for our woes to some other group. Right now immigrants are, as they have been in the past, the easy “scapegoats” for our economic woes. We see, I think, a corresponding drop unfortunately between the downturn in the economy and a drop in the generosity of spirit that is also manifest in a lack of compassion for the other.

There is as always when dealing with a complex issue, another way of seeing or interpreting the term WASP.

From the viewpoint of a Christian, the Gospel is the lens through which we are called to live our lives. In place of white only, we need to have the wisdom to, in the words of scripture, welcome the stranger. Matthew’s famous last judgment scene puts it like this: “I was a stranger and you make me welcome.”

The Christian imperative is also the call to accept “the other” and part of our duty as a Christian Country is surely to assist our neighbor in becoming part of the American dream. It is the duty of government to create programs that help immigrants

to assimilate among us. America is a society that prides itself on “Being The Land of The Free.” The Nation shows forth its greatness of Soul when it displays a fairness and real Style in reaching out to support new arrivals among us.

One of the lasting consequences of 9/11 is that it has instilled an inward looking and fear-based approach to how we view people from different cultures and religious beliefs. This is not compatible with the ideals of our founding Fathers whose approach is based on a Pluralistic outlook. What makes America great is not a single viewpoint, but rather expressed in the motto: *E Pluribus Unum*, written in capital letters, is included on most U.S. currency

Originally suggesting that out of many colonies or states emerge a single nation, in recent times it has come to suggest that out of many peoples, races, religions and ancestries has emerged a single people and nation—illustrating the concept of what is commonly called “the melting pot.” This multi cultural “melting pot” is a great example of America at it best—a place where all people of good will are welcome and free to pursue life, liberty and freedom.

And so gentle readers, which Waspish interpretations do you feel best represents your view. I am convinced that the vast majority belongs to the second group that I have outlined above. The sad fact is that the view of the majority is not reflected as often as we would like.

Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me sliabhanoir@yahoo.com Tel: 773-282-8445.

Due to limited space in this issue, the remainder of this column is available on the IAN website; www.irishamerican-news.com.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West

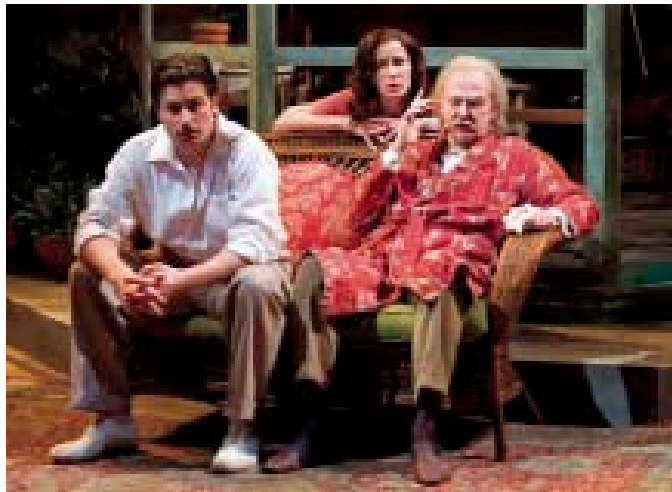


"The Question Is Not Who We Are, But What We Are."

George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* is being presented at Writers' Theatre in Glencoe. I read the script (Penguin Classics) and quickly understood why it was Shaw's favorite play.

This would doom the power and wealth of England's aristocracy.

Shaw uses the character of Captain Shotover to state truths, much like King Lear's fool. Shotover is brilliantly



Scene from *Heartbreak House* at *Writer's Theatre*

The characters that Shaw created, the dialogue (the title quote is from this), and the plot are exquisite. The actors at Writers' Theatre should be proud of the justice they do to this outstanding play. Their presentation shows the humanity and vitality of the play.

Shaw wrote this play in 1916-1917, during World War I. But, he didn't publish it until the end of the war.

As we know, vast numbers of young men were killed during the war. Hope for the future for Europe was gone.

Aristocrats across Europe had supported going to war. They believed victory would protect their wealth, privileges and power.

Shaw realized this was about to completely change. He focused the play on the English aristocracy, but it could have been set in any European country.

Who profited from this war? Ultimately, no one. As a committed Socialist, Shaw realized the war was not only senseless, but obscenely senseless.

The characters in *Heartbreak House* lead purposeless, useless lives. They had wealth, which our ancestors earned for them by working on their estates. Their work and sweat maintained the lifestyle of these aristocrats. Shaw uses humor and the beauty of words to describe this profoundly unfair society.

However, during the war the right to vote was greatly expanded. This was done to motivate people for the war effort. This meant taxes were going to go up—someone had to pay for the war.

played by John Reeger. Reeger uses the mannerisms of a very old man. I sat only a few feet from him, and was astounded when a friend told me he was really a middle-aged man. What acting!

Shotover rose to the position of Captain during the age of sailing ships. He is in his late 80's, is stiff and appears almost senile. But, he is really quite observant and realizes the usefulness of patience.

Shaw is very specific about the set, the room where most of the action takes place is shaped like a captain's cabin in a sailing ship. It was to be a showcase for the tough, self-made Shotover.

Shaw uses Shotover, the old sea captain, to express his own views about equality, self reliance and hard work.

I was puzzled why the director chose to set the play in the England of 1940, during World War II. The magazine of Writers' Theatre says: "redefining the time frame heightens the plays power." No, it doesn't. By that time, the once enormous power of the aristocracy had become a shadow of its former self.

Setting the play in 1940's England is doubly puzzling because the whole play is Shaw's statement about the gross unfairness of the English social structure of the early 1900's.

About this, Shaw himself said, "*Heartbreak House* is not merely the name of the play. It is cultured, leisured Europe before the war."

We need a Shaw today to comment on the obscene wealth of Wall Street

speculators, investors, and their Washington lackeys. Do these gamblers produce anything?

Nevertheless, the acting in this production is a pleasure to see. The theatre building is elegant and the set detailed, colorful, and believable.

George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* will be presented at Writers' Theatre thru June 26. The theatre is located at 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe. 847-242-6000.

The Changes That Time Brings

A Lucky Irish Lad gives the reader several powerful insights.

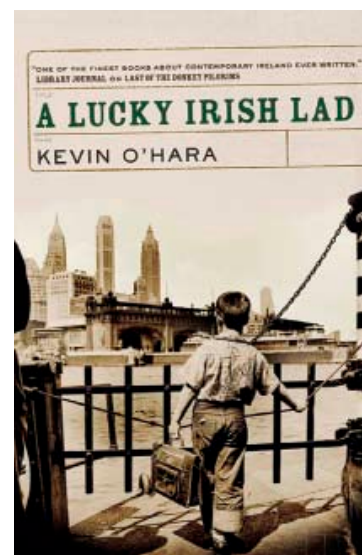
First, it shows us the emotions felt by immigrants from Ireland to the United States in the 1940's and 1950's.

To be sure, there was the hesitancy and apprehension of being in a new country and in a new culture. But, there was also a wonderful new estimate of their self worth. Life was valuable and they were precious people. And, there were now opportunities to realize that potential.

How do I know how they felt? Several of my relatives left Ireland and came to live in Chicago during that period. I have vivid memories of them.

I see the book as beautiful, unique and deeply intimate. This is because the author, Kevin O'Hara, describes

the experiences and surroundings of the world he grew up in. Generously, he invites us into that world. We are there, not to watch, but to be included. He asks us, permits us, to become part of that world.



O'Hara had an idyllic upbringing in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he lives today. I believe that his experience of being a psychiatric nurse gives him great insight into the human experience.

I say the book is intimate because O'Hara has the amazing ability to let the reader feel included in his boyhood experiences.

We are with young O'Hara when

he and his friends go on adventures. We are with him when, as a child, he innocently adds up faults to tell in confession. We are with him when, at the candy store he spends forty-four cents to buy "penny" candy, and leaves with a full brown bag. (What would that candy cost today?) And, we are with him when the girl next door invites him into her yard and kisses him.

O'Hara describes his attractions to the girls he goes to elementary and high school with. He describes his feelings for one of these girls: "wishing never to catch nor lose sight of her."

When a friend tells him he likes a girl, O'Hara says "he had succumbed to the epidemic of love."

Kevin O'Hara has written a book that shows how early experiences and their emotions strongly influence us today.

The book is rich with emotions many of us felt as young people.

I enjoyed reading this book. I especially liked O'Hara's description of the warmth of his family when he was growing up, and which he continues to enjoy. A loving family is golden. Or, as G. B. Shaw says: "A happy family is but an earlier heaven."

A Lucky Irish Lad by Kevin O'Hara. Tom Doherty Associates, New York, 2010. 381 pages; \$25.99. www.tor-frome.com.

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to have been produced with divine help. The books were held in great reverence and considered holy and blessed objects. Legends held the books to be able to cure people’s illnesses. In fact, there are reports that people went so far as to use the books to cure the health problems of livestock, including methods like dipping the books in the water used to pour on the animals.

XPI— The Chi Rho Leaf

This month I want to remind you of the comments that Gerald of Wales made in his 12th century book, *Topographia Hibernica*.

Gerald describes a book he saw at the Abby of Kildare, where he was also told the story of how the book was written. An angel appeared and instructed a scribe on how to complete the book with the aid of miraculous help. The result was so magnificent, Gerald further writes, “...you might say that all this was the work of an angel, and not of a man.”

He was most likely referring to the *Book of Kildare* (now lost), not the *Book of Kells*. However, for a long period, scholars assumed he was really writing about the *Book of Kells*. That was before mounting evidence indicated there probably was a gospel book at Kildare. Now, scholars think that both books at least were started at the Abby of Iona.

Further, it was believed, miraculous involvement was part of how these gospel books were produced; not only at Kildare and Kells, but most, if not all, prayer and gospel books were though

All of this suggests the attitude of the devout Abbots and scribes in the scriptoriums that produced these books.

I think the intention of the scribes, especially from Iona, Kells and Kildare, was to produce a book of unprecedented artistic radiance. One thousand years later, James Joyce—through Stephan Dedalus—would describe such work as “aesthetic arrest.” That could be defined as the moment an image, for example *Kells’* Chi Rho page, “is apprehended... by the mind which has been arrested by its wholeness and fascinated by its harmony.” At that point one’s mind is receptive to a spiritual epiphany.

Monasteries with scriptoriums traded “model books” that were examples of text and images to be copied. This is one reason that a drawing of a lion, for example, by a scribe who has seen one, may be passed along to many scribes and ends up looking like a big dog, an animal the latest scribe has actually seen.

The basis of the Chi Rho page is based on the first three letters Xpi, for “Christ” in Greek, or often just “XP.” Its origin is on the military flag used by the emperor Constantine.

A comparison of Chi Rho pages in Insular Gospel books made before and after the *Kells’* book shows the magnificence the *Kells’* Chi Rho page is. The Lindisfarn Gospel comes close to *Kells*, but developments in size of letters, designs and details do not fully explain *Kells’* difference. The outstanding artistic talent of the scribe I call Scribe/Artist A makes it unique.



Example of bronze coin with “Christ” monogram from 353 AD



Book of Durrow C. 650 AD



Lichfield Gospel C.

(Other images of Chi Rho pages on IAN.com website.)

At the first glance at the Chi Rho page, we see a full-length letter that seems to be a “P” but actually is an “X” with curved and unequal ascenders and descenders. Below that part of the monogram is the “I” and “P.” At the end of the “P”’s curve is the head of a beardless man. The next thing that catches our eye is approximately 300 gold colored individual spirals and groups of spirals in roundels that appear to be spinning. Imagine the wonder that would produce in people that never saw anything like these moving and twirling shapes in a book!

A closer examination reveals creatures of the air: birds and moths; of the sea: fish and otters; of the land: cats and mice or perhaps it is of cats and kittens—that’s not clear. Also there are humans and angels.

Within the drawn borders, areas not filled in with the spirals, samples of living creatures and the letters of the monogram are knots and interlacing. Some of this knotwork is so astonishingly minute that for most people a magnifying glass is needed to see the details clearly. Could scribes have used a glass globe filled with water or a gemstone to magnify his work? Perhaps they were nearsighted and could see clearly if they brought their eyes very close to the vellum.

For a long time Scholars have debated the meaning of the inclusion of the angels, men and creatures of the land, air and sky. These kinds of images, and more, are found throughout the *Book*. They usually have no special connection to the surrounding text, or each image has a very important meaning, adding to the message of the Gospels.

For example, on the left lower descender of “X” there are three angels. Two are holding books and a third is holding two plant stalks. At the top, above the crossing of the “X” is a triangular shape with a face at the apex. That may be another angel in the “Osiris” pose (i.e., arms crossed against chest and holding a stalk in each hand.) This is another case speculating the intention of the artist. There was not enough room to draw the arms and wings, but the head is like the other angels and spirals on stalks where the shoulders would be, as there are on the other angels. That could imply that the head of the beardless man that is part of the “P” is an image of Christ who is always accompanied by four angels. That is, except 114r, the folio depicting the arrest of Christ.

The cats and mice/kittens image is another example. Are the cats and mice showing the peacefulness of the world with the acceptance of the Word and of partaking of the Eucharist, which the mice appear to be doing. Or is it a peaceful cat family scene doing the same thing?

More on Scribe/Artist A next month.



Chi Rho Page

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



they were in town last month to film a documentary about President Obama's Chicago roots.

Cliff advised

Unless you live under a rock you've heard the story of how President O'bama's great-great grandfather Falmouth Kearney left the Emerald Isle in 1850 and a few generations later the Prez's mother, Ann Dunham, was born in Kansas. She married a guy from Kenya, also named Barack Obama, who was studying economics of all things, in Hawaii.

The president's Irish cousins are all on his mother's side, although others claim links on his paternal side. Somebody told me, "I knew all the time he was part Irish. His great-great grandfather in Kenya once ate an Irish missionary."

I think that's called "Irish by digestion."

I met Obama only once. It was at my pal Boz O'Brien's joint on the south side, "Reilly's Daughter." He was a state senator then and my niece introduced us in passing in the crowd. He gave me the old fish hand and I've been underwhelmed by him ever since.

So I was surprised when IAN publisher and editor Cliff Carlson suggested me to Ireland's TV station RTE as a guide and driver while

me to keep my mouth shut about my politics if I wanted to get paid. And I did for almost the whole three days while I drove them around town interviewing Obama's Chicago pals and haunts.

RTE had sent a producer, reporter, and cameraman to work the story and we got along like Irish cousins. They probably could smell my cynicism regarding the big O, but I like to think I kept my mouth reasonably well shut.

Until the last day of shooting on Saturday.

Laura the producer had set up interviews on the far south side in the Altgeld Gardens public housing hood where Obama had once worked as a community organizer. Altgeld Gardens has been described as "ground zero, a war zone, and hell hole" and it sits next to a putrid landfill out at 130th and Ellis.

That's why I recruited my old pal and retired Chicago Police Homicide Detective Cornelius A. Maas to assist with our visit to Alligator Gardens, the "Disneyland of Murder."

I first met Cornelius years ago at Skinny

Sheahan's post parade party. Neil was wearing an Irish Garda uniform. He looks like a wiry Robert Duvall with his cop moustache. He has a reputation on the Chicago police force as an eccentric and fearless homicide dick that loves to hunt down bad guys. You wouldn't want him coming after you.

When I gave Neil the details of the Irish crew's visit he asked me, "What the hell are they going there for?"

Just make sure you bring your gun.

We spent the morning at Operation Push while RTE interviewed the great faker himself, the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Over lunch I told them my favorite story, about the night cops were called by the Rev. because a burglar had broken into his home and defecated on Jesse's dining room table. Nothing else was taken and Jesse told them, "I better not read about this in the paper!"

As we drove to Altgeld Gardens I was nervous. I got lost on the way so we were late, but we finally pulled into the housing project. It was quiet, too quiet, like the opening scene in "Bad Day at Blackrock."

Cornelius pulled up next to our black SUV in his Chevy bubbletop. He was wearing an Irish cap and a Chicago Police shirt with his badge on a chain around his neck. He started talking his usual mile-a-minute and Laura, our producer,

was apprehensive. She asked me, "Can he take off that shirt?"

I asked Neil and he said, "No." and then added, "The broads will be all over me if I take off my shirt."

At this point Laura realized what Cornelius was all about. He'd investigated at least three murders at Altgeld Gardens over the years and he had no illusions about making friends.

Laura jumped from the SUV and said, "I'm afraid the woman we're interviewing will be insulted."

She walked into the project and I lost it as I turned and looked at Nick and Garry, the cameraman and reporter.

Insulted? Lemme tell you guys something, I'm gonna be insulted if any of these crack heads start shootin' at me. Cornelius is here and is staying here, so I don't get shot. I could give a f--- about the rest of you. I love Ireland, but I ain't ready to die for her. So he is going to stay right here with me and will keep an eye on things.

They got out of the vehicle and I got into Cornelius' car and he said, "What the hell is her problem?"

It was a tense moment but Cornelius entertained me for the next hour as we followed the Irish crew in the prowler and just hung around so nobody would mess with them. Cornelius had

Continued on Page 38

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PH Factor

Continued from Page 28

Dan McGrath and Phil Mesina spent most of March 16th talking to the Chicago Media. Mark Konkol, WBBM’s Mary Frances Bregiel, and another CBS News crew all reported the above information in summary. ABC 7’s Theresa Gutierrez spent several hours within the school and I told her of Francis O’Neill ‘30 first student registered by Leo High School in 1926 who had just turned 100 years old.

ABC 7 added to the Jay Levine tag Troubled School. Declining enrollment—addressed. Mike Anderson ‘91 who teaches on the west side spends his off hours talking up the advantages

of Leo High School and along with Mike Holmes and Dan McGrath has increased the upcoming enrollment. Support—on-going and increasing. Support from the Bid Shoulders Fund and the Bidwill, Cashel, Helen V. Brach, Clare, WP & HB White, Jay Jordan Family, John Buck Company, Irish Fellowship, Schemel, McDonald’s, Wells Fargo Company, Pfizer, and Barney Foundations shore up the magnificent giving of the Leo Alumni. Several anonymous individuals offer six figure contributions for financial assistance. Dan McGrath personally brought in a gentleman who sold his construction supply company who committed to resurrecting the pool at Leo, as well as making a significant

cash gift to the school.

On St. Paddy’s Day, March 17th, the media onslaught continued. Radio stations sent reporters to ask the students about ‘the controversy.’ I was proud to witness freshman through seniors offer a universal “No comment. Talk to Mr. McGrath. Thank you, but no comment.”

President Dan McGrath was in talks with a very big national businessman when the positive story broke and he explained the current situation. Many very good things are in place to boost Leo High School to the next level, but the narrative of ‘struggling, declining, and troubled school’ crafted by Jay Levine without speaking to anyone at Leo or in support of Leo has placed an

unnecessary speed bump right out in front of our mission. Things happen... with great regularity.

What about Father Pflieger and the Cardinal? I could not say, nor would I and, as a matter of fact, no one is really asking me. What I know is that Leo High School is populated by wonderful young men and enjoys the support and constant presence of its Alumni. We held a rally at Leo in response to the ‘troubled school’ narrative attended by Sister Mary Paul McCaughey, whose father was a member of Leo ‘37 and more than one hundred Leo graduates from the ‘40’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80, and 90’s. Leo High School has been the collateral damage in an Archdiocesan person-

nel matter. The positive story about Leo High School never really came through the lips of CBS newsman Jay Levine. The story crafted by Jay Levine is all over the news, yet Jay Levine has never come into Leo High School. He might trip over the very positive facts in his search for his narrative. Other schools should have Leo’s troubles.

By the way, Mrs. Aurora Latifi, Leo’s Albanian Math Czarina gave one young man the right push. Eder Cruz, Leo Class of 2011, is a Gates Millennium Scholar

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/03/15/father-pflieger%E2%80%99s-future-at-st-sabina-in-question/>

Beverly Arts Center Summer Concerts

Enjoy the great music events on the schedule this summer at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th St. south on Western Ave.) in Chicago.

On the BAC concert schedule are:
Roger McGuinn, Fri., 6/3, 8pm. In 1964, guitarist Roger McGuinn co-founded “The Byrds” with Gene Clark and David Crosby. By then, McGuinn was a veteran of the New York and L.A. music scenes, playing guitar and banjo for the Limelights, Chad Mitchell Trio, Bobby Darin and others. McGuinn studied at Chicago’s celebrated Old Town School of Music, honing the skills that define him as a folk rock original. Tickets: \$30 (\$27/BAC mbrs).

Fuaim Chonamara, Sat., 6/18, 8pm. Fuaim Chonamara (Connemara Sound) features the Cunningham Family of Connemara County in performing the story of Ireland’s Sean Nós (historic styles of Irish song & dance). Full of raw energy and enthusiasm, the show features the ancient art of Barrel Dancing and blends the ancient Sean Nós dancing with contemporary step danc-

ing. Tickets: \$20 (\$18/BAC mbrs).

Black Oak Arkansas, Fri., 6/24, 8pm. Jim “Dandy” Mangrum and his band are coming to the rescue when American southern rock band Black Oak Arkansas arrives on the BAC stage. Tickets: \$20 (\$17/BAC members).

BAC Yard Music Fest, Sat., 7/16, 2-10pm. Ten bands, \$10, two outdoor stages & \$3 Stella Artois. Come on over to the BAC’s back yard for a summer day filled with great music & fun. Event sponsor: Stella Artois. Tickets: \$10.

Tommy Malone, Fri., 8/19, 8pm. The Subdudes won’t be touring this summer, so don’t miss Tommy Malone’s laid-back attitude, outstanding guitar work and soulful—and joyful—vocals exude the Subdudes’ style. Malone’s songs have been featured on HBO’s *Treme*. Tickets: \$22 (\$20/BAC mbrs).

More concerts are being added to the schedule all the time. Purchase tickets to Beverly Arts Center concerts online at www.beverlyartcenter.org, or by phone at 773-445-3838.

Sexton Awarded Maryville Academy Guardian Medallion



(L-R) Edward Sexton, Sr., Mrs. Mary Sexton, Sr. Catherine Ryan.

Edward Sexton, Sr., chief executive of the Sexton Group in Des Plaines, has been awarded the 2011 Maryville Academy Guardian Medallion.

In a brief presentation at the Maryville Des Plaines campus last week, Maryville Executive Director Sister Catherine Ryan thanked Sexton for his support dating back more than two decades for suicide prevention programs and training at the Scott Nolan Hospital.

The 76-year-old Sexton established the Stephen T. Sexton Memorial Foundation after his son, Stephen, took his own life at the age of 27 in 1987.

Sexton accepted the award in May accompanied by his wife, Mary Alice. The Foundation has raised more than \$1 million since its inception in 1987.

Ed grew up in St. Matthias Parish on the Northwest Side and attended DePaul Academy and Loyola University.

Ed owns The Sexton Group, Inc., a company that specializes in installing and maintaining many of the great wood floors you see in restaurants and pubs around Chicagoland, and has been a long time advertiser in the *Irish American News*. We feel he is very deserving of the honor. bissellsexton@yahoo.com; 847-827-1188.



Ed McElroy, host of *Community in Focus* TV show, recently interviewed Commissioner John P. Daley, Chairman of Finance on the Cook County Board of Commissioners and Father Michael Flynn, a Carmelite Priest who works at the Veteran’s Hospital in Chicago and celebrated his Golden Anniversary at the end of May. Pictured (L-R) Commissioner John P. Daley, Ed McElroy, and Father Michael Flynn.

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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki

Last month I got this amazing opportunity to volunteer at Special Olympics. I was a little bit nervous in the beginning because I wasn't sure what to expect, but at the end of the day I had an ah-mazing time. The participants were really nice and full of energy. They were having a great time. I went with my 7th grade class. My mom even volunteered with our class. It was a beautiful day, even if it was a little cold. I was working

at a softball throw game. I had to pass the ball to the participants, shag the balls, and of course cheer for all the athletes. It was a great experience and I loved helping. I hope I can do it again.

I also had a lovely Mothers' Day! My siblings and I made a big surprise breakfast for my mom. I decided the menu and took my dad shopping. My brother and sister helped me

make Irish brown bread, homemade pop tarts, French toast with fresh strawberries and cream, and strawberry-lemonade with fresh mint. Everything turned out wonderful. I also made a computerized picture. It used words that describe my mom and shapes them into a heart. Then we went to a beautiful mass. We spent the rest of the afternoon with both sets of grandparents. It was a very nice day!

Well, school will be ending in a few days and I can't wait. I am very excited about summer vacation and Nationals. I can't wait to tell you about my exciting trip next month. (And my birthday is this month, too!)

From the Motherland

Continued from Page 31

possible, the chances of this happening must be remote. The government has little option but to soldier on and see what Europe can do.

In fairness, the task facing Europe's leaders is colossal. Consider the much less complicated situation in the United States in 1790. The new country had no money and faced a huge debt from the Revolutionary War. Some of the states had paid off their debt, others had not. Alexander Hamilton, First Secretary of the Treasury, proposed that the new nation assume all state debts and fund them by issuing new bonds. There was a North-South division, with up to 80% of the debt owed to Northern bondholders, many of whom had bought the debt at 10 or 15 cents on the dollar. Congress was deadlocked for six months with sectional animosities mounting. Eventually a compromise was hammered out with Hamilton's plan being adopted at the behest of Jefferson and Madison. To put it mildly, the plan worked.

The question is not whether Europe today needs a Hamilton, but whether there is a spirit of compromise and statesmanship around sufficient to enable Europe's leaders to agree on a fair and equitable solution for all its citizens. Without such a solution, the EU'S future does not look great.

Hooliganism

Continued from Page 35

a wisecrack and story for every mutt that walked by the car. He told me he had been in touch with the district and they told him, "Call us when the shootin' starts."

It was fun pretending to be police as I sat surveillance with Cornelius. He sez, "Here I brought you a badge." And handed me a heavy leather oval with a badge on it that read, "Kansas City Brothel Inspector."

Oh thanks, this will command respect.

Cornelius followed us later as we drove slowly thru the gardens shooting B roll. At one point Laura said, "Watch out, very dicey car coming down the road."

The inside of that car looked like midnight and a surly woman sitting shotgun ate a banana and gave us the evil eye. Cornelius pulled up next to us as they drove away, "Those are cops. They nasty lookin', ain't they!"

By now everybody was glad we had Cornelius A. Maas watching over us. Laura gave him a bottle of Bushmills when we left. My Irish crew even took me out to dinner that night. My outburst at the Gardens was thankfully forgotten. Or maybe it wasn't. I'm still waiting for their check.

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Since the days of affordable trans-Atlantic flights Ireland has been a mecca for tourism from America. Hundreds of thousands of us visit each and every year and there is much to attract us including beautiful scenery, a warm Irish welcome, and the opportunity to explore our past, our roots and the unique history and culture of the land. One thing that we all know, however, is how hard it is sometimes to fit everything in. To get the most out of a vacation to Ireland it really helps to do the research before you go and to plan well. All this takes time and time is one thing that many of us don't have in abundance in today's world.

Enter Culture & Heritage Tours, based in County Sligo, a new company that brings a refreshingly different approach to experiencing the many aspects of Ireland's storied past. The company offers themed escorted tours throughout the 32 counties of Ireland on subjects as diverse as exploring the link between Ireland and America, famous Irish movie sets and the battlefields of Ireland. All the tours use luxury coaches and provide top notch accommodation as well as experienced guides. The idea is simple enough, experts have put together itineraries on a variety of themes which will allow you to experience Ireland in a way not previously possible. A great deal of thought has gone into designing the overall program as well as the individual details of each tour, taking in both the well known and the not so well known. Ireland is full of hidden gems that are, as they say, "hiding in plain sight," and it helps to have an expert on hand to help you find them.

Culture & Heritage Tours is offering a different tour each month starting this September. The

tours are tailored for you "to experience, savour and enjoy a rich and rare land and to highlight



Bunratty Castle in County Clare

the forgotten and interesting places in Ireland ... (we) offer something a little bit different, that magical spark that will leave you wanting more. This special line of tours is artistically tailored to offer you the best of our land."

What makes Culture & Heritage Tours different is that they have gone out of their way to find "the obscure and relatively undiscovered culture and heritage of Ireland." They "create tours that speak to your mind and your senses and open up a world of wonder. Not only do the tours take you off the beaten track, they also take you to a cultural world of discovery." The tours available will appeal to many different interests and age groups.

The first, particularly timely with President Obama's visit to Ireland in May, is entitled: "American Heads, Irish Roots, Famous Irish-American leaders," and runs from September 5th-September 12th, 2011. The Irish make up the second largest ethnic group in America

with almost 40 million identifying themselves as Irish in the last census. Almost from the start we have been at the top table in American politics, right back to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. All in all 16 of our 44 Presidents have been in some part Irish. This tour takes you on an eight day odyssey of discovery on which you will learn of the many links between Ireland and America. As with all the programs offered by Culture & Heritage Tours, the itinerary will allow you to really interact with the Irish people and to appreciate other aspects of the culture. And what would a tour around Ireland be without a spot of traditional Irish entertainment in the evenings? It's all part of the service!

October's tour is "Ghouls, Ghosts and Graveyards, Exploring the Unexplainable in Ireland," and it runs from October 24-29, right in time for that most famous of all Irish-American holidays, Halloween. The Irish are a deeply spiritual people and this, combined with the many bloody and tragic episodes in its past, has produced a rich legacy of the super-

natural. This tour is billed as "a scarefest... not for the faint hearted!" For six days you will be taken around the many old, and in some cases forgotten, buildings and graveyards of Ireland to see for yourself where the most fearsome ghosts and ghouls abide, long after their physical presence left us.

To give you an idea of the diverse nature of Culture and Heritage Tours offerings, one of next year's tour is "The Wonderful World of Georgian Living," which explores the Georgian period which saw great changes in architecture in Ireland. For seven days you will be transported back to Georgian times, you will visit plush rural and urban mansions, stay in luxury hotels and experience a Georgian banquet. You will even learn how to prepare your own Georgian meal.

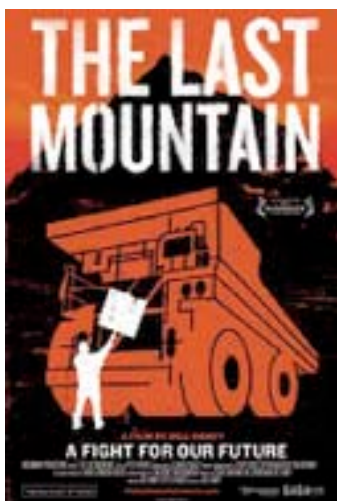
Other tours planned include: "Fairies, Fables and Folklore, The Myths and Legends of Old Ireland," "From Victory to Infamy, The Battlefields of Ireland," "Ireland On Screen," "Medieval Ireland," "Places to See Before You Die," "The Golden Age Of Ireland, Monastic Ireland," "Finding the Past, Exploring the Future, Tracing and Touring Your Irish Roots," "Great Irish Clan Tours" and a "Mystery Tour of Ireland."

Full details of all the tours on offer can be found at the company's web site www.cultureheritagetours.ie, by calling +353.71.91.38949, or by emailing info@irishcultures.eu.

The Last Mountain

Bill Haney's (*The Price of Sugar*) urgent new documentary *The Last Mountain*—a true David vs. Goliath story celebrating everyday people heroically working together to stop a giant corporation from destroying their community's environment and economy will open in Chicago theaters on June 24th.

Featuring veteran environmentalist Robert Kennedy, Jr., alongside local West Virginia community activists Maria Gunnoe and Bo Webb, as well as countless others, *The Last Mountain* shines a light on their dedicated pursuit to stop major coal corporations from continuing Mountain Top Removal, a mining practice which is known to create health and environmental hazards, in addition to eliminating local jobs. The con-



cerns these grassroots protesters have about America's growing energy demands aren't local to Appalachia; they affect us all. Their fight is a fight for our future.

The Last Mountain premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival. It shines a light on their dedicated pursuit to stop major coal corporations from continuing Mountain Top Removal, a mining practice which is known to create health and environmental hazards, in addition to eliminating local jobs. The concerns these grassroots protesters have about America's growing energy demands aren't local to Appalachia; they affect us all. Their fight is a fight for our future.

Running time: 95 min.; Rated: PG
www.thelastmountainmovie.com.



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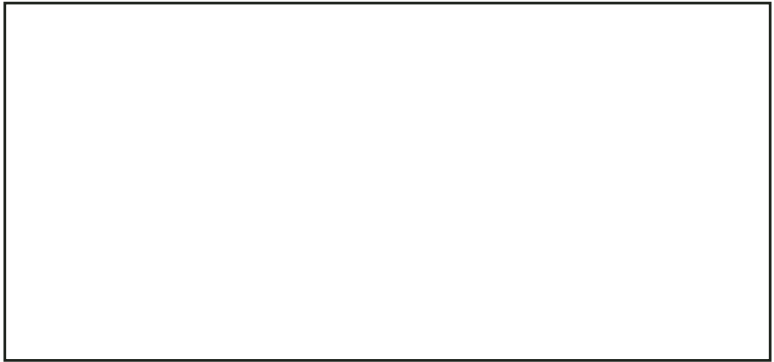
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