

A photograph of a man, Kevin O'Donnell, wearing a hat and a jacket, playing a double bass. He is standing next to a large, gnarled tree with bare branches. The background shows a field and a blue sky with some clouds. The lighting is dramatic, with a low sun creating a lens flare effect on the left side of the image.

Irish American News
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May 2013
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Kevin O'Donnell

*The Soul of a Songwriter
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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



The Scorpion the Frog and the Successful Operation

Political pundits here studying the current socio-political situation might consider the relevance of two stories, one a joke, one a fable. The joke is the old medical one about the operation being a success but the patient dying. The fable is the well-known one about a scorpion hitching a ride across a river from a frog. Despite giving assurances for the frog's safety, the scorpion stings and kills the frog in midstream, dooming them both, telling the frog, "because it's my nature."

The current patient is the Irish Economy and its Siamese twin – the government. The operation, or rather the medical team carrying it out, is the Troika and the procedure itself the Troika Rescue Plan. As I write, the Plan is largely on target and collateral political successes within Europe on the pace and scale of Irish borrowing, with hope of more to come, have raised the prospect of an early Troika departure. But this is only part of the story.

The Troika came to Ireland in late 2010 to provide life support, i.e. cheap credit, to an economy which could no longer borrow money elsewhere to sustain itself. The price extracted from reluctant Irish politicians has been the, on paper, not unreasonable one that the country should seek to live roughly within its means, or at least get down borrowing to an annual 3% by 2015. This to be achieved by a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, within broad parameters, including the widening of the tax base.

The devil, of course, has been in the detail, aggravated by the shadows cast on Ireland's cave wall by changing and evolving external circumstances within the Eurozone and the EU and exacerbated still further by the red her-

ring of the bank bailout. Arguably the most relevant of these images has been the recent spectacle of the banks closure in Cyprus, something that could have been sprung on us had the infamous bank guarantee not been given in 2008. Arguably also the Eurozone is lurching slowly towards an eventual US-style system with the ECB a type of Federal Reserve, shouldering the debt burdens of member states, solving, inter alia, Ireland's problems.

The snag with any "with one bound our hero was free" solution is that, in the real world this does not happen overnight (we may be talking five years) and in the meantime politicians have to face angry and disillusioned electorates (witness Greece and Italy).

Ireland is not immune to this, as the recent Meath by-election showed. It was nemesis of a sort for Labour which was beaten into fifth place, securing less than 5% of the vote. Whether the damage will be temporary or fatal remains to be seen, but with the double whammy of a property tax and water charges to come within a year, public disaffection seems likely to grow in the short term.

Certainly also Labour did not help its own cause by focussing on issues such as same sex marriage in a constituency where the electorate (as elsewhere) were concerned with jobs, the cost of living and the mortgage crisis.

As spending cuts and tax increases have been introduced there have been predictable howls from every interest group affected. Given that cuts in welfare spending are more likely to hit Labour supporters, these have

proved particularly damaging for the junior government partner, Labour, which gained votes and seats in 2011 on a completely unsustainable and unrealistic election platform. Fine Gael was more realistic, promised less, vacuumed up the floating (and decisive) middle class vote, and has at least managed to hang on to its core vote and more.

Labour's survival, and that of the government in its present form, now seem to rest on Fine Gael agreeing to raise more direct taxes from the better off in the October budget. This was resisted last time and there have been well flagged statements from Fine Gael that the direct taxation limit



has been reached. With two new indirect taxes pending, which will squeeze disposable income further, as well as cuts to public sector salaries and pensions from July, most family budgets are delicately balanced, making the scope for any tax increase extremely limited in October.

By then, however, there could be preoccupation with another major issue. Long brewing, long signalled (I wrote about it in October 2010), the Mortgage Crisis is now firmly centre stage, with 94,488 mortgages (12% of the total) now 90 days plus in arrears, including almost 20% of buy-to-let mortgages. What has changed in recent months has been that the government now at last seems seized of the issue – having managed to do deals in the macroeconomic areas – but its reaction seems to be one of sleepwalking towards potential disaster.

The main elements of the new official approach all heavily favour the banks. These involve

the plugging (through legislation) of the loophole that has blocked bank repossessions, a change in the terms of the "code of conduct" under which the banks have been obliged to conduct negotiations with those in arrears, the introduction of new insolvency legislation, reducing the period of bankruptcy from a horrendous twelve years to a still awful three years, and the "setting of targets" by the Central Bank for the commercial banks – most of which the taxpayer owns and funds – to "solve" the problem of mortgages in arrears, beginning with the buy-to-lets, all this to be achieved over the next twelve months or so.

As I write, also, "guidelines" are being drawn up under which, in the case of those deemed hopeless debtors (most of that 94,488), personal and family budgets for up to five years will be dictated by the banks to the debtors as quid pro quo for relief ranging from partial debt write off to "parking" the capital sum owing for a number of years.

Some elements of the guidelines have already been leaked. These include severe restrictions on all spending, including holidays, cars, consumer goods,

casual entertainment, children's education, private health insurance, satellite television, expenditure on clothes and even on food, where \$7.00 per person per day is the suggested maximum. For those taking the insolvency route, i.e. accepting immediate bankruptcy, which means losing the family home, jewellery items above a certain value are among those proscribed during the three year purdah period.

This is not some gigantic leg pull. Mixing metaphors, the resuscitated and unrepentant banks, like the scorpion, are to be let off the leash to pursue those who owe them money. Those without sin in the community are quoting that odious concept of "moral hazard" as justification for supporting/advocating a regime that is not far off some form of indentured servitude. Those potentially affected range from first time buyers through small investors to a handful of (once) well off speculators. There was no talk of "moral hazard" when the bank – and bankers – were being bailed out. Those in difficulties represent collateral damage for the national economic mismanagement spear-headed by the banks.

If this regime goes ahead along the lines currently envisaged the government would do well to remember the fate of the frog. Bankers will be bankers.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Famine Plot: Part 2 England's Roles in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy

By Tim Pat Coogan. Published by Palgrave/MacMillan

The Great Famine (1845 - 1852) was a seismic event in Ireland's history.

The effects of it are still being felt by people in Ireland and by Irish Americans.

This book is rich in substance that is expressed in plain but powerful language.

The first part of the review: "There was plenty of food in Ireland, but it was shipped to England. Only the rotting potatoes were left for the Irish to eat. Thus began the horror of the man-made famine that lasted from 1845 until 1852."

These quotes tell us much about Ireland during those years and after.

John Mitchel, the Irish rebel journalist and polemicist held that God sent the blight but the English sent the famine."

• A The gastly workhouse at 5 Skibbereen served the district that included Clonakilty. The parents of Michael

Collins lived there and survived the horrors of the Famine. No wonder Collins was such a fearless and implacable fighter against English rule. As the Famine was spreading, English Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, increased the grant to the major seminary at Maynooth.

• The leaders of young Ireland tried to rally opposition to the exportation of food and the evictions. The people were weak from hunger and poorly equipped, but there was another cause for their defeat. "Everywhere the Young Irelanders leadership went, cheering crowds assembled, but as soon as they finished speaking, Catholic clergy would appear. The priests told the people to go home, and the people obeyed the clergy."



John McHale, Archbishop of Tuam, ordered Catholic families in the sprawling archdiocese, not to send their children to the state primary schools because he considered them to be a threat to both religion and nationality. As a result, tens of thousands of children (possibly as many as 200,000) living throughout Connemara were denied an education that might have helped them.

• The struggle for Catholic Church power and orthodoxy continued during the years of the Famine. This installed a type of Catholicism that could be said to have maintained its grip until the Vatican Councils of the 1960's

• Looking at the Famine and evictions "One's judgment has to be that a large portion of the responsibility can be traced to the [English] cabinet."

• However, there were acts of nobility and courage. Praise should be given to "The clergy and nuns who risked their lives visiting reeking cabins infested with fever to bring solace to the dying should never be forgotten."

• A quote from an Irish historian about the Quakers. They "lived up to their highest traditions of philanthropy. They earned the gratitude of the people for their great sacrifices; for the giving of assistance on a non-sectarian basis in those tragic Famine years fraught with danger of infection and death."

Coogan says, "The Quakers were long remembered with gratitude in Ireland."

• Activists in present day Ireland asked the government to create a National Famine Commemoration Day. "They approached everyone: government, public bodies, trade unions. The response was slow or none at all. Remarkably the one person to write both speedily and sympathetically was Queen Elizabeth of England, who in 2011 visited the Garden of Remembrance built to commemorate those who died fighting for independence from England."

In 2012 she shook hands with Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness! It is time to forgive and live in peace.

Dr. Vivek Iyengar of dermatology in Tinley Park ASSOCIATES

announces availability of a new skin cancer treatment
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Dr. Vivek Iyengar is a fellowship trained Mohs surgeon and has been in partnership at Dermatology Associates since 2009. He also serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago, Section of Dermatology. He is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology, and is a member of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery and the American College of Mohs Surgery.

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Madden Honored in Small Business 50

Marty Madden, son of River Forest residents Joe and Char Madden, was recently honored in New York at a gala dinner to celebrate "The Irish American Small Business 50", selected by The Irish Echo Newspaper in New York City. Marty's company, Maine Lobster Exchange, is a Live Lobster wholesale company that delivers exclusively to the Midwest.

Madden's business, "Maine Lobster Exchange", was selected from thousands nominated on the East Coast to honor entrepreneurs and small business leaders

of Irish America. The event was sponsored by Tourism Ireland and Fitzpatrick Hotel.

Marty told us, "Several years ago I moved from my hometown of Chicago to Portland, Maine, my wife's hometown. Since then, I have been teaching English at a small college, helping out on my in-law's lobster boats in the summer, and working in their restaurant. However, since the move, my wife and I have forever been trying to get Chicago and Portland closer together. This is our opportunity to do that. www.maine lobsterexchange.com or like them on facebook.



www.maine lobsterexchange.com or like them on facebook.

"Modern Before the World Was"

Great houses in Ireland, says Chicago artist Tom O'Gorman, are really time machines that can transport us through the centuries. Great Irish houses are prominent among O'Gorman's paintings that open on exhibition at Kiki's Bistro at 900 N. Franklin Street in Chicago, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the city's well-known gallery district. O'Gorman is painter-in-resident at the famed French bistro.

Great houses -both rural and urban- are central in O'Gorman's



expansive Irish paintings. Dramatic landscapes and cityscape images add to the mix of over fifty works. "Ireland's 18th century architecture was the finest in Europe," he adds. O'Gorman's strength as a portrait artist is also demonstrated with the faces of Ireland's heroic and literary past. The public is welcome.

Breakthrough for Brain Tumors 5k 6-1

Galvin's Hope is once again participating in the 2013 Breakthrough for Brain Tumors 5K Run & Walk. Join us on Saturday, June 1, 2013 for a day of celebration and commitment at Montrose Harbor as we raise funds for brain tumor research and patient/family support and education programs.

Paul Galvin (Galvin's Public House) was diagnosed in August 2009 with stage IV Glioblastoma. With two surgeries behind him, Paul continues to receive treatment to fight this disease. Paul and Kathy have always been there to support others in need through numerous fundraisers & benefits and it is now our turn to support their cause.

Breakthrough for Brain Tumors 5K Run & Walk will raise critical funds to support vital brain tumor research and desperately needed services for those living with a brain tumor diagnosis. Whether you're a runner or a walker, this event is your opportunity to breakthrough for brain tumors while having a great time in a spectacular setting.

Right now, nearly 700,000 people are living with a brain tumor diagnosis—and each day, another 500 people are diagnosed. The American Brain Tumor Association understands how each of these diagnoses can turn worlds upside down.

And that is why the Breakthrough for Brain Tumors 5K Run & Walk is so important.

Whether you're running or walking, the Breakthrough for

Brain Tumors 5K Run & Walk is a "breakthrough" event that will help the ABTA to improve, extend and ultimately save lives.

Do not underestimate the need for research and its funding. Every mile, every dollar, makes a difference and effects the course of someone's life. Help Galvin's Hope make a difference.

Contact us at galvinshope@gmail.com.

Chrissy Gallagher, Jeanne McNeill & Liam Murray

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13 & 14 - Graziano's Brick Oven Pizza will donate a portion of your entire bill to the American Brain Tumor Association on behalf of Galvin's Hope. Dine in at 5960 W Touhy Ave., Niles, IL or order carry out from 4:00-9:30pm and let your server know you are there to support Galvin's Hope.

May 19 - Pub quiz/trivia night at Galvin's Public House, 5901 W Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL. Come on down for a good time! There will be raffles and door prizes. Quiz will begin at 5pm. Call 773-206-0570 for additional information.

June 1 Breakthrough for Brain Tumors 5k run/walk at Montrose Harbor, Chicago. at 8:00 a.m. Run starts 8:30 a.m., walk immediately follows*subject to change

LIKE Galvin's Hope on Facebook for the link to register for the 5k, make a donation and get up to the moment info on upcoming events at http://hope.abta.org/site/TR/ABTAEvent/Breakthrough-Chicago?pg=team&fr_id=2610&team_id=2177k

What's it Like to Be Irish?

Frank Kelly, whose film DERELICT also screened at the fest is working on a new film, I AM IRISH, which takes some of its inspiration from his earlier film 140

that had filmmakers in 140 locations worldwide synchronized through the website Twitter.com film 140 seconds at the same time.



For his new film, Kelly is asking Irish people, wherever they may be, to film themselves answering five simple questions about what it means to be Irish today. Curious? Think

you might like to participate? For more about the project contact Frank at his blog: frankkelly.blogspot.com, the deadline to submit is June 30th.

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Political Rivals Share Stage in Chicago for Immigration Reform

By Billy Lawless

Finally light at the end of the tunnel for 50,000 undocumented Irish in the US. Memorable and historic can only de-

scribe the City Club of Chicago Monday's luncheon as two rival congressmen, one a conservative Republican and the other a liberal Democrat, shared a stage not once but twice to confirm their commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform Chairman Billy Lawless greeted both legislators and thanked them for their leadership on the issue.

Former Romney running mate and darling of the fiscally conservative tea party movement, Paul Ryan, and his equally cherished champion of immigration reform Democrat Luis Gutierrez showed Chicago that the rancor and division normally associated with Washington politics can indeed be put to bed, if only on one issue: namely immigration reform.

As the senate moves forward with hearings on their recently released immigration bill the focus has now turned to the House of Rep-



Luis Gutierrez, Billy Lawless, and Paul Ryan

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representatives and the state of play between Democrats and Republicans. The senate produced an almost 900 page bill that paves the way for increased border security, an E-verify system of employment verification, a guest worker program and earned citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented workers living in the USA.

The path to earned citizenship will also affect the 50,000 undocumented Irish who languish in legal limbo with no hope of ever returning home to visit loved ones unless reform passes. The proposed bill will award them legal status in the form of Registered Prospective Immigrant Status or RPI, which will come in the form of a 5 year work and residency permit. The permit will be renewed after the first 5 years and the second card will also have a 5 year term. After a total of 10 years on RPI status the immigrant can then apply for a green card and 3 years later citizenship.

To secure RPI status one must pass a background check, be resident in the United States prior to December 31, 2011 and maintenance of continuous physical presence since then.

An individual will be ineligible if:
Convicted of an aggravated felony.
Convicted of a felony.
Convicted of 3 or more misdemeanors.
Convicted of an offense under foreign law.

They must pay a fine and show proficiency in English. In addition one must begin paying taxes the moment they secure RPI status if they are not already doing so. The benefit to many Irish immigrants will be the ability to travel home on RPI status without fear of being denied re entry.

The national debate on immigration reform continues, but the dynamics have dramatically changed and there has been a definite shift in its focus and on the chances of getting a bill passed this year. 'Elections have consequences' is an oft heard phrase in politics; the presidential elections in November highlight this principle more than anything as former Vice Presidential contender Paul Ryan -who ran on a ticket that encouraged the 'self-deportation' of 11 million undocumented workers - now endorses a path to citizenship for 11 million people. Both parties now recognize that changing demographics and increased minority voter participation will shape future elections and decide political fates.

The House does not yet have a bill but key players on both sides of the aisle are talking and a bill is expected soon. Congressman Gutierrez was quoted as

saying, "if you have an opportunity to solve a problem, you're an idiot if you don't change the manner in which you treat your opposition when your opposition has said 'you know what? I want to work this out'."

The make up of any House bill is not yet known but all indications are that it will be very similar to the Senate proposal. The Senate bill calls for an overhaul of the current system and changes the focus from family reunification to a skill or points-based system. The idea is to encourage immigration of highly skilled workers who will fill millions of open jobs in the hi-tech and engineering sectors, which in turn will fuel the economy. Those with experience or degrees in science and math for example or those from an English speaking country, such as Ireland, will be allotted more points and may be eligible to apply for a guest worker visa. As the current language is written that non-immigrant visa can morph into a green card with eventual citizenship.

The Irish, whose legal avenues for immigration have shrunk dramatically in recent decades, are watching the proposals very closely for glimmers of hope. Congressman Ryan talked movingly about his own Irish roots from County Kilkenny and his great grandfather's journey across the Atlantic that led him to a farm in Wisconsin where he built his own version of the American Dream.

The current senate bill tries to address Irish concerns with a provision, supported strongly by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Dick Durbin (D-IL), that allows for future flow of Irish workers to the tune of 10,500 per year. Applicants would have to have a high school diploma or equivalent or a two-year vocational training qualification to be eligible. The visa is renewable every two years and would require a job offer to be made before securing the visa. There is no limitation to how long the visa program will run.

According to the Wall Street Journal an aide to Mr. Schumer said that the provision would right a 1965 change to immigration law that was supposed to end bias against Latin American, Asian and African immigrants but "inadvertently made it difficult for Irish immigrants to obtain visas, despite their strong cultural ties to the U.S."

There is a tough path ahead as it weaves it's way through the different hearings and committees but after working on the issue over seven years I am very confident that finally Congress will pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill in 2013.



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A Chairde:

The merry month of May is upon us, and Gaelic Park will be hosting its 27th Memorial Weekend Irish Fest. Gaelic Park Irish Fest is the first festival of the season and a sure sign that summer is here. There is music, dance, fun and games to suit all tastes and ages, so make plans to join us Memorial Weekend and celebrate our Irish heritage. This year Gaelic Park Players is hosting The Acting Irish International Festival May 21-25, and will overlap Gaelic Park Irish Fest on Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25. There will be two full length adjudicated plays on both Friday and Saturday, which presents a great opportunity for theatre lovers to feast themselves on the best of Irish theatre and sample Irish Fest. Gaelic Park

Players will open the Festival with their raucous comedy A Wake in the West on Tuesday, May 21, and if you missed the performances in April, this presents another opportunity to see this hilarious play. Our Fest will also host Feis dancers in competition on Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27, and you know those youngsters are going to head for our in-house carnival as soon as their competitions are complete. We are proud that we continue to offer free, unlimited carnival rides with Festival admission, in addition to free parking to all our loyal supporters. I look forward to seeing many of you on Memorial Weekend. In the meantime, good health... and I will keep the light on for you.
John Devitt, President

Enjoy the Music & Spirit of the Irish in our Authentic Pub Imported Directly From Ireland

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

- 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

the CARRAIG
IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Fri May 3	Pat Smillie	7:30pm
Sat May 4	Johnny & Coax	10:00pm
Wed May 8	Frank Rossi	6:30pm
Fri May 10	Smiley Tilman	7:30pm
Sat May 11	Rhythm Futur	8:00pm
Fri May 17	John Dillon	7:30pm
Fri May 18	Safe Haven	9:30pm

May 24 through May 27
IRISH FESTIVAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Fri May 31 **Nick Gonzales with Brian Thoma** 7:30pm

Chicago Gaelic Park

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



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

Monthly Park Calendar

5/01 & 6/05	Monthly Musical Luncheon	NOON
5/8	Frank Rossi in the Pub	6:30pm
5/8	Ladies Auxillary Meeting	7:30pm
5/12	Sunday Mass/Irish Breakfast	10:00am
	Crowning of the Blessed Virgin	
5/12	Mother's Day Special Celtic Supper	3:00pm*
5/24-27	Irish Fest Memorial Day Weekend	
Soon to come...		
6/23	Clare Day for Special People	
8/19	Lady of Knock Commemoration	

Sunday Celtic Supper RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Entertainment: May 5, John Dillon and May 12, Ray Gavin

* The Mother's Day Celtic Supper will be a special one, complete with prime rib dinner and chicken. Admission for this day is \$23 for adults and \$11 for children 12 and under. The buffet runs from 3pm to 6pm, and there is live entertainment from 4pm to 8pm.

The Celtic Suppers will not resume again until November.

Pub Trivia Tuesday evenings 7:30pm

Quizmaster Tim Tabin challenges your knowledge of everything starting at 7:30pm. \$5 per person with a maximum of five to a team.

Musical Luncheon RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Entertainment: May 1 Frank Rossi and June 5 TBA
Doors Open at NOON, Lunch at 1pm \$13 per person

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

GAA News

GAA Registration is open for the 2013 season... FREE to new members. From June 18-20, we have a free Gaelic Football summer camp, open to all ages and skill levels. You can sign up online @ www.chicagostjarlaths.com.

Parnell's G.F.C. will host their 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Gaelic Park on Saturday, May 18.

Michael Cusack's Hurling Club will host a hurling tournament on Saturday, May 18. The Chicago Michael Cusack's Hurling Club is

holding a raffle for a trip to Ireland and tickets to the All-Ireland finals. Tickets are \$20 each. Contact Brian at 630.484.6553 to purchase your ticket or for more information. You can also contact the Club at cusackhurling@gmail.com.

St. Jarlath's Youth
Don't forget to register for the upcoming youth season. Go to www.chicagostjarlaths.com and click on registration. Practice begins April 29 at 6:30 on the side fields for U8 and up and on June 10 for U6.

CHICAGO FEIS 2013



Two days at Irish Festival! Gaelic Park will host the Chicago Feis 2013 (Irish Step Dancing Competition) on Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27, in conjunction with our Memorial Day Irish Fest. Over 700 dancers are expected to participate in the two-day competition. Categories for dancers are beginner, advanced beginner, novice, open and adult beginner. Competitors in the prizewinning category must win a first place in all five dances in order to progress to preliminary championships. Preliminary championship dancers must win two 1st places in order to qualify for the open championship category. Chicago Feis founded in

1959, by the late Dennis Dennehy, is one of the longest running Feiseanna in North America, and has now become an important part of Gaelic Park's annual Irish Fest which is held annually over Memorial Day Weekend. Registration begins each day at 7am with competition starting at 8am until 3pm. All four stages are set-up indoors. Admission to the Feis will be \$10 for all non-dancers between 7am and NOON, and includes the Feis, all of the Irish Fest entertainment and the carnival midway. Parking is free. For more information, please call Gaelic Park at 708.687.9323 or visit the website at www.chicagogaelicparkirishfest.org.

Acting Irish International Theatre Festival Schedule

Tuesday, May 21

Gaelic Park Players, Chicago, Illinois

8pm *A Wake in the West* by Michael Joe Ginnelly

Wednesday, May 22

Tara Players, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

8pm *Doubt, a Parable* by John Patrick Shanley

Thursday, May 23

Heads on Stage, Dublin, Ireland

2pm *Molly Sweeney* by Brian Friel

Rochester Irish Players

8pm *Is Life Worth Living?* by Lennox Robinson.
(by special arrangement with Samuel French)

Friday, May 24

Irish American Theater Group, Cincinnati, Ohio

2pm *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel

Milwaukee Irish Arts, Milwaukee, WI

8pm *Eclipsed* by Patricia Burke Brogan

Saturday, May 25

Irish Theatre of Florida, Delray Beach, Florida

1pm *Here We Are Again Still* by Christian O'Reilly

Liffey Players Drama Society, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

7pm *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh

Sunday, May 26

11am AWARDS CEREMONY AT CHICAGO GAELIC PARK



WIN A TRIP TO IRELAND with YOUR GAELIC PARK MEMBERSHIP

Aer Lingus 

Great Care. Great Fare.

Become a member of Chicago Gaelic Park...or renew your present membership through Monday of Memorial Fest Weekend, and your

name will be entered in a drawing to win a ticket to Ireland! Winner will be announced on stage at the close of Irish Fest. Thanks to AER LINGUS AIRLINES who is the sponsor of this fabulous giveaway to our membership!

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Irish Fest

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Online Discounts

Daily Pass/\$10 Adults

\$8 Adults 65+/Kids 4-12 years

order through May 19

4 Day Pass/\$27

order through May 23



Friday, May 24 Gates open 4pm

Half price admission 4pm-5pm only - \$7 & \$6

Saturday, May 25 Gates open 2pm

\$10 Admission 2pm-3pm only

Sunday, May 26 Gates open 1pm - 11:30am Mass

\$10 Admission 1pm-2pm only

9am-3pm Chicago Feis Dancing Competition

Monday, May 27 Gates open 1pm

\$10 Admission 1pm-2pm only

9am-3pm Chicago Feis Dancing Competition

REGULAR DAILY ADMISSION \$15 Adults (\$10 First Hour)

\$12 Adults 65+/Kids 4-12 & Children under 4 FREE

ADMISSION Includes ALL Stages of Entertainment, Events and Shows, FREE Parking plus a full day of FREE Unlimited Carnival Rides!

IRISH HEADLINERS ROCK

A FOUR DAY MUSICAL WEEKEND

May 24-27

Gaelic Storm Ronan Tynan

Bernie Glim & Country Roads

Bohola Chicago Reel Coyote Riot

Fighting Jamesons Fintan Stanley

Gothard Sisters Joe McShane

Kevin Flynn & Avondale Ramblers

Killdares Larkin & Moran Brothers

M & R Rush Makem & Spain Brothers

McPeake Murphy Roche Irish Music

Pat Finnegan & Friends

Pipers & Drums of Emerald Society

Runa Sean & Charlie

Shannon Rovers Sixteen Candles

Tommy Goodwin & Sharon

Irish Musician's Association

Irish Stepdancing Schools

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The Long Way Around:

Songwriter Kevin O'Donnell's Return to Music

Kevin O'Donnell spent 22 years trying to become an overnight success as a songwriter, and the last 15 years trying to forget it. The band he founded and shepherded through the '80s and '90s achieved what he refers to as "modest success," but left him unfulfilled as a writer. To the disappointment of many, he stopped playing music altogether. His considerable songwriting skills (he has often been compared to Cheryl Wheeler, Bill Staines, and Gordon Lightfoot) never diminished, however. Over the years, Kevin never stopped songwriting and improving his craft, accumulating a drawer full of material that no one had ever heard – or was ever likely to hear.

It was a chance encounter with an old acquaintance, world-renowned fiddle player Maurice Lennon, about 4 years ago that began to turn the tide. They became friends, and a realization of a shared musical vision became the impetus for O'Donnell's first solo album, *Deep is the Well*, released May 3rd. Long-time, die-hard Kevin O'Donnell fans in Chicago and beyond could not be happier.

Deep is the Well is an ambitious concept album, a work of historical fiction chronicling seven generations of an Irish-American family. The album opens with Kevin's recitation of a letter penned by the patriarch of the family, Michael Fagan, in 1838. The rest of the album unfolds with songs of Michael Fagan's descendants, through 170

years of struggle for the American Dream. Their experiences still echo in the places they called home – from the forgotten prairie towns of the industrial heartland to the insular steel mill culture rimming the lower Great Lakes; from Times Square in New York City to the San Joaquin Valley in California; and from the frozen copper country of Lake Superior to the rain-soaked suburbs of the Pacific Northwest.

Deep is the Well is really Kevin O'Donnell's opus magnum – a collection of songs and stories, composed and curated over the course of three decades.

Listening to the album, one gets the feeling of thumbing through old books – of dusty pages familiar and worn through the years by the hands that held them. O'Donnell's voice is resonant and expressive, and the production is crisp, clear, and bright. The music is lush, vibrant but unhurried. A perfect storyteller's album: the spotlight is on the lyrics, although musical depth and richness are always present. The tracks are intimate and personal; in the Irish-folk tradition, many lyrics are sad, but the melodies are beautiful and hopeful. The album acknowledges the dichotomy of an Irish family's experience in America – Kevin, a child of Irish immigrants himself, is sensitive to and embodies that tension in his music. The arrangements counter tin whistle with dobro, for example, concertina with cello, and electric tremolo guitar with Spanish guitar.

Deep is the Well was produced by Maurice Lennon, the All-Ireland

of late, staple of Chicago sessions. Kevin and Maurice's like-minded approach to music became clear after playing in a session together in 2009. Soon afterward, they embarked on Kevin's then-untitled



Kevin O'Donnell
photo by Jon Roche

concept album. For the first 6 months of recording, the project remained untitled. "Then," Kevin recalls, "one day in the studio Maurice and I were engaged in a discussion about, whatever, and he used the expression, 'the well from which we all come from is very deep, Kev.' As soon as he said it, I knew: 'That's it, Maurice. That's the name of the album right there – *Deep is the Well*.'" They

set no timeline to complete the project and methodically spent 11 months on-and-off in the studio together. Kevin raves about Maurice in his role as producer and performer. "He was able to take my songs, as I hear them in my own head, and commit them to tracks. That's what a great producer does. His arrangements are creative and richly layered. He pulled things out of me musically that I didn't even know I was capable of. And I've been at this for nearly 40 years!" To anyone

familiar with his work, Maurice's musical sensibilities are apparent throughout the album. As Kevin says, "He's a phenomenal talent and the best producer I have ever worked with, bar none."

Kevin has a theory: "Surround yourself with the best musicians you can find. Your compositions will become elevated." And find them he did. True to the album's

theme, musicians from both sides of the Atlantic are featured on *Deep is the Well*, encompassing a unique and wide variety of musical styles. Four All-Ireland champions are featured: Maurice Lennon, Finbar Furey, John William, and Jessica Willis. We also hear extraordinary musicianship from Jim DeWan, Larry Gray, Kathleen Keane, Bill Lanphier, Haley O'Donnell, and John Rice.

After setting down his guitar fifteen years ago, Kevin devoted his artistry to acting and writing; he has played leading roles in several theatrical productions with the acclaimed Racine Theater Guild, and many in the Irish-American community are familiar with the memoir he published in 2009, *Fadó: A Memoir of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*. In these endeavors, he honed his instincts for creating palpable characters, and uncovering ways in which the rich history of America and Ireland affected the common man. *Fadó* garnered acclaim, and reviewers particularly praised Kevin's ability to bring history to life.

Kevin applied these skills to the *Deep is the Well* project. From the beginning, he set out to create more than an album, aiming to lure the listener into an immersive experience. Kevin meticulously concocted a novel-worthy history of the Fagans. He then commissioned the development of an interactive website, *DeepIsTheWell.com*, to allow listeners to pull back the curtain on the Fagan family.

DeepIsTheWell.com is packed with interactive content. The site

centers around the Fagan family tree, which then launches into biographies, photographs, and notes on each song and character. O'Donnell's skillful writing brings their stories to life, dropping each character into fascinating actual historical events, and encouraging the suspension of disbelief to an extraordinary degree. We see photographs of the people and places we become familiar with in the songs. In "Anatomy of a Song," we witness how the song *Factory Girl* metamorphoses over a time. It includes an interview and video footage of Kevin, Maurice, and Jim composing riffs, rehearsing over the months, and recording the final track. Watching this 'making of' video, and then viewing the music video for *Factory Girl* gives a rare glimpse into the – sometimes painstaking, by the looks of it – process of developing just one song. Upon purchase of the album, a password is provided to unlock exclusive content, such as song lyrics, guitar chords, the author's personal notes, and a bonus track.

Deep is the Well will be released Friday, May 3rd, for purchase on Bandcamp, Amazon, iTunes, and CD Baby. Kevin invites you to attend an album release party for a rare live performance of *Deep is the Well*.

Sunday, May 5th, Peggy Kinnane's Irish Restaurant & Pub
8 N. Val, Arlington Heights, IL
847-577-7733

With special guest musicians: Jim DeWan, Ian King, Larry Gray, John Williams, and more.

And opening act: Cú Roí
\$10 door / \$8 online (\$20 w/ album package / \$18 online)
deepisthewell-peggys.brownpapertickets.com

Saturday, May 11th,
Chief O'Neill's
3471 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL
773-583-3066

With special guest musicians: Jim DeWan, Ian King, Larry Gray, John Williams, and more.

And opening act, comedian Mike Houlihan
\$10 door / \$8 online (\$20 w/ album package / \$18 online)
deepisthewell.brownpapertickets.com

Adaptation of an interview by Baxter Labatos CelticMusicFan.com



champion fiddle player, founder of supergroup Stockton's Wing, and,

Alice Rose

The year is 2011 and the place is Ireland. Libby Finn is still shadowed by grief after the death of her husband Max. The era of the 'Celtic Tiger' has come to an end and the young widow has managed to survive the economic downturn better than most.

However, despite seeming to possess every obvious advantage, Libby is resigned to a somewhat-less-than-rosy future, and one destined, in her opinion, to be without a great romantic love.



While many, including her best friend Jules Mahon, may think that they know what's best for the gorgeous and talented Libby, the girl herself has other plans, and they don't include a love story! These plans are for a place, a childhood dream, a country estate called Alice-Rose. Nevertheless, love has a way of finding those destined to have it, especially in a place where two evenly-matched hearts find the opportunity to know each other well. Libby's dream estate becomes more than she has bargained for when it introduces her to a passionate love interest who himself has been 'burnt by the fire of love,' and a match played out with earthly concerns follows a difficult path to romantic paradise.

Romance becomes a wondrous thing in Caitriona Leslie's hands. All the finer nuances of tendresse and emotion are brilliantly captured by her characters. Her novel is told from two viewpoints - that of one potential suitor named Dan Bryant and that of the main character, Libby Finn. This approach affords unique insights to the reader and allows the circle of uncertainties that often dog romance

novels to be effectively completed. This is Leslie's first novel, a breakthrough work in multiple senses of the word. The language stays studiously in the genre but assures all who love romantic fiction that the pioneering spirits of Austen and the Brontë sisters are being

remembered by a current talent.

For more information on this book, interested parties may log on to www.alicerosebook.com

County Longford, Ireland. Author Caitriona Leslie is an innovative talent to look out for on the well-trodden path created by

Austen and the Brontë sisters.

Caitriona Leslie grew up in County Westmeath, Ireland. She has a Master's Degree in Biomedical Sciences and works in the field of Solid Organ Transplantation. She now lives in County Longford with her husband and their three

children. This is her first novel.

Available to buy through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Xlibris.

Xlibris books can be purchased at Xlibris bookstore. For more information, contact Xlibris at 0-800-644-6988 or on the web at www.XlibrisPublishing.co.uk.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Five years ago, I was happily driving down the road, minding my own business and listening to the album, *Fire In The Kitchen* by The Chieftains. Isn't that a great title? It is one of those Chieftains' multi-artist things—this one featuring Nova Scotian and Quebecois artists. You know the drill. Chieftains, plus several guest stars.

Then, it came on. There it was. Nova Scotia's Laura Smith singing her version of *My Bonnie*. Now, this is going to sound like hype, but I assure you, it is not. I was stunned. Gobsnacked to my socks. I've been involved in the music business for 48 years, and writing about Celtic music for 25. Countless radio shows and articles. And, there it was. I had to pull the car off the road, right by a stoplight. I listened to it three times in a row until I had digested it enough to drive safely. That voice. A full, gorgeous, deeply moving alto. This is a woman singing. No whining, soprano sear nos out of a 17 year old child. This is a woman. Best voice I've ever heard in the music. That alone is the deal. But...BUT...there are these songs. Combine Laura Smith's voice and her indescribable song writing talent with lyrics and deeply moving melodies, and you have genius. Don't fear that word. I have written thousands of reviews over the years, covering what seems like millions of artists. Laura Smith is the only

genius I have covered. Oh, there is Shaun Davey, Ireland's greatest orchestral composer. But, Laura Smith is another universe. Musically, in every way, Laura Smith is not simply the best. She is a genius.

So, I called her. I was really, really cool. "Hello, Laura Smith? This is Bill Margeson, and I'm a music journalist down here, and you're the best. I'm your biggest fan. Your biggest, biggest, biggest fan. Can I come to Canada and carry your bags? Do the laundry? Answer the phone? Can I please just hang around with you?" Laura was amused, for about five minutes. I sensed the wind change in her voice, as she began to feel she may be experiencing her first-ever stalker. I changed tack. We started talking about her, and the cd with The Chieftains. I fell in love. No, not like that. As a friend. There are few people more fun to talk with than Laura when the alchemy is right. But, after a few more calls, I began to realize the alchemy was not right. Not at all right.

Let's get through the next bit asap. 11 years ago, Laura is minding her own business in her back yard in Canada. She was a queen of Canadian music then. Hit cd's, huge fan base, musical respect, the whole bit.

Then a young boy lost control of his horse in the neighbor's yard. Laura was quite a horse-woman in her youth. Still loves them. This horse came tearing across a field running full bore at the closed gate leading to the highway. Headed straight for the gate AND Laura! Full gallop, saddle underneath it, obviously panicked. Out of control. Running right at her. But, Laura having been trained as an equestrian, used the tactic of waving her arms wildly to head the horse in another direction.



The horse never slowed down, and was in such a state it did not see Laura until it was too late for both of them. As Laura turned to get out of the way, the horse crashed into the fence, bouncing a pole out of its brackets, which hit Laura, flattening her, while off went the horse down the highway. Slow recovery for a lacerated spleen and neck injury. Fast forward this evil video tape to 2006, and we find her falling twice again—first, in a hole in the ground and then slipping in a pool of grease in a parking lot. A hazard diviner, to be sure. Both of these happened just as she was beginning to recover from the horse accident. Then, years of therapy. Well, not therapy, really. More like a succession of doctors prescribing different drugs to handle the pain. Which, of course, is not therapy at all. We enter a dark, dark time. She had been in this hell for about six years when I called her the first time.

When all this was slowly shared with me, I knew three things. She was going to get bet-

ter—the spark was still there. Way, way down—but still there. She was still a genius. You can't stop being a genius, can you? And, I knew there would eventually be this album. When it is all said and done, I have never known a fighter like her. Muhammad Ali, move over. No, there could and would be more for her to give, but she was in pretty sad shape. Taking 22,473 prescribed pain killers (well, it sounds like that many), can leave a woman pretty wounded. Hours on the phone with her. And, then more hours. What a woman! You have just heard the most squeezed condensation of a woman's hell you are likely ever to read. Because, her struggles are not the story here. (The full story could go for pages. The real story here is her victory.

There are, in fact, two huge victories here. One is that she has beaten her dependency issues with the pain killers—which is the most important thing. She is the most open person I've ever heard talk about this type of thing. I saw a video of an interview in Toronto with her where she went into detail, totally open. Courageously. What a help she must be to others facing this kind of hell.

The second victory is this album, *Everything is Moving*. The Canadian thrush flies again. There are 10 songs. They include the Irish, Napoleonic trad song, *Lonely Waterloo*, which opens the album. She first heard Frank Harte sing it. There is also the beautiful, *Horses and Plough* (her intro to that song was Colm O'Donnell of Sligo.) *Magdalen* by Magdalen McGillivray is another masterpiece, written by Alex Sinclair. Yet another highlight is *Inspiration*, written by Laura's friend, the massively gifted, singer, songwriter and pianist, Nova Scotian, Kim Dunn. Written apparently, for every songwriter in the world waiting for *Inspiration*.

Then, there are the five she has written. *I Built a Boat* is an epic, musical statement about going all out for love one more time.

We've all been there. Broken hearted, but willing to give the dance one more twirl, and so we build our boat. But, Laura has the gift to explain it all to us. *Safe Home Sweet Light* is Laura's newest song, I think. It was written after she lost a her brother and a dear friend. There should be a United Nations resolution requiring it to be played at every funeral or memorial service anywhere in the world. We have all lost loved ones, but I have never heard a song put it all in focus for us that is anywhere near this. It ends up being very, very comforting. Takes genius to do that. Somebody break your heart? Listen to *What Goes Around*, and you'll sit back and smile. The *Blues and I* is just indescribable, so I won't try. It is so intimate, I felt I was listening in on a private conversation between Laura and herself.

Great musicians on the job, as well. Tony McManus, former Male Musician of the Year here, is on guitar and other string stuff. And, then, on two tunes, there is Guido Basso. He is a Canadian musical legend, and the world's best flugelhorn player. Laura Smith, Guido Basso and Tony McManus. Geesh. Wow! Other great accompanists join in, and there is even a lovely string quartet on a couple tunes. I have never listened to an album more times, including Ray Charles. There are, of course, Laura's previous bits of master albums from the 80's and 90's. They were GREAT albums. But, this. This....Of all of the literally thousands of albums I have told you about over the years, get this one. *Everything Is Moving*. You will be the better for it. I promise.

Look, here's the thing. For a long time, I arrogantly assumed I was being a real help to Laura through the bottom of the well. Nah. Not at all. Here's the secret. After all these years, she is the one helping me. I understand a lot more now. I see a lot better now. Her genius is so basic, I reckon she was saved and renewed to help all of us. Wisdom meets heart, and then re-introduced to all of us. Thank you, Laura.

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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



THE HEALY LAW FIRM

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

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

We receive many inquiries concerning personal injury matters and workers' compensation. This month's article responds to some of them.

Can I Recover Workers' Compensation Benefits if I Am In Violation Of A Safety Rule at the Time I am Injured?

Often, it is only after an accident or injury that some employers attempt to enforce safety rules. We have seen numerous occasions where some employers have been very lenient on safety rules while their employees are working, to get the job done as soon as possible or as cheaply as possible. However, after an accident or injury on the job, some of these same employers attempt to use a violation of their safety rules to deny Workers' Compensation claims.

For example, our office recently represented a laborer who suffered multiple injuries, including a severe brain injury, after falling off of the back of a pick-up truck. The employee's job duties that day were to pick up garbage and debris from the streets and load it in the back of a work vehicle. Once the bed of the truck was full, the employee and his partner would dump the garbage into a large pit. In the interest of saving time and man power for this employer, it was a common practice for the laborers to ride in the back of the trucks while carrying out these job duties. On the day of this occurrence, the employee was unable to hang on as the driver accelerated forward and fell out of the truck and onto the street suffering serious injuries.

The employer denied all benefits, arguing that notices were posted at the time clocks, in the

lunch rooms and at other conspicuous locations throughout the facility stating that employees were not allowed to ride on or in the back of work vehicles. The employer contended that due to the employee's violation of the safety rule and his own carelessness that he removed himself from the coverage of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Court ruled in favor of the employee on all issues presented, holding that the employee's carelessness, negligence or rule violation does not preclude compensability, so long as the employee was acting in furtherance of his employment. The Court noted the importance that it was established at trial that the employee was performing his work duties for the benefit of the employer when he suffered his injuries.

In a similar situation, the Appellate Court determined benefits were appropriate for the family of a carpenter who fell to his death from a scaffold. The evidence in that case established that the carpenter was not tethered to a lifeline installed on the scaffold, a direct, knowing violation of the company safety rules. The employer argued that due to the fact that the employee was not tethered to the scaffold, he was outside of the scope of his employment at the time of his injury.

The Court awarded benefits

noting that if an employee is attempting to do the work he is employed to do and violating a safety rule only as to the manner of doing the work, compensation is still proper.

It is important to note that workers' compensation is designed as a no-fault system in which employees who are injured at work may obtain benefits such as payment for lost wages, medical costs, and permanent loss of use due to the injury, without regard to their personal negligence or fault. In exchange for this no-fault system, employees give up their right to sue their employers directly for negligence or other damages. Employers then benefit by being insulated from the possibility of paying large tort verdicts to injured employees in civil court actions. Civil action verdicts can be larger than workers' compensation because workers' compensation awards are capped and because certain elements of damage, such as pain and suffering, are awardable in a civil suit but not in a workers' compensation case.

In a trial of a workers' compensation case, the injured employee has the burden of proving that the injury both "arose out of" and "in the course of" his or her employment. The requirement that the injury occurred "in the course of" the injured employee's employment involves a concept dealing with the time, place and circumstances of the injury. Next, the requirement that the injury "arose out of" deals with the concept of whether there is a causal connection between the employment and the injury suffered.

It is well-settled that an injury is received in the course of employment if it occurs within the hours of employment, at a place where the worker may reasonably be in the performance of his duties, and while he is fulfilling those duties or engaged in something incidental thereto. Importantly, the violation of a safety rule will not automatically take the injured employee outside of the scope of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act.

Thus, if you were in violation of a safety rule at the time you got hurt, you may still be able to receive Workers' Compensation benefits.

Whether the employee is entitled to benefits often depends on what he or she was doing when in violation of the safety rule. If it is determined that the employee was violating the safety rule for personal gain, or convenience, the claim will most likely be denied. If, however, the employee was still acting within the scope of their employment at

the time they were violating the safety rule and benefiting the employer, compensation may still be available.

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

By: Martin Healy, Jr. (left) and Matthew M. Gannon, (above)



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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I know a miracle when I see one. And I've been the lucky recipient of many blessings in my life. I've benefited from lots of little ones, found a quarter on LaSalle street just the other day, as well as major miracles, like meeting and marrying my wife. People still say, "How did she wind up with that wack-job?"

"Tis a miracle!"
Attributing the tiny victories to my unwavering trust in the Lord is what paves the way for the really big miracles.

And last month I caught a doozie. Now you've probably been listening to Roger Ebert stories up the ying-yang over the last several weeks, but I'm hoping you can fit one more into your ol' wazoo, because here's mine.

We never met in person. By the time I got around to introducing myself he was already in poor health and we communicated by email only.

It was August of 2007 and I was trying to get my indie film, "Tapioca", into the Chicago International Film Festival. I sent him an email and let him know I was once with the Sun-Times and how "I'm hoping you can help me."

The friendship started when he responded almost immediately, "Have always enjoyed your writing!"

Yes, I'm counting that as another miracle.

So we began corresponding as I kept trying to push Tapioca in film festivals all over the world, hoping he would watch it and I'd soon be picking up my Oscar.

I pitched him on joining us in Park City Utah when Tapioca was screening; figured he'd be there for Sundance. But he sent regrets, "Won't be able to attend this year because of surgery (sic)."

Then in November of 2008 we were premiering "Tapioca" at The Siskel Theatre on State Street and I had sent him a DVD of the film hoping to get him to review it. I didn't hear anything back.

Finally a week before the screening I emailed again. He wrote back, "The blasted DVD has disappeared! There's still time... Just slip it through the slot. Hard for me to get to the door in a hurry."

I put two DVDs in an envelope with press release and note and grabbed my son Billy, "You gotta get this to Ebert's house right now, no time to lose, just drop it in the slot!"

When Billy returned I wanted all the details, "What happened?" He smiled, "He's got it NOW!" Then we waited.

And waited. Running to the newsstand every day, (yes it was many years ago in 2008 when people still read newspapers), and searching for his verdict on our film. Nothing.

The day before the premiere I sent him an urgent note, "What's the deal? Are you going to review Tapioca?"

Billy and I waited by the computer and then his response flashed on the screen.

"I viewed it Mike, but I won't review it, because I don't believe my review would do you any good.

Cheers, R"

Billy looked at me, "What the hell does that mean?"
It means he hated it. He hated it so much that he's going to do us the favor of NOT reviewing it. At least he didn't say, "Your movie sucks!"

Billy looked at me, "Well, yeah he kinda did."

But I knew there was more to it than that. I didn't always agree with Ebert's reviews anyway. I thought "Barfly" was total dog crap and he loved it!

But something about Tapioca had set him off. The film is an allegorical comedy with many Catholic references about the ultimate redemption of an alcoholic man.

Years later I would read of Ebert's own alcoholism and his "disillusionment" with Catholicism. But I'll never really know what it was about Tapioca that turned him off.

And he actually was doing me a

favor. If he had reviewed it negatively I would have just written him off as a total douche, as I did with another Sun-Times critic who panned Tapioca.

So I replied to Roger, "Okay thanks for taking a look." And left it at that. Five years later I was about to premiere my new film Our Irish Cousins at the Gene Siskel Film Center. I sent Roger a DVD and my pitch.

We were scheduled to premiere in the middle of March and by the end of February I hadn't heard anything back from Roger. I forwarded the first email with another request. Nothing.

Now it was the day before the Oscars and I'm checking to see what Roger's writing about and it's all Oscars and I figured I had nothing to lose so I send another email.

"Hey Roger! F*ck the Oscars! What about Our Irish Cousins?"

Less than an hour later comes his response, "I'm in hospital. I'll assign it for review on my re-launched website and hopefully for the CST!"

We wound up with a rave review with 3 stars! You can read that miraculous review at RogerEbert.com.

He even tweeted a plug for the film to his 825,000 Twitter followers on St. Patrick's Day. I wrote him saying, "I have tears of joy on my face..."

The review came out on March 6th, OUR IRISH COUSINS premiered on March 13th and just a little over three weeks later, Roger died. But not before leaving a delightful gift for our little Irish film.

I went to his funeral mass at Holy Name Cathedral. Had Roger come home to the church in his final days? Lord knows, but I'll tell you this, I know a miracle when I see one. **God keep his lovely soul. Thanks Roger! Save the dates!**

Tour Ireland with Skinny & Houli-hitting Galway, Ennis, Killarney, and Dublin from Oct. 17-24th and we're inviting all Skinny & Houli listeners to join us. \$2,499 double occupancy includes airfare, hotel, meals, and luxury coach. For info and/or reservations call Cathy Featherstone at TriSeasons Travel, 847-542-1539/ triseasonsgroups@gmail.com

A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



In simple words that have deeply touched people of all ages and from all walks of life, Pope Francis has shone a new light of hope on those most in need and helped us as faithful Christians examine our hearts and refocus our own priorities.

"Protect with tenderness." That is the beautiful command that he gave to each one of us at his installation on March 19, the feast day of St. Joseph, the "custos" or "protector" of Jesus and Mary:

"The vocation of being a "protector"...means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. ...It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it."

From the first moments of his pontificate, Pope Francis made it clear that he stands in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. The choice of the name Francis, after Francis of Assisi who lived like a poor man and joyfully followed what Jesus did without a hint of self-importance, is truly significant.

Jesus fed the hungry, clothed the naked, sheltered the homeless, educated the ignorant, healed the sick, visited the prisoner, and forgave the sinner. That was His example to us and what He called each of us to do. Francis of Assisi emulated Him to the point of taking the clothes right off his own back! He dedicated his life to Jesus' most basic teachings, and that is what we have seen Pope Francis do as well.

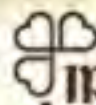
Catholic Charities also cares for people just as Jesus did. On behalf of the Church, and with the support of our dedicated volunteers, board members and donors, Catholic Charities is

the "protector" of the poor and vulnerable in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Thousands of people come to us for help each day. If they are hungry, we feed them. If they are homeless we shelter them. If they are struggling with substance abuse or mental illness, we provide them with treatment and counseling. If they need a job, we provide job training and link them with employers.

We don't ask our clients if they are Catholic, or even if they are Christian. What matters only is that they are in need of compassionate assistance. With Catholic Charities' professionally trained staff and specialized services, we not only provide a helping hand, but also a "hand up," ensuring that people who come to us can begin to improve their lives and have hope for a better future.

Hope is a tremendous gift that each of us can pass onto our struggling brothers and sisters. Through his eloquent words, Pope Francis reminded us that Jesus "awakened great hopes in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world." Jesus enlightened the spirits of the least important by making them the most important, and encouraged His disciples to do the same. We as Christians and Catholics are so blessed to have the opportunity to bring Jesus' light of hope to others, and to protect God's creation and all humanity with all our hearts.

Pope Francis' modest charm and simple lifestyle have already won the hearts of the faithful all over the world. His genuine spirit of kindness and focus on the poor has been very inspiring to us at Catholic Charities. I pray that each of us will capture his enthusiasm and with renewed energy, strengthen our commitment to help the most vulnerable among us.



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Irish American Hall of Fame Announces 2013 Inductees and Gala MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell Emceeds the Event

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) announces its class of inductees for 2013. The award categories and inductees for the 2013 class of the IAHOF are:

Arts & Humanities

James Cagney
Harry "Bing" Crosby
F. Scott Fitzgerald

Business & Industry

Ambassador Daniel Rooney

Public Service

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Sports

Gene Tunney

Religion

Monsignor Ignatius McDermott

Education

Archbishop John Carroll

Science

Colonel Eileen Collins

During July–September 2012, nominators submitted the names of more than 300 candidates, who were reviewed and vetted by a screening committee composed of a specially selected, diverse group of individuals from across a wide

range of disciplines from throughout the United States.

A national body of

distinguished individuals representing academia, government and Irish-affiliated organizations from around the nation voted on the candidates in December 2012.

The 2013 class will be inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame Awards Gala on Saturday, June 1 at the Center. Tickets are \$175 for IAHC members and \$200 for general admission. The evening is Black Tie and begins with a cocktail reception at 6:30pm, followed by dinner and awards program at 8pm.

MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell is the evening's emcee. O'Donnell is the host of *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*, week nights on MSNBC.

O'Donnell brings his extraordinary background in politics, entertainment and news to the nightly program, providing



IRISH AMERICAN
HALL OF FAME

Recognizing the Contributions of Outstanding Irish Americans

insights on compelling stories of the day.

O'Donnell was an Emmy Award-winning

executive producer and writer for the NBC series *The West Wing*. From 1989 through 1992, O'Donnell served as senior advisor to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY). In 1992, he was chief of staff to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works. From 1993 through 1995, he was the chief of staff of the Senate Finance Committee.

A writer prior to entering politics and government, O'Donnell has written essays and articles for several publications including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *New York Magazine*. Suffolk University awarded O'Donnell an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, in 2001. Born in Boston, O'Donnell is a graduate of

Harvard University.

Attending the Gala to date are the following inductees or their representatives:

• Daniel Rooney, Chairman, Pittsburgh Steelers. Virginia Halas McCaskey, owner of the Chicago Bears will present the award to Mr. Rooney. • Maura Moynihan will accept on behalf of her father, Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

• Jay Tunney will accept on behalf of his father, Gene Tunney

• Ray Soucek, President of Haymarket Center, and William Ignatius McDermott, great nephew, will accept the award for Monsignor Ignatius McDermott. Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director, Misericordia, will present the award for the Religion category

• Eileen Collins will accept her award via video

To purchase tickets, call the Center at (773) 282-7035. For information on sponsorship or advertising opportunities, contact Tim Taylor at timothy_taylor@ameritech.net.

GET YOUR IRISH ON at the IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL July 12, 13 and 14

Tickets are now on sale for the 28th annual Irish American Heritage Festival.

Irish Fest is July 12, 13 and 14 and showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. It features more than 100 performers for 3 days on 5 stages.

Confirmed performers include:

- the Tossers
- Dublin City Ramblers
- The Kildares
- Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones
- Chicago Reel
- Larkin and Moran Brothers
- Baal Time
- Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers
- Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band
- Dooley Brothers
- Academy of Irish Music

- Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers

In addition to the great music lineup, the weekend is packed with fest activities: Irish and American food and drink, shopping, dance performances, traditional Irish music sessions, cultural exhibits, children's activities, a raffle with a trip to Ireland, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the ShamROCK Stars singing contest for kids and the Hooley Hook-Up for singles on Friday night. Also don't miss the Fine Spirits Tasting Tent with whiskey, beer and mead tastings, visits from Irish



Wolfhound dogs and the Men in Kilts Contest.

The Folk Tent returns with hands-on activity and demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food is available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry.

Cultural offerings include poetry readings, language lessons, art and museum exhibits.

Our Tea Room returns as a respite for folks looking to cool off with live harp and piano music, a proper cup of tea and sandwiches in the air-conditioned

Shamrock American Room.

Hours are: 6pm to midnight on Friday, July 12; noon to midnight on Saturday, July 13 and noon to 11pm on Sunday, July 14.

Tickets are \$7 for seniors, \$8 in advance for adults (until the end of business on July 10) and \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Call for Kilts! Call for Kilts!

Spring cleaning? We need donated kilts for our Men in Kilts Contest. Call Kathy at 773-282-7035, ext. 13 to donate.

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



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President's Message

There are numerous definitions of change.....

1. To make the form, nature, content, future course, of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone:

2. To transform or convert

3. To substitute another or others for

4. To give and take reciprocally

We have implemented a number of changes at the Center in the last year and a half. We trust you will agree these changes have strengthened us and positioned the Center to be here to serve future generations. Changes were not made for change sake, but for the Centers' and members' sake.

We saw the need to quickly, but carefully, strengthen both our short and longer term

financial foundation. We worked to pay down debt. We needed to get the bricks in place and we did. We had to change and begin to develop an environmentally-friendly culture and we did. We had to change to reduce cost and we did. We needed to change and update our technology and we did. We changed to place more focus on risk management and instituted a new security team and a new security system. We changed how we clean and maintain the building and brought in a new janitorial team. We looked at our building needs and arranged to place the roof at the top of the priority list. We saw the need to add young adults and families to our membership and we changed our membership focus to address families through the Shamrock Kids' Club. We needed to change and increase our volunteer pool and we did,



and the change was helped along the way by the addition of our hard working Volunteer Coordinator. We asked the Staff to help with the changes and they did...and they are. We felt the need to change how often we communicated with members. In order to be open and transparent, we instituted regular Town Hall meetings where we openly shared information and documented financials.

We continued to change, to operate and manage the Center as a business so we would have

the emotional, cultural, organizational and financial strength to support the mission and the vision.

Inevitably along the way some of the changes were not as well-received by some individuals and that is understandable. Change, by its nature, is often difficult to accept...but ultimately change itself is inevitable. The changes were made for the good of the Center and our future. As you know, virtually nothing stays the same...and there is good reason for this.

More change is inevitable. Soon, the Board of Directors and officers will change and, if you are a member, you have a voice and can speak to helping continue the change that will further reinvent the Center. Change is not just an event, change is an investment in our future. If we stand still, we will

get passed by. Change has helped the Center get to where we are today. Further well thought-out change will continue to strengthen the Center even more.

Let's reflect and thank those who changed and helped get us this far but also continue to look forward and constantly look for better ways, new ways to change and help us further reinvent the Center to serve our current members and to serve for those who come after us.

There will be resistance to change along the way. As Robert F. Kennedy once said "Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator. And change has its enemies." Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your support and all you do for the Center.

John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

Saturday Morning Tea

Saturday morning teas continue at the Center. The May Tea features a performance honoring St. Thérèse of Lisieux, performed by Marcia Whitney-Schenck.

Called the "Little Flower," Thérèse Martin died at the age of 24 in 1897 from tuberculosis, after having been a cloistered Carmelite nun for less than ten years.

Marcia Whitney-Schenck is a Chicago-



based writer, artist and performer who interprets the lives of women of faith in a dynamic way for contempo-

rary audiences. She uses multimedia and interactive theatrical experiences to create unforgettable presentations.

Whitney-Schenck dramatizes the words of St. Therese, recalling her life through the photographs taken by Celine Martin, Therese's sister.

The Saturday Morning Tea is May 18 at 11am and the cost is \$25. Reservations are necessary and must be made by May 15. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Spring Seed Planting Party



The Shamrock Kids Club hosts its 2nd Annual Spring Seed Planting Party this May.

Are you ready to start planning your Garden? How about a little shin-dig to get into the spring fun? We will have different stations set up around the IAHC South parking lot yard for the seed planting.

The Annual Seed Planting Party is Saturday, May 11 from 10am to Noon. The cost is \$5 per family for Center members and \$7 per family for non-members.

For more information, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



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Bloomsday Celebration

The Center celebrates the life and works of writer James Joyce with its annual Bloomsday Celebration this June.



The 13th Annual Rattlin' of the Joists will be celebrated with a brunch on Sunday, June 16 at noon.

On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his future wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, *Ulysses*. Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16 "Bloomsday," a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

The Center event includes Irish

breakfast and performances with readings, music and song, presented by notables from Chicago's theatre and music community. Josephine Craven directs.

A selection

of readings at this event will be streamed live over the internet as Chicago's contribution to *Ulysses - A Global Reading, Bloomsday 2013* being organized by Bob Joyce, great-nephew of James James Joyce Centre, Dublin.

Tickets are \$30 for IAHC Members and \$35 for general admission and must be purchased by 6/14.

For more information, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035.

Hear About the IAHC ON THE AIR

Mondays

WDCB Radio, 90.9FM

Blarney on the Air with Shay Clarke, 7pm

Ireland Tonight

with Bill Margeson and Maryann Keifer, 8pm

Wednesdays

WSBC Radio, 1240AM

Maureen O'Looney Show, 8pm

Saturdays

WPNA, 1490AM

The Hagerty Family Irish Program, 9am

The Mike O'Connor Show, 11am

WCEV Radio, 1450AM

Good Morning Ireland with Sean Ginnelly, 1pm

IAHC Membership Benefits

An IAHC membership entitles you to...

★ Discounts on room rentals, concerts, theatre tickets, classes and programs

★ Discount of 10% on food in the Fifth Province

★ Discount of 10% on purchases in the IAHC Gift Shop

★ All members of the public can read, study, and use library materials

★ Invitations to "Member Only Receptions" such as book signings, visiting dignitaries, openings of unique exhibits, art gallery exhibits

★ Opportunity to run for IAHC Board of Directors

★ Subscription to *Irish American News*

★ Advance notice on opportunities to purchase tickets for festivals, special events and concerts

★ Discounts for plays outside of the Center as part

of a group rate discount
★ And, the biggest reward is knowing that the member is contributing to the continuation of the Center and all of its offerings.

Stop by these partner restaurants and establishments for some great discounts.

Galvin's Public House
5901 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, IL

Free Dessert with purchase of meal

The Abbey Pub and Restaurant

3420 W. Grace Street
Chicago, IL

Free Pint of Guinness or glass of wine with meal

McNally's Irish Pub
109 West Main Street
St. Charles, IL

Slice of pie and glass of wine with meal

Lee & Eddie's Catering
(630) 350-3500

Call for a catering discount

Memoir Classes Continue

Memoir writing classes continue this spring at the Center, taught by Virginia Gibbons, Professor of English, at Oakton Community College.

Everyone has a story to tell and this class offers an opportunity to tell yours. This workshop not only helps you identify the key turning moments in your life, but under-

stand them against a backdrop of time and place.

Students will perform in-class writing exercises, readings and take part in discussion. Outside assignments will also be given. In later sessions, time will also be given to discussing markets for publication.

There are two spring sessions; from

May 13 through June 17 on Monday nights and on Wednesday nights from May 15 through June 19. Both classes are 7pm to 9pm.

The cost of the six-week class is \$60 per person and class size is limited to ten writers.

To register for class, call Theresa Chosko at 773-545-8057.

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!



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:

The Irish American Heritage Center Membership
4626 N. Knox Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp _____ 3 Digit code on card's back: _____

Annual Dues

Individual Membership

\$30/year or \$50/2 years

Family Membership

\$40/year or \$60/2 years

\$250 - Harper

3-year membership, no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership

no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership

without annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership

without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership

without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership

without annual dues



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May 2013

May 1	Tir Na Nog	Kitchen	11am
May 3	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
May 4	Piobairi	Fifth Province	5pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
May 9	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
May 10	Seamus Kennedy Misericordia Benefit	Fifth Province	8pm
May 11	Seamus Kennedy Misericordia Benefit	Fifth Province	6pm
	Seed Planting Day	South Lot	10am-Noon
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
May 12	Library Book Club	Library	1pm
May 17	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
May 18	Saturday Morning Tea	Fifth Province	11am
May 21	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
May 23	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
May 26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
May 27	Memorial Day	Building Closed	

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon	Beginning May 13 - Memoir Workshop	Library	7pm
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	2pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10am
	Beginning May 15 - Memoir Workshop	Library	7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm

Roof Campaign Continues...

The Center is a home for all Irish and Irish Americans. It is a gathering spot and hub for Irish culture and friendship. Now, however, our home is in need of help! This spring, our Raise the Roof Campaign continues.

The roof is leaking and damage is being done to the interior: to the Erin Room, rooms on the 3rd floor and in the North and South halls. Our dedicated volunteers have patched it many times over the last 25 years, but now we face the reality that we need a total replacement.

This is a major undertaking costing \$250,000. We have received money from our insurance carrier and, with our recent Raise the Roof fundraiser, we



still need your help.

This is where our membership and friends can share in this upcoming project.

We all love the Center and want to see it preserved for future generations to enjoy. Roofing materials are sold in squares that cover 100 square feet costing \$250 each square. Wouldn't it be great to know our Center is 'covered' with the good will of its members

and friends? Would you please help us by making a donation? Would you reach out to your friends and ask them to help?

All contributions may be tax-exempt and most sincerely appreciated. With your commitment we can continue to call the IAHC our home for all things Irish for many more years.

To donate, call 773-282-7035.

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

MAY ENTERTAINMENT

- 5/3 Ceili Mor
- 5/4 Mulligan Stew
- 5/10 Seamus Kennedy Misericordia Benefit, 8pm, \$20
- 5/11 Seamus Kennedy Misericordia Benefit, 6pm, \$20
- 5/11 Dooley Brothers 10pm
- 5/17 Celtic Aires
- 5/18 Party Music
- 5/24 Seamus O'Kane
- 5/25 Finbarr Fagan's Band
- 5/31 Joe McShane

All Shows Start After 9pm

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



Don't Miss...

May Drink Special

\$3 Killian's Red Drafts

May Food Special

\$6 Chicken Sandwich

Valid for the month of May 2013 only. Original coupon only.

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OUR MISSION:

The mission of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* will also pay tribute to exemplary Americans of Irish heritage who have truly shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

OUR VISION:

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* will preserve and promote the "story" of Irish culture by recognizing the contributions of individuals to the Irish-American experience. Telling their story preserves our story. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* will be a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America.

ABOUT US:

The purpose of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to preserve the "story" of the Irish in America, thus becoming a resource for all Americans or those interested in the development and history of America including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers and students of Irish and American history at all levels, those interested in genealogy, cultural historians and the general public.

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* is national in scope operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

NOMINATION & SELECTION:

Founded in 2010, the *Irish American Hall of Fame* accepts nominations from July through September each year. More than 400 nominations have been received from individuals in more than 30 states, Ireland and across the globe.

The *Hall of Fame Governing Committee* along with *The Screening Committee* is comprised of esteemed individuals from the Irish American community from across the country including university professors, representatives from Irish organizations, publishers and business professionals. Nominations are vetted and reviewed and a select slate of candidates is put forth in an election each year.

The 100+ member voting body of distinguished individuals from business, media, academia, and government as well as Irish organizations throughout the United States elect the inductees in January.

In this special section of *Irish American News*, we introduce you to the nine esteemed members of the Class of 2013 into the *Irish American Hall of Fame*!

Visit www.iahof.org for more information

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Lawrence O'Donnell

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INDUCTION CEREMONY

ARTS & HUMANITIES:

James Cagney

Acceptance by Jonathan James Cagney, Grandson of James Cagney

Harry "Bing" Crosby

E. Scott Fitzgerald

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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:

Daniel Rooney

U.S. Ambassador and Chairman, Pittsburgh Steelers

Acceptance by Mr. Daniel Rooney

Presented by Virginia McCaskey, Owner, Chicago Bears

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Acceptance by Mauna Moynihan, Daughter of Daniel Patrick Moynihan

EDUCATION:

Archbishop John Carroll

Founder of Georgetown University

SPORTS:

Gene Tunney

Acceptance by Jay Tunney, Son of Gene Tunney

RELIGION:

Monsignor Ignatius "Father Mac" McDermott

Founder of Chicago's Haymarket Center

Acceptance by Ray Soucek, President, Haymarket Center and

William Ignatius McDermott, Great Nephew of Father Mac

Presented by Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director,

Misericordia and 2011 Inductee

SCIENCE:

Colonel Eileen Collins (retired)

Astronaut and first female shuttle commander

Acceptance by Ms. Collins (via video)

For more information on all the inductees visit www.iahof.org

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To the new inductees, we say "Fáilte."



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INTRODUCING THE 2013 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ARTS & HUMANITIES



James Francis Cagney, Jr. (July 17, 1899 – March 30, 1986) was an American actor of stage and film. Although he won acclaim and major awards, including an Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of George M. Cohan in *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, he is best remembered for playing tough guys. In 1999, the American Film Institute ranked him eighth among its 50 Greatest American Screen Legends.

Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Crosby's trademark bass-baritone voice made him one of the best-selling recording artists of the 20th century, with more than half a billion records in circulation. Besides his record sales, he also led in radio ratings and motion picture grosses. His early career coincided with technical recording innovations; this allowed him to develop his laid-back, intimate singing style that influenced many of the popular male singers who followed him, including Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. *Yank* magazine recognized Crosby as the person who had done the most for American G.I. morale during World War II. During his peak years, around 1948, polls declared him the "most admired man alive".



E. Scott Fitzgerald (September 24, 1896 – December 21, 1940) was an American author of novels and short stories, whose works are the paradigm writings of the *Jazz Age*. Widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century, Fitzgerald is considered a member of the "Lost Generation" of the 1920s. He finished four novels: *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*—his most famous—and *Tender Is the Night*. A fifth, unfinished novel, *The Love of the Last Tycoon*, was published posthumously. Fitzgerald also wrote numerous short stories that treat themes of youth and promise along with despair and age.

The Great Gatsby has been the basis for numerous films of the same name, spanning nearly 90 years; 1926, 1949, 1974, 2000, and an upcoming 2013 adaptation.

Visit www.iaho.org for more information

**Congratulations to the 2013 Inductees
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— Rick and Denny Singel —

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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Daniel Rooney (born July 20, 1932) was the United States Ambassador to Ireland from July 3, 2009 until his resignation in 2012. He is chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team, which was founded by his father, Art Rooney. Rooney was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2000 for his contributions to the game. He is credited with spearheading a requirement that NFL teams with head coach and general manager vacancies interview at least one minority candidate, which has become known as the "Rooney Rule".

EDUCATION

John Carroll (January 8, 1735 – December 3, 1815) was the first Roman Catholic bishop and archbishop in the United States — serving as the ordinary of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He is also known as the founder of Georgetown University, the oldest Catholic university in the United States, and St. John the Evangelist Parish of Rock Creek (now Forest Glen), the first secular (diocesan) parish in the country.



PUBLIC SERVICE



Daniel Patrick Moynihan (March 16, 1927 – March 26, 2003) was an American politician and sociologist. A member of the Democratic Party, he was first elected to the United States Senate for New York in 1976, and was re-elected three times (in 1982, 1988, and 1994). He declined to run for re-election in 2000. Prior to his years in the Senate, Moynihan was the United States' Ambassador to the United Nations and to India, and was a member of four successive presidential administrations, beginning with the administration of John F. Kennedy, and continuing through Gerald Ford.



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Lawrence O'Donnell is an American political analyst, journalist, actor, producer, writer, and host of *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*, a nightly MSNBC opinion and news program.

He frequently filled in as host of *Countdown* on MSNBC before getting his own show on the cable network.

O'Donnell has also appeared as a political analyst on *The McLaughlin Group*, *The Al Franken Show*, and *Countdown*. He was an Emmy Award-winning producer and writer for the NBC series *The West Wing* (and played the role of the President's father in flashbacks) and creator and executive producer of the NBC series *Mister Sterling*. He is also an occasional actor, appearing as a recurring supporting character on the HBO series *Big Love*, portraying an attorney. He began his career as an aide to U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and was Staff Director for the Senate Finance Committee.



Georgetown University
Sends our warm congratulations from
Washington, D.C. to the 2013 inductees to the
Irish American Hall of Fame
June 1, 2013

RELIGION

Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott (July 31, 1909 – December 31, 2004) the co-founder of the Haymarket Center, has quite possibly done more than any other single person to ease the plight of addicted and homeless Chicagoans. A native of Chicago's South Side, Monsignor McDermott studied at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and

St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. He was ordained a priest in 1936. His lifetime of service to the addicted began to develop while he was on summer leave from the seminary in 1930. He worked at Arlington Park Race Track and commuted on the Northwestern rail line daily, leaving from the downtown terminal adjacent to Chicago's notorious Skid Row. Although the plight of Skid Row victims distressed him, he had no idea that his compassion for people on Skid Row would develop into a lifetime crusade against the disease of alcoholism. He was known as "Apostle of the Alcoholics," the "Skid Row Priest," and with great affection "Father Mac."



SCIENCE

Eileen Marie Collins (November 19, 1956) is a retired NASA astronaut and United States Air Force colonel. A former military instructor and test pilot, Collins was the first female pilot and first female commander of a space shuttle. She was awarded several medals for her work. Colonel Collins has logged 38 days, eight hours and ten minutes in outer space. Collins retired on May 1, 2006 to pursue private interests, including service as a board member of USAA.



SPORTS

James Joseph "Gene" Tunney (May 25, 1897 – November 7, 1978) was an American professional boxer and the World Heavyweight Champion from 1926-1928. He defeated Jack Dempsey twice, first in 1926 and then in 1927. Tunney's successful title defense against Dempsey is one of the most famous bouts in boxing history and is known as *The Long Count Fight*. Tunney retired as an undefeated heavyweight after his victory over Tom Heeny in 1928.



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- In the United States a total of 36,278,332 Americans—estimated at 11.9% of the total population—reported Irish ancestry in the 2008 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Roughly another 3.5 million (or about another 1.2% of Americans) identified more specifically with Scotch-Irish ancestry.
- The Irish diaspora population in the United States is roughly six times the modern population of Ireland.
- Irish American political leaders have played a major role in local and national politics since before the American Revolutionary War.
- Eight Irish Americans signed the Declaration of Independence.
- Twenty-two American Presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Barack Obama, are of Irish ancestry.

Join us Saturday, June 1st, 2013 to learn more of the Irish contributions to this great nation of ours as we celebrate our newest inductees into The Irish American Hall of Fame!



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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell



First of all on behalf of Margo, myself and my family we offer our sincere condolences and prayers to the people of Boston. It really has touched the hearts of everyone.

I spoke to Margo on the phone a couple of days ago and she could hardly speak with a severe flu. So we had a very short conversation about her autobiography which is due for release 2014. She allowed me to tape our conversation and below is what I taped. Margo (on the phone)

I have been so busy over the last three weeks. I've been putting my autobiography together and also doing a documentary for my 50 years in the music business. Which comes to pass in 2014. Many people over the years have asked me when am I going to write my book. They say that my story has helped them in some small way. I always did state that if I could help someone with what I've come through in my life by writing a book, then maybe someday I would do that. People would say it to me and I would usually joke about it. But as its near my 50th anniversary as an entertainer, if I don't do it now I probably won't do it at all.

My story will be told by me with everything disclosed. It has not been a bed of roses for me down this road and I'm not without sin. During the course of my book there will be parts where I will have my own personal confession to make. There will be parts of my story which will upset me to tell, remembering certain painful wrong doings that have been done to me. The hurt that I have suffered many times by people close to me and people not so close to me. But as I go through writing the book at over 60 years of age I am doing so as I see it and the way I worked with the deck of cards that was dealt to me.

Thats a little bit of the introduction to my autobiography. I'm kind of putting it together

myself. I want to tell my stories the way that they happened and not the way that somebody else would charge them up to be. So I hope that it will one day rest on your book shelf. Hopefully next year it will be out. I'm going to lean on my partner Joe this month to write you a little bit on my behalf. I have been laid up with the flu and I'm still working on the Mary Boyle case, so I'm a little worn out at the moment. So till next month stay well everybody be kind to one another be

happy and above all smile. Thank you Margo and I hope you are feeling better soon. I look forward to meeting up with you in a few weeks time.

This months song is actually a poem that Margo and I put together a while back. We will probably write the music for it soon but it seems appropriate to put it in this months edition. We will get back on track next month with songwriter tips and some stories. Our minds are on the people of Boston at the moment. We will be writing next months column together in Castleblayney. So we are both looking forward to that.

Until then Be good to one another. God Bless, Margo and Joe

"Unspoken Words"

Written by Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell

I was walking down my road of life, when someone crossed my mind

Someone extra special, a real good friend of mine
The gift of love is special, a truth that never lies
Unspoken words say more sometimes, when whispered through the eyes

Friendship is a jewel, beautiful and rare
like knowing for certain that somebody cares
Don't take them for granted, reach out a loving hand
Tell them what they mean to you, make sure they understand

Someone touched my life today and it really warmed my heart.
The silent joy that comes from looking at a work of art
Sincerest thoughts and feelings, of a love that never dies
Unspoken words say more sometimes, when whispered through the eyes

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Real Ireland

By Rachel Gaffney



Crying Cockles And Mussels, Alive Alive Oh

1988 saw the Millennium year in Dublin, Ireland. Among the many celebrations and commissions, one of the more memorable ones for me was the commissioning of the bronze sculpture of the infamous 'Molly Malone'. As you saunter along Dawson Street or down Grafton Street, then you cannot miss this iconic lady.

Molly Malone died on June 13th, 1699, and June 13th is known as Molly Malone Day in Ireland. Molly was a fishmonger and Irish people have come to know and love this bronze sculptor well. This famous bronze is also known to us as 'The tart with the cart' perhaps somewhat irreverent, but there is often truth in humor.

*"As she wheeled her wheelbarrow,
Through the streets broad and narrow
Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"*

Ireland has an abundant supply of assorted mollusks. My personal favorites are Oysters, clams and mussels. Every September, Galway City hosts the famous Oyster Festival.

Collecting these delectable shellfish is a treat. If you live along shores that provide them then I beg you not to take it for granted.

Washington State is famous for its mollusks, namely those found along the Puget Sound. If you are not lucky enough to live in places like Maryland and Maine, where local seafood is a treat, and live in a landlocked place like I do in Dallas, then you too will be on the hunt for good seafood. Freshness is difference you can taste.

When I return to Ireland this summer for vacation I plan to eat as much seafood and shellfish as possible.

But until then, I search out the best places to source seafood in stores over here.

Costco carries great seafood. Recently I purchased mussels their mussels, fresh and delicious. Here are tips for purchasing and preparing mussels.

Try to purchase Fresh Mussels.

1. The shells should be tightly closed if they are still alive
2. Don't forget to Debeard them before cooking (This is done by tugging the stringy material towards the hinge edge)
3. Soak them for approximately 20-30 minutes in fresh water before cooking
4. Hand or brush them clean under running water to remove any extra barnacles, sand etc...

Mussels in White Wine, Fresh Herbs and Garlic:

- 6 lbs fresh mussels
- 6 chopped shallots
- 1 sweet onion
- 1 fennel bulb
- 3 leeks
- 3 cloves garlic
- fresh basil, thyme, tarragon & parsley



- olive oil for frying
- 2 cups white wine
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 6 rashers or slices of Irish bacon

Method:

Preheat Oven to 375 degrees.

Clean and debeard the mussels, making sure that all the shellfish are closed prior to cooking.

In a frying pan, cook the Irish bacon. Let the bacon cook in it's own fat. When crispy, pat dry on a plate with paper towel. Cut into little pieces and set aside.

Clean and trim the fennel bulb, cut it in half and then in 1/4 inch ribbons.

Clean and peel the sweet onion; chop coarsely.

Soak the leeks in a cold water bath. Trim the green stem. Cut white stalk in half and then into 3/4 inch coins

In a bowl mix the leeks, fennel, garlic and onions in some olive oil. Spread on a parchment lined baking sheet and roast for 15 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Clean all fresh herbs. Use your judgment here to adjust to your own personal taste. Chop coarsely.

In a large sauté pan, heat olive oil, add shellfish and toss for 2 to 3 minutes.

Add fennel/leek/garlic/onion mixture, white wine stock, chopped herbs and cream. Cover pan and let steam for 4 to 5 minutes or until shells are open. Add salt & pepper to taste.

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John Gurhy's Rogues, Rats, and Rascals

John Gurhy is back in Chicago and he is introducing a new book, Rogues Rats and Rascals...

Suffering from depression after his business failed, and remembering the warm welcome he received in Chicago...

he is back to launch his book featuring his own experiences with places and people.

There are 100 original poems and 70 funny short stories about great old characters around Ireland.

There are 10 poems about Chicago Irish.

The book will launch on May 11th at the Goalpost on 95th St. in Oaklawn at 9pm and the following day, Sunday, May 12th at the Celtic Crossing, 800 N. Clark St.

Cliff Carlson, publisher of Irish American News will help with the Southside launch, and the famous and fabulous Maureen O'Looney with assist on the Northside. Knowing John, there will be plenty of laughs for all!



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*1500 cent Militaria and real live sword fighting and axes

*Celebration Banquet to top off the party
Further details will be available over the coming months, but in the mean time why not organize your own family NOW!

www.clannobyrne.com and through the various agencies organizing Ireland's Gathering 2013

Concluding the Monastery of Iona, The First Abbot Columba, Angels, and the Book of Kells

A discussion beginning with angel images in the Book led us down a few related and interesting paths. It touched on the classification and duties of angels and the life and legends of Columba, especially as recorded by Adomnán in "Life of St. Columba." Columba was the first Abbot of Iona, from 563 to 597 and the ninth Abbot of Iona was Adomnán, from 679 until he died in 704. During the 100 years or so between the lives of these two Abbots, it is easy to imagine that Columba's quasi-divine legend only grew and inspired the Iona monks and the scribes and illuminators. Angels may well have had a prominent position in their devotional lives. The last question I asked at the end of the previous column: "Was this the source of the prominence of angels in the Book of Kells?"

The Bible has 273 references to angels, 108 in the Old Testament and 165 in the New Testament. It is likely that the Iona scribes were very familiar with these references, and that the scribes were particularly familiar with the angels in the gospels of the four evangelists. I counted 45 references, mostly in Matthew and Luke. There are 25 (maybe 26) angels in the Book of Kells. More than



Angel with star



Angel with wounds

any other Insular Gospel I have been able to examine so far. I'm suggesting that there might be a connection between the reference of angels in the New Testament, the Columba/angel devotional atmosphere at Iona and angel images in the Book of Kells.

A few graphic points about the archangels. None of the archangels are drawn with the unique attributes that would identify them by a specific name. Customarily, we name them Michael, Raphael, Gabriel and Uriel. In every folio where Jesus is depicted, except one, there are four archangels, as if they were unseen protectors. Usually, the archangels are holding something such as a book, a vine or a staff. Flabellum, which are small fans on sticks used to keep flies and other debris away from the altar during mass, are often held by the archangels.

Descriptions of the folios that include angels.

F1v First Canon Table Above the arch of the architectural design, there is an angel holding a book.

F3r (Folio 3 recto) Third Canon Table An angel in a rondel between the arches is holding a book.

F7v (Folio 7 verso) Virgin and Christ Child This is the oldest known existing image of the Virgin and Child. Two archangels are holding scepters and one is holding



Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



Angel no wings

an upside down vine which refers to the prophecy of Isaiah 53. The fourth is holding what my research identifies as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem.

F29r The Beginning of Matthew's Gospel In a small triangular shape on the upper left side is an angel without the face drawn in. This is probably just an editorial error. The rest of the page is complete.

F32v Christ Enthroned This full page image of an enthroned Christ is unique among Insular Gospels. The four archangels are in panels along the side of a simple throne. One archangel holds a bough or rod with a trailing vine. The archangel on the upper left has what appears to be a circular wound on each foot. Possibly to remind the reader of wounds from nails that Jesus suffered during the crucifixion.

F34r Chi Rho The major graphic elements are the letters "XPI," the abbreviated Greek word for "Christ." Scholars think that the head of a man at the end of the swirled stroke for the bowl of the "P" is likely that of

Jesus. We expect to find the images of four archangels. Instead, we find only three winged figures on the left desender of the "X." However, at the top, above the crossing of the "X" strokes is a lone figure. He has the same yellow hair and curls of the three angels, the similar red tunic and the similar circles near his head. Could this be a wingless angel, completing the quartet?

F48r An angel's face is in a letter of the text.

F129v Four Symbol page Standing behind Matthew's angel symbol, which is in a rondel, there is another angel that is not a symbol of Matthew.

F187v In a section of Mark's gospel in which Jesus tells his disciples to go and preach, there is an angel holding a book.

F285r This folio is placed in Luke's gospel describing the visit of a "group of women" who go to Jesus's tomb and discover it open with two men inside wearing "shinring



Arrest of Christ

apparel." They tell the women that Jesus has risen. In this folio there are four angels, two with staffs, one holds a flabellum and another has a staff with two leaves.

F202v The Temptation of Christ On the roof of the Temple, as the devil tempts Christ, two angels are nearby holding books, while two others are directly above Jesus.

F114r The Arrest of Christ. There are no archangels in this full page image. That illustrates a point. Christ is being held by two figures, presumably guards who are going to arrest and take Him away. If the archangels were there, they would not allow that to happen and that would interfere with the prophecies about Christ's arrest and crucifixion. The Iona artists simply kept them out of the picture-figuratively and literally.

I periodically give presentations on the Book of Kells at the Irish American Heritage Center. Contact me for schedules. fcrowley@windycityarts.org

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A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

Bridie McKenna's

By: Cathy Cooney-Millar

As a repeat customer of Bridie McKenna's, writing about this restaurant is like talking about an old friend. The sole owners Susan and Jim Kane have worked tirelessly to exceed their customers' expectations over the past 5 years. Susan and Jim both grew up in the Chicagoland suburbs and come from big families. Jim grew up in Elmhurst the second of ten kids and Susan one of six kids, grew up in Libertyville. Jim's family heritage hails proudly from Westport, County Mayo, Ireland. Jim's passion and love for the Irish came from his trips back and forth to Ireland. That passion inspired the desire to open Bridie McKenna's.

Bridie McKenna's brings that rare, traditional Irish experience to Highwood, IL. Bridie's has established itself as a truly unique venue for authentic, hearty pub food, a tremendous drink selection, live entertainment, and a wonderfully welcoming atmosphere for partygoers of all kinds. Bridie McKenna's is a Community Pub or "Public House" in every way.

It starts first with the amazing, high-quality food created by Chef Israel Valerdi or as he is nicknamed Chef Izzy. One of the many favorites is the fish and chips. Their most popular offering & award winning recipe is made with fresh Alaskan Whitefish dipped in the Irish ale batter and comes with fries and tartar sauce. The Beef & Guinness Stew comprises tender chunks of tenderloin,

mushrooms, and fresh vegetables in their homemade Guinness gravy which is served with mashed potatoes. My personal favorite is Bridie's

Lamb Stew. The finest pieces of Lamb, served with steamed potatoes, and fresh vegetables is a succulent delight! For dessert, you cannot pass up the Rhubarb cobbler. It is so delicious you will be asking to take one home with you!



Jim and Susan Kane,
 Owners of Bridie McKenna's

Before you enjoy dinner take time to try one of the 21 beers on tap. The beer is rotated and changes seasonally. They have just expanded their whiskey selection. The selection includes but is not limited to Jameson, Powers, Bushmills, Greenore, Kilbeggan and 2 Gingers.

If you want to come in to enjoy a sports game you have plenty of options at one of their 5 big screen TV's. If you want to meet some new friends, head over to play some darts. I hear the competition is pretty good! If you hear some clapping and tapping on the floor, it's probably the Tully Irish dance troupe who is often there entertaining the

crowd with their amazing Irish toe stepping. Bridie's has music or events on weekends. You can participate in karaoke or hum a tune to one of the many popular bands that are booked. Upcoming venues include:

May 4, 2013: Irish music by Seamus O'Kane

May 11, 2013: Nick Gonzalez (Live Music)

May 18, 2013: Dan Dubow (Live Music)

May 24, 2013: The Kris & Marlon Show (Live Music)

Jim recognizes Chef Izzy for the high quality reputation of the food. Josh and Lon who oversee the pub and party planning



respectively strive to over achieve every aspect of the business. Bridie's has four unique and traditional rooms available for private functions or parties. Whether it is a small and intimate gathering or party of up to 100 people, they will accommodate you! They often have family celebrations such as First Holy Communion, family reunions, corporate dinner meetings or birthday parties. They feature multiple settings, including a well-appointed Victorian Bar, a more relaxed Country Bar, an exquisitely beautiful Library and a large party room. Since spring is approaching, I know you are wondering where the best outside patio to dine is a Bridie's has the answer. Bridie's has been voted, "The Best Patio Experience". Don't miss out on the experience!

If you have not been to Bridie McKenna's, its time you head over to hear what all the fuss is about. You will experience the true Irish hospitality that is genuine and second to none. Whatever your mood, whether it be enjoying a whiskey in front of a warm fireplace in winter, or sipping chilled wine on the beautiful outdoor patio in summer, Bridie's strives to make your visit an enjoyable one. There is always something happening at the North Shore's favorite Pub. No matter what you choose, you will be back! I hope to see your smiling face there!

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Mick

Mike Morley



Envelope Please

On March 20, the gun debate at its height, CBS ran an AP story online titled: "Boy-with-gun pic causes uproar in N.J." It showed a lad, Josh Moore 11, at his home in Carneys Point, N.J. holding a rifle his father Shawn gave him as a birthday present.

It began: "The ruddy-checked, camouflage-clad boy in the photo smiles out from behind a pair of glasses, proudly holding a gun his father gave him as a present for his upcoming 11th birthday". His father explained it was to be used on their hunting trips and is not an assault rifle but a .22 caliber copy.

CBS invited readers to comment. Surprisingly, most of the 258 comments were thoughtful, and supportive of the father's rights; but a few were like this one from a reader calling himself 'TimeToEvolve': "A photograph of a possible future mass murderer. Or someone who will be shot by their own gun."

CBS is the world's second largest broadcaster, after British Broadcasting. CBS Corporation is run by Sumner Murray Redstone, a man worth \$4.7 billion.

Tristar Pictures is a venture of CBS, Columbia and HBO. In the March issue I mentioned "Django Unchained", a Tristar film glorifying a fictional freed slave whose mission in life includes casually shooting to death large numbers of white slave-owners. Cynical as I am, I was still taken aback learning the movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It's raked in over \$418 million in theaters worldwide- Quentin Tarantino's highest-grossing film to date. He also walked off with the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

Here's an outline of America's most honored current screenwriting: Schultz, a bounty hunter, ambushes a group of slave trad-

ers and shoots them down in a graphic blood-soaked firefight, frees Django, and takes him along on his travels. In no time at all he converts Django into a world-class marksman, horseman and killer. The pair kill more slavers and seek out the owner of Django's wife. Finding his plantation they blast to pieces the owner, his family and employees, including one 'uncle Tom', in a typical Tarantino balletic bloodbath of airborne body bits. Django rides off into the sunset, wife in tow. Envelope please.

I recently was induced to join a youthful audience at another Tristar-Columbia flick, the latest installment of the 'Evil Dead'. Once again, no time was wasted getting to the crux of the 'story'. It was paced like those old porn flicks (salesman in hat and trench coat

knocks on door-attractive woman answers- guy begins sales pitch-but some pretext is found to strip and go at it- hammer and tongs-to the end of the reel. For some reason, the genre dictated that the guy not disrobe entirely- and wear a tie, hat or black socks throughout the naughty bits.) Both Django and Evil Dead proceed in a similar fashion, not boring audiences with too much detail before giving them what they came for.

The 'Evil Dead' begins with an injured girl captured in the woods. She is tied to a post in a basement by a group chanting her soul must be saved. The girl's father then sets her on fire and shoots her in the head.

Flash forward to present day: A group of friends gathers at an old cabin deep in the woods to cure a girl, Mia, of drug addiction. In the cabin basement the friends find a burned human body and corpses of animals wrapped in barbed wire hanging overhead. Mia flees the cabin but is blocked

by a demon who emits a thorny branch from its mouth that slithers up Mia's leg, entering her. Possessed, she batters her brother's dog to death with a hammer, then locks herself in the bathroom, scalding her face in a boiling hot shower (the old cabin features lots of first class amenities, and handy weapons). She then blasts her brother with a shotgun and vomits bloody goo on Olivia, who becomes possessed in turn and graphically cuts apart her own face with broken glass. She stabs Eric, a teacher, repeatedly; yet he manages to bash in Olivia's head with a large chunk of broken sink. There's lots more action before Mia finally kills the demon with a chainsaw, but I'd hate to ruin the nail gun and crowbar sequences for you. Mia eventually stumbles



off into the sunrise alone, bloody; one hand missing.

This from a company which circulates a photo of a ten year old kid with a .22 rifle, implying it somehow represents the root of a problem, inviting public comment during a national debate on gun violence.

Hollywood insists screen violence, rather than prompting mayhem in its audience, is actually therapeutic and cathartic, harmlessly releasing pent-up aggression. Media moguls say the same about onscreen sex. They are proud to provide the therapy; prouder still to be seen standing firm, protecting precious freedoms with which we Americans are uniquely blessed. Envelope, please.

The scientific community strongly disagrees. But those who disagree with media giants don't get to play with fancy communication industry toys.

In 2001 Brad J. Bushman and Craig A. Anderson at Iowa State University published a study

in the Journal of the American Psychological Association: "Media Violence and the American Public - Scientific Facts Versus Media Misinformation". A year earlier, "six major professional medical societies, including the American Medical Association, signed a joint statement on the hazards of exposing children to media violence..."

The psychologists determined the correlation between media violence and aggressive behavior is only slightly less than that between smoking and lung cancer. All smokers do not contract lung cancer, just as all viewers of violence do not become murderers. By the same token everyone watching a commercial won't run out and buy the product. But corporations aren't crazy to

spend those ad dollars. If only a fraction of viewers are induced to buy the product, the advertiser makes a good profit.

About 87% of crimes are nonviolent. On the screen the ratio is exactly reversed- only 13% of crimes in reality-based TV programs are nonviolent. FBI stats show murder represents just 0.2% of all crimes, while on TV it accounts for a whopping 50%. (So much for the entertainment industry's lie that their product reflects the level of

violence in current society. Think of it- how many murders have any of you actually witnessed in real life?)

Media stonewalling is what prompted Bushman and Anderson's research. In 1995 Newsweek claimed there was no solid evidence that exposure to media violence increased aggression. The scientists wrote a letter rebutting the magazine's claims. "The reply said that they were not interested in publishing our letter". In 2000 the New York Times also published an op-ed attacking media violence research; and despite similar protests from the scientific community, no rebuttal, retraction, or reply was ever published. They point out: "By the time the average American child graduates from elementary school, he or she will have seen more than 8,000 murders and more than 100,000 other assorted acts of violence (e.g., assaults, rapes) on network television." But it sells!

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



lives and starting a major fire.

Brindel directed the firefighting efforts throughout the night, with few aboard having any idea if the ship could even be

The Angel and the Stark

26 years ago the guided missile frigate USS Stark was patrolling the Persian Gulf on the night of May 17th, bristling with radars, missiles and guns to detect and defend against threats.

And yet the first warning came from a system and method as old as the days of sailing by wind: a sailor serving as forward lookout on the port side spotted a burst of light and then a missile headed straight for the ship's forward left side. "Missile Inbound!" he called over the ship's sound system.

Captain Glenn Brindel, the 43 year-old commanding officer, ordered every piece in the ship's chessboard of defenses armed up and ready but it was too late: seconds later a French-made Exocet missile from an Iraqi F-1 Mirage fighter came streaking just a few feet above the waves and hit the ship just above the waterline. Another came seconds later, claiming 37

saved. Could the ship stay afloat? Would she ever see her Mayport, Florida home?

Brindel's wife Donna had already left Mayport a few days earlier to set up a new home for the Brindel family in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her husband, recently promoted from Commander to Captain, was about to end his command of the Stark to accept a promotion on the staff of the Atlantic Fleet Command in neighboring Norfolk.

At the time I was working for the local ABC television affiliate as the chief military reporter. In the early afternoon I hoped to get an exclusive interview with the captain's wife. At the same time the captain was struggling to save his ship and his crew.

With the gaping hole inching nearer to the point where water would surge in to sink or capsize the frigate, Brindel ordered

the starboard side flooded. It worked. The Stark tilted just up enough to stay out of the water and complete the firefighting.

"Lenny...park the van around the corner, and wait for me" I told the photographer as we reached the Brindel home. I walked back to the house.

The door was wide open, and the barely closed screen door did little to stem the feeling that I was invading someone's

shocking news and inner conviction that somehow this nightmare was a dream with a happy ending.

I left without an interview, without a quote and without a story. Perhaps I left her with a bit more.

16 months later I was packing up my things in the newsroom to end my life as a t.v. newsmen. I flipped open the notebook and called the Brindels. "Hello?" the



privacy in the worst possible way at the worst possible time. On the foyer wall a framed piece of Scripture made it clear to me that this was a Christian home occupied by true believers.

I knocked and Donna Brindel came to the door, well-coiffed with her hair up, girl next door grown up pretty and seemingly not anguished but definitely dazed and a bit in shock. It was if she was trying to speak to me but was looking at something behind me. I invited her to sit down on the top of the stairs and the two of us sat side by side. There was no way I was going to further intrude or accept a polite invitation to tea inside. The captain's wife pointed somewhat vaguely to an unseen phone deep in the house and said "They say they want me to give a news conference tonight and a Navy public affairs officer is on his way out here." She seemed to be describing a dream.

I responded "Maybe I can help." The notebook in my back pocket was uncomfortable but it wasn't going anywhere. We spent the next half hour discussing first shared faith (Both she and Glenn were committed Christians who believed the Holy Spirit was alive and ever present) and then my primer on what the PAO would want, what to expect in questions from the press and how to handle it in the least painful way for both herself and her husband.

My greatest impression was her mix of trusting openness, frailty in the face of

familiar reedy feminine voice came over the newsroom phone. "Mrs. Brindel it's Jim McClure from Channel 13. Are you and the Captain okay?"

There was a gasp on the other end of the line. Then a long pause. I expected either tears and a quiet click or an angry husband's voice and a definitive slam.

"So you're real? You're the one I talked to back then?" I laughed and said it definitely was me and I definitely did exist.

"I thought you were an Angel." As she explained it I appeared from out of nowhere with no vehicle, told her just what she needed at the time she needed it, and vanished without a trace.

Captain Brindel was forthright and straightforward. In my view he was a hero who was scapegoated and the blame for the incident lay elsewhere not higher up the chain of command. They were rebuilding their life with faith and courage that resurrections happen not only in heaven but on earth as well.

And sometimes with a help from an angel. "Thank you for looking after my wife when I wasn't here" he stated with the matter of fact manner of a man used to leading and appreciating decisive action in a crisis.

I thought of an Irish American naval captain who like Brindel lost part of his crew in a fiery naval disaster where the blame was open to national debate.

"On Earth," John F. Kennedy once said: "God's work must truly be our own." IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



No Man in a Balloon Irish American Hall of Famer for 2013 Daniel Patrick Moynihan:

This is Hall of Fame Season—late spring and early summer. The year is building steam for the long hot summer and our fall harvest of laborious events and renewed surprises. Schools, hospitals, parishes and charitable organizations broadcast the lists of people to be honored for contributions to specific missions in celebration of the years to come as much as our glorious pasts.

Honoring personal achievement is fitting and necessary. Recognition of valor, charity, dedication and piety hold ideal behavior up to one and all, especially the young. Leo will have had its Hall of Fame dinner, by the time this scribble reaches readers of discerning good taste. The Chicago Catholic League will honor its 100 years of scholastic athleticism shortly and the Irish American Heritage Center will honor its 2013 Hall of Fame class on June 1st.

These days it seems that every lazy, selfish, loud, and petty broken-soul with an agent, a lawyer, or an opportunity somehow manages to be held up as someone to admire. Valor, Dedication, Piety and above all Charity have become testament to behavior that deserves ridicule. Heroes must be clay-footed weaklings. Losers must have some spark genuine . . . something.

The people who somehow make the fabulous lists to the broader public tend to be persons one could, or should never count upon for even the most minor of responsibilities. The narrower the focus of attention due an honorific, the better the candidate seems as a person.

The Irish American Hall of Fame awardees are wonderful. The choice of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the last true

Democrat in my opinion, is most fitting. Senator Moynihan is full package—scholar, wit, patriot of the first order, bartender and pious Catholic. Unlike the Celtic Blood-Lite politicians today (Durbin, Leahy, Biden and IL Governor Quinn), Senator Moynihan could never reconcile his political aspirations with the dowager infanticides of Planned Parenthood. Nor, would the strategic necessities and fashionable leftist narratives, allow this Navy veteran to parse the Jew-hating terrorists of Third World oil-producers and dim-witted Irish American exceptionalism.

We will not see his like elected to office by the Democrats ever again, nor will his valor, dedication, charity and above all piety, gain national recognition, let alone honor. David Weiner will be sanitized and lionized once again, just as Elliot Spitzer has been, long before Daniel Patrick Moynihan is held up as a man to admire and emulate. Original thinkers and persons of conscience need not apply. Instead, a balloon-head who could not find a Chinaman on 22nd Street, because of the dictates and dogma that plays at diversity is the preferred public patsy foisted on the governed. They balloonists blessed without the basics of awareness—self, or place. They are meant to drift and sway in the breezes blown by group thought and strategic larceny.

We the people only become outraged long after we have been looted by the likes of Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Governor Blagojevich Novocain our memories from recollections that the shower of bastards how cowed us into voting for no talent grifters time and again are yet prominent in our thoughts and fine feelings.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan was

no Man in a Balloon. He was a man at home with himself, who was not ashamed to tend bar while attending Harvard on the G.I. Bill much less of the simple faith of his Baptism. Moynihan was a public intellectual who never really punched too hard against Roe V. Wade, but railed against partial birth abortion with the intensity of the man who condemned the United Nations cynical and oafish labeling of "Zionism is racism." The man who said, "A person is allowed his own opinion, but certainly not his own facts" condemned this savagery for what it is—infanticide. Heaven forbid!

Other Democrat politicians who claim Catholic as their religion could never allow such conviction to voice, let alone public vote. They are all too happy to drift in and on the hot air that gives them sail, once sale has been rung up. We are all too happy to blow their empty engine, until something—a grand jury, a Federal indictment, or badly parsed remark about a woman's gams or a gent's glandular preferences collapses the canvas.

A man such political parts in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted,

"Excuse me, can you help me? I promised Boss Terry C. of Personal PAC Illinois that I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am. I know I am not over Lake Michigan—did you know that I made a treaty with Mexico?"

The man below replied, "Yes, yes I did, Gov. That should get the old Milwaukee SS Badger beached for fair. Glad you and Senator Dick are one the case getting attention for that old coal burner. To your query, Governor, you are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the Leo practice field between Morgan and Sangamon. You are between 41.75059 degrees north latitude and 87.6466 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.

"Nope, but most of family are

in Local 399," replied the man, "How did you come to that conclusion, Guv?"

"Well," answered the executive balloonist in purple cravat, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help so far."

The man below responded, "You must be Governor of Illinois."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or

where you are going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise that you have no idea how to keep (Boss Terry C. will be most disconcerted to point of a snit, I'll hazard), and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, and somehow, it's my fault."

Well, The Man in the Balloon did make a treaty with Mexico about cleaning up Lake Michigan. You can not say that about Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Would An Additional 15 Minutes Improve Your Life?

You bet it would. It will allow you to be on time for meetings more often than in the past. It will provide you with enough "cush" time so you don't have to speed like a lunatic to make the opening curtain. It will also provide you

with some time to "center" yourself before an important interview, sales call or basketball game. Recently, my wife and I were driving with our daughter, Erynn, to her basketball game. The conversation was lively and Erynn was

not familiar with the area, so she missed a turn. She quickly realized her mistake and got to the gym, but the delay cost her all of her stretch and warm up time. After the game she said that she had not played as well as she normally does because she had felt rushed into the game. I am sure that we see such occurrences all the time.

I continue to be intrigued by our failure to give ourselves enough time for very basic things. It's simply a bad business practice. Many of us will set our alarm clocks for the latest possible moment for it to awaken us in the morning. We all know people who are constantly late for meetings and then they waste more time telling us in some detail about the "idiot driver" who held them up. "I would have been on time except for that ambulance that screwed up traffic on the expressway." Yeah, if it wasn't for that, he would have been on time. Think of the latecomers coming into the theater 5-10 minutes after the picture or the performance has started stumbling down your aisle and over (or on) your feet. Perhaps if they had given themselves that additional 15 minutes they would have arrived at the appropriate time.

I recall reading that Coach Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers

was a real stickler with his players on matters of timeliness. His attitude was summarized this way: practice starts at 10 o'clock, which means even if you were here by 9:45 you were late. You should have been here at 9:30, so I would know you are really committed to this team and its goal. When was the last time you were more than a few minutes early for any gathering?

Social scientists say that it is common place for the average citizen to show up just before "things" start. Many of us believe it makes no sense getting someplace too early; you only have to wait anyway. We have all heard the famous motto of every army in the world, hurry up and wait.

Come on, what difference does 15 minutes make? I am convinced that tardiness is seen as disrespectful to the person you are meeting. That's true, even if you didn't intend to be late; as the bumper stickers say, stuff happens. Some people are simply time challenged. My suggestion is that they find a way that will remind them of their commitment. If you are late for a meeting, you probably have annoyed the other person, and that may adversely affect the tone and possibly the substance of the meeting.

Here are a few thoughts about how to minimize the annoyance factor. Take the phone number of the person you are meeting and call them once you realize that you are going to be late; don't wait until the last moment to call. Yes, we live in a world of GPS and google maps with directions, but you still need to scope out your meeting place. I believe these systems are based on the premise of smooth sailing.

They do not include a "rush" because of that long funeral procession of cars delaying your passage. As you prepare for any meeting or phone call, develop a simple outline or agenda for it. If you show that you are prepared for the meeting, others are probably more likely to listen. Most people will be appreciative of the time you took. Think of some meetings that you have attended and I'm sure you'll be able to recall presenters who had not done their homework. In other words, they did not show concern or respect for the attendees and the value of their time.

Some people say they are always late and their friends know that and plan accordingly. But when you are meeting with a new acquaintance for the first time, your reception might not be so pleasant. All of us seem to believe that our time is precious, otherwise why are so many of us glued to our electronic devices constantly? Apparently we are failing to realize how we have wasted the other person's time. BTW. Always confirm the time and place of your meeting.

A final thought about a way of dealing with late arrivals: start the meal or meeting twenty minutes after the scheduled meeting time, with no apology for the still missing person.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: If you don't follow your dreams, then you will work for someone who did. Gerald Moriarty

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: jamesfitz37@hotmail.com. Web -site: jamesfitzgerald.com. Phone: 630-684-2204.



Michael McElroy, (c) host of "Community In Focus" recently interviewed Michael and Bernadette Garrison Barrett, husband and wife attorneys at Barrett & Sramek Law Firm. Michael Barrett is a Personal Injury Attorney, and Bernadette Garrison Barrett is a Divorce Attorney. The show airs on Friday, April 26th at 5 p.m. and again at noon on Sunday, April 28th on Senior Network Cnn TV, Channel 19. McElroy is Past National Commander of Catholic War Veterans, U.S.A.

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Comprehensive, Common Sense and Congress

These three words are a good summary of what the so-called "gang of eight" in the US Senate, wish to achieve in their new Immigration bill. The bill was to have been released by early April, but as I go to press, it has been delayed once again. Firstly, by a push to pass some gun restrictions legislation in the Senate and secondly, a group of

ly true of congressional staffers, as they have a very high turnover rate. I constantly get the reply, "really" when I point out that 20% of the undocumented are non Latino and that up to 50,000 Irish are part of the mix.

It is also worth pointing out, that, politicians are very susceptible to the winds of public opinion. And if recent trends are

47% who back it. Yet when told that the pathway to citizenship would require paying fines and back taxes, as well as passing a security-background check, support grows – with 76% of total respondents and even 73% of Republicans backing the path. Also in the poll, a majority of all respondents (54%) agree with the statement that immigration adds to the nation's character and strengthens it by bringing diversity and talent to the country."

Folks who read and listen to issues beyond "sound bytes", "get it", for the majority, the time for study and familiarity with the subject is "enough already". The time has come for our elected officials, to move on C.I.R. grasp the issue with its various parts and let's get this done.

The strength of group work

Once a US president went out to see the situation of the city. Somewhere a group of soldiers was trying to lift a large branch of a tree from their way.

The Corporal was standing by their side instructing them to work harder, but they were unable to move it.

A stranger was riding on his horse and he observed what was going on. He said to the Corpo-

Republican members who wish to "slow down" the process, so that in the words of one source, "our people can be afforded the time they need to study the issues involved."

The reason given for "slowing down" the process is, that many member in the Senate and The House, were not elected in 2007 when Congress last made a serious attempt to fix the problem.

As one who has been involved with the issue since 2005, I can attest to the need to educated members and staff after each election cycle. This is particular-

taken into consideration, then, the latest polls once again, show a growing number across the political spectrum are in favor of dealing with undocumented immigrants in a positive way. The latest poll, from NBC/Wall Street Journal shows, "64% of all respondents say they favor allowing undocumented immigrants to have the opportunity to become legal American citizens. That includes 82% of Latinos, 80% of Democrats and 54% of political independents supporting a path to citizenship. But 51% of Republicans oppose it, versus



An Immigrant's Musings

By Fr. Michael Leonard

ral – "if you help them they will be able to move it. Why don't you help them?"

The Corporal replied – "That is not my job, I am the Corporal. It is their work, they should do it."

The stranger did not hesitate a moment, immediately he dismounted from his horse, and helped the group of the soldiers to move that log.

This additional strength helped them to move the log. After moving it, the stranger mounted his horse and said to the Corporal – "Next time you

need to move some heavy thing and you need a help, call for the Commander-in-Chief" and went on his way.

It was then that the men realized that the stranger was none other than George Washington – the first President of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of the army.

Author Unknown

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

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Mo Dailey's: Proud Irish Pub in a Proud Irish Neighborhood



In the heart of the Northwest side, near the commuter train to downtown, is Mo Dailey's, a fine Irish pub/restaurant that is a testament to Sean Dailey's dad, Mo, a Chicago policeman, and other fine firefighters and policemen who have protected the city of Chicago.

Irish American News caught up with Sean just before the madness of St. Patrick's Day to find out how his first year in business went.

Cliff: So tell me about Mo' Dailey's and who you're honoring.

Sean: I guess the whole idea of getting involved in the bar industry started 5 or 6 years ago. Knowing people and friends in the industry, knowing the culture, especially in Edison Park and Norwood Park, having grown up here, and having roots in Chicago - my mom and dad both grew up on the west side - I had the idea of opening our own family establishment. We like the idea of getting people together, liking the whole social scene of the Irish culture, going out to bars, meeting new friends, experiencing good times with current friends and family.

It's always been kind of a cultural thing, which I think is common with Irish families in Chicago. There's always something interesting that happening.

We've tried to really identify our market and try to give customers a product they will enjoy, for example, a bar like this. Knowing the demographic and geographic areas. Identifying with people from where I grew up and where we live was important to us. Knowing that not everybody is a CEO of a company but still wants to go out and have a good time.

Spending time in a lot of differ-

ent bars, we've put in a lot of homework, taking ideas, and coming up with a great design which I take pride in. I lived in Ireland when I was in college and going to the bar and picking out things as a collective group and actually putting that into one place, in a place like Norwood park that doesn't really have a place like Mo Dailey's, and giving them a down-town product.

For example, attention to detail, making sure the highest quality of craftsmanship was used, but also having a comfortable feel. I try to



have as much detail as possible for people to enjoy and if they came here for the first time, they wouldn't see all the detail that was put into it. We wanted to identify with the area. In today's economy we want people to come out and have a good experience, have a nice meal, have some drinks, and not break their budget. That was another challenge. Getting high quality food but trying to keep the price range lower. I think we did a really good job of it.

Like any business, we got feedback from our costumers which turned out wasn't just the neighborhood and Norwood Park, it reached out to Edison Park. We began to compete with some of these suburbs and different areas that have established themselves. People were willing to give us a chance and now we find with their input we're able to change our menu, and customize our specials to what they want. We have an ear open to what they want. Craft beers is a trend so we're developing a whole new craft line of beers here.

We like to get involved in school sports teams, and donating money

to schools. A great side effect of this is that people are coming to us for private events. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce and coordinated a Norwood Park Fest, which I think was under developed for a long time. This past year, I was able to be involved and it really was a great experience. Last year we opened less than a month before the Northwest Side Irish Parade, and we were able to have a great outing where families were involved. This year we turned the celebration into

a two day family festival event. We had live bands, Irish dancers, face painting, and we had a lot of families attending.

Megan: The most important thing to me when taking on this endeavor was community. This neighborhood was tight nit, as it is, it was important to take in what their complaints and concerns are, what their compliments are and utilizing that in how we do business. Customers are what makes the community and Mo Dailey's. We take seriously what they want and what they need.

Sean: If you need to get work done, you should start with people that you know or that are in your community. Not that I've built anything before, this was my project to design it. I found that going out and contracting it myself, would be more financially viable for us than finding someone that might not be as passionate about the project. It was a great experience, with not a lot of mistakes. We kept a tight budget, a tight time line and the great thing about it was that I got to choose our contractors. My electrician was Daley Electric, my dad's brother. Every trade that we

needed, were first sought out by people that were in the industries in this area. If there were something people couldn't provide, I would have to branch out. I spent about three years drawing this place up. Again, we asked people in the area what they wanted and all the feedback I got was something comfortable but nice.

Megan: Our competition have been wonderfully supportive, and we're lucky we wouldn't have to call them competition. We're all excited to start this up together and

who he was, where his background is from, and proud to be a Chicago Policeman for 33 years. He loved this city. When he retired he was a commander. Very proud to be an Irishman, proud to be a Police man and proud to be a Marine. He died 7 years ago in January. He was an all around great man and would have been proud of this. We laugh about napkins, we built a home in Galena IL, and the blueprint was drawn on a napkin.

Sean: Bar napkins come in handy!

build this neighborhood up again.

Sean: Another concept that enticed us to pick this specific location was the Chamber of Commerce and Aldermen ????? who really wanted to build Norwood Park. We were on of the first anchors to get in and really help start up that process.

Megan: Prior to our license, they hadn't released a liquor license in 40 years.

Sean: We put our heart and soul into what we thought people would like and we're still doing it. We're all hands on. Coming down to the name and "emotional" part of the place, my mom would be better at explaining the history behind everything and Mo Dailey, our dad.

Cliff: Hello Mrs. Dailey. Tell us about Mo.

Mrs. Dailey: He was probably one of the friendliest, most sincere people you would have met. He had that outgoing personality. He always thought of someone else before himself. I think he would be very proud of this. We had business from the time we were married, always taking on a new challenge. Mo was very proud of

Mrs. Dailey: We thought about opening a business out there as well, so when he retired, we spent a lot of time out there building a home. He was a guy that was always planning and looking to see if he make a place better. Everyone in Galena knew him.

Megan: He was very well loved. Even now, people come in constantly that were associate with him. They loved him and often cry because of all the pictures along the hallway or his uniform or just the name itself. He's not forgotten.

Sean: I try to pass on to people, no matter what position you're in, true people like people. Everyone is a human being. Just because you got lucky or made the right moves to get in the position of authority or are the boss, you're still a human being, so don't forget that. That's just how it is. No one is perfect.

Sean: Even backing up farther, my Uncle Jimmy, her brother, and my Dad met in the Marine Corps. That's how my parent's met.

Mrs. Dailey: The family has always been in the civil service. We used to laugh about it because the younger ones were policemen

Continued to next page

and the older ones were firemen. Even though they were "brotherhood", they would always have to say, 'Don't discuss politics. Don't discuss religion.' Kind of a funny friendship rivalry. The uniforms for the fireman here were my Dad, my uncle and my cousin. My brother, my husband and my son were all policemen.

Sean: It seems almost like a natural calling to do this.

Megan: We're very social people.

Sean: It's about going out and making memories. That's pretty much the way we look at it.

Cliff: How many people can your Private Room hold?

Sean: We have 42 seats, but we've had parties from 20-75 people. It's available 7 days a week.

it at all. Our goal was to get as creative as we could, get the highest quality food and focus on the good things on the menu. The main focus was our burgers. Top of the line beef and big portions. We have fish and chips and are now doing an all you can eat fish fry on Friday's because people really like our fish. Pulled pork is another big seller. Our salads are great.

We are focused on our food. Keeping it interesting, live entertainment, getting involved with our community. Supporting from police to the fireman, to schools and church groups. We have a church group that comes in here once a month called, God Talk, who are working with us right now to design beer coasters with

come in during the summer, we open up the patio and put up umbrellas on all the tables.

Sean: We definitely tried to think it through. We do get many families that come in here. Our new specials coming out, as of next week, Saturday and Sunday from 11am-6pm is half price kids menu. Save families some money so they can still go out and have a good time.

Mrs. Dailey: We support sports here. The biggest TV that I know of on the market, is ours. It's an 80 inch TV. We have 47 other TVs in here as well if you like sports!

Sean: We like to show a little appreciation. For our one year anniversary, we gave away draft beer for 2 hours and had a band. Saves them a little bit, we got to



We work with each individual party to customize what they want and cater to their needs. We have different party packages. We're open 11am-2am, except Saturday, we're open til 3am.

Megan: We have a good mix of people come in. Lots of diversity. From Toys to Tots, to bikers, to campaigning events.

Sean: It's evolving and still growing. Friday night we have a DJ now and every Saturday night we have live entertainment. It always changes. From blues, to country to rock covers. Different genres to keep it interesting. Starting on Saturday's around 9pm.

Cliff: The food, how did you get it to where you wanted it

Sean: We went through purveyors. Again, a lot of it was feed back from professionals in the bar industry. We're still trying to perfect it. Our food purveyor, luckily, I've known for years. What I first sat down with him, I told him we're not going to have low-quality food. If we're going to have low-quality food, we might as well not even sell

our logo and the church's logo on it. They've been great.

The other thing too, Cliff, our name right away comes across as super Irish. I like that and I am proud of that. I don't want to deter customers and I don't want to make it overbearingly an Irish pub. The real concept was making it more of a rustic-American feel. A lot of the feedback I got was kind of a lodge feel.

Mrs. Dailey: A lot of families

give back, and had fun with it. We had a customer appreciation party and had a holiday party around Christmas time. Not everyone has a large family like us, so I think it's important to identify who your patrons are and take care of them when you can.

Megan: It's making them feel like this is their home away from home. We run it for them. They are the neighborhood, they are what makes us.



For several years Ernie has worked on the float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by the Irish Heritage Center.

He has walked in the parade with the float many, many times. He is usually at the Center after the parade. This year he brought his daughter, and his new grandson, Nolan Dougherty.

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Tom Boyle



remembered.

World War II had its signature songs. The Korean War gave us a lot of hokey country and western songs like "Dear John." The Viet Nam

War brought a lot of anti-war protest songs. Along came the Beat generation, acid rock, and the drug culture was born. Sergeant Barry Sadler sang "The Ballad of the Green Berets." Peter Paul and Mary gave us "Where Have all the Flowers Gone."

What strikes me as odd is there are no songs that come to mind from the war in Iraq or in Afganistan, but they just don't come to mind let alone tug at your heart. Maybe if you were smoking Hashish and roasting marshmallows over a camel dung campfire you could be listening to songs like "Dress Blues," "Shock and Awe," "Hell, Heaven." Ever heard of them?

Take a little time, go to the parade, visit the cemetery, bring flowers and flags for the graves and say a prayer that the misguided war in Afganistan will end soon.

I as always will remember my childhood friend, Captain James P. Mulroy, USMC, my uncle William Boyle U.S. Army, WO Jimmy Donohue U.S. Army, PFC Mike Bryant USMC and all those named on the Vietnam wall.

How Oft Has the Banshee Cried

By Thomas Moore

How oft has the Banshee cried!
How oft has death untied
Bright links that Glory wove, Sweet
bonds entwined by Love!

Peace to each manly soul that sleepeth
Rest to each faithful eye that weepeth
Long may the fair and brave
Sigh o'er the hero's grave!

We're fallen on evil days!
Star after star decays,
Every bright name that shed
Light o'er the land is fled,
Dark falls the tear of him that mourneth
Lost joy, or hope that ne'er returneth;
But brightly flows the tear
Wept o'er a hero's bier.

Quenched are our beacon lights-
Thou, of the Hundred Fights!
Thou, on whose burning tongue
Truth, peace and freedom hung!
Both mute - but long as valor shineth,
Or mercy's soul at war repineth,
So long shall Erin's pride
Tell how they lived and died.

Piping It In

Jack Baker



This month witnesses the release of what has to be considered the most ambitious CD in recent memory. The CD is called "Deep is the Well" and it comes to us from Kevin O'Donnell, an artist we have unfortunately not heard much from in recent years. Kevin was the lead singer of the Irish American folk group Arranmore and it was his butter smooth baritone that most of us remember when we remember that band. After a 15 year hiatus from playing Irish music, Kevin has released this masterwork which

plows new ground on a number of levels. Much of Irish music deals with the upheaval of coming to a new land but seldom is anything heard of the subsequent generations and what happened to them on their journey toward the American dream. Kevin has dealt with

this omission by creating a fictional Irish American family and detailing the struggles of not only the first to come over from the old country but of those generations that followed and their adventures in America's story. The history of the Fagan family from 1837 through today is the story of many of us whose ancestors arrived here awhile back.

Produced by Irish music legend Maurice Lennon, the CD features the musical talents of Maurice, Jim DeWan, Finbar Furey, Larry Gray, Kathleen Keane, Bill Lamphier, John Rice, John Williams, Jessica Willis, Haley O'Donnell and, of course, the majestic voice of Kevin O'Donnell. Three years Kevin labored on this masterwork, writing all the songs and crafting the story through the song. So here is the story of the Irish American family,

their adventures, their heartaches, their triumphs. I can safely say, from experience, that the more you listen to this recording, the more you'll be drawn into the stories Kevin tells here. In the extensive liner notes, in addition to complete lyrics, is a Fagan family tree to help you place the songs and stories historically. I have seldom seen a CD that was such an artistic whole, that told such a comprehensive and complete story and that held my interest so completely.

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Get yourself a copy and let master storyteller Kevin O'Donnell weave his magic around you. It will be a trip you'll remember.

Some people refer to Battlefield Band as the Rolling Stones of Scottish music. They have been

a force in Scottish Music since the 70's and have produced dozens of superb CDs, one of which, "Homeground" is on my best 10 ever recordings. Still a force in the music, the band continues to produce intelligent, well-crafted CD and their newest, "room enough for all" is no exception. The band now consists of Mike Katz, long time piper and doubling now on bouzouki, smallpipes, whistle, bass, tenor guitar and guitar, Alasdair White on fiddle and tenor

guitar, Sean O'Donnell, vocals and guitar and Ewen Henderson on fiddle, vocals, pipes, smallpipes, whistle and piano. I'd hate to be the roadie for this band with all those instruments, but if you've seen them play, you know they put them to good use. I must say that this CD is one of the best they've done

in quite awhile. The music, as always, is stunningly performed but the vocals and choice of songs make this recording truly notable. I suppose I'm a wee bit jaded but I find it takes a lot to impress me these days but I am impressed with this CD. I have always been impressed with the way they seamlessly blend the pipes in with the rest of the music but now, with two pipers, it's even better. Even the liner notes are fun and educational, a stroll thru them is like taking Scottish Music 101 for the knowledge they impart. All in all it's a thoroughly enjoyable CD and a fine representation of the best of Scottish Music.

May sees the first of the big Irish music festivals in the Midwest with the Gaelic Park show over the Memorial Day weekend. Had wonderful news today when I heard that Runa would be performing at Gaelic Park this year. I first saw Runa at the Michigan Irish Music Festival last September in Muskegon and I was fairly gobsmacked. Runa is a delight to watch and listen to and I hope everyone who can will get down to Gaelic Park to see them on Memorial Day weekend.

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Terry From Derry

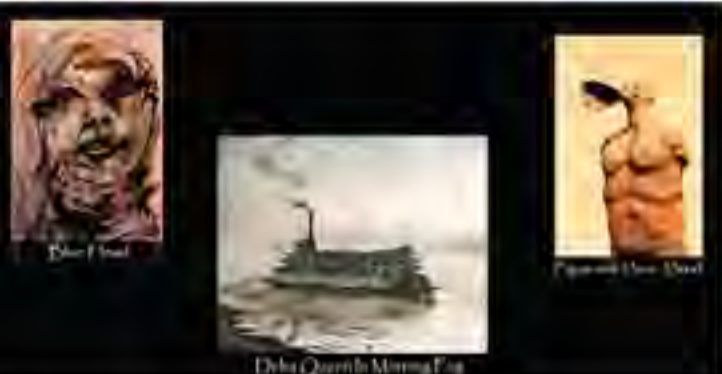
by Terry Boyle



The Ugly Beauty

As someone who is recent to the U.S. (8 years), I have enjoyed visiting different parts of the country. In the last few years I have traveled a lot to Southern

Indiana; Madison in particular, and part of the fun of finding new places is also finding new stories related to the Irish experience. For many people in Ireland, the Irish American experience is sometimes viewed as 'second-hand'; removed from the home place and therefore of less importance. Irish people are used to having Americans research their Irish roots, but it's not often that we, as Irish citizens, look beyond our own shores and see how our fellow countrymen and women have fared elsewhere.



Since moving to the U.S., I am curious as to how the Irish have made their mark in a land that is not their home turf. For instance, even in this little small Indiana town there is a disused railroad built by Irishmen. Once an important link between Madison and Indianapolis, the 19th century construction now lies hidden among the trees, in pieces. When I first discovered this place, I was moved while thinking about how those men were forced to leave their homeland in search of employment. For most of them they would never see Ireland again. They were sev-

ered from family and country. Stories of the Irish Diaspora, such as this one in Madison, continues to stir up my soul, and causes the imagination to wonder what it must have been

like for them. Equally, I enjoy meeting descendants of those early voyagers who sought opportunities deprived to them at home. Getting beyond the stereotype of the Irish cop or bar owner, it's refreshing to see how the Irish have infiltrated, in a positive sense, all sorts of positions and made their mark. Even in a small town like Madison the Celtic love of the arts has made its impression.

Eric Phagan for instance (<http://www.ericphaganart.com/default.html>) has obviously proven himself as a competent artist. His influences, Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon, are clearly seen in his depictions of the human form. Phagan's draw towards the beauty of ugliness is expertly executed even in his most traditional paintings. The conservative realism of an urban landscape is saved from mere commercialism by his inclusion of dark streaks. The paintings become changed, transformed, by these mood-setting lines as we move from the familiar to an uncomfortable psychological space. It is almost as if these streaks expose the soul of the

buildings, the unseen character of the town.

Madison, as with most picturesque towns, is always competing with its postcard image, and the tourist hype. Phagan offers the visitor a more interesting view of the historic city; one that stretches beyond the realm of the 'pretty' and into the dark heart of urban life. However, it is in his depictions of the human form that we see his humour come to the fore. His love of distortion, and the ordinary become intrinsic to Phagan's art.

His man jugs, a deliberate double-entendre, works on so many levels; the body as a vessel of the Holy Spirit, the Egyptian fascination with keeping human organs in jars, and the very basic connection between clay and the creation of man. When it comes to Phagan's love of the grotesque, one senses a reaction against the cult of beauty, the idealization of the perfect body. Against the mass proliferation of the

ideal, we find a dichotomy between what exists as a fantasy, and what is true. In a country where obesity is considered a real problem, magazines, diet businesses, and television continue to dole out plastic, soulless, perversions of our humanity. Phagan's figures are obese, and while the fat obscures their gender, they are a more honest reflection of who we are. He exaggerates the physical form in a playful, irreverent way. In one sense his grotesque forms approach the human body with levity of a man who thinks beyond the physical container.

We may live in a body that is constantly changing but we are not simply flesh. Much like the historic buildings in Madison, the body may never be postcard perfect. It deteriorates with age. But it contains the soul or the sprit of who we are. As Phagan puts it:

Expressive forms of raw textures and torn surfaces create a timeworn, fatigued appearance

that make an offering of the validations of age.

The preoccupation with the grotesque is inherent to how the artist sees the unusual, the quirks, and the eccentricities that make us who we are.

I have always been interested in the unusualness of the objects that surrounded me, an unusualness that is not commonly seen as beauty. People (as objects), places, dreams, and memories, grow in beauty as they develop characteristics of time or age, and this progress captures my imagination.

Phagan offers us another way of seeing ourselves. He invites us to be repelled, to be uncomfortable, but, as he puts it, to 'grow in beauty'. He invites us to laugh at ourselves, enjoy our humanity, and not lose our sense of reality. We are more than flesh and blood, even if our flesh is more than we think it should be. The humour alone in these pieces is very Irish, self-deprecating, and profoundly earthy.

J



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Irish American Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2013 to Be Inducted

By **Tim Moran**

Even with greats such as Vin Scully, Connie Mack, Nolan Ryan and Big Ed Walsh already enshrined into the Irish American Baseball Hall of Fame, Shaun Clancy, president of the Hall of Fame, says the 2013 class may be the most special to him. "I am very excited personally about this year's class," Clancy told the Irish American News. "It is special because of the relationships I have developed with these inductees personally."

The five inductees of the 2013 Hall of Fame class include former player Rusty Staub, Chicago White Sox third base coach Joe

the Hall that is only five years old. "I was surprised at the excitement all of them had when they heard they would be enshrined," Clancy said. "Rusty (Staub) has a prior commitment, but it will be great to see four of the guys there." "It's going to be a special day," he added.

Clancy, a native of Cavin County in Ireland, is the founder of the Irish American Baseball Hall of Fame that is located at Foley's, a bar he owns in New York. He says the Hall of Fame, which debuted in 2008, is a way to combine two of his loves: the game of baseball and the Irish



Dan O'Shaughnessy

heritage. "We have inducted umpires, college coaches, and groundskeepers, and have covered every possible gamut of baseball," Clancy said. "We are raising awareness of baseball in Ireland. It's still in its infancy, but while some haven't heard of us - a lot have because of the caliber of those we've inducted."

In addition to the ones mentioned above, legendary manager John McGraw and actor Kevin Costner are also among the list of 18 prior inductees. About the 2013 inductees: "Super Joe" McEwing is a popular former utility player that played a vital role on the New York Mets' 2000 National League Championship squad. Rusty Staub became the first player since Ty Cobb to hit a home run as a teenager and as



Rusty Staub

McEwing, longtime Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley, Hall of Fame baseball writer Bill Madden of the New York Daily News and Dan Shaughnessy, an award-winning columnist for the Boston Globe. Four of the five inductees will be present at Foley's NY Pub and Restaurant in New York City on May 7, when they are officially enshrined into



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a 40-year-old. He is also the only player in baseball history to eclipse 500 hits with four different MLB teams (Houston Colt 45's/Astros, Detroit Tigers, New York Mets and Montreal Expos). Peter O'Malley is the former president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, leading the team to five National League pennants and two World Series championships from 1970 to 1988. Bill Madden is a New York Daily News sports writer who has covered more than 30 World Series in his lifetime and authored a number of books. Dan Shaughnessy has also authored a number of books while working for the Boston Globe, where he earned fame as an award-winning columnist.

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



This month's senior group meetings

Senior groups take place at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details of senior group meetings this month. 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, 9th May 2013 – Immigration Reform

Immigration reform is a real hot button topic at the moment and there have been many crucial developments towards comprehensive immigration reform in recent times. This week we are joined by Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's own Breandan Magee who has been keeping a very close eye on the whole issue and will give us an update on where the immigration reform movement is at currently.

Thursday, 23rd May 2013 – Sleep on It

Regardless of age, sleep is an important factor in over health and wellbeing. However, lot of people have a hard time getting the sleep they need to live productive, energetic lives. Today, we are joined by a representative from Swedish Covenant Hospital who will help us to understand sleep and sleep related issues a little better, while also providing some useful tips on how we can all get the quality sleep we need.

Gaelic Park

Wednesday, 1st May 2013 – Make Your Money Go a Little Further

The Chicago Utility Board is a not for profit organization that represents the interests of residential utility customers throughout the state. We will be joined by one of their representatives who will explain the work they do on our behalf to ensure fair utility prices and tell you how they can help you if you are having difficulties

with your utility provider. We will also learn ways in which we can be more energy efficient and save money on each of our utility bills.

Wednesday, 15th May – 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.

Get on Board – CIIS is now a certified SHIP Counseling Site!

Medicare is a federally administered health insurance program for qualifying individuals aged 65 and over, as well some other younger individuals who are disabled. The program helps almost 50 million people get the health care they need. Although Medicare provides a great service to seniors it is a vastly complex system that leaves many confused about their medical entitlements.

Just when you think you really understand Medicare and how it affects you, it changes! Each year there are invariably a series of changes to the Medicare system that create further confusion for senior. Navigating this vast system is a daunting challenge for many so in order to assist seniors to better understand Medicare the Illinois Department of Insurance created the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). SHIP offers free health insurance counseling to seniors. The SHIP program partners with community based organization to extend their reach throughout the community. SHIP recruits and trains volunteers and the community partners provide a physical space where the counseling takes place, as well as take care of the administrative aspects of service provision. CIIS has recently become a certified SHIP counseling site. We had a staff member take the 5 day SHIP training and subsequently pass the certification test. Anyone with questions about

Medicare or their options can contact CIIS at our office number – 773-282-8445.

Top Ten Money Saving Tips for Seniors

April was financial literacy month and to help seniors make the most of their income the National Council on Aging compiled the following list of money saving tips.

1. Current Expenses

Take the time to compile all of your current obligations (supplemental health insurance, prescription drug insurance, life insurance, etc.) and examine if you have the most cost-effective plan for you and/or if all plans are still relevant. Consult with a trusted information source before terminating plans.

2. Health Insurance

If you're enrolled in Medicare and have limited income and assets, you may be able to put over \$100 back in your monthly Social Security check and minimize your premiums and co-pays by learning more about Medicare Savings Programs. There are four different Medicare Savings Programs that can help with Part B premiums and other costs. Each program has a different income and resource eligibility limit.

3. Prescription Drugs

If you qualify, Medicare's Extra Help and local prescription drug assistance programs can help you cut your medicine costs.

4. Property Taxes

Legally whittle down your annual tax bill with help from local abatement, circuit rider, or work-off programs. On average, you can save \$500-\$2,000 annually with this assistance.

5. Phones

In many states, individuals over a certain age qualify for a free cell phone plan. Consider switching from a land line to a free mobile phone. Lifeline also offers a discount on local phone services for qualified individuals. Each state has its own rules.

6. Volunteering / Community Service

Get paid to give back—Senior Corps and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provide paid stipends for service.

7. Use Your Home to Stay at

Home™

If you own your home, it's your biggest asset. Learn about timely and appropriate ways to leverage your home equity to stay independent.

8. Senior Discounts

Many retailers offer discounts to older customers on certain days of the week. Consider making all your purchases on that day, so you can receive an additional discount.

9. Estate Planning

"Must have" legal documents include a will for property distribution decisions, a living will for health care decisions, and a durable power of attorney to designate a personal representative in the event of incapacity. Also, consider a written plan for distributing untitled personal property (e.g., jewelry, furniture, and collectables) to heirs or charitable organizations to reduce confusion and family conflicts.

10. More Help

Find out what other public benefits you may be eligible for by getting a free online screening through NCUA's BenefitsCheck-Up® service. Or find help in your area by visiting Eldercare Locator, a service of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Info at 773-282-8445.

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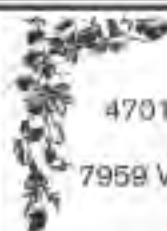
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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Thatcher and... The Politics of Forgiveness?

I would like to have gotten through this column without mentioning her at all. After all, I haven't consciously thought of her in a long time. There's no real reason that I should. But her funeral is still some days away as I write this; and because Baroness Margaret Thatcher was such a gigantic figure on the British stage, on the global stage—and for reasons that many readers of this magazine will recognise and remember all too clearly—on the Irish one, it is impossible to ignore her.

Actually, scratch that second sentence. I suppose that I did think of her relatively recently. That was when I had a wasted evening at the cinema to see the film of her life, *The Iron Lady*, where she was played—or was

superbly impersonated, depending on your point of view—by actress Meryl Streep.

What a waste of a couple of hours that was. I thought that I would be seeing something that touched on some of the main episodes in her political life. Instead it seemed to be about an elderly lady in varying stages of dementia whilst hallucinating about her late and loved husband. That huge and damaging strike by the miners; the Brighton bombing; the war in the Falklands and the sinking of the 'Belgrano'; all these and many other aspects of her years in power were rushed through in order to get on to more scenes of her looking baffled and bewildered. Perhaps that was what the film-makers intended but I doubt that it satisfied anyone who wanted to see just what made her tick.

Kathleen Meany to be Honored 5-9

Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be honored Thursday, May 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Parthenon Restaurant, 314 S. Halsted Street.



Of the Republicans that I have talked to in the Galway area, most have been astonishingly non-triumphalist; and I think that it is a sign of a really growing maturity here that we have not felt the need to 'celebrate' the death of an 87-year-old woman. Then again, the more cynical side of me recognises that she was a great help to them. Indeed, back in the day, along with internment her utter contempt for the Irish struggle was just about the best recruiting tool that they could have been handed. And I and many who remember that time can never forget the dismissiveness that she showed to then-Taoiseach Garrett FitzGerald. Nor is there any need to go into her hard heart towards the 1981 hunger strikers, as I'm sure that has been well gone over by now. Others better qualified will have written about that at this stage. I can only recall with outrage the feelings in Limerick (where I was working in a bar at the time) when the news came in that Bobby Sands had died. People talk about remembering where they were when JFK was assassinated or when John Lennon was shot. That's one that many of us will always remember, if only for the

noting that was to follow whilst an intransigent Thatcher sat back and waited for the rest.

I personally cannot think of her with anything but distaste. Her policies devastated and even destroyed too many people close to me for me to feel any particular sadness at her passing. Nor have I ever believed that old saw of John Donne's that "any man's death diminishes me". Of course it doesn't. I've seen a lot of unpleasant people die and certainly have not grieved for them, no more than they would have grieved for me. Why be a hypocrite?

And yet the scenes across the water this week in places like London and Bristol amongst others—and yes, of course, in Belfast—do not encourage me to think more of humanity than I already do. Which isn't much in the first place. People dancing around with placards saying "Burn in Hell"; opening bottles of champagne and cheering; students who weren't even born when she was in power having a shindig in the streets; some things are not right. This behaviour, at a very fundamental level, is just wrong. I wonder if these are the same 'radicals' who find themselves shocked at the appalling images of mad Muslims burning effigies, holding up hate-filled signs and basically looking like demented morons. As regards those students in particular I wouldn't be at all surprised to find a few vegetarians or animal rights activists amongst them. But then, that kind have never really been concerned about human rights unless it's in some country and society far removed from anything that they have to deal with in a real way.

This column, for my own reasons, has often viewed Gerry Adams with a cynical smile. But this week I thought that he could not have caught the tone better. He sympathised with her family—after all, she does have one—whilst never losing sight of what she stood for as regards this country. Yet he was not wallowing in it either. And yes, I know that there are more hard-line Re-

publicans who probably feel that he should have been tougher in his statements; but I don't have much truck with these dinosaurs either. If I thought he was soft on anything it was on the demonstrations of hate cheering that the old woman had died: "It might be understandable at certain level, but that doesn't say whether it should be encouraged or not encouraged."

As I write he has given an interview with 'The Impartial Reporter' in Fermanagh (and don't forget that it was as TD for Fermanagh and South Tyrone that Bobby Sands was elected). He said, in part:

"It isn't up to me to forgive her for what she did to the prisoners; that's up to them and their families. I can forgive her, because I think that we have to be about forgiveness. I can forgive her for anything that was done to me under her rule and I don't have any problem with that—I actually believe in forgiveness."

Again, there are those that will say that Adams has chosen those words carefully for his own ends; and I've no doubt that he has. He is, after all, a politician. Then again, I don't think that they are particularly bad sentiments. As to how he has replied to certain criticisms I really can't fault this at all:

"I think it is a bit rich. I am giving an opinion. I am very conscious that this was another human being. I am very conscious that she was a formidable figure. I think my statement was quite measured."

And I think that Adams was on a hiding to nothing in that it was going to be impossible to please everyone. Thatcher was about as divisive a figure as it is possible to imagine. There are very few who can take a middle ground when it comes to her. It's 'way too soon for that.

However, by the time you read this her funeral will be over. I hope that it went off without incident; and for my own part I don't intend to ever give her another thought.

You can email me at chasbrady7@eircom.net or visit my blog on www.charleybrady.com

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



Boston Bomb murders are part of a contest; "Terrorism?; I'll show you terrorism!" We are sweeping the field; winning by, what? 100 murders to one? -like the Israeli genocidists funded by our taxes.

Obama is out-Bushing Bush's tortures and massacres; doing it in our names and turning the world against us. We remain accomplices unless and until each of us informs the White House and congressmen that their drone-crimes and Guantanamo tortures are not ours. We honorable Americans are not part of their military/industrial/prison complex.

Irish History Falsifiers are at fever pitch. Judging by the number of Big Lie operatives involved, the cover-up of the 1845-1850 removal of Ireland's abundant food is their overriding goal. Above all, they work to keep Irish-America from learning that it was no famine, no natural absence of food. They cannot deny Britain's official records; that sixty-nine British army regiments removed from Ireland's fields, haggards, and packing-houses, at gunpoint, its abundant grains, cured meats and livestock, dairy- and poultry-products, etc., all produced by Irish hands. To learn which British regiment starved your relatives see my www.irishholocaust.org. Because the Big Lie operatives cannot deny those records, they try to bury them under layers of falsehoods.

The First Sign of this new campaign was at Chicago's Irish-American Heritage Center last year. In one room a lecturer declared (despite the readily-available homicide records proving otherwise) that "IRA terrorism" was the main problem during the Six Counties' "troubles." Next up was the once-great Derek Warfield (of the Wolf Tunes). While imparting his weak understanding of Ireland's "famine" Derek declared, falsely, that Ireland's landlords of that time were not English but Irish. Disinforming a large audience about genocidists is a grave wrong, so I had to correct Derek on the spot. Proof that the landlords were English is that the British government bought them out and repatriated them to England; nearly all between 1900 and 1920. My upcoming book contains much more evidence.

An Irish "Famine Tribunal" was held on April 20 & 21 at once-proud Fordham Univ. in NY. Participating academics

had to be willing to cover-up its cause, the Food Removal, at least to acquiesce to its cover-up by others. The "tribunal"'s organizer once led a gang that physically assaulted women in an East Coast city and robbed them of pamphlets they were distributing. The pamphlets were my "The Mass Graves of Ireland: 1845-1850" (now www.irishholocaust.org). One of the attackers informed me later that Gerry Adams had ordered them to stop the distribution. We soon learned that, as part of Adams' sell-out, he abets the "famine" lie.

"Irish" GOVT betrayal of its own people and history is routine. It helped cover for Britain's mass murderers while demonizing Irish patriots. It opposed the innocent Birmingham Six. The NY radio show promoting the "famine tribunal" is funded by three official entities: "Tourism Ireland," "CIE Tours" (Ireland's train/bus system), and "The Gathering" (this year's promotion of visits to Ireland). Illinoisans remember that while lobbying, phoning, and getting tens of thousands of letters signed, and attending hearings for Springfield enactment of the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland, the "Irish" Consul General addressed our legislature in Springfield in our absence. He exhorted our representatives to oppose us all and to vote NO (with Britain). Ultimately, Irish-Illinois defeated the Brits and the "Irish" gov't; by 84 to 14 in the House, and 53 to 2 in the Senate.

Consul General Sheridan, after he gave speeches promoting the notion of "potato famine, I suggested by letter to him that he and I discuss the starvation on Saturday morning radio. He never replied but, as a foreign guest of the United States, he attacked our Constitution by getting the daughter of a radio show host to ban me. Chicago Irish radio, especially Mike

O'Connor when he was active, was essential in getting the MacBride Principles enacted. Such causes are now blocked at those radio stations. (If not, let me know.) Were they still faithfully serving Irish-America their listeners would be informed enough to demand cessation of the criminal abuse of Britain's Irish prisoners in Maghaberry, about Marian Price (and the destruction of her sister Dolours), Martin Corey, about Britain's unprosecuted massacre in Ballymurphy including the murder of Fr. Mullin while on his knees in the street ministering to another dying victim (www.ballymurphy-massacre.com), and all the other still-unprosecuted mass murders by British forces. An informed Irish-Chicago would never acquiesce to the crimes now being perpetrated against the Occupied Irish. Nor would an informed Irish-Chicago have let MI5/FBI Agent Buckley escape prosecution for terrorizing Chicago's Irish; including blaming the IRA for murdering the Langer family (while shielding David Binz who'd murdered them with FBI Agent Lewis' .357 Magnum). Buckley then framed me for it, people I'd never even heard of. Nor would an informed Chicago let MI5/FBI escape prosecution for incarcerating four of us and trying to imprison us for the rest of our lives based upon an evidentiary audiotape that they, MI5/FBI, had criminally fabricated.

Boston College. An informed Irish-Chicago would have gotten our pals to block British murderers in the RUC/PSNI from accessing "troubles" participants' confidential tapes archived in Boston College - at least until RUC/PSNI mass murderers are stripped of their impunity. **Irish-Chicago!** Work awaits! Let's do our parts! Urgent! www.freemarian.co.nr; Also see www.justiceforthecraig.avontwo.com and www.friendsufcolinduffy.com, www.releasemartincorey.com; **WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS?** See www.terrorisminireland.org.

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