



Chicago's
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Our Velvet -Voiced
Irish Country
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Dancing. Monday, March 12, includes The World Academy of Irish Dance and the Mullane Healy, Godley School of Irish Dance. On Tuesday, March 13, there will be performances by the McCormack/Fay and Mulhern School of Irish Dancing. The Gaelic Park Irish Ceili Dancers will also perform.

Three Irish step dancing schools will display their talent on Wednesday. March 14, Tooromeen School, Geraldine Foy School and Katie Hughes School of Irish Dance will all perform. Thursday, March 15, brings the Weber School, Blackbird School of Irish Dance an



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The festival begins Friday, March 9, with performances by Shaylyn McNamara School and Cross Keys School of Irish

Irish Music session with Pat Finnegan and friends.

Ireland on Parade concludes with a huge night on Friday, March 16, beginning with Regina Garrity Music School. It concludes with shows by the Sullivan School and Lavin Cassidy School of Irish Dancing.

For starting times and all the details regarding the St. Patrick's season, call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323 or visit the website at www.chicagogaelpark.org

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Irish Seek Support for E3 Visa Bill

By *Breandán Magee*

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Chairman, Cyril Regan, and Executive Director Breandán Magee joined Celts for Immigration Reform Chair, Billy Lawless, in New York on February 9th for a meeting with the Irish Premier Enda Kenny.

The trio was part of a contingent that met with the Taoiseach and Irish Ambassador to the United States, Michael Collins. The AOH, Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR) and members of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers joined Chicago's representatives in an hour long meeting that touched on recent legislative moves on the Hill to secure visas for the Irish, as well as a host of other community issues.

The Taoiseach reiterated his support for an Irish E3 visa that would allow up to 10,000 Irish nationals to access a two year, renewable work-visa. The E3 Bill has garnered bipartisan support in the Senate but it is currently being held up Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA).

Work behind the scenes on securing a visa for the Irish began after a bill, HR3012, championed by the hi-tech industry passed the House 389-19 in November. That bill proposed changes to the current green card country quota caps that would have shortened waiting times for nationals of China and India seeking employment-based green cards and also would have increased family-based green cards for Mexico and the Philippines.

The Irish community quickly mobilized around this bill and called for an amendment to it in the Senate that would allow the Irish to use the 10,000 E3 reciprocal work visas allocated to Australia that went unused each year. The Celts for Immigration Reform spearheaded the Chicago moves along with the AOH and ILIR to secure political support, resulting in an Irish E3 bill sponsored by Senators Schumer (D-NY), Durbin (D-IL) and Leahy (D-VT). The Republicans soon followed suit with an

almost identical bill cosponsored by Senators Brown (R-MA) and Kirk (R-IL).



Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, and Cyril Regan



Breandán Magee, and Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.

With momentum rolling the Irish worked tirelessly nationwide to bolster support across the aisle for these two bills. The path was made clearer when Senator Schumer omitted a provision for waivers for the undocumented from his bill that made the two bills almost identical in nature. All that is needed now are the 60 votes to pass the bill in the Senate and prevent a filibuster. It is expected that it will pass the House again without upset but Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee has stalled the bill citing concerns over H1B visa regulation.

Celts Chairman Billy Lawless was quoted as saying "even if we get Grassley's support we need broad cross party support" to get the bill through the Senate. Senator Schumer who recently hotlined Bill S.1983 (The Irish E3 proposal), officially attaching it to HR3012 has guaranteed the votes of the 53 Senate Democrats and so far 5 Republicans have lined up in support.

Jeff Cleary, Co Chair of The Irish American Republicans, a coalition of Irish Americans in the

Republican party founded in 1868, recently praised Senators Brown and Kirk saying "Sen. Scott Brown and Sen. Mark Kirk are heroes to the Irish in America", adding that "legal immigration is the foundation upon which this great country has been built."

While in Washington in February the Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the Tanaiste Foreign Minister Eamon Gilmore met with key players in the debate including Senator Brown. Meetings have also been held on the Hill recently between the Irish Embassy, the Celts for Immigration Reform, ILIR and the staffers of various senators. The meetings have focused on securing the key backing of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas).

Manus Cooney, who served as Chief Counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee under its Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), has undertaken pro bono work for the Celts for Immigration Reform and has his finger on the pulse on this issue.

He noted "Ninety nine per cent of the issues involved don't even involve the E3", adding "(but) the key point here is the fact that they (Senators Schumer, Grassley,

Brown and Cornyn) appear to be talking". Cooney went on to say "To their credit the Irish saw a moving vehicle and got Senators Schumer, Brown and various others on board. If the underlying vehicle stalls however, it will be beyond the control of Senators Schumer and Brown alone to remedy".

The Irish community nationwide has mobilized around this issue and there has been unprecedented cooperation between cities and groups that have had little interaction in the past. The AOH made a statement signed by National President Seamus Boyle and National Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy that called on its members to support legislative moves to secure E3 style visas for the Irish while recognizing that the current political climate makes it difficult to assist the undocumented Irish who are already here.

Perhaps as an indication of the success so far, the backlash against the Irish E3 has begun with Roy Beck, President of the Washington-based anti-immigration group Numbers USA, quoted in the Boston Globe saying "(the Irish) are basically upset because they don't have the special privileges that they once had" adding "they have to share those privileges with Latinos and Africans and Asians".

Whatever the backlash it seems clear that the Irish groups nationwide have momentum on their side and are pushing for a vote before St Patrick's Day. Perhaps the luck of the Irish in securing an Irish E3 visa will see many smiling Irish eyes in Washington D.C this year.

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I would like to encourage you, to now consider preparing for their H-1B cap visas, for the fiscal year 2013 (FY2013).

Last year, in the fiscal year 2012 (FY12), the H1B cap was reached



Caro Kinsella

sooner than anticipated compared to the previous fiscal year 2011 (FY2011). The usage of cap numbers depends on the state of the economy. As the economy improves (the U.S. economy is currently improving), the H-1B cap numbers usage increases, as more employers file for their H-1B employees, thus the cap for the H-1B is reached quicker. If you have not filed your H-1B petition, and the cap has been reached, then you must wait until April 1, 2013 before you can file again (and October 1, 2013 before you can start work under the H-1B FY2014).

Because there is no way to accurately predict the length of the H-1B cap season, I encourage you to start the process now, to ensure you are ready to file your H-1B petition with USCIS on April 2, 2012. There can be many documents required to prepare an H1B case, and there is always a variety of details in each case. If a case is begun in advance, it can proceed in a careful, less stressful manner. It is also worth remembering, the H-1B start date is October 1, 2012 (you cannot commence work under the H-1B cap until this date). Therefore, you must ensure, your current legal status remains in status (does not expire) until October 1, 2012, if you are currently inside the U.S.

Feel free to contact me for a free legal consultation, to go through the H-1B cap process with you, whether you are currently inside or outside the U.S.

Caro Kinsella is an Attorney & Counselor at Law. 954-304-2243
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Taoiseach Enda Kenny Guest of Irish Fellowship Club March 16

Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D. Prime Minister of Ireland will be the Special Guest of The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago and its President Brian Hickey, President of Local 399 at their St. Patrick's Day dinner on Friday, March 16th at the Hilton Chicago. This year's dinner Chairman is Margaret Houlihan



Enda Kenny votes in Galway

Smith, Director of State and Local Governmental Affairs for United Airlines.

The club will also be honoring this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal, Rev. Clete Kiley, Director for immigration Policy at UniteHere,

Assistant Executive Director, Misericordia Home and Special Honoree Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

It will be a great evening, with music from the Shannon Rovers, Irish Music of Chicago and the City Lights Orchestra. Cocktails at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$150.00. For information or to

purchase tickets call Kathy Taylor, at 312-676-4120. For over 100 years, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has provided a link to Irish heritage and culture for Chicagoans. Through its annual events and Educational and Cultural Foundation, it provides funding for students in need across the city. www.irishfellowshipclub.com.

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“Roots to Stand and Wings to Fly”

By Frank West

Sara Collins is the 2012 St. Patrick’s Parade Queen. As she sat across the table from me, I was impressed by this beautiful young woman’s self-confidence. This is a woman who knows where she came from and where she is going.

She credits that confidence to her parents. Her father impressed this on her with his repeated advice in the title, “Roots to Stand and Wings to Fly”. Your heritage makes you strong; then you need vision to soar with the goals you aspire to. Her parents encouraged this outlook and self awareness.

Sara Collins was raised in Chicago’s northwest side, in Edgebrook. She was educated at parochial schools until she attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

She loves to teach the skills she learned there—painting, sculpting, print making, and ceramics. She earned a certificate to teach grades K thru high school.

However, the need “to pay her bills” led her to work for a commercial advertising company. Their clients are some of the biggest corporations in America. She has worked on most of their TV commercials. You have probably seen her work.

She also does weekend free lance photo shoots. She photographs the children of the many friends she has met participating in the Queen contest.



Sara Collins, (L) crowned by 2011 Queen, Sarah Gorecki

Not surprisingly, the name of her photo company is Peanut Gallery Photography.

Her goal in life is to achieve personal happiness. As she says, “If you don’t have happiness, you have nothing.” This attitude and her firm belief in herself, she gets from her parents: Michael and Maria. She describes her father as a “proud Irish man” with great enthusiasm for life. She praises her mother as having

the “biggest heart in the world.”

When I asked her what she is passionate about, she carefully thought about this before replying that she highly values “creativity,” or people skills. She means this to be the opposite from objective skills, like science and math. Among the creative skills she values is keeping friends and spending time with her family. When chosen Queen, Sara was, of course, thrilled and excited. But she was also “humble and proud” to be chosen at this great event.

We send great thanks to the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers’ Local Union 130 who have sponsored the St. Patrick’s Queen Contest and the Parade since 1956! (photo by Dean Battaglia).

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Frank West



the presence of supernatural beings - ghosts and fairies. Our Halloween customs came from Ire-

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Brilliant and Compassionate

Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler. Documentary film director, Ken Burns says: I love his books, and I loved getting to know him in the pages of this wonderful biography.

Authors Paul Bauer and mark Dawidziak introduced me to Jim Tully at iBAM! 2011.

He was a novelist and Hollywood reporter. He was praised by a diversity of people, such

as: Charles Laughton, Charlie Chaplin, H.L. Mencken, W.C. Fields, George Jean Nathan, and Damon Runyon.

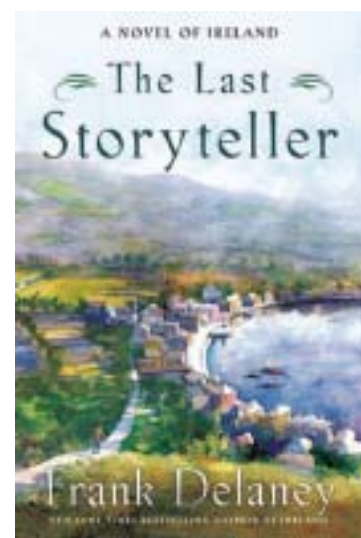
Who was Jim Tully? He was born in 1886 and, after a vigorous and controversial life, passed away in 1947.

After an impoverished childhood, and six years in an orphanage, he became a wanderer and lived in hobo camps, and box cars. He settled down for a while in Ohio, and became a chain maker, boxer and tree surgeon.

In 1912 he left for Hollywood, where he became a reporter. Being a bluntly honest writer he didn't flatter the studio moguls and was soon despised by them and by some hypocritical film stars.

He wrote seven novels about the ills of society. They were based on his own experience. This led to his work being censored and, I believe pushed into obscurity.

He had profound compassion for poor people,



recreate his early, carefree relation with her. Realistic? A dream? That is a whole other story.

To keep this review at a reasonable length I've chosen to focus on the stories, myths, legends, and parables of our ancestors and how they were told.

One of Delaney's characters describes a traditional storyteller.

"I had always heard that he was from a mold cast in Ireland before the Romans. had an empire. Meaning that [he] was a fireside storyteller in the 'old style' - he narrated in the ancient way: his voice rotund, his words full of ornament and color. He was a true performing descendant of the bards who had entertained kings and chieftains long before Christ was born.

The classical mythologies had conspicuous purpose - to teach us how to live. Not only that, it was to their design that we built the drama that enlightens us on film, on the page, on the stage. Action, betrayal, murder, romance, politics 0 tge Gods had it all. Every archetypal figure known to us - for good or bad - had a legendary beginning: the sage, the hero, the villain, the virgin. Every plot that stirs our blood.

The Irish own an especially rich seam of mythic literature. If its themes consist in common humanity, it has a personality like no other. Warriors, naturally, play legendary roles, as do impressive women, jilted lovers, and wise men - but to find where Irish legends differ from other mythologies, look for ambiguity and a capacity to feel conflicting passions with equal force."Delaney is a gentle, humane person, and a magnetic writer. He uses his book to encourage us to be open and honest with ourselves. One of his characters even asks, "Do you have room in your mind for a tale of life itself, a tale of wonder, wisdom, and delight?"

One of his characters also says: "Every legend and all mythologies exist to teach us how to run our days in kind fashion. A loving way. There's no story as important as our own. So, if we're to live good lives we have to tell ourselves our own story. In a good way, that is decent to ourselves."

This is a great way to end (or begin a fresh look at ourselves) this review.

The Last Storyteller by Frank Delaney Random House. www.atrandom.com

Our Irish Literary Heritage

This column has two goals. The first to show readers some of the books that are available. The other is to encourage the reader to learn more about our literary heritage.

Tales of the Irish Supernatural

This book, A Celtic Darkness, boldly explores Irish stories of the "other" world and the creatures that may come into our world.

As the author says: "The Irish countryside at night inspires a certain wonder, a fascination . . . that can take over your thoughts."

Traditional Irish society always accepted

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CULTURE & HERITAGE TOURS

CULTURE AND HERITAGE TOURS offer a collection of artistically tailored tours throughout the thirty-two counties of Ireland.

These tours cover not only heritage but present to you cultural diversity, awe inspiring scenery and genuine interaction with local people.

Culture and Heritage Tours provides the most discerning traveller with an authentic experience and engagement with Irish Tradition.

We cater for groups of all interests who want to visit Ireland for a unique, interactive and fun experience.

Our well rounded itineraries are sure to appeal to all ages.

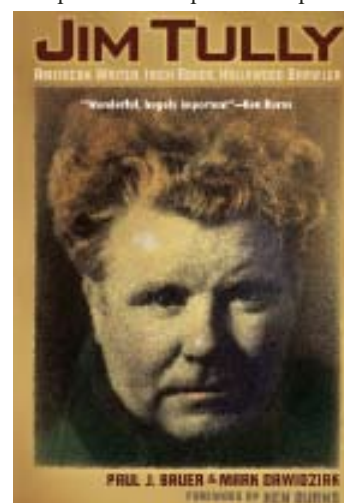
The tours and activities we make available run the full gamut from Irish Heritage including archaeology, history, sacred sites, great houses, castles, Irish literature, and the arts which consists of Irish music and dance.

We provide the perfect opportunity for a special type of Irish involvement with a welcoming friendly atmosphere.

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For further information please visit our website at www.cultureheritagetours.ie or call +353 (0) 71-91-38949. We will be delighted to help you organise an unforgettable excursion.

Culture & Heritage Tours, Clarion Village, Clarion Road, Ballytinnan, Co. Sligo, Ireland Email: info@irishcultures.eu



and wrote affectionately of their plight. This was in the early and middle parts of the 1900's.

This quote from the forward describes the brilliance of his writing: "One of the great joys of reading Tully is realizing how fantastically he noticed everything, observing nuances of speech, behavior, and personality.


Jim Tully: American writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler, by Paul Bauer, and Mark Dawidziak. kentstateuniversitypress.com and amazon.com.

Modern Storyteller: Frank Delaney

I have reviewed his books and have heard him speak several times. He is spellbinding both in person and in print. In The Last Storyteller we see too, his great skill as a storyteller.

In it - as we would expect - he creates vivid, memorable scenes and characters. But, it is more than an outstandingly well written book. This is because he describes the characteristics a very good storyteller needs. Storytellers (seanachai's) in traditional Ireland had these qualities. And, as the book shows Delaney has them too.

The structure of the book is a long testament, written in 1956, by Captain Ben McCarthy of Ireland's Folklore Commission. He is writing to his children, who, sadly he has never known. This is because their mother married another man. McCarthy hopes to



**March 4
5pm**
**The Wearing
of the Green Dance**
A dinner dance,
honoring the St. Patrick's
tradition of great music,
dancing and holiday fun

**March 9 and March 10
8pm**

It's the Real McCoy

Direct from Ireland, a brand
new three-act Irish comedy
directed by Tommy Marren, of
Midwest Radio in County Mayo



**March is St. Patrick's MONTH at the
IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER!**

*Join us for some of
Chicago's largest celebrations*

St. Patrick's Festival

March 17 • 1pm to Midnight

The finest in Irish music,
dance and family fun



**St. Patrick's
Afterparty**

March 18

Mass 10:30am,
breakfast 11:30am
and party at 1pm

The fun continues with music
and dancing in the Fifth Province



**Sunday, March 25
Noon**

**Maurice Walsh's
*The Quiet Man***

A staged reading and brunch,
brought to you by
the producers of the *Stone
Hearth Staged Reading Series*

Join us for a special
production of Maurice Walsh's
The Quiet Man, adapted
for the stage by Frank Mahon
and directed
by Mary Ellen O'Hara



For tickets and information:

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

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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Punch 124

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-Chicago Council of Lawyers

"Divorce lawyers say there is no better family law judge in Chicago."
- The LawDragon 500 Leading Judges in America

Belleek Pottery Unveils Latest Limited Edition Piece

Majella McManus, from Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh has been working with Belleek Pottery in design for 5 years. Majella is the designer of the wonderful 2011 Edition Piece, the Basketweave Covered Pot. Her artistic background began in St. Comghall's Secondary School, Lisnaskea. Having always had a love for art and crafts, it was here that Majella discovered her love for Ceramics. This led her to follow on her dream, having studied a range of different Art & Design courses over 7 yrs, completing her study at University of Ulster, Belfast with a BA Hons in Fine & Applied Arts. Majella has designed many Belleek pieces from Christmas Ornaments, Vases and Trinket Boxes to name a few.

Working in Belleek, Majella sees it as an exciting opportunity to learn and perfect her skills working with the medium of clay and plaster to create beautifully designed pieces.

The limited Edition Celtic Lace 6" Bowl



takes its inspiration from ancient Celtic design and the delicate handcraft of Irish lace-making, combining themes found in both add to its distinctive decorative look.

This exquisite bowl has been designed to be collectible, decorative and functional too. At 3" tall, it's perfect for everyday use and is microwave and dishwasher safe!

As with all their Edition Pieces, the Celtic Lace Bowl has an exclusive trade stamp and the personalized signature of its designer Majella McManus. This annual piece will only be available through the end of 2012 as supplies last.

Majella is proud to share this beautiful edition piece and hope that all collectors will enjoy owning it as much as she has enjoyed designing it.

You'll find this beautiful basket at Donegal Imports, 5358 W. Devon Ave., Chicago IL 60646 773-792-2377. Call Alex and reserve yours now!



DH22 - Basketweave Covered Pot Edition Piece 2011, 4" Tall

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Martin Murphy Orland Park, IL



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— Chicago Bar Association

**Punch
119**

**Elect
Patrick J.
SHERLOCK
Illinois Appellate Court Judge**

Paid for by Sherlock for Appellate Court

Derry, City of Culture 2013 Celebrates Valentine's Day With music and art at new Ebrington Square

By Grainne McCool

Thousands of people crossed the Peace Bridge in Derry recently to investigate and observe the new shared space at Ebrington Square. The five-acre site at the former Ebrington Barracks sprang into life with as a £7.5 million multi-faceted public space incorporating a kaleidoscope of live and local entertainment. Ebrington Barracks opened in 1841 and was home to both the Army and the Navy. It closed in 2003.

This specially commissioned and eagerly

awaited grand opening was a roaring success.

As well as amazing musical talent on the stage, the Derry crowd was entertained by a feature light show, artwork and street performers. The celebrations got underway at 6pm with the Co-detta Choir. This was followed by an outstanding performance by Bronagh Gallagher and her band. Next on stage was the Inishowen Gospel Choir and they were followed by Future Chaser. Finally the night was brought to an end by the talented and as was said on the night, 'the best band to



Clair Lundy, Derry City Council, and a court jester enjoying the festivities at the new Ebrington Square in Derry, Northern Ireland.

Welcome Back Southside Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 11th

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15th ANNUAL IRISH FEST

Sunday, March 11, 2012
2 - 6 pm

Meridian Banquets

1701 Algonquin Road, Rolling Meadows

Entertainment by
The Academy of Irish Music
Weber Dance Company
Irish Heritage Singers
Harpist Marysue Redmann

Traditional Corned Beef dinner
Chicken or Vegetarian entrees

Pot O' Gold Raffle
Shamrock Silent Auction

Adults \$60 Children (under 12) \$20

Register online at
www.avenuestoIndependence.org

or contact
Avenues to Independence at
847-292-0870 X 108 (Ann Marie)
or Bob Healy at 847-885-8976

All proceeds benefit Avenues to Independence, a not-for-profit organization providing homes, jobs, and daily living skills - with dignity and independence - for adults with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

Avenues
To Independence
515 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068

come out of Derry since the Undertones', The Wonder Villians.

First Minister, Peter Robinson, told the crowd that a "massive transformation" was taking place in Derry. "Being a Belfast man you might think I am somewhat detached, but I'm really excited at what's happening here.

Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness attended the celebrations "I can just imagine the benefit this will be for major events and performances. It will add to the attractiveness for visitors and residents, and add to infrastructure which attracts investment and means better jobs and a better life for people here."

Also on the night, celebrating Valentine's night was a Chapel of Love where the guest of honour, Elvis, was in attendance. Little Acorns

bookstore also provided a selection of valentine's gifts, cards and memorabilia as well as a selection of books from the store. Derry Visitor and Convention Bureau also had a stand promoting the tourism in the area. Young and old enjoyed browsing while listening to the musical performances on the night.

This new multi-functional space will now allow for countless activities and events to take place in the city. At its centre is a huge gravel square specifically designed to allow the erection of large demountable structures and the site can accommodate thousands of people. This square will be one of the key performance and cultural spaces for Derry's year as City of Culture in 2013. Derry's answer to Covent Garden is certainly on the horizon.

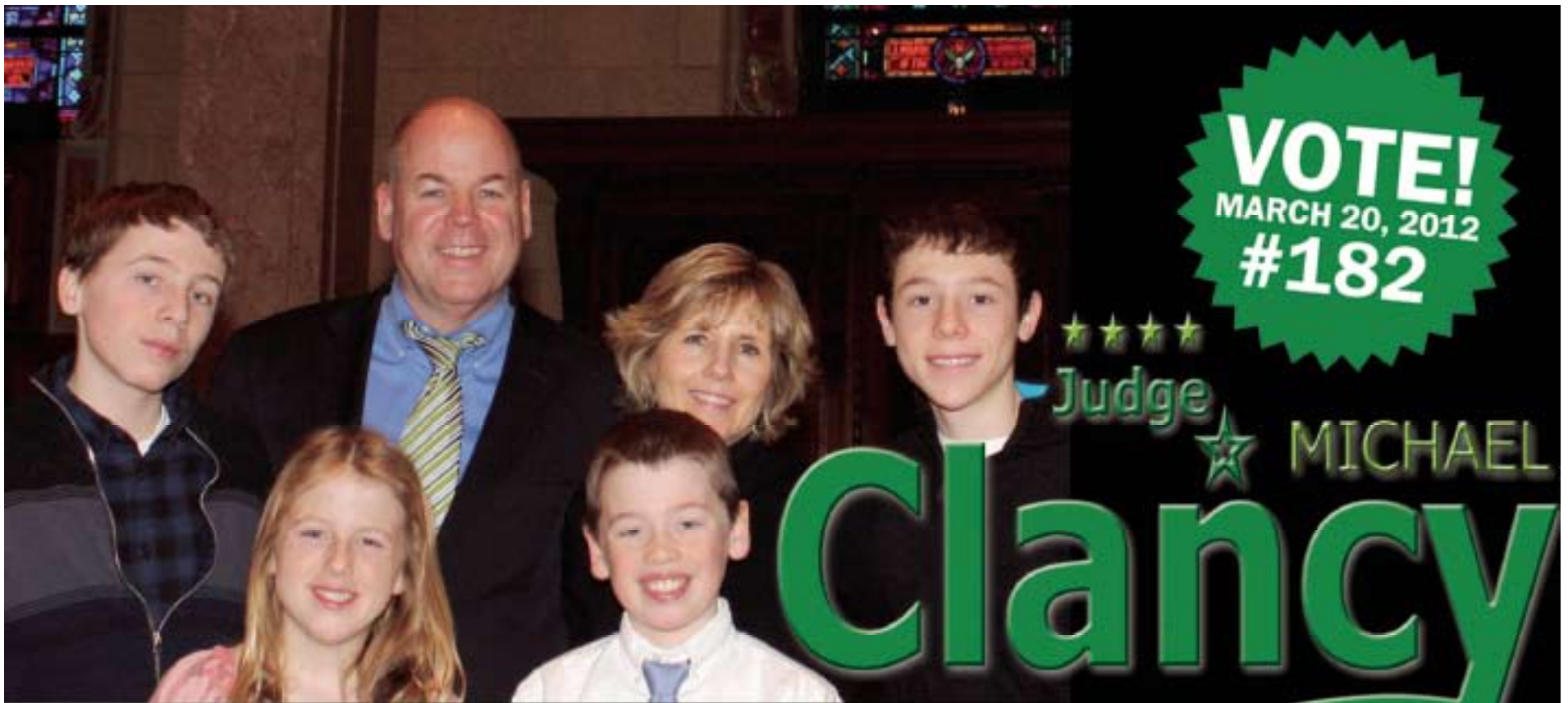
Elect Judge Russell Hartigan Endorsed Democrat Punch # 147

Rated Highly Qualified by Chicago Bar Assn, and the Illinois State Bar Assn

Judge Russell W. Hartigan was appointed by the Chief Judge of the Illinois Supreme Court, and is running County Wide.

Judge Hartigan is proud of his Irish Heritage with Grandparents, Tobin, Corcoran, and Hartigan all coming from Ireland!





The Chicago Bar Association finds that Michael Clancy "...is thoughtful, articulate, and well regarded for his legal knowledge and ability."

The Chicago Council of Lawyers notes that Clancy has "...substantial jury and bench litigation experience in more complex matters and is praised for his temperament."

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Chicago Bar Association
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Hispanic Lawyer's Association
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Cook County Bar Association
Women's Bar Association
Black Women Lawyer's Assoc.
Decalogue Society of Lawyers
Hellenic Bar Association
Lesbian and Gay Bar Assoc.

ENDORSED BY
Democratic Party
Chicago Federation of Labor
Fraternal Order of Police

Democrat

JUDGE, 11TH SUBCIRCUIT (VACANCY OF O'BRIEN)

Michael Clancy is a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Born in Chicago and raised in Oak Park, he was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011 following a successful career as an attorney. Over the course of his 22-year legal career, Clancy has proven himself to be knowledgeable and experienced in law, having served as a respected prosecutor, defense attorney, civil litigator and judge.



"Judge Michael Clancy has shown proven leadership on the bench. His demeanor and knowledge of the law make him an excellent choice for Judge from the 11th Subcircuit. I, along with the Democratic Party, strongly endorse Judge Michael Clancy"

Jesse White
Secretary of State



IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with 2 Parties

Join us for some of the largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Chicago this March at the Center. In 2012, we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit us in March.



What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof.

On Saturday, March 17, we host our St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. Visit our vendors selling CDs, jewelry, artwork and prints, clothing and more.

The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with



live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 15. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. Additional parking is available at Lamont off Wilson and take our free shuttle service, which is available from 2pm until midnight. The schedule appears to the right



March 17

Fifth Province

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

Auditorium

- 1pm Irish Heritage Singers
- 2pm Rebecca McCarthy School of Irish Dance
- 3pm Mulhern School of Irish Dance
- 4pm O'Hare School of Irish Dance
- 5pm Trinity Academy of Irish Dance
- 6pm Mullane Healy Godley School of Irish Dance

Erin Room

- 5pm Larry Nugent & Bill O'Donoghue
- 7:30pm Joe Cullen & Kathleen Bremer
- 9:30pm Ceili Mor
- Room 310**
- 4pm Patrick Cannady and Karen Cook Cannady

Come back for more fun with the St. Patrick's Day Afterparty on Sunday, March 18. Mass begins at 10:30am and a breakfast buffet with Harrington's Catering follows at 11:30pm. Tickets for breakfast are \$10 and children are \$5. Kids can visit

the Shamrock Kids Club table to make fun crafts and then attend the party for facepainting and live music.

Admission tickets for the party can be purchased at the door and are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free.

At 1pm, music and family fun begins in the Fifth Province and runs until 10pm.

March 18

Mass at 10:30
Breakfast at 11:30
Reservations are necessary and must be made by March 15.

Fifth Province

- 1pm Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley
- 1 to 5pm Children's facepainting
- 3pm O'Hare School of Irish Dance
- 4pm Sandcarvers
- 6:30 Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance
- 7pm Barry Fagan's Band



Closes at 10pm

For select tickets, visit www.irish-american.org or call the Center office, 773-282-7035.

Save the Date!

For the Irish American Hall of Fame Concert Featuring the **Makem and Spain Brothers** Friday, April 27th Doors open at 7pm, and concert starts at 8pm Tickets are \$15 IAHC members and \$20 for general admission.



VISIT THE GIFT SHOP!
CHECK OUR OUR NEW INVENTORY!

IAHC Members Receive a 10% discount on all orders over \$10 VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS and CASH always welcome. Stock up on all your St. Patrick's Day needs at the IAHC Gift Shop. From washable tattoos and green beads to your bangers for breakfast, we have everything you need. Soda bread is available every day, fresh or frozen, and you can't find better Irish bread in Chicagoland.

Store Hours:
Closed Sunday and Monday
11-8pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
11-10pm Friday and Saturday

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!
We also sell gift cards To place an order call 773-282-7035, ext. 14



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



President's Message

WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

In the 1830's and 1840's in Lismore, County Waterford, Patrick Crowley and his wife Mary O'Keefe Crowley struggled to provide subsistence living for their children Patrick, Edward, John Francis, Alice and Johanna. Living in Lismore, attending church at the Catholic St. Carthage's and receiving the sacraments there, the family toiled like others in the area on the grounds of the Duke of Devonshire.

The famine years took their toll on the Crowleys and, too early in life in 1849, Patrick passed away. After burying her loving husband, oldest son Patrick headed to America on the ship Swan and arrived in New York on September 3, 1849. Following in 3 years, Mary gathered the children and headed to America to join son, Patrick to try to seek a better life for all of the family. Landing at Castle Garden, New York on October 28, 1852, one could only imagine the apprehension of a new life in a new world for a single mom with so many hungry mouths to feed.

Mary took on work in the Upper New York State apple orchards to feed the family. After years of saving, the family then made another long trip, this time by train, then ox cart and then on foot to a rugged area of Southwest Wisconsin where in 1857 Patrick, John and Ed-

ward obtained land grants from the US government and with paperwork signed by President Buchanan "Crowley Ridge" was born. In a small log cabin at the base of the ridge, the family lived while they worked to clear the land and start the farm. On Sundays, the Crowley cabin served as the church for mass for the missionary priest from Rising Sun.

By the 1870's, the Crowleys were busy on the farm and were helping to found St. Patrick's Church of Seneca, Wisconsin. Years later, behind the St. Patrick's Church, in the quiet graveyard, looking over the hills, ridges and valleys of Crawford County the pioneer Crowleys were laid to rest; John Francis with Mary Sweeney Crowley, Edward with Elizabeth Murphy Crowley and Patrick with Honora Brennan. Mother Mary O'Keefe Crowley rests nearby.

Crowley Ridge is still there today. Located near Seneca, Wisconsin the ridge is now a dairy and crop farm area that supports numerous families. Crowley Ridge today is still very remote and remains served only by a single narrow dirt road. But what a wonderful view when you reach the top. The area and the view surely reminded the family of the ridges, rolling hills and rivers and streams of the Lismore, County Waterford area.

I trust your Irish roots are as important to you as mine are to me. I often share the story of the hardships and triumphs of the pioneer Crowleys with my family and others with the hope that they understand how much we owe to our ancestors. The story also helps remind me of how blessed I am to have had the family I have. My roots make trips to Ireland and to the rolling hills of Southwest Wisconsin more meaningful with every trip I take.

And when I found my Irish roots, and with the help of my wife, Mary, I found the Irish American Heritage Center. Mary O'Keefe Crowley and the children found a new life in America. I have found a new life at the Center. You have welcomed me and made me feel at home. I trust you will do the same with all the new



members, guests and volunteers that join us at the Center.

I promise that in 2012 I will work even harder to pay back your support and trust. I have a lot of help from a great staff, a great group of members and a great volunteer group. And, I think I have help from up above. I am sure Mary Keefe Crowley, John Francis Crowley and his wife Mary Sweeney Crowley are looking down and saying "...give it all you got John, the Center is a good organization that is doing all the right things. Make sure it is there for generations to come. Now enough writing and get back to work".

And work we are doing... many events are upon us at the Center...

-The annual "Wearing of the Green Dinner" is March 4

-The Lenten Fish Fry will be served again on every Friday in Lent

- Following the downtown Chicago Parade on March 17, the Center will become the place to be for the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in Chicago and perhaps the largest in the United States.

- On March 18, the St. Patrick's Afterparty will start with a 10:30am mass by Father O'Brien followed by a full breakfast from Harrington's and then a full day of music and fun in the Fifth Province.

-On March 25, join us for a brunch and the Stone Hearth presentation of Maurice Walsh's *The Quiet Man*.

This and so much more.....all at the Center....where Irish culture comes alive in Chicago! Come join us!

John Crowley Gorski

It's The Real McCoy

Get ready for an action-packed night of drama and comedy, direct from Ireland, as a new three-act Irish comedy hits the IAHC, for two nights only!

It's *The Real McCoy* is set in rural Ireland in 1964 and focuses on the life of 68 year-old Madge Mulloy who has spent more than 40 years struggling to survive on a small farm with her only daughter Maura. Sadly, Madge has had to live with the fact that her future husband Tom simply vanished within five months of



marrying her, without trace.

The play centers around Tom's homecoming and explanation of his disappearance. What unfolds on stage is a

combination of high drama, amazing Irish wit and a happy ending.

It's been two years now since

Tommy Marren, a broadcaster on Midwest Radio in Mayo, arrived in town with a play entitled *The Banshee of Crokey Hill*, and he returns for 2 shows in March that promises to deliver rip-roaring comedy, fascinating plots and sub plots and some riveting drama.

It's the Real McCoy comes to the IAHC on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10 at 8pm.

Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door and can be purchased at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Exhibit Showcase Artist's Journal Work

The IAHC Art Gallery will hold an exhibit this spring, *From Pen to Brush: An Artist's Journal*. Chicago artist MJ Loftus will exhibit sketches from her journal and sketchbook of time spent in Illaunlannig, a one square mile island in Tralee Bay on the Dingle Peninsula.

Sketches made years ago come alive again; the written words conjure up the emotions of that moment, and prose and imagery complete the narrative.

Loftus attended the School of the

Art Institute Chicago for painting and drawing, spent many summers at Oxbow in Saugatuck, Michigan for print making and has painted and studied at the LaRomita School in Terni, Italy. She had a studio in Beverly Shores, Indiana.

From Pen to Brush: An Artist's Journal runs March 3 through March 31 on Saturdays and Sundays, 1pm to 4pm. The exhibit has special hours on Saturday, March 17 at the St. Patrick's Festival from 1pm to 5pm (there is a fee to attend the festival).

Annual Appeal Continues

The IAHC Annual Appeal has wrapped up for the year. Below are names who donated from January 16 through February 10, 2012.

Contributions have been enhanced once again by the matching program offered by Pat and Peggy Burke. We thank Pat and Peggy for their continued generosity. You can give to the Appeal any time during the year and we thank you for your support.

Thank You All!

Friend (\$1-99)
Andrews, David P.
Dempsey, Robert J.
Donohue, John and Sarah
Mulvihill, Thomas
Murphy, James D.
Sell, Catherine A.
Shea, Thomas E.

Advocate (\$100-\$249)
Callahan, Jack
Curtis, Agnes O'Malley
Fiske, Susie Sullivan
Heneghan, Nancy J.

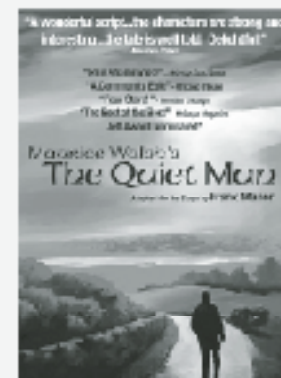
Stone Hearth Series Special Event: Maurice Walsh's *The Quiet Man*

While the Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series makes plans for another great series of one act plays coming to the Fifth Province next fall, we invite you to a very special production of Maurice Walsh's *The Quiet Man*, adapted for the stage by Frank Mahon and directed by Mary Ellen O'Hara.

Writer/producer Frank Mahon (*The Quiet Man Tales*), actor 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. These shows are called the Stone Hearth Series.

Maurice Walsh's The Quiet Man is a

special 50-minute staged reading version in Chicago of the critically acclaimed play that received 2 Jeff



Award Nominations in 2009. Even if you know the great movie by heart, you may not know *The Quiet Man* as originally conceived by Irish novelist Maurice Walsh. With a cast of 7 of Chicago's best actors, *Maurice Walsh's The Quiet Man* gives you the beloved story as Walsh wrote it. It's a fitting way to celebrate the 60th anniversary of John Ford's Oscar-winning film.

Maurice Walsh's The Quiet Man is Sunday, March 25 with brunch at noon and the performance at 1pm in the Fifth Province. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. Reservations are necessary and must be made by March 22 by calling 773-282-7035 ext. 10.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Annual Palm Sunday Mass and Irish Breakfast

Join us for the Annual Palm Sunday Mass and Irish Breakfast this spring.

Palm Sunday is April 1 and the day begins with Mass at 10:30 with music by the Irish Heritage Singers. Breakfast fol-

lows in the Fifth Province.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Reservations are necessary and must be made by March 28. Use the form below and mail in a check or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 to reserve.

Annual Palm Sunday Mass and Irish Breakfast

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

of tickets _____ Adults _____ Children _____

Mail with check to: IAHC, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630

Save the Date

for the 27th Annual Irish American Heritage Festival
July 13, 14 and 15, 2012
www.irishfestchicago.com Tickets go on sale April 1!

Culture Corner

Visit the **IAHC Library** for research and lending of our extensive collection, book signings, lectures and activities. **Library open:**

Mondays and Wednesdays 4-8pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1pm
Friday closed
Saturday 9-3pm
Sunday open on the 2nd and last Sunday of the month

Genealogy Club

• for monthly meetings on finding your roots
Genealogy Monthly Meetings The last Sunday of every month at 1pm (except December)

the Art Gallery

• for Exhibits, lectures and art classes - Special exhibits throughout the year

the Museum

• for our collection and special exhibits
Call our office for a docent led 45 minute tour



PIOBAIRI

PIOBAIRI, a piping presentation hosted by Pat Carnady and Friends returns to the Fifth Province Pub in 2012. Come and sample the pub menu and enjoy the music on selected Saturday afternoons from 5 to 7pm.

Dates are:
Mar 3
Apr 7
May 5
Jun 2
Jun 16



Wish List

In March, we wish you would:

- Attend our St. Patrick's day events with your family and friends
- See the *It's the Real McCoy* play, direct from Ireland
- Put on your thinking cap and play in our monthly Pub Quiz
- Visit the Library, art gallery or Museum

Lenten Fish Fry

The Center continues its tradition of its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry. The Fish Fry runs through Friday, April 6 from 6:30pm-9pm in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music begins at 9pm

Think You're So Smart?

Think You're So Smart? Test your trivia knowledge with Quiz Night at the Center. The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province Pub. 2012 Quiz Nights are March 23, April 20 and May 18.

North American Region Midwest Fleadh Cheoil

The 2012 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil will be held April 13-15 at the Center. The Fleadh Cheoil, which is Irish for Music Festival, is a yearly competition for traditional musicians, singers and dancers of all ages and serves as the first round of competition for entry in the prestigious All-Ireland competition.

Eligible competitors come from all over North America and top winners from the Midwest Fleadh compete in the All-Ireland competition in August 2012 in Cavan, Ireland.

This year's Fleadh features a performance from the 2011 All-Ireland Senior Céilí Band, The Shannon Vale Céilí Band, from County Kerry, who will also serve as adjudicators for the competition. They will be joined by world-renowned fiddle player Oisín MacDiarmada of County Sligo, master harpist Gráinne Hambly of County Mayo, set dance master teacher Ultan Mulcahy of Templeglantine, West Limerick and Raidió na Gaeltachta host and leading Seán Nós singer Meaitiú Shéamus Ó Fátharta. All adjudicators will teach intimate workshops

for attendees during the weekend. Hundreds of competitors and their families, along with supporters and members of the Irish community in Chicago, will assemble to experience a unique cultural tradition. All are welcome to attend Fleadh competitions, performances, and workshops, including the exciting band competitions on Saturday evening.

The 2012 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil is sponsored by the Francis O'Neill Club of Chicago and the Center.

Friday, April 13 7pm
Opening Ceremony featuring performances by adjudicators
Set Dance Céilí Mór, featuring The Shannon Vale Céilí Band
Duet and Trio Competitions
Saturday, April 14
Doors open at 8am and competitions begin at 9am
Solo Competitions
Set and Céilí Dancing Competitions
Céilí Band Competitions
Pipe Band Competitions
Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions
Céilí Mór and Champion Showcase
Set Dance workshops with Ultan Mulcahy will be hosted throughout

the day and additional fees apply
Sunday, April 15
Mass at 10am

Master Workshops with adjudicators (additional fees apply)
Closing Session

Admission Fees:
\$20 per person for general public entry each day

\$15 per person each day for seniors and members of the Center, Francis O'Neill Club or Comhaltas
\$10 per day, per person for parents of competitors

There is no admission charge on Sunday, April 15
Children under the age of 12, who are not competitors, are free.

Céilí and Dessert Night
Also, don't miss a great night of music and dessert with the Céilí and Dessert Night. Teatime desserts will be provided by the Fleadh Planning Committee and enjoy live music with young guests from the Irish Music School of Chicago. The Fundraiser is Saturday, March 24 at 8pm. Donations are \$20 and children are free.

For tickets and information on the Fleadh, www.midwestfleadh.com



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



March 2012

WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

March 1	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10 am
March 2	Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8 pm
March 3	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8 pm
	PIOBAIRI	Fifth Province	5 pm
March 4	Wearing of the Green Dance	Erin Room	5 pm
March 7	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11 am
March 9	It's the Real McCoy	Auditorium	8 pm
March 10	It's the Real McCoy	Auditorium	8 pm
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 109	8 pm
March 2	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8 pm
March 15	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10 am
March 17	St. Patrick's Festival	Whole Bldg	1 pm
March 18	St. Patrick's Afterparty Mass	Auditorium	10:30 am
	St. Patrick's Afterparty Breakfast	Erin Room	11:30 am
	St. Patrick's Afterparty	Fifth Province	1 pm
March 23	Quiz Night	Room 109	8 pm
March 23 - April 29	Seanachai Moon for Misbegotten	Theatre 3rd Flr	
	(Saturday Shows 8pm and Sunday Shows at 3pm)		
March 24	Fundraising Ceili and Dessert Night	Room 310	8 pm
March 25	Maurice Walsh's The Quiet Man	Fifth Province	Noon
	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1 pm
March 29	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10 am
March 31	Setting the Stage Celtic Women Event		2 pm

Regularly scheduled events - Golden Diners Lunch Program in Kitchen Tuesday through Sat 12:30pm-2pm. Memoir Writing Class at 7pm in Shamrock American Club Rm. Art Exhibit: From Pen to Brush Art Exhibit. March 3-March 31. Sat and Sundays, 1pm to 4pm

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the fifth province

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March 2012

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Sat, 3/3	Mulligan Stew
Fri, 3/9	The Boils
Sat, 3/10	Larry Nugent and Larry O'Donoghue
Fri, 3/16	Fionnghlas
Sat, 3/17	St. Patrick's Festival
Fri, 3/23	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 3/24	Tommy Tuesday and Scott Anderson
Fri, 3/30	Joe McShane
Sat, 3/31	The Dooley Brothers



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Our Mission

The mission of the Irish American Heritage Center is to nurture and strengthen Irish culture and heritage through programs emphasizing Irish music, literature, drama, traditional dancing, fine arts, and the constructive contributions of Irish and Irish-Americans to the United States of America. The Irish American Heritage Center supports this mission by maintaining its resources including the:

MUSEUM IRISH SCHOOL ARCHIVES CHOIR
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And other related programs and partnerships, while providing a gathering place for the Irish American community and those interested in Irish culture.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: John Corski, Mary Corski, Mary Griffin, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy, Laura Coyle, Pam Marshall Taylor, Frank Mahon

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Crowley on Kells
By Frank Crowley



A Day in the Life (Of A Scribe)

Everyone should know about this poem written by a monk in the 9th century. Although it was written anonymously, the style is similar to the Irish poet Sedulius Scottus of the same era. It is now kept at St. Paul's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Austria. It gives a very human touch to the life of a medieval scribe. This is one of many translations of the original Irish.

Many monasteries throughout Ireland, Scotland, England and the Continent were equipped with scriptoriums for the purpose of producing Bibles, Gospels and missals for their ecclesiastical needs.

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Máir you live and wear it well.

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In general, scriptorium was a large room where large windows were used. A precentor or his assistant, an armarius, provided all the tools and materials needed by the scribe for producing new or copies of books.

To produce books as elaborate as the Book of Kells, monasteries had to be established and well equipped. In addition, they needed the resources and specialists with the superior skills needed for these special books. One example of required resources is a large enough herd of cattle that would have an estimated 185 calves needed to complete the Book of Kells.

The question of how long it took to complete the Book of Kells is not possible to answer at this time. There are too many variables which we can only guess at. However, we do know some of the variables. A major factor would be the number of artists/scribes available to work and how many hours they worked each day.

Timothy O'Neil, a respected contemporary calligrapher, estimated that the Book of Durrow, which has 240 vellum folios (Kells has 340 folios) could be completed in 60 days at 6 hours a day.

Another contemporary calligrapher, Mark Van Stone, completed a full page illustration in 60 hours during 4 days. He also added that the magnificent Chi Rho leaf in Kells could take at least a month.

Next month we will examine the work of the Book of Kells' scribes in detail with examples of various calligraphic styles.

Questions and opinions welcome.
fcrowley@windycityarts.org

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Hunting words I sit all night.

Better far than praise of men
'Tis to sit with book and pen;
Pangur bears me no ill-will,
He too plies his simple skill.

'Tis a merry thing to see
At our tasks how glad are we,
When at home we sit and find
Entertainment of our mind.
Oftentimes a mouse will stray
In the hero Pangur's way,
Oftentimes my keen thought set
Takes a meaning in its net.

'Gainst the wall he sets his eye
Full and fierce and sharp and sly,
'Gainst the wall of knowledge I
All my little wisdom try.

When a mouse darts from its den
O! how glad is Pangur then.
O! what gladness do I prove
When I solve the doubts I love.

So in peace our task we ply,
Pangur Ban, my cat, and I,
In our arts we find our bliss
I have mine, and he has his.

Practice everyday has made
Pangur perfect in his trade;
I get wisdom day and night,
Turning darkness into light.

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Detective Barrett makes discovery: earliest known Irish policeman was a Chicagoan

By Bridget Fitzgerald

Recently discovered as the earliest known policeman in the United States from Ireland, Constable Jeremiah H. Sullivan will be honored by the Emerald Society of Illinois in this year’s Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Detective Richard Barrett, whose involvement has led to recent historical discoveries such as Constable James Quinn, Chicago’s first officer to fall in the line of duty and Sargent Marie Connelly Owens, first known female officer in the United States; has made a third finding.

While traveling home to Virginia 2011 from the Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Barrett picked up a Boston paper that sparked a reaction: “The newspaper had a story about how the Boston police will be honoring the first Irish man that became a cop in USA in 1851.” Barrett describes his reaction, “Something didn’t jive with me from what I knew from my previous research about the early Irish in the American police department.”

The Emerald Society of Boston indicates Bernard “Barney” McGinniskin was appointed as the first Irish-born American cop in November 3, 1851. An archived oath in the Illinois Regional Archives Depository in the Ronald Williams Library at Northwestern Illinois University in Chicago holds the signature of one Constable Jeremiah Sullivan reflecting his Oath of Office on March 28, 1840. Barrett confirms that this document not only survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 but stands credible versus the Boston record.

“Nobody can deny the evidence: Sullivan’s appointment to the CPD in 1840 preceded McGinniskin’s appointment to the Boston PD by 11 years.” Barrett says, “I can say with 100% confidence (based upon personal searching, retrieval, inspection and analysis of original records relative to the early CPD) Sullivan is, without doubt, the first Irish born man to become a police officer in the city of Chicago. He is also the earliest known Irish copper in the USA.”

Sullivan’s story was lost, but now is found by Barrett along with an impressive genealogy. Barrett found that Constable Sullivan was born in County Kerry and originally came to Chicago with his wife, Mary Langridge and worked as a canal contractor. After Sullivan’s appointment in the Chicago police force in 1840, he was named “Justice of the Peace” in 1850. According to Barrett, Sullivan died January 19, 1855 at age 71. His burial place is still unknown. Although Sullivan’s resting place information is yet to be found, Barrett

identified that Sullivan’s leadership skills strongly survived. “I really found some amazing stuff!” Barrett explains.

Barrett describes that Sullivan’s fourth generation, his great great grandsons, the Gallery Brothers whom three of them were Admirals in the US Navy. Later to have “USS Gallery” named in their honor. Bar-

rett connected that, “Admiral Daniel Gallery, of Chicago, was the Navy Captain who captured the German Submarine that is in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago today. Daniel Gallery, the Constable’s great great grandson is a true Chicago hero.”

It was in Barrett’s own journey to identify his family histories that

lead him to the clues of Constable Quinn, Sargent Connelly and now, Constable Sullivan. Barrett’s father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all Chicago Policemen. Barrett’s most recent conclusion of Constable Sullivan will be honored by the Emerald Society of Illinois in the 2012 Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade. *See photo page 63*



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The Chicago Irish Fight the Civil War:

Join Mary Pat Kelly, singer Catherine O'Connell and The Civil War Roundtable of the Union League Club, March 9th at 11:30AM.

One hundred and fifty years ago this sentiment spurred thousands of Chicago Irishmen to enlist in the Union Army. Some served in the Irish Brigade, the Twenty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry and others in the Irish Legion, the 90th Illinois Volunteers. In her best-selling historical novel Galway Bay, an epic tale based on her own family history, author Mary Pat Kelly tells the story of these two heroic regiments and the Chicago Irish community, recent refugees from starvation and oppression, who supported them.

Now Kelly shares this exciting tale in a program that will include acclaimed singer Catherine O'Connell.

'For the Defense of the New Country, For the Glory of the Old'

Meet colorful historical characters such as Colonel William Mulligan and Father Dennis Dunne as well as the Kelly boys from Bridgeport in the Union Army and their neighbors from Ireland, the Mulloys, who fight for the Confederacy because they landed in Nashville.

People Magazine called Galway Bay a tale "so rousingly epic that it can't help but reach readers' hearts"

and the novel is now being adapted into a six-part television series to be directed by the internationally ac-

claimed director, Jim Sheridan.

The Civil War chapters, which includes the Fenian Brotherhood, who drew members from both armies, are some of the most exciting in the book.

Acclaimed singer Catherine O'Connell will present songs of the era. As Rick Hogan wrote in the Chicago Tribune "Catherine is an original, as gifted a singer and as sensitive a performer as I have ever heard and seen."

Join Mary Pat Kelly, singer Catherine O'Connell and the Civil War Roundtable on March 9th:

Times: 11:30 a.m. Reception
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Program
Location: Union League Club
65 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Non-members can make reservations by contacting the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop at 312-944-3085. The price is \$25 per person inclusive. The dress code for the Club is business casual (blue jeans are not permitted).

Mary Pat Kelly

As an author and filmmaker, Mary Pat Kelly has told various stories connected to Ireland. Her award-winning PBS documentaries and accompanying books include To Live for Ireland, a portrait of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume and the

political party he led; Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland, a history of U.S. forces in Northern Ireland during World War II; and Proudly We Served: The Men of the USS Mason, a portrayal of the only African-American sailors to take a World War II warship into combat, whose first foreign port was Belfast. She wrote and directed the dramatic feature film Proud, starring Ossie Davis and Stephen Rea, based on the USS Mason story.

She's written Martin Scorsese: The First Decade and Martin Scorsese: A Journey; Good to Go: The Rescue of Scott O'Grady from Bosnia; and a novel, Special Intentions. She is a frequent contributor to Irish America Magazine.

Mary Pat Kelly worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for Para-



mount and Columbia Pictures and in New York City as an associate producer with Good Morning America and Saturday Night Live, and wrote the book and lyrics for the musical Abby's Song. She received her PhD from the City University of New York. Born and raised in Chicago, she lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

For more information: www.marypatkelly.com



Catherine O'Connell

Singer Catherine O'Connell grew up in Chicago and in love with Chicago.

Her affection for performing was nurtured by her parents, James and Mary, who shared with her their passions for music and theater. Her father, a talented amateur singer, gave her this early advice: "Tell the story and sing the song with a tear in your voice. Her mother, an accomplished actress, offered this: "Enunciate or no one will understand you."

Catherine, who was the St. Patrick Day Parade Queen in 1976, later developed her distinctive style and dramatic stage presence by performing in dozens of pubs, saloons and cabarets in Chicago, New York and the Caribbean.

Leaving the club scene to raise three boys, she switched direction in her career to focus on more intimate spaces in the city and suburbs, where the emotional impact of her singing has gathered her a large and devoted following.

From saloons to Symphony Center, chapels to cathedrals, funeral homes to festival halls, Catherine has touched the hearts and lifted the spirits of thousands of Chicagoans.

Hear Catherine's special voice around the city this St. Patrick's Day season! For more information: www.catherineoconnell.com



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Anthony Martin is a graduate of Brother Rice High School, St. Xavier University, and will complete his law degree from John Marshall in 2012.

Anthony Martin and his wife Breda, a nurse at Christ Hospital, have four children. They are lifelong residents of Mt. Greenwood and active members of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish.

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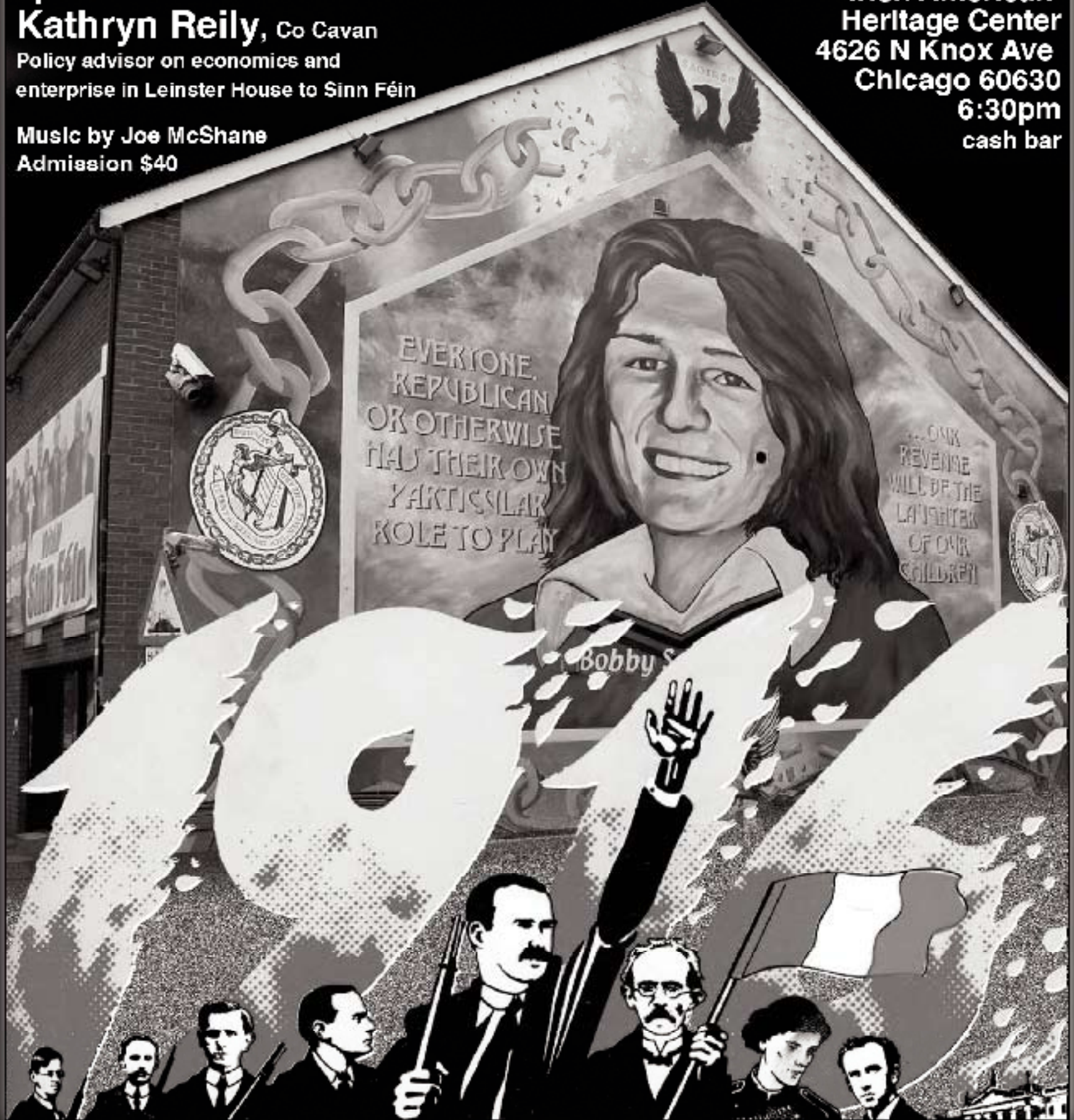
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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling, Director of Social Services, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, March 2012

Senior group meetings

Senior groups take place at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details of senior group meetings this month. There is no cost and refreshments will be served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call the office on 773-282-8445.

Gaelic Park

Wednesday, 7th March 2012: What with March being the month of all things Irish, it gives us a great reason to check out some modern Irish short films. Perhaps we can gain some

insight into the many ways that Irish society had changed and evolved.

Wednesday, 21st March 2012: We will be joined by Fr Michael Leonard who will say mass in honour of St Patrick's Day.

IAHC

Thursday, 15th March 2012: Fr Michael Leonard will say mass in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Thursday, 29th March 2012: History will come to life when we 'meet' Timothy James Carr, a captain and locktender on the historical Illinois and Michigan Canal in the 1930's. He will explain to us why the canal was built and how it affects the way we live today.

40 Years for Sexton Complete Care

Sexton Complete Care, a frequent and long time advertiser on these pages is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. The Sexton Group specializes in floor care for restaurants, particularly the care and maintenance of wood floors. Proper or regular care of wood floors can be a money saver in the long run according to Ed Sexton, Jr. president of the Sexton Group. "Drawing on our extensive 40 years experience in restaurants, we are well-equipped to recognize and solve restaurants specialized problems. Among our many clients,

are a number of Irish Pubs".

With St. Patrick's Day just over the horizon, Ed Sexton pointed out that "after the party is over" is the time for Irish pubs to set themselves on a program of Periodic Preventative Maintenance. They can provide an appropriate floor care program that fits your individual restaurant needs. The Sexton Group has a budget program that enables the restaurant to properly spread floor care expenses over their fiscal year.

Good maintenance is good business! (See ad on Page 3)

Property Tax – Don't pay more than you need to

More than ever property tax payments can place a heavy financial burden on those already under pressure. That's why it's important to be sure that you are not paying more than you need to. There are exemptions available that could score you great savings and make a real difference to your property tax bill. Cook County homeowners may take advantage of four exemptions that must be applied for or renewed annually: The Homeowner Exemption, Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption, Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption, and the Home Improvement Exemption.

1. Homeowner Exemption

Taxpayers whose single-family home, townhouse, condominium, co-op or apartment building (up to six units) is their primary residence can save \$250 to \$2,000 per year, depending on local tax rates and assessment increases. First-time applicants must have been the occupant of the property as of January 1 of the tax year in question.

2. Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption

Seniors can save up to \$250 a year in property taxes, and up to \$750 when combined with the Homeowner Exemption. For the 2010 tax year, the applicant must have owned and occupied the property as of Jan. 1, 2010

and must have been 65 years of age or older during the year for which you are applying.

3. Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption

Qualified senior citizens can apply for a freeze of the assessed value of their property. Over time, in many areas, this program results in taxes changing minimally and often decreasing as surrounding properties continue to rise in assessed value. This is the most valuable homeowner exemption program. The value increases over the years as it eliminates the impact of regular reassessment increases

that may occur every three years.

4. Home Improvement Exemption

Homeowners can make up to \$75,000 worth of property improvements without an increase in property taxes for at least four years. The value varies depending on the reduction of the assessed value and the tax rates where the property is located.

For more information on the property tax exemptions that may apply to you visit the Cook County Treasurer's Office website at <http://www.cook-countytreasurer.com> or you can call them on 312.443.5100.

Safe Home

By Heather Begley



Plan Ahead For 'Just One More'

You make your way through the pub after a day at the St. Patrick's Day parade and a post-parade party. The bartender fills up a pint. A perfect pour. There is a buzz around the place. Streamers line the ceiling. Irish music fills the air. You breathe in the excitement of another St. Patrick's Day celebration. What a great time of year. You take a sip of your pint. This is so much fun. This is a great song. "Her eyes they shone like diamonds...." Let's get another round. Cheers! Sláinte! "You'd think she was Queen of the land." Good conversations. Good craic. You feel fantastic. Another round? Smiling. Laughing. "I better get going, but 'just one more.'" "Good to see you," you say to a friend. "Nice to meet you." "I better get going." "Just one more." The bar is closing. Thanks for coming.

You stroll out to the car. You put on your seat belt. "I can do this." "I feel fine." "I am not that bad." "I ate that corned beef earlier." "I was pacing myself." You put on the radio. That was a great day. You reverse the car and head out onto the roadway. You maneuver your way to the highway. "I

am good driver." I'll just drive a little slower and hold the steering wheel a little tighter. Watch my speed.

You should not be driving. Perhaps you should say a prayer to St. Patrick himself because there are a variety of tragic circumstances that could arise next. Head-on collision. Strike a pedestrian. Hit a tree. Wrong-way accident. Costly DUI. Aggravated reckless homicide. Paralysis. Brain damage. Death.

It is avoidable. Don't ruin a great St. Patrick's Day. Even a couple of drinks can cause you to be impaired. Plan ahead so you do not get behind the wheel of a car if you have been drinking. Leave your car keys at home. Call a taxi. Use public transportation. Designate a driver. Call a sober friend or family member. Stay at a hotel. Stay at a friend's. Also, if you see a car on the road that looks like it is being operated by an impaired driver, call 911.

It's St. Paddy's Day. Celebrate your heart out. Enjoy the music, the parades, the camaraderie and the pints. Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day! Stay safe and sláinte!

Special Hunt Family Show at Lincoln-Way

Enjoy step dancing and champion fiddle playing as The Hunt Family brings their high-powered, energetic show to Lincoln-Way North High School on Saturday, March 10, 9900 S. Harlem Ave., at 2 p.m.

"Their champion fiddling is mixed with a percussive blend of world-ranked step dancing, drums, djembes, ashikos, and cajons," she added. "Acoustic and electric guitars accompany soaring piano melodies and beautiful vocal harmonies. This is true family entertainment for all ages."

The family of nine has performed for Queen Elizabeth's royal welcoming and made multiple appearances at the World Championships of Irish step dancing in Scotland and Ireland.

The box office opens at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth and senior citizens with general admission seating.

Contact Denise Adducci at 815-534-3240 for more information. To download an order form, visit the district's website at www.lw210.org/spotlightseries.

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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating

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Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner

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to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

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

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

Bayer Birth Control

Litigation at Critical Stage

Birth control pills such as Yaz, Yasmin, Ocella, Beyaz, Safyral and Vestura have been linked to blood clots, pulmonary embolism, deep venous thrombosis (DVT), gallbladder disease, and even heart attack and stroke. These drugs all contain the same synthetic hormone—drospirenone. Drospirenone changes the body’s normal blood-clotting ability, sometimes causing blood to clot unnecessarily within a blood vessel, artery, or vein. These abnormal blood clots can become dislodged from the vessel and begin to travel through the blood stream, potentially causing a blockage that starves the heart of blood flow. A clot may also become lodged in the brain, lungs, or the heart itself.

While all birth control pills pose some risk of blood clots, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has relied upon several epidemiological studies that reported the risk of blood clots for women using drospirenone-containing birth control is higher than for women who use birth control pills containing an alternative hormone known as levonorgestrel.

In May 2011, the FDA released a Safety Announcement concerning these dangerous birth control pills, citing the studies reporting increased risks. In September 2011, the FDA issued a second announcement stating that it “remains concerned” about the potential for increased risk of blood clots with drospirenone-containing birth control pills.

In December, an FDA advisory panel comprised of medical experts voted 21-5 that the labels for Bayer’s birth control pills did not adequately reflect the risk of the product in light of its purported benefit. While the panel stopped short of removing these drugs from the marketplace, the panel did recommend the labels be revised to include additional information.

Just one month after the advisory panel meeting, U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, David R. Herndon issued an order postponing what would have been the first trial related to Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.’s birth-control drugs, Yaz and Yasmin. The trial, which was set to begin January 9, 2012, was delayed at the request of Bayer’s attorneys, who

also requested the court order mediation in the hope of reaching a settlement with at least some of the plaintiffs involved in the multi-district litigation.

Multi-District Litigation

Multi-district litigation (MDL) refers to a special procedure in federal court cases designed to speed the process of handling complex cases, where many potential plaintiffs may exist. MDLs are formed when common factual issues are involved in multiple cases pending in different federal court districts. A Panel on Multidistrict Litigation determines whether a particular case should be consolidated into an MDL. Cases subject to the MDL are transferred to one court for all pretrial proceedings and discovery issues. If the case is not settled or dismissed at that stage, the case will be remanded back to the court in which it was originally filed for trial.

The recently-postponed Bayer litigation is part of an MDL in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. Currently, there are over 8,000 cases and over 11,000 plaintiffs involved in that particular litigation.

Bellwether Cases

In MDL cases, it is typical to select a small group of plaintiffs to represent all of the plaintiffs in an MDL. These are known as “bellwether” cases. These cases proceed to trial first and the results of those cases act as an indicator for future trials. The results may be used to help shape the parties’ expectations and to value claims for settlement purposes, but each plaintiff may choose to continue with their own individual trial.

The bellwether trial in the Bayer case has now been postponed until April 30, 2012, as the parties attempt to mediate a settlement.

Interestingly, in that case, a former FDA commissioner has issued a report critical of Bayer, stating that the FDA’s decision to keep Yaz on the market in December was tainted by undisclosed potential conflicts of interest. The former commissioner stated in his report, “the FDA advisory committee was not independent of Bayer.”

While Bayer has changed the way it markets and advertises Yaz and Yasmin, these drospirenone-containing drugs remain on the market. Women taking these drugs should become aware of the risks and alternatives available to them through their medical providers.

The Healy Law Firm has actively investigated and litigated pharmaceutical cases to successful results, and has investigated claims associated with Yaz, Yasmin and other birth control drugs. If you or anyone you know has suffered a deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism, gallbladder disease, heart attack or stroke after taking Yaz, Yasmin, Ocella, Syeda, Beyaz or Safyral, you should seek competent legal advice.

By: Martin Healy, Jr.

Patrick C. Anderson (pictured here)



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Steve Daly take pride in offering the best service with competitive, affordable prices. "Moving can be an uneasy experience for many people. Our professional & experienced staff is trained to make your move as stress free as possible. We go the extra mile for our clients- making sure that the furniture is padded and protected. That is why we are Chicago's preferred moving company." says Steve.

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very professional" says Cathy Curry, gift shop volunteer. "They were on-time, which I think is an important quality, I know my time is valuable, and Daly moving wasted no time in getting all the inventory on the truck, over to the IAHC and unloaded in an amazingly short time!"

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At the January Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) Board meeting, Chicago Public Schools partnership development liaison Jacquelyn Dace presented the MWRD with a Certificate of Appreciation for "...providing outstanding work-based learning experiences for Chicago Public School Career and Technical Education students through participation in the 2010-2011 Work-Based Learning Program." Jacquelyn Dace is pictured with MWRD Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany at left and MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila at right.

Anthony Martin for State Representative in 35th

Anthony Martin is running for State Representative in the 35th District here in Illinois. Anthony is a husband, father of four children, and lifelong Mt. Greenwood resident. As a Chicago Fire Lieutenant and member of Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2 for over 23 years, Anthony has demonstrated a commitment to serving our community. He seeks your trust in him to be a leader for us in Springfield.

Anthony holds B.A. in political science from Saint Xavier, where he was student government president, and is in his final year at John Marshall Law School. During Anthony's time as a former president and current four-term trustee, the Firefighters' pension fund has achieved the highest investment performance, the lowest investment related expenses and the lowest administrative expenses of any of Chicago's public pension funds.

As President and Co-Founder of the Ende, Menzer, Walsh, Quinn Retirees, Widows and Children's Assistance Fund, Anthony has assisted in the distribution of approximately \$4.9 million over the past eight years to 471 widows living at or near the poverty level and to all children who have lost a parent who

was an active member of the fire department. The primary fundraiser for the Widows and Children's Fund is their annual softball game organized with the help of the Chicago Police Pension Fund and the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association.

There are two other candidates in this election running for this position but he is the only union member that is running.

Anthony is also Secretary of the Chicago Firefighters Pension Fund.

Anthony Martin's punch number is #61.



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Thinking About What We Have Lost

Somehow, somewhere along the way we lost something. Didn't we?

I can't speak for America, which I haven't visited in several years now but I can certainly speak for Ireland. More and more each day I can see that we have lost something.

I don't even know what to call it. It's something that is perhaps ultimately intangible. Yet although it is as hard to grasp as rainwater it is something that was real to those of my parents' generation. Maybe it was just Good Manners or a certain sense of decorum.

I recently recommended the movie "Midnight in Paris" to a lady who is one my best friends. In a world where that word is so dreadfully overused—hell, it's a world where the average clown has 500 'friends' on Facebook—she is a true friend, even when she's calling me, quite deservedly, an idiot.

She was disappointed with it; but for me it speaks a fundamental truth about life. Few of us are happy with the age that we live in. Like the Owen Wilson character in this film I wish that I had been around in the 1920s or even better, the 1930s. I'd like to have met the people that he meets: the writers, the artists and the all around chancers. I'd like to have heard Hoagy Carmichael playing ragtime on the piano, would like to have had a drink in the speakeasies, have met Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald or even a macho jerk like Ernest Hemingway.

That's this character's Golden Age; yet his light-of-love in the movie dreams of her own Golden Age, several decades previously. You see? We're never satisfied. Nor am I so naïve as to believe that if I ever actually got there it would be anything like I had imagined. No, it's just a pleasant daydream.

I doubt that many people would put Woody Allen and Sam Peckinpah (director of "The Wild Bunch" and "Straw Dogs") in the same sentence but it seemed to me that Allen's film and Peckinpah's overall output are about the same thing. Peckinpah's westerns are usually set around roughly 1910-1914 when that whole era was dying. In the one film—"Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid"—where he sets it in 1881, an era that his anti-hero's hark back to, THOSE characters are dreaming of an earlier time. In fact, Lew Wallace who was governor of New Mexico in that period, dreams of an even earlier time and was in fact the author of "Ben-Hur".

It got me thinking. I'd like to see a return to an Age of Manners. Let me sound corny here for a moment: I'd like to return to an age when a man automatically stood from his seat when a woman approached the table or held the door open for her. Yet in today's twisted climate that would be seen as condescending in some way that I don't fully understand. The feminist movement had some good things about it (although I can't think of too many off-hand) but in general it seems to have been its own worst enemy. As men, we are in an impossible situation now. Damned if you do and damned if you don't.

I turn 53 in March and maybe this has got something to do with these reflections on what has gone missing here. It's not very comfortable but I can't help coming back time and again to religion. I've never been a God-botherer myself, but I'm wondering if the end of our supposed love affair with the Catholic Church has left those who actually believed in its administrators bitter and discontented. A recent survey, in fact, showed that only 53% of people asked had any interest in the Pope paying a visit this year. Myself, I'm totally indifferent; but surely that would have been another figure altogether even only a few years ago.

Now I say supposed love affair with the church because I've never really bought into this idea that Ireland is a particularly religious country. Oh sure, certain people will trundle themselves off on a Sunday and then sit there with their thoughts miles away, looking forward to getting the hour put to rest ("He does a lovely short sermon, bless him") and that's their 'duty' done for another week. I'm not putting thoughts into the heads of others, by the way; many of them admit this to me. Still, it may

just be better than nothing. As someone else once said, the danger when people stop believing in God is that they don't replace it with nothing—they replace it with anything. And there are certainly enough cults out there just ready to batten onto anyone who is searching and confused.

Here's an odd thing, and one that those who read this column on any kind of regular basis will find as strange as I find it myself. I find that I'm more and more interested in Jesus. Don't worry. I haven't been Born Again, Saved or any of that nonsense. I'm taking about the flesh-and-blood man who roamed the Holy Land some two thousand years ago. (We won't get into an argument about his existence in history or not. I believe there was such a person.) I'm talking about the man that I admired as a teenager. Here was a true revolutionary, someone who took on not just his own organised religion but also the might of Rome. That's more than extraordinary, when you think of it.

Now that empire is just dust and I imagine that he would have been pretty horrified at what his teachings mutated into over two thousand years, but when you get right down to it and when you cut away all the mumbo jumbo that vested interests have smothered his message in over those years, what he suggested wasn't really a bad way to live. And perhaps that's what we have lost. Maybe it's time to just drop the idea of the church altogether and go back to studying for ourselves what this man's message was really about. When I look at the likes of Bertie Ahern attending mass one minute and then lying through his teeth, or see the monsters who are arrested on the one hand and then being described as 'pillars of the church' on the other then you know how much to take things at face value. No, we've never been all that religious and as we look now at the 'respected' businessmen, bankers and developers who are hiding behind legalities in order to get away with what is wrong you know that we're not likely to change.

Beneath all of the atrocities that were done in the name of the Christ

his words still ring through to this very day. It's a simple message, really: be good to each other, but if you find that systems have reached a stage where they are only able to preach to people the rules of acceptance and force them to bend the knee before them then do as he did: fight back in any way that is given to you. Never back down to them, as we are guilty of doing with our own bunch of gougers.

Well, that's as close as this column will ever come to A Little Bit of

Religion, muddled as it is. (Hey, I'm just searching too.) I want to give a 'thanks' to writer Paul Seydor whose outstanding book "Peckinpah: The Western Films" in part inspired these musings.

Finally, last month when writing about the sit-in at the Corto Vitex plant in Cork I optimistically wrote that it would be sorted by the time the next copy of this paper came out. It has not, which is nothing less than a national shame.

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F.O.P. ENDORSES GALLAGHER
 Kevin Ferrell, President of the Cook County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4, has announced the endorsement of Terry Gallagher for Judge of the 4th Judicial Sub-Circuit. Ferrell stated that Gallagher has displayed an enviable record in the field of law. Gallagher is also endorsed by the F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7 and by the seven Democratic Committeemen of the 4th Judicial Sub-Circuit. Terry served in the U.S. Navy for five years, three years of which were spent overseas. He was a member of the United States Navy Judge

Advocate General's Corps for four years.





If I had thought more about it, I would not have agreed to go and see the Thatcher movie, The Iron Lady. The memory of her time in power (1979-1990) is still fresh in my mind. I remember her inflexible reaction toward the Hunger Strikers, as she removed the benefits of political status, and the uncompromising way she treated the trade unions. I may have gone to the movie without objection, but not without prejudice.

Had I have thought longer about it, I would have protested out of principle, since she embodied much of what I thought was typical of an 'out of touch' British attitude to the Northern Irish question. The conservatism of her policies not only rankled nationalists in Northern Ireland, but English liberals who saw her as the epitome of Victorianism, the solid 'family values' yet another cover for a covert oppression.

As you can see, I have a definite perspective, a way of seeing this political figure that makes any sympathy, for what some might deem a former despot, almost impossible. I remember, the death toll of the hunger strikers ticking away as

the violence in Northern Ireland escalated, and yet we were being assured that this was justice. It was the Russians who named the British Prime Minister the Iron Lady, and we all responded with a resounding Amen.

Her zero tolerance approach, based on her firm convictions, was devoid of empathy. The caricature of a political monster began to surpass her humanity, and she was parodied on the satirical British television programme, Spitting Image, as a tyrant, a bully, someone who did not represent the will of her people. During her time as Prime Minister, she reduced the power of trade unions, privatized public institutions, and took the UK into battle against Argentina over ownership of the Falkland Islands. Her strident, unbending approach found favour with the then President of the United States, Ronald Regan.



Meryl Streep

Thatcher's hard lined approach not only affected Nationalists in Northern Ireland, Unionists were also discomfited by her decision to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1985. For the first time since the formation of the Northern Irish state, the majority (Unionists) were no longer the sole determining factor in deciding the future of the state. Now the fate of the six counties would lie with Westminster, Stormont, and the Republic of Ireland. To Unionists, to bring the Republic into the decision making process was a complete betrayal.

While the focus of the movie was not is analysis of her political ideology, it does touch on the complexities of the events of the time without any comment. We are instead introduced to an aging woman coming to terms with the loss of her husband. Meryl Streep, of course, brilliantly inhabits the public/private persona of Thatcher perfectly, and brings both a sense of fragility and desperation to a woman on the verge of senility.

It takes a very gifted body of artists to humanize someone so vilified and yet, by introducing us to a woman who is both

frail and unlike herself in the glory days, they managed to win our sympathy, despite ourselves. Age has works to counter the severity of her otherwise harsh features, softening the face as to make her worthy of pity.

Streep disarms us with her ability to mimic the unsteady movements of an elderly woman who is a mere shadow of the person she once was. The stooped, heavy set lady looks less iron, and more clay. Her humanity outstrips the draconian leader, and the effect is to universalize the pain of dealing with one's mortality. Outside of public office, away from the world she helped to create, the woman languishes, waiting for death, recounting a history that is both personal and public.

Having fought and struggled the lonely battle to prove her worth in parliament, she now finds herself alone. Surrounded by professionals, she finds herself entering into conversations with her dead husband, Denis. As she prepares to clean out his closet, let go of his presence, the sense of loneliness intensifies. It is at this juncture we are invited to travel into her past.

Her extraordinary achievements as a pioneer woman in an almost exclusively male domain is beautifully portrayed. The camera shots, exaggerating the old boys' club mentality of the Conservative party, emphasize her fortitude of character, and sheer strength of will.

Her dominancy, in the beginning, is depicted sympathetically. She defies the odds and continues from strength to strength, as her political idealism gains momentum. Ironically, it is this determination that becomes her weakness, as she isolates her party members, dismisses them as inferiors, and becomes less willing to listen to common sense. The constant theme of loneliness, whether self-inflicted or not, follows her, much like the spectre of her late husband.

The rise to the top, with all of its powerful benefits, ends with a loss of confidence, and suddenly she is no longer required. Without a country to run, a husband to tend to, she visited by her daughter, Carol, who seems over awed by the matriarch of the family. When the world no longer needs you, family are all you have. Thatcher has Carol, but wants Mark, her son who lives with his family in South Africa. The woman who had everything finds herself with nothing. Age and death are the great levelers, and they do reduce us to our true greatness.

As Job puts it: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised. I am not sure that I am glad that I went to the movie, but I went, and made the best of it.

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

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the mall to get to Nickelodeon Universe and have people give me weird glances because of my wig and make-up. I was a little nervous since it is a new year and I had to change my dances to reel and hornpipe. This was my first feis of 2012. It also had an Oireachtas-like atmosphere because the feis was held in a small auditorium that had a big stage. The whole thing was nerve-racking but

I have great news to report! There recently was a feis at the Mall of America in Minnesota that I attended. It took place at Nickelodeon Universe, which is the amusement park in the mall. One of the many reasons why I enjoyed this feis was my sister danced on Saturday and I danced on Sunday. I got to enjoy the mall before I went into feis mode. It was a huge mall and it had so many different stores. I loved that I could go shopping and have a stress free day before my competition. (In case you were wondering I got a lot of cute clothes.) On Sunday it was game time. It was enjoyable to parade through

I knew I could do this. This was a small feis. I was only competing against 5 people, when I usually dance against around 15-20 dancers. This made me a little bit more determined to win. I performed my reel well but when it came to my hornpipe, not so much. Backstage, I had a great feeling about hornpipe because it has always been my best dance. When I was getting ready to do my second step, I couldn't remember anything. I didn't panic, though, because if I wanted to remember, I had to keep calm. Whenever I panic, it always makes things worse. I kept smiling because if you make a mistake never show it on

your face. By the time my left foot came around, I remembered the rest, but I felt the damage was done. I wasn't going to place today. I finished my step with the same wide smile but a little heavier heart. I was disappointed. I had finished dancing for the day and I went on the swings at the amusement park. How often can you do that in a wig? Before I knew it, it was time for awards. My heart was beating hard and fast. They called the places for the reel and hornpipe, individually before they award the overall. They called the places for reel. I didn't even place. That's when I really lost hope. I knew I could be one of the unlucky two who went home with nothing. Then something amazing happened. I heard my name being called for 2nd place in hornpipe. There was still hope! I ran up to claim my prize. Now it was time for the overall placing. They called 3rd place. It wasn't my name. My heart skipped a beat. Then I heard the lady call 2nd place competitor 307-Deirdre Kozicki! I was so ecstatic. I got my prizes, a crystal frame and a sash. I finally had a beloved sash! I took my rightful place on the 2nd place step of the pedestal. It was one of the best days of my dancing career so far. Since I had gotten into PC, I had wanted a sash to wear and I wouldn't take it off. (I wore it for three days.) Hopefully I will go back to this feis next year because who wouldn't want to ride a Jimmy Neutron ride in a sash!

I've been practicing hard for my next feis. Hopefully I will have more good news next month! Everyone have a happy St. Patrick's Day! I can't wait to tell you about mine next month.

Rhythm of the Dance 3-14 Dailey and Vincent 3-30

Appearing at the College of Lake County's James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts in Grayslake, Ill. in March – two concerts you won't want to miss!

Rhythm of the Dance on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. Pure Irish and produced in Ireland, the show is an inspiring epic, reliving the journey of the Irish Celts throughout history. This two-hour dance and music extravaganza contains a wealth of talent derived from all areas of Irish life, including a live band, three tenors and



celebrated new bluegrass act of the last few years.” In 2008 and 2009, they received 10 IBMA Awards including Entertainer of the Year for two years running and Album of the Year in 2008. Dailey & Vincent's true strength lies in the uncanny harmony of their vocal trios and quartets. Combine that with impeccable arrangements and a flawless performance, and what you get is bluegrass gold.

Tickets are available at the CLC Box Office in the James Lumber Center on the Grayslake Campus, 19351 W. Washington St. Learn more about the artists at www.clcillinois.edu/tickets. For more information, call the Box Office at (847) 543-2300. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance.



more than 20 dancers. Using modern art forms of dance and music, this richly costumed show is one of the most popular and busiest Irish step dance shows in the world.

Dailey & Vincent on Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m. The New York Times calls Dailey & Vincent “...the most

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SAT Catch the EP, Spin A and La Liga Soccer Live on Tap Daily, Brew & Tilt 2pm with 40-Zing Zang Bloody Marys \$2.49 Minimum, Guinness Beef Stew - \$12.95, Lager Beer Bottle \$15.00

SUN Catch the EP, Spin A and La Liga Soccer Live on Tap Daily, Brew & Tilt 2pm with 40-Zing Zang Bloody Marys \$2.49 Minimum, Sunday Brunch, Prime Beef Roast w/ Roast Potatoes, Baked Desserts & Paninis or Wisconsin Pottery Potting w/ Camp \$12.95, Two Brothers Bottle \$15.00

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



St. Patrick's Day Parade

The theme of this year's downtown parade is, "The Irish Religious Community Built the Institutions of . . . Faith, Education, and Social Services in Chicago."

The Irish priests, nuns, and brothers who built the schools, churches, hospitals, and orphanages, led the way in Chicago.

The parade is a great event for families. Hope to see you there. Remember to celebrate with dignity.

Southside Parade

The Southside Irish Parade will step off on Sunday, March 11th at 11am. The parade is an important event and provides the children in the Irish community with a sense of their heritage when the right role models prevail. The dancing schools, traditional musicians, pipes and drums, floats, and all the pagentry that goes with it.

Unfortunately some feel they must perpetuate the Irish stereotype. The TV cameras will be

looking for those negative images.

Hoboken New Jersey

Parade

For those of you who don't read the Irish Echo, the Hoboken St. Patrick's Day Parade has been cancelled for all the same reasons the Chicago Southside St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled three years ago.

Elusive Hero

Chris Mathews book, Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero, could never tell the whole story. I'm only a couple of chapters into this book, and it's most intriguing. I've always admired JFK. He was one of my heroes. Then along came Mimi Alford, who as a nineteen-year-old intern in JFK's press office, had an affair with him starting with her seduction in the First

Ladies bedroom. The fact that he was 26 years older than her was one thing. It was completely



reckless behavior, but offering her to Dave Powers was absolutely repugnant. The whole story has diminished him in stature. I still hold him in high regard, but am, like many others, disillusioned. Johnny, I hardly knew ya.

Todd Stroger

Forty-Five million in grant money from Homeland Security went right into the "pork barrell!" Divvy it up lads! Who got the contracts? "Project Shield" was supposed to equip 128 suburbs with a video surveillance system, and a central command. Senator Kirk, and Congressman Quigley have called on the FBI to investigate.

Dubious Distinction

Chicago has now been named the most corrupt city in the U.S.A. according to former Chicago alderman, Dick Simpson, and the records kept by the Department of Justice. That's an embarrassment no matter how you look at it. Backroom deals, graft, clout, and no-bid contracts, is it any wonder we hold the title? We've had many alderman go to prison,

and four out of the last seven governors. If you keep voting these people in, the corruption will continue.

Ghandi listed seven dangers to human virtue. 1. Wealth without work 2. Pleasure without conscience 3. Knowledge without character. 4. Business without ethics 5. science without humanity. 6. Religion without sacrifice. 7. Politics without principle. If it is any consolation the state of Illinois only took third place when it comes to corruption.

Berrios Valentine

As seen in the Chicago Sunday Sun-Times classified section February 14, 2012

"Happy V-Day "Uncle Joe, Thank you for the jobs and promotions. We couldn't have gotten them without you. With love, The Berrios family." Joseph Berrios is the Cook County Assessor, and he is also chairman of the Democratic Party.

Alonso Zaragoza, who is trying to unseat Berrios as 31st Ward Democratic committeeman in the March primary, didn't hesitate to take credit for placing the ad.

Candidates Seeking Your Vote

in Irish American News This Month!

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT
101 Mary Jane Theis (D)

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT
119 Patrick J. Sherlock (D)
121 Marguerite Anne Quinn (D)
124 William Stewart Boyd (D)

CIRCUIT COURT
141 Karen Lynn O'Malley (D)
145 Kevin Cunningham
147 Russell W. Hartigan (D)
150 Gerald V. Cleary (D)
152 Kevin W. Horan (D)
156 Edward J. Maloney (D)
158 Michael A. Forti (D)
164 Mary Margaret Burke (D)
171 Elizabeth Mary Hayes (D)
182 Michael R. Clancy (D)

SUBCIRCUIT COURT
184 Terry Gallagher (D)
181 Maureen A. Murphy (D)
182 Michael R. Clancy (D)

42nd Ward Committeeman
#123 William Kelly (R)

Cook County Board of Review
#91 Sean Morrison (R)

Presidential Race
Ron Paul



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Exercise Your Right to VOTE!

Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



It might be the greatest hoax in Chicago political history.

Percolating in the brainpan of Skinny Sheahan ever since his beloved Southside Irish Parade was canceled by a wussy wing of the parade committee three years ago. Ruffians had "hi-jacked" the parade and instead of cracking down, the committee decided to capitulate, castrate it, and then cry about it.

It left the community without the touchstone they'd taken for granted for the last 32 years.

I delivered a eulogy at a "wake" for the parade at The Beverly Woods banquet hall at 115th and Western on the day the parade should have been in 2010. Skinny stood in the back with Irish TD Jimmy Deenihan and predicted to Sun-Times reporter Mark Konkol, "The parade will be back."

He said it very matter of factly, as though he knew something nobody else had considered. It was a gantlet tossed in the face of all those opposed to the parade and over the course of the next two years it would become just what he had stated, a fact.

Last August the movement to resurrect the parade began in earnest at a public meeting at The Beverly Art Center where everyone was invited to discuss the reasons the parade was canceled and if there was any interest in bringing it back. As I walked into the meeting there was Mark Konkol of the Sun-Times once again chronicling our world.

At this meeting we heard all the familiar complaints of public intoxication, urination, defecation, and even fornication on neighbors lawns during the parade. All agreed this was a bad thing and all agreed we could do better. Skinny Sheahan stood on the stage and guided the conversation, encouraging folks to vent or lament the loss of the parade.

He asked for a show of hands against the resurrection of the parade. I saw only one man, a transplant to the neighborhood, raise his hand. A plan was taking shape in the mind of Skinny.

Meetings continued throughout the next six months and the business community stepped up with pledges of over \$90,000 to defray

the extra costs of security and to bolster the \$100,000 that had been raised annually by the committee. On the radio and in person Skinny evangelized for a "zero tolerance" parade that would return to the traditions of family and faith embraced by all the Irish parishes of the great South Side.

Early in February the city of Chicago granted a permit for the parade. Or so we were led to believe.

Mayor Rahm had supported the idea in January but 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea suddenly unleashed a full assault on the hopes and dreams of his wife's uncle, Skinny Sheahan. O'Shea contacted all his constituents condemning any talk of resurrection and sent a formal letter to the Mayor that included photos of debauchery from the '09 parade.

Suddenly the city was playing hardball in meetings with the parade committee and many wondered if the White House had stepped into the fray at the behest of the First Lady. What if the tales were true from Jody Kantor's book, "The Obamas" which stated, "...She (Michelle Obama), particularly resented the way power in Illinois was locked up generation after generation by a small group of families, all white Irish Catholic -- the Daleys in Chicago, the Hynes and Madigans statewide."

All of them Southside Irish. Parade zealots became unhinged, declaring, "Of course, it's all part of their plan to diss the "breeders" and pro-life Catholics of the Southside by removing our ethnic identity and turning us all into socialist homosexual baby killers!"

City administrators scheduled a final showdown meeting with the parade committee for Friday, February 17th. Skinny flew back from vacation in Florida on the preceding Tuesday and that night he met at the Shamrock pub on Kinzie with Sun-Times Pulitzer Prize winning scribe Mark Konkol.

Bourbon Street would be hosting the big parade fundraiser that Saturday night and sponsors supposedly were getting spooked in fear of losing city contracts. The talk on the Southside was taking an ugly turn as the revival teetered in jeopardy. Neither Alderman O'Shea nor Skinny would budge and the fight had become even more than personal, extrapolating into a full-fledged family feud.

Skinny vented to Konkol that night and as he left I shouted across the bar to the reporter, "If you feck us, we'll never forget it!"

The stage was now set. The world awaited Friday the 17th.

The story hit the paper Friday morning, with a front-page teaser that said, "The Alderman VS. Uncle Skinny". Konkol showed us why he won the Pulitzer, with a summary of the facts that was even-handed, fair, and above all, avoided any "scorched earth" rhetoric from anyone. It laid the groundwork for peace and that afternoon Skinny faced the cameras after meeting with the city and declared that the

parade would indeed be back on Sunday March 11th. Alderman O'Shea magnanimously said, "I think it's going to happen, yeah."

Saturday night the fundraiser at Bourbon Street was packed to the rafters with Southsiders celebrating the return of the parade. The Sheahans and O'Sheas were family after all.

For those on the Southside, the tradition has been restored. For those of us who left the Southside years ago, we will always have the parade to remind us of our Irish heritage, our parents and families, and the faith that guided us through all our troubles. Join us on parade

day, Sunday March 11th, or better yet, volunteer today to help. Go to: <http://www.southsideirishparade.org>

At the fundraiser there was talk that the opposition by Alderman O'Shea was a publicity stunt and he was in on it all along, wanting the parade back that he'd enjoyed for so many years as an organizer.

So was it a hoax? What's the truth?

Well, to paraphrase from one of my favorite movies, "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance"—

"This is the Southside, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

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Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



Aunt Lillian

My generation, at least in our family, will be the very last who can recall the lilting echoes of Irish brogues and the timeworn faces of our immigrant ancestors. On our mother's side, my great-grandmother Nana had passed away when I was three, but I still had warm memories of her. On the paternal side I got lucky, for it seemed as if my father's aged Aunt Lillian would live forever. Lillian Carroll was born in the farming village of Cappagh, Co. Limerick in 1886 and immigrated to Chicago in 1915. She eventually married, and after outliving both husband and son Lill still dwelt in the same little cottage home in Englewood where she'd lived since the 1930s. It was here that I first recall visiting Aunt Lillian with my Dad, who checked up on her every week. She was in her early eighties at the time, just a little wisp of a woman but healthy as a horse and stubborn as an old Irish mule. Her house was now in a high-crime district and my Dad tried to get Lillian to move to an apartment but the answer was always "No." She had left home once before, and once was enough.

I loved to visit Aunt Lillian, although it was a bit unnerving to talk with her. Her height was well under five feet, yet she intimidated me, with that piercing gaze and wild, unkempt hairdo, wrapped in a bun with crazy red hairs sticking out. I wondered if maybe she'd stuck a screwdriver in a wall socket and been shocked silly, like myself not too long ago. Aunt Lillian was already hard of hearing in those days, and when you couldn't understand her thick Limerick brogue, she could get quite feisty. "Can ye take a hint, or d'ye need a brick?" she'd famously exclaim. Dad and Lillian would always sit at the kitchen table chatting about family and neighbors, while I would half-listen and float along, the adult voices mixing together into a blur; the old Irish immigrant woman and the American-born son of her long-dead brother.

On one visit, when I was about six years old and my sister Denise four, Aunt Lillian thought she would reward our gifts of tea and groceries with a little something of her own. Denise and I sat playing with Boots on the rug beside her ancient stuffed chairs that would have not looked out of place

in "The Maltese Falcon". Our father stood at Lillian's shelf of mementos, squinting over his glasses at a series of faded sepia photographs. He moved in closer for a better look, calling out to his aunt,

"So, Lillian, what do you know about Patrick, your older brother?"

"Eh? What'd ye say..? Patrick? 'Tis been a long, long time indeed. Last time I saw Pat 'twas at home in Limerick, the day he came back from Scotland with his new wife."

"What was she like...?"

"A Protestant, that's what she was like! Mother nearly had a fit."

"What happened?"

"They went back to Scotland, and that was the last we ever saw of either of 'em."

"Yes, but Lill, what happened when your mother found out she wasn't Catholic?"

The old Irishwoman narrowed her eyes, shifted in her seat and leaned her chin on her fist.

"Well now, Mother always said we should never speak of that day. Although the bride herself wasn't much for looks, I'm sorry to say..."

My father threw his head back and laughed outright.

"But she had a lovely voice," Lill concluded, half-grinning. She cleared the dishes and carried them into the kitchen, then we heard the clinking of glasses. Dad nodded knowingly and smiled. It was time for A Taste of the Creature. But to his confusion, Lillian entered bearing a silver tray with a fancy bottle of plum brandy, and four small Waterford crystal goblets. Two were filled nearly up to the top, and the other two only a quarter of the way

"But Lill... what's this?" stammered our father.

"I thought the wee ones might've taken a chill, from the cold outside. And besides, 'tis to thank them for the tea they brought." She picked up the two quarter-full glasses and held them out to Denise and myself.

"Lillian! You can't give them booze! They're only four, and six!" Dad sputtered, snatching the brandy goblets out of our hands.

"Dad..!"

"Joseph, a little bit is good for growing children! 'Twill be good for their hearts," insisted Aunt Lillian, with some indignation. "'Tis only a drop. Mother used to give us all a spoonful, for special occasions."

"Well, that was then, and this occasion isn't special enough, at least not for these two," Dad declared with finality, pouring the contents of the two quarter glasses equally into his and Lillian's goblets.

"Oh, Joseph! Ye're so much more yer mother, than my brother! Mike would have given yourself a nip or two if he'd lived, God rest him!" My Dad only smiled, raised a glass in tribute to his father, and threw Lill a wink.

At the end of each visit, we would help her tidy up, empty the trash cans, let the dog out and then say our good-byes to Aunt Lillian and Boots. We'd leave quietly via the back gate whereupon she'd lock the door behind us, her little face peering out the window and she waving as we walked back to our car. Later on, as she reached her nineties, she developed dementia and memory loss and could no longer live by herself. When she fell and injured her hip, none of the relatives had the means to take her in with her increasing medical needs, and so this grand old lady ended her years among strangers in the echoing halls of the county hospital. My dad and my siblings and I continued to visit, but many times she couldn't remember us, or thought we were her husband, son, or long gone relatives. As we walked back to our car Dad always seemed quieter, I thought. As for myself, I missed the old Aunt Lillian I used to love, and her tiny cottage home, and I missed petting Boots. Our dear Lillian died in her sleep at the age of 94 years, and on a cold, bright November morning we laid her to rest beside her family at Mt. Olivet.

But I knew Lill when she was still grand, our last living link to the Auld Sod, her white hair defiantly long and done up in a bun, showing traces of the flaming red tresses of her youth. When time stood still throughout the decades, and the proud old Irish lady lived a quiet life among her photos and memories in that little stucco house half-hidden under the maple trees at the end of her street.

*My thoughts go home today a-pleasuring
 Where children gather round and turf sods burn.
 And should you linger till the dance and singing,
 I will not chide you for your late return.*

Rev. Patrick J. Carroll, C.S.C.
 March Seventeenth
 in Heart Hermitage and Other Poems (1928)

These stories are excerpted from Celtic artist Michael Carroll's books "Meehall" and "The Trouble With Meehall," available at www.lulu.com. Michael's artwork may be viewed at www.mccelticdesign.com.

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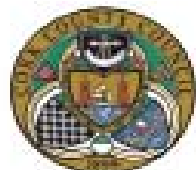
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Studying in Ireland – All You Need to Know

Last year, 8,000 Americans chose to study in Ireland. Traditionally, many US students have chosen to spend a semester or junior year abroad in Ireland. Now more and more are

liberal and performing arts, engineering, sciences and technology. Today these institutions continue to build on an age old reputation for excellence in education, having produced



enrolling in full-time undergraduate and postgraduate programs at Irish universities and colleges. For students considering an overseas education, Ireland may be just what you are looking for...

So why should I choose to study in Ireland?

As a country which does not enjoy an abundance of natural resources, people have always been Ireland’s primary asset. Today, Ireland boasts one of the highest education attainment rates worldwide and graduates of Irish institutions are acknowledged as being among the most employable and work-ready in the world. Many leading multinational corporations such as Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pfizer, Apple and Intel have established large operations in Ireland in recent years. These companies are attracted by the availability of an educated and well-respected workforce produced by Ireland’s institutions of higher learning. Irish universities and colleges are internationally renowned across a range of fields, including

graduates such as Oscar Wilde, James Joyce, physicist John Bell and Nobel Laureate Ernest Walton.

Anything else?

Ireland is English speaking, friendly and safe, with beautiful scenery and a rich cultural heritage, it offers easy access to the rest of Europe and has one of the youngest population’s in Europe – all of these factors combine to ensure that Ireland offers a truly unique and memorable student experience. Here’s what some American



students have to say about their time in Ireland:

Marielle Rocca 2nd Year BESS Trinity College Dublin from Napa Valley, CA



Marielle Rocca

“I am currently in my second year, studying business and economics through the BESS program.... My first year at Trinity was one of the best experiences of my life and I am sure second year will be the same.”

Logan White 3rd Year Engineering Dublin City University from Nebraska

in Ireland?

Here’s something that might surprise you - all seven Irish universities have US Government Federal Aid approval. This means that they can administer FAFSA forms similarly to US schools. Tuition costs in Ireland often compare favorably with US universities, particularly with US out of state tuition rates. At present, tuition fees for undergraduate students from the USA for programs such as business, law, science, engineering and humanities range from \$12,000 \$22,000 depending on the program and university. On average, you can expect to spend between \$10,000 and \$16,000 per year on living expenses depending on the location of your school, the type of accommodation you choose, and your personal lifestyle.

I am interested in studying in Ireland. Where do I start?



“I decided to go abroad for a few reasons. One of the biggest was the chance to experience people and places from a completely different culture, as well as to get an international perspective on structural engineering.... So far my experience has been amazing. Dublin offers a lot of new experiences, especially for college-age students. I am extremely comfortable with my decision...”

Olivia Wirtanen MA (music performance) National University of Ireland, Maynooth from Minnesota

“After completing my bachelor’s degree in Minnesota, USA, I happily packed my life in two suitcases and headed to the National University of Ireland Maynooth. Hailed as one of the premier music programs in Ireland within a university system, NUIM is not only surrounded by beautiful gardens and towering gothic buildings but provides a welcoming network of support as well.” **For more insights about what its like to be a student in Ireland – check our US Student Blog site <http://blog.educationinireland.com/> or join us on Facebook at ‘Education in Ireland USA’**

How much will it cost to study

1. Whether you are interested in short term study abroad, undergraduate or postgraduate programs in Ireland, the recommended first step is to visit the Education in Ireland website www.educationinireland.com where you will find all the information you need to begin your journey, including a search engine for all available programs and links to the international offices at all of the Irish universities you are interested in.

2. Call or email the international office of the university or universities you are interested in applying to. For high school applicants interested in undergraduate programs, it is recommended to make contact by the end of your Junior Year in High School. The international office staff will deal with all of your initial questions and send you detailed information about the programs on offer, application deadlines, specific entry requirements and details about living in Ireland.

3. Join us at one of our Irish Universities Open House events in Chicago to meet with Admissions Officers from Irish universities in person. We look forward to welcoming you!

Irish Universities

Spring Open House Events

Chicago, April 25-28 2012

Education in Ireland will host a series of free information events in the Chicago area for students, parents and high school college counselors. Admissions staff from the following Irish universities will participate:

- TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
- DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN,
- UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Wednesday 25 April, 3.30- 5.30 pm

Training Seminar for High School College Counselors

‘All you need to know about advising on Irish Universities
Consulate of Ireland, 400 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Places limited. Email Registration to eduireland@enterprise-ireland.com

Thursday 26th April, 7-9pm

Irish Universities Open House at Fenwick High School, 505 Washington blvd Oak Park, IL 60302-2260

Information session will begin promptly at 7 pm, followed by mini fair Students, Parents & Counselors welcome

Saturday 28th April, 2-4pm

Irish Universities Open House at the Doubletree Hotel, Oakbrook, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois. Information session will begin promptly at 2pm, followed by mini fair. Students, Parents & Counselors welcome

Register for an Open House event today by email to eduireland@enterprise-ireland.com

More information: Education in Ireland is an Irish government initiative to promote Irish universities and colleges overseas. For further information about studying in Ireland, go to www.educationinireland.com or email eduireland@enterprise-ireland.com



Joe McShane: Our Velvet-Voiced Irish Country Lad

By Cathy Curry

Joe McShane is one of Chicago’s Irish music treasures. A versatile musician, Joe plays guitar, accordion and harmonica with equal accomplishment. His songs, many written by the artist himself, are sweet and melodious, his heavy Armagh brogue softening when he sings.

Joe’s parents nurtured an early love of his

country’s music. His father would play button accordion while his mother danced around the kitchen. Joe joined in the family festivities at five when he learned the harmonica, added guitar when he was 12 and wrote his first song “My Silverbridge Home” at the ripe old age of 14.

McShane’s early musical influences were the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Dixieland Jazz

and also Country/Bluegrass, always keeping a love for the old Irish ballads and céilidh music heard over the family radio

Joe has traveled the Emerald Isle, Switzerland, Scotland, Wales, England, the Shetland Isles and around the USA as a solo musician or as part of a band. He has written songs for high profile musician such as Susan McCann, Daniel and Margo O’Donnell, Sean Glenn, Kevin Prendergast and Sean Wilson. As of 2012, 23 year old rising star Lisa McHugh sings “In the Glow of the Light”, a new hit single penned by Joe, James Thacker and music legend, Margo O’Donnell.

You can find Joe performing at various Irish establishments around Chicago such as Six Penny Bit, The 5th Province, The Carraig Pub, and many more. His wife, Margaret, is usually in the audience, and his son, Declan, occasionally performs alongside on harmonica (following the family tradition).

www.joemcshane.net



Pictured (l to r) Joe, Margaret, and Declan McShane. photo by Cathy Curry

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Eamonn McCrystal: The Kids Got a Voice!

When Elizabeth Travis, now his manager, invited him to the USA he never dreamed of the whirlwind of incredible experiences he had.



McCrystal hopes to build on the success of his first US release "When In Nashville." Produced by Grammy award winning producer Kyle Lehning (England Dan & John

Ford Coley, Randy Travis), it demonstrates his soaring vocal qualities and his ability to reach the listener on a personal level even when the arrangements take an epic twist.

Eamonn is currently preparing for a US tour. After the success of their recent Grand Ole Opry appearance, Eamonn and Brad are planning a show that will feature songs from his latest release plus some new arrangements of classic hits.

"I have found an excellent MD (Brad Ellis) who brings out the best in my performance and is on the same page with me when it comes to finding those perfect songs..." Eamonn McCrystal.

With names such as Walter Afanasieff (Celine Dion, Mariah Carey, Leona Lewis) in the mix to produce Eamonn McCrystal's new project - 2012 will be the year to look out for this young Irish man.

"When In Nashville" is available from iTunes, www.eamonn.la

Poison Glen Released by Altan

Legendary Irish supergroup Altan is releasing The Poison Glen, the band's first new studio effort in seven years on Feb 28th on Compass Records. Last week I sent you an advance copy of the CD and I wanted to see if you had a chance to listen. The cover features individual members of the band on a red/bluish/yellow smoky background. Of course I will send you an actual promo copy when they become available.



In their 30 years of bringing the signature music of Donegal, Ireland to the world, the

musicians of Altan present their first album of new material in 7 years, a collection that embodies the fiery spirit of Irish lore and mythology through the smoldering performances from Ciaran Tourish (fiddle), Dermot Byrne (accordion), Mark Kelly (guitar), Ciarán Curran (bouzouki) and Daithi Sproule (guitar) alternately shining on sets of spritely jigs, driving reels and gorgeous airs, interwoven with Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh's ethereal vocals to stunning effect.

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Real Ireland



By Rachel Gaffney



Mum’s Irish Soda Bread

When St Patricks Day approaches, the stores begin to stock their shelves with loaves of white soda bread speckled with raisins and caraway seeds. This is known as 'Irish Soda Bread' in the United States of America.

This well known bread simply isn't traditional Irish soda bread. It is indeed a delicious treat and like all other foods, this too evolved over time. Consider it's origins. We were a poor nation. This was an easy to make all-in-one mixture that was made with buttermilk. Buttermilk is a by product of butter. Wholemeal flour was more widely available. Baking Soda was added as a leavining agent.

The average Irish home in the 1800's did not have an oven so they baked the bread in a pot known as a 'Bastible'. This pot was suspended over an open fire and baked.

Raisins were not added until much later as these were an imported luxury item.

There are various myths/reasons behind the sign of the cross. Some think it was done to "let the devil out". Others say it made it easier to divide and was a symbol for "Breaking Bread". Being a catholic country, I'm pretty sure it did indeed have religious implications, however the baker in me also says it had a lot to do with the chemistry of baking, distribution of heat.

When Irish people refer to brown bread , we are indeed making reference to traditional Irish soda bread.

The ingredients and the method are quite simple really. This brown bread is served with soups and salmon, sliced and slathered with Irish butter and home made jams and marmalades. The crumbs from this bread are used to make the delicious brown bread ice cream, a recipe I will share at a later date.

The bread made with white flour and fruits is more commonly known as 'speckled dog' and is more of a tea bread or a cake. This too is a delicious treat. Many fami-

lies have their own recipes handed down to them from generation to generation. The most important thing is the love associated with them and the sheer pleasure from eating them.



2 tablespoons wheat germ
3 teaspoons rolled oats
2 cups of buttermilk
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sugar
2 tablespoons canola/sunflower oil
Preheat oven to 375 degrees
You can use a floured pizza stone or lightly grease a 11lb loaf pan.

In a large bowl, put in all the dry ingredients.

Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the buttermilk mixture. Add the oil. Now mix well and you may add more buttermilk if you wish. It should not be too dry.

You can either add to your loaf pan or make a round on a pizza stone/baking sheet.

If you make a round, using the 'TIP of a SHARP knife' make a cross in the bread

Sprinkle with some more oats if you wish for a rustic look. Then bake 45 minutes.

When you tap the bread, it should sound hollow. Cool on a wire tray.

www.RachelGaffney.blogspot.com
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/RACHEL-GAFFNEYS-REAL-IRELAND/112638525439124>

You can catch this video of Rachel doing her thing at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnNZS_UGMUA

RACHEL GAFFNEY'S MUM'S IRISH SODA BREAD
3 1/3 cups whole wheat flour
1/2 cup all purpose flour

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Punch #181

EXPERIENCED:
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Cornell University Law School, J.D., 1984
Loyola University Chicago, B.B.A., summa cum laude, 1981
Good Counsel High School, Chicago, 1977

Grew up in Chicago's Albany Park. Married, mother of two.
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The Celtic Traveller

By Maureen Callahan



Get a Feel for the Iditarod

By Maureen Callahan

Some say it's the last great race on Earth. Every March, teams of 12-16 dogs, directed by their mushers, bravely navigate Alaska's desolate tundra of frozen rivers, thick forests, and jagged mountain ranges to compete in the Iditarod. The race, run on a trail of the same name, lasts between 9 and 15 days. Due to the season, competitors face well below zero temperatures, high winds and near darkness. Kicking off in south central Anchorage, the Iditarod ends on the Bering Sea coast in Nome, spanning 1150 miles of frigid landscape.

Typically, it takes between 9 and 15 days to finish, depending on the type of competitor. Generally, there are

landscape each year?

They, along with the thousands of volunteer veterinarians, coordinators, cooks, etc., who act as the support staff to participants, are honoring a time honored tradition in the spirit of the memory of the Alaskan past, and those who attempted to tame this still-wild frontier. Although this will be the thirty-ninth year the race is run, the Iditarod Trail became Alaska's main thoroughfare, following a 1920's gold rush. Settlers could travel by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik, using this trail once on land, to access the gold fields. It soon became Alaska's main thoroughfare. Mail and supplies were carried via dogsled, which also transported priests, judges and others



two types – those in it for the thrill of competition- and those in it to win it. Casual participants – if there are such things in this race – are the ones who take two weeks to pull into Nome. This is the group who have stopped each night along the way and taken advantage of the hospitality offered to competitors. Most likely, they have eaten a prepared meal each night and slept a few hours in an inn or community center in one of the small villages along the way. The winner – the one with his or her eye on the \$50,000 purse-has probably only slept two or three hours a night somewhere camped out along the trail, eating vacuum dried meals most night for the two weeks previous.

What drives these people - the hundreds of participants from all walks of life – attorneys, fishermen, artists, physicians, etc., from many different countries who gather on this frozen

between villages.

By the 1960, snowmobiles had taken over the use of dogsleds as transport, and many Alaskans were unaware the trail even existed. The idea to organize a race on dogsleds while celebrating Alaska's earliest transportation route was born.

Fortunately, you don't have to trek all the way to Alaska to get an inkling of the thrill of this race. An unseasonably light snowfall during the annual week in Steamboat this January inspired our group to search for ski-less activities. Iditarod competitors Tom and Tami Thurston, owners of Double T Kennel near Steamboat Springs, CO, conduct half-day dogsledding tours. After booking a half-day tour, Tami picked us up at our ski condo early one Saturday morning in January. Offered the choice to either ride along on the sled in a guided tour of Stagecoach Reservoir

State Park, or mush-command the Alaskan husky teams ourselves along the trails of Routt National Forest, our group chose the latter.

We rode out to the trail head, our starting point. Karolina and Jarla, our two native Scandinavian assistants were unloading the huskies from their transport kennels and matching them up according to strength and size to build the teams of 8-10 dogs. We were put in groups of two to three people and packed onto the sleds-two riding in the front tucked under blankets and one mushing.

The desolate white backdrop of the snow-covered Rockies offered the shadow of a glimpse into Jack London's world as we rode through clusters of Lodgepole Pines, the sun reassuringly poking some warmth through the otherwise below-freezing temperatures every so often.

We clipped along at a decent speed, loose fresh powder brushing onto the sled from the trail. It's amazing how the team knows exactly what to do with little direction from the trainers. Now experiencing it for myself, I can understand how this used to be the main method of Alaskan transportation. It's easy tell which of the dogs on our team had Iditarod experience. Each time the musher stopped the sled if a tangle in the rope occurred, the dogs with previous competition experience would lie down right away. Carolina explained to us that during the race, dogs learn that rest time is at a premium, so if the team stops, even if it is only for 10 seconds, the dogs will lie down immediately to garner any possible rest. They are on their feet as soon as the team is ready.

Stopping isn't easy. These dogs like to move! The musher, who has been standing on two slats the width of the sled apart, while the sled is in motion, must step one foot onto the metal brake in between the slats and bear all of her weight down on it. It can be a struggle to stop the team, and it sometimes takes the assistance of a metal claw attached to the sled then driven into the snow-similar to the function of the anchor of a ship- while the team is idle, to keep them in place.

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The writer gratefully tips her hat in acknowledgement of retired Montini Catholic High School English teacher, Joan Considine, in recognition of her 30-plus year career. Her curriculum selections of Jack London and other noted American authors continue to inspire her former students.

Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and outdoor adventurer. missmaurencallahan@gmail.com

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The Irish Rovers Release New CD

Recently, The Irish Rovers' recording of Drunken Sailor reached a younger audience, generating over 6 million hits on various YouTube sites. This has led to the release of DRUNKEN SAILOR, the album.

This year's release is in response to mammoth attention on the web to their, Drunken Sailor recording. The album is full of new tales from the sea, arrrrgg, including a tribute to the great ship, TITANIC on it's 100th anniversary.

Their song, Drunken Sailor has gained so much attention, that Las Vegas created a new "Drunken Sailor" slot machine.

There aren't many groups in Canada that can match the legacy of The Irish Rovers. TV stars, huge concerts draws, and three major memorable hits. Plus, you have the longevity. This is the group's 45th year together. And their popularity continues. They are on a na-

tional tour, have a brand new CD, and a TV special filmed in Ireland coming up. - Bob Mersereau, CBC 2011

The sinking of the RMS Titanic is one of the largest peacetime maritime tragedies in history. Original Rover, George Millar shares his birthday of April 14, with the date the ship met its icy end on her maiden voyage a century ago. The legend of this mighty ship has both haunted and intrigued George all these years. For this landmark album, George wrote a tribute to the legend of The Titanic, in song. When listening to the single, we get a feeling of descending the ocean depths to meet the great ship at her resting place, then she quickly sweeps us away on a journey to her glory days, charging across the high seas. "Being from Northern Ireland and born on April 14th, the legend of the Titanic has been with me all my life. It took the labour of fifteen thousand Irishmen to build

her - she was the pride of Belfast," says George Millar of The Irish Rovers.

Like the famous Bushmills Irish Whiskey, The Irish Rovers continue to improve with age. Gaelic Hour, CHIN 97.9, 2011

This year the band celebrates 46 years as recording artists. To mark this achievement, The Irish Rovers are back on the small screen with a national television special "Home In Ireland", which was filmed entirely on-location in Northern Ireland. It was broadcast November through January. Watch for it on your local PBS network across Canada and the US again in March.

The single, W h o r e s And Hounds brings back the rough and tumble feel of a town brimming with pubs and roving sailors. What goes through a sailor's mind as he heads to a new port? The Rovers tell you in this drinking song for the new millennium. After 3 or 4 weeks at sea, a bit of recreation was required and nature walks or church going, while noble and uplifting, were not necessarily part of it.

Twenty years ago, The Irish Rovers had a massive #1 hit with Wasn't That A Party. The lads were the real authorities on the subject, literally - the song was written about them by their friend Tom Paxton after he took part in one of their post-show parties.

Now twenty years later, W h o r e s and Hounds continues the tradition, but in their true Celtic style. The album contains both traditional songs and original numbers written by George Millar telling tales of the sea, me matie.

"Throughout the years, these international ambassadors of Irish music have maintained their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performances with their songs becoming anthems of revelry and joy among generation after generation of fans." Belfast Telegraph, 2010

Drunken Sailor, the title track is The Irish Rovers traditional ending song at

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Barleymow, Across The Western Sea, Dear Ould Ireland, Cruising 'Round Yarmouth, Pleasant and Delightful, All For Me Grog, Trust In Drink and The Dublin Pub Crawl.

Production duties were handled by George Mil- lar for Rover Records. The CD was recorded at Rick Salt's Lois Lane Studios, Nanaimo, BC Canada & Wilcil McDowell Studio, N. Ireland.

The band will be supporting the release of this album with a tour of the Eastern US beginning February 26th in Naples Florida. See full concert schedule on their website <http://theirishroversmusic.com/page/ontour/#contenttop>

their concerts. Their liner notes read: As Eugene Field once told his captain, "He is not drunk who from the floor can rise again and drink some more but he is drunk who prostrates lies and cannot

drink and cannot rise."

As well as the title track and two singles, this up-tempo album includes Sweet Anne, The Jolly Roving Tar, The Good Ship Rover, Good Luck To The



Thanks to Jim Thornton, Caitlin Cavannaugh, Tony Janacek, and David James for playing and singing at the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest.

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QVC St. Patrick's Day Offering

According to the census, more than 11 percent of the U.S. population claims Irish heritage. Of course, as the saying goes, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! To help viewers "go green" this St. Patrick's Day, QVC® will, once again, host its Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration, which is scheduled to kick off at 1 AM (ET) on March 17.

As one of the largest U.S. retailers for Irish goods, QVC will offer distinctive Irish products from Ireland-based artisans and craftsmen through 11 hours of dedicated programming. The Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration not only provides consumers with a chance to shop, but an opportunity to celebrate the holiday with a closer look at the people and traditions of Ireland.

Many of the products featured during QVC's special St. Patrick's Day broadcast were created especially for the multimedia retailer. In addition to Aran Crafts, QVC is offering a wide variety of Irish products from Kilonan, Connemara Marble, Belleek Pottery and Fragrances of Ireland. Killarney Crystal, JMH Jewellery and Solvar will offer an extensive range of Irish and contemporary jewelry. These products and more will be available through QVC throughout the day as well as online at QVC.com. Additionally, world-renowned singing groups Celtic Thunder and Celtic Woman are scheduled to perform during the broadcast.

The entire collection of Irish goods included in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be available beginning at 1 AM (ET) on March 17 through QVC, QVC.com or 800.345.1515, while supplies last.

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Downtown Naperville
Saturday, March 17th: 10:00 a.m. sharp.

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www.wsirish.org

"Balson Bangers" Hit Major U.S. Markets through St. Patrick's Day

Since 2007, R.J. Balson & Son, "Europe's Oldest Butchers" has made their award winning English/Irish specialty meats available to U.S. markets through their online store (www.buybangers.com) and various specialty shops across the country.

In just a few years, the Balsos are one step closer to achieving their goal of making quality English and Irish meats accessible in the U.S. Until St. Patrick's Day R.J. Balson's award-winning "Traditional Banger" will be available at the majority of COSTCO Warehouse locations.

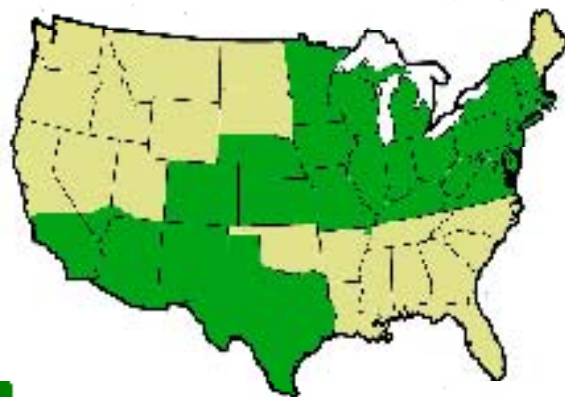
Oliver Balson, President of R.J. Balson & Son USA, said, "We are absolutely thrilled with the COSTCO placements. We've

been working long and hard to bring this product into mainstream shops. This presents a huge opportunity to show the major retail market that there is, indeed, a demand for authentic English and Irish items like bangers and back bacon. We are humbled and grateful for the support we have received from the Ex-Pat community, and while we do not set the final retail price, we do know it will be an incredible bargain."

The majority of COSTCO Warehouse locations are now offering R.J. Balson's Traditional Bangers, while supplies last through St. Patrick's Day.

The item will be sold in a 2 lb. pack and can be frozen for up to 6 months. The following COSTCO Club Regions are now stocking Balson Bangers: all San Diego and L.A. area locations (up to Bakersfield), Las Vegas, AZ, CO, NM, TX, VA, PA, NJ, DE, MD, NY, RI, CT, MA, VT and NH, KS, NT, MO, IA, WI, MI, MN, IL, IN, OH, and KY). The Balson family would personally like to thank you for your support in bringing British and Irish specialty meats to the U.S.A.!

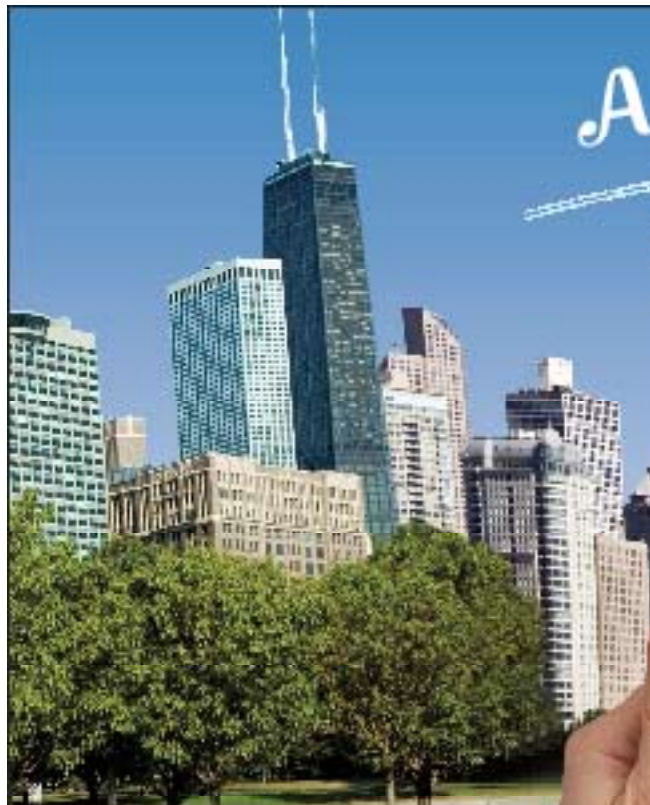
The map below highlights in green the COSTCO Club locations stocking Balsons Bangers.



 = COSTCO Warehouses stocking Balson Bangers



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Trinity College Dublin is Ireland’s oldest, most prestigious, and consistently top-ranked university. Rising to prominence in recent decades as a research hub of international consequence, the College remains grounded in the traditions and values of an ancient scholarly community.

Trinity College Dublin

- was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I, and is Ireland's oldest and most prestigious university
- is situated in an historic campus at the heart of Dublin, the capital city of Ireland
- 17,000 students from 122 countries, with 40% of its staff from outside of Ireland
- boasts a library collection of 4.25 million books and electronic access to 30,000 journals
- is recognized as an international centre for research
 - is a world leader in Nanotechnology, Information Technology, Immunology, Mathematics, Psychology, Philosophy, Politics, English and other disciplines
 - has an outstanding sports complex and a dynamic community of clubs and societies

Studying in Ireland

Ireland has been renowned as a place of learning and creativity for hundreds of years. Today, their education system is one of the best in the world, and their higher education institutions are internationally recognised as centres of excellence. The English-speaking, well-educated and young population has drawn global companies like Google, Facebook, Intel and Hewlett Packard, who now collaborate in our research and

employ our innovative, high-quality graduates. Our universities are the driving force behind our technologically-oriented economy, in which new science and traditional scholarship thrive hand-in-hand.

Some quick facts about Ireland: described as the friendliest country in the world by Lonely Planet 2010 rated as the favourite holiday destination in the world by Frommers Guide 2011 rated as one of the safest countries in the world in the Global Peace Index rated as one of the top ten places in the world to do business by the World Bank www.educationireland.ie

Dublin City

- is a medieval city with famous Georgian architecture and grand wooded parks
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- is an official UNESCO City of Literature
- hosts festivals for music, theatre, writing, film and food throughout the year
- enjoys the hugely successful “Dublin Bikes” bicycle hire scheme across the city and suburbs
- is connected by bus and rail to the beautiful Irish coasts and unspoilt countryside www.visitdublin.com

Student Life at Trinity

Trinity's extra-curricular life is in a league of its own - boasting 200 societies, sports

clubs and publications – including some of the oldest in the world. Their grand traditions, creative endeavours and intimate sense of community are integral to our student experience. For a full list of Trinity’s societies, see: www.trinitysocieties.ie



Marielle (r) and friend on the Irish coast.

Trinity has a further 60 sports clubs, open to all students, with teams competing in intervarsity competitions and offering training and instruction at all levels. Using the exceptional on-campus Sports Centre, of which all students are automatically members, as well as the campus playing fields and courts, there are countless options in fitness and sporting challenges. www.ducac.tcdlife.ie www.tcd.ie/sport

Irish American News interviewed two students who are currently attending Trinity College. Here is what they had to say.

Marielle Rocca has been in Ireland just over 2 years.

IAN: Before school, had you ever been to Ireland before?

MR: No, the first time I came to Ireland was to study abroad. It was my time studying abroad that made me decide to transfer here. I previously studied international business at Villanova University. My second semester there I decided to study abroad at Griffith College in Dublin. During my time at Griffith I fell in love with Dublin and Ireland in general, and decided I wanted to do my full degree here. I applied to Trinity College Dublin while I was studying abroad and when I was accepted I decided to transfer. Because of the difficulty of transferring classes between the two schools I had to start over as a first year student and am currently majoring in business and economics. By the time I finish my studies I will have been here for four and a half years,

IAN: What made you aware of the opportunity to go to school in Ireland?

MR: When I was initially looking for places to study abroad I just typed study abroad programs into google and looked at all the options that came up. I decided I wanted to study in an English speaking country in Europe so that then limited my options to Ireland and the UK. I was actually leaning towards the UK but when I was

talking to family and friends about my two options I was overwhelmingly told that I should go to Ireland because the people are more welcoming and friendly. My dad has distant ancestors in Ireland, had been here before, and he loved it. When I looked up testimonials of people who had studied abroad in Ireland they were all stories saying how much they loved it. I decided to follow everyone's advice since I hadn't been to either country before and chose Ireland. When I was applying to college I never considered attending university outside of the U.S. for my full degree. I'm so lucky that I got the chance to study abroad in my freshman year of college because if I had been any further into my studies I wouldn't have been able to transfer as I would have already done too much at home to start over. I think students in the US aren't told enough about the possibilities of getting your degree from a foreign university. We're all pushed to apply to schools in the US, knowing that we'll study abroad for a semester and that's it. Talking to a lot of my friends after they studied abroad in their third year of college, a lot of them wish they had considered college in Europe or elsewhere as they felt that the semester program left them wanting more. I get to live in a new country, gain independence, make friends from all around the world, and become fully immersed in Irish culture. I think that in today's world, where economies are becoming more interconnected and globalization is making the distance between countries smaller, employers will see it as a benefit that someone has successfully completed their degree in a foreign country. It shows that the person can adapt well and get along with people from different backgrounds. I believe that this is an asset for multinational corporations who may need their employees to travel often or interact with people from all different cultures around the world.

Trinity College makes it easy for international students. To begin with, the application process is clear and easy. In fact, applying for Trinity was more straightforward than applying for the majority of colleges in the United States. When you are accepted, you receive an orientation packet with everything you need to know about both Dublin and Trinity. In addition they have a section of their website devoted entirely to international students and questions or concerns they may have before arrival.

Before I came to Trinity, I wanted to hear from a student who also went over from the US to see what she thought of it and if she had any advice for me. When I contacted the international office at Trinity they were more than happy to give me the contact information of another student who also was from California. Upon arrival, the international office also set up group trips to register with the gardai and get student visas. This can be a pretty daunting process when you first arrive so to have them there to double check that you had everything you need was really helpful. Even this year, when they changed the rules for medical insurance to get a visa, the international office was able to point me in the right direction of an insurance company that does student insurance for Trinity students. The careers advisory service also hosts special events for international students looking to get a job in Ireland. It's all the small things

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like that where the international office at Trinity can make your life much easier as an international student.

IAN: What's it like being in Ireland for such an extended period?

MR: Being in Ireland for four years is definitely different than being here for a couple of weeks or even for the initial semester I was studying abroad. You start to do less of the tourist things every day and really become like one of the locals. When you're somewhere for a short period of time, you eat out a lot, visit tourist attractions at least once or twice a week, and tend to spend time with other Americans or people you're traveling with. Now, the majority of my friends are Irish or people from other parts of the EU. I live in a townhouse in a residential neighbourhood in Dublin, cook my food at home and live just like someone who was from Ireland, not like a tourist. I think living in rather than visiting a country gives you a truer impression of what the people and culture are like. IWhen I go back home to California, I find myself calling Ireland "home" which I think really shows how comfortable you start to feel when you've been here for so long.

IAN: Is there a difference in student etiquette compared to the USA?

MR: I don't think students behave much differently here than in the US. There are definitely differences in campus life, with colleges in the States being much more focused on campus activities because the majority of students tend to actually live on a large, central campus. At Trinity I think this is different because with a campus in the city centre of Dublin, there is no way that students from all four years would be able to live on campus. The way to get involved here is to join various societies and clubs whereas at home a lot of students join sororities or fraternities to get involved and meet people. I think students in both countries are the same though, in that both want to have fun and make friends while getting a high quality education.

IAN: Do you take advantage of traveling to the rest of Europe in your spare time?

MR: Being able to travel to the rest of Europe is one of the best things about studying in Ireland in my opinion. Coming from California, it would be impossible to go on a three day trip to somewhere like Paris, given how long the flights are. From Ireland, flights to most places in Europe are under three hours and under 100 euros. You can even get round-trip flights from companies like Ryanair for as little as 30 euros if you travel at off peak times. This means that if you have a three day weekend, a trip to Rome or Barcelona is the perfect way to spend your time and it can fit into your student budget. I have been able to travel to amazing places like London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Berlin, and many others. I think that anyone studying in Europe should take advantage of how easy it is to see so many other cultures. It adds a new dimension to the things you learned about in history class, or to the places you see in movies to actually go to the famous sites and see them for yourself.

IAN: What did you find to be the easiest in your transition to a new country? The hardest?

MR: I found the whole transition to life in Ireland to be pretty easy. I think this is probably

because I had already lived in France for six months so I had gone through the hard part of being so far from home for the first time during that experience. My parents raised me to be very independent and that is something that has helped my with travelling and living so far from home. One of the most important things to transitioning to life abroad is to throw yourself into your new life and make new friends. If you're busy doing things and spending time with other people, you won't even realize how far from home you are or that you miss your family and friends. In addition, I think limiting phone calls with your parents to once or twice a week can be very helpful in allowing you to transition to



Marielle (C) with friends on the Trinity College campus.

your new life abroad. By really putting yourself out there, joining societies, and spending time with your roommates or other people you meet, I think that most people could adjust easily to life in Ireland as the people here are so warm and welcoming they try to make you feel as if you're at home from the beginning.

IAN: What advice would you offer students in North America about going to school in Ireland?

MR: I would 100% recommend Ireland to any students from North America. It is an amazing country and the people here are so friendly. I would say that students should be prepared to be outgoing and put themselves out there to make new friends. If you're coming as a first year, you're in the same situation as everyone else. You're all there hoping you meet people you get along with so don't expect someone else to make the effort to meet you because they're probably just as nervous as you. Getting involved in societies through college, sports clubs or whatever else interests you will help you to meet new people who share your interests. Be prepared that not everyone will think the same way you do, but honestly, that's a good thing because it would be boring if they did. You might have to change some of the things you do because you're in their country, so be prepared to adapt for them as it's not their job to adapt to you. Going to Ireland will open your eyes to a new culture and lifestyle. As long as you don't expect it to be just like

America and you put yourself out there to make new friends, you can fall in love with Ireland just like I have.

Another student, Josh Newman, 20, who also works at Trinity College, tells what school in Ireland has been like for him.

IAN: How long have you been here.

JN: I've been here for one and a half years. I did a year of university in the US in North Carolina. I didn't really like that. it wasn't for me. it's funny how I chose Trinity. I was seeing a college counselor. I said I was thinking of coming back to Europe for university because I have family there. So he gave me a list of options, including some in America as well. One was trinity col-

ics and sociology. I'm mainly economics. I have about 19-21 hours a week of class. The amount I study kind of varies. I recently just finished the foundation scholarship exams here. Then I was studying about 8 hours a day for a few months. But, that was quite the exception. I typically have my 19 hours of class a week. then I will have to do between 1-4 hours a night of work or study time to stay on top. I think that is pretty reasonable. The thing I like about Trinity is that it is not so much hand holding, which I find is a problem with the universities in the US. You are on your own to figure out what you need to do and what not. Like, I know I don't need to go to a math lecture that I have gone too before,

Continued from previous page

which is great because that gives me a lot of time to do what I want. Outside college, I volunteer with an ambulance unit in Dublin. I also play guitar as well as getting into the traditional music over here.

IAN: What's it like being in Dublin?

JN: It's a pretty stellar location. All you could really ask for. Its quite impressive to go from the noise of the city to the barely noticeable quiet of the college itself. It's almost two different worlds. Which is great because it gives you tons of opportunities. Where I was in the states was a very isolated, and rural area. The nearest city was an hour and a half away. It's a stark contrast to what I was used to.

IAN: Do you hop over to Europe in your spare time?

JN: Yes, I do a fair bit. For instance, there are 28 of us doing our degree, and we plan one or two trips a year. Last year we went to Edinburgh and Berlin this year. It's very cheap so its easy to do.

IAN: Has your first term here differed from your first term in North Carolina?

JN: The main difference is that you are picking your choice of study here. Whereas in the states in most institutions you have two years to figure out your course of study before you have to be pegged in. That has its advantages and disadvantages. I spent a lot of time in the states taking classes which did not have much of an interest to me so I did not do very well in them. Here, you pick your degree and those first two years are foundation years. You would take on a varied class load within that foundation. Then it would be more specific after that. You also have time to do other things outside college. Last year I did the usual figure yourself out college thing. I did the debating society thing. Here there was the historical society, the largest in the world, where they had weekly debates. They have great speakers at Trinity. Some of the speakers recently have been Gorbachov, President Clinton, Courtney Love, and Dominic West.

IAN: What would you recommend to students in the U.S?

JN: I definitely recommend they come. It's a different experience. With tuition continuously rising in the States it's a very good alternative to consider. I have quite a few friends now studying at various institutions, here and in Europe. Whoever comes over to do their year abroad or half term abroad seems to have some desire to do something with it and are filled with regret that they could not stay longer!



Josh Newman

IAN: Do you ever go home?

JN: I typically just go home for Christmas. but I have family in England.

IAN: What classes are you taking?

IAN: I'm taking philosophy, politics, econom-

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



mentations, I am convinced that all of us could improve our current employment situation by reviewing these same 10 suggestions as though we were new employees.

Do You Know How To Start Your New Job?

Many of my past columns dealt with the job search process. Obviously a lot of people start new jobs virtually every day of the year. This column focuses on what that new employee should do in order to succeed in the new environment.

Some time ago, a former colleague and accomplished outplacement consultant, Fred Gittinger, shared with me his thoughts on what a person should do when s/he starts a new job. Fred developed a list of ten things that he felt a new employee should do to facilitate and enhance their assimilation into a new corporate environment. As I reviewed Fred's recom-

1.) Meet with your new boss for purposes of defining what your role is in the organization and what goals are important to your boss. Too often, new hires want to please the boss without really knowing what s/he wants them to accomplish.

2.) After meeting with the boss, write a memo of your understanding of the focus points for your first three to six months. Provide a copy of the memo to your boss; ask for a three to six months review to seek any additional clarification that may be needed.

3.) Do a complete assessment of your strengths and weaknesses as you start your new job. It will help you understand what help you might need to fulfill the expectations of your boss.

Write down the reasons why you were hired; keep them in the front of your mind. Remember to focus on those reasons with your colleagues so you don't get trapped into fulfilling their agenda rather than your own.

4.) Develop a self improvement plan. As you take stock of your strengths and weaknesses, you will most likely decide that there are things whether skills, style or behaviors, that need to be modified or totally changed. Let your boss know that you are vitally interested in constructive criticism. Many bosses are uncomfortable criticizing people directly and honestly, so make it easy for them. Once you have completed this self improvement plan,

determine if there are some people who could help you by mentoring you as you strive to implement this plan.

5.) Solicit feedback. How can you improve if no one tells you when you are doing something wrong? Make it clear not only to your boss but to others you respect, you would welcome their feedback on your performance. Many surveys say that the lack of feedback is one of the biggest complaints that people have.

6.) Meet as many people in the organization as possible in your first month. It will help you to feel more thoroughly connected than if you only met a person or two. Meeting more people, from different parts of the business, will also help to expand your understanding of the total company. It could open some doors for you in the future. Keep your mouth shut about the "great" company you just left; remember, you are trying to assess this culture, not educate them on your former culture.

7.) Keep track of your accomplishments. Start a CAREER file. Every time you succeed in a major project put a note in your file. Every time you receive a written compliment or endorsement of your latest achievement, drop a copy into your file. Believe me; we all forget our accomplishments as the years go by. After a while, some of your earlier achievements will lose their glow; but they can still be helpful when you are explaining your background to someone else in the organization. And, of course, even a genuine accomplishment can become lost in an organization. Why? Perhaps because the individuals that were involved have all moved on, been promoted or transferred, quit or been terminated.

8.) Be thoroughly prepared for your performance review. If need be, insist on a review. A lot of managers don't like to discuss a person's

background in detail. Perhaps they don't really feel that they have command of the details. Develop your own written agenda for the meeting. Be prepared to defend your records and/or refute items when you believe your superior's information is incorrect. But do it with style; do not get belligerent or unpleasant; this person will still be your boss tomorrow.

9.) Ask what it will take to be promoted to the next level of responsibility. Are there one or two suggestions that your superior has for you? There are always a few. I am not sure the specific criticism is as important as is your willingness to admit that possibly you have some weaknesses or areas needing improvement.

10.) Develop a long range plan for your growth in the organization. It should include steps that are specific and measurable. NOT "Improve sales in my territory a lot over the next five years." RATHER "Improve sales in my territory by 12% per year for each of the next five years"

If you follow these 10 guidelines you are likely to be more successful with your new employer. Even if you have been with your "new" employer several years, revisiting these suggestions would not be a waste of your time. Frankly, they could possibly help you to reenergize your career.

It's still early in the New Year, why not try them? They are designed to help your career, not hurt your career.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. Carpe Diem.

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

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



by using structure, not recent performance, to drive investment decisions. Periodic rebalancing also encourages dispassionate decision making—an essential quality during times of

Rebalancing

Diversification gives investors a valuable tool for managing risk and volatility in a portfolio. But smart diversification has an important side effect. It requires maintenance.

Asset classes do not move in harmony with one another. This is inevitable and in fact it's actually a desirable situation. A portfolio that holds assets that do not perform similarly will experience less overall volatility. That results in a smoother ride over time. However, dissimilar performance also changes your asset allocation. As some assets appreciate in value and others lose value, your portfolio's allocation changes, which affects its risk and return qualities. If you let the allocation drift far enough away from your original target, you end up with a different portfolio not suitable for your goals.

Once you find the proper asset allocation to match your current investment goals and risk tolerance, you should preserve that allocation until either your goals or risk tolerance changes. This is especially true since studies have shown asset allocation accounts for most of a portfolio's return. This is a fundamental part of investing. To efficiently pursue investment goals, you must manage your asset allocation.

Rebalancing is the solution. To rebalance, you sell assets that have risen in value and buy more assets that have dropped in value. The purpose of rebalancing is to move a portfolio back to its original target allocation. This restores the proper structure in the portfolio and puts you back on track to pursue your long-term goals.

Rebalancing can be a hard thing for investors to do. Many investors ask themselves "why sell a portion of outperforming asset groups and acquire a larger share of underperforming ones?" Instinct might suggest that selling winners may deter returns in the future. This is where discipline comes in and the golden rule of investing of buy low – sell high. The most important part of rebalancing is that your original asset allocation reflects your personal risk and return preferences. Rebalancing realigns your portfolio to these priorities

market volatility. Moreover, if and when your overall financial goals or risk tolerance change, you have a foundation for making adjustments. In the absence of a plan, adjustments are a matter of speculation.

With a properly diversified portfolio, allocations are usually complex, incorporating not only fixed income and equity, but also the multiple asset groups within equity and fixed income investing. The more complex a portfolio's allocation, the greater is the need for maintenance. Determining when and how to effectively rebalance requires careful monitoring of performance and awareness of your tax status, cash flow, financial goals, and risk tolerance. Rebalancing also incurs transaction fees and potential capital gains in taxable accounts. Thus, while there are good reasons to rebalance, the benefits must outweigh the costs. Given these challenges, a practical rebalancing approach will establish triggering points while leaving enough flexibility to manage costs effectively.

Defining triggering points helps investors decide when to rebalance. Most experts recommend rebalancing when asset group weightings move outside a specified range of their target allocations. This may be widely defined according to a portfolio's stock-bond mix.

Unfortunately, no one can predict where the stock market will go. In an uncertain world, investors should have a well-defined, globally diversified strategy. You should manage your portfolio to maintain your personal risk and return characteristics over time. Rebalancing is a crucial tool in this effort.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



The Clare Foundation – True Charity

True Charity, or Love, cannot be legislated. Today, Catholics and most Christians are gulled toward a tendency to shrink from any analysis of how we live our lives, because it conflicts with the modern trend to allow government policy and politics to wash our motives. Some might whine, "Why take care of grandmother? That is the government's job." Or others harrumph, "People are starving! Ship some relief. Let's not tax ourselves with such issues, Oprah is on."

Charity can often be mistaken for public relations. Carnegie, Rockefeller, Ford, Hearst, DuPont and other 19th & 20th Century corporate buccaneers built tombs of endowments that any pharaoh would envy – Libraries, Universities, Government Policy Centers, Public Television. True charity or love can not be purchased, aside

from the more sordid exchange of goods and services, of course.

Ubi Caritas. Where Charity and Love Prevail, there God is ever found. Charity is, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia the third Divine Virtue.

The first two Virtues are Chastity and Temperance, the consideration of which makes me feel like I'm wearing spun fiber-glass long-johns. We'll stick to Charity.

Cherish God above all things – everything. That is heavy lifting there but logical. If I cherish God above all things for His sake, I will cherish man (family, friends, and neighbors) for the sake of God.

Catholic scholars have broken down charity by its components – its origin, its seat, its

specific act, its motive and its range. The origin of charity said to be the Holy Spirit – something 'poured forth from God' and part of our evolutionary development like an appendix.

Its seat is not found in our emotions as we might think it to be, but in our ability to reason. We know why the starving blind little match girl shivering in the snow, or Ron Paul moves us to pity. Emotions do not spark charity or love any more than an episode of Jersey Shore compels us to Represent. Our reason tells us that it is better to not be a starving, shivering blind match girl.

Charity's specific act is the reciprocal benevolence or friendship. I remember the first meeting of my daughter Clare and her BFFL Bridge Cullen in St. Cajetan Pre-school. Bridget saw Clare's Barbie lunch box – "You like Barbie? I like Barbie! We're Friends!" The female Damon and Pythias mutually joined hands that remain locked though the Barbie lunch buckets are long gone. They share everything.

The motive of charity is tricky but easily understood. It is a paradox. You give not to get and always get more; though disappointments, pain, and loss accompany each act toward a greater good for its own sake. Weird.

The full range of charity, the old Alpha and Omega stuff of Tommy Aquinas, is God and Man. God primarily and man secondarily, though fully determined and ended in the same spot. One acts with charity not because of what another man, or woman (though that is always sound policy to do exactly as she ordains) order, legislate or command, but because the origin, the grace infused in all men by the Holy Spirit, compels us to recognize and act accordingly.

If you are still with me you are most charitable, but I can imagine few silent screams begging within those human hearts and heads, "Jesus Christ! Get on with it you stammering pedant!" Or more colorful words to that effect.

Charity is what we are all about whether it is stuffing a few singles in the Salvation Army buckets in front of Dominick's, shoveling the drive way of an older couple down the block, not immediately calling someone a fat-assed loser, or writing substantial checks over and above tuition and the Sunday drop to St. Barnabas, Mount Carmel, or giving regularly to the Special Olympics. Charity is the guy everyone on the block thinks is a bust-out, but coaches 5th & 6th Grade football at St. Bede's. Charity is the couples who take in the kids of family that is having a very tough time for a few weeks, months, or years and raising them as their own. Charity is dropping by Little Company of Mary to see if old Mrs. Coogan could use something to read. Charity is every weekend at Bourbon Street, Gaelic Park, Jack Desmond's and Cork & Kerry.

Charity is every check in every amount that comes into Leo. I get substantial checks from family foundations – two are named for places Ireland. One is a rock. The Cashel Foundation of the Higgins-Cooney family from the north side of Chicago and Cape Cod MA has been helping Leo High School since 1995. The other named for the home County of Ireland's greatest geological phenomenon, County Clare, reflects the layers of rock that is Burren - layer upon

layer of sedimentary bedrock producing magnificent flowers and wild landscapes. Beautiful to behold, if you are not starving to death.

The Clare Foundation reflects upon the family bourn from that beautiful and desolate landscape, like all of the immigrants we be, by hope for a better life. As Granny Hickey told us when we asked why she would leave such a beautiful place as Kerry, "You can't eat scenery."

Very few people came, or still come to America, with pockets full of loot, much less a full belly. They have had enough of doing without and found themselves in the same boat as others. Jews starve as well as any Mayo culchie and any Pueblano or Chilangro can be as lonely arriving at O'Hare as any simpaticoCorkwegian; I heard one say, Them Black fellas had a worse crossing than Annie Moore, because your lass lacked a stout set of chains on her. Here we are and what do we do now? We, all of us, seem to have a made better lives here in the Nifty Fifty. We had help. The Clare Foundation is a reflection of true charity.

The Enrights and Davorens came from the Kilkee/Kilrush area in the West County Clare region above the Shannon Estuary and just south of the Cliffs of Moher. Like Island Kerry, the place is beautiful with enough to eat. Kenneth Enright was south sider and then some. Kenneth attended no less than five Catholic high schools justifying the saw – "merry hearted boys make the best of old men." Ken Enright must have been a delight to host in classroom stuffed with like minded miscreants. Mr. Enright briefly attended Leo High School, in age when corporal punishment was king.

The Enrights, and most of us southern urbanites, jumped from parish to parish – St. Gabe's to John of God to St. Leo to Sabina to Christ the King or St. Barnabas – and settled in the Beverly/Morgan Park area. Ken Enright operated a billboard advertising company. Mr. Enright and his family were blessed by God and hard, steady work.

In 1985, Ken Enright established a private grant making family foundation with its stated mission – To Enable Those Without Means to Have an Opportunity. The Clare Foundation is rooted in this remembrance. For many years, the Clare Foundation has provided grants for financial assistance based upon need alone to Leo High School. The very school that Ken Enright briefly attended. Young gents do not need to worry about meeting the costs of an education, because Ken Enright enabled a chance.

This is true charity. The Enrights do not personally know Hakim, James, Lewis, or Tobias. In fact all four eat lunch where the Enright Family once attended mass in the over-flow Chapel of St. Leo – now our cafeteria. The chandelier that hung over the altar is now the center piece of this big noisy room and the stained glass windows still honor Our Lady. Beneath that ornate antique light fixture and within the stained glass, the young men that Kenneth Enright thought of, long before their births and his return to Christ in 2002.

The Enrights, The Clare Foundation and so many other like minded people initiated this fiery community activism and did not need to curry up legislation. Charity can not be legislated. Charity is lived.

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Mick Mike Morley



Belial In Belfast

August 9, 1971 was a warm Summer day. About 8:30 AM over 600 British Army Paratroops descended on Ballymurphy with orders from the highest levels of the British government. Operation Demetrius had begun: armed sweeps through Catholic neighborhoods, smashing through doors and dragging men off, without charge or trial, to internment camps. It was opening day of Britain's plan to strangle Irish Catholic dissent and a growing civil rights campaign against the Protestant state. Special Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had provided the British Army 450 names, but many arrested had no IRA connections. Others were prominent in the Civil Rights Association. No Protestants were lifted.

The Ballymurphy area of West Belfast is a square-mile cluster of housing estates, with Ballymurphy Estate at its heart. Local priest Father Hugh Mullan, 38 had spent most of that day urging parishioners not to respond to provocations by loyalists from the neighboring Springmartin



Fr. Hugh Mullan

Estate. Informed that soldiers had shot a neighbor, Bobby Clarke, near the Henry Taggart army base, Father Mullan phoned the base, saying he was on his way to minister to Clarke. Father Hugh arrived, and as the army was still firing, he borrowed a white baby's smock and waved it as he made his way to Clarke. Determining the wound was not fatal, Father Hugh again brandished the cloth and rose to fetch an ambulance. Witnesses watched in horror as the priest was hit in the back by "a hail of fire from the Taggart" and fell dying. Father Mullan could be heard praying as Frank Quinn, 19, left his position of safety to go to his side. An army sniper then shot young Quinn dead as well.

This occurred a full five months before Bloody Sunday. But the story was much the same. The British Paratroop Regiment was involved, and they opened fire without warning, deliberately targeting civilians, including those seeking to help the wounded. The soldiers also used their dead and dying victims for "target practice" and to lure new victims into the line of fire.

Witnesses reported that when the Red Cross arrived, they were fired on.

Eleven civilians died in Ballymurphy during that August 9-11 Paratroop sweep, six on that first day. Briege Voyle, who was 14 at the time, described how Noel Phillips, (20) was shot. "Young lads were stoning the Henry Taggart army base on the Springfield Road. My sister and I went to see what was happening. My mother (Joan Connolly [45] mother of eight) came to order us home." It wasn't until much later that Briege found out what happened to her mom. "The paras just started shooting. Mummy saw Noel Phillips (20) being hit. She heard him crying in pain and went to help him. 'It's alright son, I'm coming to you' she shouted. "The soldiers shot her in the face. She screamed 'I cant see, I'm blind!' They shot her again. Then, they used the bodies on the ground for target practice."

"She had said to me earlier on that night that those loyalists would shoot you where the army wouldn't. So she went out there because in her head she believed the army wouldn't

shoot her. When she walked out she wasn't being a hero, she believed she'd be okay as she was a women."

Local men tried to get to Mrs. Connolly, and they were also shot down. Daniel Teggart {44} father of 13, was shot fourteen times. Most of the bullets entered his back as he lay injured on the ground.

Shortly after, a British army vehicle exited the base. A soldier got out with a handgun, and in plain sight of eyewitnesses, walked up and executed Noel Phillips, administering one shot behind each of his ears. They then picked up the dead and wounded, threw them into the back of their vehicle, and brought them into the army base. But the Paras left Mrs. Connolly, their only female victim, on the ground to die.

The wounded taken into the British base were beaten sadistically. Now, mind you, these Irish Catholics being tortured were officially British citizens. They were kicked and stomped by the Paras, some of whom climbed on bunks to gain height as they jumped on the wounded. Joseph Murphy (41) had been shot in the leg. The Paras fired a

rubber bullet into his wound. Murphy lingered 3 weeks before dying.

Five more civilians were shot and killed by the Paras the following two days, including Pat McCarthy (44) a community worker. As he was leaving the community center with milk and bread for local families, he was shot in the hand. He returned to deliveries a few hours later and was stopped by Parachute Regiment soldiers, harassed and beaten. Paratroopers called it "beasting" civilians. A soldier shoved a pistol in his mouth, threatening to murder the terrified man. He finally pulled the trigger in a mock execution. The gun did not fire, but Mr. McCarthy suffered a heart attack. The soldiers then prevented onlookers from offering him aid, and McCarthy died from his ordeal.

The British Ministry of Defense claimed all killed were armed. The Army and RUC allowed only Royal Military Police to question the soldiers; and their statements were accepted without question. Key civilian evidence was withheld from the Coroner.

Last November, Northern Ireland Attorney General John Larkin ordered new inquests into the deaths of ten civilians killed in Ballymurphy. The 1972 inquests had rendered open verdicts. (Pat McCarthy's death was not investigated back then because it was recorded as a heart attack. It will not be covered in a reopened inquest, although families want it included.)

As for Bloody Sunday, the Saville Inquiry report issued last June focused blame on one mid-level officer and a few trigger-happy soldiers, none of whom were charged or punished. One of Lord Saville's reasons for absolving top military officers was that he felt General Ford "neither knew nor had reason to know at any stage that his decision (to bring in the Paratroop Regiment) would or was likely to result in soldiers firing unjustifiably on that day." This despite the fact that everyone involved knew full well what the Paratroopers had done in Ballymurphy only 5 months earlier.

Lord Saville also ruled that regarding charges that the NI or UK governments "tolerated if not encouraged the use of unjustified lethal force... We found no evidence of such toleration or encouragement."

Had Ballymurphy been re-investigated beforehand, could Lord Saville have reached that verdict?

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"ANGELS WOULD WEEP

As I write, the issue of whether Ireland will hold another referendum on Europe has yet to be decided, with battle lines being drawn. Should one prove necessary, the context will be different to previous referenda. While there is suspicion across Europe that the new fiscal compact treaty is merely yet another European half measure – this one designed primarily to bolster German Chancellor Merkel domestically – and that the Euro crisis will continue to run, one

thing IS clear. The treaty will enter into force when ratified by a certain number of Euro area member states. Ireland will not have a veto. The domestic debate promises even more heat than usual.

Meanwhile the chronic condition of the Irish body politic and its quirky social and economic norms have been exposed in earnest in the last few weeks. First was the mini fiasco of the New Year's Greetings sent to 150,000 people on pensions by the Revenue Commissioners,

informing them that they probably owed more tax and that extra deductions from pensions would start immediately.

Those targeted were the minority of people on occupational pensions who have not previously declared their state old age pension or some other state benefit, payments which are taxable. Some of the letters were sent erroneously, prompting an apology from the Revenue chairman for the "confusion and distress" caused.

The issue posed the classic dilemma for the Irish politician, hence the embarrassed and rather self-righteous reaction from most. Of course everyone should be tax compliant, but we'd better not upset or distress unnecessarily the poor pensioners. Revenue, whose statutory duty is to collect tax that is due, were castigated for insensitivity in timing (the New Year) and further attacked for getting it wrong in a significant minority of cases.

Revenue are not paid to be nice – if they were, the only people paying tax would be the PAYE mugs who have no option. It would appear that most retired persons have been tax compliant, but a minority have not, with, per the Chairperson of Revenue, a significant amount of revenue involved. Revenue's statutory obligation was to rectify this and pursue arrears if necessary. Whatever about the timing, it is not hard to imagine the reaction from everyone already paying their taxes in full to any softly softly approach to tax dodgers. And the Revenue will repay, usually quite swiftly, tax over-deducted.

But there is more. These letters issued less than two months after the Government said that child benefit payments could not be taxed or means-tested because the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection files were not shared, that their computers "did not talk to each other". It now transpires that 560,000 social welfare records with pension details were sent to Revenue's computer system. The Revenue Commissioners were able to

match up these records and come up with 115,000 or so cases where it appeared social welfare pensions had not been declared either at all or in full by the pensioner or that the pensioner's circumstances had otherwise changed.

So at least the computers can now communicate! This should remove one of the procedural obstacles cited for not tackling child benefit payments on a rational basis and hopefully lead to early reform to concentrate payments where they are most needed.

The need to do something significant about Ireland's overgenerous welfare payments (because we have to borrow to sustain them) was underlined some weeks later by the curious case of "Magda". Magda, not her real name, is a member of Ireland's largest national minority – the Poles – and came to Ireland in 2006. She settled in Donegal, working until 2009, after which jobs dried up and she went on the dole. She was one of several Poles living in Ireland interviewed some weeks ago by a Polish newspaper.

A poor translation of the interview was used in a newspaper story here to suggest that Magda was a dole sponger who was living off the system and who sneered at Donegal. Cue the predictable outrage and an offer by a Donegal Labour Senator to pay her fare home. Cue also a rapid reaction from, inter alia, the Polish Ambassador, as well as other Poles disputing the story.

The most cogent point put was that Poles who had come to Ireland, worked and paid taxes, often at jobs the Irish would not do, and then lost their jobs in the recession, were quite entitled to claim available welfare benefits here. Indeed. Before the week was out the record had been corrected, Magda's good name more than restored and the Senator had apologized.

Not quite end of story. Many of the figures Magda had quoted were correct, together with the disincentives for those on benefit to return to work which she identified. Magda receives almost \$360 per week

from the state, made up of unemployment assistance of \$250, rent of \$80, and in winter, \$25 towards heating. She can, and does avail of free education and training courses and, when she sets up a business, which she is planning, will continue to receive benefits for a further two years.

Magda answered her own rhetorical question that it was not worth working for the minimum wage (which is back up to \$11.50 per hour). The whole episode, made public only because Magda was not Irish, has shone fresh light on what is available to all under the sheer generosity of parts of Ireland's unsustainable welfare system.

The Magda story was still in the news when it was topped by another revelation. This was the announcement that there would be a cut in the Exceptional Needs Payments provisions in respect of amounts paid towards the cost of holy communion and confirmation expenses (dresses and suits) for persons on social welfare. Last year 14,000 claimants received over \$4.5 million for these expenses, at an average of \$320 each. Payments are now to be vetted thoroughly and capped at under \$150.

It has emerged that last year the total bill for Exceptional Needs Payments came to \$85 million, almost all paid to social welfare recipients or those working part time. In addition to payments for children's buggies this figure included almost \$12 million paid out to 7769 applicants (who received an average of \$1500) to help towards furnishing their accommodation. Here also the system is to be tightened and eligibility narrowed.

These payments are in addition to rent supplements (running at almost \$700 million), back to school clothing and footwear allowances and the winter fuel allowance available to Social Welfare recipients, most of whom also qualify for free medical treatment. The net effect has been to create over the years a fairly comprehensive safety net for the unemployed. The unforeseen effect has been to disincentivise those on benefits from seeking work, and to create poverty traps for many of those working on low incomes, who are excluded from many benefits ending up less well-off working than on the dole. With, in addition, the second highest minimum wage in Europe, is it any wonder that job creation is at a low ebb and unemployment remains so stubbornly high.

Angels would surely weep, if there were angels."

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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



Family Based Services workers who helped them to address the factors contributing to child abuse and neglect, as well as the resulting trauma.

Catholic Charities Maternity, Adoption and Post-Adoption services staff provided support in times of crisis, placed children in "forever families," and helped to preserve and strengthen adoptive relationships.

Our Child Development Centers continued to help prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten and provided a safe, nurturing educational environment for children while their parents were at work. More than 1,500 children were served at our Centers in 2011.

In addition, the Centers provided numerous activities to strengthen and support families. As a result of these efforts, more than 580 fathers participated last year throughout all the Child, Youth and Family programs, a highly successful outcome.

A number of successful new programs have been initiated. Funding was sought and received from the Latino Policy Forum to hold the Abriendo Puertas parent involvement curriculum at St. Joseph Child Development Center and Our Lady of Tepeyac in Chicago. The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partner-

ship awarded Catholic Charities a grant to receive Infant Mental Health consultation for our Roseland Adolescent Parent Program; the Chicago Community Trust awarded us a grant to pilot a father's group in Roseland; and the Children's Advocacy Center awarded our counseling department a grant to provide support for child victims of sexual abuse in the Roseland community.

All these Catholic Charities programs for children and families are monitored and regulated by many groups. Over the past year and a half we successfully renewed our Agency Child Welfare License with DCFS; and St. Blase, St. John of God, St. Joseph, and St. Mary of Celle Child Development Centers were each accredited by the National

Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Head Start Federal Review went well, and our nine Child Development Centers passed DCFS, Board of Health and all other inspections. Our employees continue to excel as 13 staff recently earned Associate, Bachelor's or Master's degrees; and 38 staff members are currently enrolled in college programs.

Catholic Charities remains committed to our mission of providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and children. As we look forward in hope to the beauty of spring and Easter joy, please keep the children and families we help in your prayers. God bless you!

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Rev. Msgr. Michael M. Boland, Administrator, President and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

I think that most of us who endure the darkness and cold of a Cook or Lake County winter really look forward to Spring. We can't wait for the sun to shine, the weather to warm up, and being able to spend time outdoors instead of cooped up inside the house. During this Lenten season, it's all about hope and light: the expectation of something better, of being able to come and go freely.

I think this is what it must be like for our Catholic Charities clients who live in the isolation of poverty or abuse or a family crisis. Except that they are not sure that Spring will ever come.

And children and youth are especially vulnerable. They cannot vote; they do not hold positions of power; they do not have a voice. They are not able to advocate for themselves. Yet, they are our future. At Catholic Charities, we are their voice. In 2010, 32% of children in Chicago lived in poverty. Here are some of their stories, as reported by Catholic

Charities' Youth and Family Services Vice-President, Laura Rios.

Last year, Catholic Charities therapists in our Child, Youth and Family Therapeutic Services Program served over 670 children and adults, including children and youth exposed to violence and trauma. Staff in our maternal and child health and pregnant and parenting teen programs are devoted and dedicated, going above and beyond. For instance, one of our Arts of Living workers assisted a client with her financial aid applications and when it was time for her to head off to college, her worker left her home at 4 a.m. to drive the young woman and her belongings for six hours to begin her college experience.

We are privileged to walk with these children, teens and their families, many of who live in difficult and challenging neighborhoods and circumstances. Last year, 700 children and 306 families received frequent home visits for case management and counseling from our



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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Are We There Yet?

Writing for a publication a month in advance is often a dis-advantage, particularly, when you are offering a commentary on current affairs. Harold Wilson, once said; “a week is a long time in politics” and with the instant news posts available nowadays, a month is like an eternity.

I say all this as the preamble to answering the question; will we have an E 3 Visa deal for Ireland passed by St. Patrick’s Day ’12? Perhaps, the good Saint Patrick knows, but this mere mortal with his limited foresight can only hope and guess.

Hhaving been to Washington and worked with a large group of Irish or-

ganizations and individuals “plugging” for this deal, I think as I put words to paper, that we are very close. The Irish government and in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs, working through our Embassy in Washington have been very busy making every diplomatic effort to bring this proposal to a conclusion.

The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, on a recent trip to New York, once again offered the Irish government’s support for an Irish E3 visa that would allow up to 10,000 Irish nationals access to a two-year renewable work visa to come to the Unites States.

At that same meeting, with the leaders of immigrant support centers and others, he also expressed concern for vulnerable Irish seniors living in the USA and pledged his government’s continued commitment to funding services provided by Irish Immigration Centers.

As you may be aware, the provision of support to our seniors is a very large part of what our organization works hard to provide and that I might add is happening with limited resources.

It has been said, that the quality of a society can be measured on how

it takes care of its most vulnerable members. With that thought in mind, it is important to note Taoiseach, Kenny’s pledge, that despite the economic hardships back in Ireland, the senior’s who gave so much back to their homeland are not being forgotten now.

The sad reality is that Ireland’s economic struggles continue and the need for an E 3 option for folks moving out of Ireland to seek employment opportunities is now very urgent.

I hope, gentle reader, that with the help of St. Patrick’s intercession and the continued efforts of increasing support from both parties in Congress, that we will be able to celebrate a new deal for Ireland before the Memorial Day recess.

Golf

Calling all Golfers, C.I.I.S. is happy to announce that our annual Golf Outing will once again take place at, St. Andrew’s Golf & Country Club, West Chicago. June 10th is the date, so please mark your diary and plan to join us for a fun day!

Gala

THIS YEAR OUR ANNUAL GALA WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 31ST AT GAELIC PARK, FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE OUR ADVERT IN THIS EDITION ON I.A.N.

Congrats Maureen

It would be remiss of me to let this

opportunity pass without offering our heartfelt congratulations to our Honorary Life Board Member Maureen O’ Looney. On February 8 Maureen reached the great milestone of her 90th Birthday. It is hard to believe that a lady so active and full of interest in helping others has that many “years on the clock” as one of my friends remarked.

Maureen in an interview once said; “Do a good deed, and God will be with you for life”. In all honesty, Maureen’s good deeds for Irish Immigrants in Chicagoland, since 1953, are numerous enough to cover many lifetimes. Maureen, may you be truly blessed and enjoy health and good fortune for many years to come.

A PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

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

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March 15 (matinee & evening)
Overnight packages available

Matinee Show: \$35.00
11:30am-Seating & Check-in
12:00pm-Hot lunch buffet
1:00pm-Act I
1:45pm-Intermission w/ dessert
2:00pm- Act II
2:45pm-Show concludes


Evening Show: \$40.00
5:00pm-Beer tasting & check in
6:00pm- Dinner buffet
7:00pm- Act I
7:45pm-Intermission w/ dessert
8:00pm- Act II
8:45pm- Show concludes

Come To an Irish Hooley



with Paddy & Kathleen Gilhooly

Join us for a fun St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at Starved Rock Lodge. The Gilhooly’s will entertain you with their Irish wit, singing and dancing. There will be a buffet featuring traditional Irish food & American food. Our evening show will include a beer tasting. The show is sure to bring the Irish out in you!



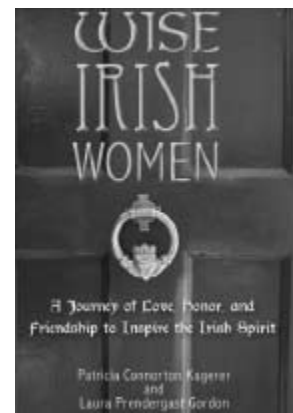
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Wise Irish Women

Wise Irish Women: A Journey of Love, Loyalty, and Friendship to Inspire the Irish Spirit brings together the voices of 36 women and their stories about Irish charm, Irish luck, and Irish love of family, to Irish gumption. “I witnessed the strength and character of the Irish from an early age,” says Patricia Connorton Kagerer, who co-authored the book with her cousin Laura Prendergast Gordon.

The Vice President of Safety and Process Management at CF Jordan

Construction in Dallas, Texas, Kagerer attributes her success in a male-dominated industry to the wisdom she learned from her Irish mother and grandmother. Co-author Gordon, who



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is a Deputy City Attorney for the City of El Paso, couldn’t agree more: “Our grandmother was a huge source of strength and inspiration for both of us. Patricia and I knew this particular rand of wisdom needed to be shared, along with words of wisdom from other women with deep ties to Ireland.” Whether it’s a story by acclaimed author Mary Higgins Clark, playwright Marianne McDonald, or the authors themselves, each story is designed to inspire women to make a difference in their own corner of the world. www.wiseirishwomen.com

For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



IRELAND'S HOLOCAUST DEAD Ireland's newspapers recently reported that the gov't won't proceed with a site to commemorate what it calls "the famine" (the false label that teachers were forced to use to conceal Britain's at-gunpoint removal of Ireland's abundant foods). Why does the "Irish" gov't persist in covering up that Holocaust (or, if you prefer, "extermination" or "genocide")? That it was reported as "Holocaust" during "black '47" recommends its use, as "extermination" suggests no survivors, and "genocide" wasn't coined until WW2 (by Raphael Lemkin). You might ask: "Why does Ireland's gov't claim "lack of artifacts" while it obstructs attempts to memorialize the most obvious artifacts of all, Ireland's hundreds of Holocaust mass graves? Or are there too many of those "artifacts"? Obliteration of Holocaust mass graves is a long-time policy in Ireland.

CASTLEREA MASS GRAVES One or two of these were largely obliterated some forty years ago when the gov't permitted a housing development to be built atop them. All that's left of these mass graves are the two or three large areas left undeveloped once the scandal began to spread of exhumed and discarded mass remains. The Holocaust mass grave outside the wall of Castlerea's parish cemetery was deceptively marked about the same time. Additional burials had been made there of patients from adjacent Harristown hospital (mental asylum until the malnutrition during post-WW2 food exportation to Britain caused its conversion to TB sanatorium). The marker acknowledges only the Harristown dead; it omits mention of the Holocaust dead buried there.

KILLALA, CO. MAYO Its workhouse Holocaust mass grave is inside the old landlord's high wall on the Ballina/Killala road near the junction of the road to Killala's old railway station. About twenty years ago a New York (?) group installed a marble memorial plaque on that wall's road-facing side. Soon thereafter a Mayo Co. Council crew and truck deployed; they demolished the memorial and removed the debris. But the concealment of that "artifact" didn't end there. The gov't soon permitted a housing development atop that mass grave, too. Local people fought back; at night to escape gov't detection they painted "FAMINE"

"GRAVE HERE" in white where the plaque had been. Despite national outcry the gov't proceeded with its plan to obliterate that mass grave, also. Was it built upon or was it saved by Ireland's housing crash that hit about 2006? Please advise.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT The nuns, priests and brothers I've known were exemplary, their goodness and commitment to teaching a life-long inspiration to me. It is thus painful to relate the following: The Church routinely refused Christian burials to those murdered by the Brits during that Holocaust. Tens of thousands were thus buried outside the walls of consecrated cemeteries. However, by late 1846 or early 1847 such refusal became moot: the people were dying in such numbers as to make Christian rites impossible. The corpses were hauled by the cartload and dropped into vast pits atop one another

KILBEGNET CEMETERY outside Ballymoe, Co. Galway exemplifies the current situation. The day the murdered village of Lisnabinnia and its memorial were consecrated/inaugurated, individuals introduced themselves to tell me of mass graves near their houses and of their desire that they, too, be memorialized. They referred to three Holocaust mass graves; the one outside the wall of nearby Kilbegnet cemetery, another on the roadside in Kilglass, Strokestown, and the third in a field in Ahildodia, Killkeel, Bantry, Co. Cork. All three groups happily observed that it was finally OK to speak openly of the "famine" dead, and were committed to having their local mass graves similarly respected. My subsequent correspondence regarding Kilglass and Ahildodia constitute records of intimidation of people who dared to memorialize what officialdom wants concealed. However, the Kilbegnet mass grave cover-up was handled by the Church; Elphin diocese Bishop Christopher Jones. The parish priest learned of the plans and notified his bishop. Thus, months later, with Kilbegnet intimidated, Bishop Jones himself went to its cemetery and consecrated the "graves of unbaptized babies." A portion of the cemetery wall had been relocated to include the Holocaust mass grave. That "outcast" area had also become a burial ground for others deemed similarly unworthy of Christian burial—unbaptized babies.

A lengthy report in the Roscommon Champion newspaper included Jones' speech. Nowhere mentioned were the locals' wishes for a memorial to their Holocaust Dead. The cover-ups of Kilglass and Ahildodia Holocaust mass graves remain total but that of Kilbegnet was also elaborate.

IRISH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY was established some twelve years ago. It's been observed throughout Ireland and Diaspora ever since on November 3rd. On that date in 1845 the Holocaust was tacitly declared

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day All March Long Join Mercy Home For "Shamrocks For Kids"

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls invites everyone to be part of a solution for kids in crisis this March while celebrating all things Irish. Throughout the month, Mercy Home's annual "Shamrocks for Kids" program will feature family-friendly, Irish-themed activities and events while raising funds and awareness that help abused, neglected and at-risk children. There are so many ways you can make a difference while enjoying the fun and festivities of St. Patrick's Day.

Support—Throughout March, Chicagoans are asked to wear their Mercy Home Shamrocks to show that they support kids in crisis. Shamrocks will be available for donations to Mercy Home and can be acquired from volunteers who will hit the streets at Chicago-area St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations, including:

- Saturday, March 10, 2012—Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Sunday, March 11, 2012—South Side Irish Parade
- Sunday, March 11, 2012—Northwest Side St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Friday, March 16, 2012—Downtown Tag Day
- Saturday, March 17, 2012—Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade

Volunteer—Mercy Home is looking for volunteers to help during Shamrocks for Kids. In addition to collecting donations for Mercy Home Shamrocks at parades and other celebrations, volunteers can distribute Mercy Home Shamrocks or organize fund-raising events at their workplaces, in their neighborhoods, schools or churches, or even at their own St. Patrick's Day gatherings. Anyone interested in becoming a Mercy Home Shamrock volunteer can visit mercyhome.org or call (312) 738-7551.

Celebrate—Following Chicago's

by Lord Heytesbury, England's Vice-Regent in Dublin. Alarmed Irishmen had visited him regarding the at-gunpoint Food Removal and resultant starvation. They urged closure of the ports to food exports, and prohibition of grain diversion into distilling and brewing. Reading from a script that ignored the Food Removal and concentrated on potatoes Heytesbury acquiesced to the Holocaust and started the "potato famine" lie that continues to this day. Does Ireland's gov't observe its Holocaust Commemoration

Day? No. Instead, for the past two years it's been organizing an opposing "famine commemoration day" some day in May lacking historical relevance.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT; beneficial? See www.freegerry.com; www.michaelmckevitt.com, and www.friendsofcolinduffy.com. Contact 312/664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net.

The party kicks off at 1:00 pm in the Lower Level Ballroom at the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan Avenue. General admission is \$75, teenagers are \$25 and children under 12 are admitted free. Proceeds from the event support Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. For more information or to buy tickets, call (312) 738-8330 or visit mercyhome.org.

Win—The party continues at O'Brien's restaurant where you can enter their annual St. Patrick's Day Raffle benefitting Mercy Home. Grand prize is round trip main cabin

air transportation for winner and companion from Chicago to Dublin, Ireland courtesy of American Airlines. Cash prizes are also available. The winning tickets will be drawn on March 17 at O'Brien's Restaurant on Wells St. in Old Town. Tickets are also available at mercyhome.org as are contest rules and regulations. O'Brien's will also make Mercy Home Shamrocks available during its "Month O' Mercy" celebration, going on now at the restaurant and running through St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Celebrating 125 years, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. Please visit mercyhome.org to learn more.

St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, Mercy Home will gather for its 17th annual family-friendly celebration at the Chicago Hilton. Guests will enjoy a traditional Irish hot corned beef buffet, Leprechaun Lunches for the kids courtesy of Blue Plate Catering, Pepsi products, Goose Island Ales, and fine wines courtesy of Kinzie Chop House. Live music will be provided by Dyed in the Wool, the Narrowbacks, Sean Cleland



Margie Lynch Genovese has raised over \$165,000 for Mercy Home selling raffle tickets for O'Brien's Restaurant.

& Friends, and Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Irish dance performances will feature The Trinity Irish Academy of Dance, The Mullane Healy Godley Irish Dance Academy, and The World Academy of Irish Dance.

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Irish American Hall of Fame Selects 2012 Inductees

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) was established in 2010 with the goal to preserve and promote the rich history and stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States.

The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) and operates under the Center's auspices. The IAHOF is overseen by a separate governing committee and has a national focus, reaching out to Irish Americans all over the world.

Thirteen outstanding Irish Americans in seven categories were selected as the 2012 IAHOF honorees. A slate of candidates was presented and winners were voted into the Hall of Fame by a national body of distinguished individuals representing academia, government and Irish-affiliated organizations from across a wide range of disciplines. The Hall of Fame is intended to be national in scope and to tell the story of all of Irish America. "The diverse representation of individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame truly showcases the contributions of Irish Americans to society. Nominations were received from all over the country and the world," commented Pamela Marshall Taylor, Chair of the Irish American Hall of Fame Committee.

ARTS & HUMANITIES

George M. Cohan



It's been said that George M. Cohan was America's greatest showman. Born to Irish-Catholic parents in Providence, Rhode Island, he was a premier writer, actor, producer, playwright and director. He is the only entertainer to have a statue erected to him on Broadway. Cohan was a pioneer in American musical theater and film. Mr. Cohan is perhaps best known for his popular song *Over There*, for which he was presented the Congressional

Gold Medallion by President Franklin Roosevelt due to its contribution to American morale in World



War I.

John Ford

John Ford (born John Martin Feeney) was a legendary American film maker with a career spanning over 50 years including over 140 films. Mr. Ford was a unique figure in American cinematic history with a career spanning both silent and sound pictures. He is known for developing the practice of shooting on location and the 'long shot' that features the character against a vast background. Some of Ford's most famous films include *Stagecoach*, *The Informer*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Young Mr. Lincoln*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *How Green Was My Valley*, and of course, *The Quiet Man* starring John Wayne and 2011 IAHOF Inductee Maureen O'Hara. He was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 6. His father, John Augustine Feeney, was born in Spiddal County Galway and his mother, Barbara Curran, was born in the Aran Islands, in the town of Kiltonan on the island of Inishmore.

Tommy Makem

Known as the Bard of Armagh,



Mr. Makem was an internationally acclaimed folk singer, musician, poet and storyteller. His distinctive baritone was the backbone of the sound of The Clancy Brothers and Tommy

Makem that made folk music history starting in their early Greenwich Village days of the early 1960s and continued for decades through his solo career and partnership with longtime friend, Liam Clancy. Born in Keady, County Armagh, Tommy emigrated



to the U.S. in 1955 before settling in Dover, New Hampshire. Tommy Makem was an ambassador of Irish music, storytelling and poetry, bringing his knowledge, love and wit to the world.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Patrick G. Ryan

As the founder and retired executive chairman of AON Corp, Mr. Ryan has been a strong donor and supporter of nearly every Irish charity in Chicago for several years.

With roots in Tipperary, Mr. Ryan has established reinsurance and risk management operations in Dublin's International Financial Services Center, and made substantial acquisitions of Irish-based companies operating in its sector. The name Aon (Gaelic for one) was chosen to describe the unity of the many organizations that were brought together by Mr. Ryan. In 2010, after retiring from Aon, Mr. Ryan founded Ryan Specialty Group, a global insurance organization consisting of wholesale brokerage, underwriting managers and other specialty insurance services to agents, brokers and insurance carriers.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Robert Francis "Bobby" Kennedy was an American politician and Democratic Senator from New York.



He was the U.S. Attorney General of the United States from 1961-1964, serving primarily under his brother, President John F. Kennedy, a 2011 IAHOF inductee. With his legacy as a noted civil rights activist and crusader against organized crime, Senator Kennedy helped to shape public policy on social issues in the 1960s that continue to further the national narrative today. His advisory position within his brother's administration is widely considered as vital in averting conflict with Cuba and the USSR and his later views on the Vietnam War helped to change the opinion of the average American citizen in regards to the conflict. In 1968, Senator Kennedy, in the midst of a run for the Presidency, was tragically killed, in some ways signaling an end to the optimism and idealism of the decade in which he served most prominently.

Mayor Richard M. Daley

Born in 1942 to Richard J. Daley, a 2011 IAHOF inductee, and Eleanor (Guilfoyle) Daley, Richard M. Daley is the longest serving Mayor of Chicago. With ancestors coming to the United States fleeing from the Irish potato famine, his paternal roots are from County Waterford and mater-



nal roots are from County Cork. He served as an Illinois State Senator from 1972-80, Cook County State's Attorney from 1980-89 and became Mayor of Chicago in 1989 before leaving office in 2011.

Considered one of the most powerful mayors in the country during his tenure, Daley worked to improve Chicago Public Schools, modernize the Chicago Transit Authority, beautify the city, and increase tourism. Mayor Richard M. Daley served the City of Chicago as its executive leader and brought a renaissance of renewed growth in the city's varied neighborhoods. He attracted business back to the city, renewed the city's theater district and preserved its historical movie palaces from certain demoli-

tion. By such actions, he elevated the cultural activities and business enterprises within the city.

Speaker

Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill

Thomas Phillip 'Tip' O'Neill, Jr.



was born to Thomas Phillip O'Neill, Sr., and Rose Ann (Tolan) O'Neill in 1912 near Barry's Corner in the Irish middle-class area of North Cambridge, Massachusetts, known at the time as "Old Dublin." O'Neill was an outspoken and influential member of the U.S. Congress, serving in the House of Representatives for 34 years and serving as the Speaker of the House from 1977 until his retirement in 1987. He was the second longest-serving Speaker in U.S. history after Sam Rayburn, and the longest consecutive serving Speaker.

One of O'Neill's greatest accomplishments as Speaker involved Northern Ireland. He worked with fellow Irish-American politicians New York Governor Hugh Carey, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-New York to craft a peace accord between the warring factions. Beginning with the "St. Patrick's Day declaration" in 1977 denouncing violence in Northern Ireland and culminating with the Irish aid package upon the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985, the "Four Horsemen" as they were called convinced both Presidents Carter and Reagan to press the British government on the subject.

The Fighting Sullivan Brothers

The five Sullivan brothers, two of whom previously served in the Navy, enlisted in the Navy together on Jan. 3, 1942, less than a month after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. They insisted that they serve together on the same ship. It was Navy policy to separate family members, but the Sullivans persisted in their request and the Navy relented.

They served aboard the USS Ju-



tion, Boys Town grew to be a large community with its own boy-mayor, schools, chapel, post office, cottages, gymnasium, and other facilities where boys between the ages of 10 and 16 could receive an education and learn a trade. A 1938 film starring Spencer Tracy, *Boys Town*, was based on the life of Father Flanagan, and Tracy won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance.

EDUCATION

Loretta Brennan Glucksman

A third generation Irish-American, Loretta Brennan Glucksman grew up in an Irish community in Pennsylvania. Her maternal grandparents, McHugh/Murray, emigrated to America from Leitrim in famine times. Her paternal grandparents were from County Donegal. She is a noted philanthropist and, together with her late husband, Lewis, they have raised millions of dollars for Ireland. She has served as Chairman of the American Ireland Fund since 1995 and spearheaded the Fund's successful "Hope & History" \$100 million campaign.

She is co-Chair of Glucksman Ireland House, the Center for Irish Studies at New York University, which

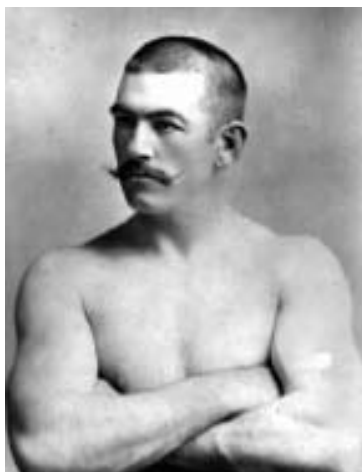
neau, a light cruiser. On Nov. 13, 1942, during the Battle of Guadalcanal, the Juneau was struck by a Japanese torpedo and sank. Francis "Frank" Sullivan, Joseph "Joe" Sullivan, Madison "Matt" Sullivan and Albert "Al" Sullivan died. George, the eldest, made it to a raft and survived for five days. The Sullivan brothers were awarded Purple Hearts and became national heroes, and their deaths served as a rallying cry for a nation at war.

In response to their deaths, the U.S. War Department developed the Sole Survivor Policy, a set of regulations in the U.S. military that are designed to protect members of a family from the draft or from combat duty if they have already lost family members in military service. The United States Navy has since named two destroyers in honor of the Sullivan brothers.

SPORTS

John L. Sullivan

One of the few 19th century athletes still revered today, Mr. Sullivan, nicknamed the Boston Strongboy, was the heavyweight boxing champion



from 1882 to 1892 and his whole life mirrored the upward trajectory of the Irish-American experience. Considered one of the first sports superstars, he was the last bareknuckle boxing champion and the first American athlete to earn over \$1 million.

He was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts (now a part of Boston) to Irish immigrant parents, Michael Sullivan from Abbeydorney, County Kerry and the former Catherine Kelly from Athlone, County Westmeath/County Roscommon

He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990 as a member of the hall's original class, with a record of 35 wins, 1 loss and 2 draws, with 30 wins by knockout.

RELIGION

Fr. Edward Flanagan

Father Edward Joseph Flanagan, born in Roscommon, was a Catholic priest and the founder of what is arguably the most famous orphanage in the United States, Boys Town. The



campus is not just an orphanage, but a center for troubled youth that has been a beacon of light not just in the Omaha, Nebraska community but nationwide since its founding in 1921.

Under Father Flanagan's direc-

she and Lewis established in 1993. Through the American Ireland Fund, Mrs. Glucksman was instrumental in establishing religiously integrated schools for both Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland.

Emmet C. Larkin, Ph.D.

Emmet Larkin is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Chicago. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1957 and is considered the single most influential historian of Ireland in America. He was one of the co-founders of the American Conference for Irish Studies. The American Conference for Irish Studies is a multidisciplinary scholarly organization with approximately 800 members in the United States, Ireland, Canada, and other countries around the world. Professor Larkin has produced, in his role as mentor at the University of Chicago, more Ph.D.s in Irish history than any other person in this country.

SCIENCE

Cyrus Hall McCormick

Cyrus was an Irish American inventor credited with the development of the mechanical reaper. This machine made farming easier - and greatly increased the amount of food farmers could reap, made harvesting easier, lowered costs, and revolutionized farming. His invention led to the founding of International Harvester, now Navistar. Mr. McCormick was also a business revolutionary in creating now universal concepts such as franchise dealerships, the product guarantee and deferred payment plans. These business concepts are arguably as important as his engineering contributions to the world of agricultural production on a global scale.



His reaper was credited by President Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, as a deciding factor in the North's victory and instrumental in keeping the nation intact by freeing up men to go off to war and in helping to feed its soldiers.



2012 Awards Gala

Winners will be inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame at the Awards Gala on April 28, 2012 at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. For information on tickets to the Awards Gala or more information on the IAHOFF, please call (773) 282-7035 or visit the website at www.iahof.org.

Master of Ceremonies

The Irish American Hall of Fame is proud to announce their Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Gala, Mr. Joel Murray.

Joel is one of nine children, and was born and raised in Wilmette, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

The son of Lucille and Edward Joseph Murray II, Murray, along with his siblings, grew up in an Irish Catholic family. He is the brother of actors Bill Murray, Brian Doyle-Murray, and John Murray. A sister, Nancy, is an Adrian Dominican Sister in Michigan who travels around the country portraying St. Catherine of Siena. His career began in Chicago, where he performed at various improvisational theaters including *The Second City*,

the Improv Olympic, and the Improv Institute. Joel is a veteran of many sitcoms including *Two and a Half Men* and *Dharma and Greg*. He made the leap to more serious roles including a recurring character, Freddy Rumsen, on *Mad Men*, last season's HBO series *Shameless* and a small role in this year's surprise hit and Academy Award

Winner for Best Picture, *The Artist*. Married to fellow actor and former Second City alum, Eliza Coyle, the couple have four children and make their home in Los Angeles.

Also scheduled to appear at the Awards Gala are the Makem and Spain Brothers, who will perform and accept the award in honor of inductee Tommy Makem. They will also be performing a special concert on Friday April 27th at the Irish American Heritage Center.

Author Dan Ford will be in attendance at the event to accept the Award on behalf

of his grandfather, director John Ford. Christopher "Kip" O'Neill and his family will be attending the Gala to accept the award on behalf of his father, Tip O'Neill and Jim Sullivan, the son of Albert Sullivan, the youngest of the five Sullivan Brothers who died on their Navy ship during WWII, will be in attendance to accept the award on behalf of his father and uncles.

The Executive Director of Boys-town in Omaha is also expected to attend to accept the award for Father Edward Flanagan. Check www.iahof.org for more info.





Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



First up this month, a less successful outing from Irish super trad group, Altan. Gleann Nimhe, The Poison Glen. How many albums is this for Altan? Who knows? This is all getting a bit old---like Phil Coulter albums. Okay. It is great music. That should be enough. But, after 25 plus years being together,



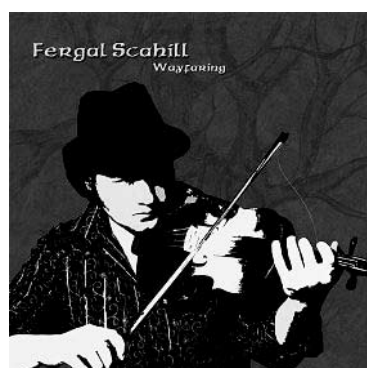
we should be offered something new. Their last outing with RTE Orchestra gave such hope. But, now. Here we are. You Altan fans may well say that the point of traditional music is that it IS the same. Well, true. But, that is YOUR taste.

Not everyone's. In the decades since Altan formed there have been so many fab and creative acts that have come along, from Flook to Cathie Ryan to David Munnely to Reeltime to Bohla. Hundreds. Literally. We have heard all or most of them. Their musicians every bit as good as those in Altan---maybe better, depending on your taste. So, the nasty Phil Coulter album reference goes like this. I have always said that I see why anyone would buy a Phil Coulter album. Lovely production. Very tranquil. Nice background music. The real question is---why would anyone ever buy a second Phil Coulter album? Everyone bows down in front of the name, “Altan”. They won every Irish Music Magazine Readers Poll for years. But, you see, that is because you are supposed to love Altan. It is the “hip” thing to do. It is not a screwy position to hold. But, it is all the same, now. If your response is, “that is a good thing and the way it should be”, fine. If your position is that it has all gotten a bit boring, stale and predictable---come sit by us. We'll buy you a pint. Heads or tails. Your choice. We've made ours.

Compare this to Fergal Scahill's brand new album, and we do mean BRAND NEW, Wayfaring. It could be argued that Fergal is one of the ab-

solute top three multi-instrumentalists in Irish music. He is brill. On this album, he does some overdubbing with him playing fiddle (he was All-Ireland), guitar (he was All-Ireland), and bodhran (he was All-Ireland). He is accompanied by Ryan Molloy, who we consider the best traditional pianist in Ireland. In case you are wondering, we are not contradicting ourselves. We have stated before that Denis Carey is the best all-around pianist in Ireland and Alison Hood is the most brilliant classical pianist. But, enough of that.

The album features 15 cuts. Our favorites here are the barn dances. Let's offer a constructive criticism. We wish Fergal would have talked to us, or somebody, first. While this album is an instant contender for In-



strumental Album of the Year, it does seem to be all fiddle, all the time. We would love to have heard more of Fergal's fantastic guitar playing, as well as his driving, yet nuanced, bodhran. This is his second solo album, and the second one where we fail to get the full breadth of his musicianship. Having said that, his fiddle playing is absolutely brilliant. We love this album, and it shows Fergal at the top of his game. The album is a treasure house for those who love trad and shows that Fergal is just getting better and better. Don't let any nitpicking deter you from getting your hands on this album. You know what to do.

*Be sure you are tuning in to our radio program, Ireland Tonight on Monday nights at 8 o'clock over WDCB, 90.9fm, www.wdcb.org. If you love trad music, this is the one place to be each week to get the pure drop---such as Fergal's new album! Also check us out on Facebook, “Ireland Tonight”

*More CD's coming out faster and faster so rest assured, there will be plenty next month! *Ta!

Just like the flowers in Spring and every bit as welcome, the saw Doctors arrive in Chicago to play the Vic on March 24th on the tail end of their US tour. Davey, Leo and the lads are irrepressible as they crisscross the nation with their uniquely West Coast of Ireland brand of Rock 'n Roll.

“Born into a repressed, Catholic, conservative, small town, agrarian, angst-ridden and showband infested society we are trying to preserve the positive elements of our background and marry them to the sounds which have culturally invaded our milieu through TV, radio, 45s, fast food restaurants, 24 hour petrol stations and electric blankets!” says their mission statement and considering their current hit with Petula Clark on Downtown, they are certainly right on target.

I spoke with Davey Carton as they prepared to leave Clare, Galway for the tour and he was in rare form. The UK tour in December was a great success and he even managed to take in a Spurs game. I had not realized that Davey was also a fan of Tottenham Hotspurs.

I never thought I would hear Davey singing the line “listen to the rhythm of the



Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



The Saw Doctors - Vic Chicago 3-24

gentle bossa-nova” so the first thing I asked him was, “Why Downtown?” So here is the story. Back in the 60's Davey's aunt came back from London with a bunch of records and Davey nicked the Petula Clark single which was a big hit in 1964 for Petula and was written by composer/songwriter Tony Hatch. Davey probably fancied her, we all did. Years go by, decades go by and the saw Doctors manager Phil Tennant is a friend of Petula Clark's manager and sometimes that's all it takes. They recorded Downtown with Petula Clark and it is a huge hit. The video is amazing and at almost 80 years, Petula Clark seems to totally defy her age and is still performing. In the video, which is filmed in Galway, Davey is looking good too and if they ever decide to remake Father Ted, Davey is your man.

Another coincidence, Saw Doctor Leo Moran was born the week that Petula Clark's Downtown became #1.

I asked Davey where they came up with the name of the band and he told me that “There was this fella who worked in the sawmill and he wouldn't work at all until they gave him a white coat and called him Saw Doctor”. Knowing where they come from I totally believe that story.

Davey lives in Clare-Galway, in fact all of the Saw Doctors live within a few miles of each other and along with Leo they have been a band for 25 years. Their latest album is “The Further Adventures of... the Saw Doctors” and of course there will be more as their creativity is fuelled by touring and the amazing stories they pick up from life on the road. (continued next page)

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Jackie Moran

At home Davey enjoys his family. He is proud of his boys David, Graham and Christopher, grown up now, they have their own punk band GURT. I asked about what he likes on TV and what movies he has seen recently. Davey loves The Office and Mrs. Brown's Boys, he was not impressed with the Grammy's and suggests they should call it the Gammy's. He loved the new Sherlock Holmes movie and has recently read "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo". He is most proud of the Saw Doctors song Exhilarating Sadness which I think is a beautifully crafted, well written song but he won't be satisfied till the Saw Doctors have a number 1 in America. Davey looks forward to the Chicago gig at The Vic and meeting his Midwest fans especially JohnPaul Lawless, fellow Galwegian and #1 Fan. As for myself, Wild Horses would not keep me away!



Cathy Jordan - Blix Street Records.

Michael McGoldrick, Liam Kelly and Seamie O'Dowd. Really great stuff. Her version of the Bold Fenian Men is my pick but the entire album is a great treat. Brilliant.

Keith Harkin - One Night Only Celtic Thunder's Derry born singer and songwriter Keith Harkin on a one day stop in Chicago, will play at McNally's Irish Pub in St. Charles on Sunday March 11th at 10PM. It's going to be a great night for all his fans and I look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Black - Stories from the Steeples - includes duets with Janice Ian, Finbar Furey and Imelda May. Great diversity on this album and best of all Mary Black will be touring in the US to support it. Love Mary's version of Fifi the Flea, originally recorded by The Hollies and my favorite cut, Marguerite and the Gambler.

Cathy Jordan's - All the Way Home - features A-list musicians, Andy Irving,



Piping It In

Jack Baker



And the floodgates opened and a deluge of wonderful music descended upon my store and verily I was most pleased. That's right folks, I'm the happy recipient of a bunch of terrific new recordings and I'll start telling you about them right now.

Remember Clannad? Those warm arrangements that wrapped themselves around your soul fired with the perfect voice of Máire Brennan. Now, with her name changed to Moya, to reflect the proper pronunciation, Moya Brennan has released two new CDs that take the Clannad sound to new levels. Not more of the same but instead the evolution of the "Clannad sound", firmly rooted in traditional Irish music but growing and expanding in scope. The first new release is "Heart Strings" and features Moya live with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. It has the depth and sound you'd expect with no overpowering orchestral sound. It's just beautiful. I'm listening to it as I type this and I have to keep stopping to appreciate the beauty. Her second new release is "Voices & Harps" which features Moya, in a studio setting, with Irish Harp virtuoso Cormac De Barra. Intricate, complex blending of the finest harp and finest voice produce a recording that will simply take your breath away. Planning an intimate evening at home with the one you love? Here's your soundtrack, off you go. Moya performed live at Milwaukee's Irish Fest last year and the feedback from everyone who saw it was very positive. It's good to have her bringing her rare talent to the festival scene again.

There are some bands that never disappoint you and Altan is one that has never recorded anything but their best work. This year Spring is made a wee bit brighter by the release of Altan's newest recording, "The Poison Glen". With crisp, bright instrumentation and solid vocals, Altan continues its long run of great recordings. They take their time and put out good music every time. This time they have included some of my favorite slip jigs, such as "A Fig for a Kiss". I like that tune. They're again on Compass Records.

Borealis Records in Canada scores a big hit with the release of La Bottine Souriant's new CD "Appellation D'Origine Contrôlée". This huge band (11 members) continues to put out a correspondingly huge sound. Must be them long winters in Quebec with

lots of rehearsal time that gives this band its great sound and energy and attitude. Evidence of their attitude is that all liner notes are in French with a note that English translations can be found on their website. They've been around awhile and anyone lucky enough to catch them in concert can testify as to how much fun they are to watch and listen to. This one is hard to avoid dancing to as all those instruments blend into a sound that wants to take you along with it. The vocals are all in French and I'd probably appreciate them more if I could understand them but they are beautifully done and that's a fact. I've always had problems getting La Bottine's recordings and I'm hopeful that this partnership with Borealis makes their stuff more attainable.

Two very talented and famous singers have released new CDs. Mary Black has released "Stories from the Steeples". It has been awhile since we've seen a new one from Mary. She's joined by Imelda May, Finbar Furey and Janis Ian on three of the tracks. Another great CD from this wonderful voice. The second singer to release a new recording is Kate Rusby. Her new CD "Make the Light" arrived in the store this week and started to be snapped up by her fans before I could even get in on the shelf.

The Scottish music scene lost a great light with the passing of John Mason MBE, longtime conductor of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. REL Records has released a collection destined to be a fitting memorial to his leadership. "30 Glorious Years of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra" contains 3 CDs with 51 of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra's compositions by John Mason. I've long been a fan of this most unique musical organization. They have produced over 15 fine recordings (15 CDs on our racks by them) and this collection has bits from every phase of their history. This collection will long help us remember the contributions of John Mason.

Hope to see everyone who can make it at the Irish American Heritage Center for Saint Patrick's Day and don't forget the new festivals next month, on the 21st of April in Mt Prospect and on the 28th of April at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.

You can find me most days at the store, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or on the web at pipingitin@comcast.net Slainté

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The Irish Connection



By Colleen Kelly



“I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Irish Cream!”

“Can I have an ice cream?” my daughter asked me.

“Oh honey, it’s too cold outside for ice cream,” I told her.

“If I put my coat on, can I have one?” she sweetly replied.

I love kids and the things they say. “She’s right,” I thought, “ice cream is not just for summer, it’s for all throughout the year.”

In fact, if you are looking for an old-fashioned ice cream shop, and a sweet concoction actually made by the Irish, one of my favorite ice cream shops is called Capannari’s and it’s located right here in Illinois.

What do you get when you get when you mix two Irish sisters, an Irish and Italian husband? A happy combination and “molto bene” (Italian for “very good”) homemade ice cream.

Run by two Irish-American sisters, Katie Dolan Dix and Meg Dolan Capannari, together with their husbands, Ken Dix and Jim Capannari, Capannari’s Ice Cream shop celebrates their 11th year in business this March.

My mother has always told me

that the Irish and the Italians make such beautiful babies. Well, apparently they make good ice cream, as well.

Located just northwest of Chicago in Mount Prospect, this small town local ice cream shop been featured in national magazines and is known by Presidents of the United States, famous national chefs, and even an American Idol star.

Who knew all of this success would come from making ice cream! They have served President Clinton, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, and Food Network’s Paula Dean, Kat Kora, Giada DiLaurentis and even American Idol winner, Lee DeWyze, a Mount Prospect resident. The owners even met up with Air Force One (yes, THE actual plane) right on the tarmac, to serve Vice President, Joe Biden, his favorite flavor.

According to the press, Capannari’s Ice Cream churns some of the best ice cream in the United States! This sweet hometown ice cream shop (with a modern twist of flavors) has been featured in Bon Appetit magazine, voted Best Ice Cream in Chicago by Chicago Magazine, received

the honor of Top Ten in America by Good Morning America and named Top Ten Destinations by Americanairlines.com, as well as appeared on the Today Show (whew!).

The Irish sisters (the Dolan clan) hail from County Cavan and County Kerry. They are second generation Irish and every March, the week before St. Patrick’s Day, they open their doors again and start serving ice cream. But what makes Capannari’s so special to me is the unusual

I have a fun idea for another new Irish favor. How about an over the rainbow “pot of gold” flavor? They can add raspberry, lime, orange for a little rainbow sherbet or how about corn beef and cabbage ice cream? Too much? Right, good point! I think I will leave the ice cream making to Capannari’s and just enjoy the flavors they have now!

To sample Irish flavored ice cream made by the Irish or any other

Cream opens March 10th and stays open all through October. They cater all over the city, as well, and can come to your events serving ice cream to the masses... speaking of mass, I’m late for it! See you next month.

But before I head to mass, a quick reminder...don’t forget to sign yourself and (or your kids) up for Irish Set dancing at the Irish American Heritage soon. For the little ones, the Shamrock Club is a great way to get the kids excited about their heritage. Capannari’s own Katie Dolan Dix said she just signed up last month and found it a fun way to connect to her heritage (plus it’s a good workout too).

And finally, my sister, Host and Executive Producer, Catie Keogh, wanted me to ask you to watch “24/7 Chicago” on NBC5 Saturday nights at 12:30 a.m. or DVR it. (www.247citysecrets.com) That’s a fantastic way to help support the Irish! (Her words, not mine.)

I will leave you with my favorite Irish blessing which I tweaked it a little.

*May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind always be at your back*

And may the rain fall on any other day,

but the day of the South Side and North Side parades!

Slainte! And a Happy St. Patrick’s Day to Ye All!



Joe Biden with Capannari’s Ice Cream owners, Meg and Katie

flavors that come from the strong Irish heritage of the owners. For 2012, the top three flavors are Guinness, Bailey’s and Irish Coffee ice cream.

good ol’ standbys, visit Capannari’s Ice Cream at 10 S. Pine Street in Mount Prospect, IL or contact them by calling 847.392.2277, www.capannaris.com.

Don’t forget Capannari’s Ice

And Then What?

By Frank West

Ideals are easy to have in times of plenty. But, when starvation and death approach will one do anything to survive? That is the moral dilemma presented in the play, Hunger.

The play’s background is the three year Nazi siege of Leningrad during WWII.

When the city was surrounded starvation quickly resulted. Stalin’s communist government was brutal and arrests and killings by his secret police were common. The secret police, Stalin’s government and starvation reduced the population so that the pitifully small amount of food would be sufficient.

The play focuses on a small group of scientists who have collected seeds from many parts of the world.

The seeds could provide a better future for humanity. But if you’re desperately hungry, the temptation is to eat the seeds so you can live. This dilemma is at the center of the play.

There is a strong connection to the Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1850). Seed potatoes had

to be saved from the previous harvest so they could be planted in the spring. The people were starving but if you ate the seed potatoes there would be nothing to plant, and death would surely follow.

The wonderful Lifeline actors, and especially director, Robert Kavzlaric, show what can be done with a script that needs a lot of editing.

The acting versatility of Peter Greenberg is a wonderful thing. I’ve seen his performances many times and I’m always pleased and amazed.

Lifeline Theatre is at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Hunger is presented now through March 25 on Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 4:pm and 8pm and Sundays at 4pm. 773-761-4477 or lifelinetheatre.com.



Screwtape Letters at McAninch 3/16-18 And at Paramount Theatre Aurora 3/19

The *Screwtape Letters* is an acclaimed theatrical production based on the classic novel by the Chronicles of Narnia author C.S. Lewis. The production will be presented at the McAninch Arts Center Mainstage at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18 and at the Paramount Theatre, 23 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora, Saturday, March 19.

In January 2011, *The Screwtape Letters* wrapped up its wildly successful nine month run off-Broadway at The Westside Theatre in New York City and had sold out engagements

at 1,000+ seat venues in LA and San Diego. Since, *The Screwtape Letters* has also sold out in cities across the U.S. including Chicago, San Francisco, Phoenix, Austin, and Washington, D.C. and has received rave reviews in The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, CNN, The National Review, The Huffington Post,

Elle and The New York Post.

The production, which has truly become a national sensation, is presented by the Fellowship for the Performing Arts, whose mission is to produce theatre from a Christian worldview that engages a diverse



audience. Max McLean is the NYC-based organization’s president. *The Screwtape Letters* will tour to many additional cities around the country throughout 2012. We represent many productions, and the success of this play in both secular and non-secular circles seems to indicate that theatergoers from a variety of spiritual backgrounds have embraced this thought provoking, meaningful piece of theater.

Gaelic Park in Five Parades

Besides having virtually continuous entertainment and activities on site for two weeks, the Irish at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, will be “strutting their stuff” in no less than five parades.

Gaelic Park’s entries include floats designed and decorated by Joe and Cathy Morrissey, an authentic Irish jaunting cart, the Irish Fest Queen and runner up, music and marchers.

Manhattan Irish Parade, Saturday March 3rd 2012 at 3:00pm

Oak Forest Parade & Fleadh, Saturday March 10th, 2012 at 11:00am

South Side Irish Parade, Sunday March 11th 2012 at 11:00am

Tinley Park Parade, Sunday March 11th 2012 at 2:00pm

Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Saturday March 17th, 2012 at noon

All responsible participants are invited to march with the Gaelic Park contingent and there will be buses from Gaelic Park for most of the parades. For information regarding departure times and parade numbers call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323 or visit the website at www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Jesuit Dallas Rangers V Loyola Academy Ramblers in Ireland 2012

By Rachel Gaffney

Growing up in Ireland, rugby was very much part of my life. From as young as five years old, I attended rugby matches at Cork Constitution rugby club and throughout my school years learned how to sing the rugby songs when supporting schools or indeed my home province, Munster. Rugby lovers reading this will understand the rivalry between Munster and Leinster. The red Munster jersey has pride of place in my home and indeed in my heart.

Before moving to the United States I could never quite understand the exuberance associated with football, from portable stadium seats with school names emblazoned on the back to lap top covers and golf bags with the university logo boldly displayed. Although long graduated from their respective colleges, people continued to have a strong connection with their alma mater. Proudly wearing the shirts, indeed proudly displaying the name on the back of their cars on decals. In fact the legacy and loyalty of their alma mater is as important as their family name. These fraternities are families and as a stranger in a new land I was in awe. Sixteen years living in this country has given me quite a bit of perspective. I learned that this enduring bond is developed from as early as 8th or 9th grade.

Four U.S high school football programs will play their 2012 regular season opening game in Dublin, Ireland, on Friday, August 31. These schools will be taking part in GIFT 2012- The Global Ireland Football Tournament- and will play in one of three double headers during the same weekend as the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen meet in Dublin on September 1st.

I am now the parent of 2 teenage boys, both of whom play this national pastime. A game that did indeed evolve from the game of rugby. The 'Father of American Football', Walter Camp, changed the rugby rules back in 1879 and thus saw the divergence from rugby to football. Now, in an ironic twist, my son will visit my home as one of the football players for Jesuit College Preparatory School Dallas, when they come head to head with their brother school from Chicago, Loyola Academy.

Loyola Academy is located in Wilmette, on the North shore of Chicago. This Jesuit co-educational college prep is indeed the largest Jesuit high school in the United States with an enrolled student body of approximately 2,000. Head Coach, John Holocek led the team to a 2010 Chicago Catholic Championship and the Prep Bowl Championship in 2008. During his five years at Loyola, their football team has qualified for the IHSA largest school division state playoffs each year and reached the semifinals in 2009 and 2010.

"We are excited about the opportunity to bring an array of travelers from our school community to Dublin" said Loyola Academy President Rev. Patrick E. McGrath, SJ.

"We are delighted to share this journey with our brother school, Jesuit Dallas, another extraordinary Jesuit preparatory school"

Our school, Jesuit Dallas is led by head coach Brandon Hickman. A school that is one of two private schools that belongs to the University Interscholastic League and competes in District 9 of Class 5A, the state of Texas largest classification.

"Jesuit looks forward to the opportunity to play football against Loyola Academy at such an exciting venue" said President Mike Earsing

"Football is a big program at Jesuit and now it is providing additional opportunities outside the gridiron to learn, grow and experience other cultures. We are indeed excited about getting to play Loyola Academy in a football game but we are

more excited about developing a relationship with another great Jesuit school" says Steve Koch, Director of Athletics at Jesuit Dallas.

The entourage accompanying both the Jesuit Rangers and Loyola Ramblers will descend upon Dublin in force like a well planned military maneuver. Coaches and cheerleaders, doctors and parents, all with a role to play. Trunks filled with equipment and uniforms. Dublin last witnessed this massive descent from the United States in November 1996 when Notre Dame played the Naval Academy. Now they will experience an increase in population over night as high schoolers, parents



and grandparents accompany them.

You see, this is more than a football game, much much more than a football game. It is a cultural connection and in a lot of cases it is a connection with their roots.

Fundraisers began last year. Fathers grilled burgers at football games, cheerleaders hosted spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts, tee shirts were sold, Irish Whiskey tastings and Irish cultural evenings have been hosted every month in Dallas, all

to raise funds for this team to experience this cultural event.

Although there will be two practices in Dublin for the teams, there will of course be time to visit and experience the island that is Ireland.

No year in Irish history is as well known as 1690. The 'Battle of The Boyne'

This was the infamous battle that William III won against King James VII.

Players and dancers from the Rangerette drill team from our sister school, Ursuline Academy will visit this historical site.

Accompanying our group will be a guide provided for us by the University College Cork, thanks to their International Student Recruitment department and help from Lisa Brett.

When we leave this famous site we will visit the town of Drogheda where many activities are being planned, thanks to Julie Anne Lawler, project manager for Irish National television station, RTE's project 'Local Heroes Drogheda'. This will be a great opportunity for both visitors and residents to connect, make friends and forge new relationships.

When you are second and third generation Irish, connecting with your roots means everything to you. As the great Irish statesman, orator and author, Edmund Burke once said "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors"

If you happen to be in Ireland and see large posses dressed in blue and gold, sporting fighting Irish logos, donning the Jesuit Ranger emblem or wearing the Loyola Rambler uniforms with pride, please take a moment to reflect on the incredible effort,

time and money it took to get them there.

While grilling those burgers, flipping those pancakes or selling the tee shirts, these families worked together as a community, making friends along the way, strengthening and enriching the Jesuit community, all the while paving the way for their kids to enter that third and final phase of their education. Now, with this perspective it is so easy to understand the exuberance associated with this national sport that is football.



Constable Sullivan's great grandson (see page 23 article), Admiral Daniel Gallery, (Right-Center) walks with Mayor Richard J. Daley as they both lead the St. Patrick's Day parade in its return to State Street, circa 1956/57. Our thanks to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for this wonderful photo! March 17th, will be the perfect day for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Chicago. Dyeing the river takes place around 10 am., and the parade itself steps off on Columbus and Balboa Drive at Noon.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

March and St. Patrick's Day are upon us when the eyes of the world focus for a brief period on all things Irish. This phenomenon is unbelievable and is testament to the influence a small nation like Ireland has had on the world stage. I love celebrating St. Patrick's Day in America and particularly at Gaelic Park although I am quoting John Giffin when I say that of Gaelic Park "we celebrate being Irish 365 days of the year." There are many happenings at The Park in March described in these pages, but I would like to talk about some of the ways that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland. March the 17th is a holy day in Ireland, so many attend mass, and most large towns and cities have parades. The Parades tend to be very colorful with different themes each year and more are oriented, with very few bands. In Ireland, nobody dyes the rivers and the only people excited about alcohol consumption are those who have given up alcohol for Lent because traditionally they are given or give themselves a dispensation to drink on St. Patrick's Day. In Ireland St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated on March 17th. In Chicago the downtown parade will be on March 17th only because this year March 17th

is a Saturday. In Ireland we eat Bacon and Cabbage, and yes sometimes it is holy bacon, and many in Ireland boil the potatoes and cabbage with the bacon so the salt from the cured bacon leeches into the potatoes and cabbage. It may not be healthy, but it is delicious. The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park will be serving Bacon and Cabbage for the month of March, come try it for yourself! The All-Ireland Club Finals in Hurling and Football are played at Croke Park in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, and this is a wonderful occasion when the entire population of an area comes to cheer on their hurlers and footballers. The GAA club in Ireland is the social nucleus around which everything revolves and the participants have roots in the community for several generations, so the connection is very real and passionate. Gaelic Park is delighted to participate in the Southside Parade once again, and our doors will be open at 1:30pm after the parade where we continue a great tradition of generations of Irish families celebrating our song, dance and conversation in a family-friendly way. That is a real Irish tradition worth keeping alive.

John Devitt, President



Gaelic Park Players

Presents

Try Anything Twice

This is a comedy written by William Reade and directed by Bob Fox. Tickets are on sale now!

Theater Performance tickets are \$12. **OPENING NIGHT ONLY (Friday, 4/13) BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

Dinner & Theater (Sundays Only) tickets are \$25

Reservations are a must for Dinner & Theater

For Reservations call 708.687.9823

Show Dates:

Fridays April 13, 20 & 27 - 8:00pm

Saturdays April 14, 21 & 28 - 8:00pm

Sundays April 15, 22 & 29 - 8:00pm

This play contains adult content and is not suitable for children under the age of 13 years. Tickets are non-refundable. If you are interested in receiving audition information and/or would like to join our mailing list, please send your name, address and email to info@gaelicparkplayers.org or mail in to Gaelic Park Players, Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Hope to see you at our Performing Arts Stage at Memorial Day High Fest www.gaelicparkplayers.org

CGP Monthly Events

3/8	Performance <i>It's the Real McCoy</i>	8:00pm
3/10	St. Aidrick Fundraiser	3:00pm
3/11	Mass & Irish Breakfast	9:00am
	South Side Irish Sunday Celebration	1:30pm
3/17	St. Patrick's Day at CGP (see website for all events)	
3/21	Old St. Pat's Series	6:30pm
	AI Galician, Founder Career Transitions Center	
	Topic: Give Us Today our Daily Bread	
3/28	The Quiet Man Movie	2:00pm
3/30	County Down Monthly Meeting	8:00pm
3/31	Easter Egg Hunt	3:00pm
	An Easter Bunny visit, the movie <i>WGP</i> , games, activities, food and refreshments	
4/11	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30pm

Monday Cattle Supper Hot buffet served 4-7pm; music and dancing until 9pm, \$16 adults/\$9 children 12 and under. Entertainment on 3/4 Gerard Haughey, 3/18 Pat Daly and 3/26 Joe Cullen. Reservations required for large groups.

Monthly Musical Luncheons Save the date for Wednesdays, March 7, April 4 and May 2. Doors open at noon, lunch served at 1pm, music until 4pm, \$13 per person. Reservations required.

Monday Evenings	Hot Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	Call Dancing	7:30pm
	Pub Quiz Night	7:30pm
Thursday Evenings	Irish Sessions	7:30pm

✂ This listing to your weekly calendar! ✂

phone: 708.687.9823

web: www.chicagogaelicpark.org

County Association Connection



Galway Fellowship Club of Chicago

31st Annual Dinner Dance

Date: Saturday, April 14
 Location: Chicago Gaelic Park
 Time: Cocktails at 6pm and Dinner at 7pm
 Entertainment: John Dillon Band/Weber School of Dance

Dinner tickets are \$65 per person and includes open bar all night. Call Barbara Moran 708-699-7320 or Barbara Glynn 773-685-9289. \$1000 Super Raffle tickets are also available by calling Teresa Hanley 708-371-4268 or Mary Keena 847-885-8271.

Antaris Armagh Carlow Carraig Clara Cork Derry Donegal Down Dublin Fermanagh Galway Kerry Kildare Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Limerick Longford Louth Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly Roscommon Sligo Tipperary Tyrone Waterford Wexford Wicklow

GAA Hurling Added to Super Bowl XLVI

At this year's annual general meeting for Chicago's GAA, the board congratulated the Indy Hurling Club for getting the Super Bowl Committee to add hurling as one of their main events in the Super Bowl village this year. The Indy Hurling Club & Carraig Club put on demonstrations during Super Bowl week to gain interest in the sport as well as recruit for their clubs. You can see a clip from the event on Youtube.com by searching for "Indy GAA in Super Bowl Village." Representatives from

the clubs reported a major spike in interest from the event. This year's annual general meeting produced an overall renewed sense of collaboration to rejuvenate Irish sports in the Midwest. The Chicago hurling clubs in attendance even discussed expanding their match schedule to include clubs from Canada. While details on these matches have not yet been released, it is clear that most of the clubs in Chicago will be looking to expand their match schedule as much as they can

this year. Part of this expansion will include a second annual 7 a side tournament and the Continental Youth Championship being held in Chicago this year. Your 2012 Central Board is as follows: Chairman- Val McMahon, Vice Chairman- Martin Marney, Secretary- Paul Reynolds, Vice Secretary- Annie Redmond, Registrar- Bernadette Mackey, Treasurer- Lisa Krueger, Vice Treasurer- Maureen Gill, P.R.O.- Greg Miller, Honorary President- Tommy Dolan Esq. To contact them visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Enjoy the Music & Spirit of the Irish in our Authentic Pub Imported Directly From Ireland.

Open to the Public 7 Days - Live Entertainment Every Weekend
 Traditional Irish Music Sessions on Thursdays - 7:00pm
 featuring students from the Irish Music School of Chicago
 Pub food available Monday - Saturday.
 Check out our menu items.
 Daily drink and food specials.

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Full Table Every Tuesday Night @ 7:30pm

Live Music in the Pub

Fri Mar 2	Joe Dillon	7:30pm
Sat Mar 3	Traditionalists	
	Sessions	8:00pm
Fri Mar 9	The Flanigans	7:30pm
Sat Mar 10	The Gallies	2:00pm
	Joe McNamee	6:30pm
Fri Mar 16	Billy O'Donnoghue & Lany Nugent	7:30pm
Sat Mar 17	Pat Daly	1:00pm
	Michelle Z	5:00pm
	Gerard Haughey	9:30pm
Fri Mar 23	Michelle Z	7:30pm
Sat Mar 24	The Lads of Tallonoree	8:00pm
Fri Mar 30	Pat Smith	7:30pm
Sat Mar 31	Maureen Gill & County Bands	8:00pm

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL

708.687.9823

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

New expanded Pub food and entertainment

Check Website for Full Schedule



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

Gaelic Park and the Carraig Pub once again are hosting the annual St. Baldrick's Fundraiser on Saturday, March 10, at 3pm in the Tara Room. The Carraig Pub will open at NOON and food will be served

starting at 1pm. Gaelic Park has been hosting a St Baldrick's event for the last five years and in that time we have had 265 volunteers that have participated and raised almost \$100,000! If



you'd like to be a "shavee" or help out as a volunteer on the day of the event, please go to the St. Baldrick's web site www.stbaldricks.org, search "Gaelic Park" and sign up, it's that simple! All donations will benefit the fight against children's cancer. Help us top our 2011 figures of 679 donations totaling \$25,861 with 71 participants and 61 shavees!



Free Matinee

Sunday March 25, 2012 @2:00pm



The Quiet Man

A retired American Boxer returns to the village where he was born in Ireland, where he finds love.

Sean Thornton has returned from America to reclaim his homeland and escape his past. Sean's eye is caught by Mary Kate Danaher, a beautiful but poor peasant, and stranger sister of his beloved. But it will Danaher. The classic relationship that forms between Sean and Mary Kate, punctuated by Will's pugnaacious attempts to keep them apart, forms the main plot, with Sean's past as the dark undercurrent.

March 25

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 60457
708-487-9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Don't forget, you can stay for dinner after the movie - We have food in the pub from 3 to 8pm, or our Celtic Supper starting at 4pm.



IRISH MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION MUSIC SCHOOL

Learn Irish fiddle and Tin Whistle with Teresa Shine on Fiddle and Meg Nugent on Tin Whistle. Both are Top Musicians, well known in the Chicago area.

Lessons will be held on Thursday's from 5:30-7:30pm. As you progress, we welcome you to join the Irish Music Session in the Carraig Pub at 7:30pm.

Recommended for children aged 7 years and up. Cost \$15 per lesson.

IRISH MUSIC
lessons
at chicago
gaelic park

Contact

Teresa Shine for Fiddle at
tsinmusic@gmail.com
Ph. 773-636-1013

or
Meg Nugent for Tin Whistle at
megierneynugent@yahoo.com
Ph. 773-512-2413



Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, Illinois 60457
708-487-9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

A lively costume carnival from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Gaelic Park every last a few years and makes a fantastic, with the company of John 'Jack' Kennedy, John and tribute with every engaged society dancing sessions at Gaelic Park for more than 20 years. Set dance work

steps continue at Gaelic Park on Monday night from 7:00-9:00pm and Celtic dance on Tuesday night 7-9pm. Irish social dancing encourages experts, beginners, children, adults and women to come and dance together. John and Honey may be costume dancing in your spirit!

Save the Date

Saturday March 31, 2012

Gaelic Park's First Easter Egg Hunt!



More Details coming soon!
Chicago Gaelic Park
6119 W. 147th Street Oak Forest, Illinois
708-487-9323
www.chicagogaelicpark.org



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATIONS

Friday, March 2nd

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

7:30pm On Stage **Joe Cullen**

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Saturday, March 3rd

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

8:00pm On Stage

Traditional Irish Music Session

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Sunday, March 4th

THE EMERALD ROOM

4:00pm - 9:00pm

The Irish Festival Queen Contest

In Conjunction with Celtic Supper
All You Can Eat

Delicious Hot Food Buffet

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Entertainment by **Gerard Haughey**

Admission \$16.00

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 8:00pm



Saturday, March 10th

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Open for Lunch 11:00am

7:00pm On Stage **The Griffins**

8:00pm On Stage **Joe McShane**

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served until 10:00pm

3rd Annual Oak Forest Fleadh

For those wishing to march with Gaelic Park, a bus will depart Gaelic Park at 10:00am. The bus will return to Gaelic Park immediately following its participation in the parade. Step off is at 11:00am on 157th and Cicero Ave.

TARA ROOM

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Food Shopping with new plans starting at 5:00pm.
Proceeds benefit the fight against children's cancer

Thursday, March 15th

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

8:00pm On Stage

Irish Music Session with Pat Finnegan & Friends

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served until 9:00pm

Friday, March 16th

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Open for Lunch 11:00am

7:00pm On Stage

Billy O'Donoghue & Larry Nugent

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served until 11:00pm



9:00am Mass

Followed by Irish Brac'fest
Admission \$8.00



Doors Open 1:30pm

Admission \$5.00

Kids 12 and Under \$3.00

Four Stages of Continuous Entertainment

Delicious Hot Food Buffet

In Tara Room from 1:30pm

EMERALD ROOM

1:30pm On Stage

EMERALD ROOM

1:30pm On Stage

The Larkin & Moran Brothers

This local group is a big favorite at Chicago Gaelic Park. Their music is a great blend of traditional and contemporary Irish songs. Don't miss this popular group.



5:00pm On Stage

Arranmore

Contemporary Folk Music with Irish Flair

Once an Irish Pub band, now an international sensation. Today, Arranmore has evolved into what is best described as a Celtic/Folk/American Music act. Their musical diversity brings these Irish roots to a broader-range audience.



7:00pm On Stage

The Dennehy School of Irish Dancing

8:00pm Show By

Gaelic Park Irish Set Dancers

TARA ROOM

1:30pm On Stage

Mulligan Slew

5:45pm On Stage

Week Back

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

1:30pm On Stage

John Dillon

5:00pm On Stage

Billy O'Donoghue & Larry Nugent



CELTIC ROOM

Children's Stage

2:00pm

Dublin Deceptions Magic Show

3:00pm

A Bit "O" the Magic

5:00pm

Shamrock Shenanigans Magic Show

Thursday, March 8th

THE TARA ROOM

Direct from Ireland

"It's The Real McCoy"

A New Rip-Roaring 3-Act Irish Comedy

8:00pm

Tickets \$5.00 in Advance / \$20.00 at Door

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

7:00pm On Stage

Irish Music Session with Pat Finnegan & Friends

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday, March 9th

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

7:00pm On Stage

The Ploughboys

NO COVER CHARGE

Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Ireland On Parade

Dance School Schedule



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



EMERALD ROOM

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Doors Open 5:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Delicious Hot Food Buffet

in Tara Room Nightly at 6:00pm

Martin Fahey, M.C.
with Music by The Irish Musicians &
Sean O'Donnell

Friday, March 9th

7:00pm Show By

Shaylyn McNamara
School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Cross Keys
School of Irish Dancing

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

Monday, March 12th

7:00pm Show By

World Academy of Irish Dance

7:30pm Show By

Mullane, Healy, Godley
School of Irish Dance

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

Tuesday, March 13th

7:00pm Show By

McCormack/Fay
School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Mulhern School of Irish Dancing

8:00pm Show By

Gaelic Park Irish Ceili Dancers

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

Wednesday, March 14th

7:00pm Show By

Tooromeen School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Geraldine Foy School of Irish Dance

8:00pm Show By

Katie Hughes School of Irish Dance

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

Thursday, March 15th

7:00pm Show By

Weber School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Blackbird School of Irish Dance

8:00pm

Irish Music Session
with Pat Finnegan & Friends

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

Friday, March 16th

6:00pm Show By

Regina Garrity School of Irish Music

7:00pm Show By

Sullivan School of Irish Dance

7:30pm Show By

Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing

Followed by Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

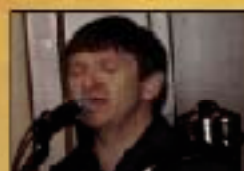
St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage

Doors Open 11:00am • Admission: \$25.00 • Cash Bar

Lunch Served at 12:00pm

Music & Dancing until 8:00pm



On Stage

Joe Cullen

A Show By

Cross Keys School
of Irish Dancing

RESERVATIONS ONLY

EMERALD ROOM
**St. Patrick's Day
Dinner & Concert**
Featuring
Leahy's Luck
Doors Open at 6:00pm - Dinner 7:00pm

Traditional Irish Dinner
Featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage
Covers \$18.00pm
Admission \$45.00 - Cash Bar

Dinner Music by
Sean O'Donnell

A Show By
Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing
RESERVATIONS ONLY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

THE CARRAIG IRISH PUB

NO COVER CHARGE

Open for Lunch 11:00am

1:00pm On Stage

Pat Daly

3:00pm On Stage

Richie Z

9:00pm On Stage

Gerard Haughey

Pub Band Set out until 10:00pm

TARA ROOM

NO COVER CHARGE

11:00am - 4:00pm On Stage

Children's Entertainment

4:30pm On Stage

The Griffins

8:00pm On Stage

The Ploughboys

Doors Open at 11:00am

Delicious Hot Food Buffet
in Tara Room at 1:00pm

Give the Gift of a Gaelic Park Membership. Purchase a Gaelic Park membership for a friend or relative during the St. Patrick's Day season and give them the gift of Irish Culture, Heritage and Fun throughout the year. If you purchase 2 from Gaelic Park will send a special St. Patrick's Day card in your name along with a membership card valid until mid May 2021 for your friend or relative. The gift will also let them know that, as part of your gift of membership, they will receive a valuable home of the Irish American Home, (available for Friday night of Irish Fest 2021 & 2022), a complimentary dinner for 2 at the annual convention and other benefits throughout the year for a total value of over \$200.00. Single Membership to Gaelic Park is \$30.00 or couple membership is \$50.00. In addition your gift will support Gaelic Park and its mission of promoting and perpetuating Irish Culture and Heritage. All in all it's a great way to share and celebrate the St. Patrick's Day Season.

Membership

Purchased by

NAME _____ PHONE/EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ street _____ Apt/Unit # _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Recipient

NAME _____ PHONE/EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ street _____ Apt/Unit # _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Checks payable to Chicago Gaelic Park

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership

6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

phone: 708.687.9323 fax: 708.687.0120

Kickstart the Saint Barbara on Journey From Ireland to East Coast to Chicago

By Cyndi Resser

The Saint Barbara is an Irish type Galway Hooker sailboat that was built entirely by hand in a Chicago warehouse. The builder imported the wood for the boat directly from Ireland. In 2006, a small crew made the historic journey from Chicago to Ireland aboard the Saint Barbara. No other crew had ever successfully sailed across the Atlantic to Ireland in this type of boat before. The sailing garnered interest from people from many countries on every continent, and the website was averaging in excess of 10,000 hits per day during the journey. In addition, the crew received warm welcomes in the port

cities visited during the journey.

Ever since successfully sailing the Saint Barbara from Chicago to Ireland in 2006, the crew has dreamt of sailing her back to Chicago for the return journey. This spring, the crew will be sailing the Saint Barbara back to Chicago from Ireland. They plan to stop in many major cities during the journey, including Brest, Lisbon, San Miguel, Boston, New York, Buffalo, Toronto, Detroit, Beaver Island, Milwaukee and Chicago.

Please help us fund our documentary project at Kickstarter as we chronicle the journey of the Saint Barbara and her crew as she makes her way from Ireland to Chicago in



the spring of 2012.


The crew of the Saint Barbara will bring a cameraman aboard the boat for the four to six month journey this spring. Your contribution will help to fund the following:

- Camera equipment
- Editing capabilities
- Clearance costs
- Cameraman time & sustenance

The final product will be a DVD documentary covering the journey of the Saint Barbara from Ireland to Chicago (Sailing to America), including footage from the historic 2006 sailing from Chicago to Ireland. Many of the contribution rewards for this project include a copy of the finished DVD, allowing you to enjoy the documentary you so generously

helped to fund.

We really need your help, and we appreciate any contribution you are able to make. Please visit our Kickstarter project page or www.sailingtoamerica.com for more information. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at c_resser@yahoo.com or at 312-371-7040.



Emerald Society of Illinois

Irish American Police Association

Annual St. Patrick's Day March and Celebration


Saturday, March 17th

Held at Local 399's Hall (Operating Engineers Hall)
2260 South Grove Street Chicago 60616
Located 1 Block NW of Archer Ave and Canal St

Marchers will gather at the 399 Hall by 10:30am to begin boarding buses provided to the Parade. Parade steps off at noon

Honoring... Constable Jeremiah Sullivan
 The first Irish Police Officer in Chicago and the earliest known in the nation.
There will be a float in his honor

Dress uniform -The Buses will return marchers to the Hall (Hall offers accommodations to change after the Parade).

 **Entertainment**
 Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society/Chicago Police Department and DJ Bernie

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
 with all the trimmings and adult beverages

Celebration begins when the last busload of marchers returns to the Hall from the Parade Route and continues until 6pm. Taxi cabs will be available at the Hall.

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

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

ABBEYPUB.COM // 773.478.4408

the abbey

3420 W. GRACE ST

FRIDAY, MARCH 16
AMERICAN ENGLISH
 (THE COMPLETE BEATLES EXPERIENCE)
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CONCLUDING THE WEEKEND ON SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH WILL BE LARRY NUGENT & GUESTS, PERFORMING LIVE AT 3 P.M. AS WELL AS AN IRISH BREAKFAST PLUS CELTIC DINNER WITH LARRY NUGENT

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The Irish American Hall of Fame honors the achievements of outstanding Irish American individuals who have contributed to society in one or more of the areas of arts and humanities, business and industry, education, public service, religion, science and sports. The IAHF also recognizes individuals who have positively shaped the Irish American identity in the United States. *The 2012 Awards Gala will take place:*

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www.iahof.org



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

*May you have warm words on a cold evening,
a full moon on a dark night,
and the road downhill all the way to your door.
~ Dan McLaughlin
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Arlington Heights Historical Museum Host Irish Tea on 3/10

"There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea." Henry James

Join the Arlington Heights Historical Museum for an afternoon Irish Tea on Saturday, March 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Pots of hot Irish tea will be served with sweets and savory treats. The Museum is located at 110 W. Fremont Street in Arlington Heights.

Entertainment is by the handbell duo Clog Cailini which is Gaelic for 'bell girls' performing a combination of Irish and traditional tunes.

Kris Ward performs handbells accompanied by Carol Frieburg on piano.

The Tea is for adults and kids ages 6 and over. \$19 per person. Register each individually at ahp.org, program #1125-6 or go to any Arlington Heights Park District registration office to sign up in person. Call the museum at 847-255-1225 if you need more information. Registration deadline is March 5.

If tea and treats aren't enough, the fabulous Peggy Kinnane's Restaurant and Pub is just up the street!



Kris Ward rings a huge selection of handbells accompanied by Carol Frieburg on piano. Photo courtesy of Mick Ward.

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To volunteer, call: (312) 738-7551

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Celebrating Shamrocks for Kids

Celebrate: Come to Mercy Home's 17th annual family-friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Chicago Hilton immediately following the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 17th. Enjoy traditional Irish food and live entertainment. For tickets or for more information, visit mercyhome.org/shamrocks-kids or call (312) 738-8330.

Volunteer: Help us paint the town green with Mercy Home Shamrocks and help support a solution for kids in crisis. To volunteer or for more information visit mercyhome.org/shamrocks-kids or call (312) 738-7551.

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Kirwan's Black 47 at McCracken's in March

"Finally! Rock & Roll that means something again."

Time Magazine

"Angry, mournful, hilarious. Sing along, drink along, and be merry."

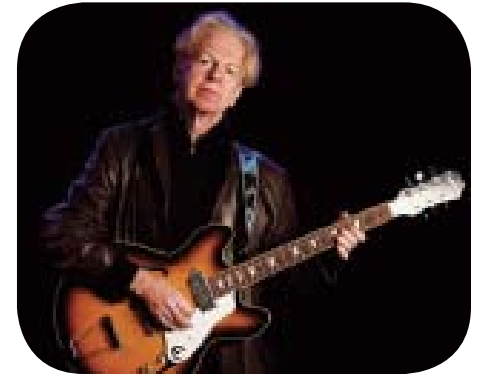
People Magazine

Black 47 take to the road for their 22nd St. Patrick's Day season on March 1st, 2012. The tour will be anchored around their annual St. Patrick's Day gig at BB Kings in New York City. The band recently released A Funky Ceili, a collection of 18 of their best-known up-tempo and humorous tracks, along with Bankers and Gangsters, twelve new topical and political songs. On this tour they will play songs from across their career and, at some gigs, perform their best selling CD Fire of Freedom in its entirety.

Black 47 have always been leaders in Celtic Rock, the genre they helped create. Formed in October 1989, and taking their name from the worst year of the Irish Potato Famine, they burst onto the scene in 1992 with the hit single, Funky Céili. Their signature eclectic sound, socially-conscious lyrics and off-the-wall live shows paved the way for other Irish influenced bands such as Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphys.

Their song Big Fella was featured for 3 minutes on Sons of Anarchy, FX Cable's most popular show, while Izzy's Irish Rose from Bankers & Gangsters will be included in an upcoming Gossip Girl episode.

Black 47's songs have long been used in political science and history courses in hundreds of



high schools and colleges. They have appeared on Leno, Letterman and O'Brien and been profiled in most major news outlets in the US. Their album, Trouble in the Land, was voted "top Irish-American album of the decade" by readers of www.Irishcentral.com

Known for its partying as much as its politics, Black 47 has released thirteen albums on major and indie labels. Asked the reason for the band's longevity, leader Larry Kirwan replied, "Because in almost 2500 shows we've never done the same set twice. Every gig is fresh – and important."

Kirwan is host of SiriusXM's Celtic Crush; his play, Blood, will open at The Cell Theatre in NYC on March 1st. Three other original members, Fred Parcells (Trombone), Geoffrey Blythe (saxophone) and Thomas Hamlin (drums) are joined by Joseph Mulvanerty (uilleann pipes and recent Carnegie Hall soloist) and Joseph "Bearclaw" Burcaw (bass) in one of the most distinctive and influential bands in the country.

Visit www.black47.com or www.facebook.com/black47

March 11 Phil McCrackens, Worth, IL

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How Chief O'Neill Saved the Soul of Ireland

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O'Briens

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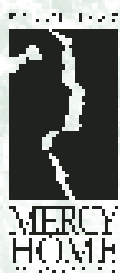
DRAWING: March 17, 2012 • O'Brien's Restaurant & Bar in Old Town

*See official rules and American Airlines Terms and Conditions at mercyhome.org

Winners need not be present.

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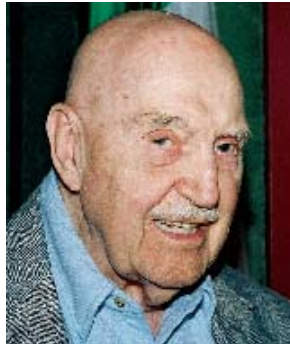
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Dinner to Honor Mr. O'Neill April 21

The Frank O'Neill Memorial Committee announces its First Annual Dinner to honor the memory of James Francis O'Neill and his dedication to the Nation of Ireland. Please join us starting 7 PM on Saturday, April 21 at the Irish American Heritage Center (Wilson Avenue at Knox) in Chicago.

Guests will enjoy a catered dinner and cash bar, along with musical entertainment. The Committee will present awards to three individuals for their dedication to the Nation of Ireland.

For info and advance seating arrangements contact: Richard Wallace, 312-855-1300, email ricoworld@ameritech.net



Fr. Clair 2012 Guest of Honor in Chicago Parade

Father Jack Clair is the 2012 Guest of Honor at St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was born and raised in Chicago all his life, but spent quite a few years in Clare on what is part of the old family farm in a small seaside town called Fanore on Ireland's western coast.

"It's pretty amazing", said Father Clair when asked what he thought about the St. Patrick's Day queen contest. "When you hear about their accomplishments and their charitable contributions, it is just great."

Father Clair is the Assistant executive Direc-

tor of Miseracordia in Chicago for 12 years, home to 600 children and adults with developmental disabilities - some of whom are very medically fragile as well. Before he arrived at Miseracordia he served as Vice President of St. Joseph College Seminary and served 8 years at St. Huberts Church in Hoffman Estates.

Father Clair will celebrate 30 years in the



priesthood this May.

There will be an after-parade party March 17 1-5pm honoring Fr. Clare At Quartino Ristorante 626 N State Street Chicago 60654. There will be live entertainment, corned beef and cabbage dinner, drink special and more!

100% of the proceeds will benefit the children and adults of Miseracordia Home sponsored by Quartino Ristorante and Gibsons Restaurant Group. \$40 at the door, \$30 in advance. Call Dorie Finnegan at 773-273-4178 or email dorie@miseracordia.com to confirm.

To make a charitable contribution to Miseracordia, www.miseracordia.com or www.miseracordia.org

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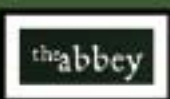
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2011 Chicago Rose of Tralee

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Chief Francis O’Neill’s Story in Spring Production

Music Mad, a musical drama celebrating the life and times of Chief Francis O’Neill, is currently in production and set to premier in May 2012 at Chief O’Neill’s Pub and Restaurant (3471 North Elston, Chicago) in Chicago. Stefan Brun directs.

The show premieres at Chief O’Neill’s and is produced by Chicago Treasures in association with the Prop Thtr. The production follows the success of Chicago-centric Prop productions, such as Busted City and Hizzoner, a production recounting the career of Richard J. Daley, which ran for more than 400 performances. Prop has become a respected incubator for innovative shows about Chicago.

Music Mad combines dramatic content with traditional Irish tunes, song and dance in an exploration of Chief Francis O’Neill’s relationship with the music of Ireland. He served as Chicago’s venerated Chief Superintendent of police from 1901 to 1905. He was revered for his bravery in the field and his upstanding character in the office.



of the leading reference sources on the subject. “Music Mad is just the kind of show we are looking to present,” says Stefan Brun, “It is a new play which tells a very ‘Chicago’ story. Formatted as an interview which is colored with dramatic and musical breaks, I believe the show will be a

positive contribution to Chicago’s theatrical landscape.”

“It is our goal to both educate and entertain”, says playwright Adam Whiteman. “O’Neill was truly a renaissance man. He was a gifted leader who navigated life with a warrior’s skill, a poet’s incite and a musician’s heart. I believe his story will resonate with people on many levels.”

Respected and talented Irish musicians and actors have been cast in the various roles, including, Brett Tewell, Mike O’Brien, Vera Kelly and Farley Masterton. In addition, Laurence Nugent will be displaying his expertise on the Irish flute throughout the show.

Music Mad opens at Chief O’Neill’s on May 6, 2012 and runs through June 28, 2012. Performances are 4pm and 7:30pm on Sundays and 7:30pm on Thursdays in May, and 4pm on Sundays and 7:30pm on Thursdays in June. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at www.musicmad.net or at the door.

For more information, contact Adam Whiteman at 312-655-1000



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St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
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Friday

March 16

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Saturday

March 17

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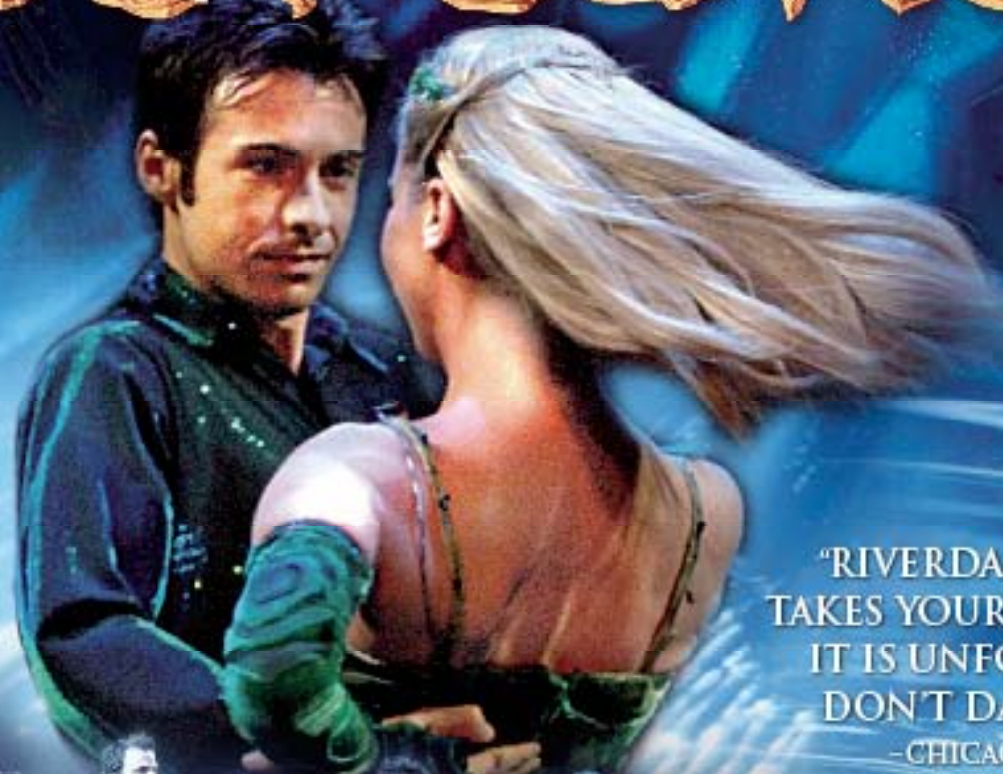
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