

**IAN Speaks With
the Pride of the Wildcats
Head Coach Pat Fitzgerald**
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Northwestern Wildcats Head Coach Pat Fitzgerald Talks to IAN

Driving to the city from my home in the Northern suburbs of Chicago I can’t help but notice all of the massive purple billboards that read “Northwestern, Chicago’s Big Ten Team” along the highway. Listening to my morning radio sports show I hear the ads for NU athletics, and recently while reading my morning paper, I noticed a new marketing tactic entitled “PersaStrong.” The campaign promotes Northwestern Senior quarterback Dan Persa as a 2011 Heisman trophy candidate. The anchor of this Purple revival is the Northwestern football team. For the first time in a while NU athletics has seen a rise in relevance in the Chicagoland sports landscape. This years’ revamped Big Ten, with the addition of the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the separation of the teams into the “Legends” and “Leaders” divisions, should provide plenty of compelling storylines. As autumn in the Midwest approaches I am eager for the college football season to begin. And after talking with NU’s head football coach about this years’ new look Big Ten, my excitement level is off the charts!

The man behind the Northwestern Wildcats football team is head coach Pat Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald,

better known as “Fitz” has become a mainstay in Wildcat football. At only 31 years old, he gained national attention in 2006 when he was named the head football coach at NU following

“I’m proud to be Irish, it defines who I am. Before I’m a Northwestern Wildcat or anything else I’m an Irishman — and to me that means everything.”
— Pat Fitzgerald

the sudden death of his mentor and close friend, Randy Walker.

Fitzgerald, who grew up in the South Chicago suburb of Orland Park, was a three-sport athlete, playing baseball,

basketball and football. While at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, he played football and admits that after his parents, his high school coaches were his role models. After high school, Fitzgerald began his Big Ten playing career at Northwestern. During his college playing days, he earned two Nagurski and Bednarik awards, as defensive player of the year and two first-team All-American honors. He helped lead Northwestern to consecutive Big Ten titles and a Rose Bowl appearance in 1996.

After graduating from Northwestern, Fitzgerald signed a free-agent contract with the Dallas Cowboys, playing in three pre-season games before hanging up his cleats and moving back to Chicago. He took a sales job selling radio air-time for a year, but returned to football in 1998. He worked as a defensive graduate assistant at Maryland for a year, followed by Colorado, before securing his first full-time position at the University of Idaho in 2000. In 2001, Randy Walker brought Fitzgerald back home to his alma mater, hiring him on as the Wildcats’ defensive secondary coach. Within a year, Fitz had moved to linebackers’ coach and later added recruiting coordinator to his resume.

In 2008, Coach Fitz became a member of the College Football Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a Wildcat player. Aside from his personal athletic accomplishments, his achievements as a coach are what continue to make him the envy of college programs in Division 1 sports. Now, about to enter his sixth season at the helm, Coach Fitz sat down with Irish American News to discuss his team goals and personal goals for the upcoming football season.

Upon walking into Coach Fitz’s office I am immediately surrounded



Coach Fitzgerald puts his team thru pre-workout stretches.

by a sea of purple. I see aerial views of Northwestern’s campus and the Wildcat’s home turf, Ryan Field displayed on the wall. Fitz’s old jersey #51 is framed and hangs proudly in his office. There are family photos and team roster photos, a picture of Fitz with White Sox pitcher John Danks, and various other shots of appearances around Chicagoland, all in which Fitz is donning purple NU polos. As we begin talking, it becomes very clear that Pat Fitzgerald bleeds purple; he is extremely passionate about all things NU Wildcats. Five minutes into the interview and Coach Fitz’s intensity level has me ready to run

to the practice fields and hit the tackling sleds at full speed.

I cut to the chase and ask Fitz what his next personal goal is and without hesitation he answers “win the Big Ten national championship.” During his past five seasons as head coach, he has already set school records, with his team earning three consecutive post-season berths and four straight years of bowl-eligibility. The pressure is on to continue this trend and reach even higher levels of excellence.

This past May, Northwestern announced that Fitz had received a contract extension that will last until 2020.

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He claims to have no NFL aspirations and no intention of leaving Northwestern. “I want to be at Northwestern my whole career, this is my home.” This contact will allow Fitz to stay home and coach his beloved for the foreseeable future.

For a school that prides itself on having one of the highest graduation rates of division I athletes, Fitz says it’s easy. “We only recruit for what we want. My philosophy is pretty simple. You need to be brutally honest. Tell people what they need to hear not what they want to hear. We have a niche for what we believe in and we recruit directly to that. We have 10 values and that is our philosophy in recruiting... if you’ve got all of them—then we can cohabitate. Our staff motto is we want to be the best developmental program in America and I truly believe we are the best developing program in the country.” In his past five years of coaching, every single player who has stayed in the program has graduated.

When asked if his Irish heritage has anything to do with his work ethic today, Coach said, “My dad always said, if you put Fitzgerald on it, you’re going to finish it. You may not like it, but you will finish it.” Aside from coaching, Fitz is also very active with the St. Baldrick’s foundation, an organization that helps raise funds for childhood cancer research and last year Fitz and 15 other Wildcat players shaved their heads bald for the cause. He supports Misericordia, which provides residential, vocational, and recreational opportunities to adults and children with developmental disabilities. He and his wife Stacy are also the annual honorary chairpersons for the Erin Olmsted Memorial Scholarship 5K Race in their hometown of Orland Park.

As I wrap up my day on the NU campus, Fitz tells me “I’m proud to be Irish, it defines who I am. Before I’m a Northwestern Wildcat or anything else I’m an Irishman—and to me that means everything. It is my family, my roots, our heritage, our history. I wouldn’t be here in this role, and I wouldn’t even be here in America without my grandparents taking a huge leap of faith to come to a new world to start a beginning for our family. And to that, I hope I’m living proof that it can happen. But more importantly, I understand what my role is in that too.”

Pat Fitzgerald has changed the culture of Northwestern with his determination, passion and love of the game. As the football team continues its trend of annual bowl appearances, preseason predictions have the Wildcats back in the hunt for another bowl game and many have the Cats as a

challenger for the Big 10 Legends division crown.

The Northwestern Wildcats kick-off the 2011 college football season on September 3rd at Boston College. Their first home game at Ryan Field is Saturday, September 10th against Eastern Illinois.

For a complete list of the Wildcats schedule visit <http://nusports.cstv.com>. Follow Coach Fitz on his twitter page @CoachFitz51.

Liam Kelly Benefit 10-15

Come to the special benefit to be held in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center on October 15, 2011 from 4-10 pm to assist Liam Kelly and his parents Maureen (Murtagh) & Will Kelly with medical costs associated with Liam’s cancer treatments and secondary health issues.

Liam is the grandson of Bridget & Noel Murtagh of Co. Tipperary & Co. Monaghan and Nancy &

Paul Kelly of Rogers Park.

Three-year-old Liam endured 18 months of grueling cancer treatments. He now suffers from the secondary effects of Neuroblastoma. Please join us at this benefit to help his family provide the best medical care for their son!

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Let me begin by admitting my deep animosity towards the *New York Times* and all East Coast culturally elite phonies. I'm a born and bred South Side Irish Catholic and my BS detector goes off whenever I come into contact with any of these fakers who have been looking down their noses at Irish Americans for over a hundred years. As far as I'm concerned the *New York Times* is a commie rag and should wear the jacket for propagating moral relativism and the trend of whiny victimization for all Americans.

Another publication that has really been getting under my skin lately is the Internet portal "Irish Central," which dispenses stories on Ireland and Irish America while bashing the Catholic Church and promoting the gay agenda. Irish Central recently championed a pedophile candidate for President of Ireland.

So I wasn't surprised by reports of their shoddy journalism when my friend Kevin Kennelly called to ask if I could help set the record straight concerning the death of his only child Kevin Kennelly Jr.

Kevin Jr., 17, was killed in a July 4th tragedy up in Long Beach, Indiana when he tried to break up a fight. Maybe you read about in the news. Hopefully you didn't read about in the *New York Times* or Irish Central because they got the story wrong while throwing the

false spectre of racism into the mix.

Irish Central ripped their story on the incident out of the *New York Times* and slapped another byline on it. They do that a lot. The *New York Times* account misrepresented the incident as some kind of class war while also getting the timeline of events wrong. Both reports had an insidious insinuation that these supposedly rich Irish kids had tangled with a few poor Korean immigrants. It's called playing the race card and it reeks of a defense dreamed up by some hotshot attorney who hired a PR guy to start spinning.

So here is the statement from Kevin Kennelly Sr. regarding the unfortunate tragedy of a great kid from the south side of Chicago.

"After 6 weeks of grief and anguish over the violent death of our beloved son, I am starting to respond to some of the bad journalism regarding the incident and comments by people who know nothing about it.

My son and his four friends (only one of whom had any Irish ancestry) went to the beach at 11pm after having watched the fireworks on the golf course. We saw them there. They were sober. My son's friends are charged with no crimes. When they recount the events, they have no motive other than to seek justice for the murder of their friend.

When they got to the beach, they saw a group of 25 to 30 teenagers, a couple of whom they knew to be students at St. Ignatius HS. They did not desire to join that group, which was reported to have been on the beach all day drinking. They elected to remain about 30 yards away just to talk among themselves.

They were then approached by two very drunk girls, one of whom they knew from grade school, who offered them vodka from a bottle they had and



Kevin Kennelly Jr.

invited them to join their group. They declined both. The girl they didn't know, who they later learned was the Korean born Ann Malecek, persisted. My son's Mexican American friend then committed the unpardonable offense of telling her that she was drunk and should go away and leave them alone. At this she went into a rage and punched him in the face twice. He did not retaliate. (He had a black eye at my son's funeral.) She then left, and my son's friends thought that this was the end of the bizarre incident.

James Malecek soon approached them. Had they known he intended any harm, three of them would not have been sitting on the sand. He immediately and without warning shoved my son's Mexican American friend and then hit my son from the side with such force to drive a piece of his temporomandibular joint into his brain.

The Lake County Coroner has ruled it a homicide caused by blunt force trauma. By all reports my son had been standing there with his open hands up calling for calm, (as if to say wait a minute, what's this about?) As Kevin's friends attempted to check his condition (he was immediately bleeding from his mouth and nose), Malecek celebrated what he had done by jumping up and down and yelling, 'I knocked one of you out, I'll knock you all out.' The group of 25 to 30 then fled the scene.

A good Samaritan, who had rendered whatever first aid possible, left the scene when LaPorte County EMS took over. As she walked down Lake Shore Drive she encountered a car driven by Mrs. Malecek, with Ann in the front seat and James in the back, with two other teens unknown to her. Mrs. Malecek asked her where she had been. She said she was on the beach with a very seriously injured boy who was being taken away in an ambulance. With that, James Malecek rolled down his window and asked, 'Was it from me hitting him?' She responded, 'Yes.'

Did Mrs. Malecek go to the police, or to the hospital to check on Kevin's condition? No. James Malecek turned himself in 3 days later, since police cars were waiting in front of both their Chicago and Long Beach homes. If there is any Irish American connection to this it sadly is that none of the 25 to 30 teenagers with Long Beach and or St. Ignatius connections has willingly come forward to say what they had seen. Many of them did have Irish ancestry.

I originally sent this to Irish Central.com which on July 17th put out a bunch of lies about my son, the way he died and his four friends from Mt. Carmel. This added to our despair; that people in the Irish American community would publish fabrications designed to keep Malecek out of prison as fact. When all else fails play the race card.

Kevin played varsity baseball and soccer at Mount Carmel. He was far more aware than most of his Irish heritage. He wrote high school papers about Boru's victory over the Danes at Clontarf, and on the custom, dating from the penal days, of lighting one candle to let the neighbors know which cottage the secret Christmas Mass was being said in. He quit taking fiddle lessons about 4 years ago, but he could still play 'The Boys of Bluehill,' 'Lady of Knock,' 'Rolling in the Rye Grass,' etc. This was the young man they slandered.

Kevin F. Kennelly Sr."

Online This Month

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

- For the Republic
- Horoscopes
- Our Take On Social Services

They will be back next month for your reading pleasure!

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BAC Street Journal, the literary arts magazine of the Beverly Arts Center (BAC), is currently accepting submissions of poetry, short fiction, black and white photography, and black and white drawings to review for the fall issue. The submission deadline is Oct. 1.

Submission guidelines are available at the BAC reception desk, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th Street south on Western Avenue), Chicago. To receive guidelines via email, send an email to bacstreetjournal@gmail.com with Submission Guidelines in the subject line. To receive guidelines via mail, call 773-445-3838.

Sample copies of BAC Street Journal are available by sending \$6.75 (make checks out to Beverly Arts Center) to BAC Street Journal, c/o Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th S., Chicago, IL 60655.

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The Irish Connection



By Colleen Kelly



one of those castles built mainly for adults... you know, high teas and three-hour dinners, but I quickly realized there was something for everybody here. Thank

goodness! With kids in tow, there was no turning back. Plus, we did have husbands to watch the kids while we experienced the, ummm, MANDATORY high tea, spa and a bit of relaxation time. (P.S. Please do not divulge this to our husbands, as we have convinced them that this is part of the Irish experience).

After driving from Dublin, it was time to go inside and check out the castle. As we unloaded our luggage and tried to tidy up the crayons and potato crisps that were overflowing in the back seat, my daughter pulled on my jacket and asked me the simple question, “Where’s the pool?”

“What?” I thought, “We are at a historic 13th century castle in Ireland! Why would you want to go swimming? There is so much to do here!”

My youngest insisted on putting on her bathing suit and searching for the pool. I let her put it on under her clothes and off we went in search of it. Quickly, we both learned, there was no need for pool with so many activities. By the time we checked into our room, played hide and seek, pretended to be princesses, and explored the mysteries of the castle, she had long forgotten all about the pool.

Although, I must admit, I did let her take a bath with her bathing suit on. As you know, when you have a 6 and 9-year-old, getting them in the bath is half the battle! It turned out to be a win-win. Luckily, for us, there was more for a family to do than we had ever imagined.

Our days started with a full Irish breakfast (and I mean FULL with bangers, mash and black pudding) and plenty of activities for everyone. There was hiking, horseback riding, exploring the castle’s mystical forest grounds, as well as looking for the occasional leprechaun. The girls were happily exhausted by the end of each day. To my complete surprise, Ashford was incredibly family-friendly, and yet also caters to couples looking for a romantic get-away. That’s the beauty of a castle. It is so grand and spacious, plus the walls are THICK in a castle, perfect for families and anyone else looking for some fun or a little peace and quiet.

Speaking of quiet, the five-star spa at Ashford should not be missed! My sister and I managed to sneak away on one of the days. We were able to completely unwind and be ready for dinner with our families at Cullen’s Restaurant, the authentic-looking thatched roof cottage located right on the grounds. For couples or groups, there is also the famous George V restaurant, well known for their

exquisite cuisine. Again, all part of the mandatory experience, remember? Wink. Wink. Don’t worry, our husbands managed to find time for their activities as well. Each day they found time to fish Irish salmon and met an instructor to learn how to properly shoot clay pigeons, followed by a nightly tradition of a pint or two of Guinness in the drawing room. All was well. (Note to golfers: golf is included in the overnight package. Make sure to make reservations in advance.) All in all, Ashford is magical at every age!

I have never been to heaven, at least I don’t think I have; but the Ashford Castle experience was a little piece of heaven right in the heart of County Mayo. Who knew? If you are traveling to Ireland, make sure to leave a little time to enjoy Ashford Castle for yourself. Whether you arrive on

a white horse or in a snack-filled white rental car, the whole family will enjoy it and hopefully, will create memories that will last a lifetime.

If you are traveling to Ireland this fall and are a Harry Potter fanatic, be sure to check out the 2nd annual “Hogwarts Halloween” event at Ashford Castle taking place October 28th-November 6th. Packages include Harry Potter-themed dinner events and many mystical activities that come to life in an authentic castle.

For more information regarding any special rates or packages offered by Ashford Castle, visit www.ashford.ie.

Colleen Kelly can be reached through Travel Film Productions by email at info@travelfilmproductions.com. (Please reference Irish American News).

A Castle Fit for a Queen... and a Family Too

I’ve always dreamed about staying overnight at a real castle. I’m not talking about a fictitious “magical kingdom-type” castle, but a real castle with a rich history and a real story behind it. My



Colleen Kelly and family at Ashford Castle, Co. Mayo, Ireland

lifelong dream came true this June when we visited Ashford Castle on the Emerald Isle. Built in 1228 and the former estate of the legendary Guinness family (brewers of my favorite stout), it was everything I could have imagined. Well, sort of, I didn’t arrive on a white horse with a prince, but I did arrive in a white rental car loaded with two kids, a husband and lots of snacks. But I digress... back to that dream I was mentioning.

A few months ago, I flew to Dublin and three hours later was transformed as my white horse, I mean white rental car, entered the former Guinness family private estate of the legendary castle in County Mayo. We drove through the picturesque terrain along a winding Irish road, the grounds speckled with pure lavender Irish heather. (Just for the record, I have always wanted to use that line.) We crossed over the drawbridge leading over the moat and then, there it was... the majestic, breathtaking 13th century Irish castle, my oasis, my castle in the hills, my dream! At that exact moment, when time stood still, my sister and her family, who were also traveling with us, pulled up alongside. My sister and I both locked eyes and shared a moment of pure astonishment. This was going to be the best two-night get away ever!

Oops! Right. We brought the kids. Now what? At first, I was concerned that Ashford might be

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On a Wing and a Prayer - The Musical

Chicago Premiere, Sunday, September 25th, 2011

The remarkable life story of Monsignor James Horan of Knock and his many feats.

Showing in the auditorium at: The Irish American Heritage Center at 3pm; and Gaelic Park at 7pm

Cost: \$20 & Includes a copy of the Limited Edition DVD

Special Guest, Director & Co-Writer Tommy Marren

Proceeds in aid of the Mayo-Roscommon Hospice.



The Women's Empowerment Forum

On Thursday, Sept. 22, from 8:30am-2:00pm, The Women's Empowerment Forum will be held at Trinity International University, 2065 Half Day Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015, in the Nyberg Executive Meeting Room, at the Waybright Center.

The Women's Empowerment Forum is an interactive seminar for women who are contemplating, in the process of or finalizing a divorce. Meet new friends going through similar situations as well as obtain knowledge and strength needed to get through this challenging phase. Open to all. www.nexushealing-solutions.com. Phone: 847-914-0092.

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

As this edition of the Irish American News hits the newsstands I should be in Ireland. I still say I am going home because I am blessed with parents who are alive and who hope to celebrate 60 years of marriage in September. My parents still live in the house that I grew up in, all the happy memories now bring a smile to my face. On occasion we all wonder what legacy we will leave to our children and while many answers spring to mind I believe that a strong commitment to family has to be high on the list. For many years Heritage and Harvest Day, which is scheduled for Sunday September 18th, has been a special day for families at Gaelic Park.

There are many activities and events planned in which every family member can participate. This event is free and food and refreshments are available for purchase. Our directors and volunteers eagerly anticipate Heritage and Harvest Day, we normally get wonderful weather and the games and events are fun, free-wheeling and always well organized. We would love to see you on Sunday September 18th in Gaelic Park. As always Gaelic Park will bring live telecasts of the All-Ireland Hurling (Sept. 4th) and Football Finals (Sept. 18th), full Irish breakfast will be served at both games. Good luck to all the participants.

John Davitt, President



Halfway To St. Patrick's Day

We're celebrating on September 17! Gaelic Park has planned a day long bus trip to the University of Notre Dame. Come join the group and spend the day on campus enjoying all the great traditions of Notre Dame Football. Cheer on the players and coaches as they leave the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to head over to the stadium, listen to the University Notre Dame Band play on the steps of Bond Hall, visit the Grotto, view the history of the Golden Dome and watch the Irish take on the Michigan State Spartans at the Legends of Notre Dame Pub located on campus. There will be large screen TV's inside and outside in the tents. Cost is only \$35 per person. **THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE A TICKET INTO THE FOOTBALL STADIUM.** Space is limited, reservations can be made through Gaelic Park Office. For more information, call Maureen 708.602.7767.

Gaelic Park Players The Gaelic Park Players will perform *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, by Martin McDonagh for Fall 2011. Tickets will be on sale in mid-September. Tickets are \$12 for performances only.

On opening night (Friday, 11/4) tickets are 2 for 11 Performances will be held on: Fridays, 11/4, 11 & 18 and Saturdays, 11/6, 12 & 19 at 8pm; Sundays 11/6, 13 & 20 at 3pm. Sunday tickets are \$25.00 for the Dinner/Theatre and reservations are required!



Chicago Premiere *On a Wing and a Prayer Musical*, the remarkable life story of Monsignor James Horan of Knock and his many feats. Showing on Sunday, September 25 at the Irish American Heritage Center at 3pm and Chicago Gaelic Park at 7pm. Admission is \$10. Proceeds in aid of the Mayo-Roscommon Hospice. Special guest will be director and co-writer Tommy Marian. DVDs will be available for sale.

Irish Heritage & Harvest Day

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2011

Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452



- ART CONTEST
- APPLE BOBBING
- MILK CHURNING
- PSYCHIC READINGS
- BROOM MAKING
- CONNEMARA PONIES
- IRISH MUSIC
- GUINNESS SAMPLES
- IRISH DANCING
- THRASHING MACHINE

THIS EVENT IS FREE!! AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Festivities and Threshing will start at 11:30am • Youth Hurling at 12:00pm
Food and Refreshments will be sold throughout the day

Games for ALL AGES including ADULTS to start at 12:30pm include: Straw Pillow Fight, Candy in the Snow Scramble, Three Legged Race, Sack Race, Dizzy Sack Race, Barrel Race, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War, Wellington Toss & Gaelic Sports Skills Test

(Clubs subject to change)

Live Telecast of the All Ireland Football Final starting at 7:00am. Admission to Telecast is \$20.00

For more information call 708-687-9323 or visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Heritage & Harvest Apple Pie Contest

Back by popular demand is the **HOMEMADE APPLE PIE CONTEST**. So pull out your favorite family recipe and bring your baked pie to the Gaelic Park office no later than NOON on Sunday, September 18. All pies entered in the contest must be home-made, including your crust!



Pies can be any shape (round, square, oblong), and will be judged on appearance, crust and taste.

Pre-register your entry by calling the office at 708.687.9323.

Make sure your name and phone number are submitted with your pie entry. Prizes will be awarded.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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Chicago Gaelic Park

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership Chairperson,
6119 W. 147th St., Oak Forest IL 60452

Monthly Specials for Membership

Watch your mailbox for the new monthly coupon specials to use in the Carraig Pub and for other events held at Gaelic Park!



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Gaelic Park's Carraig Pub Golf Outing

Friday, September 23, 2011

The Odyssey Golf Club

Shotgun Start 1:00pm

\$100.00 Per Person



Includes Golf with Cart,
Drinks and snacks at the turn,
Cash Prizes, Dinner and Open Bar
at Gaelic Park



See Marian Ryan to book your place
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The Odyssey Golf Club at The Odyssey Golf Club • 6119 W. 147th St. • Oak Forest, IL • (708) 687-9323

Lunch Music & Dancing at the Park on the first Wednesday of the month (September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7) beginning at NOON until 4pm. We welcome large groups! You will enjoy a wonderful full course meal and entertainment, all for the modest cost of \$13 per person. Reservations are necessary, call the office today at 708.687.9323.

GAA North American Finals in San Francisco "It's all going to come down to if Boston brings teams out to the North American Finals" says Zack Hamilton. (Co-host of Chicago's GAA podcast show) There is a lot of controversy this year over the North American Finals because everyone is wondering if each city will be able to bring teams out to compete in San Francisco, and the standard of play will greatly depend on the turn out. Hamilton has stated that the Boston finals are much more competitive than the North American Finals in some levels and that Chicago's biggest competition across the board will be from either Boston or San Francisco. Tommy Dolan, Jr. (co-host of Chicago's GAA podcast show) agrees with Hamilton, but has high hopes for our Chicago Champions. Dolan feels that Chicago has great teams (Patriots, Parnells, McBirds, St. Mary's, Ailing Gaele), and that the Patriots started as a Junior C All-American team and have worked all the way up to being in the Chicago Junior A Final against a mostly Irish team. Dolan says, "I think

Chicago could definitely come back with a few titles, for sure." This year we've seen a big resurgence in Gaelic sports interest by both the fans and the clubs, and it seems to be the ones thriving the most are rich with fresh American blood. The year 2011 has brought us a new Gaelic football club, music at the games again and a big increase in attendance from last year at Chicago Gaelic Park. There is also a passion for the sports that seemed all but lost last year. For more information about the results of the North American Finals, or how to get involved with the Central Board and the Chicago Gaelic sports league, visit www.chicagogaelicsports.com. Greg Miller ODP Sunday Radio Program Sundays, 7:15pm-9pm, WCEV 1450 AM

Save the Date!



We're having a Family Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 21st beginning at

6:30pm. There will be hayrides, games for everyone, you'll make your own smores, Halloween movies and more. Costumes are optional! Food and drinks will be available for purchase. More details to follow.



A Summer Night on our Patio

On Monday night, August 8, Chicago Gaelic Park welcomed the Irish band, Fuchal. These lads from County Cork performed their lively music to a huge crowd that included songs and storytelling by Máirín de Cógán. The Patio looked beautiful, and it was a picture perfect summer evening to be outside enjoying this fine band. Our "step dancing stuff" ended the evening with their impromptu performance to the band's energetic fiddle playing... and to the crowd's delight! Looking forward to many more evenings just like this one!



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"Pub Trivia" Every Tuesday Night @ 7:30pm

Live Music in the Pub

- 9/22 John Gillen
- 9/23 Joe McShane
- 9/28 Justin Griffin
- 9/10 Mulligan Stew
- 9/16 Pat Smalley
- 9/17 The Redents
- 9/23 John Gillen
- 9/24 Brian Olin & Country Roads
- 9/30 Gerald Haughey

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

Check Website for Full Schedule

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL
708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Old St. Pat's Comes to Our Neighborhood!

Old Saint Patrick's has a rich experience of great speakers. Now each month you can join us at Chicago Gaelic Park on the third Wednesday of each month as we discuss current religious and spiritual thoughts. Light refreshments and hospitality begins at 6:30pm and discussion follows at 7pm.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ft. Thomas J. Hurley, Pastor, Old Saint Patrick's Church

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

St. Mary Paul McCaughey, Superintendent, Chicago Catholic Schools

Topic: *Of Patent Leather Shoes, Bibles, and Basketball: Will the Real Catholic School Stand Up?*

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

St. Joan Marie Weithman Chaplain, Palos Community Hospital

Topic: *Chaplaincy in Today's World*

Wednesday, February 16, 2012

Bob Kolatorowicz, Adult Spirituality, Old Saint Patrick's Church

Topic: *Vocabulary of Faith*

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Al Gustafson, Founder Career Transitions Center

Topic: *Give Us Today our Daily Bread*

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mary Kay Slowikowski, Public Speaker

Topic: *One Woman's Journey to Grace*

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Dr. Mary Amore, Executive Director of Maylake Ministries

Topic: *In the Footsteps of Jesus*

Please contact Rosemary at chlowrose@aol.net if you have any questions.

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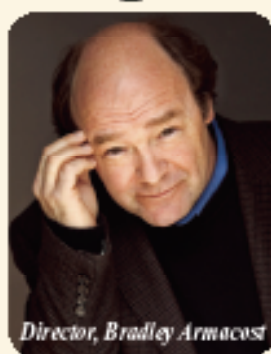
The Center will host a Sunday brunch/theatre series, The Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series, beginning this September. Each month, a cast of professional actors will perform staged readings of Irish one-act plays in the Fifth Province Pub following an Irish brunch.

Dates for the fall are September 25, October 16 and November 6. On each date, brunch is served from noon to 1pm and performances begin at 1pm.

Writer/producer Frank Mahon (*The Quiet Man Tales*) and actress Brigid Duffy Gerace

and various IAHC members have formed a group of theatre professionals in order to rekindle local interest in one of Ireland's great art forms, the one-act play.

First popularized by the young Abbey Theatre in the first part of the 20th century, the one-act play has recently found a new audience. While always being appreciated in



Director, Bradley Armacost

traditional theatres, one-act plays are now often produced in pubs and restaurants, particularly in Ireland.

Tickets for the brunch/theatre package are \$25 for IAHC members and \$30 for non-members.

The schedule follows:
September 25-
Lovers (Part Two - Losers) by Brian Friel

Directed by Charles Gerace
October 16-

A View From the Obelisk by Hugh Leonard
 Directed by Bradley Armacost

November 6-
Bedtime Story by Sean O'Casey
 Directed by Si Osborne

Reservations are recommended. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.

San Patricios, the Irish Soldiers of Mexico

Join us for a multimedia presentation on the San Patricios, the Irish Soldiers of Mexico. The San Patricios were Irish soldiers who fought in the Mexican-American War.

The program includes a screening of the video documentary, *St. Patrick's Battalion*, with an introduction and post film talk-back with Dr. Michael Hogan. Much of the film's content overlaps with his book, *The Irish Soldiers of Mexico*, which he will discuss, sign and sell before and after the film.

St. Patrick's Battalion, directed by Jason Dominick Hool, (1998), is an award-winning documentary, showing the justification for the formation of Saint Patrick's Battalion, and includes the Irish Potato Famine of 1845 and the subsequent mass emigration from Ireland to the United States, Canada, and Australia.

After the discussion, Mexican and Irish food



will be available for purchase in the Fifth Province, along with Mexican and Irish traditional music.

Remember the San Patricios: the Irish Soldiers of Mexico is Sunday, September 11 from 3pm-7pm and the cost is \$10 at the door.

iBAM! Comes to the IAHC this Fall

The third annual Irish Books Art and Music celebration; iBAM! comes to the Center this November. This year's theme is *Handing Down the Tradition*.

Co-produced by the IAHC and the *Irish American News*, iBAM! is a 2-day Irish cultural celebration that brings together as many as 100 authors, artists and musicians from North America and Ireland. A fundraiser for the Center and its Library, iBAM! is Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13 and opens each day at 11am.

The celebration features art and museum exhibits, panel discussions, poetry readings and competitions, film screenings, live music, theater, dance performances and children's activities, all under one roof. Authors will sign and sell their books each day and give talks and there will be live music performances with Irish musicians from Ireland and all over the US during the day and into the evening.

The cost to attend iBAM! is \$10 in advance each day and \$15 each day at the door. Two-day passes cost \$20. Children 12 and under are free.

Festivities kick off at 11am daily, with a full

Irish Breakfast and live entertainment. The breakfast is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and can be purchased at the door. Food and drink will be served all day and places to relax and enjoy a cup of tea or a refreshing pint while reading your new purchases will be everywhere!

Confirmed participants include:

Authors

Chris Binchy, Kevin Barry, Frank Delaney, Joseph Woods, Claire Kilroy, Vincent Woods, Glenn Patterson, Belinda McKeon and Mary Pat Kelly, David Lynch, Mary O'Donoghue, John Hoban, Cathal Liam, Joan McBreen, Kevin O'Hara, Patricia Falvey, Rita Emmett, John Francis O'Brien, Dolores Whelan, Jerry O'Neill, Sandra McCone, Cynthia Neale, Patrick Taylor, Cindy Matyi and Joan McBreen

Music

Liz Carroll, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, Mick Moloney, Jimmy Keane, Matt Cranitch, Jackie Daly and Paul de Grae, Maunice, Ben and Charlie Lennon, Johnny McCarthy, Cormac McCarthy, John Hoban and Dr. Larry McCullough, Ciara Walton, the Cannadys

Yeats and the Irish Peasant

Join the IAHC's Cultural Committee for a multimedia presentation, *Yeats and the Irish Peasant* this fall. The event will feature a slide presentation by Theresa Choske, a lecture by Professor James Murphy of DePaul University and live music with Kathy Cowan.

For poet and playwright, W.B. Yeats, the early nineteenth-century Irish novelist William Carleton, personally as much as in his writings, was the archetypal masculine Irish peasant struggling against poverty. Murphy will discuss how Yeats used Carleton, seeing him as the celebrator of the true Irish peasant to enhance Yeats's own authority and reputation as a critic and rising writer over others in the 1890's, but how William Carleton was not quite how Yeats imagined him to be.

Carleton was the masculine Irish peasant archetype Yeats used in his poetry and drama against the effeminate Irish peasant of the writings of the English critic Matthew Arnold. Whereas Arnold's

Cell could be made to serve a complementary view of the imperial relationship between the English and the Irish, Yeats's Cell longed for the complementary leadership of the benign (Anglo-Irish) aristocrat.

Murphy will discuss how Carleton viewed the Irish people and Arnold's views of English and Irish relationship.

Murphy is professor of English at DePaul University, Chicago. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a past president of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland.

He is the author or editor of twelve books, most recently, *Irish Novelists and the Victorian Age* and *The Oxford History of the Irish Book, Vol. IV (1800-91)*.

Yeats and the Irish Peasant is Sunday, September 18 from 2pm-4pm. The cost is \$10 at the door and refreshments will be served. This lecture is a preview to the iBAM! celebration in November. iBAM! will feature a Yeats exhibit, called *The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats* from the National Library in Dublin.



Exhibits

The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats from the National Library of Ireland in Dublin

From The Sources

from University College Cork

Wake Amusements from University College Cork

John McGahern Special Collection from NUI Galway

Artists

Elizabeth Cope, Jennifer Allen

Dance

The Cunningham Family, Sean N6s dancers from Connemara

Theater

Performances by Seanachai Theatre Company,

ShawChicago and Smock Alley Theater Company

Film

A partnered program of film shorts with the

Chicago Irish Film Festival

Food

Celebrity Chef Rachel Gaffney



On Friday, November 11, kick off the weekend with a celebration of the contributions of the Irish in the arts with the iBAM! Awards Gala, a

black-tie optional dinner in the IAHC's beautiful Erin Ballroom which includes a strolling cocktail reception on our second floor Arts wing.

Dinner includes live music and the annual iBAM! Cultural Arts Awards, where five individuals will be honored for their outstanding contributions to Irish American culture.

Dinner begins with a cocktail reception on the IAHC's 2nd Floor Arts Wing, where guests can enjoy the opportunity of mingling with many of the weekend's honored guests. The cocktail reception is from 6pm-7pm, and dinner is from 7pm-11pm. Tickets are \$100 for IAHC members and \$125 for general admission. Reservations are required.

To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, visit www.ibamchicago.com or www.irish-american.org.

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President's Message

During my first month as President of the Irish American Heritage Center, I have spent quality time reaching out and listening to our volunteers, members, partners, staff, suppliers, guests, Committee Chairs, Board Members and others. I have many others to reach out to and hear from. All who I have talked with have been very open and have shared with me their ideas as well as their support and loyalty to the Center's mission and vision. They have also shared their hopes and suggestions. I take all this input seriously.

Also, in the last month, in conjunction with other travel, I

have visited the Irish Center in Phoenix and the Irish Center in San Francisco. I had the opportunity to meet their teams and hear how they operate their Centers. These visits and the information that was shared with me will help our Center continue to excel.

As the result of what I have seen and heard in my first month, my assessment of our Center is bright. And, I believe our future is even brighter. To help assure we have that brighter future, we will work to shine light on our Center's cultural mission and shine light on the business of running the operations of the Center.



We will move forward with our programs and events while we continue our Member-

ship Drive. We will also continue to move forward with our Development effort. Membership success will help us increase the Center's utilization and funding as we serve our members and guests and new members and guests.

The success of the Development effort will help us support our current opportunities and help us fund our

short- and long-term growth plans.

We will also continue to work on opportunities in addition to Membership and Development. We are identifying opportunities where we can be more effective, efficient and cost-conscious. We are reviewing technology that will help us serve our members and guests even better than we do today. We are looking into our operating practices to drive to a "Best Practices" environment. We are moving to fully embrace a "green culture" and recycling programs.

We will also be working to support and promote our various cultural programs to increase exposure and attendance. Increasing Library utili-

zation and continuing to promote our Genealogy program, Museum, Art Gallery, Nimble Thimbles, the Heritage Singers and language classes will also be priorities.

Lots to do but we have a great team to help get it done.

I ask you to help with these efforts. Please stop me in the Center, call me, e-mail me or invite me to visit you at your convenience and tell me your thoughts. I promise to listen.

John Gorski
IAHC phone # 773-282-7035, ext. 32
Cell 630-272-3612
Email: jgorski@irishahc.org or jhgorski@sbcglobal.net

Culture Corner

Visit the IAHC Library

- for research lending of our extensive collection, book signings, lectures and activities

the Genealogy Club

- for monthly meetings on finding your roots



IAHC Library

the Art Gallery

- for Exhibits, lectures and art classes

and the Museum

- for our collection and special exhibits



Museum Collection

HOURS

Genealogy Monthly Meetings

The last Sunday of every month at 1pm (except December)

Museum

Call our office for a docent led 45 minute tour

Art Gallery

Special exhibits throughout the year

Library

Mondays and Wednesdays - 4-8pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1 pm

Friday closed

Saturday 9-3pm

Sunday open on the 2nd and last Sunday of the month

Why Volunteer at the Center?

Volunteers at the Center are important to our success. From the very beginning, the hard work of countless men and women has allowed the Center to grow and thrive through the years.

As we expand, we need volunteers more than ever to help us preserve and promote Irish heritage.

Volunteers earn a continuing

pride in helping the Center and keep our Center running. Some volunteers are here every week for many hours, while others work special events a couple times a year. Any contribution is appreciated!



Volunteers are needed for:

- building and grounds maintenance
- serving daily lunches for area seniors through Chicago's Golden Diners program
- staffing special events and cultural programs

-assisting various IAHC committees

- performing light clerical work in the main office
- experience in computer support, graphic design, sewing, education and sales

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, email us at info@irishahc.org or call the main office at (773) 282-7035.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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Executive Director's Message Handing Down the Tradition

When you have a moment, please visit the iBAM! website at www.ibam-chicago.com to take a look through the diverse and incredibly talent-rich program that we have assembled for this year's event on November 11th-13th to celebrate the best in Irish culture and heritage and the passing down of traditions.

iBAM! brings together over 100 authors, artists, musicians, dancers and actors under one roof to perform for, educate, and interact with the public across a 2-day program. The program includes thought-provoking panel discussions, live music, art, dance, and theater, author lectures and readings, poetry readings, cooking demonstrations, book signings, film presentations, workshops, and special exhibits from Ireland. For the next three months, I would like to shine the spotlight on the bios of individual members of the program to build awareness for their talents and accomplishments. This month, I will focus on musician Martin Hayes and author and playwright Belinda McKeon.

Martin Hayes

A native of County Clare, to which he returns for extended periods several times a year, Martin Hayes been based in the United States, now living in Connecticut, for the past twenty-three years. Hayes is regarded as one of the most extraordinary talents to emerge in the world of Irish traditional music. His unique sound, his mastery of his chosen instrument, the violin, his acknowledgment of the past and his shaping of the future of the music, combine to create an astonishing and formidable artistic intelligence. He is the recipient of major national and international awards: most recently the prestigious Gradam Ceoil, Musician of the Year 2008 from the Irish language television station TG 4; previously Man of the Year from the American Irish Historical Society; Folk Instrumentalist of the Year from BBC Radio; a National Entertainment Award (the Irish 'Grammy'); six All-Ireland fiddle championships, before the age of nineteen, and cited by the *Irish Sunday Tribune* as one of the hundred most influential Irish men and women in the fields of entertainment,

politics and sports in the year 2000, as well as one of the most important musicians to come out of Ireland in the last fifty years.

Belinda McKeon

Belinda McKeon was born in Ireland in 1979 and grew up on a farm in Co. Longford. She studied English and Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin (BA) and University College, Dublin (MLit). Her writing has been published in journals including *The Paris Review*, *The Dublin Review* and *Irish Pages*, and has been anthologized in *Fishamble Firsts: New Playwrights* (New Island, 2008) and *The News from Dublin: New Irish Stories* (Faber, 2011). She has also written on the arts for *The Irish Times* for more than ten years, and has interviewed writers including John McGahern, Richard Ford, Amy Bloom, John Banville, Colm Toibin, Eavan Boland, W.S. Merwin and Joan Didion.

She curated Ireland's largest poetry festival, *DLR Poetry Now*, from 2008 to 2011 and has curated a number of events in the US, including *IAC Poetry Fest*, a festival of contemporary Irish poetry in New York, and the literary strand of *Imagine Ireland*. As a



playwright, McKeon has had work staged at the Abbey and Project Theatres in Dublin and at 59E59 and PS 122 in New York. She is currently under commission to the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. McKeon's debut novel, *Solace*, was published in the US by Scribner in May 2011 and is forthcoming in the UK and Ireland from Picador in August of this year. It has been named a Kirkus Review Outstanding Debut of 2011 and has been nominated for the Newton First Book Award. Belinda presented alongside heralded Irish author Colm Toibin at this year's Chicago Tribune Printer's Row Lit Fest.

Remember Danny – Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right, but Three Rights Make a Left

Alan Duggan and Maureen O'Looney outdid themselves again

in coordinating a great day out for all members and friends who attended this year's golf outing. The heavens opened up on us for part of the round, but it did not dampen the spirits of this group of fun-lovers. Beautifully kept but amateur-friendly course conditions, bagpipes during the rain delay, Maureen and Alan's wit on the microphone during the dinner, and banter and continuous Caddyshack quotes in the church bus on the ride back to the Center all made for a heck of a day. A big thank you to Mark Piekarz for chauffeuring a motley looking crew of golfers down to St. Andrew's, to our sponsors and to everyone who came out to support the Center, and again to Maureen, Alan, and Mary Gorski for organizing the event. Also, please join me in saying a special thank you to Alan and Mary, along with Beth Rochford and Paul Lester, as outgoing board members for their service to the Center. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the Heritage Center and for the heritage.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell
Executive Director

Margo O'Donnell in Concert

The St. Patrick's Fathers presents the award-winning Irish and Country music queen, Margo O'Donnell, for one night only. The concert is Saturday, October 29 at 7pm.



O'Donnell will perform all your favorite Irish and Country favorites in the Auditorium. After the show, She'll continue the fun in the Fifth Province with Joe Cullen, Ted Healy and Johnny Gleeson for music, dancing and light refreshments.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling the St. Patrick's Father at 773-973-3737 or by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035. All proceeds aid the St. Patrick's Fathers Missions.

Calling All Kids!

Parents, your kids can join the Shamrock Kids Club! We are looking for new members ages 6-12 years old. This club is a fun way for kids to learn about their heritage. Our next event is Spaghetti Night on Friday, September 23 from 6pm-8pm. The cost is \$5 for all-you-can-eat pasta! For more information, email Leslie Singel at lsingel@irishahc.org.



Anthony Kearns in Concert



Tenor Anthony Kearns performs at the Center this fall for a benefit concert, *Songs from Ireland, Broadway and Opera*, for the Wexford Institute.

The Wexford Institute is U.S. non-profit educational agency based in California, with offices in

Texas, New Mexico, Nevada and Ohio. Kearns graciously performs benefit concerts for the Wexford Institute to assist putting its autism resources online to provide free access for educators and families who have children with autism. The Kearns Concerts enable the Wexford Institute to update and maintain current resources and create additional online resources for educators and families.

Kearns is a founding member of The Irish Tenors. He continues to tour with them, as well as perform solo

concerts, in operas and other special events around the world. Kearns' extraordinary voice and beautiful renditions of audience favorites brings them to their feet for multiple standing ovations during every concert.

Anthony Kearns performs *Songs from Ireland, Broadway and Opera* on Saturday, October 15 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$35 or IAHC Members and \$40 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10 or by visiting www.irish-american.org.

Recipes Wanted

This fall, the Center will publish a new Heritage Cookbook and we'd like your recipes.

Give us your recipe for your favorite soup, salad, appetizer, entree, dessert or even beverage. The top ten recipes will be entered into a cook-off and the dish voted the best becomes a part of our Fifth Province menu.

Email your recipe to info@irishahc.org or drop it off at the IAHC office by October 1 at 5pm.





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Save the Date for...

McToberfest

Friday, Oct. 21, 4pm-midnight

Visit our Munich-style beer hall for steins and pints, kilts and lederhosen and brats and blamey.

With live music featuring The Mickey Finns, All Kinds with Steve Davern, the City of Chicago Pipe Band, a German Polka Band and more!

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, with a special early bird ticket price of \$5 from 4pm to 6pm.

A portion of the proceeds from tickets sales will benefit Concern Worldwide. For tickets, call 773-282-7035, or visit www.irish-american.org.



Echoes of Erin
the 39th Annual Comhaltas Concert

This concert returns to the Center this October as part of its North American Tour and features a variety of music, song and dance presented in an entertaining fashion, while providing an insight into authentic Irish cultural traditions. Featuring 12 artists, many of whom are All-Ireland champions.

Saturday,
October 22, 8pm

Comhaltas tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 IAHC and Comhaltas members

To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.



Donate Your Items to the IAHC

Do you have any household or business items that you would consider donating to the IAHC?

We seek:

- Room Furniture
- Office furniture, including desks, file cabinets and office chairs
- Computers and printers for the main office
- Sound system for Fifth Province
- Sound system for Auditorium
- Kitchen appliances
- Shelving
- Hand tools
- Power tools
- Landscaping tools
- Leaf blower
- Tool boxes
- Roof materials and services
- Floor buffer
- Light fixtures
- Lapel microphones
- Flat screen TV's for the Fifth Province

- Belleek Waterford
 - Irish pictures framed or for framing
 - Irish antiques
 - Irish curtains
 - Irish books
 - Genealogy trees
 - Volunteers to perform a building inventory
- Equipment should be new or in good working condition. Monetary donations towards the purchase of each item are also gratefully accepted. Donors will be recognized in the next edition of the Heritage Line.

The IAHC is a 501(c)3 and donations may be eligible for tax purposes. Call us to donate or stop by and drop off anything at the office.

If you need pickup and delivery help, WE WILL pack and pick up your donations.

To schedule a pick-up, contact John Gorski at (630) 272-3612; jgorski@irishahc.org.

Members You Should Know
September Focus: Cece Otto and Dan Wiencek

Why? Because they met and married at the Center!

Cece has been a member of the IAHC for several years; she lived in Cork in the late 90's, studying Irish language and music.

Since then, she has always tried to connect with the local Irish community in one way or another, and the IAHC has been the best way to do it. Dan first came to the IAHC for a meetup group, and that's how they met in July 2009.

They come to the Center to meet friends and listen to music, go to festivals, and enjoy the odd pint or two. They had their wedding reception here in September of 2010; in terms of wedding venues, they said that



none had the personality and significance that the IAHC had. It was "a great way to start our lives."

Cece says that on most days, she thinks and feels more "Irish" than American. In fact, Dan proposed on St. Patrick's Day because he knew how much the day meant to Cece on a personal level. She says she could not imagine her life without

Irish culture. Dan says that the time he spent in Ireland gave him a chance to experience the hospitality and warmth that everyone talks about, and which is so very real.

When you see Cece and Dan around the halls of the Center, be sure to say hello! Check back each month as we profile a member you should know!

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September 2011

September 1	Fireside Chat with the Executive Director	Fifth Province	7pm
September 2	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
September 5	Labor Day	Building Closed	
September 7	TIR NANOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
September 10	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
September 11	San Patricios Celebration	Fifth Province	3pm
September 15	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
September 18	Yeats and the Irish Peasant	Sham Amer Rm	2pm
September 20	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7pm
September 23	Shamrock Kids Club Spaghetti Dinner	Fifth Province	6pm-8pm
September 24	Irish Party	Erin Room	7pm
	Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series	Fifth Province	Noon
September 25	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
September 29	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am

Regularly Scheduled Events

September 17 through October 23	Seanachai Theatre's <i>Shadow of a Gunman</i>	3rd Floor Theatre	
Thursdays through Saturdays			7:30pm
Sundays			3pm
Tues.-Sat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Monday	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Amer Club	7pm
Tuesday	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Amer Club	7pm

Golden Diners

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

The Golden Diners Program provides a hot lunch for people 60 years old Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30pm to 2pm.

You can register by just showing up for lunch. There is a suggested donation of \$1.50 per meal that goes to the City of Chicago.

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



the fifth province

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Fri, 9/2	Ceili Mor
Sat, 9/3	George Murphy
Fri, 9/9	Party Music
Sat, 9/10	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Fri, 9/16	Joe McShane
Sat, 9/17	John Devlin
Fri, 9/23	Gerry Haughey
Sat, 9/24	The Dooley Brothers
Fri, 9/30	Joe Cullen and Kathleen Bremer



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no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

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25-year membership without annual dues

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Lifetime membership without annual dues



Center Chats

On Thursday, September 1st, Executive Director Tim McDonnell will host a monthly 'fireside chat' in the Fifth Province on the first Thursday of the month to discuss and answer questions on

the current state of affairs at the Center.

The forum will be very informal. If you are curious to find out more about the Center's plans and what we are working on, join us.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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



Facebook and Twitter



The Heritage Line Staff

Contributors:				Kathleen O'Neill, Editor			
Mike Boyle	Theresa Choske	John Gorski	Mary Griffin	Tim McDonnell	Stacy McReynolds	Mary Morris	Sheila Murphy
Kevin O'Kennedy	Leslie Singel						

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City of Dreams

We recently attended the Irish Freedom Committee's commemoration at the Irish American Heritage Center for the 30th anniversary of the 1981 Republican prisoners' hunger strike. One of the speakers was our friend George McLaughlin who, until recently, was a teacher and guidance counselor at Rhode Island's Central Falls High School. That might sound vaguely familiar. It's the school where in February 2010 the school board fired all their teachers.

As you approach that little city (the smallest and most densely populated city in the smallest US state) a road sign welcomes you to the "City of Dreams." The city's website is bannered "A City with A Bright Future."

George said Central Falls reminds him of his teaching days in Brooklyn: "People there don't have a lot of money. The town is the poorest place in RI. It has the highest percentage of non-English speakers, the highest percentage of single-parent households, the highest percentage of teenage pregnancies. We can go down the whole list."

What happened at Central Falls? "There was a plan to reform the school because our scores were low and our graduation rate wasn't so high as other places. What we know now is that this was all by design, a national design. It led to the firing of every single teacher." Of course Chicago has had this happen in many schools, beginning when our great friend Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was in Chicago. Most people don't know about that.

"Eventually we were rehired based on a side agreement signed by the union, which gave up a lot of our rights. We had no right to seniority. We had no right to contest involuntary transfer. We had no right to contest evaluations, which from that point on would not be done by people who knew us from within the school. But we were brought back and had our jobs. Shortly after that they gave me a bad evaluation; they gave my wife a bad evaluation." (George and his wife Anne were media spokespersons for the fired teachers.) "And

we knew we'd probably be gone. So, sadly, we had to exit and find other jobs." (George holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University and is a board member of the National Academy for



George McLaughlin

Alternative Education. Annie holds a cum laude B.A. in Anthropology, an M.S. in Science Education and was nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science.)

I've seen figures in the press about the school. Were half the kids failing all their subjects? "No, that is incorrect. I was interviewed by Campbell Brown on CNN and she quoted this statistic to me. Many of these news outlets had these statistics before we were fired. They were sent by anonymous sources. And then when those news people contacted the Central Falls School District, they were 'verified.' I told Campbell Brown: 'I have to stop you and I have to tell you that's wrong.' She asked: 'How do you know that's wrong?' I said: 'Because I work in the guidance office and I have the statistics; and I can show them to you and verify they are wrong.' And she said: 'But I have it from a very reputable source.' I said: 'You do; who's that?' And she said 'the Central Falls School District.' Which, as far as I'm concerned represents the death of fair journalism. To quote the other side in a conflict as a 'reputable source' is ridiculous. "It's the old story; the big lie is believed, the little lie isn't."

How many kids were actually failing all subjects? "The actual figure was 4%, not 50%. The media were off by 46%."

There's another figure out there stating that during negotiations the

union demanded as much a \$90 per hour for extra work. "Not true. Big lie. Not true... It was repeated ad nauseum throughout the US that 'they wanted \$90 an hour.' The crucial element was job security. You'd have to be out of your mind to agree to have a side agreement to a viable contract and not have a guarantee that you'd have a job. Who'd agree to such a thing?"

What did Gallo use to justify the mass firing. Did her power come from Washington? "Under 'Race to the Top,' (a \$4.35 billion program announced by President Obama and Arne Duncan in July 2009) if you're an "underperforming school" they give you options. Those options are a means to reform the school radically; otherwise you don't get any federal money. By the way, there are no rich underperforming schools; they are always poor schools. They are comparing us to rich communities. And that's really, really unfair to places like Central Falls."

So, it's all about money? "Money, money. This is happening in urban school districts all around the United States. And it's frightening. This is the destruction of the traditional public school. There is a steamroller behind this effort to create charter schools; and there's big money behind it... Many people in this country who lament that there's not a complete separation of church and state really should be lamenting the growing problem of business and state being joined. If we get rid of all of our traditional public education we'll have no way of going back. We'll just have a series of mom and pop, avant-garde charter schools which, as in the case of New York City, will just open up, get 'bad report cards' after 3 or 4 years, and close down. Then we create another charter school."

"We have many, many people like Arne Duncan, the Secretary of Education, who've never taught, who are running schools, running school systems. Plumbers would not stand for this. Electricians would not stand for it. They wouldn't say 'It's OK; you can run our union or run our company, and you have no idea of what we are actually doing except you've read books about it.'"

Folks, I have an idea that no one as yet takes seriously: issue diplomas at birth. Now, that would be a real "cultural revolution."

This column is condensed from a more expanded, detailed version to be found online at: IrishAmericanNews.com, Columns, Mick.

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Safe Home

By Heather Begley



Board the Bus Safely

The summer is drawing to a close and school is back in session. My eldest daughter, Maeve, embarks upon another chapter in her schooling this year as she begins first grade. Last year, the big yellow school bus served as a backdrop to a special day for the Begleys as Maeve climbed up the stairs of the bus solo, turned to me and proudly waved “goodbye.” The moment was bittersweet. The photo I snapped of Maeve on the bus—with her pink hair bow and big smile—showed her excitement. I shared her excitement, but I felt a wide range of emotions as that bus pulled away with her inside. Primarily, I hoped my kindergartner would be safe as she embarked upon this wonderful part of her childhood.

As parents, we should make our school children aware of certain hazards to keep them safe. Middle-schoolers and teens may be old pros at taking the bus, but a reminder of the safety rules will not hurt. Talk to

your son or daughter about staying safe near the school bus. Ideally, your child should arrive at the bus stop several minutes before the bus so he or she is not in a rush and less likely to make an impulsive move. While walking to the bus stop or school, children should avoid running into the street or in between parked cars. Teach kids to use traffic signals and crosswalks while crossing the street.

Once at the bus stop, students should wait at least 6 feet from the curb. Teach little ones that they should stand behind a certain landmark (fire hydrant, tree, crack in the sidewalk) and line up away from the road. If your child has to cross the street once the bus comes, he or she should walk on the sidewalk or the side of the road until they are ten feet ahead of the bus and then cross. Sadly, children can be injured by their own school buses when they are obscured by the hood and the driver does not see them in front of the bus. Explain the distance

the child has to walk in front of the bus to children by using terminology they understand, such as “five giant steps.” It is imperative that the bus driver sees the child. Teach your children that they should wait for a command from the bus driver before they step onto the bus and to be careful as they ascend and descend the stairs that their book bags do not get caught on handrails or doors. Children should remain seated while on the school bus and use seat belts, if available. Make sure your child knows their school bus number and where their school bus stop is located.

As drivers, use extra caution driving knowing that school is in session. Pay attention to the road and slow down. Of course, avoid texting or using your smart phone while driving. Be aware that a bus displaying yellow flashing lights is preparing to load or unload children. A bus displaying red flashing lights and extended stop sign arms has stopped. Children may be embarking or disembarking from the bus.

I hope your families have a safe, fun school year. For those readers with kindergartners, capture that special moment as your little one waves “goodbye” on the bus or as they start their first day of school. It is a milestone for both of you!

Michael Londra: *Beyond Celtic*

This month your local PBS station is featuring a wonderful new show from one of Ireland’s most beloved performers, Michael Londra. *Beyond Celtic* is a brilliant, live musical spectacular that recreates sounds from around the world with a unique Celtic twist. Michael Londra was the featured singer in *Riverdance*’s Broadway show in New York, before embarking on extensive touring on his own, throughout the world and the United States. Different from any Irish musical performance released in the past, *Michael Londra: Beyond Celtic* features Londra’s 16-piece Orchestra, Irish Legend Frankie Gavin and his Celtic “supergroup” De Dannan, the musical O’Leary sisters of Sephira and some of the top Irish dancers in the world. These passionate talents ignite the audience on a full-force Celtic journey into the heart of Irish culture.

Michael Londra: Beyond Celtic is part of special programming that premiered on PBS stations in August and is continuing to air on Public Television in September (check local listings). *Beyond Celtic* is Michael Londra’s first PBS special and he will be touring this amazing new show throughout the US in



the fall of 2011 and spring of 2012. *Michael Londra: Beyond Celtic* will be released on DVD and CD on October 11th 2011 on the Razor & Tie record label.

Michael Londra has been described as “one of the greatest Irish singers of our time.” Since his breakthrough role as lead singer of *Riverdance* on Broadway, Londra has emerged as a highly acclaimed international soloist. Michael’s original recording of “Danny Boy” has over four million views on YouTube and is regarded as “one of the best recordings in history.”

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Special Book Signing at Donegal Imports 9-22 Book Explores History of Irish American Heritage Center

The newest addition to Arcadia Publishing’s popular *Images of America* series is *Irish American Heritage Center* from local authors Monica Dougherty and Mary Beth Sammons. The book boasts more than 200 vintage images and memories of this home where history and cultural traditions are kept alive.

Join the authors, Monica Dougherty, Mary Beth Sammons, for a book signing at Donegal Imports, 5358 W. Devon in Chicago, on Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 4-7pm. If you can’t be there, you can pre-order by calling Alex at 773-792-2377. Alex can ship anywhere!

In 1976, a small group of Irish Americans was looking for a permanent place to celebrate and share their heritage and culture. After many fundraisers and Irish Family Days, they purchased an abandoned, graffiti-covered building on the northwest side of Chicago.

Over the past 25 years, a crew of passionate volunteers has transformed the derelict structure into a premier institution. Through dance, music, festivals, language, history, and art, the Irish American Heritage Center delivers on its mission as a nonprofit organization enhancing the life of every member and of the



community. But for the vision of those original dreamers and the blood, sweat, and tears of the thousands of volunteers, it would not exist.

Highlights of *Irish American Heritage Center: Profiles in courage, the history of special events, dignitaries, stars and other notable visitors, a tour of the center, and celebration of all things Irish!*

Irish American Heritage Center by Monica Dougherty, Mary Beth Sammons. *Images of America Series*, \$21.99, 128 pages, softcover.

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By Pat Hickey



My Music – And How It Got That Way

My Dad, who had grown up in the middle of twelve brothers and sisters, viewed Irish music as 'Greenhorn' stuff. He was 100% American, though all of his sisters studied Irish Dance with Pat Roche and Mae Kennedy Kane. He learned the Sax and could play a very tolerable solo rendition of "Stardust." His music was Jazz but later in life he grew to appreciate the sounds heard in his father's basement. My grandfather was a Stationary Engineer who helped found the Chicago Local 399 and always tried to help the many, immigrant Irish who flooded into Chicago between the Irish Civil War up to the Presidency of JFK. He was a Kerryman and like his brother back home was somewhat of a musician.

My Grandfather, Larry Hickey, played button accordion and fiddle. He was an amateur basement player who filled that large damp room once a week or so with some of the greatest Irish musicians in Chicago. Terry 'Cuz' Teahan (accordion), Tom Masterson (flute), Eleanor (piano) and Jimmy Neary and the great Johnny McGreavey (fiddlers) all played sessions with Larry, not so much because he was an artist; rather, as he was a gateway to employment. I am sure their compliments on his button and string work were sincere.

Every Hickey party featured Irish music and dancing and very often the music was provided by the genius of the people above who would influence Fiddler Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane, Sean Cleland and John Williams.

My Dad with three older and three younger brothers was the musical odd man out as far as jigs, reels, hornpipes, and polkas were concerned. He was a 100% jitterbug American and that Greenhorn stuff was for the birds.

During WWII while in the Marines, he was tented with West Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana fiddlers, banjo whackers and guit-box players. Like his father they were amateur country, cowboy and blue grass artists, but the St. Rita High School saxophone playing wise guy from Chicago always equated Country and Bluegrass with the Irish Session Music that he grew

up with in the house on 75th Marshfield—Greenhorn stuff. He extended his contempt for string-based folkish polyphony with the advent of Rock and Roll which he called Hillbilly Music until the day he died. "Jesus Christ Almighty! Turn that \$#%^ off!" He'd yell through his closed bedroom door between shifts for Mom to get on me or my brother and sister. "Ginny, I got to go into the State in three hours and I had more than enough of that bull\$#%^ on Guam. Craaaassh on the High waaaayyyy! Christ!"

Dad's sleepy imprecations notwithstanding, I grew up with the sounds of great music. Like most homes, we had the radio in the kitchen going during waking hours—primarily for the great music that once aired in Chicago—Mike Rapjack on the Voice of Labor in Chicago (WCFL). Rapjack from

Hammond, Indiana's Robertsdale neighborhood—a suburb of Whiting, as they say, gave all of us great portions of the best in American music. Rapjack played the American Songbook's vocalists: Ella Fitzgerald, Helen Whiting, Keeley Smith, Sarah Vaughan, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, as well as orchestral arrangements by Glen Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Chico Hamilton Quintet. Mr. Rapjack also featured the edgier Real Jazz which introduced so many of us helot squares to Dave Brubeck, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Erroll Garner and the youngsters Keith Jarrett and Ramsey Lewis.

The radio dial was enchanted by *Mater et Pater* intonations—"Keep your goddamn hands off it! You can watch the idiot box; do not touch the radio." With age and the arrogance of adolescence, I would slip the dial to WLS where Ron Riley, Dex Card, Fred Winston, and Dick Biondi spun stacks of wax for us Jills and Jacks: Mitch and the Detroit Wheels, The Kinks, The Yardbirds and The Young Rascals. Later, WLS was eschewed for WVON; "You're Standing' Tall With The Butterball!" for the sound of The Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Shorty Long, Edwin Starr, Lou Rawls, Soul Survivors, The Fantas-

tic Johnny C, and The Tempting T's and the most religious man alive The Wicked, Wicked Wilson Pickett. Good Gawd!

Somewhere between the traditional Irish session music, rock and roll, Motown, the American song book, the Latin Mass, and real jazz, I picked up a taste for high brow symphonic, chamber and choral music. My uncle Dan managed to get me a job working as a janitor at Chicago's Orchestra on and off between 1969-1974—The Solti Years. Sir Georg Solti replaced the unfortunate Irwin Hoffman as musical director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Poor Irwin Hoffman was sandwiched between the giants Fritz Reiner and Georg Solti.

Solti was the Michael Jordan of music and brought the CSO its world renowned reputation as the world's most disciplined and creative orchestra. I met some of the greats—Phil Scharf (Second Violin), Victor Aitay (violin Co-

Concert Master), Frank Miller (cello), Adolph Herseth (trumpet) Gordon Peters (percussion), Mary Sauer (piano), Maestro Henry Mazer (real great guy) and Sir Georg who seemed to treat every other human footstep with all of the welcome of a leper in a hot tub.

Along my plodding way through life, I somehow picked up the guitar and banjo (5-string C-tuning) and sang along with what I played. Honor bright; I even got paid to do so for about ten years, thus adding to my Catholic teacher pay and even managed to cut a record. Music saturates our lives, but more so it leads us into the path of wonderful human beings and even a few great ones who have the personalities of dial tones—like Sir. Georg. We become discerning creatures for the most part. With luck, we get introduced to the very best in sounds and human musical reproduction that makes us more aware of the soul in Man and heart of God.

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Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



off we rolled in Dad's '66 Galaxie, everyone smiling in anticipation of another lazy, relaxing three-day weekend.

"Ow! Ow!! Ow!!! MOM! Quit it!" I wailed the

next afternoon at the cottage, where I sat miserably on the bed while Mom dripped medieval hot oil treatment into my left ear.

"Michael, I told you not to dunk your head underwater in that dirty lake! The doctor said you need to have these drops, every eight hours! Now, hold still."

It had been that kind of vacation. As soon as I could escape my mother's clutches, I snuck into the bathroom, donned my swim trunks, and slipped out to join my brothers and sisters.

We splashed and goofed off for over an hour before Dad came strolling up the beach.

"Mike! What are you doing? Get the hell outta there, right now!"

"I'm not that deep!" I called to him, in between mouthfuls of gray-green water. "My ear is still dry."

"MICHAEL!!!"

Uh-oh. I was surely dead, now.

"No more swimming this weekend, and in fact, no more swimming for a week when we get back! You're grounded from the pool, until further notice!"

What a crappy vacation. Fighting back angry tears, I ran to our cottage and flung myself facefirst onto my cot. Thank God we'd be driving back tomorrow morning. I wished we could leave right now. I just wanted to go home.

After a fun-filled, fisticuff-filled, three-hour ride in the back seat with my brothers and sisters, I was greatly relieved when Dad pulled the old Ford into the garage... ah, home at last. I ran upstairs as fast as I could to greet my four baby turtle friends in their beachside spa.

"Hi, you guys!" I sang out as I plopped down beside the kiddie pool. I received no reply, but that wasn't unusual, since they were turtles, after all. Suddenly I noticed, to my dismay, that none of them was moving. Oh my god, oh my god... no!

I moved in closer to see if any had survived.

That was a mistake. The half-open mouths gaped, grinning at me accusingly like macabre terrapin voodoo masks. I recoiled in shock and sheer, unmitigated horror. They were all dead, dead, dead...!!! And I had killed them! It was all my fault! I had forgotten to refill the tank before we left! It was the most horrible thing I had ever done. My poor turtles. How they must have suffered!

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry!" I sobbed over them. My head swam with horror, guilt, sorrow, shame and grief, all at once. I had never before felt so many emotions, all at the same time.

"Mike! What's wrong? What's the matter?" I heard my Dad come pounding up the stairs. A sixth emotion quickly rose up in my gut: fear. Oh, no, not Dad... I couldn't deal with his almighty wrath, not now. He would ground me for life, and that would be it. And to my sorrowful amazement I discovered that at this moment, I didn't care. I deserved my fate. Let him kill me, just like I killed... my poor turtles! I looked over at their still, dark forms, high and dry, and began to wail.

The door of my room burst open. My father had arrived to pass judgment on me, a sinner and an outcast.

"What's going on, Mi... oh. Oh, no."

Then, all six emotions and the weight of the world crushed down upon me. I buried my face in the pillow, shoulders racked with heaving sobs. Dad ducked out of my room and called down the stairs.

"Mary! I think you better get up here, on the double!"

Finally I heard Dad gently close the bedroom door. Good. I was alone with my shame. I continued to weep under the blankets. Then, I felt a warm hand on the back of my neck, and a soft voice whispered,

"Michael? Are you okay?"

"Just go away, Mom. I... I..."

"It's all right, Michael. You what...?"

"I killed them!" My body was again racked with sobs, and I turned away so that my mother wouldn't see me in such a disgraceful state.

"It wasn't your fault, Michael. We were all in a big hurry to go on vacation that day. People forget things. It happens all the time."

"But people don't always forget, and then kill their turtles!" I sniffled.

"No, that's true, but sometimes they forget to turn the stove off, and then their whole house blows up," Mom countered. "How would you like to be the one who forgot that?"

"But I feel so bad, Mom... I killed them." I glanced past her at the dry tank, and tears again welled up. "Oh God oh God... I'm so sorry...!"

"Look at me, Michael," she said.

Through my tears, I glanced up into her eyes and found not one ounce of retribution there, only two deep, blue pools of serenity and peace and forgiveness.

"It's not a sin to forget. We all do. We're all just human, and God still loves us. Once in awhile we hurt people, or even turtles, when we forget things. It happens, and we're sorry about it, and then, we go on. We can't do anything more other than to be sorry, and especially, to learn from our mistakes."

She pulled me close and kissed me on the forehead, then quietly closed the door behind her as she left. I sat in the darkened room alone with the victims of my transgression, contemplating the deed and my mother's words of wisdom. It was not more than a half-hour later that I began to detect the aroma of chocolate chips wafting up the stairs. A little later Mom returned, her outline silhouetted in the rectangle of light as she entered my bedroom with a plate of cookies and a glass of milk.

"Here, Michael, I brought you something. You never came down for dinner, but I didn't think you'd feel like meatloaf tonight."

"Thanks, Mom." I snuffled to clear my runny nose, wiped my sleeve across my face, and got up from the bed to retrieve a cookie from the plate.

"I suppose we'll have to get the tank and the turtles out of here soon." She regarded the scene of mass murder in the corner.

"I think we should have a funeral for them tomorrow, in the backyard under the tree," I decided, sadly munching on my cookie, the ice-cold glass of milk in my other hand.

"I think that would be nice. And you can say a prayer for them."

"I will, Mom. Can you and Dad come to the funeral?"

"Well, your father has to go to work, but I'll be there. And your brothers and sisters. We'll have a proper wake and funeral for all four turtles."

She smiled and picked up the empty milk glass from my dresser. Leaving me the plate of chocolate chip cookies all for myself, she turned to go. I looked up at her from the bed.

"Good night, Michael."

"Thanks, Mom."

They'll Make Great Pets (Part 2 of 2)

"Turtles!" Mom exclaimed when we arrived home from the pet shop, her nose wrinkling in disgust. "I thought you wanted a puppy."

"Well, I did, but then I saw the turtles," I explained.

"Joe!" She turned to face my father, and I thought I saw him lean back a little.

"They were a lot cheaper than dogs, Mary," Dad whispered confidentially, "and now we won't have to be out in the backyard, cleaning up the you-know-what."

"But, they're going to smell!"

"Not as bad as the you-know-what, out back."

So that was that. I had my new pets, and even if they weren't as warm and cuddly as a dog, I thought, at least I was now the only kid on the block who owned turtles.

The weekend after next, my parents had promised us a short vacation up to Chalaye Lake in Michigan. At last Friday came and

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Ferdia Doherty's Farmhouse will give Midwestern culture the attention that it deserves in its renovated River North location (228 W. Chicago) steps from the Chicago Brown/Purple line stop.

Farmhouse opens September 6 serving lunch and dinner every day. Open from 11am to 2am. Outdoor seating. Reservations at 312-280-4960 or www.farmhousechicago.com. Twitter (@farmhousechi).

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Rioting for Nothing

"Cynic: a blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they should be."

"A year: 365 more disappointments."

— the great Ambrose Bierce

I've been thinking a lot this week about a guy who grew up in the same area that I did. We didn't really know each other. No particular reason; we just didn't. I went to the Catholic school and he went to the Protestant one. That didn't mean a thing to us because it wasn't the kind of area where you fought each other simply because you supposedly believed in different things. Well, not most of the time, and if we did then it was for a different reason.

I remember him though as a kind of cheery individual and that's about it.

Years later I was on a visit back home and I heard that he had died for a particularly stupid reason. I thought about that a lot this week.

In England, on the week that I am writing this, people went on the rampage for nothing at all. People died for nothing at all. Homes were destroyed, both in the physical sense and in the sense that some fools destroyed their families. I don't know what is worse. It was all for nothing at all.

For some reason, when I heard from the safety of Galway how bad things had gotten over in Manchester and London, I thought of that guy that grew up in the same area as me, dead these more than three decades; and yet the stupidity of his death came home to me all over again.

Is that how it will be for these fools who went on a rampage last week? Will they suddenly wake up to themselves in twenty or thirty years time and ask themselves: "What the Christ did I do that for?"

Well, why did they do it? Already we have the sociologists and the psychiatrists and every other idiot who sees a way to make a greasy shekel out of this, jumping up and begging to be interviewed on whatever television network will take their miserable two minutes of time to tell us that WE are to blame. They are telling us that SOCIETY is to blame.

What a steaming load of horse manure that kind of dodging is. The looters and the muggers and the thugs that you saw running riot were not doing this because "society" had made them outcasts. Christ, you cry babies; in this world that we live in we are all to some extent outcasts. It does not give you the right to burn out the cars of your neighbours; it does not give you the right to smash in their windows or to remove their place of work and income by destroying the places that they work in.

You unredeemable morons! Some of you



have the cheek to call yourselves Anarchists. You don't even know what that means! If it was a legitimate gripe why weren't you taking it to Down-

ing Street? No, much easier to burn out your own neighbourhoods, to take war to your own people.

You are thugs and vermin. You are that most despicable of individuals: you are looters. All that you have done is make it even more impossible for decent people to live in their own areas.

For what? You ripped off a few DVD players and suits of clothes that you will probably never wear; you stole televisions that you will never watch and rings that you will never put on a finger. In a country that needs tourism, as most countries need now, you put the boot into tourism. What you have done by your selfish thuggish actions has no end in sight.

Yet it is the cops to blame for being too heavy handed, and it is society to blame for not giving you enough facilities. Well, boo hoo hoo! The cops were not heavy handed; you don't get away with that this time. Society was not to blame. It was just you, the looters and the savages. Deprived? Take a look at history; take a look at where many of us grew up. How is it that we didn't feel the need to do what you scumbags did last week... to your own neighbourhoods?

As to the parents who allowed their kids of ten and eleven to be involved in this, I have no sympathy for you at all. I'm not interested in your whining about not being allowed to know where they are at that age.

As to the many professional people who are already in jail for looting: It keeps me warm at night thinking about what you idiots must be going through. You stole from your own people; you think about that as you snuggle down in your cells. Was it worth it; for a few handfuls of extra cash, was it really worth that adrenalin rush of excitement?

The poor devils that died in that week of madness were not the only ones that died. There are people in jail now who wonder what the hell they did that for.

Now that is what I call to dying for nothing.

International Eucharistic Congress Dublin, Ireland, June 10th-17th, 2012

By Fr. Jim O'Brien

While I was on vacation in Ireland at the end of May, I received an e-mail request from Cardinal George through his secretary Father Dan Flens. Cardinal George was asking if I would be his Official Chicago Archdiocesan Delegate to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Dublin from June 10th until June 17th of 2012. I prayed and thought about it and then accepted the Cardinal's invitation.

The Eucharistic Congress is held every four years at different venues throughout the world. It was in Toronto, Canada in 2006. It was then that Pope Benedict announced it would be held in Ireland in June of 2012.

Much preparation is underway in Ireland to make this gathering a success, bringing Catholics together from all over the world.

For my part, I am hosting the Chicago Archdiocesan Official Pilgrimage to Ireland June 6th through 19th. Trans World Travel of Highland Park, Illinois is the Official Tour Operator for us.

Father Karl Langsdorf, of the St. Patrick Fathers whom you all know, has agreed to assist me with this endeavor. He will be with us on our journey.

The dates chosen allow for a few days before and after the actual Eucharistic Congress. It provides us with an opportunity to do some sightseeing along with attending events at the International

Eucharistic Congress. We will visit Galway, the Cliffs of Moher, Knock Shrine, Kylemore Abbey, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Armagh, Belfast, Glendalough, Powerscourt, Clonmacnoise, etc.

If you are interested in coming with us on this pilgrimage, please call me at 773-919-0103, or TWT at 847-432-2400 or St. Monica Parish at 773-763-1661 for a brochure/itinerary. Copies of the itinerary are available for pick up at St. Monica Parish, 5136 N. Nottingham, Chicago 60656.

Space is limited so please act soon and come travel with us to Ireland in June of 2012. We would be delighted to have you.

2011 C.I.B. Golf Outing

Are you ready to golf, with an hour open bar before t-off? On Saturday, Sept. 24th, the Chicago Irish Brotherhood will hold the 2011 C.I.B. Golf Outing at Sugar Creek Golf Course in Elmhurst. The outing will benefit Terry Egan who is battling Parkinson's disease.

Check-in with an open bar is at 1pm; the T-off for 9-holes is at 2pm with a food buffet, 3-hours open bar, awards and fun after golf.

The cost is \$75 per person for golfers; \$35 for non-golfers.

For more information please call 708-606-6700 or email cib_ceo@yahoo.com.

Hallelujah Broadway

Hallelujah Broadway is a musical extravaganza performed with a 32-piece orchestra that will gladden hearts and give audiences something to cheer about.

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU) will be filled with the joyous sounds of *Hallelujah Broadway* Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Hallelujah Broadway was featured on PBS special programming during July and August 2010 and now it makes its Chicago debut at ATRU. Featuring inspired vocal performances from three featured soloists, including "Too Hot to Handel" tenor Rodrick Dixon and soprano Alfreda Burke as well as Anthony Kearns of The Irish Tenors. *Hallelujah Broadway* includes uplifting songs



Anthony Kearns

from beloved musicals such as *Godspell*, *Wicked*, *Rent*, *West Side Story*, *Sound of Music* and *Les Miserables* among others.

Tickets are available online at ticketmaster.com/ auditorium, by calling 800-982-2787 or at the ATRU Box Office (50 E. Congress Parkway).



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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



office catching up when I heard the news on the radio, "Mom related. "We called and talked it over and knew nothing would be the

A Salute to Ground Zero

One of the most touching events one can experience in the naval service is passing the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. The crew of an entire naval vessel, be it a tiny minesweeper or a giant supercarrier "mans the rails" standing at attention while the ship's officers salute the unique Pearl Harbor memorial.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011 has been called this generation's Pearl Harbor, and thinking back ten years the comparison wasn't lost on my Greatest Generation parents. As I saw news of the first World Trade Center tower struck on my computer and learned of the second via live television, I made a quick call home to Northbrook. My mom Audrey was always the one to call me with breaking news... this time I barely beat her. "Mom, are you watching this? Is this what Pearl Harbor was like?"

At then age 83 and two months shy of 84, Mom was still in real estate sales and started her day in front of the tube.

"Oh Good Lord yes, this is exactly what it was like. We were just shocked. Jim, weren't you downtown at the time?"

My dad James Henry McClure, 87, shouted up the stairs "Yeah, I was at the office back when I was a bigshot, so what!?" "Dad was in downtown Chicago working in his

same from that point."

After the three of us talked nothing was the same, either from that point on the phone in 2011 or the one in 1941. During the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay, a beanpole skinny 2nd Lt. J.H. McClure of the U.S. Army Signal Corps watched the historic event from a Victory ship loaded with occupation materiel alongside the USS Missouri. Dad spent four years in the Pacific after enlisting in 1941, missing the death of his father and the birth of his first son.

If my dad was somewhat aged in his late 20's my grandfather Tom Corley was a federal museum piece.

A former World War I artillery captain, he cajoled, bullied and fitness-tested his way at age 44 into a combat assignment as a chief petty officer gunnery instructor on a jeep-carrier he helped save by shooting down a kamikaze during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He and several black cooks manned a gun whose previous occupants were cut down by enemy fire. His captain would bring him on charges for shooting across the bow, an admiral saw otherwise and gave him the Bronze Star.

At age 40 and rising my own less than distinguished career as a Marine midshipman on a Notre Dame NROTC scholarship cut short by a medical discharge after a combat training injury, was neither the stuff of legend nor of beating 38-year old age limits. "You know you can do more with a pen, don't you?" said Marine Sgt. Major Mac Elvington, my college assistant Marine officer instructor as a staff sergeant. Mac's own reputation was legendary as drill instructor of two future Marine generals at Notre Dame, not to mention several generations of enlisted Marines, female Marines, British Royal Marines (and royalty), and several classes at the U.S. Naval Academy, where Mac was the model for Tom Clancy's spit-polish Marine officer instructor in his novel Patriot Games.

As usual I didn't quite follow Mac's advice (a.k.a. "seeing the (pool) shot") and spent

the next two years lobbying, cajoling, and imploring National Guard and Naval Reserve recruiters that I was the best old man for the job. "If you want to go to Afghanistan so bad, why don't you freelance report? I'll carry your camera bag fer ya," Mac suggested. Later as the economy, my public relations career and my marriage crumbled, Mac would cheerlead. "You bust into that recruiter's office and tell him you're Six-Foot-Three of Rompin' Stompin' Death and Destruction!"

It didn't work. Not in the National Guard, the Naval Reserve, the regular Navy not to mention the halls of Springfield, Washington, D.C., the Pentagon, the local state senator or the very local Speaker of the U.S. House. He did send a very nice commemorative flag up the Rotunda pole for me just as the letter requesting an age waiver from the acting Secretary of the Navy was going down in flames.

I felt strongly that most of my tail-end baby boomer generation had paid their dues in Grenada and Kuwait... and some were striking the mountains in Afghanistan and sweeping into Iraq as I stayed home old, alone and worn out.

I did find my way into the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Officer Corps, which uses volunteer veterans to help teach citizenship and military skills to future Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen. A couple years back I found myself on the deck of the assault ship USS Iwo Jima as it steamed into New York harbor approaching Ground Zero. "STAND BY TO RENDER HONORS" blared the loudspeaker as thousands of sailors in white snapped to attention on the rails. Just like Pearl Harbor!

"I NEED FOUR OFFICERS FORWARD ON THE FLIGHT DECK!" echoed the speaker. Three were already there... one looked back at me in my humble Ensign dress whites. "Well, what are YOU waiting for Mister?" "Sir, I'm just a Sea Cadet escort officer," I meekly replied as the gaping hole where the Twin Towers were loomed near. "Yeah," he spat back. "And you're what the future is all about... and part of the family. Get your butt over here!"

A few seconds later three regular Navy officers and a slightly disheveled if somewhat out of shape 47 year old junior officer smartly saluted for ship's company as we passed the World Trade Center.

Part of the family.
IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

Remember the Ten

By Pol O'Hearcain (Long Kesh, 1975/1981)

On Oct. 2nd, 2011, at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago, supporters of the main body of Irish Republicanism led by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the infamous Long Kesh/H Block Hunger strike in which ten young men gave their lives that their comrades could be granted the reinstatement of Prisoner of War status. The fight for POW status was not new to Irish Republicans. The British have always sought to criminalise the struggle for Irish freedom, believing that by doing so they could demoralize the IRA and her Volunteers and break their will to resist British occupation. Maggie Thatcher, the then Leader of the British establishment, totally underestimated the will and courage of the incarcerated Irish Republican Volunteers. Bobby Sands, Francis Hughs, Ramond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Keiran Doherty, Kevin Lynch, Joe McDonald, Martin Hurson, Thomas McElwee, and Michael Divene gave their young lives that their comrades would not have to continue to endure conditions that were described as being like the "Sewers of Calcutta" by the late Bishop Thomas O'Feigh who visited the prison.



Bobby Sands

I recently read an article in this very paper, the author of which asserted that Gerry Adams had conspired to use the hunger strike and the prisoners plight to further his political career. Apparently Adams' plan was to encourage these young men to give up their lives so that he and his party, Sinn Féin, could then ride the tide of sympathy. As a former Irish Republican POW, I was incarcerated in Long Kesh throughout the blanket protests and the first and second Hunger strikes. During that period, I held the position of Public Relations Officer and was in direct contact with protesting prisoners. I can state that at no time were we influenced or ordered to protest by the leadership of the movement on the outside. All decisions to protest, including the Hunger Strikes, were made by the prisoners themselves and were influenced only by the excessively harsh treatment of our British captors.

Today, thirty years on, We have come a long

...Continued on Page 26

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AA Bonds

Looks like all the political bullheads with all their political bullcrap have finally brought us down. Now they're investigating Standard & Poor. Even the Chinese said reign in your military and the social welfare. Now that the rest of the world is beginning to realize the game is over, even Cuba is now cutting welfare programs and is turning a blind eye towards small businesses. Capitalism will set you free. We have been living beyond our means for quite some time, deficit spending is the poison pill. Obama's approval rating has hit an all-time low.

Abuse Raphoe

Diocese, Co. Donegal

Another church cover-up scandal—Raphoe Diocese, Co. Donegal—20 pedophile priests over 40 years, you read it right, 40 years, abused more than 200 children in 30 parishes. Bishop Philip Boyce has cooperated fully, according to the reports. The civil authorities were left out of the loop once again. Stay tuned for the final report.

Lixnaw

August 2nd, I took off on AA Flight 92 for Dublin. The flight was an hour and a half late. During the long night, if you walked up and down the aisle you would see people reading their books on their Kindles. My cousin, Dermot Cooney, met me at the airport and we headed for Bunbrosna in Westmeath. After a good sleep and a cup of tea, I settled in. That evening we went over to the village of Multyfarnham and enjoyed dinner at Weirs Bar-if you like roast duck, there's none better. Thursday we headed back to Dublin to Cathedral Stamps where I bought the 1916 Golden Jubilee medallion. One side of the medallion has the GPO, and the obverse has the signatories of the Proclamation. This is an extremely rare coin and difficult to find. At 5 o'clock we met our cousin Margaret O'Connor at Bewleys on Grafton Street, where they have the

dinner. Friday, it's off to Kerry, with stops in Moneygall, which is overrun with tourists. We met a couple of Yanks outside of Barack Obama's ancestral home, where a bronze plaque adorns the wall of the house. At least he's got the economy moving in Moneygall, enough said!

Our next stop, Nenagh in Co. Tipperary, for lunch with our cousin Margaret Cooney. The final leg of the trip takes us into Tralee, Co. Kerry. Friday night, there was a gathering at the Boyle ancestral home in Ballinglanna, Causeway. Tom and Josephine Boyle form Burr Ridge, Illinois, and Margie Boyle-Bylund and her husband Howard from Virginia, and Tom and Kathleen Boyle, our hosts, and their daughter Eileen Boyle-O'Sullivan, gathered to enjoy tea, sandwiches, cookies and cake, and catching up on the family news was the order of business.

Saturday, Aug. 6th, the main event was the wedding of Maire McCarthy and Nigel O'Leary at St. Michael's Church in Lixnaw. A reception followed at the Bally Roe Heights Hotel in Tralee. Sunday morning we went to Mass at St. Brendan's Church in Tralee. I was surprised to meet up with Catherine Reidy Cantillon. Catherine was with her mother Theresa Boyle-Reidy, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. The family was surprised when it appeared that Theresa actually knew who I was. She shook my hand, smiling all the time, and then kissed my hand several times. Apparently she hadn't reacted to anybody else in this manner. Theresa's my father's first cousin and they are from Glendhalen, Ballyheigue. I first met them 42 years ago, and I carried little Catherine, then 4 years old, on my shoulders down over the fields to find her father, Timmy Joe Reidy. After we went to the antique show at the Carlton Hotel, we spent the rest of the day visiting family.

Monday, Aug. 8th, I met up with my old friend John Griffin at the Ashe Memorial Hall. John headed up the Jeanne Johnston

Project a number of years back, we discussed a new initiative. Lunch followed at the Brandon Hotel. At 3 o'clock, Tom Boyle and I headed for Adare Manor where we met up once again with Dermot Cooney. Then it was back to Bunbrosna. Tuesday we went up to the town of Boyle, in Co. Roscommon, and visited the Boyle Abbey. The man at the information booth was Tony Conboy. Small world, he has relatives by the name Heavey in De Plaines, IL. From Boyle, we went to Lough Key Forest Park; from there to the Arigna Coal Mine in Lietrim. The coal mine is well worth the visit. It was the last active coal mine in Ireland, and closed in 1990. The working conditions in those mines were pretty rugged. The seam of coal was roughly 6 ft. wide and 4 ft. high and the miners had to either kneel and swing a pick or lay on their side and swing a pick. The vistas from the top of that mountain are breathtaking.

Wednesday finds us in Kilkenny to meet John and Noreen Cooney, Bernadette Mar-nell, Theresa Brennan and Sr. Judy Kelly for lunch at Langton's, where the food is superb. The Kilkenny Arts Festival was on, but the weather was a little bit on the rainy side. Back to home base, Bunbrosna, and early to bed as I needed to be at Dublin Airport at 7am.

Security is more comprehensive at Irish airports. Profilers ask you questions as you check your bags. You pass through security twice, once with your shoes on, and once more with them off. You now clear US customs and immigration in Dublin. And as they scanned my passport I was surprised to see that they pulled up a picture of my checked baggage on a computer screen, and asked me to identify it.

Moonlight Gambler

Mayor Rahm Emmanuel now wants a Casino—Gov. Quinn says not so fast. How much arm twisting can the Governor take? Has somebody already sliced up the "insider's minced pie," while citizens wince at the potential for increased crime? Don't go to the goat's house for wool.

Presidential

Is it possible he inherited Nero's penchant for fiddling? I wonder if there are any "Great Whites" off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.

8th Annual Golf Outing & Fundraiser at Peggy Kinnane's - September 13

Join Peggy Kinnane's Irish Restaurant & Pub for the daylong 8th Annual Golf Outing & Fundraiser to benefit Hospice of Northeastern Illinois (in memory of Jack Hanley,) which includes breakfast at Peggy's, best ball scramble at Old Orchard Country Club Old Orchard Country Club, 700 W. Rand Rd, Mount Prospect, IL, lunch at the turn, complimentary beer and water on the course, raffle prizes, including 2 hole-in-one contests to win a Mercedes Benz and dinner and open bar following the outing at Peggy's. For tickets and more information visit <http://www.peggykinnanes.com/annual-golf-outing>.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Lots of mini-type reviews this month. As usual, they have backed up on the desk. The result? We bring you only the best of the best, as usual.

Ceol Sidhe features Steve Cooney, Charlie Lennon, and Michael Hynes on guitar, fiddle and concertina, respectively. There are 19 cuts on the album, each more brilliant than the other. Believe it or not, there are only two sets of reels! This album is adults playing Irish music. Perfectly. Not 305mph, like so many of today's children. If you love Irish traditional music, this is the perfect instrumental album. We know Copperplate in London has it.

Fiddle & Flute is by Blayne Chastain, Natalie Padilla, and Peter Romero. Another all-instrumental treat from this trio of flute, fiddle, and piano. Denver, Colorado? Who knew? A great album from really tasty musicians.

The Two Tap Trio is Nora Rendell on vocals and flute, Brian Miller on guitar, and Nathan Gourley on fiddle. The album's title is *A Night at the Fair*. What a stunning piece of business from these Minnesota-based musicians. We get several albums a year that we just keep listening to, and this is one of them. This group is getting a lot of work and it is not hard to see why. Terrific.

The Morning Star is an absolutely stunning all-instrumental album from Marla Fibish and Jimmy Crowley. On the album, Marla plays mandolin and mandola. Jimmy is on bouzouki, dordan, mandolin, and mandocello. Apparently, the creative aim of the album was to let you hear what a

number of the great tunes of Celtic music would sound like with only two stringed instruments being perfectly played. Or something. We are never sure about what musicians are trying to express artistically in an album, and we quite frankly don't care. What we do care about is whether the album is fun to listen to, and played well. This album is both. These are two really superior musicians flexing their artistic muscles and giving us a rare treat. And, it is different.



With just the two instruments, the melodies really stand out, and are gorgeous. A thorough winner.

Cathal Clohessy and Eamonn Costello are out with *Bosca Ceoil & Fiddle*. We know this one is also available from Copperplate in London, as it was they who brought it to our attention. We assume our pal, Jack Baker at Rampant Lion would also be able to get it. This all-instrumental treat of 14 cuts is only for the dyed-in-the-wool, honest-to-heavens trad fan. But if that describes you, this is a great piece of business that you will love. A lot of the tunes are rare treats to be recorded and recorded

perfectly. We cannot urge this album upon the real trad fan highly enough. A must-have.

We feel that the next two albums we're going to tell you about should be considered under one umbrella. Full Set is a brilliant-AND WE MEAN BRILLIANT-new group out of Ireland. The album is *Notes at Liberty*. It is vocal/instrumental at the highest level of the music. Sean McCarthy is on uilleann pipes, Michael Harrison on fiddle, Janine Redmond on button accordion, Teresa Horgan with flute and vocals, Eamonn Moloney on bodhran and Andrew Meaney on guitar. The two new groups that have really blown us out of the water lately are Outside Track, and now Full Set. Stunning. It can be argued that Outside Track is the hottest thing in traditional music right now. Full Set will soon join them. They're young, gifted, and understanding of the music far beyond their years. As we grow older, it becomes increasingly easy to dislike people like this. Unless, they're this good. And, they are this good. Simultaneous with the release of *Notes at Liberty* is piper Sean McCarthy's *Halcyon Days*. Of course, this features Sean playing his pipes and low whistles. He is joined by Fergal Scahill and Conal Early on guitars. What a brilliant solo and first album this is. We don't know how young Sean is. We don't want to even contemplate that. What does keep us up at night is how he got this good this young. *Halcyon Days* establishes Sean McCarthy in that small, but select group of the very best world-class uilleann pipers. Stunning. Did we already say that? No matter. It is.

Hope you are tuning in every Monday night at 8 o'clock for *Ireland Tonight*, WDCB 90.9 FM and www.wdcb.org for our weekly show of real Irish Music. And, visit www.irelandtonight.com. Traditional.



Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



I sat waiting patiently at the Cream City Feis in front of the results board. I went there to dance only one dance, my reel. Reel was the last dance I needed to get a first in to get into the next level, which is Preliminary Championship. I tried not to get too excited. Then a wave of panic hit me. I started thinking of some dancers I know that have been one dance away from PC for over a year. I had danced the best I could and that was all I could do. I felt a surge of excitement as I watched them hang up the results at the stage that I had danced. I was afraid to look. First I need to tell you that I am blind without my glasses and I wasn't wearing them that day. I squinted as hard as I could. OMG it was! Right next to the first place box was Deirdre Kozicki! I couldn't believe it. I finally made it into PC. I was so happy. I had been in Prizewinner for a long time. I've been in it longer than I've been writing this column.

I also have my National results. The competition was held at the Opryland Hotel. It is a pretty cool hotel. It feels like your outside but your inside. It was a long day. I did a girls ceili in the morning. I felt my team did pretty well. In the afternoon my team danced our choreography. This is what we practiced for the most. I was the most nervous for this. I knew I couldn't focus on my nerves or I would forget my steps. Once I get on stage I really don't think about anything else but the dance. I think about all the critiques and adjustments my teachers have told me in the last 2 months of practice. The music sounds in my ears and my body goes into "auto dance mode." We all agreed that this was the best choreography we had

danced. Then I had to dance my mixed ceili, which is with both boys and girls. We did really well at that one, too. I was done dancing. I was happy I got to take my wig off! I checked the recall board. My choreography and mixed ceili both recalled. Then it was results time. The teachers had given us all cowboy hats to decorate to wear at results. My choreography placed 3rd. I was a little disappointed because we had practiced so hard and we had danced so well. My mixed ceili got a 4th and I was happy with that because that was the first time I danced on a mixed ceili team. Overall, it was a great trip and I had a great time with everyone at Nationals.

There's a new book of the Liffy River series by Brenna Briggs. It is a book of 4 mini mysteries Irish dance style. My favorite on is *The Case of the Clumsy Clowns*. It wasn't a suspenseful mystery but a funny one. It was hilarious. I would recommend that one if you want to laugh. *The Werewolves of Ossory* is a good history mystery. It put an old Ireland myth in a modern Irish dancer setting. *The Mystery of the Missing Novice* was the hardest mystery to solve. I would read that one for a brainteaser. And last but not least, *The Mystery of the Temporary Trophy* is centered mostly on Irish dance. It was a very good plot. I enjoyed all the stories very much. This book has a mystery for everyone in the family. I highly recommend it.

Well as my grandma would say "the party's over!" School has started. I'm sad summer is over, but I'm excited for the school year ahead. I'm excited about being Student Council President and being in 8th grade. I hope everyone has a great school and dance year.

MURPHY'S GIFT OF MUSIC
 The Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund has been created to provide music instruments and lessons to children from families that do not have the financial means to provide this opportunity.

Please join us on Saturday, November 5, 2011 for a fundraising benefit at 115 Boardman Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



The Deficit & Immigration

As I compose these words the big news on all fronts is relating to the downgrading of the US bond rating. The previous day, I listened to an expert on the radio state that, "there is a one in three chance of a double-dip recession." And for the remainder of the segment all of the focus was on the reasons for the one in three becoming a reality. Then the thought struck me, what happens to the 66 and two third % and the factors that exist that are present and can be used to enable the country to avoid a double-dip recession.

We have the ability to influence what way this whole mess is going to turn out and it brings to mind the question of the wise man to his students seeking wisdom. He asked, "If you have two opposing forces inside of you fighting for

dominance which one is going to win?" The students debated the question for hours and came up with all sorts of arguments as to which one would emerge the winner. Finally, the wise man called for silence and said, the answer is not complicated; whichever one you feed the most is the one who will win.

The fact remains that the biggest deficit we face is not one of resources but one of imagination. This lack of imagination is one of the key factors that prevent us from moving out of fear to search and put our talents and energy into developing the two-thirds reason for not falling into a "double-dip" recession.

This country has the talent and skills to solve our economic woes, the questions which remain to be seen are this; do our elected offi-

cial have what it takes to stop the bickering and start putting their energy into building a sustainable structure. Can our elected folks from both sides of the aisle follow the advice of the Greek philosophers; namely, "virtue is in the middle." Aristotle defined a virtue as a balance point between a deficiency and an excess of a trait. The point of greatest virtue lies not in the exact middle, but at a golden mean sometimes closer to one extreme than the other. For example, confidence is the mean between undervaluing oneself and vanity, and generosity is the mean between miserliness and extravagance. It requires common sense reasoning, not necessarily extreme intelligence to find this golden mean.

What we need most from our elected officials to solve our woes with the economy, immigration and whatever else needs attention is a group of people who are pledged to working together to finding the golden mean.

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

Murph's Pub Crawl Planned for Sept 24th

Mike Murphy was a member of the Larkin and Moran Brothers from 2000 until his life was cut short at 32 in 2008. His family and friends help set up The Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund (a 501(c)3 non-profit organization). Murph taught at the Music School in Oak Lawn and encouraged and inspired people of



all ages to learn how to play an instrument and love music.

The Scholarship Fund has been created with the mission to provide music related lessons and instruments to children from families that do not have the financial means to provide this opportunity. The organization's goal is to carry on Murph's legacy and make a difference in a life by giving them the gift of music.

Back in 2009, the first Pub Crawl was held in support of the first Murph's Gift Of Music benefit. It was a blast and raised a lot of money for the fund. They are

working on the schedule which will be published by press time. They have secured a bus along the crawl, so leave the driving to them or meet up at any pub along the crawl.

Please contact Dan Larkin at larkinbros@aol.com or 773-960-3892 to sign up. They have had a great response but are well prepared to handle all who want to attend. A \$10 dollar donation helps defray costs of the bus and shirt.

They will be playing sessions at all pubs along the way so any musician who wants to join in, just bring your instrument or voices!



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Real Ireland

By Rachel Gaffney



York City, Los Angeles and Minneapolis, traveled extensively, and is now living in an eighteenth century farmhouse, miles away from her nearest neighbors in rural Ireland.

My most recent trip home to Ireland was last June. My travels took me to the beautiful region of County Clare. By now Imen and I had been in contact with each other for several weeks, so it seemed only natural for us to meet in person.

Imen lives in rural Limerick and I was staying at The Lodge at Doonbeg, Co. Clare, perched at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. It was a Sunday and we were meeting for lunch. Imen was taking the ferry around the coast and driving the remainder of the way. Cell phone service can be sparse at best, but somehow, we were able to stay connected via social media sites.

Imen McDonnell exuded energy and charm. We were seated by the window in Darby’s Bar at The Lodge of Doonbeg, with panoramic views of the Atlantic

and although I am older in years, it has never waned. So when I peered into this new world or in this case, someone else’s new

world, my childlike wonder was re-awakened.

This Modern Farmette, is Imen McDonnell, who grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, worked in TV and film production in New



Imen McDonnell and Rachel Gaffney

A Modern Farmette

Some time back, I came across the name ‘A Modern Farmette’ on Twitter, and knew I needed to look further to see what this lady’s definition of a Modern Farmette was. I was curious, to say the least. Was it simply the fact that this lady was a farmer in 2011? Was she indeed a farmer? The use of the diminutive prompted me to wonder if the farm was tiny.

One of my favorite books as a child was *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. When Mary entered this world it held many promises, much potential and even healing powers. This childlike wonder is a special thing

Remember The Ten

Continued from Page 22...

way. Thirty years ago the British and their Unionists counterparts in Ireland refused to even acknowledge that Sinn Féin existed. There only words to us were “NO,” “No Pope,” “No surrender,” “Not an inch,” “No, No, No.” All we asked was that they sit before us, acknowledge our right to exist and discuss our demands. It took 30 years to get to the Good Friday Agreement, another 10 years passed before they gave in to giving us devolved policing powers. Back in 1969 we had no alternative but to bear arms, defend our neighbourhoods and fight for recognition. Today, 42 years later, the British are sitting before us at the negotiating table. Slowly, we are inching towards an inevitable United Ireland.

In the Northern occupied counties of Ireland and, indeed, here in Chicago, there are dissidents that continue to support the old traditionalist Irish Republican view that as long as the British continue to occupy part of Ireland they should continue to use force of arms. It seems logical to me and apparently to the vast majority of the Irish people who have repeatedly rejected the dissidents at the ballot box, that if the Irish Republican agenda can be moved forward peacefully and without the use of arms, then that is the path we should take. As an Irish Republican who supports the main body of Irish Republicanism, Sinn Féin, I call on the Chicago Irish community to reject the dissidents by coming out to the Irish American Heritage Ctr. on Oct. 2nd to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of the H Block Hunger Strikers.

Ocean. This was going to be a fun and interesting lunch.

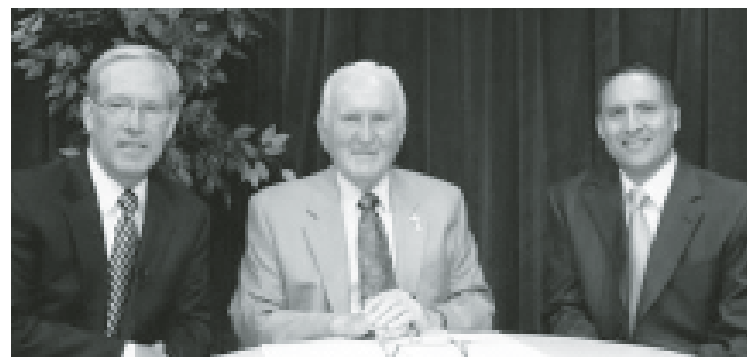
I wondered what was different about her modern day farmer husband, so I asked.

“Today, most farmers are college educated and into diversification. [My husband] has a B.A in philosophy and is planning to go back for an MBA. Education is absolutely necessary to be successful in farming these days. No longer are the profitable days of dairy, poultry, vegetables and cattle alone; farming is a business and diversification is key. Our farm also specializes in alternative energies, i.e wind power and biogas” (a biogas is an anaerobic digester that treats farm waste).

Their five year old son is growing up in a world that is combining the comforts of past traditions in early farming Ireland and modern technology. They innately understand the importance of preserving and cherishing the past. In fact they have embarked on a period restoration of a centuries old thatched farmhouse and there is a possibility that it may even be used for farm stays and traditional cookery classes. If they do, then I plan on being their first guest... anyone else want to join me?

<http://marriedanirishfarmer.com/>

Follow Rachel on Twitter: @Rachelgaffney, Facebook: Rachel Gaffney. www.Rachelgaffneys.com.



Ed McElroy, host of “The Ed McElroy Show” recently interviewed Orland Park Mayor, Dan McLaughlin, Orland Park Village Manager, Paul G. Grimes and Village Senior Planner, Kimberly Flom. The show will air on Tues., Sept. 6, 2011 and again on Tues. Sept. 13, 2011. Both shows air at 8pm on Comcast Channel 19. Pictured (L-R) are Mayor Dan McLaughlin, Ed McElroy and Paul G. Grimes, Village Manager.



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The Big Picture... And The Small

A silly season story to make you weep. Retiring employees of FAS, the already discredited Irish state training agency, receive up to seven weeks extra paid holidays during each of their final two years, to help them prepare for retirement (!) No wonder Ireland's economic situation is sometimes characterized as critical but not serious.

The Big Picture is now with us. In the context of the tremors coursing through the world economy, Ireland's economic problems, real or otherwise, represent small beer indeed. Who can tell what will be the outcome of the current world wide economic upheaval? Will the international economy stutter on? Will the euro survive? Politically, what will happen in the Middle East? Will democracy prevail—eventually—in Libya and Syria? What then? Will the Arab Spring spread to the Gulf, to Saudi Arabia? Will the pundit who forecast that in a year or two the southern rim of the Mediterranean would be one Islamic state be proved correct? And what about the price of oil?

Thus far the big picture has helped. The need for Europe's big states to focus on protecting the Euro has subsumed Ireland's problems into the bigger euro whole ("w" optional!). The immediate interim solutions, a second bailout for Greece and moves towards new fiscal mechanisms, have, as a by-product, lowered the interest rate payable by Ireland on monies borrowed. The government has been handed, on a plate, one of its chief election commitments. The net effect will be a saving of \$1 billion plus annually on interest payable, giving slightly more wiggle room on the financial bind. (The saving does not mean more money; merely that the cost of our ongoing borrowing simply to run the country will be slightly less.)

It must be comforting for the Government, just six months in, to have this international economic background as a fallback. There is still mileage out of blaming Fianna Fail for the domestic situation and the harsh measures pending, but there is now the added comfort of external economic factors. Should the Irish economy continue to stagnate, and unemployment persist at current levels, the international economic uncertainty can be cited as hindering recovery. Moreover, the praise and plaudits we are receiving internation-

ally for policies pursued are encouraging. If we could only factor out the cost of the bank bailout, we would be well on the way to recovery. If only!

The saving on interest will not go amiss. For even if so far Enda Kenny seems blessed with Napoleon's *sine qua non* for a general—Luck—the third hundred days of the coalition promises to be interesting. At the very least the government has to find \$4.5 billion in extra savings in the December budget and who knows what else may be lying in the economic long grass out there (last year \$5 billion morphed to \$7 billion after September, which proved the tipping point necessitating IMF intervention). A formidable enough target in itself but made more complicated by a mystifying commitment, celebrating 100 days in office, by Kenny and his deputy and Labour leader Gilmore, not to raise income tax or cut welfare levels to achieve the target.

Given this commitment, just how the target—an IMF one—will be met is unclear. Perhaps the Government believes its luck (and public support) will hold. This is a dangerous strategy. The money has got to come from somewhere. Presumably some form of semantics will be employed, changing tax bands, changing age or income levels for benefits, a slew of stealth taxes, but the net effect will be to damage seriously the government's reputation for transparency. This has already taken one blow over Roscommon Hospital, where a needless pre-election commitment was given. The strategy should surely have been to take the harsh measures every one knew were necessary early on in the government's term and blame it all on Fianna Fail.

The fallback strategy, to blame the IMF, already used to excuse the new property levy, cuts less ice and is less effective politically. There is every danger that the brief opportunity for the new government to dent decisively the public sense of entitlement and regenerate the political system and culture will be lost. Already voices can be heard complaining that they "voted for change" and asking where it is, as if the economic mess could be banished by simply casting a vote. While most people recognise the seriousness of the situation and the need for firm and painful action, the danger in delay

is that impetus will be lost. As time passes, and as further harsh measures are introduced piecemeal, the fickle finger of blame could quickly redirect at the government.

There is no doubt that Fine Gael feels it has to tread with care lest it frighten the Labour horses. Labour for its part has its own frightened horses to worry about. The unprecedented number of new Labour backbenchers is both a blessing and a curse; great to have the numbers but a slight loss of support could lose those seats next time round. The new backbenchers are very much aware of this, and of the radical left snapping at Labour's heels. The recent election showed the punishment that an angry and disillusioned electorate can hand out.

While all this is true (and also applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Fine Gael backbenchers), there is surely a stronger case to be made in the current situation for the tactics of Machiavelli rather than Fabian the Delayer, i.e. get the harsh measures over quickly. Whatever the outcome on the world macro-stage, the problem of the budget deficit on the Irish micro-stage will remain and this cannot be solved without pain.

The first strains on inter-coalition relations should come later this month when the comprehensive review of government expenditure is due. Granted that the Minister in charge is a Labour Minister, nevertheless any proposed cutbacks in spending, to help meet the IMF target, are likely to impact more on Labour supporters and support and lead to some soul-searching in the ranks. A toe to toe battle between the two parties in the October Presidential election would also not improve matters, though as I write it is not clear what the final line-up of candidates will be.

The mood of the electorate should also be watched. While there has been a healthy dose of realism up to now, as evidenced by the muted reaction to the medicine the public has had to swallow (unlike Greece, there has been no rioting in the streets), this was accompanied by a grim resolve to punish those deemed responsible, as Fianna Fail found out. However, into Year Four, with more screw-tightening in prospect, the cumulative effect is mounting, with many hitherto unscathed (including sections of the middle class) now being hit.

The potential for grievance developing is rising. Revelations such as the FAS one do not help, nor the fact, underscored daily, that everyone will hang on doggedly to what they have. Ultimately so much depends on international developments that the Government should be careful lest what it does, or doesn't do, makes matters worse.

Chicago Kilt Run to Try for Guinness Record

Only a short year ago, a few Chicago Police Detectives formed the



Committee for the Chicago Kilt Run. It was a tremendous success in fundraising and as a social event, organized to benefit Police Charities.

This is the only Kilt Run where all participants are encouraged to wear a kilt to start the race. Kilts are made available by event organizers. Charitable Run/Walk. All are welcome... Even your pets may participate!

Afterward... Hang out at our rollicking post-run celebration with all-day entertainment at the main stage starring Joe McShane, Fast Eddie McAteer, and Barry Fagan.

The current Guinness record is held by the City of Perth, Ontario, Canada,

with 1,089 participants—join in help break this record!

When: Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 10am

Where: Start and Finish at Trinity Pub Festival Grounds located at 5943 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL

What: A 3K (1.87 mile) run, walk, jog, etc not a strictly competitive race. It will be a C.A.R.A. (Chicago Area Runners Association) emerging race. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to select local schools, and The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. Every year this charity/fund changes and will be community-based. A Celtic Fest follows the event featuring a concert stage with The House of Blues; house band, step dancing demonstrations, and more Celtic entertainers and activities.

Registration: via www.chicagokilt-run.com; Pricing is \$25 if registered by Monday, September 12th, 2011, 12:00 am; \$35 if registered by Saturday, September 17th, 2011, Midnight. A discount of \$10 will be automatically applied for participants of age 13 and younger.

Also visit the website at chicagokilt-run.com and view the video and photo gallery from last year's event.

Seanachai's The Shadow Of A Gunman

Seanachai Theatre Company opens its 2011/12 season *Classic Voices: The Revolutionaries* with Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman* in the 3rd Floor Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago, from September 17th to October 23rd.

In a Dublin tenement four years after the Easter Rising, poet Donal Davoren finds himself the victim of mistaken identity as an IRA gunman. The notoriety of being



a "gunman on the run" becomes an amusing and attractive alter ego, especially given the newfound affection of the lovely patriot Minnie Powell. But at what cost?

The Shadow of a Gunman (1923) is part of O'Casey's well-known Dublin Trilogy, which includes *Juno and the Paycock* (1924) and *The Plough and the Stars* (1926), the latter of which inspired Irish patriots to riot.

www.seanachai.org.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



One of the real benefits of vending at Irish festivals around the country is that I get to hear some superb local bands that for one reason or another don't tour. Jobs and families tend to restrict their ability to travel but not their ability to play some great music. One of the real delights at the Dayton Celtic Fest, for instance, is a local band called Dulahan. Kyle Aughe performs lead vocals and writes all the words and music for the songs the band performs. He has a great voice and an even greater talent as a songsmith. Kyle is well assisted by a crew of multi instrumentalists, Leo Butler, Mark Sandlin, Bart Cason and Tony Williams. On their latest CD, *Little Bits of Truth*, the band is joined by Kyle's daughter Mackenzie, who sings admirably on the song "When My Love Sails Away"—nice to see that the talent has been handed down to another generation. The songs on this CD are intelligent, well-written, fun and memorable. Kyle needs to publish a songbook and is, I believe, working on one. Meanwhile you can see more of his work at our store or online at www.dulahan.com.

Another great local band that it's been my great pleasure to hear is The Drowsy Lads from Columbus, Ohio. A good customer tipped me to their talent. I gave them a listen and have been mightily impressed and pleased ever since. The Lads have released their second CD this year, *Pick It Up*, and it's as fine a trad Irish recording as you can find. Strong vocals and impressive instrumentation are provided by Bryan Brookes on flute, whistles, concertina, Phil Franck on fiddle, banjo bass fiddle & vocals, Josh

Franck on button accordion, bodhran, guitar and vocals, John McKewen on bouzouki, tenor banjo and vocals and Daniel McKewen on guitar, uilleann pipes, low whistle and bodhran. This CD has the distinction of stopping my son in his tracks as he heard their rendition of the Wild Irishman reel, truly an attention grabber. At the Dublin Irish Fest this year, the Drowsy Lads



were one of the bands that customers were talking about. Folks loved their powerful performances and I can agree that they are a lovely surprise for the jaded music fan. They too have a website where you can sample their stuff, www.thedrowsylads.com, give them a listen.

The last CD I want to talk about this month is truly a landmark recording and one that all piping fans will want to add to their personal libraries. Greentrax Recordings, certainly the finest label in Scotland, has again produced a classic, *Seudan*. Before I can describe this CD, I need to give you a little backstory. The Highland bagpipe was standardized in design and style in the 19th century. Very few of the old instruments still exist. One that does is the "Black Set of Kintail" dating

from the late 18th or very early 19th century and housed in the Inverness Museum. In 1992 Hamish Moore measured these pipes with the idea of creating a modern instrument of the same proportions. Today several sets of these unique pipes have been created and are played on this CD by Angus MacKenzie, Angus Nicolson, Calum MacCrimmon and Fin Moore. Vocals are supplied by Kathleen MacInnes and Allan MacDonald. Allan also plays Scottish Small Pipes and Jew's Harp on the recording. Upon hearing the CD at the store, Mike Dietz stated that this is what Red Hot Chili Pipers wished they sounded like. No, there are no electric guitars or banging drums to muck up the sweet sound of these very special pipes. I can guarantee you've never heard piping quite like this, but it will give you an idea of why the Scots fell in love with the pipes, and you just might do the same. The vocals are all in Scots Gaelic, haunting and beautiful. This is a one-of-a-kind recording, a must-have for anyone who loves the pipes.

My last bit of news concerns master composer of original Irish traditional music, Denis Carey. Aside from his work as the piano player with the Brock McGuire Band, Denis has recorded two stunning CDs of his original compositions, *An Turas* and *Moving On*.

Now he has published a book of his compositions, suitable for fiddle, accordion, banjo, mandolin, flute, tin whistle, concertina, piano and guitar. You musicians looking for some new pieces need look no further. I'm happy to see this book because this should allow us the chance to hear Denis' great music more often. A lovely fat book, it contains no fewer than 20 reels, 14 jigs, 9 hornpipes, 2 barn dances, 16 airs, 5 waltzes and 7 odd bits that will delight players and audiences alike. Lest I forget to mention, it's very reasonably priced.

You can reach me at *Rampant Lion Celtic Traders*, 630-834-8108 or online at www.pipingitin@com-cast.net.

New Irish Consul General

Aidan Cronin is the new Irish Consul General, replacing Martin Rouine, who is retiring back to the lovely Wicklow area in Ireland. Aidan has served in Iran, Australia, and Ireland during his career, and this will be his first appointment as Consul General. Aidan, along with his wife and two children, are settling in on the Northside of Chicago. We welcome Mr. Cronin, and his family to the Midwest for the next four years! C ad m le f ilte!

Photo by Cathy Curry.



Damian McGinty Wins The Glee Project

Damian McGinty from Derry in Northern Ireland was recently named the winner of The Glee

where Beyond the Sea" as his last song for Ryan Murphy. Initially, Murphy named Samuel Larsen as the contest winner, and then sprung the surprise of the evening on Damian, telling him he had also won.

Damian first attended auditions in LA last December and was bowled over when he made it to the final 12 contenders, selected out of 40,000 hopefuls. He described The Glee Project as an incredible experience and one in which he has grown and developed as an artist with each episode.

To win the Glee Project, and the seven-episode guest role on *Glee* is a once in a lifetime opportunity for young Damian and he is determined to grab it with both hands. Ambition is something that Damian has in abundance. He is extremely excited about his future and is looking forward to the chance to learn as much as possible on the set of *Glee* and to continue his growth as a performer. Ultimately Damian would like to record his own solo album and take it out on tour.

For more information on Damian McGinty visit www.damianmcginty.com.



Project in Los Angeles. In the finale of the 10-episode show, Glee producer Ryan Murphy announced that Damian McGinty and Samuel Larsen had co-won The Glee Project. Both winners will now appear in guest roles in seven episodes in season three of the hit show *Glee* on Fox. Last week Damian won a place in the final four, and after demanding final week he chose to perform the Bobby Darren classic "Some-

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Great Expectations: The Fighting Irish Preview

By Coleman Clarke

The Fighting Irish head into the 2011 season hoping to build on the momentum of a strong finish last year, when they won four games in a row culminating in a 33-17 whitewash of the Miami Hurricanes that wasn't as close as the final score would indicate. They bring back virtually their entire defense intact, as well as most of their starters from last year, including senior quarterback Dayne Crist, who has completely recovered from a knee injury suffered last season in a heartbreaking loss to the Tulsa Golden Hurricanes. All reports from fall camp indicate that Crist has a much better understanding of the offense and is more comfortable with his reads.

Crist was able to stave off Tommy Rees, a true freshman, who played admirably in his absence helping the Irish to a 4-0 record in their last four games—in which the offensive game plan was scaled back to suit the strengths of its quarterback. Last season, Crist attempted to assimilate the nuances of head coach Brian Kelly's offense, leading to flashes of brilliance followed by periods of maddening inconsistency, which kept the Irish from being able to establish their offensive identity early in the season. Kelly himself was under fire for some questionable decisions, most notably during the Tulsa game in which he elected to throw the ball into double coverage instead of attempt to kick the game winning field goal.

The Irish did overcome tremendous obstacles during the season including a humiliating loss to the Naval Academy during which they were physically and mentally dominated in all facets of the game—specifically coaching. The turning point for the Irish, however, may have been the convincing win over then—No. 14 Utah—their largest victory over a Top 15 team in over 14 years. The Irish were able to carry the momentum from that victory through the remaining three games, beat-

ing Southern Cal for the first time since 2001.

Heading into this year's slate, the Irish, on paper, are as good if not better than every team on their schedule. Yes, I said as good—with the emphasis on better. They open the season against South Florida and should be able to win by double digits. Next, they look ahead to a Michigan team that is rebuilding and must replace its personnel to suit new head coach Brady Hoke's traditional smash mouth offense that has been the hallmark of the Wolverines for years. The Irish should go into Ann Arbor (the first-ever night game in Ann Arbor) and dismantle the Wolverines, who will probably keep the game close for about a quarter or two before the talent and depth of Notre Dame wears them down. Michigan State will visit South Bend once again, and may pose a formidable test for the Irish with senior quarterback Kirk Cousins, a blue collar quarterback with decent mobility who can throw on the run to a host of talented receivers. However, since this is a home game for the Irish, I expect them to win and pull away in the second half of the contest.

The rest of the schedule has the usual suspects such as Purdue, Navy, Boston College, Pittsburgh, and Stanford. The other teams rounding out the schedule are Wake Forest, Maryland, and Air Force. While this schedule has some potential pitfalls, there are no teams that should jump out and cause alarm for Irish fans. Of course, Stanford is ranked in the top ten of the AP poll and might be the most overrated team in the country in my opinion. Yes, they return All-American quarterback Andrew Luck, a frontrunner for the Heisman award, but they lose valuable personnel as well, including the man who instilled their winning ways in former head coach Jim Harbaugh, who jettisoned to the NFL last year. The marquee game of course will be against USC at night, in front of what will be a raucous Notre Dame crowd. This will be the first night game in South Bend since 1990!

In addition to the Irish returning many players on both defense and offense, with players such as linebacker Mantei Teo and running back Cierre Wood, they bring in one of the most heralded

defensive line hauls in recent years. Among some of the players snagged in last year's class include defensive end Aaron Lynch, linebacker Ishaq Williams, and defensive tackle Stephon Tuitt, giving the Irish depth at many positions that they haven't had in years. These freshmen, among many others, are expected to contribute right away and give the more experienced starts a much needed rest during the course of the games. With these factors in mind, the Irish should win at least 10 games to consider the season a success.

They have excellent players at the skills positions, highlighted by wide receiver Michael Floyd, who can out jump any defender for a catch along with receiver/running back in Theo Riddick and Cierre Wood, who may end up being one of the best one two punches in the country with their ability to move in space after the

catch. Throw in the mix much improved running back Jonas Gray, with his blazing 4.4 speed and you have a combination that will make many defensive coaches reach for the Maalox.

Wrapping up, this team still rests on the shoulders of Dayne Christ and the Notre Dame defense. If Christ can show that he is able to go through his progressions and check downs better this season, and can improve greatly on his consistency, in particular, the Irish could be very explosive on offense and difficult to contain. Head Coach Brian Kelly stated in his previous press conferences that he wants to run the ball more, which served the Irish well, particularly against USC and Miami last season when they ran the ball down both teams' throats. In addition, the defense must pick up where they left off last year when they made teams fight tooth and nail to move the ball into the end zone. The Irish actually ended up in the top 25 in the points scored against category by the end of the season. They should be able to improve upon that statistic, which would most likely have them playing in a BCS bowl game by season's end. Anything less than 10-2 would be a disappointment, considering the returning talent on this year's team, combined with the outstanding defensive recruiting haul for 2011.

If the Notre Dame detractors are at fever pitch this year, Notre Dame is probably winning on the football field.



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Addition of a New Employer Defense

Previously, workers' compensation could be denied where the employee was so intoxicated that, as a matter of law, the injury arose out of the employee's drunken condition and not his employment. The Act now specifically expands the intoxication defense, by stating that an injured worker will not be entitled to compensation if the proximate cause of the accident of the injury was due to intoxication. Additionally, there will be a rebuttable presumption if the employee was intoxicated, that the intoxication was the proximate cause of the injury. If an employee does not submit to testing of blood, breath or urine at the time of the accident, that also raises a rebuttable presumption that the employee was intoxicated, and that such intoxication was the legal cause of the employee's injury.

The Burden of Proving Causation Remains the Same

While many changes in the Act limit the rights of the injured worker, one hard fought issue remained the same. Illinois law requires an employee seeking recovery to prove that the accident "arose out of" and "in the course of" employment. The business community had sought a change in the standard, so that the injured worker would have to prove that the accident was a "significant factor" or the "primary cause" of the injury. This specifically targeted repetitive trauma injuries where an injured worker had been working in a factory or a building site for many years repeatedly doing certain activities and their body wears without any specific trauma. There was no change on what is required to be proved.

Conclusion

The Act has made significant changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and to worker benefits. Next month we will focus on additional changes and their impact to both the employer and employee.

Illinois Makes Important Changes to the Workers' Compensation Act

This is the first in a two-part series on the recent changes to the Workers' Compensation Act. This month, and next, we will focus on what effect these changes will have, on a practical level, for the injured worker. This column will also respond to legal questions relating to workers' compensation and personal injury that are sent to us.

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

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

Following months of speculation, lobbying, and legislative compromise, the changes to the Workers' Compensation Act were signed into law by Governor Quinn on June 28th, 2011. While the changes affect both employers and employee, this first article focuses on certain changes that most limit the workers' rights. Next month we will focus on additional changes and their impact to both employers and employees.

Limitation of Employee Right to Select Doctors

One of the most significant changes in the 2011 rewrite of the Act is the restriction of the worker's choice of doctor. The Act allows for the employer or its representative (i.e. their insurance company) to provide a panel of medical providers from which the employee must choose. The employee may opt out of this 'preferred provider network,' but in doing so the employee loses the choice of one doctor. This means that the employee who opts-out of the employer's panel is restricted to one doctor, whereas those that do not opt-out may choose two doctors within the 'preferred provider network.' In effect, the Act penalizes workers who wish to choose their own doctors where multiple doctors are needed. Under the previous law, the worker had an unrestricted choice of two doctors, if necessary. While this can be a serious limitation on previous rights held by the employee to choose two doctors if necessary, it is not as drastic as what was sought by employers to completely eliminate the employee's right to choose any doctor.

Limitation of Benefit Periods

Wage loss differential cases, where a worker returns to work at a lesser

pay, have now been restricted to the injured worker reaching the age of 67, or five years from the date of any final award, whichever is longer. Under the old rules, wage loss differentials were paid throughout the worker's life.

Limitation of Hand Injury Claims

The number of weeks of compensation payable for a hand injury has been reduced to a maximum of 190 weeks. Under old rules the maximum number of weeks for a hand injury was 205 weeks. This amounts to a loss of compensation of almost 10% to the worker for a serious hand injury. The Act also limits recovery for one of the most common of workers' compensation claims, carpal tunnel syndrome. Recovery for carpal tunnel syndrome is now limited at 15% of loss of the hand, unless there is clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. Where such evidence is provided, recovery still cannot exceed 30% loss of the hand.

Required Use of AMA Guidelines

An additional change to the Act which directly affects the injured worker is the required use of the American Medical Association's (AMA) guide for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, also known as the AMA guidelines. The arbitrator at the Industrial Commission must use the guidelines when awarding an injured worker permanent partial disability benefits. The impact of the use of AMA guidelines on arbitrator's awards is not currently clear. However, in states that use the AMA Guidelines, the impact has been awards far below

Ireland Network Chicago Members Forum for Business & Service Providers

By Imelda Gallagher – IN Committee Member

In a recently published *IAN* article, members of the Ireland Network Chicago (IN) were delighted to introduce our group and ourselves to *IAN* readers. IN is a business and social network of Irish people living and working in the Chicagoland area. We mentioned that the IN acts as "a readily accessible and relevant forum for the sharing of individual resources, expertise, industry knowledge, business opportunities, contacts, connections; to share individual experiences, successes and challenges for the benefit of the membership at large; and to support newly-arrived Irish in their efforts to connect with the greater Chicago business and social community." The IN wishes to promote business relationships within a social setting to be mutual beneficial for our members and also enjoyable!

IN is proceeding with our commitment to these objectives by announcing our first Members' Forum for Business Owners and Service Providers. The Forum will take place on Friday, October 7, 2011 from 6-9pm at The Gage, 24 S. Michigan Ave. The Forum will provide business owners with the opportunity to showcase their businesses at this event. Each business can reserve a space at the Forum to promote and market their business in a social setting of "business network-minded" people where business owners can speak to IN members and attendees while they are circulating socially at this event. The Members' Forum will replace the usual IN First Friday informal social event for October, but will retain the social element. We are delighted with the high participation at these First Friday events and anticipate that it will be a great opportunity for business owners and participants to learn about the businesses and services available within the community. All are welcome!

The Forum showcase spaces for business owners and service providers

are \$150 and are available to Subscribed Members only. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the industries, services and markets represented within the IN membership. Currently the companies already signed up are: American International Realty, Artane Construction, BIK Accountants, Concord Group, Conlon Real Estate, Conor Cunneen, Irish American Heritage Center, McEntee Law, Perl Mortgage and Soluisee Solutions. There are more spaces available!

One of the Forum participants, Greg Lloyd, President of Soluisee Solutions Inc. said that "the Ireland Network is always open to ideas and suggestions about how to further support and encourage business development and awareness. The Network is proactive, energy is always high and the people are great to work with." We hope that other Forum participants will have similar positive experiences with the IN through this Forum.

All are welcome to attend this Members' Forum and admission is free for attendees. There will be appetizers served courtesy of The Gage and there will be an open bar available for Subscribed Members until 8pm courtesy of IN (cash bar for non-members). New members may subscribe at any IN event for \$50 per annum which will provide access to the IN Chicago website. Also coming soon, there will be access to the IN-USA website to connect with our members nationwide.

For more information about how to sign up for the Members' Forum, please contact: Ken Dooley 312-305-4919; Rachel McCormac 773-316-9400 or Deborah Ryder 312-342-7150. You may also visit our website: www.theirelandnetwork.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the Members' Forum on Friday, October 7, 2011 at 6pm!



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I'm inclined to think that this is a myth.

For when I was living in Ireland, I was at home, but not quite. I moved

A Foot In Either Camp

Since I began living in the United States less than a decade ago, I have been intrigued with the process of feeling at home, and yet not quite. Moving to Chicago was a great decision. I love the city, the people are friendly, and it has great theatre. The drawback in living in such an urban centre, however, (apart from the cold winters) is the difficulty of getting beyond the borders of the concrete sprawl and into the countryside.

Since I don't have ready access to a car, I look forward to the opportunities to visit friends, or travel back to Ireland. I hanker after the isolation of Donegal when the interminable high-pitched sounds of emergency vehicles remind me that I'm in the third largest city of the U.S. And yet, at other times, I find these discordant sounds comforting.

As I have slowly assimilated to the American way of life, my views of belonging seem to be in a state of flux. There are times when both feet are firmly grounded on North American soil, while at other times, the complexities and differences of both Ireland and the U.S struggle for dominance. None of us like to live with inner turmoil, and we all seek to silence the inner voices that trouble us, since the ideal is to be at peace with oneself. I say 'ideal,' but in reality,

from Derry, a population of just over 100,000, to Buncrana, a small seaside town in Donegal. The idea presented itself to me that it was time to retreat from the city and into the comforting arms of the environs of Lough Swilly.

I had had enough of city life and now it was time to become one with the harmonious tones of nature. Before I moved, I had planned to walk every day along the beautiful banks of the Lake of Shadows. This was the holiday spot for my family. It held precious memories of playing on the beach and eating a stick of rock (candy). And, if I needed the impressions of the city, Derry was only fourteen miles away. I could have the best of both worlds.

My first few days in Buncrana were busy with unpacking, getting acquainted with living in the Republic of Ireland, as opposed to a British Northern Ireland. It was quite exciting, and I was enthusiastic about this new phase in my life.

Getting a broadband connection installed in the house would give me access to email etc. The first week passed by quickly. There was a lot to do, and even though I hadn't walked along the banks of the Swilly, I would, once my life settled down. One of the disadvantages of moving from a more populous area is the lack of conveniences. But I was convinced the

trade-off was worth it.

Becoming starved of Internet connectivity was beginning to show. By the second week as my trips into the city became more frequent. When finally the man came to set me up with my lifeline link to the greater cyber community, he greeted me with these words. 'What on under God brought you to this hell hole!' I wondered if he could see the disappointment in my face.

Inside, I was trying desperately to stick my finger in the hole in the dam, hoping to stall the inevitable deluge. It was no use, I could see the cracks in my quest for utopia beginning to show. This local began to tell me about how mean spirited my neighbours were, warned me about trusting any of them, and offer his sagely wisdom as to how to survive living in a hell hole.

Faced with such cynicism, I tried re-constructing my nostalgic, somewhat romantic reminiscences of this childhood haven, but it was no good. There was something in his rubbing my nose in his grubby reality that was really getting up my nostrils. The people in the town did appear quite cliquish. There was no doubt that I would be always the outsider, 'the Derry wan.'

Before coming to Chicago, I lived in Buncrana for two years and during that time I found myself with a foot in either camp. The beauty of the Inishowen peninsula, the incredible beauty of south Donegal, and comforting sense of isolation was all mine, but it was not enough. I was at home, but not quite.

Half my time was spent visiting friends and family in Derry, returning in the evening along the shores of the Swilly. As time went on, I knew that what I was experiencing was simply the longing for the grass on the other side.

In some ways the experience has helped me understand my life here. I seek out what I think I'm missing on the internet, trawling through Irish newspaper sites to get a sense of home. And while I enjoy the occasional encounter with a fellow countryman/woman, or the more elaborate Irish fest, I am aware of the dangers of becoming an ex-pat with a thirst for sentimentalism.

But still it offers me a sense of being at home. And there are times when the whole celebration of being Irish diminishes my sense of connection since it seems exaggerated. What I have discovered is that the feeling of being at home, but not quite is with us wherever we are. It's a part of our human condition.

Good Morning Ireland Radio's "An Irish Party"

The *Good Morning Ireland Radio Show* will host an "Irish Party" in the Erin Ballroom at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago, from 7pm-midnight on Saturday, September 24th, 2011. Proceeds from this event go towards off-setting the costs of producing the *Good Morning Ireland Radio Show* with a portion also going towards the St. Patrick's Missionary Fathers.

The *Good Morning Ireland Radio Show* is broadcast LIVE on Saturdays from 1:05-3pm on 1450 AM WCEV. It features weekly LIVE news reports with RTE's Eileen Magnier—the northwestern correspondent for Ireland's State Broadcaster. The weekly sports report is presented by Tommy Marren from Mid West Radio in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo—one of Ireland's Top Independent Radio Stations.



Tommy Marren

The "Irish Party" fundraising event will feature special guests and musical acts from Ireland including Eileen Magnier, Tommy Marren and one of Connemara's top musical groups "Cillian." Local entertainers will also include Country & Irish singing star John Staunton, originally from Westport in County Mayo, Ireland, and he'll be joined by that great Sligo man John Kivlehan, collectively known as the "Two Johnnies." There'll also be other special guests. Newly crowned world title holder professional boxer Henry Coyle will lend his support, as will highly accomplished Sean Nós Dancer Brian Cunningham, who will enthrall guests with a "not to be missed" Sean Nós dance performance! The ticket price is \$35.

While the event may be a fundraiser, it's also a party! A party that will hopefully bring people together from right across the Irish community in Chicago for a great time, and at the same time provide a unique opportunity to support Irish radio programming in Chicago. There are various costs associated with the production and airing of the show, and the added costs of providing news and sports reports live from Ireland from such highly regarded professionals as Eileen Magnier & Tommy Marren. If you enjoy the program, if you appreciate the content and the effort that goes into the program; this is your opportunity to support it. Part of what the program does is to help various charitable, cultural, social and sporting organizations to publicize their various events. It's a community service that is and should be FREE to all the great organizations out there that do so much for and on behalf of the Irish community. With help and support they can continue to provide this public service at NO cost.

Of course, if you just want to come along because it's going to be the biggest and best Irish party ever... that's fine too!

Tickets are available at the box office at the Irish American Heritage Center, 773-282-7035.

For more information contact Sean Ginnelly 224-715-8292. To sponsor a raffle prize contact Bernie Heveran at 773-501-9457.



Eileen Magnier

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Celtic Thunder’s DVD/CD *Storm* & Fall Tour

Celtic Thunder’s vibrant and enthralling new release *Storm* delves into a different aspect of the past, the struggle for land and security and acceptance. The magnitude of the show’s set combined with the creative musical arrangements and engaging choreography make for a compelling experience all around. Both the new CD and DVD will be available everywhere September 20th on Decca.

In support of their previous release *Heritage* and Public Television Special of the same name, this acclaimed show will crisscross the U.S. in 45 cities this Fall. *Storm* is a turbulent, raucous battle between the darkness of gypsies and the resolution of the settlers, both fighting for the same piece of land. The gypsies have inhabited the land for generations and the settlers are looking to put down roots and build their community. Irish culture and tradition permeate throughout the stage.

Since the airing of their first Public Televi-

sion special in 2008, Celtic Thunder consistently remains one of the most popular musical acts for the network. *Storm* was filmed alongside *It’s Entertainment* at the Toronto International Centre Hall 5 in Toronto, Ontario. Their 60-minute DVD was shot in high definition with a 15-camera multi directional shoot and exceptionally high production values, and will include exciting special features and additional bonus material.

Midwest Tour Dates: 10/6, Cincinnati, OH, Taft Theatre; 10/18, Kansas City, KS, Midland Theater; 10/20, 2011 St. Louis, MO, Fox Theatre; 10/22, Denver, CO, The Paramount; 12/6, Cleveland, OH, Palace Theatre; 12/7, Detroit, MI, Fox Theatre; 12/9, Kalamazoo, MI, Miller Auditorium; 12/10, Minneapolis, MN, State Theatre; 12/11, Chicago, IL, Rosemont (Matinee Show Only); Dec 13, 2011 Duluth, MN, Event Centre; 12/15, Bloomington, IL, Bloomington PAC.





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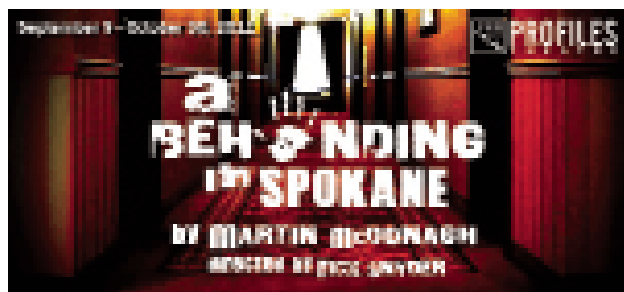
EVENT DETAILS
Oct. 1, 2011 8:30 AM Registration Workshop 9:00 AM – 12 PM
Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N Knox Ave Chgo, IL 60630
SHAMROCK AMERICAN ROOM
Expert Panel will discuss - Resources, Geriatric Healthcare, Answers to Legal Questions, Caregiver Support, and Retirement Housing Options

WORKSHOP PANEL
Lee Lindquist MD, MPH, MBA. Asst Professor of Geriatrics at Northwestern University/ Medical Faculty Foundation
Ben Neiburger, Attorney at Law, of Neiburger Law Ltd. Specialist in Elder Law and Estate Planning
Mary O’Hara, AM, LCSW Social Worker, Asst. Director of Education Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Kathleen Elster, Division Director of Marketing, Resurrection Senior Living Communities
Amedisys Home Health, Home Health Agency providing state- of- the- art health care at home
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Pre-Registration for this free event is available on the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support website at **WWW.CI-IS.COM**
Attendees may also register at the door
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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



A Behanding in Spokane

Profiles Theatre is producing the Chicago premiere of Martin McDonagh's 2010 play, *A Behanding in Spokane*.

McDonagh's plays are staged worldwide. *The Theatre of Martin McDonagh* states, "It has been claimed that by 2000 he was more produced in the United States than any other dramatist but Shakespeare."

Tis is great success for a young playwright. He was born in 1970, and has written eight plays and three movies.

His 2000 film, *In Bruges*, was widely praised, and was a huge success at the box office.

The young Irishman was raised in London and was greatly influenced by American Noir films,

TV comedies and horror films. But, when asked to explain his plays, McDonagh would probably answer with the words of one of his characters: "It's a puzzle without a solution."

A Behanding in Spokane, like his other plays is a black comedy. It is the first McDonagh play set in America, or as the script says, it is set in "small town America."

In his plays, as in life, there is no clear distinction between good and evil. They are marked by great humor, but also violence. As the *Wall Street Journal* says: "When blood is shed in a Martin McDonagh play the audience always laughs—and usually gasps. Mr. McDonagh is partial to comic violence."

Bloomberg.com says this violence is "Insane yet also fiendishly funny."

A Behanding in Spokane will be produced at Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway in Chicago, from September 14 through October 30. 773-549-1815.

Oh, What a Bloody Good Friday

Katie Miller is a delightful person: optimistic and energetic. Her enthusiasm about life and theater is refreshing.

Having worked with theater companies, and read hundreds of plays, Miller's knowledge of the theater is impressive.

Miller came from the U.K. to direct the new play, which was a semi-finalist for the prestigious Eugene O'Neill Prize. That play is: *Oh, What a Bloody Good Friday: A Playful Mystery*. Miller says that a play must tell a story that we can feel a part of, and it must be entertaining. This play does both, beautifully.

The playwright is Terry Boyle. He teaches at Loyola University and is a theater reviewer for *IAN*.

Katie Miller will be here for the next several weeks. Luckily, she has the support and encouragement of her husband and children. They know how much she loves theater. She is a lay minister in the Episcopal Church, and this responsibility gives her a lot of different experience with people.

When I asked her why theater is so important to people, she replied, "People want to connect with the community and theater is an immediate communal experience."

The play will be presented at Loyola's Cuneo Mansion in Vernon Hills. 847-362-3042.

It will be presented on Friday, September 9 at 7:30pm, and at 1pm on Saturday, September 10, and also at 1pm on Sunday, September 11. Tickets are \$18, and \$15 for students and seniors.

An Enduring Vision

Lady Gregory (1852-1932) continues to have an enormous influence on Irish culture. She was a prolific playwright (40 plays), poet, essayist, and editor of collections of Irish folklore.

Lady Gregory: An Irish Life, is a lively biography of this amazing person.

There was a desire by the Irish public for a national theatre. So in 1904, she, with W. B. Yeats, J. M. Synge and E. Martyn founded the Abbey Theatre. It has had a profound influence on Irish theatre ever since.

Lady Gregory worked to restore Ireland's language, literature, and culture. She also worked for Ireland's political independence. And, she defied Synge and Shaw against political attacks.

None of this would have been expected from Gregory's origin. Her family owned a huge estate, was very wealthy, and strongly supported the union with England.

However, the young Augusta was greatly influenced by her Irish speaking governess. She introduced her to a world of heroes, legends and imagination. This awareness became the focus of her life.

Lady Gregory: An Irish Life, by Judith Hill. The Collins Press and DuFour editions. factotum@dufour editions.com.

He Wanted to Unite Ireland

Brian Boru is an almost mythic figure in Irish history. What did he want to accomplish? *Brian Boru: King of Ireland*, tries to answer that question.

Brian (about 941 to 1014) saw around him a patchwork of warring kingdoms, with no central authority strong enough to stop the constant warfare. (Later, England would side with one kingdom against another, and thus gain control of Ireland.)

Brian wanted to unite Ireland into a national state with him as king of all Ireland.

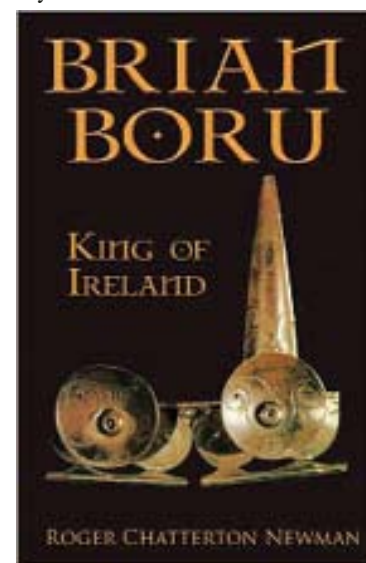
After a series of wars against local kings, he became king of Munster. And by 1005, he ruled most of Ireland, except for Dublin.

He besieged Dublin, and in the Spring of 1014, at Clontarf, he defeated the Dublin Danes. Norsemen and Irishmen fought on both sides. Brian, however was killed, as were his successors.

What did Brian accomplish during his short reign as High King? He promoted the vision of a united, Gaelic Ireland. He protected learning by rebuilding ruined monastery schools and he improved communication by building roads.

The legacy of the people from Northern Europe was great. They came first as raiders, but then settled. (They are called Vikings, Norsemen, Northern Danes or Norwegians.) They added their vigor, enthusiasm and trading skills to Ireland.

They also introduced the idea of a trade, com-



merce, and manufacturing areas within the cities they founded—Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Carlingford, Bantry, Youghal, Wexford and Limerick. They introduced the concept of money and even minted the first Irish coins.

Brian Boru: King of Ireland, by Roger Chatterton Newman, shows the life of this amazing man. And, it poses the tantalizing possibility that he could have created a united Ireland.

Brian Boru: King of Ireland, by Roger Chatterton Newman, Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. factotum@dufour editions.com.

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Good Morning Ireland Radio Show
The Good Morning Ireland Radio Show is one of Chicago's most popular weekly radio shows featuring up-to-the-minute news and sports LIVE from Ireland, topical interviews, your requests and dedications, plenty of good music and a little bit of humor thrown in for good measure! Sundays from 10:55 PM to 3 PM on 1450 AM WCEV. www.goodmorningirelandradio.com

Eileen Magnier
Eileen Magnier is the north western correspondent for Ireland's national broadcaster Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE) and has been reporting the news from that region to national audiences for many years. Eileen is a seasoned professional and her news reports and analysis are informative and engaging. Don't miss her LIVE weekly national news reports on Good Morning Ireland from 10:55 PM to 3 PM on 1450 AM WCEV.

Tommy Murren
Tommy Murren is the presenter of an award winning current affairs program that airs from 9 AM to 11 AM on one of Ireland's most popular independent radio stations – Midwest Radio in Ballyvaughan Co. Mayo. Tommy began his broadcasting career as an anchor on a weekend sports show. His sports commentary can often be heard these days on RIL radio when he is a free lance match commentator. Luckily for listeners to Good Morning Ireland he provides a very comprehensive sports report each week – the only one of its kind on the airwaves in Chicago or the country!

Show your Support for Irish Radio Programming in Chicago.
The Good Morning Ireland Radio Show is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors and advertisers. Help continue the tradition of Irish radio programming in Chicago by supporting this very special event. A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold goes towards offsetting the costs associated with the broadcast. By purchasing one or more tickets you are supporting the show and we thank you in advance.

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Why Do Bishops Cover Up?

Author, Tom Mooney, "is editor of *The Wexford Echo* group of newspapers."

His reporting has won several prestigious awards, including an Amnesty International Media Award.

Since 1990, Mooney has fearlessly reported on the sexual molestation scandal. He tells the story of the abuse of children in one Irish diocese, but readers know this sordid problem is worldwide.

Priests who molested children "were shunted from parish to parish or from psychiatrist to psychiatrist and canon law used to protect the abuser, not the abused." Why do bishops do this? I suggest two theories to explain this.

One suggestion to explain why bishops protect child molesters, is about the church itself. A church belief is "that the presence of evil is compatible with faith. One proves the existence of the other." But, does this mean that the molesting of children is to be tolerated?

Another suggestion is the possible mindset of the bishops. Do they believe that once a man has been ordained, he is a priest forever?

But the "made man" in the mafia is "made" forever too.

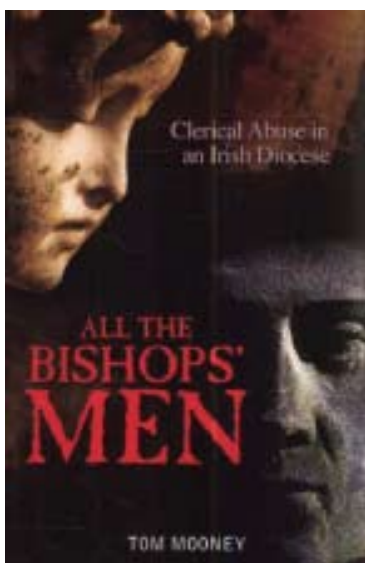
Is there a difference then, between Al Capone or Whitey Bulger protecting their criminal henchmen, and a bishop protecting his criminal henchmen?

The bishop preaches love and kindness. But to the molested, this is high-pocrisy.

Tom Mooney is a careful observer

of human actions. His book is well researched and quite readable. It will generate many emotions and questions.

All the Bishop's Men, by Tom Mooney, The Collins Press and DuFour Editions.



factotum@dufourEditions.com.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* had an article about the Cloyne Report and Prime Minister Enda Kenny's speech about it.

Kenny is incredulous that from 1996 to 2009 complaints against 19 priests in the Cloyne Diocese for molesting children were not reported to police. Kenny, also accused the Vatican of trying to stop the Cloyne Report. It "exposes an attempt by the church to frustrate an inquiry in a sovereign, democratic republic."

The former Archbishop of Cloyne, John Magee, escaped from Ireland to

the United States, and is now believed to be hiding here.

Powerful Values for Children

They broke down the door of Tomas MacCurtain's home, and crashed in. They had blackened their faces, but wore regulation Royal Irish Constabulary shoes. They pushed his children aside, and even his very pregnant wife. They ran upstairs and shot MacCurtain to death.

MacCurtain was the first Irish Republican Lord Mayor of Cork. He had been active in the IRA's War for Independence.

The time was 1920—a time of deadly retaliation by British forces. The Royal Irish Constabulary was part of that British occupation force.

I believe wearing the official RIC shoes was deliberate intimidation, and Michael Collins believed this too.

Collins greatly respected MacCur-

tain, and promised his widow to avenge his killing. His agents tracked down many of the raiders and killed them. One, thought to be the leader, was shot with Curtin's pistol.

This is another book in the wonderful series: *Irish Heroes for Children*.

Tomas MacCurtain is an example of strong family values and of dedication to principle.

The Story of Tomas MacCurtain, by Fionnuala MacCurtain, Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. factotum@dufourEditions.com.

So You Want to Review Books?

By Frank West

"The past is the present, isn't it? It's the future too!"

This powerful comment by Eugene O'Neill summarizes my interests in books to review.

I taught history for many years and like to review books about Ireland's history, biography and theatre.

However, there are many areas I have little knowledge of: sports,

dance, music, art, etc. A knowledgeable reviewer is needed for those areas. The publisher will supply you with the books.

Please send a summary of your interests and writing experience to: editor@irishamericannews.com. There is no pay, but the books are yours to keep, and there will be some benefits like plays to review or authors to interview!

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Ships' Registry in the Bahamas

Chicago Celtic Youth Win in Boston

Congratulations to all of the Chicago Celtic Youth GFC players, coaches and families that traveled to CYC in Boston, 2011 for a job well done. Pictured are some of the kids who played, and their siblings attending a celebration in Brookfield. The 2012 CYC Tournament will be held in Chicago at Gaelic Park in Oak



Forest, IL. The 9th annual Continental Youth Championships will be held in Chicago from Thursday, July 26 to Sunday, July 29, 2012.

Go to www.iannews.com for more pictures of the winning players!

Back row (l-r): Liam O’Farrell, Aoife Swan, Ciara Brady, Sinead Molloy, Erin O’Farrell, Michael O’Farrell, Maeve Swan
Front row: Sean Molloy, Sean O’Farrell, Michael Molloy, Niall Brady, Brennan Harkin, Shane Swan
Photo by Cathy Curry.

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- Band of Rogues 7:30 pm
- Brigids Cross 9:15 pm

Saturday

- Mayer School of Irish Dance 2 pm
- Solid-Aire 3 pm
- Dyed in the Wool 4 pm
- Celtic Drifters (Dancers) 5 pm
- Larkin & Moran Brothers 6:15 pm
- Brigids Cross 7:45 pm
- The Fenians 9:30 pm

Sunday: Irish Folk Day

- Chicago Celtic Bag Pipers 1 pm
- Celtic Drifters (Dancers) 1:30 pm
- Larkin & Moran Brothers 2:30 pm
- Shapeshifters Theatre (comedy) 3:30 pm
- The Rebecca McCarthy McDunce Company 4:15 pm
- Paddy Homan 5 pm
- Raffle Drawing-\$10,000 6:30 pm

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do You Have A Mentor?

Throughout our lives, we have received guidance from "mentors," such as teachers, coaches, bosses, business associates, and yes, even parents. "Mentor" is defined as a wise and trusted advisor.

People who realize the importance of attracting and keeping mentors greatly improve their odds of corporate success. Their work lives are bolstered by the insight and political savvy provided by mentors who have already fought the "good" wars and have learned from their scars. Several years ago a human resources consultant made a statement that still resonates today: "In an environment where companies are laying off people in droves, you don't want to give them a reason to lay you off."

The corporate equivalents of big brothers/sisters-mentors can be an invaluable resource. They can help you understand the inner workings of your employer and provide constructive criticism regarding your management style and decision making. Many of our silly mistakes could have been avoided by enlisting the help of more experienced colleagues.

They've Been Around For A Long Time

Establishing a mentoring relationship with someone you respect and trust isn't a new concept. Accomplished men and women have historically sought help from those who were older and wiser. Even such luminaries as Thomas Becket, Abraham Lincoln, and Louis Brandeis, stated in their personal papers the importance of securing the counsel of others who were older and wiser.

The ideal mentor should be several years older than the protégé. This is true even when the protégé is a mature person with years of experience. Once you reach a certain level of responsibility, your approach to delegating and other on-the-job duties may need refinement.

Finding a mentor at a senior level can be difficult because likely mentors are commonly busy people. Consider recently retired executives, board members, and former managers who transferred to other divisions, etc. Never limit your search to just the obvious candidates whom other managers may also be courting.

At the beginning of your career,

finding a mentor shouldn't be a taxing chore. Identify older executives/managers whom you admire and have already met, even if only casually. Strive to enlist the help of someone with a strong reputation who appears to be "on the move" or at least, appears to be well respected in his or her current position.

Should your mentor(s) be the same gender as you? Is that wise? A woman manager operating in a male-dominated environment might consider selecting a male mentor, if only to send a signal that she belongs in the mainstream. Conversely, the reverse may be equally true. One should always strive to understand the rules of the work environment.

If the younger employee lets the seasoned veteran know that his advice is genuinely sought and appreciated, the veteran may accept a mentoring role without any real formal commitment.

Ideally, your mentor should work for the same company as you, but this isn't mandatory. That's no reason to sever your ties because your mentor changes jobs. Sometimes distance will allow your mentor to be even more valuable.

If your prime mentor becomes unavailable to you, don't hesitate in finding another. Ideally, you should always have more than one mentor. Multiple mentors may provide you with different approaches or rationales on the same problem. You won't insult one mentor by asking someone else to provide guidance periodically. Never play one mentor off against another. Consider their advice independently weigh it carefully, and then select the strategy that best suits your situation.

Line Them Up Now

Unless you have already had two or three mentors, consider these steps when recruiting one.

1. Prepare a list of likely candidates,

including current and former colleagues. List everyone who might be even remotely helpful. It's okay if your mentors know each other, but avoid picking two mentors who are close, personal friends. You are looking for diversity of opinion, not singularity.

2. Sort through your list carefully. Reduce it to three or four candidates. This analysis will help you understand your needs better. If you require guidance in dealing with your boss, choose someone who knows how your boss operates. If a new duty causes you concern, a specialist in that field, or at least someone who handled the job in the past, is a good choice.

3. Eliminate anyone who made your list strictly just for sentimental reasons. Your brother-in-law, the airline pilot, may be a terrific person with good judgment but how much does he know about construction, manufacturing, banking or whatever business you conduct?

4. Meet your candidates. Tell each that you would appreciate seeing them from time to time for lunch, a game of tennis or just a chat to discuss your career. Provide them with a complete history of your background. Help them understand your company's culture. Complete this orientation before discussing any "real" problems you may face and don't contact them only when problems arise. Keep them posted on the progress of your career, even when all is well. Be intentional about keeping in touch.

5. When you're certain that someone will offer valuable advice, tell him or her of your decision to consider them as a part of your brain trust. Most will be flattered and more than willing to oblige.

The primary reason people agree to be mentors is the feeling that their advice is useful and will be valued. Once you demonstrate that you don't consider his advice helpful, the mentor may turn a cold shoulder without hesitation. Now, go and find yourself two or three mentors. *Carpe diem.*

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oakbrook, IL-based executive coaching and career transition firm. Phone: 630-384-2204. Email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com. Website: www.jamesffitzgerald.com.

Go Green at 16th Fox Valley Irish Fest

Celebrate all things Irish at Fox Valley Irish Fest with new performers and familiar favorites, expanded Irish cuisine, toe-tapping championship Irish dance troupes and much more!

The 16th Annual Fox Valley Irish Fest, part of the Saint Catherine of Siena Centennial Celebration, will be held on Friday through Sunday, September 9-11, 2011 on the grounds of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Routes 31 and 72, in West Dundee, two miles north of I-90. Visit www.foxvalleyirishfest.com or call 847-426-2217.

The Fox Valley Irish festival takes place rain or shine; all events are outdoors under the main tent. Daily admission is \$10 on Friday and Saturday with half-price \$5 admission on Sunday; a three-day pass is \$20. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.

Admission for fun loving fest-goers age 65 and over is \$8 on Friday and Saturday and \$5 on Sunday. Fest hours are: Friday 5-11pm, Saturday 1-11pm, and Sunday 12:30-7pm.

Entertainment tapped for this year's Fox Valley Irish Fest includes: Brigid's Cross, The Fenians, The Whigmaleeries, Band of Rogues, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, Dyed in the Wool, Solid-Aire, Paddy Homan and the Chicago Celtic Bagpipers.

Enjoy three solid days of family entertainment, fun, food, and shopping at the Fox Valley Irish Festival in West Dundee - one of the finest Irish Festivals in the Chicago area!

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



**Protecting God’s People:
Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence**

Imagine being a recently arrived immigrant in the United States—living in Cook or Lake County. While your dream of living in the U.S. has been realized, there are many unexpected stresses on you, your spouse and your children. The culture, the language and customs at work and at school are different from those at home; the neighborhood is not the same as the town you left. You are struggling to feed your

children and pay rent. The children do their homework in a different language in a very different school system.

Sometimes frustration erupts and tempers flare in the family. Hurtful things are said and perhaps blows are struck. And in the experience of Catholic Charities and our partner agencies, it is most often the wife and mother of the family who bears the brunt of the anger and frustration, physically and emotion-

ally. But domestic violence, the silent member of the family, is a destructive force on every family member.

Since Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago was founded 94 years ago, we have assisted women suffering from domestic violence. Often hidden, a “family secret,” it was—and remains today—a source of great suffering for women and children, and less frequently, men, trapped in homes with abusers. But spousal abuse and its culture of silence lives on in the lives of thousands of men, women and children. This is especially true among immigrant families as women and children face additional language, cultural, and legal barriers to their safety. Immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault represent one of the most marginalized populations in our midst as they frequently do not know help is available.

Last October, in order to address this problem, the Catholic Charities Immigration and Naturalization Department formed a partnership, The Immigrant Survivors Project (ISP), with several other social service agencies: Sarah’s Inn, Greenhouse Shelter, Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC), and Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program, to provide com-

prehensive, specialized legal services for women and men who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking.

The partner agencies meet quarterly to cross-train each other in their respective fields. Catholic Charities departments train specialized victim agencies (Sarah’s Inn and Greenhouse Shelter) on legal issues, and specialized victim agencies equip legal service providers to represent clients in a victim-centered manner.

Each organization contributes services according to their mission: providing shelter for victims, court advocacy, specialized support services, family law advice and representation, immigration law advice. For instance, Catholic Charities Immigration and Naturalization Services (CCINS) provides legal counsel and representation to those whose insecure immigration status often contributes to their victimization. Sarah’s Inn, one of our formal partners, provides court advocacy, crisis intervention, emergency shelter and specialized support for victims, including safety planning, and assisting Catholic Charities in gathering the necessary documents such as police reports, orders of protection, and medical records in order to move forward with an immigration case.

A two-year Legal Assistance for Victims grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women, a collaborative project, was awarded as a result of the vision of Catholic Charities’ Department of Immigration, whose director and specialists noticed a growing need.

Catholic Charities Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services, a Board of Immigration Appeals-recognized program was established in 1972 to provide low-cost, quality legal advice to guide newcomers to the United States through the immigration process. With a full range of legal services to assist immigrants, Catholic Charities has assisted in providing legal family reunification to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents with family members from all over the world: including Poland, Russia, Iraq, Nigeria, Mexico, Vietnam and Central and South America—people of all faiths.

Congress has provided immigration laws to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence by securing their immigration status, thus eliminating a common barrier to freedom and safety from their abuser. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), first established in 1994 and re-authorized in 2005, enables many individuals in an abusive relationship to a U.S. citizen to seek independence through lawful permanent residency, thus gaining authorization to work and the security to fight for their children in custody and child support matters. The U Visa legislation passed in 2000 helps victims of violent crimes to assist law enforcement by encouraging victims to report and prosecute the perpetrators.

The Immigrant Survivors Project has enabled the Catholic Charities Immigration and Naturalization program to expand their VAWA and U Visa case load by over 300%. In the last 10 months, more than 300 women (and their qualifying family members) have been assisted by ISP in obtaining U Visas or VAWA protection, and 75 of those victims (mostly women and children) are currently receiving intensive counseling and other services to assist in their recovery. Catholic Charities’ Legal Assistance Program provides family law counsel and representation to immigrant victims regarding such matters as orders of protection, child support, and custody issues.

For decades, Catholic Charities has offered legal assistance to newcomers to the United States as well as individual and family counseling. Now, thanks to the new Immigrant Survivors Project, our mission to help families in need of safety, health, justice and charity continues to protect and preserve families.

For more information about Catholic Charities services, please visit: www.catholiccharities.net.



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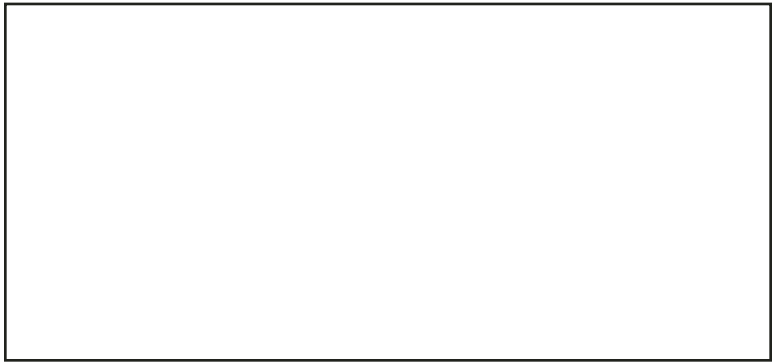
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