



Ray Kelly

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Four Decades In Europe

Politically 2013 promises to be another tough year. Not only does the economic situation present challenges, which could well torpedo the Coalition by year's end, but on another front there is little doubt that Abortion will be the political issue for 2013 in Ireland.

In the wake of the Halappanavar tragedy the government has announced its intention to legislate to fill the gap following the Supreme Court decision in the X case twenty years ago. The first public hearings took place in early January. The battle lines are being drawn. The Church and the pro-life lobby have already set out their stall. At least one expert witness has pointed out that it would be a very different debate were Britain, where abortion is legal, not so close. Could another emotive and divisive referendum be on the cards?

As if that were not enough, for the first half of 2013 Ireland has the six month Presidency of the EU. While arguably this will provide Ministers with some easy and positive publicity and afford a welcome relief from the unremitting pressure of the economic situation, it is also a distraction with Ireland tasked with advancing some serious, if not critical, issues for Europe. These include trying to get agreement on the EU financial framework (i.e. budget) for the coming eight years.

This year also marks the fortieth anniversary of Ireland's membership of the EU. Those decades merit a closer look for they have seen Ireland altered dramatically and irreversibly. It's a very different Ireland now compared to 1973. The battered Ireland that joined the EC, as it then was, was a poorer, shabbier place than the vibrant and assertive country of today, current economic problems notwithstanding. There are many faults with the EU but overall,

membership, and the partial pooling of sovereignty that went with it, have been of enormous benefit.

There was, of course, Europe's money. Up to 1973 Ireland was overwhelmingly dependent on Britain as a trading partner, which included trying to sell our agricultural products into a country which pursued a cheap food policy. Access to the Common Agricultural Policy (the CAP) changed this. We now had a particularly heavy hitter batting for us – France – and Ireland's agriculture and by extension, the economy, benefitted.

Then, beginning around 1980, a different flow of funds into the country began in the form of funding from the centre to the less prosperous regions. Historians of the future may well mark this development as the point when the EU began to evolve from merely a trading bloc to a future European super state.

This process culminated for Ireland in the political and economic bonanza of the early 90s which saw Ireland securing roughly \$ ten billion for infrastructural development. Hence our roads and other improvements. Hence also the freeing up of revenues which were spent raising welfare and other benefits.

The EU itself underwent a sea change in the early nineties. German reunification generated politically a new emphasis on expansion of contacts in Central and Eastern Europe which led to the opening later of accession negotiations with a dozen prospective member states. Internally the creation of the Single European Market in 1992 led to the removal of many internal barriers to the free movement of goods capital and labour between the member states.

The new Europe, now the Union, was acquiring the attributes of a supranational state. For

Ireland, now riding the back of the Celtic Tiger, the Single Market generated new opportunities for trade, and investment poured in. For the first time Ireland had full employment, married women were coaxed into the labour market as never before and yet still there were labour shortages. Ireland began to experience immigration for the first time in centuries.

May 1st 2004, during Ireland's last EU Presidency, saw the expansion of the EU from fifteen to twenty five countries. It was rightly regarded as a watershed date in modern European history and as ringing down the final curtain on the Second World War and the Cold War which followed. Eight of the new members were former Soviet satellites, most occupied by the Red Army for decades after 1945. Two more former satellites joined in 1997.

It was against the background of domestic labour shortages that the Government took the otherwise curious decision to permit immediate freedom of access to the Irish labour market to workers from the new Member States. The Accession Treaties provided for limits or restrictions on the movement of labour from the Accession States for up to seven years. This to allay fears among the fifteen at the prospect of unfettered access to the labour market for the new entrants.

Twelve of the fifteen states introduced restrictions for up to seven years. The three countries which did not were Britain, Ireland and Sweden. Sweden got relatively few immigrants. Britain and Ireland, which form a common travel area, got far more. Britain got roughly one million, relatively easily absorbed in a population of 60 million. Ireland received at least quarter of a million, not so easily absorbed in a population of just over four million. Factor in immigration from elsewhere and the last census showed a population of over four and a half million, with 12% non-nationals. We're far from becoming a nation of immigrants but Ireland has certainly changed, changed utterly.

The immigrants came to work,

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for jobs were plentiful. The net result was to swell the Irish labour force by several hundred thousand, many working in the construction boom. The national hangover, now that the bubble is well and truly burst, has led to an unemployment level of around 14.6%, a staggering total of 430,000 odd signing on the live register, almost 10% of the total population. More worryingly, one in five Irish households includes an unemployed adult, the highest among 31 European countries. And without emigration, which has returned with a vengeance in the last two years the figures would be even worse.

The building boom was fuelled by a number of factors but none more so than another aspect of our EU membership, the availability of cheap credit obtained through Irish membership of the Eurozone. Ireland embraced the Euro from its inception. The attraction – lower interest rates

– seems to have blinded those in power to the potential pitfalls as well as ignoring the fact that most of our trade was with non-Eurozone countries. Hubris? We've certainly paid for that one.

It would take several columns to do justice to the many positives we have derived from EU membership, particularly in the areas of equality, women's rights and social reform. Quite often it has been the push or the prod from Brussels or the rulings of the European Court which has obliged reluctant Irish legislators to act.

But above and beyond all this, EU membership has helped Ireland mature as a country and a society. Before 1973 much of our identity was defined in terms of our relationship with Britain. EU membership has changed this, provided a new dimension. We may not be at the heart of Europe, whatever Irish politicians may claim, but Europe is at the heart of us.

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Human Rights Activist Inez McCormack

Inez McCormack, the internationally renowned human rights activist, has died. Inez was the founder and adviser to the pioneering, highly commended Participation and the Practice of Rights organisation (PPR)*. PPR provides support to local disadvantaged communities and groups in using a rights based approach to change the social and economic inequalities and deprivation they face.

Last year (2011), Inez, along with Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton, Meryl Streep and Mu Sochua (the Nobel Peace Prize nominee from Cambodia), was named by US publication Newsweek as one of '150 Women Who Shake the World'. She was recognised for her work in enabling women to improve the quality of their lives through spreading the values of human rights.

Inez was the first female President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and an unrelenting activist for the equality provisions of the Good Friday Agreement. In the 1980's, she was a signatory to the historic MacBride Principles, a corporate code of conduct for US companies investing in Northern Ireland which demanded outcomes to address religious inequality in employment.

President Michael D Higgins, Hillary Clinton, Meryl Streep and Mary Robinson were among the many friends and colleagues who contacted Inez in recent weeks.

US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton spoke about Inez McCormack during her visit to Belfast on Friday 6 December 2012: "One person who is not here is Inez McCormack. Inez stands out amongst the extraordinary people I have worked with over the last 17 years. She inspired and motivated me, challenged me often."

Discussing her recent conversation with Inez, Hillary said: "She wanted to talk about how we had to keep working to bring people together so that they would recognize the common humanity and experience in the other; the fact that they want to be part of a family and a community; have a good job and a livelihood; a chance to learn and try to make sense of the world; to seek meaning and fulfilment in their choice of religious faith and practice.

Meryl Streep said: "Inez is such a great inspiration to thousands of women around the world. We are so grateful for the model of her life as a call to action for others, and I send love from so many people in the US who are aware of the difference she has made, actually, and by the example she sets."

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN Human Rights Commissioner said: "Inez was a remarkable woman with a remarkable capacity for friendship. She would want us to remember the positive issues she embraced with a combination of lateral thinking and supportive warmth: the McBride Principles; her leadership of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and her own Union, Unison; her championing of women's rights and combating gender based violence, at home and in countries of conflict.

"It was from Inez I learned that you can achieve much more if you don't need the credit. Inez had unique qualities of listening and affirming. They enabled her to



Meryl Streep and Inez McCormack

encourage local communities - in Belfast initially, then throughout the island- to engage with the International Human Rights System and use it as a tool to empower them in addressing the quality and fairness of local authority services.

Among the honours awarded to Inez in her lifetime were the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from New York City (1997); an Honorary Doctorate from Queen's University Belfast (2000); and Aisling Person of the Year Community Award (2001). Her writing has been widely published and was selected for inclusion in "The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing" (2002). More recently she published opinion editorials and articles on themes of peace building and social and economic progress.

Inez was married for over forty years to Vincent (Vinny) and they have a daughter Anne, son-in-law Mark and grandchildren Maisie and Jamie. Originally from Belfast, Inez lived in Derry for the past 12 years. She had a deep and abiding affection for Derry and Donegal where her mother's family originated and for the people of both places.

An event will be held in Belfast in the coming weeks to celebrate Inez's life - details to follow.

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16th Annual European Union Film Festival

From March 1 through 28, the Gene Siskel Film Center welcomes you to the 16th Annual European Union Film Festival, the largest showcase in North America for the

the nemesis from hell in local politician Brendan McSweeney (Rae). Digital video courtesy of Tribeca Films and Newgrange Productions. (BS)



Stella Days - Stephen Rea, Martin Sheen and David Herlihy

cinema of the European Union nations. This year's festival encompasses 26 of the 27 EU countries, presenting the Chicago premieres of 61 films. As always, our festival presents a wide range of recent production, from first features by the cream of Europe's new talents to the latest films by established masters.

According to the tradition of our festival, the opening night is presided over by the nation currently holding the presidency of the European Union. On Friday, March 1, our host is the Honorable Aidan Cronin, Consul General of Ireland.

Ireland is represented by three films in this year's festival, including the U.S.-Ireland co-production *Our Irish Cousins* by Chicago's own Mike Houlihan.

Aidan Cronin in person!

Stella Days

2011, Thaddeus O'Sullivan, Ireland/Norway/Germany, 100 min.

With Martin Sheen, Stephen Rae

Friday, March 1, 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 pm

"Understated elegance and surpassing central performance...director O'Sullivan puts it over with a gentle hand."--Eric Hynes, Village Voice

"Splendidly acted...with sensitivity, gentle humor and poignancy."--David Rooney, Hollywood Reporter

A stellar performance by Martin Sheen as Fr. Daniel Barry, a Catholic priest who has burned a few bridges in his time, brightens the darker recesses of this story of one man's attempt to bring cinema to a small Irish town. Set in 1956 Tipperary, where the church holds sway and the movies are regarded as the devil's work to many of his rural flock, film buff Daniel sets out to open a movie house, royally riling his bishop and encountering



Thomas Brodie-Sangster as Donald in Death of a Superhero

Note: No free passes or blue tickets will be valid for the opening night screening.

Our Irish Cousins

2012, Mike Houlihan, Ireland/USA, 99 Min.

Wednesday, March 13, 8:15 pm

The solid-green link between Chicago and Ireland is never as clear as in this comic, sentimental, good-hearted chronicle of an Irish American's return to the Ould Sod for a look at the stomping grounds of his ancestors. Award-winning journalist, radio personality, and actor Mike Houlihan, aka Houli or "the Hooligan" charts a course between Chicago's South Side with its venerable Irish traditions, and the more staid environs of Dublin and County Clare, for a look at the roots of those hardy Midwestern shamrocks. In English. Digital video courtesy of the filmmaker. (BS)

Death Of A Superhero

2011, Ian Fitzgibbon, Ireland/Germany, 97 min.

With Andy Serkis, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

"A moving, truthful, and at times, comical ride."--Sarah Duncan, Flicker Magazine

"Intelligent, honest and resonant."--Kenji Fujishima, Slant Magazine

Saturday, March 23, 3:15 pm

Wednesday, March 27, 8:00 pm

This tragicomic story of a terminally ill teenager doing battle with the angel of death is anything but macabre in the hands of director Fitzgibbon, whose films generally revolve around irony and black humor. Caustic and bitter, 15-year-old Donald, a talented comic book artist with a Goth bent, stares down his likely fate by living on the edge, to the concern of parents who set him up with a psychiatrist dueling with demons of his own. Digital video courtesy of Tribeca Films. (BS)

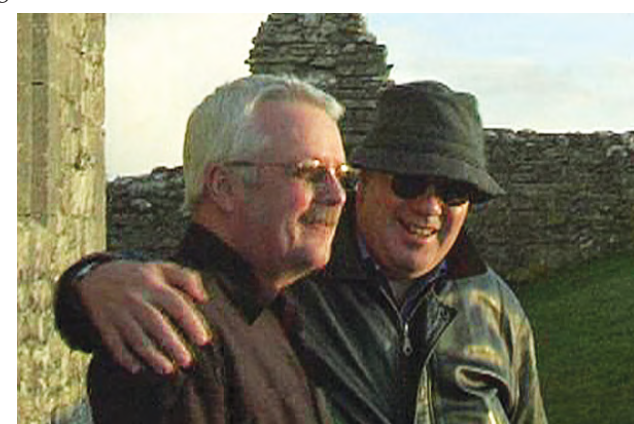
General Information

All screenings and events are at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, located at 164 N. State St., Chicago, IL 60601

Tickets to each screening – unless stated

Saturday; and 2:00 to 5:30 pm Sunday.

A Film Center membership is a year-round ticket to great movies for only \$6 per screening! Memberships are \$50 (Individual) and \$80 (Dual). For more information, call 312-846-2600 or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org



Old pals reunite in Galway - Our Irish Cousins

otherwise – are \$11/general admission, \$7/students, and \$6/Film Center members. All tickets may be purchased at the Film Center Box Office. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets are available through Ticketmaster, 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets. The Film Center and its box office are open 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Monday through Friday; 2:00 to 8:30 pm

[center.org/content/membership](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/content/membership).

Discounted parking is available for \$14 for nine hours at the InterPark SELF-PARK at 20 E. Randolph St. A rebate ticket can be obtained from the Film Center Box Office.

For more information about the Film Center, call 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9:00 am-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Does One Plus One Equal Three?

We have all been taught that one plus one equals two. Everyone knows that. Some of us would argue without stop to convince any dissenters that TWO is the answer. Haven't we all been conditioned to accept TWO as the proper solution?

Let me challenge that long held belief. I am convinced that when one intelligent person discusses an issue with another intelligent person, a third entity comes into being. The thoughts and insights of each person are influenced by the exchange of ideas with the other person. Commonly the thoughts of each party will be affected by the other person's point of view. This doesn't mean that their point of view will change,

but still it will be affected.

Let's look at the practical application of my belief. I have spent a great deal of my professional life discussing concerns, primarily professional or career matters, with clients. I have had the privilege of consulting or counseling with some darn bright individuals.

Commonly the discussion is taking place because the individual is not sure how to proceed on a specific issue. So we discuss that issue and the associated factors. The client normally shares her frustrations with a particular matter, whether it's another person or a set of circumstances. Frequently, I don't know the other parties and I may not know a lot

about the specific issues. I see my role as the interlocutor, namely, the person who has the role of asking questions, asking the client to explain and expand on the issues. Often the client has made a tentative decision that he feels is totally appropriate or he is just comfortable with the conclusion. So the client may have all or most of the facts at his disposal, but he may be only seeing those facts from one specific point of view. Haven't you found yourself in this situation at times? You are convinced that you have looked at the situation from every angle. Then you talk to a friend, a mentor or even a casual acquaintance about the matter. As the conversation continues, you begin to see the situation in a different light; your perspective changes.

The questions being asked by the other person tend to expand the breadth of your thinking. Perhaps it may even force you to look at the matter from a different vantage point. Now the old motto, two heads are better than one, may become crystal clear.

The practice of seeking help from other confidantes is perhaps

as old as time. Yet, I am continuously struck by how often people go off and make significant decisions without input from a trusted friend. I have certainly found that their counsel can be invaluable when it comes to reviewing written communications. If we have written, edited, and then written a document time and again, there is a good chance that we will simply miss obvious mistakes. It's not only typos and poor choices of words, but maybe even most importantly, another set of eyes may help you see that the tone of the document is undesirable.

It may be that the underlying theme of this column is NOT on improving your communication skills, but rather improving your cooperative skills. Aren't you troubled by the selfishness some of us display both in the work place and in public? Maybe the expression, "lighten up", could be applied to more of us than you would think. Perhaps the lack of civility in so many of our public forums is catching on. We seem to be willing to be quite unpleasant even when it is totally unwarranted. Imagine how much more productive and fun your work place could be if people cooperated with each other. Should that be one of your 2013 resolutions, becoming a peace maker?

Writing this column reminds me of the incident that one of my former neighbors shared with me. He was in a management training program. Simply stated, each of the six individuals in his cohort was to select a total of five items from their plane that just crashed

in the Arctic Circle. So each person selected their five items. Each member then explained why he selected those specific five items. My neighbor is a very smart and determined person, who had selected his five items carefully. But by the time the exercise was over he had agreed that all five of his items would not be the best ones to salvage from the aircraft. He said there were adamant defenses stated by each cohort member, but their goal was to have the very best chance of survival by picking the most helpful items on the airplane. This hardnosed neighbor enthusiastically agreed that his team had picked the most appropriate five items; he had been convinced by the excellent reasons that were presented by the other members.

How do you apply the lessons hopefully buried in this column? Listen carefully to the ideas of your fellow employees; they are smart people too. Share your ideas as positively and pleasantly as possible. Do not allow yourself to become contentious with your fellows. Try to see the other person's side of the "argument". Carpe diem.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. Chinese Proverb.

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. Website: jamesffitzgerald.com Phone: 630-684-2204

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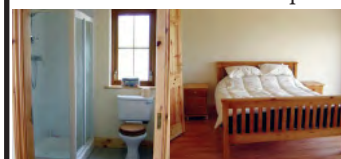


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Frank West



Iverni: A Prehistory of Cork

By William O'Brien, DuFour and the Collins Press

This beautiful book about the archaeology of West Cork is meticulously researched and lavishly illustrated.

This area is the site of thousands of standing stones, passage graves, burial mounds and other remains. Recent archaeological excavations have added much to our knowledge of Ireland's prehistory.

The time period studied is from the end of the Ice Age in Ireland (about 7,500 to 8,000 BC) until the Christian era began in the fifth century A.D.

Iverni is the name of the tribe that lived in this area.

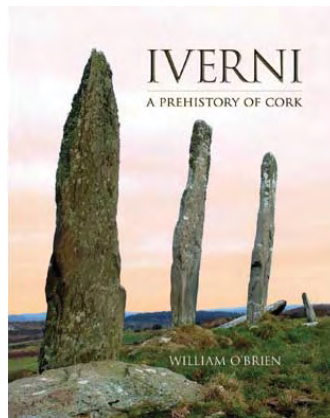
Greek and Roman map makers and merchants used the names of the local tribes as placenames. We are probably the descendants of those tribal people.

William O'Brien speaks authoritatively about Cork's prehistory because he teaches about the archaeology of this period at University College Cork. The topic of his doctoral dissertation was prehistoric copper mining in Ireland.

Copper was very valuable because, when mixed with tin, it became bronze.

Mount Gabriel, in West Cork, has 32 prehistoric copper mine sites. They were worked from about 1700 to 1400 B.C.

The mining of copper had a huge impact on prehistoric Ireland.



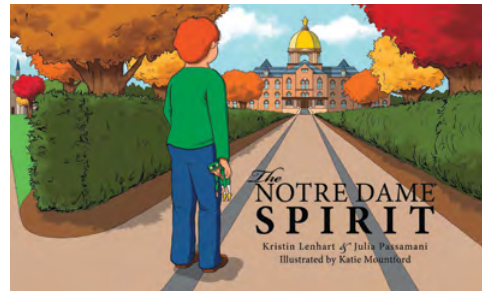
The Notre Dame Spirit

By Kristen Lenhart and Julia Passamani, Corby Books, www.corbypublishing.com

A Roman writer observed, "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." To kindle a dream in a child is a wondrous thing.

This children's book is about that. It is illustrated with bright, colorful, easy to understand pictures.

A boy visits Notre Dame University and tries to understand the spirit of the people he sees there.



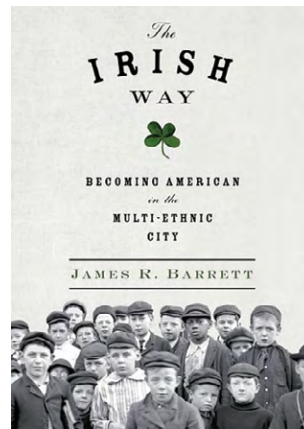
He wonders if the spirit he is looking for is the happiness and excitement of anticipating an important campus event, or he wonders if it is the willingness of the students to help others. He discovers that the spirit he is searching for is the students enthusiasm for life.

Passamani says, "It is more important than ever to believe in something bigger than ourselves as we face the harsh realities of life." The spirit encouraged by the university is one of hope, faith, excellence, and service."

That spirit is good advice for us adults too.

The Irish Way

By James Barrett
The Penguin Press



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Chicago newspaper reporter, Finley Peter Dunne's columns were widely read during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Dunne created the enduring character, Mr. Dooley, an Irish philosopher saloon keeper.

The author says Dunne's genius lay in his evocation, not simply of Irish American life, but of relations between the Irish and other ethnic groups. Those relations are the focus of this lively and vibrant book.

More than three million Irish came to the United States during the period 1840 to about 1890. Later immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe found an America that was distinctly Irish. They encountered Irish policemen, politicians, actors, bureaucrats, newspaper reporters, saloon keepers, contractors, teachers, etc.

When immigrants from various backgrounds embraced new styles, behaviors, and values, they were not those of some distant WASP mainstream. Irish culture could offer a trenchant, transcendent view of American society. It shaped much of what it meant to be an American.

Continued to page 24

An Irish Gem in the Heart of Downtown Barrington

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Illinois Governor Pat Quinn Signs Historic Drivers' Licenses Bill Into Law

by Breándan G. Magee

Illinois' Governor Pat Quinn presided over a packed room in a south side Chicago immigrant center on Sunday January 27, when he signed into law a much vaunted bill that will provide temporary drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants in his state. An impressive who's who of Illinois politicians joined him on stage in support of the move and to express solidarity with the immigrant population, including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Secretary of State Jesse White, Senate President Cullerton, Asst. Majority leader Acevedo, Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, Latino Caucus Co-Chairs Tony Munoz and Toni Berrios and Representative Lisa Hernandez.

Governor Quinn lauded those who worked on the bill and welcomed its arrival on his desk stating that Illinois was a leader in immigrant rights and a model for other states to follow. Illinois also passed the DREAM Act in 2010, which makes it possible for young people, brought here illegally by their parents when they were children, to secure a work permit. The Governor added that the President should be proud of his home state's record on immigrant rights as he prepares to tackle comprehensive immigration reform in Washington DC this year.

Mayor Rahm Emmanuel also took to the stage to thank all those involved in bringing the bill past the finish line and spoke of his own immigrant grandfather coming to Chicago to escape anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe at the turn of the last century. He spoke of America being a nation of dreamers, a nod to the term used to describe the high school children eligible for the DREAM Act, and added that all of those who came to these shores did so with the dream that their children would better off than they. "Only in America are these things possible" he retorted. He also reaffirmed his own commitment to keeping Chicago one of the most immigrant friendly cities in America and acknowledged the city's open door policy to immigrants whether they hail from Ireland or Mexico.

The Irish were represented in the front row by Billy Lawless Chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform; he was accompanied by fellow Celts board members Cyril Regan and Breandán Magee. The Chicago Celts played a pivotal role in the bill's passage and joined forces with other immigrant groups to form a strong and formidable coalition that garnered bi-

partisan support in the legislature. Regan and Magee spent the final two days before the vote in the House of Representatives in Springfield pressing legislators to support the historic piece of legislation. The vote count was tight up until the final hour and in a last ditch effort from all involved, including the Celts, key legislators swayed from hard no's to the yes camp. The bill, which had earlier passed the Senate, cleared the House by 65 to 46 votes.

Asked about the Irish voice in the debate Celts Chairman Billy Lawless poignantly noted "The Irish have once again played an instrumental role in a key piece of legislation, which will directly benefit the 5000 Irish undocumented living in Illinois who up to now could not get a driver's license." He went on to add "the key to our success in Illinois was strength in unity with our immigrant cousins from other countries... we made key alliances and spoke with one voice and in the end we prevailed. Illinois is once again a model for the nation and other states on how to move things forward."

The bill allows any immigrant in Illinois to secure a temporary visitors' driver's license (TVDL) if he or she can provide proof of residency in Illinois for the last year, a valid passport or consular ID and pass all road tests. The license will cost \$30 but will appear somewhat different to the regular IL driver's license; they will be colored purple as opposed to the red of regular licenses. The TVDL already exists for foreign nationals who are here on student visas or temporary work visas. It will not be valid for proof of identity to board a plane or enter a federal building and will be marked "not valid for identification". It can however be used as a bond card in the event that the holder is pulled over by a police officer and given that it is the same TVDL available to foreign students and visa holders law enforcement cannot assume that the holder is undocumented. The licenses will prevent drivers from being incarcerated for not having a license if pulled over, which will in turn reduce the number of families torn



Hardworking Irish in Springfield celebrate the Governor's signing into law of the Drivers' Licenses Bill. (L to R): Cyril Regan, Billy Lawless Sr., Governor Pat Quinn, and Breándan Magee.

apart by deportation. They will be made available October 1, 2013.

The Secretary of State estimates that the new licenses move will cost \$800,000 in its first year but even if only 30,000 of the estimated 250,000 undocumented drivers in Illinois apply and pay the \$30 fee, the initiative will be revenue neutral and may even turn a profit. This was a key provision for many lawmakers concerned about the dire fiscal problems faced by the state of Illinois.

Proponents of the bill see its passage as

a precursor to immigration reform at the national level, which is picking up steam as we speak. Today, Monday January 28 a group of eight Democratic and Republican senators unveiled their plans for comprehensive immigration reform that would provide a pathway to citizenship for the 12 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the shadows. While a drop in the ocean such moves would also affect the 50,000 Irish men and women who find themselves in immigration limbo.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Jimmy Strong and I were sitting in the Hidey-Ho in The old Bismarck Hotel about twenty years ago. Jimmy and I shared an office with our pal Pete Nolan upstairs.

Hidey-Ho on a regular basis. It was only an elevator ride away, in a little cubbyhole of a bar between the Walnut Room and The Chalet, with six stools and three red leather booths.

The three of us would visit the

Jimmy and Pete were retired

Chicago journalists, Pete a veteran of NBC News in Chicago as a political reporter and commentator, and Jimmy the former labor and political reporter for the Tribune for the last hundred some years. These guys had been around the block and I was lucky enough to hang with them in gin mills across the city.

Our office in The Metropolitan Building was the scene of a million naps as we hunted for business as "Media Consultants". We worked on political campaigns, did radio and TV spots for The Plumbing Council, and pitched items to Kup and Sneed. We used to hit Lino's, Gibsons, Gene & Georgetti's and early some mornings Nolan would drag us to piano bars like JoAnns or The Chop House where Pete performed sort of an Irish Sinatra act that was big on...phrasing.

Looking back on it now I'm amazed I could keep up the pace with these guys. They were pros. And they could somehow answer the bell at the crack of dawn the next morning. Staying home the next day was never an option. By that afternoon we'd be having a beer in The Hidey-Ho.

So Jim "Stormy" Strong and I are sitting in one of the booths on this blustery winter day, accompanied by a friend of his, who I knew only as "Wally The Wire".

He was an average looking mope in his mid-sixties, dressed like the guy who delivers your cleaning, smoking Camels as he smiled and told us, "I like to drink."

Wally's specialty was wire tapping the enemies of his "clients", usually outfit guys. Stormy knew lots of guys like Wally, all remnants of his dissolute life in the newspaper business. Stormy knew Hoffa and knew where he was buried before the shovels even made it back into the trunk.

We were both enjoying the Wire's company as Wally told tales of his days as one of Chicago's sneakiest guys. Finally he looked at us and said, "Well now gentleman, I think there's something we have to discuss."

The Wire called for another highball as he laid his cards on the table. He told us he was driving on two tickets and he had warrants. "I'd like to hang around but I'd also like you fellas to give me some money."

It was great the way he said it too, kind of "Hey if you wanna party with me, you gotta pay." I admired his moxie but of course I was in no position to give him a dime and I told Wally it was nice meeting him.

He got a little prickly then, but I told him, "Don't let the sport

coat and tie fool you Wally, I am tapioca as well."

Then he turned to Strong, "Come on you newspaper guys have dough, you can't BS me."

Strong looked at him and then put his arm around Wally and gave him the nod, "Hey, don't worry about it, I'll take care of ya."

Stormy knew I couldn't kick in for any "criminal kitty" fund he was starting. I never asked him how much he duked the Wire, but I'm glad he did.

We spent the next several hours listening to the Gospel According to Wally The Wire. His story would have made a great movie and evidently he had almost sold it to some Hollywood shark until he got the tap on the shoulder one night from some wise guys who said maybe that ain't such a good idea Wally.

I was shocked to open the paper a few weeks later to read that natural causes had caught up with him. After drinking with some pals in a Rush Street saloon he had collapsed and croaked.

The late mobologist John O'Brien's obit in the Trib was classic. "Walter Dewey Pritchard, a private investigator and fabled Chicago felon, engaged in a variety of crime as a Damon Runyon like character who admittedly tapped telephones for clients and enjoyed the limelight of hobnobbing with mobsters."

"A federal judge who sentenced Mr. Pritchard in 1984 after he was convicted of interstate racketeering remarked, 'I see no redeeming features for Mr. Pritchard at all, except that he's a nice guy.'"

The judge was right; Wally possessed a self-deprecating wit and acquitted himself as a man mistakenly cast as the bad guy, making the best of it. He picked up electronics in the fifties in an Army radio school and spent the rest of his life on the eario.

Thanks Stormy for introducing me to this legend 21 years ago this February.

"Services (were) private. There are no plans to honor Mr. Pritchard's request that his ashes be scattered along Rush Street."

ON SALE NOW!

Thursday, March 7 • 7:30 pm



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

I recently visited Ireland to share good times with my parents who recently celebrated 61 years of marriage and also to visit with family and friends. Many Irish born say they are going home when they return to Ireland, as I do, although I have lived in America for 37 years. The perilous state of the Irish economy has been well documented by other subscribers to the Irish American News and suffices to say that the economic situation is serious. I am always inspired on my visits to Ireland by the sense of community and the prominence given to needs of the elderly and children. Many Irish Americans would have experienced that sense of community and belonging in their parish or school. I

believe that at Gaelic Park we constantly celebrate what we have in common and the values that we want to cling to. We are a community who are joined together by our common heritage and the many friendships that Gaelic Park has inspired. The month of February at The Park will offer many opportunities to come together and celebrate our music, dance and conversation. The Merry Ploughboys and Wolfe Tones are in concert; our Annual Convention, Trivia Quiz, and Bridal Show are all on the schedule for February. I am fortunate that when I left Ireland after my recent visit I was also coming home to my family in Chicago and to my extended family at Gaelic Park.
John Devitt, President

GAELIC PARK PLAYERS

A Wake In The West



The play was written by Michael Ginnelly and is directed by our own Larry Coughlin. This rollicking comedy will be on stage on the weekends of April 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28. Plan to join us for an evening of great fun!

The Acting Irish International Theater Festival will be held the week of May 20-26 at Gaelic Park and will be hosted by the Gaelic Park Players. There will be nine theater companies, two from Ireland, two from Canada and five from the US, and all will be performing full length plays in this competition. The Gaelic Park Players will be presenting *A Wake in The West* as part of the festival. Stay tuned for further details!

The County Connection



The County Down Association will hold a meeting on March 22.

Antrim Armagh Carlow Cavan Clare Cork Derry Donegal Down Dublin Fermanagh Galway Kerry Kildare Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Limerick Longford Louth Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly Roscommon Sligo Tipperary Tyrone Waterford Westmeath Wexford Wicklow

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- Daily Drink and Food Specials
- Expanded Pub Food and Appetizer Menu - Available Daily
- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm
- Traditional Irish Music Session Hosted by Members of The Irish Musicians of Chicago and their Students every Thursday at 7:30pm
- Open Jam Night every Sunday at 7:00pm

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Fri Feb 1 | Nick Gonzales with Brian Thoma | 8:00pm |
| Sat Feb 2 | Billy Donoghue & Larry Nugent | 7:30pm |
| Fri Feb 8 | Bernie Glim & Country Roads | 7:30pm |
| Sat Feb 9 | Richie Z | 8:00pm |
| Wed Feb 13 | Frank Rossi | |
| Fri Feb 15 | Joe McShane | 7:30pm |
| Sat Feb 16 | The Smiley Tillmon Band | 8:00pm |
| Fri Feb 22 | Kara & Jerry Eadie | 7:30pm |
| Sat Feb 23 | 3 Men in Kilts | 8:00pm |

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm, members of the Irish Musicians of Chicago with their students, perform a traditional Irish Music Session every Thursday at 7:30pm.

Chicago Gaelic Park

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



CGP Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2/3 | Sunday Super Bowl Party | \$35 for open bar, hot food buffet, snacks, raffles |
| 2/6 & 3/6 | Monthly Musical Luncheon | NOON |
| 2/6 | Ladies Auxiliary Bingo Night (No meeting in March) | 7:30pm |
| 2/10 | Annual Convention Dinner | |
| 2/10 | Sunday Mass/Irish Breakfast | 10:00am |
| 2/14 | Valentine Dinner in Pub | |
| 2/17 | Bridal Boutique | |
| 3/03 | Movie Matinee <i>The Commitments</i> | 2:00pm |
| 3/16 | Special St. Patrick's Day Musical Luncheon | |
| 3/16 | St. Patrick's Day Concert with Chicago Reel | |
| 3/23 | Easter Egg Hunt | |

No Celtic Sunday Suppers February 10, 17 and 24.

Pub Trivia Tuesday evenings 7:30pm

Quizmaster Tim Tobin challenges your knowledge of everything! \$5 per person - max of 5 to a team.

Musical Luncheon

Doors Open at NOON, Lunch at 1pm \$13 For group reservations 708-687-9323. Frank Rossi will perform on February 6!

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Monday Evenings | Set Dancing | 7:30pm |
| Tuesday Evenings | Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili | 7:30pm |
| Thursday Evenings | Family Music Sessions in the Pub | 7:30pm |

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7-8pm



CLIP & POST



CGP Office 708.687.9323

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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SUNDAY MOVIE MATINEE

For Mature Audiences Only.

March 3

The Commitments

2pm

Based on Roddy Doyle's debut novel, the film follows a cobbled-together band whose vision is to bring soul music to Dublin.



GAA News

The Central Board will be having their AGM on Sunday February 10 in the Fifth Province room in the Irish American Heritage



Center at 3pm. The Chicago Minor Board will hold their AGM on Sunday, February 24 at the Irish Times in Brookfield at 3pm.

2013 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

"Describe what you think life will be like in the year 2033"

Chicago Gaelic Park's annual Scholarship Essay Contest is open to all students in good standing and will be judged in two categories:

Grammar School - Grades 6 through 8

Maximum of three (3) typed pages; (8-1/2x11)

High School - All Grades

Maximum of five (5) typed pages (8 and 1/2 by 11)

- Awards in each category will be: \$1000, \$750, \$500, and all essays are evaluated by an independent academic committee.
- Awards are issued jointly to student and parents.
- A random draw awarding a \$250 prize will reward the efforts of entrants, and give recognition to other than the six winners.
- Entry forms are available at the Chicago Gaelic Park office, and completed essays must be sub-



mitted no later than Friday, March 1, with the properly completed entry form attached. The essay can be hand delivered or mailed to: Chicago Gaelic Park Scholarship Committee, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452; OR

faxed to 708.687.0120.

- ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL and will not be returned. CGP office hours are 9am-8pm.
- Individual winners will be notified by phone and announced at Gaelic Park on Sunday, March 17 following the 10am Mass.
- Awards will be presented to the winners on Sunday, March 24, at the Sunday Celtic Supper. Please contact Gaelic Park at 708.687.9323 for essay applications and any further information.

A Romantic Valentine's Day Dinner at The Carraig Irish Pub

Thursday February 14, 2013

\$60.00 per Couple

Reservations are required, so call 708-687-9323 and ask for our Bar Manager Yvonne Byrne and make yours today.

Your delicious meal includes Soup, Salad, your entrée of Filet Mignon & Shrimp, vegetable, potato, dessert and a bottle of red or white wine.

Enjoy!

All Ireland Trivia Quiz Night

Gaelic Park Players will again host their annual All-Ireland Trivia Quiz on Friday February 15 at 7:30pm. This is a fun event for young and old which has attracted 25-30 teams in past years. The Quiz Masters emphasize that this is a trivia quiz with 75% of the questions being of a general nature and 25% having an Irish flavor. The winning team takes home "The Cup" as well as individual trophies and a \$250 cash prize. Teams will choose one of the Counties of Ireland



as their team name and battle it out to become All Ireland Quiz Champions. Get your group together and defend your County

name! There is a \$50 minimum entry fee per team registered with a maximum of five members per team. Individuals are very welcome (\$10 entry fee) and will be placed on one of the teams. Mark your calendar and contact John Devitt at 708.710.8591 or email devittj62@yahoo.com to register your team.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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Chicago Gaelic Park Hosts their Second Bridal Boutique on February 17

Gaelic Park is well established as the premier wedding venue of the Chicago Southland. With three unique ballrooms, outdoor patio area, a pergola and water fall area to choose from, Gaelic Park is the perfect venue for all styles of weddings and receptions.

To ensure an unforgettable experience, it all starts with the details. At Gaelic Park, our professional and knowledgeable staff keeps everything in mind when helping plan your party.

In keeping with this distinction, Gaelic Park is presenting a one

stop shop boutique of wedding vendors on Sunday, February 17 from noon to 3:00pm. All areas of wedding planning including florists, limos, bakers, travel agents, linen company, hair dressers, make-up, photographers and more will be on display in one

location. The afternoon will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a fashion show featuring bridal gowns from David's Bridal and evening wear from Lily of Trieste plus 40 great giveaways. It is an opportunity to share and get ideas from live people rather than just "surfin' the web."

Admission is \$5 per person. For further information, call 708.687.9323 or visit website www.chicagogaelicpark.org.



JOIN THE FUN
WITH GAELIC PARK IN OCTOBER
FOR THEIR FIRST ANNUAL
CUSTOM TOUR OF IRELAND
TO PROMOTE "THE GATHERING"

Please join us for a fun night with CIE Tours & Gadabout Travel on Thursday evening, February 7th at 6:30pm for a presentation to discuss dates, itinerary and prices for a trip of a life time! For any questions please contact:

Pam Carroll at gadabouttravel@hotmail.com 708.974.1300

Yvonne at ybyrne@chicagogaelicpark.org 708.687.9323

Tadgh tadgh4@sbcglobal.net 815.545.5144

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"THE BIG GAME"

Sunday February 3, 2013

at

**the CARRAIG
IRISH PUB**



Open Bar, Snacks,

Half Time Hot Food Buffet,

and Raffle Prizes

\$35 Per Person

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Introduces

"The Bridal Boutique"

Join Us On

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Featuring 45 of our Top-Rated Vendors

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres

And 45 Great Giveaways!

12:00-3:30pm

Admission \$5.00 at the door

With a Fashion Show Featuring

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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2013 IRISH FESTIVAL QUEEN CONTEST



The new Irish Festival Queen and her Court will be chosen at our Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 3.

Each of the contestants will be introduced and the winners will be announced. The candidate chosen as the new Irish Festival 2013 Queen shall reign as Queen for one full year. A runner-up will also be chosen. Both the Queen and runner-up will be invited to participate in many activities and events. During St. Patrick's week, the new Queen and runner-up will be given the seat of honor, high atop the Irish Festival Parade Float. Ceremonies, contests and gala festivities at Irish Festival 2013 will be memorable and fun for the Queen and everyone involved. Gifts and prizes worth more than \$1,000 will be bestowed upon the newly crowned Queen. Valuable prizes will also be presented to the runner-up. The contest requirements are:



- Single girls of Irish heritage and having reached the age of 18 to 26 years by March 3, 2013.
- Application deadline is with \$10 entry fee by Friday, March 1. You can pick up your application at the Chicago Gaelic Park office or by calling 708.687.9323. See our web site for more information www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Gaelic Park's Concert Series Line-Up!



Join in Celebrating 23 Great Years with **The Merry Ploughboys Party!**

Saturday February 2, 2013
Tickets \$20
Doors Open 7:30pm / Concert 8:30pm

the wolfe tones

Brian Warfield, Noel Nagle & Tommy Byrne

Saturday February 16, 2013
Tickets \$25.00
Doors open 7pm / concert 8pm



Chicago Reel

A refreshing take on traditional Irish music

Saturday March 16, 2013 Tickets \$20

Doors open 6:30pm / Show at 7:30pm

Call to reserve your tickets today! 708-687-9323

Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL - www.chicagogaelicpark.org

46th Edition of Ireland on Parade at Chicago Gaelic Park

Ireland on Parade, the wonderful exhibition of the music and dance of Ireland, celebrates its 46th Anniversary at Chicago Gaelic Park, on March 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. The doors open 5:30pm and there is FREE ADMISSION!



Entertainment is provided by Irish musicians, including Sean O'Donnell, and numerous dance schools will perform each evening between 7pm and 9pm. In addition to *Ireland on Parade*, there will be many activities going on at Gaelic Park during the month of March:

- March 3** Irish Festival Queen Contest
- March 9** St. Baldrick Head Shaving Fundraiser. Donations benefit the fight against children's cancer
- March 10** Southside Irish Sunday - No mass today
- March 16** Chicago Reel Concert
- March 17** ST. PATRICK DAY

Celebration of Mass at 10am followed by an afternoon and evening of continuous celebration. Gaelic Park will also participate in the many parades in honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. For starting times and all the details regarding the St. Patrick's season, go to our web site www.chicagogaelicpark.org or call Gaelic Park at 708.687.9323.

Membership

NEW **RENEWAL** **Family \$50** **Individual \$30**

Name _____ last _____ first _____ initial _____

Spouse _____ last _____ first _____ initial _____

(if joining) last _____ first _____ initial _____

Address _____ street _____ Apt/Unit # _____

_____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Donation enclosed \$ _____ (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

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South Side Irish Parade Committee Hosts Pre-Event Fundraiser for 2013 Parade

The South Side Irish Parade Committee will host a pre-parade fundraiser for the annual community event. The fundraiser is set for Friday, February 15, 2013 from 7 PM to midnight at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL, 60803.

Tickets for the pre-parade fundraiser are \$30 per ticket and include dinner buffet, beer and soft drink beverages. The evening will also feature performances of traditional and Irish rock music by the Matt Ladd Band and Sean and Charlie.

Event proceeds will help offset the increased costs of hosting the parade that last year attracted over 150,000 spectators and participants to the neighborhood celebration of Irish heritage.

"The Pre-Parade party is a great way for everyone to show support as we raise the

much needed funds required to present this 34th annual March of Tradition on Western Avenue. The South Side Irish Parade is steeped with tradition, heritage and a wonderful display of local community coming together for the celebration," said Joe Connelly, Co-Chair of the Parade Committee.

"Another way to get involved is to consider showcasing your family's heritage and purchase a South Side Irish Banner that will be proudly displayed for the month of March along the Parade Route, which this year will also include 111th Street into Mount Greenwood. The proceeds also support the growing costs of the parade," adds Connelly.

The street pole banners are personalized for each family. Often, families have used them to celebrate a special anniversary or honor a loved one. Cost of a new family banner is \$225 and includes professional hanging and a miniature banner suitable for framing or display at home.

Supporters of the Pre-Parade event will have a chance to purchase Grand Raffle tickets for the "Luck of the Irish" prize of \$10,000 and other cash prizes. Tickets are also available at the South Side Irish Store and through committee members. Parade

branded merchandise will be available for purchase, as well as an opportunity to buy your Family Banner.

"We welcome everyone in our efforts to present this annual tradition. We can't do it alone, and so invite community volunteers to help with pre-parade events, offer to serve as parade day Marshalls, or even spread the word amongst friends and family of the importance of safety and a family friendly atmosphere on parade day," added Kevin Coakley, Co-Chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee

The 2013 South Side Irish Parade is scheduled to step off on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at noon at 103rd and Western Avenue. The parade, which first took place in 1979, is considered the largest neighborhood-based St. Patrick's Day parade outside of Dublin.

New to the parade festivities this year is the Emerald Isle Mile, a one mile run begin-

ning at 11 a.m. at Kennedy Park, 11320 S. Western Avenue, and ending at Running Excels, located at 104th and Western near the Parade's stepping off point. Runners will have an opportunity to march in the Parade following the race.

Tickets for the pre-parade fundraiser are available at the door and also at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/513812025>. For more information about event tickets, raffle tickets or how to get involved as a volunteer, email info@southsideirishparade.org.

For more details or to purchase Family Banners contact Jim McKeever at 773-972-6264 or emailjg.mckeever@att.net, or stop in at the South Side Irish Parade Store located at 10934 South Western Avenue.

For more information on the Emerald Isle Run contact Running Excels at 773-629-8587 or see www.runningexcels.com

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Plainfield Irish Parade On St. Patrick's Day

The 11th annual Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade will step off at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 17, from Plainfield High School Central Campus. Presented by the Village Preservation Association, the procession makes its way north on James Street before rolling up Lockport Street through the downtown, circling back through the neighborhood and ending at the Front Street Cantina.

Plans for this year's celebration include the always-popular bagpipe bands, Irish dancers, family entertainment tent, inflatable jumpers, bike decorating contest for kids and much more. The post-parade pub crawl for adults also will be back.

Coinciding with the festivities will be the village's St. Baldrick's fundraiser for childhood cancer research, held in the former firehouse on Des Plaines Street just north of the parade route.

The parade was begun in 2002 by a group of neighbors who built floats, decorated trucks and bikes, and then circled their block - twice, because it was over too fast.

"One of my favorite parts of the early parades was how the participants and community came together afterwards - brought food and desserts to be shared by all," said parade co-chairman Tom Ruane.

Each year, the little parade grew. The route migrated across Division Street, at one point crossing the highway, and finally settled into a circuit that encompasses much of the retail and residential districts west of Division. Bagpipers and Irish dancers soon joined the lineup, along with many civic, youth and business organizations. Today the parade is the centerpiece of an annual spring celebration that offers a variety of activities and events draws several thousand people to the village core every March.

"From the humble beginnings of a neighborhood parade of friends and families, it is still amazing to me that every year the Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade has grown and improved," said Debra Olsen, parade co-chairwoman. "We have gotten great community support, and the benefits for our historic downtown cannot be measured."

Parade entries are being welcomed; groups, individuals and businesses are all welcome to march. For information about signing up to be in the lineup, call 630-254-5755. And to learn more about the parade, visit www.plainfieldirishparade.org.

Classes on Synge at Newberry Library

Synge of Aran: The Plays and Prose of John Millington Synge
Thursdays 5.45-7.45
February 21-March 28

'Go to the Aran Islands.' W.B. Yeats told John Millington Synge. In 1898, Synge, one of the co-founders of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, took Yeats' advice. His decision changed not only playwright's own life but the trajectory of Irish theatre. We will examine Synge's plays and prose, with an emphasis on his work about Aran, the windswept islands off the west coast of Ireland.

Six sessions, \$170.
June Sawyers writes and lectures on Celtic topics. She is also the author of a solo play, *Life without Roses*, based on the life and work of the seminal Chicago literary figure, Margaret Anderson.

Register online at www.newberry.org/adult-education-seminars or call (312) 255-3700.

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Raise the Roof With Us

Join us for the Raise the Roof fundraiser at the Center, to help pay for our new roof. The fundraiser in-



Karen Cannady, Identity Irish Dance Company, Johnny Gleeson and Ted Healy, Brian Cunningham and

cludes a silent and live auction, raffles, free food and a cash bar. It's a full day of fun with chances to win prizes and raise money.

Performers include Gerry Haughey, the Dooley Brothers, Mulligan Stew, Joe McShane, Paddy Homan, Patrick and

more. As a special Valentine's Day treat, we will have a Hooley Corner from 6pm to 8pm, where singles can mingle and meet.

The Raise the Roof Fundraiser is Sunday, February 17 from 1pm to 9pm in the Erin Room and donations are welcome.

Laughs with *Father Ted's* Ardal O'Hanlon

Join award-winning comedian, Ardal O'Hanlon, as he brings the best of Irish comedy to the Center this winter.

Best known for his role as Father Dougal Maguire in the *Father Ted* TV series, O'Hanlon is also a highly acclaimed stand-up comic, selling out to audiences internationally on regular solo tours.

O'Hanlon has also distinguished himself as an actor with guest leads in BBC programs as diverse as *Skins*, *Doctor Who* and *My Hero*. He also starred in the feature film, *Wide Open Spaces* and has received great acclaim for his theatre work, including starring in *God of Carnage* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin; *Port Authority* at the Southwark



Theatre, London; and *See You Next Tuesday* in the West End.

Ardal O'Hanlon is Thursday, February 28 at 8pm. Tickets are \$40 for premium seating, which includes a pre-show reception in the Fifth Province, sponsored by Tullamore Dew, tickets for seating in the first 5 rows in the Auditorium and a post-show meet-and-greet.

General admission tickets on the main floor are \$25 and balcony seating tickets are \$20. Patrons with general admission and balcony tickets can also purchase drinks before and during the show.

To purchase tickets, call the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irishamerican.org.



Winners Announced in February!

Presenting the 2013 IAHOFCandidates!

Arts & Humanities:

James Cagney
Harry "Bing" Crosby
James T. Farrell
F. Scott Fitzgerald
John Huston
Eugene "Gene" Curran Kelly
Cormac McCarthy
Mick Moloney
Flannery O'Connor
Thomas "Gus" O'Shaughnessy
Pat Roche

Business & Industry:

Denis J. Healy
Herb Kelleher
William McGowan
George Meany
Daniel Rooney

Education:

Archbishop John Carroll
Dr. Lawrence McCaffrey
Dr. John Lahey
Rev. James F. Maguire, S.J.

Public Service:

Commodore John Barry
Charles Carroll
Mary Harris "Mother" Jones
Brigadier General Thomas F. Meagher
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Audie Murphy
Mother Agnes O'Brien
Alfred Smith

Religion:

Mother Mary Frances Clarke, BVM
Monsignor John "Jack" Egan
Rev. Mychal Judge
Monsignor Ignatius McDermott
Bishop Fulton Sheen
Rev. John "Jack" Wall

Science:

Eileen Collins
Francis Collins
Michael Collins
John Philip Holland

Sports:

Ben Hogan
Connie Mack
Brian McBride
Nolan Ryan
Gene Tunney
Bill Walsh

SAVE THE DATE!
Awards Gala is
April 20, 2013!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Two Parties this March

Parties are Among Chicago's Largest!

Join us as we host some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2013 at the Center. This year, we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit the Center in March.



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

On Saturday, March 16, the Center holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Patrons can visit our Art and Craft Fair, where vendors and artisans sell Irish art, gifts, CDs, clothing and more.

Confirmed musicians include Tim O'Shea and Phillip Crickland, direct from Ireland, the Shannon Rovers, Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends, the Dooley Brothers, the Sullivan Brothers, Mulligan Stew, the Wiggleworms, In Spite of Ourselves, a ceilidh mor, the Irish Heritage Singers, Identity Irish

Dance Company, the Rebecca McCarthy School of Irish Dance, the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, the Mullane Healy Godley School of Irish Dance and

the Mulhern School of Irish Dance.

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.

Come back for more fun with the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Sunday, March 17. The day-long celebration in the Pub includes music, dance and face painting for children. Performers include Tim O'Shea and Phillip Crickland, direct from Ireland, the Chancey Brothers, Chicago Reel and the O'Hare School of Irish Dance.

The day kicks off with mass at 11:30am.

Harrington's will be on hand with Irish food all day and into the evening. The party is from noon to midnight and tickets are \$10 at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

Tickets can be purchased for 3/16 by visiting www.irish-american.org or calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035. Tickets for 3/17 can be purchased at the door only.



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Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

Hopefully you had a chance to join us at the recent Town Hall/State of the Center Address. I trust you left the gathering confident in the path we pursue of transparency and financial foundation building to support our building and cultural mission.

We enter a particularly busy time of year this month at the Center.

We move forward with one of the largest efforts in Center history as we "Raise the Roof". Our home needs a new roof. The need is there, the goal is set and we will be successful with every one's help. The Sunday, February 17 Raise the Roof Fundraiser in the Erin Room will once again see us standing shoulder-to-shoulder to support our Center. You will see many young children and infants in strollers. We do what we do at the Center for them and generations to come. You will see seniors, and we will be in a

position to do what we will do because of them and their dedication and volunteerism. Come join us and smile at a youngster, shake hands with a volunteer, hug a senior, thank a founder; they will all be there.

This month we also begin to tally our membership renewals and send out thanks to all who donated to our Annual Appeal. Mailed in late December and early January, the membership renewals have been arriving at a rapid pace. Our dedicated office staff and Membership Committee are opening the envelopes and wearing out letter openers. We expect a record renewal pace. We trust your renewal is a confirmation of your support to where the Center has been, and where it is headed and where it will be for generations to come. We are a membership organization and we are membership driven. Our members enjoy special privileges and we are privileged with special



members. There is strength in numbers, so let's continue to get stronger.

In February, we begin the planning stages for iBAM! 2013 while we continue work on the upcoming Hall of

Fame activities and our Wearing of the Green Dinner. We also have a volunteer crew out catching fish and preparing our most popular Lenten Fish Fry evenings that begin on February 15. As we reminisce about 2012 and January 2013, our Super Bowl Party and Pot O' Chili Cook-off, Volunteer Dinner and more, we look forward to our Second Annual Rummage Sale. And, as we look forward to spring, we plan Phase 3 of the Walk of Names Project. You may want to purchase your Spring 2013 Phase 3 brick now. Visit the Gift Shop, buy your brick and see all the new offerings the Gift Shop has in stock. While you are at the Center, check out the three new 60 inch HD TV's in the Fifth Province.

Finally, don't forget to shake a volunteer's hand and say "thank you." Take a moment to view our website for all the cultural activities planned and implemented by our dedicated Cultural Committee.

This month, we put the finishing touches on our St. Patrick's Day 2013 plans. Our committee is in place, the music and dance are booked, the supplies are ordered, the smiles, camaraderie, laughter and fun are ready to burst out at 1pm on March 16 and continue into March 17. Once again, the Center will be Chicago's epicenter for the two St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. You will see TV cameras, celebrities, elected officials and more, but, most importantly, you will see what we value most; our members, volunteers, family, our staff and partners.

In February, we also gear up to put Irish Fest 2013 in place. This year's fest will be bigger and better with new bands, new ideas and more cultural activities. Who knows what the Committee will put together. Want a sneak preview?

Join the Fest Committee and be a part of it. No charge to join and no pay and a lot of work, but what great feeling in your personal and emotional bank account when you are an integral part of one of the largest cultural celebrations in Chicago and North America. Giving of oneself never felt better.

We all give... give... give what we can to the Center. And what do we get in the end? Well, take a look at that infant in the stroller at the Raise the Roof Fundraiser and when he or she looks back at you and smiles... that's what you get back; the next generation of the Center. Could there be anything better to get back for all you give? You get the future and they thank you. They will be raising the next roof. Let's lend them a hand while we can.

Thank you for all you do and God Bless!

Respectfully,
John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

Saturday Morning Tea



Saturday morning teas continue at the Center and the March tea will be filled with music and song.

Sit back and relax with an eclectic afternoon tea, including scones and sandwiches, while you enjoy a performance by It's So All About You Entertainment. This trio performed during the Christ-

mas Tea in the Pub in December 2012. The group will entertain with do-wop, sixties classics and jazzy renditions of your favorite songs.

The March Saturday Morning Tea is Saturday, March 2 from 11am to 1pm and the cost is \$25. Reservations are necessary and must be made by February 25. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Show Your Colors at the Wearing of the Green Dance

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

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



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

The dance is Sunday, March 3, from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40. Reservations must be made by February 25 by calling the Center office at 773-282-7035. No tickets will be sold at the door.



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February 2013

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| February 1 | Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor | Fifth Province | 8pm |
| February 2 | Tea with Emily Dickinson | Fifth Province | 11am |
| | Piobairi | Fifth Province | 5pm |
| February 3 | Super Bowl Party | Fifth Province | 4:30pm |
| February 6 | Tir Na Nog | Kichen | 11am |
| | St. Patrick's Fathers Social | Fifth Province | 8pm |
| February 14 | Tara Club Seniors Meeting | Room 304 | 11am |
| February 15 | IAHC Queen Contest | Fifth Province | 7pm |
| | Quiz Night | Room 109 | 8pm |
| | Shamrock American Club Social | Sham AmRoom | 8pm |
| February 16 | Roscommon Club Social | Room 310 | 8pm |
| February 17 | Raise the Roof Fundraiser | Erin Room | 1pm |
| February 19 | Celtic Women International Meeting | Room 304 | 7pm |
| February 23 | Rummage Sale | 1st Floor | 11am |
| February 28 | Tara Club Meeting | Room 304 | 10am |

Regularly Scheduled Events

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Tues | Set Dancing | Room 111 | 7:30-9:30pm |
| Tues | Nimble Thimbles | Room 208 | 9am-Noon |
| Tues thru 2/26 | Revision Classes | ShamAmRm | 6:30pm |
| Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat. | Golden Diners Senior Lunches | Kitchen | 12:30pm-2pm |
| Wed | Nimble Thimbles | Room 208 | 7-10am |
| Thurs | Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals | | 7:30pm |
| Thurs 2/7-3/14 | Memoir Class | Sham Am Rm & Library | 7pm |
| Fri | Lenten Fish Fry (beginning 2/15) | Fifth Province | 6pm |
| Sat. & Sun. thru 2/10 | Murals Art Exhibit | Art Gallery | 1-4pm |

Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry

The Center continues its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this February.



The Fish Fry begins Friday, February 15 and runs through Friday, March 29 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. The dinner consists of fried cod, fries and a vegetable.



Queen Contest

Represent the Center at key events as our next IAHC Queen.

You must be a Center member between 18 and 27 years old, and available for Center events to represent us. The Queen has the highest honor of being on the Center float and will be a special guest with us at all major events.

Interviews take place on Friday, February 15 at 7pm at our Lenten Fish Fry. The Queen will be announced in the Pub after 9:30pm. For more information on how you or a family member can compete to be Queen, contact Deirdre McNulty at dmcnulty@irishahc.com.

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the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

- 2/1 Ceili Mor
- 2/2 Honeysuckle Road
- 2/8 Rico Quinn*
- 2/9 Baal Tinne
- 2/15 Seamus O'Kane
- 2/16 Bill Donoghue
- 2/22 Joe McShane
- 2/23 Dooley Brothers

* denotes new act to the Pub

All Shows Start After 9pm

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



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February Drink Special

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Receive a Free Cheese Plate with any Paid Entree

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Coupon



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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Michael Boyle, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, John Gorski, Mary Griffin, Rocio Lancaster, Deirdre McNulty, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy



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Steafán Hanvey Concert and Lecture

The IAHC Cultural Committee presents songwriter Steafán Hanvey, direct from Ireland, for a night of music and photography. Hanvey will present *Look Behind You! A Father and Son's Impressions of The Troubles in Northern Ireland through Photographs and Song*.

This multimedia performance focuses on how a father and son have negotiated the personal and political landscapes of Northern Ireland, during "The Troubles." A melding of image and voice, the project showcases the prize-winning photojournalism of his father, Bobbie Hanvey. Also included are radio-edits of Bobbie's interviews with some of Northern Ireland's best-known political and cultural figures. These are complemented and contextualized by news-flash bulletins and Steafán's anecdotes and story-telling, the latter coming in the form of his critically acclaimed song-writing and the presentation of complex issues in an engaging manner.

Steafán Hanvey is a well-known musician and singer promoting his new album, *Nuclear Family* (Mixed by Cardigans producer, Tore Johanson), due for a February 26 release. Ireland's music bible, *Hotpress*, called his album "A rare delight of impressive quality." He is touring colleges, cultural centers, music venues and libraries across the US and Canada with his multimedia perfor-

mance. Several showcases in New England and the Midwest region in the last three years have seen him perform at Boston's NEMO Music Festival and headline Chicago's Uncommon Ground and Elbo Room. In Massachusetts, he opened for The Hothouse Flowers. His influences include Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Soundgarden, Simon and Garfunkel, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy, Willie Nelson, Nina Simone and Leonard Cohen.

His father Bobbie Hanvey's photographs are archived in The Burns Library at Boston College. Bobbie Hanvey, from Northern Ireland, made his name as a press photographer during "The Troubles." In 1985, 1986, and 1987 he won the Northern Ireland Provincial Press Photographer of the Year Award. His photographs have appeared in *The Sunday Times* and *Paris Vogue*, and his first photographic book, *Merely Players*, presents a stunning array of portraits taken over the past 30 years, of poets, playwrights, paramilitaries, priests and politicians, including Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, and Gerry Adams.

The event is Saturday, March 2 at 7:30pm. The program features songs by Hanvey and photographs by his father. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

For more info: www.steafanhanvey.com.



1st Annual Pot O'Chili Cook Off

The First Annual Pot O'Chili Cook Off was held in January. The winner was Ed McHale, with his Red Line Chili.

Thanks to all of the participants: Aidan Cronin, Mary Gorski, John Mahon, Chris McKillip and Mark Walsh. McHale's picture will hang on the wall for one year in the Fifth Province until our 2014 Chili Cook Off.

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.

Quiz Night is once a month in 2013 on Fridays on February 15, March 22, April 19 and May 17.

Annual Appeal Continues

We need your help with our ongoing Annual Appeal.

Your donation is important to the operation and success of the Center and an important element of our overall funding. We thank you for your contributions, past and present, and urge to once again think of the Center and make a donation. We are working hard to preserve Irish heritage and provide our members and friends with the events and programming you have come to expect from the Center.

Your contribution will be enhanced once again by the matching program offered by Pat and Peggy Burke. We thank Pat and Peggy for their continued generosity.

All gifts made to the Annual Appeal are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

The names below are those who have donated

from December 7 through January 16. We will continue to list donations through the March 2013 issue of *Irish American News*.

To donate, call 773-282-7035.

Benefactor (\$500-\$999)
Jack and Karen Harrington

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Power

Patron (\$250-\$499)
Jim and Eileen Convery
Michael O'Regan and Karen Reshkin

Advocate (\$100-249)
Patricia Branigan
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Bernard H. Ryan
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Friend (\$1-99)
Mort Johnson and Charlotte Mallon
Wayne Kern
Jim and Mary Ann Zalinski

BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it.

Running, maintaining, and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit

www.irish-american.org, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

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\$1,000 - Chieftain

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without annual dues
 \$2,500 - High King
25-year membership
without annual dues
 \$5,000 - Saint
Lifetime membership
without annual dues

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 the 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 • ARCHIVES • CHOIR • ART GALLERY • AUDITORIUM
- LIBRARY • THEATRE GROUP

and other related programs and partnerships, while providing a gathering place for the Irish American community and those interested in Irish culture.

If you have an iPhone and the Kaywa Quick Response Code Reader App, scan the code to the right and be taken directly to the Irish American Heritage Center website!



The Irish Rovers

The Irish Rovers will perform Friday, March 01, 2013 at 8pm at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

For more than four decades, The Irish Rovers stand as one of the original and leading international ambassadors of Irish music by charming and entertaining audiences with their exciting stage shows and masterful story-telling. Their joyous anthems of good cheer and revelry have connected with generations of fans around the world. They have hosted three award-winning television series and topped the music

Delours Price Dies in Dublin

Statement by Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre on the death of Dolours Price

We wish to express our great sadness at the death of Dolours Price who was both a friend and a valued participant in the Belfast Project and we would like to convey our condolences to her boys, to her sisters and brother and to other members of her family.

Throughout the last two years of our fight to prevent her interviews being handed over to the police in Belfast, our greatest fear was always for the health and well-being of Dolours. Now that she is no longer with us perhaps those who initiated this legal case can take some time to reflect upon the consequences of their action.

Dolours Price's interviews will not now be immediately handed over, as some reports have wrongly claimed. The interviews are the subject of a stay imposed by the Supreme Court of the United States and that stay remains in place until that court, the highest in the land, decides otherwise. There are other subpoenas outstanding and as far as we are concerned the same issues affect them as they did Dolours Price's case and we look forward to continuing the fight with renewed vigor to stop the remaining Belfast Project interviews from being handed over.

charts with more than 46 years of international recordings and concert touring. From rousing Irish drinking songs to moving ballads, The Rovers will have you clapping and raising your voice to such hits as "The Uni-

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Fixed Income in Your Portfolio

Fixed income can play an important role in a portfolio. But its role may vary according to an investor's financial needs and concerns. For example, many investors look to fixed income for safety, income, and more stability in their portfolios. They must weigh these priorities against their concerns over future interest rates, inflation, government debt, and other factors that might affect fixed income returns.

Striking this balance can be a challenge in any market environment, but especially now, as low interest rates have sent many investors on a quest for higher-yield bonds or alternative investments. Depending on your approach, this pursuit of yield may invite more risk—some of which may be hard to see or understand. So, what's

an investor to do? How can you make prudent fixed income decisions while also addressing today's low interest rates? Consider these principles:

Remember How Markets Work: The same core investment principles apply in any market environment. One key principle is that in a well-functioning capital market, securities prices reflect all available information. Today's bond values reflect everything the market knows about current economic conditions, growth expectations, inflation, Fed monetary policy, and the like. So, according to this principle, the possibility of rising interest rates is already factored into fixed income prices. Rather than trying to predict macroeconomic forces that are difficult to foresee, investors can look to the

market to set prices and focus on the variables within their control.

Start with a Clearly Defined Goal: Fixed income choices should follow a broader investment strategy that defines the role of fixed income in a portfolio. The portfolio can then be customized to meet those specific goals while managing tradeoffs. An investor who wants to seek to avoid losing market value might have a different fixed income allocation from someone who wants to take a balanced approach, needs immediate income, or is seeking higher returns. Investors with different objectives typically have different tradeoffs regarding risk, expected return, and costs.

Know What You Own: Strive for transparency in a portfolio. This means understanding an investment manager's basic strategy and knowing how the instruments held in the portfolio might respond in different economic, market, and interest rate scenarios. Unfortunately, investors who chase performance often make their investment decisions based on the past perfor-

mance and perceived popularity of the strategy. For example, some of the mutual fund categories experiencing the heaviest inflows of cash in the industry are in asset groups that have recently experienced higher than average yields. Higher yields are typically accompanied by higher risks. But do investors know what risks their managers are taking to deliver those attractive yields?

Consider a Global Fixed Income Strategy: Investors have other tools to enhance risk and expected returns in fixed income. You can expand your opportunity set by moving beyond your domestic fixed income market to access yield curves in other country markets. By owning bonds issued by governments and companies from around the world, investors can enhance diversification in their fixed income portfolios. After hedging against currency risk, bond markets around the world have only modest correlations. As a result, a global hedged portfolio should exhibit lower volatility than a single-country portfolio or a global portfolio that does not hedge currency risk, and offer the

opportunity to take advantage of more attractive yield curves abroad.

No one really knows when and by how much interest rates will change. Many market pundits have forecasted an upward move for several years now. Investors looking for higher bond yields should understand the higher risks tied to their decisions. Most investors might be best-served by building a fixed income strategy to complement their broader portfolio objectives, understanding the sources of risk and expected return, paying attention to fees, and looking beyond their own country to capture yields in other countries' markets.

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



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BOOKS IN REVIEW

Continued from page 8

Collins and the Civil War

by T. Ryle Dwyer, Mercier Press and DuFour editions



The author states the purpose of the book: "My aim in my three books on Collins has been neither

to deify nor demonize the man, but to present a balanced picture." Dwyer has written over twenty books about Irish history. This is the last of three books about Michael Collins who led the IRA to victory in the War of Independence and created modern Ireland.

The book is about the last months of his life when he desperately tried to prevent civil war. His life ended with his assassination in August, 1922. At the back of the book are many pages of notes for each chapter.

Dwyer's bibliography of books and records consulted, printed in small type, covers many pages. It is followed by a complete index (for the Anglo-Irish Treaty alone there are 69 references!)

The Civil War lasted from June, 1922 until May, 1923. It brought death and vast human suffering to Ireland. Bitterness and hatred resulted. This book is readable, accessible, and very well researched.

San Francisco Based Irish Businessman Aims To Raise \$300,000 For Irish Charities And You Can Help

How would you like a free flight to Ireland and three nights free accommodation this October? That's what San Francisco-based Irish entrepreneur Paul Downey is offering in return for a small favor.

Dublin native Downey recently established a non-profit called Irish Charities American Fund (ICAF), with the aim of harnessing the generosity of the diaspora in the US to raise much needed funds for select Irish charities. The ICAF's inaugural fundraising event is the Run-A-Muck Challenge obstacle race in Ireland, with proceeds from the race program benefiting Irish charity, Children In Hospital Ireland. You can sign up now for this unique experience. To avail yourself of this fantastic opportunity to travel to Dublin and take part in Ireland's most

fun event, Run-A-Muck, all you have to do is commit, through your participation, to raising a targeted amount for this great charity. (You can extend your stay in Ireland at your own expense).

Downey founded ICAF because he wanted to give something back to Ireland and feels there are many here in the US who want to do the same. The ICAF was created to support charities in Ireland affected by the recent economic downturn and reduction of services. By reaching out to the 36 million Americans with Irish ancestry and the 200,000 plus Irish born people living here, Downey aims to raise and deliver over \$300,000 with this first effort.

"Irish charities are facing increased demands on their services during a difficult economic time," said Downey,

Founder and CEO of ICAF. "Our hope is that the vast Irish diaspora in the United States will represent goodwill and generosity toward their homeland of Ireland by supporting our mission to fundraise for Children In Hospital Ireland."

Children In Hospital Ireland is an Irish charity supporting the welfare of children in Irish hospitals and their families. For over 40 years, the organization has worked with sick children to provide play, fun and support for young patients facing a difficult hospital stay in 20 hospital wards across Ireland.

The Run-A-Muck challenge is an outdoor cross-country obstacle event that challenges participants to jump, run, roll and climb through and over mud, water, barriers and trenches along a 10K course.

This year's event is on Saturday, October 19, 2013, approximately 30 miles outside of Dublin, Ireland.

Participants in the challenge will commit to raise \$5900, or more, for ICAF prior to October 2013, in exchange for race registration, travel to and from the US to Ireland and accommodations for three nights in Ireland during the event, as well as necessary transfers during travel. Runners and walkers of all abilities can register to fundraise at the newly designed website: <http://irishcharitiesaf.com/>

ICAF has also partnered with The Gathering Ireland, a tourism initiative to bring those connected back to the country in 2013. ICAF will be the only gathering over a year-long tourism celebration to raise funds for an Irish charity.

"Our mission for this event is multi-pronged and beneficial for all involved," said Downey. "The Run-A-Muck

challenge allows our participants not only to have fun and compete in Ireland—a country near and dear to their hearts—but they're also fundraising for Ireland with a trip back home as their 'prize' and while there, they'll contribute to and support the economy and tourism of Ireland, it's a win-win-win."

The Irish Charities American Fund is a new nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation headquartered in San Francisco.

For more information please visit: <http://irishcharitiesaf.com/>

For more information on Children In Hospital Ireland, please visit: www.childrenin-hospital.ie/

For more information on the Run-A-Muck Challenge, please visit: <http://runamuck-challenge.com/home.php>

For more information on The Gathering Ireland, please visit: <http://www.thegatheringireland.com/About.aspx#.UOsT3uRX01I>

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Visit www.irishcharitiesaf.com or call 415-500-8191 to sign up.



Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



The Gathering 2013

When the Celtic Tiger went from a roar to a whimper from the near total collapse of the European Economic Union, the Irish government needed to return to the one industry that has never failed them, tourism.

Everyone of Irish descent is encouraged to visit Ireland this year where all 32 counties will be offering programs to help you trace your roots or perhaps guide you to the very townland your ancestors came from, or guide you to one of the many cemeteries scattered across Ireland to find the gravestones of

your ancestors.

There will be gatherings of various clans in every county. If you are headed for Kerry on the fifth of April, there is an Irish music fest in Kenmare. On February 16th there is a walking festival in Dingle, and the O'Sullivan Clan gathers in Sneem on June 10th, the Listowel Writers Week with writers workshops, Kerry Arts, literature and theatre all on the 29th of May. While you are there visit John B. Keane's Pub.

Féile Lúghansa on the 26th of July, the Dingle Puck Fair in Killorglin August 9th, the Dingle Film Festival on the 15th of March. Genealogy through

native West Kerry Names on the 1st of October, the Doyle Clan Gathering on the 19th of October in Killarney, The Brosnan Clan Gathering on July 25, in Sliabh Luachra, Kennedy Reunion in Dingle September 16, Harrington Clan August 1, in Listowel. That's just a sample of what to expect, different events, different towns, every month.

County Monaghan, the McKenna Clan Gathering July 26th, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Monaghan Town on March 17th. County Mayo, the McNicholas Clan Gathering September 14-21. The list goes on. If this is your first time to visit Ireland or if you have been there before, there will never be a better time to go.

Political Observations

President Obama rammed through his tax increase without much compromise, while kicking spending cuts, "Down the Road," along with increasing the debt ceiling. Exactly what we don't need! It's the National Debt stupid!

The "State" of Illinois

State government continues to be totally dysfunctional and will probably remain so with a

Democratic super majority in the House and the Senate. The word, malfeasance, comes to mind. Meanwhile, we continue to elect people of questionable character to public office. I believe one or two are convicted felons. All this while our state credit rating continues to decline. What ever became of the likes of men like Everett McKinley Dirksen, or Chuck Percy. It's very difficult to find a few more politicians with solid credentials.

Sandi Jackson Resigns

There's more to come. This is not the end of the Jackson family melodrama. One has to speculate as to whether or not this is a part of a plea bargaining deal? She wasn't doing justice to her job as an Alderman, even before her husband came under the scrutiny of the Feds. How can you live in Washington D.C. and send your children to school there, and hold down a job in Chicago, all the time working as a political consultant for her husband, and being paid from his campaign fund? She has missed many many City council meetings and committee meetings. As the line in the old song says, "So Long,

It's Been Good to Know You!" Mayor Rahm Emmanuel will appoint her replacement.

Gun Control

Where were all the politicians, who are now clamoring for more stringent gun control while the murders in Chicago topped 500? It took the deaths of 20 innocent little children to wake them up! Sadly enough, most of the proposed changes won't prevent another Sandy Hook.

Now they all want to make political hay! President Obama, Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, and now Toni Precwinkle want new laws that would be obeyed but the average citizen, but the gang-bangers could care less about the law! We need better gang intelligence and a return to the stop and frisk concept of law enforcement. Remember, 80% of the murders in Chicago are gang-related. Additionally, we need to develop the methodology to assess the mentally disturbed individuals and their potential for violence.

IAHC Roof

Lord only knows what we did before we had an Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. There was no central location for all the Irish groups to gather. Twenty-seven years ago we bought the Mayfair School. Our roof is now desperately in need of repair. As a matter-of-fact it needs to be replaced. Please join us on Sunday, February 17th in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center for the, "Raising the Roof Party," and throw a few bucks in the kitty!

St. Valentine

In case you didn't know it the remains of St. Valentine can be found at the Whitefriars Street Carmelite Church. His remains were a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836. They were given to the Carmelite priest by the name of John Spratt, who was a brilliant orator, and so impressed the Pope, he decided to make him a gift of St. Valentine's remains. Many people travel to the church to have their wedding rings blessed or ask for St. Valentine's intercession to help find a mate. Forget about all the internet dating sites and get your ticket to Dublin!

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Forever Green 38 on March 8th

Irish Eyes will be Smiling at Park West in Support of YIFC charities

Tickets are going fast for one of Chicago's largest and longest running St. Patrick's Day parties. The Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago's 38th Annual Forever Green will be held at Park West on March 8 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Proceeds from this year's Forever Green will benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and the My Mary Cate Trust Fund. My Mary Cate helps raise funds for Mary Cate Lynch and raises awareness for Apert Syndrome, while the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation helps the families of Chicago's finest who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. Music for the evening will combine a little soul and Motown from Todd Hembrook and The Hemispheres, along with traditional Irish performances from the Larkin and Moran Brothers, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band and the Identity Irish Dance Company.

General admission tickets are \$55 and \$60 on the day of the event. VIP tickets are \$75 and \$80. The VIP section offers access to the VIP Lounge, serving Miller Lite, MGD, wine, call liquors, soft drinks and water.

General admission tickets provide access to the main floor and Miller Lite, MGD, wine, soft drinks and water. Presenting sponsors include WXRT and Miller Lite. Park West is located at 322 W. Armitage Ave. Tickets can be purchased online at www.youngirish.com/tickets, or in person at this Saturday's Division Street Pubcrawl, beginning at 3 p.m. at McFadden's (check-in at 2 p.m.), 1206 N. State Pkwy. Tickets are \$20 for the crawl, which includes stops at Shenanigans, the Hangge Uppe, the Original Mothers and Butch McGuires. For more information, visit www.youngirish.com.

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Flag Stones

As we write, a loyalist mob is attacking St. Matthew’s Church on the border of Belfast’s Short Strand neighborhood, trying to burn the old church down with Molotov cocktails - again.

(Look at St. Matthew’s website- <http://www.stmatthewsparish.org/first.html> I defy you to figure out why this little church is so offensive to Protestants. While you’re visiting, you might drop them an email greeting.)

Short Strand lies between Belfast city centre and the Harland and Woolf shipyards docks area. St. Matthew’s stands on Newtownards Road, the area’s northern border, and is subject to frequent Loyalist attack. In 2011 during Orange ‘celebrations’, vandals defaced the church with sectarian graffiti, then splashed the facade with British union red, white and blue paint. Mass-goers coming to the church were appalled at the sight. Last year it was Orange bandmen playing sectarian tunes while passing by, and a drummer who took time out from the parade to urinate on the church.

In the 19th century, Catholics had moved into the Short Strand area from County Down. But despite living cheek by jowl to the shipyard that built Titanic, they were mostly excluded from working there. Over the years the shipyard did hire some Catholics, but On 21 July 1920 Protestant workers in Belfast held a meeting and whipped themselves into a fury over Catholics being allowed to work at the shipyard. A mob descended on Harland and Wolff and hunted down 7000 Catholics and sympathetic Protestants, beating them out of the grounds.

At the dawn of ‘The Troubles’, the ‘Battle of St Matthew’s’, June 27 1970, saw the first major confrontation between the Provisional Irish Republican Army and Ulster loyalists. Prior to that, the nearly defunct IRA had been criticized for failing to defend nationalist areas from Protestant attack. A mob of loyalists returning from an Orange Order parade tried to set the church on fire with gasoline bombs, and to invade Short Strand, intending to burn Catholic nationalists from their homes, as

they had from The Falls area a year earlier. At the time, Short Strand was home to about 6,000 people. Its back to the River Lagan, it was surrounded on three other sides by East Belfast and 60,000 loyalists.

A small group of IRA volunteers led by Billy McKee, commander of the Belfast Brigade, and members of the Citizens’ Defense Committee arrived at St Matthew’s Church and surrounding streets to hold back the loyalist mob. (McKee led a couple of other IRA men in 1969 to try and stop the burning of Catholic houses in the Falls area- with only two .22 rifles at their disposal. They exchanged shots with a loyalist sniper but were unable to stop the Protestant mob from burning almost all of the houses on Bombay street and many others on Kashmir Road and Cupar Street.)

As shooting began around St. Matthew’s, Stormont MP Paddy Kennedy along with some Short Strand residents went to the local RUC police base demanding protection for their homes. A British Army company finally arrived but simply watched the battle and did not intervene. After about five hours, the loyalists were forced to retreat. Three people were killed and an unknown number wounded—including McKee, who was shot five times.

The next day, June 28, around 500 Catholic workers at Harland

and Wolff were driven from the workplace by Protestant employees. Most of them could not return, and lost their jobs.

The litany of abuse of Irish Catholics by Britain and her loyalist surrogates over the centuries is legion, from the murderous path of Cromwell and the Penal Laws, through the mid-nineteenth century holocaust of starvation, Bloody Sunday, the Dublin-Monahan Bombings; a trail of hatred, deceit and blood, right to present day.

Year after year on the night of July 11, Protestants in the 6 counties leap, sing, drink and bellow in a catharsis of hatred and joy, as bonfires the size of city buildings are set ablaze, consuming Irish (and lately Polish) flags, statues of the virgin, and other effigies. Why is so much hatred directed at Irish and Catholics?

It’s institutional, of course. Long ago Britain had conquered Ireland and made its people serfs, sold many into slavery or indenture, and further, determined to drive Catholicism from the land, which, however hard they tried, they could not accomplish. And when the War of Independence was done they decided to retreat behind a new “pale” in Ulster, the industrial heartland, naming it, unimaginatively, ‘Northern Ireland. (They might more appropriately have named their little empire of exclusion “Prodhaven” or “Niggelland”.)

At the time, Michael Collins and others believed the 6 county state could not sustain itself for long. But they apparently committed the always fatal mistake of underestimating British determination. As ruthless as they were in removing foodstuffs from a starving Ireland 70 years before, the British were equally resolute in keeping their new Protestant statelet alive.

Loyalists will wrap themselves in the union jack just as long as they feel that banner will support them in their fable of superiority. Having once ruled the earth, or at least the waves, the English are locked into that mindset which labels genocide famine, and sail imperially above laws made for lesser men.

And the empress QEII at the helm, Defender of the Faith, locked to a course which is varied with caution; silently laying wreaths, and granting honors to faithful dogs that kill with impunity. It has ever been: for the Devlins of the realm a bullet awaits, for the Paisleys an eminence.

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Ray Kelly, Rest in Peace ... January 2, 2013

By John O'Brien

I've read the bios,

and the memories of place

People you touched with

your always-smiling face

How your voice reached

across, oceans so wild

And the wonder when you

spoke, of your little child

Of Green Cards and gravel

and laughter late into the night

Of prayers and idle chat-

ter, and living with all of your

might

Memories from yesterday,

though long ago they seem

And hopes for tomorrow; we

had such elegant dreams

I'll remember you most, for

your passion and your ease

The breath that you took,

before imparting with glee

stories from the road, and

the legend of Put in Bay

I'll remember you most,

because I loved you Ray

Celtic Rocker Ray Kelly was

hurt in a work accident and passed

away on Wednesday, January 9,

2013. To his family: wife Liz; sons

Robert & Jude; daughter, Rachel;

Alma, his mother; grandson,

Luke; and brothers Marcus and

Barry, we send our prayers, our

support, our love.

There was always a sense of

"something good is going to hap-

pen tonight", when Ray was near.

It might be a soft conversation,

more likely, it would be a raucous

night of shared whiskey, song and

story, but no matter what it was,

it would be memorable ~ it was

his essence.

Ray, from Co. Clare, Ireland,

thrived in New York. He was

a member of The Prodigals for

seven years, before slipping

away for a few years to run his

own pub, Ray Kelly's, in Fair-

field, Connecticut. He missed

the energy and excitement, the

friendships and sharing the mu-

sic, so he got back in touch with

Brian Tracy, former band mate

with The Prodigals, and they

formed The Mickey Finns.

Ray wasn't a legend, yet; he

was far too young. But to many,

legendary was often a word used



Ray Kelly performing at Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago. photo by John Halliburton

to describe him, that thing, that essence thing. It was not enough to describe Ray with success, but it is a start. The music was at the forefront in his public life, but hardly covered what Ray was.

Passionate and vibrant, full of laughter and stories, Ray Kelly

rocked. He loved sharing the songs, but relished the great auld hug. He treated all friends like family and family was everything.

The Mickey Finns instantly became a fan and festival favorite all across the Irish music scene, for their music, their energy and their genuine sense of fun, on and off the stage. Rooted in tradition and with legendary influences that formed their songs and their values, they headlined festivals and shared the stage with near every big name in music.

Ray really was larger than life. He looked you right in the eye and then wrapped his arm around you as he hunched forward to share the tale of last night. It rarely took

more than a minute or two before laughter would ring out. Irish music lost an ambassador; Irish music lost a friend, a big bright fire is now a candle, lit in his memory.

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Women of Concern Luncheon Honors Shirley Welsh Ryan and Mari Gallagher

On February 22, Concern World-wide U.S., the international humanitarian organization, will recognize Shirley Welsh Ryan,



Shirley Welsh Ryan

Co-Founder of Pathways.org, and Mari Gallagher, Principal of Mari Gallagher Research and Consulting Group, for their outstanding humanitarian and philanthropic leadership at its Women of Concern Award Luncheon in Chicago.

"Shirley Welsh Ryan and Mari Gallagher are not only pioneers in their respective fields—they are inspirations for positive change," said Joseph Cahalan, CEO of Concern Worldwide U.S. "Their compassion and commitment to bringing equal access to healthy food choices and helping children with special challenges reach their full potential have undoubtedly touched and transformed the lives of thousands of people."

Shirley Welsh Ryan is a nationally recognized advocate for the gift of early detection of children's physical, sensory and communication issues, and for the hope of early intervention and prevention. In 1985, she co-founded and has chaired Pathways Clinic, an outpatient pediatric facility. In 1996, she founded the popular Pathways.org website, which illustrates children's abilities and informs parents and professionals. Shirley has been appointed by two United States Presidents to the National Council on Disability in Washington D.C., which advises Congress on issues of disability.

Mari Gallagher has dedicated her professional career to collecting and analyzing data for public good. She is perhaps best-known for her work identifying and tackling the issue of food deserts—areas where nutritious and fresh

foods are scarcely available—in the United States. She is the author of "Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Chicago," a breakthrough study that popularized the term "food desert" in the United States, and was the first person to develop a metric for measuring food-type availability block-by-block.

The women will join past honorees of the Chicago Women of Concern Award Luncheon such as Catherine Bertini, Samantha Power, Mary Dempsey, Jacqueline Novogratz, Avis LaVelle, Justice Anne Burke, Aimee Mullins and Mary Houghton.



Mari Gallagher

Phil Ponce, host of Chicago Tonight on WTTW11 will emcee the event. The Chicago Women of Concern Award Luncheon honors women who have demonstrated the qualities of justice, generosity, and compassion in their work and daily lives. To purchase tickets, please visit concernusa.org or call (312) 431-8400. Funds raised through the event will support Concern's work to break the cycle of extreme poverty in 25 of the world's poorest countries.

Concern is pleased offer a luxury Ireland "City and Country" vacation package auction item for two people that is sponsored by Tourism Ireland. The trip offers two-night accommodations at the Merrion Hotel, Dublin and at Ashford Castle in County Mayo. Airfare has been generously donated by Aer Lingus. Tourism Ireland is shining a spotlight on The Gathering 2013 Ireland, a series of events and festivals that celebrate Irish culture, history and genealogy. For information, please see www.concernusa.org.

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

Changing of the Guard

There is a time for everything. 'A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace'. Beautiful words from Ecclesiastes. I would just add that there is a time to eliminate sectarianism from Northern Irish politics and let's hope that it will soon be upon us.

I went to Belfast for the New Year. If you've kept a drowsy hippopotamus' eye on that city over the past month, you will know that it is beset by the issue of whether or not the union flag should be continuously hoisted aloft Belfast City Hall. The Alliance



Party won a slim vote to rule that the said symbol of universal benignity should flutter over the hall on certain, special, days of the year only—it

will fly next on Kate Middleton's birthday.

What followed the vote was rather predictable and awful—awful because it was so predictable. Riots, car-explosions, nocturnal cruises into Catholic enclaves to rampage and intimidate; the targeting of politicians' families and homes; a lot of wrapping the flag round ye rituals led by opportunist agitators; streets being cordoned off, mar- rying the build up to Christmas. At the time of writing, the riots splutter onward. Participants call it Operation Standstill: a metaphor for a mentality.

The good news is that voting counts for something in Belfast today, and the Alliance Party stood firm. In so doing, they stole a march on the other centrist parties, the SDLP and the UUP, that have been suffering from collapsing support. The Alliance Party will reap their reward in the next election.

The Alliance Party, especially in its current stance, is even more inimical to hardline loyalism—with their 'no surrender' and 'not an inch' mantras—than Sinn Féin. While it is easy to demonise Republicans, Alliance is diverse in its make-up. They are an atypical cause for such a flare-up. Not that that deterred the rioters.

One blundering loyalist, Willie Frazer, a failed politician from Armagh, even organised three buses to facilitate protesters to travel to Dublin on Saturday January 12th to decry the flying of the tricolour outside government buildings in Dublin. This elbowing into affairs of the South was humoured by the Gardaí on a 'right to free assembly' basis. Then Frazer checked if the tricolour actually flies over government buildings on Saturdays. It doesn't. Frazer could think of nothing else to complain about so he cancelled the protest.

This wasn't Frazer's first mishap with flags. Recently, on seeing an Italian flag flying over a school in Tyrone, where children were celebrating Italian culture, Frazer, apparently unable to distinguish between the green-white-gold of the Irish flag and green-white-red of the Italian one, launched into a public tirade about the brain-washing of children by the murderous IRA machine.

Frazer was also the man behind the 'Love Ulster' rally of February 25th 2006 that provoked a full-scale riot in Dublin. The 'Love' movement, it should be remembered, began with a re-enactment of Larne gun-running—a commemoration of physical force being introduced into Irish politics. Love Ulster was, allegedly, a march in commemoration of victims of terrorist atrocities whereas the march on January 12th sought to dictate policy to the Irish government. If Frazer's march had proceeded in Dublin, the reaction to it would have been far more unsavoury than the street violence caused by Love Ulster. In a recession-bitten Dublin, unemployed young men, stirred by gutter journalism, would have drifted into the city centre and the confrontation could have been quite bloody. Frazer's public persona rests between 'Love' rallies that smack of hatred, and this month's abortive march challenging the flying of a flag when it does not fly. One awaits his next move with keen interest.

Frazer is a direct heir to that connoisseur of schism Ian Paisley, and gladly threads the same well-worn paths of demagoguery

in the North plodded by the Reverend: in short, he hopes to hollow out the centrist power base with publicity stunts and vapid extremist rhetoric.

At first glance, the North appears to be a victim of inextinguishable sectarianism. Yet closer analysis yields evidence that a class-based approach to politics periodically emerges from underneath the region's thick skin. Andrew Boyd's outstanding book, Holy War in Belfast, records that at key moments in Belfast's history poor zones of the city would cross sectarian boundaries, unite and resist the brutality of police. Eamonn McCann's articles have continually argued for, and shown examples of, a class solidarity that transcends the orange-green template.

Northern Ireland's make-up does not depend on sectarianism. Those leaders who practice it do so to protect a power-base that is fading from their grasp. It isn't merely that Frazer is a less skilled campaigner than Paisley used to be; the momentum in the North has drifted towards settlement and power-sharing, and away from tawdry sectarian politics. A comparison bears this out. In 1964, Ian Paisley forced the RUC's hand, causing them to storm a Republican hall in Divis Street Belfast several times to tear down the tricolour. And all hell broke loose. A moderate unionist politician, Robert Corkey, lambasted Paisley as the main culprit of the riots: 'His loud protestations of Protestant principles have attracted a considerable following of thoughtless people'. Very true, and Paisley proceeded thus for four decades with considerable success.

But Paisley passed very quickly into history after he did his deal with Sinn Féin in 2007 because the circumstances in which he had held sway for all those years had passed with the power-sharing deal. Causing rowdy opposition to tolerant society has become a decreasingly effective approach to politics in the North. If the loyalists who are rioting on Belfast's streets wish to exercise power on flags, or any other issue, they will need to change their tactics to have any success. But there is no sign of that happening.

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Drovers Worth the Wait

On a warm September night at Beloit College in Wisconsin 11 years ago, a sweaty audience danced and cheered as the Drovers thundered through their encore, a slashing cover of the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil." No one in the crowd knew it at the time, but they were witnessing the end of an era. The legendary Irish rockers were calling an end to their decade among the top bands in the Midwest.



By Elizabeth Lohr St. John

It was an anticlimactic turn for these stalwarts of the Chicago music scene. The band's website simply announced that they were taking a break. And for the next 10 years, that notice remained unchanged. Then, in early 2013, out of nowhere, the Drovers surprised their fans with news that they

were reassembling with former singer and instrumentalist Kathleen Keane for a one-night-only performance on March 15 at the Abbey Pub. They also plan to release new music, as well as their back catalog, on iTunes.

Interest has been running high, and for good reason. The Drovers' fusion of Irish music and rock had injected an exotic and fresh stream of electricity into the Chicago music scene, which had by 1992 become the focus of national media attention. Rock critics puzzled over ways to describe the Drovers. They always had authentic Irish traditional instrumentalists at the core of their music, yet they were intensely loud and wielded their power with a bluntness that recalled Crazy Horse.

"Somehow we projected a mys-

tique that audiences found attractive," says lead singer and bassist Dave Callahan, a native Chicagoan who now lives in Sweden. "Maybe because that was because the music industry was getting more segmented," he says.

Callahan is evasive when asked whether the Drovers will continue playing regularly after this return to the stage: "We never really broke up, you know. We just stopped calling each other. Then I moved to Sweden and we started talking more, again."

Capable of inducing crowds into trancelike states of sweaty dancing, the Drovers relied not only on pulsating rhythms, but solid writing and arrangements. While combining pop and Irish traditional is not exactly original, Callahan says that what made the Drovers unique was the way they did it. Mike Kirkpatrick (the band's artistic leader and primary songwriter) and Callahan wrote catchy melodies and soul-searching lyrics.

But when it came to instrumentation, Kirkpatrick arranged for an entirely different listening experience. Instead of injecting electric guitar or horn solos into a tune, he crafted his own jigs, reels, airs and hornpipes, and made them the highlights of his - as well as Callahan's - songs.

So essential was this traditional element that the Drovers seemed to have sprung from an alternate universe where it was Irish music, rather than the blues, that had

inspired rock and roll.

A cameo in Ron Howard's film, Backdraft, had first primed Chicago audiences for the Drovers 1992 debut record, a trad-rock masterpiece titled "World of Monsters." They quickly made a national splash, but within months of the release, the band saw its frontwoman, Keane, pack up and leave for a solo career.

"We had to transform ourselves to hold on," Callahan says. "That wasn't easy. Kathleen was - and

"Best Unsigned Band" in 1993 by the Illinois Entertainer magazine. They followed up by releasing Kill Mice Elf, an oddball CD that showcased a sprawling psychedelic dirge: "She's As Pretty As Brian Jones Was." An extended period of exhaustive touring followed, taking the Drovers' music to hundreds of college campuses up and down the East Coast and throughout the Rust Belt.

They developed into an even more formidable live act, and their reward was getting cast by director Michael Apted in the thriller, Blink, starring Madeleine Stowe, Laurie Metcalf and Aidan Quinn. "We played Madeleine Stowe's bandmates. We don't really do anything, but play some songs and stand there while the stars act around us," Callahan says.

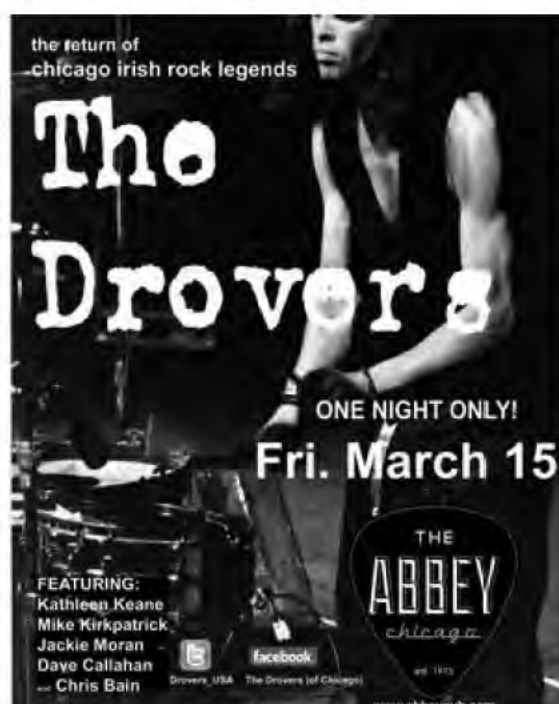
This 1994 feature propelled the group into the national spotlight and earned them fans from around the world.

"We were getting hits on our website from Iran, Russia, South Africa, just the strangest places," said Callahan in a recent interview. "The movie gave us a boost at a time when we really needed it."

In 1995, they released the full-length "Little High Sky Show," which showcased the band's psychedelic and prog rock tendencies. The audiences continued to get larger and they recruited singer and fiddler/mandolinist Merritt Lear (now a member of the Jason Mraz touring band) to share lead vocals with Callahan.

But the digital revolution made its impact soon enough and the Drovers' label lost its distributor to bankruptcy. "We couldn't get our records in the stores that were still in business, and we were just exhausted with touring. We endured for a bit longer, but by 2002 it was time pull off the road.

"And now we've come back." Callahan, Kirkpatrick and Keane will be joined by original drummer Jackie Moran and Irish fiddler Chris Bain March 15 at the Abbey, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago.



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



part 2 Top TIR Awards 2013

Instrumental Album of the Year—Suaimhneas-Michelle Mulcahy
This year's solo effort, Suaimhneas, confirms this young



woman's status as one of the top two or three harpists in Irish music. According to our count, she plays 457 instruments and all of them brilliantly. Where she shines the most is on the harp and this album proves it. To be this good and this young is something she has earned and carries with graceful ease. All credit to her family and musical partners, father Mick Mulcahy and sister Louise. Never think you know what the Irish harp sounds like without listening to one of the greats, Michelle Mulcahy. Well done. Well done, indeed. Brill. Fab.

Vocal/Instrumental Group of the Year – Hanz Araki/Kathryn Claire
Hanz contested for Male Vocalist of the Year in addition to his masterful

flute playing. Kathryn Claire is a wonderful singer, and also gave the female winner a run for THAT honor! Outstanding fiddle player. Based on America's west coast, Hanz has both Irish and Japanese blood flowing through his veins. He comes from a

musical family and has brought a new dimension to Irish flute playing. We're not sure which we like better, his singing or his musicianship on the wooden

flute. Kathryn is the brilliant and equal partner in this duo. She has a terrific voice which matches her fiddle playing perfectly. They are two extraordinarily gifted talents who should enjoy a long run in Irish music. Couple this with the fact that they released four – you read that correctly, FOUR – brilliant traditional albums in one year, and this Award is the easiest to decide of all. The four albums, which we have written about extensively here, include the currently most popular, A Winter Solstice. There is also Songs of Love and Murder (we love the title!). Then there's something with more spring in the air, As I Roved Out. And then there is the beautiful and haunting, The Emigrant's Song/Laborer's Lament. It has taken us months to digest all of this music and proclaim it what it is. A stunning bit of perfection and an unprecedented accomplishment in Irish music. We are overwhelmed by their talent and their creativity.

Concert of the Year –We Banjo 3 – IrishFest Milwaukee
We saw so many performances this year that we found ourselves debating how to choose, since they were all fantastic. Let's consider the most impactful—that would be We Banjo 3's run at IrishFest in Milwaukee. IrishFest has a mini preview night on Thursday evening before its annual August weekend begins. We Banjo 3 performed at that Thursday night event and the word went out on the jungle drums. Holy mackerel,



you've gotta see this! Not yet familiar with this brand new group, IrishFest had scheduled them in what everyone calls the "pub tent"—a lovely little venue on the end of the grounds that seats about 100 people comfortably. By Friday night, the crowd was standing 2-3 deep, to catch the lads. On Saturday and Sunday, the crowds were standing 6-7 deep with even more turning away because they couldn't get close enough to even hear. We were supposed to introduce them, but got there a half hour early and already it was so packed that we could not get through the crowd to the stage! From what we can see, essentially every concert of theirs since has been sold out. This group, like other iconic ensembles before them, seems to bridge the gap from the pure Irish traditionalist, to the more modern lover of the sound. Outstanding vocals from David Howey round out the picture that he, Enda Scahill, Martin Howey and Fegal Scahill all create. That's right. Two sets of brothers in perfect musical harmony. In all our years, we have never seen a stunning

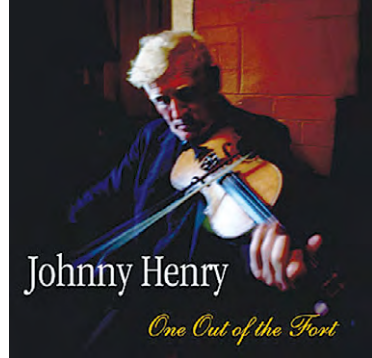


opening like this by a traditional group. The current talk of the business, and rightly so.

Event of the Year –Johnny Henry CD Release Party/ One Out of the Fort

We hope we are not being too provincial by saying that Chicago hosted one of the best events of its type, ever. Bogfire Productions released brilliant Johnny Henry's CD, One Out of the Fort. Johnny passed away in the late '90's and this is a compilation gathered from many sources that highlights the essence of what it is to be a real Sligo fiddle player. Johnny's brother is the iconic, Kevin Henry, one of the great flute and pipe players plus a real shanachie for all time. These brothers were part of a musical family that continues to resound in the music. The

CD release party was held at Chief O'Neill's in Chicago. The place was packed as musicians came from everywhere to play in a mega-session designed to honor Johnny, Kevin, Bogfire, and the tradition itself. It was magic. It is easy to say, "you had



to be there", but you had to be there. An unforgettable night of fun, love, and respect. Bogfire released Kevin's only album, the internationally acclaimed, One's Own Place. Now Bogfire adds this. Thanks to Bogfire and the Henry family for all of this!!

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Green Tie Event in Milwaukee 3-2

Milwaukee Irish Fest presents its 14th annual Green Tie Event, an evening of entertainment benefiting the Ward Irish Music Archives, on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Wisconsin Country Club, t 6200 W. Good Hope Road. Proceeds support the largest public collection of Irish and Irish American music in North America.

"All are invited to join us for an entertaining evening in support of Irish music and lore," said Barry Stapleton, director of the Archives. "People may not realize we have this internationally-recognized treasure right here in Milwaukee. Through the preservation of these archives, we will help future generations worldwide to better understand Irish culture and the important impact of its musical tradition and spirit."

Tickets to the dinner and charity auction will raise funds to help expand the collection of music. Through the generous support of past Green Tie attendees, the Ward Irish Music Archives has created educational and entertaining exhibits, produced historically valuable projects like the Dunn Family Collection microsite and produced CDs such as Francis O'Neill Cylinders and the Mil-

waukee Irish Fest Celtic Rock compilation.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., guests will be entertained with musical and dance performances by Ceol Cairde, Cashel Dernehy School of Irish Dance and local Irish band, Tallymore. A video presentation on Rosemary Clooney, an American singer and actress will be shown by the director of the Archives. The life and times of Clooney, a descendant of Irish immigrants, will be commemorated in this video presentation.

A silent and an oral auction round out the evening. Items available to bid on are: round trip air fare for two to Ireland, a Deering Banjo, a private whiskey-tasting for 10 attendees, a Milwaukee harbor boat tour for 8 guests and VIP seating for a group of 20 during the 2013 Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Tickets are \$100 each (\$30 of which is tax-deductible). Table sponsorship's, also partially tax-deductible, start at \$1,500 and include 10 Green Tie Event tickets, VIP seating, table recognition and program recognition. Seating is limited. Reservations at (414) 476-3378. For more information about the Green Tie Event, visit www.irishfest.com.

A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



There has been a lot of news coverage about the threats to religious freedom contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as ObamaCare.

Unfortunately, this debate has been publicized as a "women's health issue," and the typical pro-life and pro-choice groups have lined up on both sides. Yet, viewing what has come to be called the "HHS Mandate" (Health and Human Services Mandate) as being primarily about contraception or abortion is missing the real issue. Make no mistake, the alarming matter at hand is that the government is trying to step in and not only define what it means to be religious, but also force religious believers and institutions to act against their teachings in order to comply with the law.

The main concern with the HHS Mandate portion of ObamaCare is that it attempts to force all employers, including religious employers like Catholic Charities, to provide contraceptives,

female sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs to all employees. Employers would be forced to pay for these services even if they have a religious or moral objection to them, or face crippling, multi-million dollar fines.

The Catholic Church is opposed to contraception, sterilization and abortifacients because we believe they interfere with the creation and protection of human life. Forcing us to pay for drugs and medical services that go against our deeply held religious convictions violates our constitutional right to religious freedom guaranteed not only by the First Amendment, but also by subsequent laws and court decisions that establish a clear distinction between Church and State.

The HHS Mandate does include an exemption for religious employers, but the definition of "religious employer" is so narrow that it excludes religiously-based social service agencies, universities, and hospitals. In order to be considered "religious" and earn the exemption, employers must employ only people of their own faith, serve only people of their own faith, and be in the business primarily of inculcating religious teachings. Consequently, because we serve and employ people of all religious backgrounds and we do not proselytize to those in our care, Catholic Charities and other faith-based service providers are

not considered "religious enough" to qualify for the exemption.

For Catholics, our service institutions are essential in the exercise of our faith. The government is suggesting that we are not "religious" as we serve the poor, heal the sick, educate children, shelter the homeless, or alleviate suffering. Yet, following our religious beliefs is precisely why we perform all of these life-affirming acts because in so doing, we fulfill our Gospel duty to protect and enhance human life. For the government to tell us otherwise is a clear and unprecedented violation of our religious liberty.

As you can imagine, the result of the HHS Mandate has been the proliferation of hundreds of lawsuits across the country, as not only faith-based employers, but for-profit employers owned by individuals with deeply held religious beliefs, challenge its legality and constitutionality. In a recent ruling in December, a federal appellate court in Washington D.C. forced the Obama Administration to issue new rules by March 31, 2013 that will, hopefully, clarify how it will better accommodate religious employers and protect religious freedom.

I urge Catholics and all Americans concerned with religious liberty to pray that this forthcoming ruling will indeed protect our religious freedom and enable the Church's essential institutions like Catholic Charities to continue our Gospel mission to love and care for our brothers and sisters in need.

For if we don't protect our religious liberty now, what might be next?

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A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

Shannon's

Shannon's Irish Pub; Glen Ellyn, IL
Shannon's Corner Butcher Shoppe; and
Shannon's Deli, Lombard, IL

Shannon's Irish Pub in Glen Ellyn, Shannon's Corner Butcher Shoppe and Shannon's Deli in Lombard are all owned by the charismatic Jen Shannon. Her personal touches are evident at all three locations. The Irish charm and over the top friendliness by her and her staff will greet you with warmth that will have you wondering when you will be returning!

Shannon's Irish Pub is not just a local favorite but a destination. Nestled in the middle of town, the dark wood and beautiful stained glass throughout are alluring. Customers can sit in large booths, at the bar or at tables along the window overlooking the quaint downtown Glen Ellyn. The large heated patio is meticulously decorated with the centerpiece being the big, gorgeous fireplace.

Some of the delicious fare includes the appetizer the County Cork Home Style Irish chips and honey curry sauce that are perfect munchies while deciding what to eat for lunch or dinner. The Starter Bangers, which are homemade Irish sausage with mustard sauce and rye bread, is spectacular. Some of the popular items are Irish Breakfast – served all day – that includes two eggs cooked any style, grilled bangers, rashers, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, baked beans and served with rye toast. Other lunch favorites are the Bookmaker Sandwich, which is medallions of beef marinated in Guinness, with tomatoes, sautéed onions, and creamy horseradish sauce served on a French roll or Mary Murphy's Ciabatta Steak Sandwich which is a grilled Guinness steak topped with mozzarella cheese, tomatoes, sautéed red onions jalapenos, served with a sour cream spread. For dinner, The Burgundy Pepper Hanger is a steak like no other. It will be the most delicious steak you ever had – a 12 hanging tenderloin

marinated and charbroiled to perfection. For more mouth watering specialties, try The Chops, two 8-ounce center cut pork chops charbroiled to your delight; enough to fill any Irish hunger. The Irish stew is slow cooked lamb, potatoes, carrots, and leeks blended to amazing flavors and fresh ground beef cooked in the special gravy with carrots, mushrooms and onions, then topped with

champ and baked golden brown.

Shannon's boasts a large selection of domestic and international beers by the bottle and on tap. Some of the eight beers on tap are Guinness, Smithwick's and IPA. Nikki, one of the friendly, smiling bartenders, has been there for ten years. She is helping contribute to the success of the Pub by the youngest customer to Shannon's being her newborn son named Gavin!

If you are in Lombard you cannot drive through unless you stop at Shannon's Corner Butcher Shoppe and Shannon's Deli. They are next door to each other. When you enter you will be greeted with a friendly hello and feel like you are a long time friend. Some of the specialties at the

Butcher Shoppe are the T-Bone, Hanger steak, Strip Steak, Filet, Ribeye, Bone-In Ribeye, Steak Kabobs, Chuck Roast, Black Forest Sirloin, Sirloin Burgers Specialty Flavor Burgers (flavors vary) Chicken Apple Brats with Cranberries Stuffed Chicken Breast (flavors vary) Chicken Wings, Chicken Kabobs, Chicken Fajita Mix Chicken Burgers (flavors vary) and Whole Roasters Pork Chops, Stuffed Pork

customers to know that if you mention this article, during the month of February, at any of her locations, you will receive a special gift from the Manager! I hope to see your smiling face there!
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Butcher Shoppe Hours- 15 South Park Avenue, Lombard 630.953.9080
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Tuesday - Friday - 11:00am - 6:00pm
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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



For Sinead O'Connor

I'm going to put my hands up here and say that I like Sinead O'Connor. Well, I don't know the woman at all but I like—no, I LOVE—her music. She is out there with a handful of other female artists that simply tear the heart out of me when she sings. Clear, beautiful; at times she is agonisingly able to sum up in a couple of phrases just the way you are feeling at certain moments. In particular, when you are feeling a bit down.

The woman has been given a gift that most of us would give our eye teeth to have; but by heaven, she certainly can be her

own worst enemy.

Every time that I breathe a sigh of relief that she's managed to keep her mouth shut and stay out of the newspapers for something that she has generally brought upon herself she then re-emerges with some stupid rant that makes no bloody sense. And then she throws a strop when journalists write about it.

Here is part of her latest:

"I don't leave Ireland because I have children with men who still live there. And their needs come first. But otherwise I'd leave immediately. I absolutely f*****g hate it there."

Sinead, I absolutely hate a lot of things that are wrong with

Ireland but I also absolutely, as you would put it in your own inimitable fashion, f*****g love living here.

I, like YOU, missus, have the freedom to speak and write as I see fit. I know that I can write what I please without the door being bashed in at three in the morning and getting dragged off to some Gulag. We do have our faults, but that's not one of them.

You know another thing that I love about Ireland? You can walk into almost any pub here and you will find people that appreciate music, movies, theatre and stories. That's something that you don't get everywhere and believe me I have travelled a lot.

You go on to say:

"In Ireland, I cannot be an ordinary person. Everybody wants something of me, everybody has their f*****g opinion. It's exhausting."

Well, Jeez, I am so sorry for

you. Here's the thing: in the course of my working life I've had the pleasure to meet such diverse characters as Mel Gibson, Liam Neeson, John Hurt, Jodie Foster, Julie Roberts, the great Ken Russell many times, Oliver Reed (forget everything you've heard about him: a true gentleman) and many others. They all say the same thing: that they loved coming here because nobody really bothers them or is in particular awe of their fame.

YOU are the one, Sinead, that puts yourself into a position where you think that people are judging you. No one else. Hell, you CHOSE to have four children by different men. That was YOUR choice. Hell, did you ever hear of contraception or even SAFE SEX?

You begrudgingly say:

"OK, sure, it's a safer environment for younger children than it is perhaps in London, but in London you can be anybody you want, and nobody takes any notice of you."

Well, the obvious answer to that is...go to London. Don't spout that rubbish about your kids' dads being here. Live there, if you like it so much. I have this feeling that if you didn't have the oxygen of publicity you wouldn't last two minutes. You would shrivel up and die.

"Father's Day is a bit of a revolving door at my house".

Do you ever think about the fact that your kids are reading this bullshit?

You are in a far better position to move than many of those who are having to leave this country simply because there are no jobs for them anymore.

You will no doubt feel picked upon once again if by some chance you come across this article, but I will reiterate: we like you, Sinead; we're just fed up hearing that you are bi-polar or you were abused or that the Catholic Church has given you a hard time; or indeed whatever it is this week!

Get over it! We all have our sad stories. But most of us keep them to ourselves. Most of us don't have the platform to whine on national radio that we are lonely and pining for a partner. Jesus wept, how long did the 'marriage' from that escapade last? Seven days or something? And then you moan that it fell apart because he disapproved of you trying to score drugs in Las Vegas? Are you having a laugh or what?

Scoring drugs in Las Vegas? I'd have ran for the hills as well!

You are a talented and wealthy woman. You are in a position to do whatever you want but instead you point the finger at others whilst getting yourself covered in increasingly pointless tattoos? Do you really hate yourself that much?

I hope that you do meet a nice guy, although I can't think of any one who could put up with you.

I suspect—in fact I KNOW—that you are a kind person who would rather do good than harm. But get over yourself.

I'll always love your music and truly wish you well; but as for everything else, I have no interest anymore.

Good luck to you.

I'm at chasbrady7@eircom.net or you can read my blog at www.charleybrady.com

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



The Paulina Dialogues

I enjoy a day striding the streets. I even venture north of Madison Ave. away from the familiar and reassuring tribal grounds of the south side of Chicago. In fact, in so many ways the north side, immediate to the Loop, is tailor made for a vigorous. Perambulation Old Town is always nice with its Germantown feel and Europa streets insinuating hale welcome around each corner.

River North is the new Mag Mile; The Mag Mile not so much. Ukrainian Village is Old World spiced with Cuban ham.

I particularly enjoy Wicker Park, especially at the intersection of Milwaukee, North, Damen, & Ashland dominated by the Flat Iron Building.

On Paulina Street, in Wicker Park only paces from North Ave. I heard an all too familiar voice, "Where were you going, when I saw you coming back?"

smiled pleasantly and acknowledged the presence of Myron "Tanks-Oh" Muckin-fuch, of Chicago Park District and of the Olde 18th Ward Regular Democratic Organization (Emeritus). We are contemporaries, but I continue in my employment with Archdiocese of Chicago Schools and Myron is retired - smart-sized. That is about the only time smart could correctly be applied to Myron. We called him Tanks-Oh for the very obvious reasons.

Now, I can bore a hole through another human being with my catalog of snappy yarns and clever insights, like no other man. My musings and ribald witticisms take a back seat to no man in being just the person you'd like to see walking in the other direction. I am an acquired taste, like Syrup of

Ipecac. However, Myron done takes the rag off'n the bush!

Breathless, he continued, "I ran after you, but when I caught up to you you'd gone. I tapped you on the shoulder, but when you turned round it was neither of us!"

I was on the north side doing research in the Flat-Iron District and collecting well-turned phrases among America's smart young set in hookah parlors, re-sale shops and exotic coffee outlets along Milwaukee Ave. I never expected to have the re-acquaintance of Myron, an old pal from Little Flower Parish. Myron made time stand still in his company.

He followed me into a re-sale shop. 'What a filthy place,' said Myron. 'It's alive with dead rats.'

Those are vintage mink stoles.

'Not only that,' added he continued. 'There's holes in the floor a foot high!'

That's a conversation pit, I informed the recent City of Chicago pensioner as we walked out onto Milwaukee Avenue from the Paulina fedora and pork-pie hats for hep-cats shoppe.

"Hickey, you hear about Murphy?"

Ken? Bill the Redhead, Bill the Bald Guy, Bill who went to Carmel? Mike Murphy, Murphy Miller?

"That's him, Murphy. I guess, he swallowed a spoon and he hasn't stirred since. 'I don't mind dying,' he said, 'It's just that you feel so stiff the day after!'"

Murphy. said that? Prior to his demise I take it? How was the wake?

"Worst ever, the beer flowed like glue."

Strange that.

"Stranger things than that happen every day, or I'm very much mistaken. Are you going

to buy me lunch? If not, I won't have anything You see Mike Joyce's baby?"

Many times.

'The baby is just like his father, but at least he's got his health! Mike said I could not come over and see the baby, until the kid could get used to me, I guess that makes sense, but I was going to give him a nasty look but he already had one!'

By this time, I had spent a week with Tanks-Oh in that quarter hour of that Saturday afternoon in Chicago's brightest and alive of districts. The

locale's urbane and festive galleries and brasseries now seemed to take on the cookie-cutter aspect of our suburban landscapes chock full of Buffalo Wild Wings, TJ Tuesday's It's Fridays, McMalls and McMansions. In Myron's company the Left Bank of Paris could become Portillo's Crestwood, Illinois.

Some people suck all of the oxygen from a room full of talented people by dint of their wit, gallantry and world-view. Myron sucked the carbon dioxide dry out of the atmosphere inebriated by scores of taxi

cabs, a peck of buses and a gross of automobiles as well as hundreds of carbon foot-prints pounding Timberlands all over the Flat Iron's concrete edge at Ashland. I had had it.

Myron, I gotta be someplace, it was a day at the beach meeting you like this; can I get you a drink? Six pack to go?

"Naw, I'm goin' by De Paul. How far is that?"

Seven miles about. Five if you run.

"If I don't see you, I'll catch you later!"

From your lips to God's ear, Tankso Muchinfuch!

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



"TO INITIATE a war of aggression, therefore, is not only an international crime; it is the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole": Nuremberg War Tribunal regarding wars of aggression
THE PRICE of empire is America's

soul, and that price is too high. -
Sen. J. William Fulbright.
READERS FAMILIAR with Irish-America's campaigns of the late 1970s - early 1990s remember that tens of thousands of letters were signed in support of the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Occupied Ireland, for free-

ing the imprisoned-without-trial Joe Doherty, the tortured/framed Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, et al.

Perhaps everyone remembers reports that FBI Agent Joe Doyle warned my Mary and me that his colleagues, subverted by Britain's MI5, were planning crimes to silence us. And that weeks later the Langert family were murdered in north-suburban Winnetka and MI5/FBI Agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley, via TV's Carol Marin, blamed the IRA while prohibiting local police from investigating their sole suspect, the murderer, David Biro, whose weapon was FBI Agent Lewis' 357 Magnum. You will remember that MI5/FBI agent Buckley incarcerated Mary, Frank O'Neill and Tony McCormick (both, alas, R.I.P.) and me in Chicago's Federal lock-up (Mary hunger-struck throughout) and tried to imprison us for the rest of our lives - but fifteen months later we proved in front of U.S. Judge George Lindberg that the FBI's evidence against us, an audiotape, was criminally "doctored." We walked free, but so did the criminals.

The sole "witness" against us, Bostonian John Tuttle, brought to Chicago by Buckley; kept Buckley busy for months obstructing justice by "springing" him from Chicago-area lock-ups, mostly for drunk-driving but also for breaking the noses of two women, one against the windshield when he crashed, and the other for "not paying her share of the rent." Eventually Agent Buckley informed the court that the last he'd heard from his witness Tuttle was Tuttle phoning him from Minneapolis, arrested after crashing a car he had stolen in Chicago.

Also remembered is the anonymous tip (from Winnetka police?) to our attorneys to examine the Langert family murder investigation reports (Buckley had cunningly framed me). By then Biro was incarcerated. He's serving Life Without Parole for two 1st degree murders, a homicide, home invasion, etc. Biro preserved my freedom and possibly my life by blabbing through his FBI cover into Downstate Pontiac prison. I owe him.

Seeking prosecution of Buckley's many crimes I contacted police and news media, and wrote to Judge Lindberg, USAGs Janet Reno and Ashcroft, the ACLU, American Bar Association, law schools etc., etc. Nevertheless a series of newspaper articles by an MI5/FBI mole "proved" that all of MI5/FBI's crimes against us were to "deepen our cover" as MI5/FBI operatives. See the articles in my www.chicagomole.org. Buckley was labeled a "rogue agent" but MI5 sent him to Ireland to duplicate his specialty, arrange another atrocity to be blamed on the IRA, to drive home the Good Friday Agreement that mandated surrender of the Six Counties to Britain.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. It turns out that the crimes had to be sequenced, as follows: 1) all of the MI5/FBI crimes to terrorize Chicago's Irish activists, followed by 2) MI5/FBI's Omagh murders of twenty-nine innocents. 1 and 2 were merely preparations for step 3) the surrender of Occupied Ireland to Britain; and that surrender of territory was the indispensable prerequisite for step 4) using Britain's military in the U.S.'s planned Supreme Crimes against Islamic nations.

DAVID IRVINE was a triumphant White House invitee having, under British Spook supervision, led the Ulster Volunteer Force murderers of nearly 1,000 Catholics, randomly, in drive-by shootings of ones and twos, as part of Britain's reconquest of "Ulster." Irvine complained to the State Dept's "U.K. desk officer" that U.S. policy favored the IRA. "Desk officer" replied; "Well, you know the Provisional IRA don't have Buccaneer bombers, they don't have aircraft carriers, and we need to help sew up the British

exchequer so that we can take on the next big battle of the world." And we all looked at him, and he said, "Islamic Fundamentalism." That was November, 1994, and I was not alone, there are witnesses." (Irvine's taped words, Voices From the Grave, page 450.) Step 4 is included here due to the following: the Irvine tape and its 1994 plans for war, the otherwise inexplicable impunity of the MI5/FBI's many crimes against us, the impunity of FBI Agent Lewis' gun use by Biro, the refusal by law enforcement to prosecute MI5/FBI Chicago crimes, the USAGs' refusals, Judge Lindberg's written refusal to notify law enforcement of crimes Buckley perpetrated in front of him, the impunity of MI5/FBI's planning and execution of the Omagh mass murder, the impunity of Ireland's gardai and their mole/Omagh bomb-car owner Paddy Dixon, the impunity of the Omagh RUC for "losing" their tape of the phoned-in bomb warning; their impunity for "losing" the log book into which they had transcribed that warning, the George Medals with which the Crown rewarded RUC "incompetence."

FURTHER EVIDENCE that Step 3 above was merely part of a four-step series of massive crimes are the following sites; www.justicefortheiraigavontwo.com regarding Brendan McConville & John Paul Wootton, www.friendsofcolinduffy.com, www.release-martincorey.com, google Marian Price. Gerry McGeough's release date is 2/29. (While named British perpetrators of the bloodiest atrocities remain unprosecuted.) **WHICH BRIT REG'T** starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org. Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651.



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Billy Lawless

Billy Lawless is recovering from a double knee replacement and doing very well.

Here's to seeing Billy back on the rowing circuit soon!

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



Hi Everybody

Margo: Happy New Year to one and all and I hope all of you keep safe and well through 2013.

As I write this I am on board a plane to Tenerife which is one of

the Canary Islands near the coast of Africa. I'm so looking forward to two weeks of relaxation and sunshine and plenty of walking, oh and not forgetting some nice food, always a must on holiday.

"Beside the River Lee"

Written by Margo O'Donnell and Joe McShane

Verse 1: Each night I sing of Ireland the place where I was born
In song I travel through the towns, so precious one and all
One night a voice from long ago whispered soft to me
Oh sing a song from your heart of home across the sea

Verse 2: So I set out on a journey with a tune so sweet and old
I felt the music take me back my eyes were all aglow
Then a teardrop fell upon the ground for all the World to see
A song had brought me home again beside the river Lee

Chorus: I travelled down to Blarney and kiss that famous stone
And the lonely woods of Upton that stand there proud and tall
I passed once more thru Bandon, a place so dear to me
To my loving home in Ireland beside the River Lee

Verse 3: My dear Cork I miss you when I am far away
In dreams I often visit you at the close of everyday
With the boats along the harbour in Kinsale I long to be
Or visit Clonakilty thats nestled by the sea



the Navigators

Cliff Carlson & Cathy Curry



Well, we've gone and done it now! Flying in the face of "there is no future in newspapers," Cathy Curry and myself made an offer to Pete Maher, founder of Midwest Irish Focus, when he told us he was going to close its doors. "Why don't you sell it to us, and we will keep it going!" Pete gave us his blessing and we have published our first two editions of the year.

We believe there is a need for a paper like ours, and we believe the paper is a perfect fit with what we are already doing. With Irish American News in Chicago, and IAN Ohio covering the Ohio Irish scene (with the help of Ohio co-publisher, John O'Brien), Midwest Irish Focus reaches from St. Louis to Kansas City and beyond, giving us significant coverage of the Midwest

Irish and Irish-American communities.

Background

I've been in the publishing business for over 27 years. I founded the popular trade publication, Food Industry News in 1985, and created the prestigious Silver Platter Award that can still be seen in the best food establishments around Chicago today.

Selling Food Industry News in 1991, I purchased Irish American News because I wanted to stay in the publishing business and be self-employed, and I felt that the publication had lots of potential.

Cathy Curry, a photographer by trade, started working on the IAN websites in 2008, becoming an integral part of the creative and administrative branches. Together, Cliff and Cathy founded

For New Year I had the pleasure of having my mam with me and we sure spent some special time together. my mam will be 94 years young in July and I feel time spent together is extremely special.

On the 28th January I will be receive a lifetime achievement award, it's a bit like the CMA awards in America, I feel very honoured. Next year 2014 I will celebrate fifty years in the music business so lots of celebrations will take place then. You know without all of you out there showing your love for my music and singing I would not be having this celebration. I have never for one second forgotten that fact. So thank you one and all.

Joe: I hope you have a wonderful holiday. I just got back from Florida, where I had a Great time with Mickey, Minnie, goofy, Declan, Margaret and all the guys in Orlando. I also played at the Shamrock Club, Lake Worth, FL. I know quite a lot of the people down there from Chicago. There is also people from New York, Boston and other States. They are the happiest people I know, always smiling. They love to dance, play

iBAM!, an Irish books, art and music celebration now in its fifth year taking place each fall at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. Cathy and Cliff. also began a website dedicated to books about Ireland or written by Irish writers called theirish-bookclub.com in 2009

You can see our papers at their websites, www.irishamericannews.com, www.ianohio.com.

Watch for the new Midwest Irish Focus website coming in February!

We welcome your input and suggestions on making Midwest Irish Focus the best that it can be cathy@irishamericannews.com, cliff@iannews.com, and jobrien@ianohio.com.

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golf, fish and just have a good old time. After spending years working hard, now they are having a well deserved good time. Thank you everyone from the club for making my trip so enjoyable as always and a special thanks to Dymrna Fitzmorris for making me welcome in your home.

This months song was written in November 2012 after Margo received a call from Theresa Rodgers. Theresa is from Arranmore Island, Donegal, and is a wonderful singer. In the conversation she mentioned how she meets a lot of Cork people at her gigs in London,

where she now lives. "It would be nice to do a special song for them" she said. So Margo and I wrote "Beside The River Lee" which is an old time waltz and Theresa now sings it to the folks in London. You can check Theresa's music out on YouTube. She sings a lovely version of "Blacksod Bay"

Margo, a very big congratulations to you on your lifetime achievement award. We all look forward to hearing all about it in next months column. Also Happy Birthday Margo! for the 6th Feb.

Till next time, be good to each other, *Margo and Joe*

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Tea

As an Irishwoman living in the United States, I am frequently subjected to the stereotypical jokes about the Irish and their love of alcohol but rarely do I hear about our love of tea, the other beverage. I think it is fair to say that a cup of tea in Ireland has been the panacea for all that ails you since as far back as I can remember.

When we purchased our first house here in Texas, we had various contractors come through our doors to make the necessary repairs. I would offer them a cup

Real Ireland



By Rachel Gaffney



of tea. Some declined politely. One man could not help but ask the question, "Why are you offering me tea in a cup?". "What other way should I serve it?", I asked. "In a glass" was the reply. Of course, I had moved to Dallas, Texas, where the only tea that people drank back then (and even now to be truthful) was iced tea.

I grew up in Cork City, and my mum would put on the kettle to make a 'cuppa' for anyone who visited our home, whether they be guests or contractors. I sat for countless hours as a teenager with my friends drinking tea, planning our weekends, talking about the boys we liked and who was going out with who!

Tea became popular in 1901 and that was when James J Barry opened his first store on 'Bridge Street, Cork'. Today Barry's tea is still based in Cork and remains in the family. The red box beckons you from the shelf inviting you to enjoy a golden moment. When I first moved to London, I brought my tea with me. My sister now lives in London and packing the distinctive red box is a must in our home. You just can't leave Cork without it. Before my cooking classes begin, I have now fine tuned my ritual. The kettle is boiled, the tea pot prepared, milk poured and cups and saucers laid out. Once seated, I invite everyone to enjoy a cup. My preference is to drink tea from a china cup or china mug. It just tastes better to me. The reaction is lovely for it is one of warmth and immediately puts people at their ease.

Do you take time out to sit, relax, read a book and enjoy a cup of tea? If not, you should try it. It soothes the soul and relaxes the mind. I also use cold tea when baking my tea loaf. This is a great way of using up any remaining from your teapot.

When you bake this loaf, enjoy the aroma in your home, take time to sip on a nice hot cup of tea, slice the loaf and spread with Irish butter. This should be your moment. Everyone should have

their moment but as Barry's tea says, "Every Day should have it's golden moments"

TEA LOAF

- 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/4 cup raisins
- 1 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup soft brown sugar

- 4 tbs melted Kerrygold unsalted butter
- 1 cup cold black tea (unflavored)
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp baking powder
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare a 1lb loaf pan by greasing with a little butter, then line with parchment paper.

If you are a tea drinker, then the best way to do this is to reserve a cup of black tea. Allow this to cool completely.

Dissolve the sugar in the tea and add raisins and golden raisins.



Leave overnight. (or at least 4 hours)

In a bowl add butter and egg. Slowly mix, then gradually add flour and baking powder. Pour in fruit mixture. Mix thoroughly.

Pour in to prepared loaf pan and bake for 1 1/2 hours. You can check by inserting a skewer into the cake. It should be dry when withdrawn.

Allow to cool.

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From Chicago to Italy's Slow Food Event

A U.S. delegate's experience at Salone del Gusto and Terra Madre market

By Mary Gorski

Our journey began in Italy on Oct. 23rd and it was a journey that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I was elated about being selected as a United States delegate and more than overjoyed to represent my country.

My first day I proudly wore my Seed Savers shirt from Decorah, Iowa as I am honored to be a member of that organization as well. Terra Madre and Salone del Gusto proved to be an abundance of color and sound in many languages.

Almost immediately upon arrival, my taste buds were overloaded as we were being handed a plate of the best food our world has to offer. My husband reminded me this was a Slow Food event and we would be there for four days so I should slow down. We went from country to county sampling foods that were beyond decadent and delicious.

Slovenia has herbs I did not know existed and the Polish has bread that was delightful. The Swiss had cheese on a stick, spiced coffee from Egypt, the German's had so many kinds of sausage I could not specify which was my favorite. We had salted fish from Norway, couscous from Palestine, apple syrup from Kilkenny, Ireland and fruit jams Belarus.

We ended our third day in the 1000 Slow Wine area and made friends from all over the world. The language barrier did not matter as we sipped wine from the region and my hand signals were convincing enough for the selection of my next sample. In Italy, when drinking wine every sip has a history and they do want to share

that story with you. Oh to spend the day with some fresh Parmesan cheese, made locally, paired with local wine!

Moving on to the sweets, there was chocolate from South America, truffles from France and lavender jam filled crepes from Austria that were delectable; not to mention the canoli that I enjoyed my last day made locally in Turin. My food passion is part of my genetic makeup as my grandparents saved seeds and grew their own vegetables in their backyard. As a child I remember picking herbs and vegetables for dinner and enjoying our own rich pleasures.

Food is more than just about eating a meal and gobbling down your plate. It is about special meals for a holiday, sharing a meal with a friend and sipping on something that was made locally in our own country. In this current day of fast and furious we forget to savor the food we eat let alone learning and sharing story of where it came from. My love and support of the Slow Food Movement was deeply amplified at Terra Madre.

I believe everyone has the right to eat good food, food that is produced well, food that is healthy to eat from a nutritional perspective, from a social justice perspective, and from an environmental perspective. I am certain that my experience there, my little corner of Terra Madre where a small group of us got together and enjoyed good food and good company, was just a reflection of the larger event, and a reflection of what the world could be if we all ate more "good," food.

Gaelic Storm Returns to the Egyptian Theatre 2-16

DeKalb, IL - Gaelic Storm is returning to the stage at the historic Egyptian Theatre in downtown DeKalb on Saturday, February 16 at 7:30pm. Tickets are available online through the Egyptian Theatre website (www.egyptiantheatre.org), at the Egyptian Theatre box office or by calling the theatre box office at (815) 758-1225. The Egyptian Theatre Box Office is open Tuesdays from 2 pm - 6 pm and Thursdays 11 am - 3 pm and is located at the Egyptian Theatre at 135 N. Second Street in DeKalb.

It has now been over a decade

since Gaelic Storm's career lifted off with their appearance in the Blockbuster film Titanic. Since their big-screen debut over 10 years ago, the band's fan base continues to multiply with each new album, turning the one-time-pub-band into one of the premier touring acts in the Celtic/World music genre. Musically, Gaelic Storm's compelling originals and fresh arrangements steeped in Celtic traditional melody combined with their unique blend of world rhythms continue to broaden the musical horizons of the Celtic mu-

sic genre. Gaelic Storm steps back into the ring with the dazzling #1 Billboard World Album Chicken Boxer, a heavyweight record that comes out swinging with a mix of empowering anthems and traditional ballads. With catalog sales of more than 1 million, the group has now had three albums debut at #1 on the Billboard World Albums Chart, 2008's What's the Rumpus?, 2010's Cabbage, which remained parked in the top slot for three consecutive weeks, and 2012's Chicken Boxer. Ticket prices range from \$30-\$37.

Celebrate St. Patrick's With Cherish the Ladies 3-16

Kick off your St. Patrick's Day celebration with an afternoon of step dancing and lively music as Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 brings Cherish the Ladies, one of the foremost Irish traditional music groups in the world, to Lincoln-Way North High School, 19900 S. Harlem Ave in Frankfort on March 16 at 3pm.

"Cherish the Ladies is one of the foremost Irish traditional music groups in the world," said Denise Adducci, the performing arts coordinator for Lincoln-Way

High School District 210. "The six women combine all the facets of Irish traditional culture with their unique spectacular blend of virtuosi instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing. They deliver an engaging performance brimming with spirit, precision, soul, and a healthy dose of wit"

The Celtic band has shared a stage with the best in the world including, Emmy Lou Harris, James Taylor and Joan Baez, and were chosen to pay tribute to Bob

Dylan. The group leader, Joanie Madden, has performed on over a hundred albums, including three Grammy-winning records running the gamut from Pete Seeger to Sinéad O'Connor.

"Their pure love of music jumps off the stage and into the audience," said Adducci.

Tickets are \$15 for students; \$20 for senior citizens; and \$25 for adults. 815-534-3004. Patrons may also download an order form from the district's website, www.lw210.org/spotlightseries, and request tickets by mail



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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Restoration

I've never been more happy to see a New Year come. 2012 was nothing but loss and disappointment and the hits kept coming.

Finally I reached the point where I made a simple prayer that had staggering consequences: "God, I can't handle this pain and loss any more, You tell me what you want me to do!"

It was said more in belief than

challenge and wow did it ever get results!

Almost down to my last dollar, the next day several job opportunities cropped up along with the means to investigate them. I found myself in a mixture of planes, trains and automobiles criss-crossing the countryside looking at new jobs in Chicago, Milwaukee and Virginia. Doors that had been closed for years, especially in broadcasting, suddenly opened.

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Sitting in a harborside Virginia pub having dinner with an old friend of mine, a Navy public affairs officer who knew me when I was a young television reporter, I had to open my heart about what suddenly seemed like a open smörgåsbord of possibilities in several different industries including journalism and law enforcement.

"Craig, I just don't get it. Clearly something big is happening but you think it would be more focused!"

Admiral Quigley, who in post-retirement is in the midst of a new career toting military economic development in the Hampton Roads portion of Virginia, had a ready answer. You might expect that from someone who had counseled the likes of General Tommy Franks and Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld in times of crucial decision.

"Jim, you need to look at all that is revealed and then this time, settle on what's best for Jim McClure!"

Within a month a job in security

opened up at a prestigious location in Lake Geneva, just two minutes from a church I had started attending. A few days later I opened up Craig's List online and found a place to live rooming with a senior army sergeant whose boys went to my church. That week I called a friend at the local FM radio station, and found out he was retiring from the all-Saturday 70's music radio program.

While developing a series of audition tapes for the radio station, I learned that two dear friends from high school that I used to hangout with visiting radio station deejays in the 1970's were now living close by in the western suburbs of Milwaukee.

Their advice and encouragement were invaluable and the next thing I knew I was in the radio station discussing my new job which would begin during the holidays. The owner, a former Chicago Catholic League teacher and Notre Dame fan, loved my being an alumnus of Notre Dame and

Loyola Academy. The program director saw the potential of hiring someone who not only knew something of 70's music but lived the decade as a teen and young adult.

After spending the past year experiencing the loss of a parent, a pet and a job I was really counting on, nothing felt better than as I walked out beneath the huge satellite dish of the station the officer manager gave me a huge smile, a front door key with the WLKG-FM logo on it and said "Welcome to the Family!"

It's been all that and more. My first station e-mail was an invitation to the Christmas party and the thoughtfulness of the co-workers runs the gamut from the new boss patiently wiping away 10 years of my broadcast technology rustiness with his studio instruction and the afternoon drive personality leaving me a personal note on the audio control board saying "relax, have fun, you'll do great!"

If you were to peek in through the glass windows of the studio as I cue up the music and read the weather and listen to the songs that remind me of great times in high school and college, you'd see me smiling a lot, dancing a little, and at first crying a bit out of joy.

God really can give you the desires of your heart as he promises in the Bible. Sometimes it's as simple as surrendering and letting go. Many scriptures speak to this and they were a great comfort during the past year of pain and regret.

The songs on my 70's playlist do pretty good as well. During my first Saturday solo running the program my boss, The Morning Man, was in the adjacent studio working on a program when one of the songs from The Carpenters he picked out for my show hit home:

*When I was young
I'd listen to the radio
Waitin' for my favorite songs
When they played I'd sing along
It made me smile.
Those were such happy times
And not so long ago
How I wondered where they'd
gone
But they're back again
Just like a long lost friend
All the songs I loved so well.*

I hoped Dave didn't see my eyes welling up with tears. It truly is Yesterday Once More

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Young Chicago

By: Sarah McDonough

Is it just me or did the month of February sneak up on all of us? Despite it being the shortest month, we all have things to look forward to – whether you're about the fuzzy-feeling filled "season" or not.

It's Just Another Month

For those of us not aiming to be "cupided" (a word I made up to describe the act of a friend or website setting you up on a date... just roll with it people) then you are in luck! Here are a few anti-Valentine ideas that your fellow single friends will enjoy taking part in as well.

• **Spoirt** (Gaelic word for sports):

• **Basketball:** The Fighting Irish come to visit the DePaul Blue Demons on Feb. 2 at Allstate Arena with a 1PM start time. At tickets going for \$9+ up, what's not to root for?

• **NHL:** Our boys are back in town, so celebrate by rallying around with friends to see the Chicago Blackhawks play at the United Center. With Standing Room Only tickets going for upwards of \$35, even your cheapest of buddies have nothing to complain about. If they do complain, go solo as you'll be amongst fellow fans that will instantly become newly found friends. If you're the cheap buddy in this situation, check out when a hosted Roadwatch Party is taking place at a pub near you by visiting chicagoblackhawks.nhl.com.

• **Ceili** (Gaelic word for party, pronounced Kay-lee):

• **Live music, The Marry Ploughboys Party** at Gaelic Park – Feb. 2. Welcome this Dublin band as they are visiting for this weekend only. Tickets: \$20. Call 708-687-9323.

• **Super Bowl Party** at the Irish American Heritage Center – Feb. 3. Catered food and drinks during the game, all included for \$35. Call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 to purchase.

• **South Side Irish Pre-Parade Party** – Feb. 15. A fundraiser to keep this parade occurring EVERY year. Visit [\[irishparade.org\]\(http://irishparade.org\) for further details.](http://www.southsidei-</p>
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• **Young Irish Fellowship Club Happy Hour** – Feb. 22. Visit www.youngirish.com for further details.

• **Ballin' ar bhuiséad** (Gaelic word for ballin' on a budget...kudos to Google Translate):

• **Irish American Heritage Center Rummage Sale** – Feb. 23. Free to browse and food available to purchase. As the saying goes, one man's trash is another one's treasure. Who knows, you might just strike gold.

Bring On The Ooh La La

Love-struck and feeling pressured to find unexpected ways as to WOW your significant other this month? Whatever your price point, here are a few unique ways to show them that you care.

• **Dinning in:** Prepare Irish Potato Soup (found on www.myrecipes.com) and match it with a chardonnay or pinot noir. Prefer to fast-forward onto dessert? I suggest making a Chocolate-Orange Guinness cake or Bailey's Marble Cheesecake, both are ridiculously good! It's also fun to play bartender. My suggestion if it's your first rodeo, attempt making a Lucky Leprechaun. If you're the type that struggles with making a sandwich, settle on "creating" a Black Velvet (Guinness and Champagne combined). Taitneamh a bhaint as (Gaelic word for enjoy)!

Put a "ring" on it: If you're in that stage of your relationship where marriage is kind of a distant thought but an emblem of your love to each other would be appreciated, then set your eyes on purchasing your other half a simple Celtic Knot/Celtic Cross necklace or a Claddagh ring with something meaningful engraved on the inside. It's a sweet gesture that both women and men would be proud to wear since it relates to our heritage.

Overall advice: The best way to top your special evening off is by telling that special someone: táim i ngrá leat (Gaelic for I'm in love

with you). Then again, you should always make the habit to say I love you every day, right?

Lucky Charm

Have you recently caught the love bug from someone new? Suggest your first date to occur at Glascott's Saloon, located in Lincoln Park. But be forewarned, as this establishment proudly boasts the following:

"Glascott's is one of the oldest bars in the area, over which time it has acquired a reputation of being the place where hundreds (if not thousands) of couples have "hooked-up" or had their first date, leading to marriage and the inevitable move to the suburbs."

Pretty serious stuff right there! So if you think your newbie is the real deal, check out this famous Irish pub together.

For The Love Of

All Things, Do Not...

This month do not watch P.S. I Love You. That movie gets me every single time. Don't fall victim to being solo on Valentine's Day and watching a sappy film just so you can feel poorly about your situation. Scratch that...what situation? So you're single, that's not a bad thing! Look at it this way; you haven't settled on a three-leaf clover because you're looking for the lucky four-leaf clover and those are hard to come by. Hopefully you've come to the realization that luck only occurs when you give yourself opportunities for it to strike. So, go on and get out there!

Who's the fairest of them all?

With St. Patrick's Day parades taking place throughout different Chicagoland neighborhoods every weekend in March, there is an endless supply of fun to be had. Although, isn't more fun when you're the Queen of it all? Attention all unmarried women with Irish heritage and are between the ages of 17-27: you have the opportunity to wear the title and be crowned as the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Queen! Visit <http://www.chicagostpatsparade.com/> (or Google if a queen contest is available in a suburb near you) for further details!

Until next month, stay forever young Chicago!

Tweet me at @SarahMcDonough_

Plainfield Irish Parade set for 3-17

The 11th annual Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade will step off at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 17, from Plainfield High School Central Campus. Presented by the Village Preservation Association, the procession makes its way north on James Street before rolling up Lockport Street through the downtown, circling back through the neighborhood and ending at the Front Street Cantina.

Plans for this year's celebration include the always-popular bagpipe bands, Irish dancers, family entertainment tent, inflatable jumpers, bike decorating contest for kids and much more. The post-parade pub crawl for adults also will be back.

Coinciding with the festivities will be the village's St. Baldrick's fundraiser for childhood cancer research, held in the former firehouse on Des Plaines Street just north of the parade route.

The parade was begun in 2002 by a group of neighbors who built floats, decorated trucks and bikes, and then circled their block – twice, because it was over too fast.

"One of my favorite parts of the early parades was how the participants and community came together afterwards - brought food and desserts to be shared by all," said parade co-chairman Tom Ruane.

Each year, the little parade grew.

The route migrated across Division Street, at one point crossing the highway, and finally settled into a circuit that encompasses much of the retail and residential districts west of Division. Bagpipers and Irish dancers soon joined the line-



up, along with many civic, youth and business organizations. Today the parade is the centerpiece of an annual spring celebration that offers a variety of activities and draws several thousand people to the village core every March.

"From the humble beginnings of a neighborhood parade of friends and families, it is still amazing to me that every year the Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade has grown and improved," said Debra Olsen, parade co-chairwoman. "We have gotten great community support, and the benefits for our historic downtown cannot be measured."

Parade entries are being welcomed; groups, individuals and businesses are all welcome to march. For information about signing up to be in the lineup, call 630-254-5755.

www.plainfieldirishparade.org.

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YOU'RE HOME

By John Plunkett



Love Your Home and it Will Love You Back

Has our fast-paced, stressful world drained some of the love from your life? Has happiness become more elusive? If you answered "Yes," you are not alone. Yet as we approach Valentine's Day and February, the season of love, there is hope... and as is oftentimes the case, the solution lies at home. Read on for a few simple ways to feel more love in your home and perhaps also in your life.

Like many romances, those for our homes can tarnish over time. Remember back when you willingly, even excitedly wrote that check for the biggest purchase of your life, then went through all the effort of moving in, decorating, meeting neighbors and making new friends? Then for years you performed all that weekly maintenance, pulling weeds, mowing grass, cleaning house, doing laundry and more, all while keeping up

busy family demands? Before you know it, years have passed. The novelty is gone. The paint is peeling and the weeds have won. The bloom is off the rose.

How do we reinvigorate the excitement we felt back then, both for our homes and for life? How do we reawaken the energy it takes to gain the upper hand?

The first step is a simple attitude shift. Let's start with attitude towards home – at least it's concrete, physical, something we can deal with, make improvements to, then see and feel and enjoy those improvements. Shift from all the reasons why you can't and shouldn't reinvest in your home (It's too much work, too expensive, I don't have the time, I just don't care about it as much as I used to)... to the reasons why you should invest in it (It's my biggest and possibly safest physical asset, I have to maintain it and, if I do,

there may be payback).
 The next step is an outgrowth of the first: Care for your home! It does have a soul which is an extension of yours. Nurture it. Invest in it. Do what it takes to feel good about it again. Get professional help to make the improvements needed, for instance when decorating. That process can be especially rewarding if you are fortunate to work with someone who helps you express and create your personal style. The result will be a comfortable, fashionable home you are proud of, that reflects your good taste and you enjoy sharing with others.

... Which leads to the third step: Share your home. Next to providing shelter and physical comfort, its greatest potential and reward lie in sharing it with others – your family and friends. Sure restaurants are nice and a much easier way to entertain, but there is a personableness and intimacy about inviting friends and loved ones into your home that cannot be beat.

So there you have it: a simple compendium on falling in love again. Start at home. Enjoy it with those you care about most and who care about you. May your Valentine's Day love be lasting!



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An Immigrant's Musings

By Fr. Michael Leonard



MAKING PROGRESS

The journey to the destination, the end of which is comprehensive immigration reform, is a road that has many twists and turns. Like every journey, it has its ups and downs. One of the little victories, at least locally, has taken place in the Illinois State Legislature, with the passage of a bill, which will allow undocumented residents to have temporary drivers permits.

The majority of the faith groups supported this bill as a practical step to easing the burdens experienced by people, who for the vast majority, are here trying to work hard to support their families. It is also supported by those who say that, allowing these folks to have driver's education and get insurance to drive will make our roads safer for everyone.

This of course is a temporary measure and though a welcome development, it is not a permanent solution to the larger issue. The larger issue, to which I refer, is our broken and out of date immigration system.

With that in mind and aware of the renewed possibility of action on a more comprehensive approach, the US Catholic Bishops, have once again called for legislation that will include:

1. An opportunity for those who live in the U.S. as "unauthorized immigrants" to transition to "legal immigrants" if they can demonstrate good moral character and have built up equities in this country.

2. Efforts to maintain and strengthen the family-based immigration system and family reunification.

3. The institution of a temporary worker program that is responsive to the needs of the market and that employs strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure that abuses do not occur.

4. The restoration of due process for individuals caught up in the

immigration system.

Beyond the immediate goal of securing passage for comprehensive immigration reform, the bishops affirm that the most effective, long-term solution to prevent unauthorized immigration is to address the root causes that prompt migration. The United States must work in solidarity with the international community to help raise the standard of living, uphold human rights, and implement complementary political institutions in the underdeveloped world so that people have the chance to prosper in their homelands, rather than having to migrate to find opportunities elsewhere.

If you agree with the bishops, please let your Senator/Congressman know that you support this approach.

HELPLESS LOVE

Once upon a time all feelings and emotions went to a coastal island for a vacation. According to their nature, each was having a good time. Suddenly, a warning of an impending storm was announced and everyone was advised to evacuate the island. The announcement caused sudden panic. All rushed to their boats. Even damaged boats were quickly repaired and commissioned for duty. Yet, Love did not wish to flee quickly. There was so much to do. But as the clouds darkened, Love realised it was time to leave. Alas, there were no boats to spare. Love looked around with hope.

Just then Prosperity passed by in a luxurious boat. Love shouted, "Prosperity, could you please take me in your boat?" "No," replied Prosperity, "my boat is full of precious possessions, gold and silver. There is no place for you." A little later Vanity came by in a beautiful boat. Again Love shouted, "Could you help me, Vanity? I am stranded and need a lift. Please take me with you." Vanity responded haughtily, "No, I cannot take you

with me. My boat will get soiled with your muddy feet." Sorrow passed by after some time. Again, Love asked for help. But it was to no avail. No, I cannot take you with me. I am so sad. I want to be by myself. "When Happiness passed by a few minutes later, Love again called for help. But Happiness was so happy that it did not look around, hardly concerned about anyone.

Love was growing restless and dejected. Just then somebody called out, "Come Love, I will take you with me." Love did not know who was being so magnanimous, but jumped on to the boat, greatly relieved that she would reach a safe place. On getting off the boat, Love met Knowledge. Puzzled, Love inquired, "Knowledge, do you know who so generously gave me a lift just when no one else wished to help?"

Knowledge smiled, "Oh, that was Time." "And why would Time stop to pick me and take me to safety?" Love wondered. Knowledge smiled with deep wisdom and replied, "Because only Time knows your true greatness and what you are capable of. Only Love can bring peace and great happiness in this world." "The important message is that when we are prosperous, we overlook love. When we feel important, we forget love. Even in happiness and sorrow we forget love. Only with time do we realize the importance of love. Why wait that long? Why not make love a part of your life today?"

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

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



February 2013

Senior groups take place at IAHC and Gaelic Park. All senior group meetings begin at 10am. There is no cost and refreshments will be served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call our office on 773-282-8445.

Irish American Heritage Center
Thursday, 14th February 2013
– Flex Your Mental Muscle

Studies show that the best way to keep your memory in good working order is to get lots of physical and mental exercise. Today we will be flexing our mental muscle by doing some fun and challenging mental exercises and games.

Thursday, 28th February 2013
– Who Ever Heard of a Docent on an Amtrak Train?

Jim Carr spent four years as a docent on the Amtrak train between Chicago and St Louis. Jim shows up in full costume and teaches us about what an Amtrak docent does. He will also share with us some stories about the fascinating people he met while travelling the tracks of the Midwest.

Gaelic Park

Wednesday, 6th February 2013
– Who Ever Heard of a Docent on an Amtrak Train?

This program is the same as the event of the same name taking place at IAHC on February 28th. Details are outlined above.

Wednesday, 20th February 2013 – Finding Balance

Hearing loss can create all kinds of challenges but did you know that hearing problems can affect your balance? Today we welcome Dr Bridget Kane, a licensed audiologist with over 20 years' experience, who will help us to develop a better understanding of hearing loss, the issues it creates, and how it can be treated so life can be enjoyed to the fullest.

Helping Former Industrial School Residents Find Family

In 1868 the Industrial Schools (Ireland) Act provided the legislative foundation on which the Industrial school system was built. These institutions were designed to offer accommodations and vocational training to children who had been neglected, orphaned or abandoned. The industrial school system of provision for vulnerable children endured until the late 1960's when it was gradually phased out. Many of the children who were placed in these schools were born outside of wedlock and their mothers were obliged to surrender their children to the schools. As such a great deal of the children who wound up in their care had little or no knowledge of their families of birth or the situations that led to their placement in the schools.

Barnardos is a charity that has been supporting and protecting children in Ireland since 1962. In 2002 they developed the Origins Information and Tracing Service for individuals who spent all or part of their childhood in an Irish industrial school. The program provides information, advice, and support to these individuals seeking to trace their family of origin. To find out more about this service I spoke with Andrew Walker who is an information counsellor with the Origins Information and Tracing Service.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Walkabout Theater Presents All Rise A Theatrical Event On Sacred Ground

Opening: Friday, February 22nd at 8:00 p.m. Performances continue through March 17th, 2013: Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

All performances at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Ave. (a few blocks west of the Western brown line stop, on Wilson) General Admission is a suggested donation of \$25, Student Admission is a suggested donation of \$15 Tickets/Information: www.walkabouttheater.org

Emma Stanton is a passionate young woman who wants to change the way that we think about theatre. The Walkabout Theatre, of which she is a founding member, aims to make the theatrical experience one that challenges our preconceptions of drama. Staging theatre in unusual places, a Laundromat, coffee shops and now a church, Emma hopes to create a space, a sacred space, which provides the audience with a unique, and individual encounter with the ordinary, in an extraordinary way. For Emma, this type of experimental theatre is 'audience driven'. The observer is challenged to 'let go' of their preconceptions of a familiar space. The pew for example provides a different experience when the observer occupies a different role as an audience member of a drama as opposed to being a member of a congregation.

By staging plays in familiar spaces, Emma and her fellow collaborators, elevate, or change our perspective, of that 'particular' place in our lives. We occupy many spaces, each of them a part of the daily or weekly ritual. They become comfortable, known, and intrinsic to the psychological landscape of our day, our week. Emma wants to regenerate, deconstruct, and change our perception of these spaces, and awaken in us a new way at looking at the familiar. The mundane, the trivial, become

transformed and all sorts of feelings and sensations are evoked.

As we walked around the church, following the trail of the play, into larger and smaller spaces, all the nooks and crannies of this well-established church, it is easy to imagine how an audience is treated to a constant change in perspective. Moving from the basement, to the sanctuary, to the balcony we experience what Emma defines as 'sacred', a shared experience, 'strangers who gather to build community'.

The play, All Rise, takes the audience, literally, on a journey through different areas of the church. We are escorted on our journey by Billy the church janitor/docent, who leads us in all sorts of places that are familiar to him. As he guides us, we learn more of his story, his place within the congregation, and while the tangible is present in the physicality of place and person we also sense the intangible. The hidden story in what is not said, and the stories of those who have lived and worshipped here in the distant past is awakened for us as the narrative plays itself out.

Since Walkabout Theatre produce plays that are site specific, the Luther Memorial Church, provides the various vignettes with a sense of community, history and a clear feeling of identity. We are placed with strange juxtapositions, church and drama. Even the stained glass windows provide a sense of incongruity. The older, more traditional window overlooking the altar is at odds with the modern 60's windows. And it is these organic juxtapositions that provide a backdrop to a play that aims to explore the hidden complexities revealed in such familiar places.

The journey begins in February, and I look forward to traveling with them.

Shortest month, coldest month but no shortage of news in the music industry. Several bits of news to share on this cold but sunny day.

The Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band, one of the Chicago area's oldest bands (I have a pic on the wall of my store showing the band in 1923) has a couple bits to share this month. First of all the band took Champion Supreme in the Midwest Pipe Band Association last year in grades 4 and 5! No small accomplishment that. I have a soft spot in my head for the Highlanders since I used to be part of their color guard in days ago when they had a color guard. I played flag, the most my musical talent would allow. Secondly, the band's annual concert and fundraiser will take place on Saturday March 2nd at Durty Nellie's in Palatine, 180 N. Smith Street. It's an afternoon event, running from 2 till 6 PM. If I can talk somebody into working my shift at the shop, I'll be there. For info, you can call Durty Nellie's at 847-358-9150. Good luck to a great band and a great bunch of folks.

I love to kid Jackie Moran about bringing back the Drovers. That was the pioneer Irish rock band he was in during his youth with a bunch of other talented Chicago musicians. You may remember them from their performance in Backdraft, a movie about the Chicago Fire Department. Well, paint the chimney, cause the Drovers are coming back!

One night only, but still...Friday March 15th at the Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace in Chicago, the Drovers will play again. Jackie will work his magic on bodhran alongside Chris Bain on fiddle. They'll be joined by Mike Kirkpatrick, Dave



Piping It In

Jack Baker



Callahan, who's flying in from Sweden for the gig and, 21 years since she left the band, Kathleen Keane. You know that you never know what you got till it's gone and I can remember the last time I saw the Drovers perform and it was magical. To call the Abbey Pub and get more info about all that's going on that night, you can dial 773-478-4408. Here's hoping this one night only becomes the first of many more.

There hasn't been a lot of CDs cross my desk in recent weeks but there has been one, and, oh boy, what a one it is. I'm fond of saying that music is more than notes and words and here comes a CD full of history and music and love and it fair blew my socks off. "One Out of the Fort" is a collection of the music of the late, great Johnny Henry that is impressive in its size, 27 tracks, but it's much more than big. Full of wonderful and rare tunes, plus interviews, this recording pays homage to that great Irish music tradition that flows from prehistory till today and details the influences on Johnny's life as a musician. There is even a duet he plays with his brother, the great Kevin Henry on pipes, flute and whistle plus a photo of Kevin in 1960 at his wedding. If you're interested in the history of Irish music, here's one for you. It's been fun watching customers listening

to this one in the store, seeing the music take them away. It's been fun listening to and letting the music take me away. Though Johnny left us in 1996, this recording insures that his influence will be with us for a long time to come and that's a beautiful thing.

One thing to keep in mind during this short and cold month is that this is one of the toughest months for business and cultural centers. In the Chicago area, both Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center have the usual expenses but far less income. Sure March is a fat month with St Patrick's Day and all, but we need to patronize our cultural centers during all months for them to continue in operation. So go on down to the Carraig, or the Fifth Province, and have a couple pints this month and let the people who work so hard to keep these great centers open know that you appreciate them. Personally I can't imagine what we'd do without Gaelic Park and the IAHC and it's certainly worth a couple pints and a night or two of my time to make sure they keep operating and keep providing all the services our community need. And while I'm on my soapbox, how about kicking in with your membership fees to one or both of our centers?

Wouldn't you know it, as I sit banging away on this month's column, the postal carrier comes in with a box of Kennedy's Kitchen's new CD. One of America's best trad bands, I love to see new CDs come from them because they're always a delight. The new one, "The Birds Upon the Trees" will be reviewed in next month's paper. Of course you can come into the store before then and hear it yourself.

You can catch me at the store, 630-834-8108 or online at pipingtin@comcast.net

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