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**ian**

June 2013

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and Ireland to Bringing  
Down the Berlin Wall  
and Ending the Cold War*

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SUNDAY

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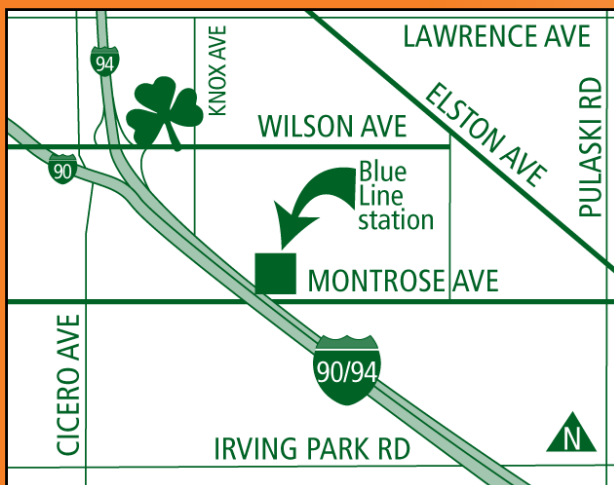
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Gerry Haughey, Teresa Shine & Cara Eady  
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The Larkin and Moran Brothers  
In Spite of Ourselves  
Irish Heritage Singers  
Joe McShane & The Silverbridge Band  
McNulty School of Irish Dance  
Misericordia Heartbreakers & Heartzingers  
Mulhern School of Irish Dance  
Patrick and Karen Cannady & Friends  
Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance  
Tooromeen School of Irish Dance  
Trinity Irish Dancers

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Freckle Contest  
Hooley Hook-up (SINGLES event!)  
Irish Soda Bread Contest  
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## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



### 2011 - 2016: Halfway There

The Government is now over 1800 days in office and is either at or past its half-way point, with an election scheduled, at the latest, for the spring of 2016. While nothing is certain in politics, the history of Irish governments, particularly coalitions, would suggest that a full five year term is unlikely. However, this time may be different. Provided the coalition does not implode, a full or nearly full term seems in its best interests.

Only three governments have actually lasted the full five years, roughly 1800 days plus - De Valera's administration 1938 - 1943, and the two Fianna Fail governments headed by Bertie Ahern from 1997-2007. Some other governments were terminated early, by decision of the Taoiseach - for it is his call - with De Valera, in particular, either tactically astute or just lucky by calling snap elections on three occasions and returning with enhanced majorities each time.

The fate of coalitions involving Fine Gael and Labour have been less than stellar with some collapsing after defeats in the Dail, and none securing re-election. It could be argued that the defeats in 1977 and 1987 were against the background of particularly difficult economic circumstances home and abroad, and that the opposition on both occasions, Fianna Fail, bought the elections, most extravagantly in 1977, undermining public finances for a generation through tinkering with the tax base to win votes.

What chance then for re-election on or before 2016, after the enforced austerity of the present administration, grappling with the disaster inherited from its predecessor? Blaming the last lot will not suffice for an increasingly fickle electorate, with opinion polls demonstrating one consistent trend - the high level of "undecided" voters. The government now "owns" the economic situation and will be judged above all on how it copes with that

situation. It is also likely to be taken to task on its record in fulfilling its election manifesto, where its brave talk of reform will be scrutinised. In either scenario, hanging on offers the best chance.

The first political priority of the government has been to wriggle out from under the Troika, and chalk up that achievement. Indeed at the moment the progress made in this regard represents one of the few fig leaves proffered by Labour over the austerity measures taken to carry out the Troika's ukase. On the present course, if government claims are to be believed, and barring something unforeseen, the Troika's requirements will be met some time next year, whatever about the state of the economy, and Ireland will "regain its economic independence" - code for continuing to borrow to fund the state, but this time on the financial markets.

There are a lot of ifs and pious hopes in this. Last time I commented on the current woes of Labour, getting it in the neck for the necessary but unpopular measures taken to tackle the problem of the current budget deficit. How matters will pan out in the next few months remains to be seen, with a number of factors, not just economic, coming into play. First up will be the showdown with the public sector unions, where the government seems determined to hold firm on securing cuts from July in the public sector pay bill.

At best there will be residual resentment, at worst some industrial unrest, including possible work stoppages.

Apart from the mortgage crisis, where the next six months will show whether the latest sticking plaster approach will work, there remains the possibility of a banana skin on the issue of Abortion, which, in Ireland as elsewhere, continues to generate strong emotions at either extreme, coupled with a more general sense of unease. While there is tacit acceptance in Ireland of abortion as a reality, in the sense that at least 90 women per week giving Irish addresses receive abortions in England, the issue of legislating for abortion domestically, in whatever limited circumstances, is a different matter.

The government is determined to legislate to regularise the constitutional position laid down in the Supreme Court decision in the X case of 1992 which provided for abortion in limited circumstances where there was a real threat to the life of the mother. The battleground is over the inclusion of the threat of suicide, with the Pro-Life lobby arguing strongly against.

As I write, there is a significant clamour for a "free vote" on the issue, as opposed to the strict discipline of the party whip which the government is advocating. A "free vote" would, of course, leave T.D.s prey to heavy pressure from the Pro-Life lobby in particular. Fianna Fail, which has been making a recovery of sorts in the polls, has thus far stayed its hand on the issue. At the very least there will be a number of defections from Fine Gael on the issue. Could the outcome prove worse?

The next economic milestone for the government is the 2014 Budget, set to be announced on

October 15. The talk heretofore has been of two more austerity budgets, for 2014 and 2015, but past half way and with the next election already in view, expect some nuancing on this. There are already hints that, following the deal on debt restructuring secured earlier in the year, and references to better than expected fiscal returns, the government will have some "flexibility" in October, with the figure of one billion euro being bandied about.

The government has been at pains to stress that first call for any spare cash will be job creation or further movement towards plugging the unsustainable level of day to day borrowing, so little relief can be expected for 2014. 2015, however, should present differently. For a start the election will be firmly in everyone's sights, with backbenchers, already worried enough, demanding something positive to offer. To maximise its chances of getting back in the government will have to introduce some sweeteners sufficiently far in advance of any poll for their effects to be felt and to negate the imminent and pending property

and water taxes.

There is another factor also. The Centenary of the 1916 Rising will be on 24 April 2016, i.e. just or close after the next election. There are already articles in the media pointing to that anniversary and posing questions as to how far the ideals of 1916 have been or will be achieved. Even allowing for hyperbole, 2016 will be a watershed, a time for taking stock, and no government will want to be criticised for shortcomings in achieving these ideals.

This "Centenary Factor" - though little talked about now - will certainly come into play in terms of the government's plans as the date nears. On top of the natural desire to secure re-election, there will clearly be a strong desire on the part of the current incumbents to be in power to bask in whatever reflected glory the Rising Centenary generates. It would be bitter sweet indeed to have steered the country out of the economic tsunami only to see a new government strut the stage of the Centenary celebrations. Let us hope, however, that there are no extravagant promises or hostages given to fortune in the process.

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**Irish Books and Plays  
in Review**

Frank West



I enjoy the author's view of life, and wish that I could live like that all the

at the rear.

From the 1690 Battle of the Boyne to modern times, Irishmen have rarely been able to fight for Ireland.

The author explains why Irish soldiers had to join foreign armies. "For hundreds of years Irish soldiers have sought their destiny abroad. Young Irishmen have been hungry for adventure, a self-made fortune or the means to carry on a cause back home.

The horrendous rift caused by differing religious beliefs... encouraged many Irishmen to travel abroad."

Even James Joyce in Ulysses commented on that. "We gave our best blood to France and Spain, the wild geese... and what did we ever get for it?"

The author, Tim Newark, has written many books of military history. He has written book reviews for the "Financial Times," "Time Out," and the "Daily Telegraph." He is a consultant for the History Channel.

Another military historian praises The Fighting Irish: "Ireland has provided some of the world's toughest, bravest, and most dedicated soldiers."

**Books From Ireland**

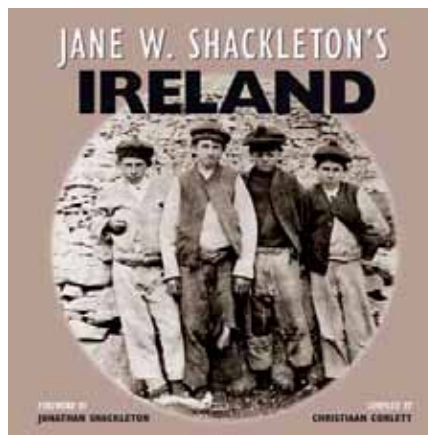
DuFour Editions distributes books from Ireland in the United States.

The variety is astounding. To purchase any of these books for your library; DuFour Editions Inc., PO Box 7, Chester Springs, PA 19425 or call 610-458-5005.

**Jane Shackleton's Ireland**

Edited by Christiaan Corlett, published by the Collins Press and DuFour Editions.

This is a collection of remarkable



photographs of many parts of Ireland in the late 1800's and early 1900's. They were taken by Jane W. Shackleton and show her skill as a photographer and  
*Continued to page 6*

**Cut and Run  
in the Bronx**

By John Liam Shea, Published by 7 Towers Publications

This is a comic novel written about how some police live with the horrific things they routinely see.

They quickly learn to laugh or they would go crazy.

The novel opens when a policeman comes on a scene of hacked up bodies. It was probably done with a machete and



over drug money. But, to the policeman, the motive is unimportant. All he knows is that he has to deal with the bodies. The policeman has to do whatever it takes to maintain his sanity.

He imagines that the bodyless heads talk to him. It is like a scene in a "theater of the absurd" play. But he maintains his sanity and we can laugh.

He finds a baby abandoned in a dumpster. As he wraps it in a blanket he imagines the baby discusses its view of life with him.

When he comes on another scene he sees an eyeball, "rolling its way to a sewage drain. I could go on and on.

The novel made me think of my own family. I grew up in a 'police family' and my police relatives all had and have great senses of humor. They especially liked humor that is wry and sardonic. I suppose that is one of the reasons they can remain on the force.

Even as a young person, I was mystified at how they could deal with the people they did, and then come home and be kind, loving parents.

time.

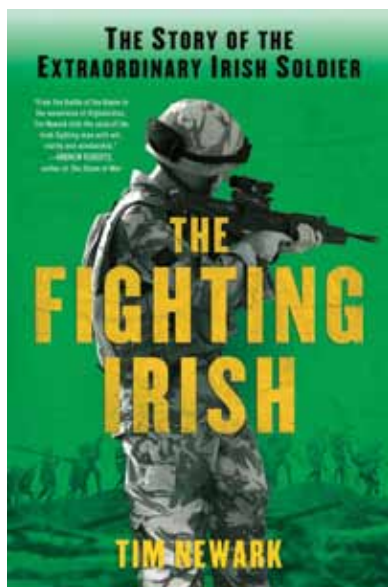
Shea lives in Queens, New York. He is a high school teacher there and has many years of experience. I was a high school teacher too, and learned that a light hearted approach to teaching is best for the children and for the teacher's mental health.

A blurb on the cover has high praise from another author. He says this is "the funniest book since 'A Confederate of Dunces.'" I greatly admire that book and feel the praise is very accurate!

You too will enjoy John Liam Shea's Cut and Run in the Bronx.

**The Fighting Irish:  
The Story of the  
Extraordinary Irish Soldier**

By Tim Newark, St. Martin's Press - Thomas Dunne Books.



"We have seen the backs of the tyrants of our race." Patrick Sarsfield - 1693

Sarsfield was an officer in the army of Louis XIV and this exiled Irishman said this after that army defeated an English army.

This book shows how history should be written: with clarity and enthusiasm. The experiences of Irish soldiers are elegantly presented and often even told by eyewitnesses. The facts are presented so that the reader understands the actions of soldiers in battle. It is refreshing to know that the author is not trying to convince the reader of a certain position. The book is meticulously researched, but the extensive notes and bibliography are placed unobtrusively



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**Save the Date**  
**Will County Celtic Fest**  
**September 14, 2013**

*The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:*

- \* To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage*
- \* To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.*
- \* To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.*

## Calendar of Events



### Jailbreak 7's Rugby Tourney

Join us Saturday, June 8th for some of the best rugby America has to offer! The Irish American Society of County Will and the Shamrocks will host a rugby tournament, Jailbreak 7's, beginning at 9 a.m. and will go until around 3-4 p.m. Join us for a great day of athletics and fun. Location is at the Joliet Park District Inwood Soccer Complex on 640 Mission Blvd., off McDonough, (exit I-80 at Larkin north then turn west/left onto McDonough). Free admission.

### McLean County Bus Trip For Irish History & Antiquing

All are invited to join the Irish American Society of County Will on August 3 as we travel to learn about "The Greening of the Prairie," a special exhibit on Irish immigration and settlement in McLean County. After a visit to the McLean County Museum of

History, we will enjoy a walking tour of unique shops, including antique stores and a wine cellar. The itinerary departs downtown Joliet at 8:15 a.m., arriving for a visit to the Bloomington Farmer's Market. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m., and is included. After a tour of the museum, we will have time to stroll and enjoy the specialty stores. We plan to return by 6 p.m.

The cost is \$45 for members, and \$55 for non-members. It includes bus, lunch, admission to the museum, all taxes and gratuities. Only 55 seats are available.

The registration deadline is July 18. For more information, call Sheila at 815-727-0994 or visit [www.WillCountyCelticFest.com](http://www.WillCountyCelticFest.com).

### Will County Celtic Fest September 14

Kids of all ages are welcome to the 3rd Annual Will County Celtic Fest on Saturday, Sept. 14. There will be a full-day of entertainment, a variety of vendors, delicious food, and plenty of cold beer. Children will go home exhausted after a fun-filled day of activities including a petting zoo, face painting, a bounce house and more. Join us from Noon to 10 p.m. at St. Joe's Park, 1500 N. Raynor Avenue, Joliet. Free parking and entrance are off Theodore Street. Admission is \$5 per person. IASCW members are free. A full schedule of events will be listed on [www.WillCountyCelticFest.com](http://www.WillCountyCelticFest.com).



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PO Box 81 Manhattan, IL 60442

**Books in Review**

*Continued from page 4*

as a person. Shackleton was a member of a famous family of Quaker mill owners. The family home and mill were located near Lucan in County Dublin.

The photos are unusual for the time because they were taken by a female and because she included in them the local people. Shackleton had good relations with the people who lived near the places she photographed.

I found that aspect especially appealing because many of my relatives emigrated during the early 1900's. How did people dress then? What were the hair and clothing styles used then?

Shackleton used many of these photos to illustrate the "lantern slide" lectures she gave. Her notes for these show that the women were attractive and the men were handsome.

Jane Shackleton's photos are collected and shown here for the first time in over a century. Her photos lovingly show Ireland and its people.

**At War with the Empire -Ireland's Fight for Independence**

*Book by Gerry Hunt.*

This is the story of how a small country, but a brilliantly led country, fought a guerrilla war against the huge British Empire.

This "graphic novel" tells the story in a new way. A "graphic novel" uses captivating comic book like pictures to show characters and action.

This 9.5 x 8.5 inch book is filled with vividly colored pictures - and it is historically accurate.

The War for Independence began in 1916, but from 1919 to 1921 it was constant day to day fighting. The book shows Michael Collins saying: "As a military campaign Easter week was a complete shambles. This time we do things differently. We use spies, counter intelligence and we must be ruthless at all times."



The forces of the British Empire were well equipped and the best intelligence agents were brought from the vast reaches of The Empire. This force was led by generals from the Imperial General Staff.

Collins, and his guerrilla army, never flinched in its courageous determination. They fought the British forces to a truce in 1921. Ireland's independence was finally achieved.

**Special People Day**

On Sunday, June 23rd 2013, The Clare Association of Chicago will celebrate the 27th Anniversary of our "Day for Special People" at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. We are very proud to sponsor this day and as in the past, our day will start with 10 am Mass on the Patio, with our

breakfast. Our "special guests" look forward to this event all year in anticipation of their name being called for one of the great prizes such as TVs, DVD players, Stereo equipment, large stuffed animals, tickets to amusement parks, etc.

After the grand raffle, we will play games, which guarantees each special guest four game prizes of their choice from



*The Clare Association of Chicago*



main celebrant being Bishop Frances Kane of Chicago. A delicious Irish buffet breakfast will follow, as always there is no charge to our "special guests," and a nominal fee charged to all others.

The main highlight of our day, the Grand Raffle will follow the

our prize tables, which are jam packed with great prizes. These prizes consist of small radios, CD players, tees, hats, stuffed animals, DVDs, CDs, etc.

Anyone wishing to register a "special guest" must register up to June 17th. To register call Maureen Bennett 708/301-9773.



**Free Citizenship Workshop**

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*Ms. Patty Fadden is pleased to announce the marriage of her daughter, Catherine Fadden to Mark Blecha, on October 13th 2012 at Old St. Patrick's Church. The couple was married by Father Tom Hurley and Deacon Robert Ryan of St. Juliana Parish. The reception was held at the Wyndham Lisle. The couple currently resides on the South Side of Chicago.*

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# Gaelic Park Holds Another Great Irish Fest!

Thousands of Irish Americans gathered from near and far over Memorial Day weekend to take part in what some have called the "unofficial start of summer."

The shops, rides, crowds, and festive music were all back for Irish Fest 2013 at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Katie Moloney and Tiffany Oskvarek, both residents of Mount Greenwood, were working the 'A Touch of Ireland' booth Sunday, both saying it was their third year working the Fest.

"The weather hasn't been as extreme this year," said Oskvarek, who was volunteering in the O'Connell Shops tent. "Last year, we were boiling, and the year before it was freezing."

Moloney, who is an employee at 'A Touch of Ireland,' said she has been coming to Irish Fest for as long as she can remember.

"I always like seeing the Irish dancers," she said, noting that her niece dances for Dennehy Irish Dancers.

The business at her stand was doing well, she said. They have "all the dancing stuff."

While much of the crowd was local, Kevin and Diane Palm made their second appearance at the Fest all the way from Cleveland, Ohio.

"It's been fun and we have a nice hotel," Kevin said.

The Palms said the music was what drew them to make the roadtrip to Chicago.

"The acts have been great, they sound a lot better today (Sunday) than yesterday."

Diane added that if they were local residents they would come every year.

"But 5 hours is quite a drive," she said.

Volunteer John Kelly, who was helping at the Pop tent, said Irish Fest is an "awesome event."

"It's worth coming all the way from the North Side," said Kelly, a resident of Park Ridge.

Mary Przekwas, a Chicagoan originally from Donegal, Ireland said she and her friends have come to the event every year since 1987.

"We've been eating at Winston's every year," she said. "They have the best food at the park."

Her friend, Kathy Deelaney, said the event provides "great entertainment" and "a chance to catch up with old friends."

West Lawn resident Tracey Quinn said it was nice to see some new bands at the Fest this year, joking that the carnival rides are not as exciting as when she would regularly attend the Fest as a child.

Tracey's sister, Erin Quinn, said the deal (\$15 for a day, \$47 for a 4-day pass) could not be beat.

"It was well-done, well-organized," she said.

On all four days of the event, Fest-goers enjoyed the carnival rides and countless bands that graced the Emerald Stage, Celtic Stage and other tents at the event.

"Every year is a good year," Kelly said.

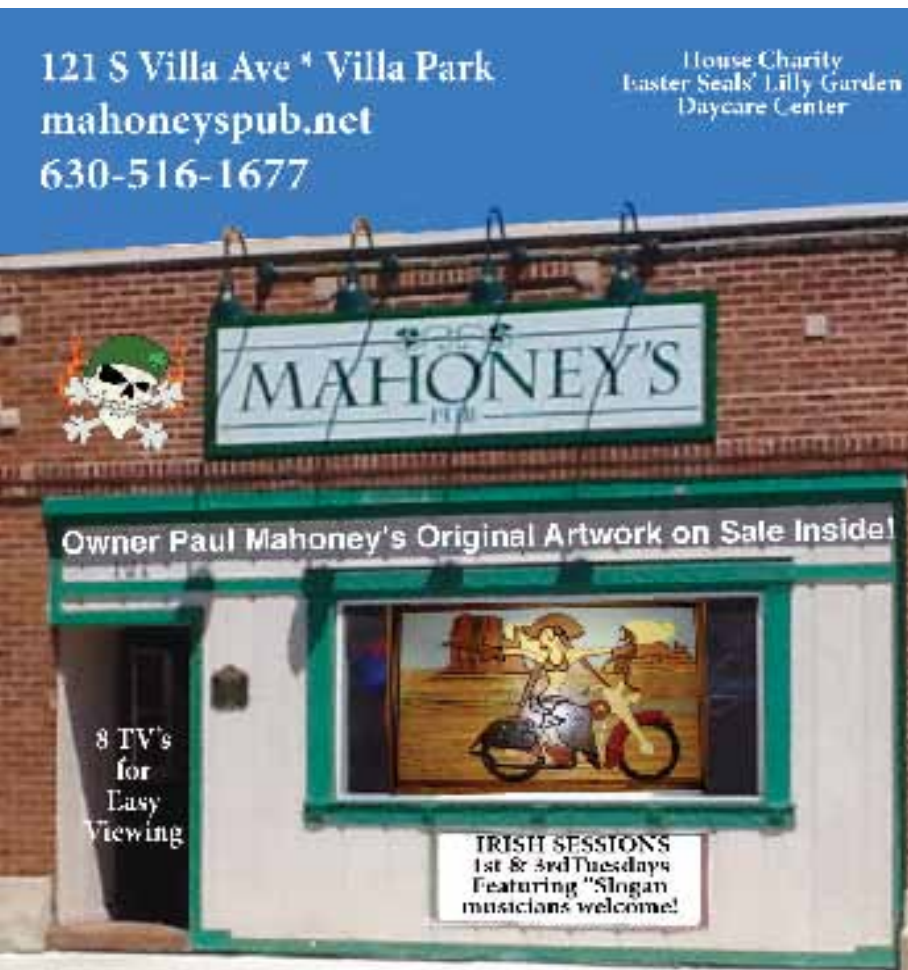


The fare at Winston's proved to be popular for many Irish Fest attendees.



Photos by Tim Moran

Heidi O'Brien (left) and Heather O'Brien look at some jewelry inside the "O'Connor Shops" tent at Irish Fest in Gaelic Park.



The Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, a group within the Chicago Police Department, march through the crowds at Irish Fest at Chicago Gaelic Park on Sunday, May 26.





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**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 6 stages.

The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Center, and is one of our biggest fundraisers.

Confirmed performers include: the Tossers, Dublin City Ramblers,

the Killdares, the Kreellers, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers,

Enter the Haggis, the Larkin and Moran Brothers, the Chancey Brothers, Baal Tinne, In Spite

of Ourselves, Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends, the Gleasons, Ar Nos Na Goaithe, Ceilis with Johnny Gleeson, Mike McGrath and Ted Healy, as well as Gerry Haughey, Theresa Shine and Cara Eady, Irish Heritage Singers, Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers, Ladies of Longford, Academy of Irish Music, Sheila Tully School of Irish Dance, Mulhern School

of Irish Dance, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Trinity Irish Dancers and



Tooromeen School of Irish Dance.

In addition to the great music lineup, the weekend is packed with the regular festival favorites: Irish and American food and



for kids and the Hooley Hook-Up for singles.

The Folk Tent returns with hands-on activity with 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 language lessons, one-act plays and 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 our air-conditioned Shamrock American Room.

Back for 2013: 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.

Hours are 6pm to midnight on July 12, noon to midnight on July 13 and noon to 11pm on 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 information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).



drink, shopping, step dancers, cultural exhibits, children's activities, a raffle with a trip to Ireland, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the ShamROCK Stars singing contest

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



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### President's Message

Serving as President for the past two years has been a time consuming, challenging but rewarding opportunity. It is the opportunity part of the position that has been so interesting and exciting. I have had the opportunity to be involved with a great organization with great people and a great future.

The future of the Center is bright and in order to sustain this bright future, over the last 2 years, we had to rather quickly address a number of areas. By addressing selected areas and focusing on key priorities, we strengthened our financial foundation while we initiated and completed key projects.

For the future of the Center to continue to be bright, there is more work to be done.

- We must continue to operate the finances of the Center in a manner that allows for the necessary building maintenance, repairs, restorations and improvements.

To honor the great building our founders selected, we need to give the building a dedicated Master Plan. A journey with a road map is always advisable. An historic and grand building deserves a road map and the required funding to complete the plan.

- We need grow funds to invest more heavily in cultural programming. The mission of the Center is clear but there is a price to pay to address and complete that mission. We owe it to the Center, the membership and the community to properly fund the mission.

- We must forge partnerships that help the Center. We cannot do it all ourselves. We cannot afford to do it all ourselves. We need help. We need to find building partners, sponsor partners, cultural partners and financial partners that will help us achieve our mission and our goals.

- We need to grow our membership and attract new members, new families and new young adults while we retain the great core membership we enjoy today. Membership needs to continue to be valued. We must work to

have all committee heads, committee members and others involved in the numerous volunteer efforts be members. We need to continue to make it easy for members to check status and make sure they are current.

- We have to keep score, set goals and continuously measure ourselves and our efforts to make sure we are on track. Budgets and financial performance needs to be a part of the culture not just an annual exercise with numbers.

- Oversight needs to continue and proper oversight and management is key to the success of any organiza-



tion. Oversight and management comes at a price. Often, members and groups within an organization are not comfortable with oversight and management. However, procedures and plans help keep the total organization on track of success.

- We must have your attendance. We need you in our Library, Museum and Art Gallery. We need you in the Fifth Province. We need your rental business. We need you at the St. Patrick's Festival and we need you at Irish Fest. We need you at iBAM! and the Hall of Fame Gala. We need you.

- Our development efforts need to be supported. The Center needs an endowment fund. The Center needs a major donor program, a planned giving program and a corporate sponsor program. These programs are essential to the financial future of the Center, as other charitable organiza-

tions have found out.

- We need to continue to embrace technology. The technology we have invested in is already paying off. The investment must continue.

- We must continue to reward our volunteers while we attract new ones. We count on the volunteers, who are essential to the success of the Center.

- We must continue to be good stewards of the environment and continue down the path we have started to follow. We must continue to support the sustainability programs we have started and we need to embrace more ideas and do so quickly.

- We must be with each other. Committees need to interact with each other. There are no islands; we are a community and we all rely on each other. Board members and Chairs need to be in the Center and be visible; always listening and always serving. We need to work as a team; with each other, our

volunteers and great staff.

- We must keep up the sense of urgency to address issues. The speed of today's world can leave one behind quickly if you do not keep up. Our future depends not only on the right moves but also the speed with which we make those moves.

- We must build a sustainable, long term business model that will continue to stand the test of time.

Lots of musts; but the biggest and most important must...is that we MUST HAVE YOU. People are the key and most important asset of any organization. You have proved that time and time again. We count on you. You counted on me. I am honored to be serving you and this great organization. Let's continue to count on each other and the future we wish for the Center will be a reality for generations to come.

John Crowley Gorski  
President, IAHC

### Raffle Picnic and Barbeque

Join the Center for a picnic this summer during our Annual Raffle Drawing. The Raffle Picnic is on Sunday, June 9, from Noon to 6pm, outside in the South Lot Lawn and in the Fifth Province.

Members and friends can enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, live music and a cash bar. The raffle drawing is at 4pm. Tickets are \$5 per individual and \$10 for families and include entertainment and food.

Our Annual Raffle is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We ask you to support this



most important fundraiser for the Center. All of the proceeds from the raffle are used to support our many programs and to continue the renovation of the Center.

Tickets are \$100 each and prizes are:

First Prize - \$10,000  
Second Prize - \$2,000  
Third Prize - \$1,000  
Fourth Prize (4) - \$500  
To purchase raffle tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Picnic tickets can be purchased at the door.

### Bloomsday Celebration

Celebrate the life and works of writer James Joyce with our 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 Joyce, Joyce Centre, Dublin.

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

To purchase tickets, call the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Irish American Heritage Center is to nurture and strengthen Irish culture and heritage through programs emphasizing Irish music, literature, drama, traditional dancing, fine arts, and the constructive contributions of 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!**



### Color My World Fun for Kids

What do you get when you combine wonderful stories with costumes, props and a great deal of imagination? Why, you get **STORYACTING!**

Join Chicago-area storyteller, Paddy Lynn, for an hour of acting out stories of animals, food and magic. It's family fun that you won't want to miss and don't forget your camera!

Color My World is Saturday,



June 8 from 11 am-1 pm.  
 Admission for IAHC Members is \$5 per family and non-member families pay \$7.

For reservations, call the Center at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

### Raise the Roof Campaign Continues

This summer, 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 roof replacement.

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

but we still need your help.

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 help us by making a donation?

All contributions may be tax-exempt and most sincerely appreciated. With your commitment we can continue to call the Center our home for all things Irish for many more years. To donate, call 773-272-7035.

### 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit code on card's back: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$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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# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### June 2013

June 1	Piobairi	Fifth Province	5pm
	Irish American Hall of Fame Gala	Erin Room	6:30pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
June 5	Tir Na Nog	Kichen	11am
June 6	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
June 7	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
June 8	Color My World Kids' Program	Library	11am
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
June 9	Raffle Picnic	South Lot	Noon
June 14	Election Night	McGinty Room	7pm
June 16	Bloomsday Celebration	Erin Room	Noon
June 18	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
June 20	Tara Club Meeting and Mass	Room 304	10am
June 30	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon	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	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Memoir Workshop	Library	7pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10am
	Memoir Workshop	Library	7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm

### Irish Photography Show Comes to Art Gallery

Irish photographer Daragh Muldowney continues his photography exhibit of rock pools, called Jewellery Box-Ireland's Hidden Gems this spring and summer at the Center. Tide pools or rock pools, are rocky pools by oceans filled with seawater. Many of these pools exist as separate entities only at low tide.

Muldowney's art and photography provides an opportunity to see Ireland's unique beauty and coastline in a multitude



of diverse colors, textures and light. The exhibit showcases the beauty of the Irish coast.

Jewellery Box-Ireland's Hidden Gems runs in the IAHC Art Gallery through Sunday, July 14. Gallery hours are Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm and by appointment by calling Art Gallery Director, Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

There will be special Irish Fest hours from 1pm to 6pm on July 13 and 14 but fest entry fees apply. Irish Fest is July 12, 13 and 14.



No Cover

Free Parking



## the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

### JUNE ENTERTAINMENT

- 6/1 Gerry Haughey
- 6/7 Ceili Mor
- 6/8 Johnny Gleeson and Ted Healy
- 6/15 Celtic Aires
- 6/21 John Devlin
- 6/22 Dooley Brothers
- 6/28 In Spite of Ourselves
- 6/29 Baal Tinne

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...

### June Drink Special

June Juice \$4  
(flavored vodka cocktails)

June Food Special  
\$9 Fish and Chips

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

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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, Kathleen Dunat, John Gorski, Frank Gleeson, Mary Griffin, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy

## Benefit for Sam June 22nd

By Patrick Moriarty

A good friend, Sam Tomasello has stage 4 stomach cancer. Sam is an investigator with the Cook County Sheriff's Dept and a 28 year veteran of the department. We are having a benefit for him and his family on 22 June, 2013 at the teamsters hall at 300 S Ashland (VanBuren and Marshfield). If you or anyone you know are interested in attending, purchasing raffle tickets or making a donation of any kind please contact me at 847-772-0709 or 312-882-4476. An account at the Chicago Patrolman's Federal Credit Union has been set up in his name and donations can be made directly to the Credit Union. I will forward an official letter with the tax ID number when I receive it. Please feel free to forward this information to anyone you feel may be able to help.

## Poem by Cathal O'Connor

Age 12 Chicago IL USA

You killed so many  
took every crop  
burnt every sweater  
killed a lot  
you tore our souls out  
and tortured our fathers  
to try to take away  
the thing that would not leave  
the dream of freedom  
which we were yet to achieve  
yes we believed  
one day we would see  
the eyes of young children  
ignited with gleam  
and the people who left  
to the land of the free.  
But you could not take  
that wee bit of hope  
so you held onto our country  
like a game of tug o rope  
you're humanity left you  
like a good irish breeze  
and you are quick to forget  
that you could not seize  
the love for our country  
that made old Ireland free

## Guided Tour of Ireland

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and photography many notable buildings and bridges, both old and new along the route. Come with us to parts of Dublin that are off the beaten track - places you wouldn't find yourself - and take photographs that you will be proud to bring home

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Regards Dave Cooke  
www.dawn2dusk.ie

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# Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Here are several tasty treats for you. Let's start with the new, new first. Sox in the Frying Pan has a self-titled album out. These three young men are terrific musicians with an obvious sense of humor. Brothers Shane and Fiachra Hayes on accordion/fiddle/banjo are accompanied by Aodan Coyne on guitar and vocals. We would expect these three from Clare to be excellent on their instruments, and they are. What is most notable is that they are also tremendous in their vocal work. Irish groups for the last several years have not been known for having beautiful harmonies in their vocals. No offense, but

they just haven't. Sox in the Frying Pan is different. Wonderful vocals. We are fans. To do the festival circuit, we think



they are going to need a fourth player on keyboards to give the group some bass. But that is just nitpicking. Let's just deal with this album, and it qualifies

them early for the New Group of the Year.



Here's Garry O'Meara with his new album Pickin' Time. Garry was born in Dublin, and on this album has some wonderful accompanists, and he is also a terrific singer. Get thee to his website. Wonderful stuff and a great banjo player. We reviewed this briefly, recently. We want to call it to your attention again.

The leading female Irish vocalist of our day is quite likely Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. She is the former Female Vocalist of the Year here. Her new solo album again puts her in the front runner position for this year's Award. You know her, or should, as she is the singer for the popular group Danu, but it is in her solo work where she really shines. Like on this album, the English title of which is The Small Hours. We were hipped to this album by the great Alan O'Leary at Copperplate in London. Thank you, Alan, and thank you Muireann. She is just wonderful.

Alan O'Leary at Copperplate also sent a brilliant new album from the Tara Music Company titled, Masters of their Craft. Compendium albums are a fantastic way to check in on Irish performers you may have missed, and are also a terrific opportunity to become acquainted with Celtic music in the first place. Where most compendium albums go wrong is that they collect and present different groups and singers who are second-rate amateurs, and therefore many of these compendium cd's are crap. Not so here. Moving Hearts,

Rita Connolly, Planxty, Liam O'Flynn, Christy Moore, and Shaun Davey are only some of the artists you'll find here. Magic. A must have it. Many of the very best, all in one!

From Greentrax, we have received Celtic Airs and Reflective Melodies. It is gorgeous. This all-Scottish cd presents many of the leading musicians of our day, both past and present. Many people feel that nobody plays the airs better than the Scots. We tend to agree, and you will hear why on this album. Another winner in a long line from Greentrax. It is perfect for serious listening, or just lovey background. We cannot recommend it highly enough.

We were recently boxing up



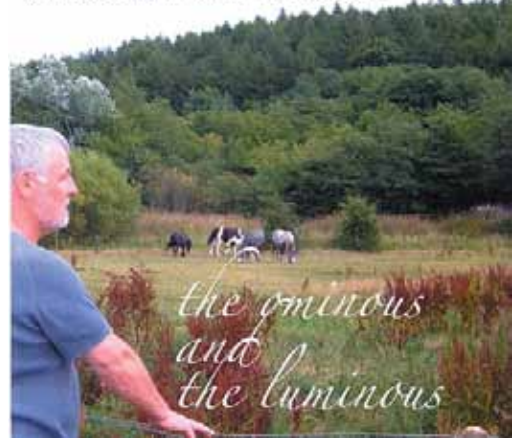
a ton of trad cd's for our Irish music pal, Jon Kiger, who is taking over the popular Atlanta Irish music program, The Celtic Show. It is on Sunday nights from 4-6, Chicago time. It is available online at wrfg.org. Jon will be the new host of the show beginning in July. We'll keep you informed. He is a massive music fan, and highly knowledgeable.

In packing up the cd's we were digging in nooks and crannies and found an album sent to us by the aforementioned, Copperplate. How we missed this, we don't know. It is a few years old. We never heard it. We

never reviewed it. Somehow, with getting 500 cd's a year, it fell between the cracks. Criminal. The album is called The Ominous and the Luminous by Mick Sands. Alan O'Leary tells us that Mick is from Northern Ireland originally but now lives in London. He is one of the best Irish singers we have ever heard. Mick is also a gorgeous flute player. He sings and plays Irish music the way others want to. We know Alan has it at Copperplate. Just Google, Copperplatedistribution.com. This gem may be hard to find, otherwise. Don't repeat our mistake. Find it.

Copperplate would also have the Gael Linn masterpiece by Seamus Ennis entitled Ceol, Scalta Agus Amhrain. If you love uilleann pipes, you already know that the iconic Seamus Ennis may have been the best of all time. We don't know. Depends on the style you like. Simply put, he is a god of the tradition. We listened to this entire cd again right before we wrote this. Perhaps some of the masters equaled him. None excelled him. Gael Linn is an incredible resource to people who love Irish traditional music. If you are not familiar with them, Google them. Gael Linn has never set a musical foot wrong. They are as historically important a label as their music is entertaining. This cd is a prime example. Thank you, Gael Linn and God bless Seamus Ennis.

MICK SANDS WITH CLIVE CARROLL



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# Southside IRISH



## Beverly Review Serves the Southside Irish

By Tim Moran  
South Side Editor

BEVERLY — While some weekly community newspapers have struggled to keep afloat during tough economic times, The Beverly Review is doing just fine.

Covering the Beverly, Mount Greenwood and Morgan Park neighborhoods on the far south side of Chicago, Publisher Bob Olszewski says the paper's continued dedication to producing solid content has been the key to keeping area residents interested.

"We cover our neighborhood thoroughly, objectively and accurately," Olszewski said. "Our area is filled with very well educated and accomplished people. If we did not reflect that, people wouldn't read it."

A good chunk of those people, it turns out, are Irish Americans. Beverly and Mount Greenwood have two of the highest concentrated Irish-American populations throughout the nation. According to Patch.com, 40.7 percent of Mount Greenwood residents claim Irish ancestry - fourth most among neighborhoods in the nation, trailing only three communities in New York City.

Not surprisingly, the Irish are "a large part" of the Beverly Review readership, Olszewski said.

"Irish Americans have strong family units with a long history in the neighborhood," he said. "They identify with their parishes and their schools."

But the Irish connection does not end with the paper's readership. Current and former editors and writers of the weekly publication that has circulated since 1905 include Caroline Connors, Pat Thomas, Jerry Moore and Dennis McSweeney. Pat Cronin and Kathleen Tobin are other former contributors of the Beverly Review, which was purchased by Olszewski's parents in 1984.

And one of the largest special sections the paper puts together each year is the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Guide, which comes out the Wednesday before the Sunday of the Parade (which, since its inception in 1979, has always been the final Sunday before March 17).

"We pay to be the official publication of the parade," Olszewski said, noting that he and his staff work on the special section for "at least a month" before it hits the

newsstands.

The section is filled with stories on Irish history and culture, as well as feature pieces about local Irish Americans living in the area.

One of the featured stories in the 2013 Parade edition was an account of the life of Spike O'Donnell, also known as the "South Side Beer King" during the prohibition era.

"One Chicago gangster who exemplified this dichotomy of the good and the bad was James Edward "Spike" O'Donnell," writer Carol Flynn wrote. "Spike headed the O'Donnell Gang, which was basically an Irish-American family enterprise on the South Side."

Olszewski said he "always learns a lot" about Irish history when they work on the section.

The Review published the special section even when the Parade was in hiatus in 2010 and 2011. Following the 2009 Parade, the event was canceled by the parade committee due to a high number of alcohol-related incidents that year.

"We did not make as much revenue, but we still did it," Olszewski said of the section in 2010 and 2011, recalling that the event's cancellation was "a big blow" and "heartbreaking" not only to the staff of The Review (which sits squarely on the Parade route on Western Avenue), but to the com-

munity as well.

"I didn't think it was necessary to cancel the parade," Olszewski said. "It did send a message to people that if you aren't going to behave, they are not going to have it," adding that members of the residential and business community felt "a personal responsibility" to ensure the popular event's return.

"Thank God it worked out," Olszewski said. "Because the last two years have been great."

In addition to the Parade Guide, The Review releases a number of special sections each year - including the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk section. The Review donates 15 percent of all advertising proceeds to the Walk, having totaled more than \$5,000 over the last five years

## Tim Moran Covers Southside Irish for Irish American News

It was St. Patrick's Day 1985 when I was first carried into my Oak Lawn home at four days old. The catchy 'South Side Irish' anthem was playing on the radio, and from that point on I was embedded in the South Side community - particularly in the Irish traditions.

Nearly three decades later, I am thrilled to begin the 'South Side Irish News,' a section of the Irish American News highlighting news, sports and events that are of interest to Irish Americans from the South Side of Chicago.

Over the last five years, I have made my way across the country, now having visited more than 30 states, 23 Major League Baseball stadiums, as well as a variety of large cities and small towns nationwide. During those same five years, I have served as either an editor or reporter for daily, weekly and semi-weekly

with the help of the local business community.

With nearly three decades of work put in at The Review, Olszewski says he plans on remaining in his position for years to come.

"We have given people a level of journalism they don't expect from a small paper," he said.

### Just the facts:

- The Beverly Review was originated in 1905 and purchased by the Olszewski family in 1984.

- The cost of a year membership is \$26. At the newsstands, the price is \$1 per copy.

- Publisher Bob Olszewski is half-Irish himself. His mother's maiden name was Reid, and her family came from the St. Rita of Cascia Parish.

newspapers in three Midwestern states.

But as much as I love seeing the country and experiencing different ways of living, the South Side of Chicago will always be home to me.

It may be the proximity to Lake Michigan, the tight-knit communities in neighborhoods such as Beverly, Mount Greenwood, Bridgeport, Morgan Park, Hyde Park and Canaryville - or the small town friendliness that is prevalent in one of the largest urban centers in the nation.

Nearby suburbs like Evergreen Park, Tinley Park, Oak Forest, Palos Heights and Orland Park have the same feel.

There are a number of big plans I have for the 'South Side Irish News,' which begins this month as a page highlighting the area's fine businesses and residents. I want to give the average south-



Bob Olszewski, publisher of The Beverly Review, sits in the office located at 105th and Western. Bob has been with the paper since 1985.

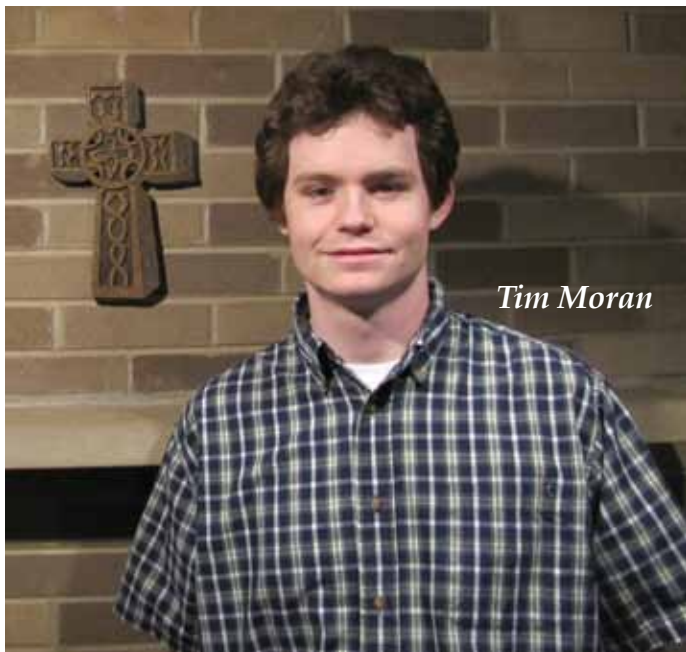


consider, not only the Irish American, more of a reason to pick up the Irish American News, which already has a strong presence in the Chicagoland area. Chicago is a city with a great deal of Irish influence altogether, but there is something special about our 'South Side Irish.'

We have our own Parade, which thankfully has returned stronger than ever after a two-year hiatus.

Clinton Journal, a twice-a-week newspaper in Central Illinois. From there, I worked as a news reporter at the Harbor Country News, a weekly publication in Southwest Michigan and the La Porte County Herald-Argus, a daily paper in La Porte, Indiana. I am currently the news editor for The News-Dispatch, a daily in Michigan City.

My connection to the South Side runs deeper than my histo-



Tim Moran

Many South Side Irish residents love to keep track of their roots, often returning home after college to either follow in the family business or begin their own legacy close to home. We like supporting small business. Whether it's a bakery that has been in the same location since the 1950s, a bookstore that manages to survive in the digital era, or the handy man everyone knows and trusts holding his own with his local brand. Irish Americans love the local market. That loyalty has paid off as many businesses have been able to stay afloat years after they began catering to the needs of the community.

While growing up in Oak Lawn, I attended school at Morgan Park Academy, Marist High School and Saint Xavier University – where I earned my degree in Mass Communication in 2007. From 2008 to 2010, I served as the sports editor of the

ry, however. Both my mother and father grew up on the South Side of Chicago, attending Catholic high schools. My father, a graduate of Quigley Preparatory Seminary South when it was at 77th and Western, is a first generation Irish American. His parents both came to America from Dingle, County Kerry. My mother, a graduate of Mount Assisi Academy in Lemont, has a sibling who authored a book titled 'It's not Such a Long way to Tipperary,' referring to the county in Ireland – where her family is from. My brother is a graduate of St. Rita High School – which is now at 77th and Western. My only trip to Ireland took place in 2002 with my family. There we were given a great opportunity to connect with relatives from both sides of the family.

I look forward to bringing you the 'South Side Irish News.'

You can reach me at [tim@irishamericannews.com](mailto:tim@irishamericannews.com) or at 708 334 6350.

## Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



On special assignment for the Irish American News I recently visited the devil.

It was hard to nail him down for an interview, the guy is as slippery as an eel, an electric feckin' eel.

I was ushered to his suite by a short German guy with a Hitler moustache. Hey wait a minute! That was Hitler!

As I followed Adolph down the hall, I mused to myself, "Wow, Hitler is the butler in hell. He deserves something worse than that. How bad could it be, being the butler in hell?"

Just then a large naked Jewish lady stepped out of the shadows and slapped Hitler in the face with a very wet used diaper she had been wearing.

Old Adolph just took it in stride, pushed back by the force of the gooey diaper, but then just wiped some mocha slime from above his moustache and said, "Thank you Mrs. Finkelstein!"

He smiled at me as he softly vomited into his mouth and put his hand on the knob to the devil's door. "His Excellency will see you now."

I sneered at Der Fuehrer, "I hope Mrs. Finkelstein does that to you a lot."

He clicked his heels, "She does, every one hundred and ninety-six seconds...or so."

As the door closed behind me, a double batch of Depends slammed into his kisser.

I looked about the sumptuous room with a spotless onyx desk with little beams of light occasionally blinking thru the cracks. You could hear the soft murmur of sinners trapped inside that desk. The huge panoramic window looked out on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. I wondered why Beelzebub had chosen this view and then I heard a dark voice behind me.

"Futures clients."

Old Scratch picked up the remote and started clicking around the world via the window to Vegas, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, and Chicago; scenes of avarice, lust, and homicide in all his favorite places.

"Have a drink, Houli. I've got some Irish Whiskey or some Guinness, whatever you like."

I was apprehensive, I've been slipped a Mickey before and if anybody was gonna do it, it would be this sick creep.

I think I'll just stick to this bottle of water I brought with me, if you don't mind, Lucifer.

"Please, call me Lou."

Let's not get too chummy; I'm here for your story, not to go dancing with you.

"We're very patient down here Houls, we want to make you a future client."

I whipped out my reporter notebook; glad that I brought the water because it was starting to feel really warm down here.

Okay, I guess most of us already know how you got started in the evil business, and how St. Michael kicked your ass down here for eternity.

"Well, of course that's exactly the narrative that the haters, racists and bigots want you to believe. I think the truth lies a bit further down the road."

Yeah sure Lou, right down the ol' Hershey highway.

"You're boring me...so what's this interview all about, what's your angle? Who do you write for again?"

The Irish American News He laughed as he drained his drink-Baby's Blood on the rocks. "Oh we've got plenty of your Irish cousins down here, don't you worry about that."

He picked up the remote and on the screen was the village of Moneygall when the President visited the town of his Irish roots.

"You know how you love watching 'The Quiet Man', Hou-

li? Well this is my Quiet Man." Whaddya mean?

"Barak, Barry, my man, the best client I've got. Evil Inc. is booming, thanks to him. Millions of babies murdered, Benghazi, Dr. Kermit Gosnell, the IRS scandals, and spying on the AP reporters. He's made evil cool again! This kid is the best thing that's happened to me since Stalin."

Yeah, maybe it's time you slowed down, cuz right now it looks like the world is goin' to hell.

"Well, duh! It's only taken me two thousand years."

Don't count your chickens, Lou.

"Oh yeah? Watch me dismantle the Catholic Church over the next couple decades. And all it took was Obamacare and a couple dozen pedophile priests. Ireland is ready to legalize abortion, they are toast!"

I stood up, backtracked toward the door, and opened my water bottle; it was really getting hot down there.

"Come on Houls, it's only your soul. I can have Lindsay Lohan here in five minutes!"

He picked up the remote and suddenly the picture got fuzzy and the sound went blippo screeching so loud the devil put his hands over his pointed ears.

What the hell is that?

"Damn, somebody is jamming my connection with prayers."

Don't you get it, devil boy. The tide is turning. The media is turning on your buddy Barry. Even the mopes at MSNBC are having second thoughts, including moral zombies like Lawrence O'Donnell and Chris "The Tinger" Mathews.

I took a swig from my water bottle, flung open the door, and discovered Hitler over Mrs. Finkelstein's knee as she spanked him. The devil was pissed now.

"You're not going anywhere!"

I spit a mouthful of the water in his face.

"Ahhhh that's holy water!"

That's right Lou, adios sucker!

I leapt over Hitler and ran down the hallway and made it outta there just in time. Something tells me it's gonna be a very hot summer.

# The Irish and Illinois Roots of Ronald Reagan

*Special to  
Irish American News  
By John Curry*

Presidential historian Douglas Brinkley said that one hundred years from now, Ronald Reagan will be considered one of the top ten Presidents of the United States. Even early this year, the Gallup poll found Reagan to be the most popular President in history among contemporary Americans. These high accolades belie the tension of Reagan's tenure. The political debates of three decades ago are now brought into focus by PBS's newly released documentary "The Reagan Presidency", produced by Chip Duncan and former Chicagoan David Crouse. In three parts, "The Reagan Presidency" relives the most notable policies and issues handled by President Reagan during his two terms from 1981 to 1989, revealing new insights into his successes in the Cold War and on the economy. The documentary interviews many of his contemporaries and critics. (The series premieres on WTTW Channel 11 on Thursday, June 13, 2013, continuing on June 20th and June 27th. The DVD is also available at [www.CrouseEntertainment.com](http://www.CrouseEntertainment.com).)

## IRISH AND ILLINOIS ROOTS

The PBS series begins with a reference to Ronald Reagan's roots in "the heartland". The story of Reagan's life before he became President, at age 69, the oldest President ever inaugurated, is both intriguing and illustrative of the strengths he displayed while he served in office.

Of interest to readers of this newspaper, Ronald Reagan was both an Irish-American and an Illinoisian, and both contributed greatly to his character. Reagan was born in 1911 in the small western Illinois town of Tampico to John "Jack" Reagan and his wife Nelle. Jack Reagan was a proud Irish Catholic loyal to the Democratic Party. For all of Ronald Reagan's charm and

charisma, there were many folks in Dixon, Illinois, Ron's boyhood home, who would say with conviction that Jack was even more charming and engaging. But while the outside world saw a genial father and son, the Reagan family were third and fourth generation Irish Americans who struggled with economic hardship and family dysfunction. This, in no small part, resulted in Jack and Ron's limited knowledge of their family history.

Jack's grandfather, Michael O'Regan, was born in South Tipperary around 1829. Michael was baptized that year in Assumption Catholic Church in Ballyporeen, Tipperary. Ballyporeen is an 18th century planned town midway between Clogheen and Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. The O'Regans were laborers living west of Ballyporeen near the junction of three counties, Tipperary, Cork, and Limerick, in Doolis in the shadow of the Galtee Mountains. Living in this region, the

O'Regans were imbued with the legacy of the Whiteboys and the risings of 1798 and 1848. Michael's grandson, Jack Reagan, was a keen follower of politics and voiced strong political opinions – not the first Irishman to do so. But the political struggles around Doolis and Ballyporeen took second seat during the Great Hunger, the Potato Famine of 1846–1852, which most assuredly compelled Michael to emigrate. He traveled to Peckham in South London where he courted and wed Catherine Mulcahy, also of Tipperary. Within a few years, Michael and Catherine, now bearing the surname Reagan, left England and struck out for some of the last available cheap farmland in western Illinois. By 1860, Michael and Catherine Reagan and their brood had a

farm in Fair Haven Township, Carroll Co., Illinois, and the family would reside there through the early 1880s. The Reagan's Fair Haven farm was a proud achievement as they had shaken off the limitations of a tenancy in the boggy lowlands of their native Ballyporeen.



*President of the United States, and former resident of Dixon, Ronald Reagan, reading the February 28, 1981 special edition of the hometown paper, which featured him, in the White House Oval Office.*

But this immigrant success was neither enduring nor destined for Michael's children. By 1884, Michael had died in early middle age. His widow Catherine sold the farm and moved with her children to the nearby Mississippi River town of Fulton, Illinois. Her son John had married Jennie Cusick of Fulton, and they had four children, including Jack Reagan. Tragically, by the time Jack was 6 years old in 1889, he had lost both of his young parents to tuberculosis. Orphan Jack was passed off to his aunts, his childhood trauma likely scarring him for life. By the early 20th century, the Reagans of Illinois were a dwindling clan. The Reagan family plot in Fulton's Calvary Cemetery contained sixteen graves by then, as discovered by the Fulton Histori-

cal Society.

Jack Reagan's many moves with his aunts set a pattern. He married Nelle Wilson in 1904 at the rectory of Fulton's Assumption Church. Seeking a better job, he moved to Tampico to sell shoes. There in Tampico, Ronald Reagan was born to them. He

had an older brother Neil, who was baptized Catholic. From then on, the Reagans would know many homes in northern Illinois.

In 1915, they moved to Hyde Park in Chicago so Jack could work in a Loop department store. The Reagans lived in an apartment near Washington Park, ironically only eight blocks from the home of another future President, Barack Obama. Ronald Reagan's first memories were of that apartment and of Chicago fire engines, manned by burly Irish American firemen, racing to nearby fire alarms.

Father Jack was unsuccessful in Chicago and other locales as well. By 1920, the family wound up in Dixon, Illinois, which would be their last Illinois home. It was in Dixon

that Reagan spent his formative years, becoming an avid reader and fascinated with sports. He was an athletic youth who played football at Eureka College. In dealing with his family's meager income, Ronald "Dutch" Reagan and his brother Neil "Moon" Reagan worked many jobs around town. Both brothers worked as caddies at Timber Creek Golf Club, then the Dixon Country Club. Dutch caddied for some of the Walgreen family, who later reciprocated by hosting him as President at their "Dixon White House." In summers, Dutch also worked as a lifeguard at Lowell Park along Dixon's Rock River beaches. Popular as a lifeguard, he saved 77 swimmers from drowning. We know this number precisely because the lifeguards notched off each of their rescues. (The Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon is now open as a museum and a National Historic Site.)

But Jack had a failing that wounded the family. He was an alcohol abuser. President Reagan left a chilling picture of their lives when he described in his books a time when he dragged his father, lying blacked out in the front yard snow, into the house one winter night. Undoubtedly, this contributed to Reagan's tensions with his father, and his sometime ambivalence about his Irish heritage.

Although Jack's alcohol problem is well known to students of Reagan's life, his significant contributions to Reagan's character are seldom credited. In



Dixon, Jack wore his Irishness on his sleeve, which was not lost on his sons Ron and Neil. Jack was well known as a charismatic story teller with a great sense of humor. As mentioned, his keen sense of politics was inherited by Reagan. All of these traits are well known among the Irish.

#### AN IRISH AMERICAN CAREER PATH

As the Irish strove to make their way in American society, they tended to excel in certain fields. Notable among these were sports, entertainment, union organizing, and politics. As it turned out, Ronald Reagan made a career in all of these fields.

Reagan was a successful student at Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois. There he acquired his passion for both sports and theatre. The great boost to his interest and ambitions in theatre was his participation in a drama contest at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Eureka's troupe won first place, a prize that fueled Reagan's career dreams. But his play on the gridiron and the baseball diamond also spurred desire for a job in sports.

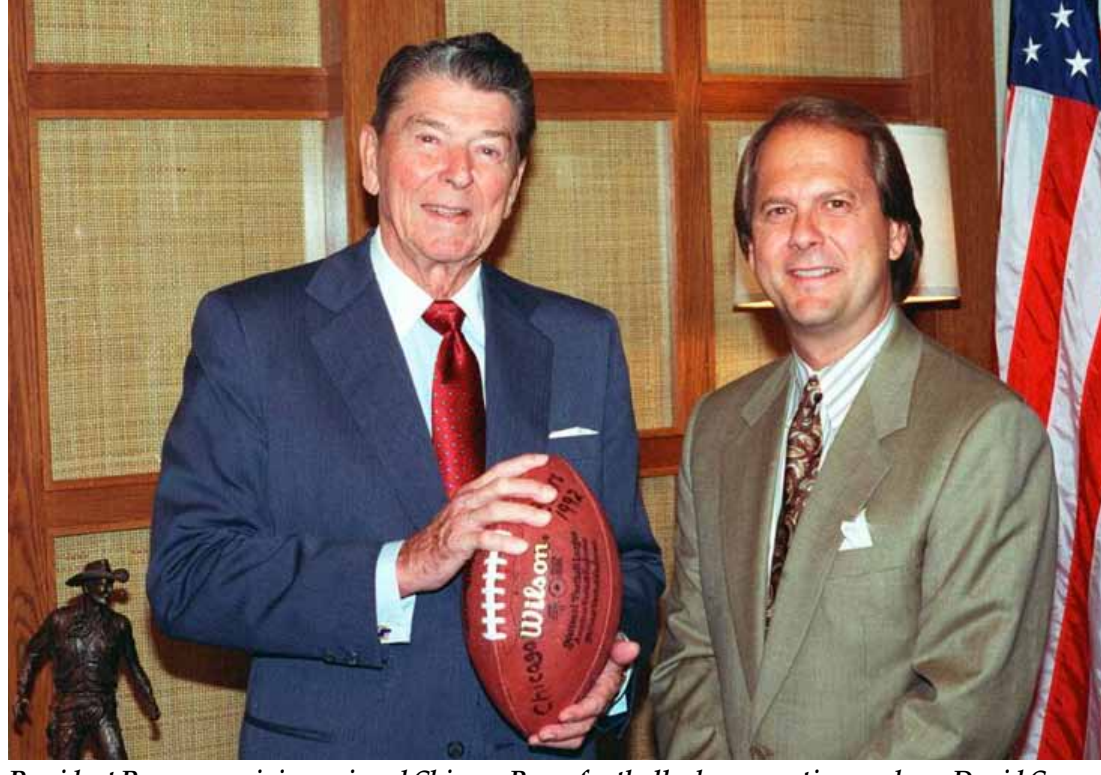
After college, Reagan again traveled to Chicago to apply for work as a radio sportscaster. He was turned down, but he followed sage advice he received there to apply for a position with a small town station. Thus Reagan returned to the Mississippi River region of his boyhood and got a job with WOC in the Quad Cities. From there he became the sportscaster for WHO in Des Moines, Iowa. He was a local celebrity there. One time, he simulated an entire Chicago Cubs game on the air when the wire service transmitting the plays went dead.

#### ON THE FRINGE OF THE HOLLYWOOD IRISH MAFIA

Reagan's sportscasting success led to a screen test with Warner Bros in Hollywood in 1937, which he took while accompanying the Chicago Cubs on their spring training trip to Catalina Island. He was given a contract and began his new career as a movie actor. In all likelihood,

Reagan might have languished as a bit player, but his Irish connection provided him with an opportunity that changed his life forever. Reagan had been welcomed into the periphery of the Hollywood Irish Mafia, a close knit association of successful Irish American movie stars like Pat O'Brien, Spencer Tracy, and

Irish Americans at that event left an indelible impression on him. Reagan's connections to other Irish Americans would be instrumental in his future successes. Notably, perhaps mindful of tradition and what it was paying back to him, Reagan named his first three children Maureen, Michael, and Patti.



*President Reagan receiving a signed Chicago Bears football when executive producer David Crouse and Chip Duncan filmed the former president for a 1992 PBS film on Norman Vincent Peale. It sparked the idea for "The Reagan Presidency" project.*

James Cagney. When Reagan learned that Warners would film "Knut Rockne All American", Reagan knew the role of the famous Notre Dame quarterback George "The Gipper" Gipp was the role meant for him. Reagan pleaded with Pat O'Brien to help him land the role (O'Brien was cast in the lead as Knute Rockne) and O'Brien did, mentoring Reagan in important ways.

Reagan's star portrayal of the Gipper made him a film celebrity overnight. Without the Irish American connection of his relationship with Pat O'Brien and the famous film about the Notre Dame "Fighting Irish", Reagan would not have national recognition. A little known story is that Reagan brought his father Jack with him to the movie's premier at Notre Dame in 1940. Reagan's observations of his father genially connecting with prominent

#### UNION POLITICS

Once Reagan achieved Hollywood celebrity status, his career turned again, and he yielded to the political proclivity of his Irish nature. The 1940's saw a crisis in Hollywood with both covert and overt Communist Party activity. Communist influence and control of Hollywood unions became an enormous controversy. Reagan, a dedicated anti-Communist, began to rise in the Screen Actors Guild, the union for film actors. Reagan became the Guild's President in 1947. Already a well known spokesman for the Guild, Reagan testified before the Congressional House Un-American Activity Committee that year on Communist infiltration in Hollywood. While promoting the cause of anti-Communism, Reagan won respect for avoiding the red-baiting and black-listing that occurred

during the "Red Scare" of those years. Reagan took the lead in negotiating ground-breaking agreements that allowed film actors to expand into television and maintain their earning power during the rise of TV. Reagan earned the right to rank among the notables of Irish American labor leaders in America.

the third time in 1979, he drew in important Irish American supporters. Perhaps the most important was William Casey, a New York financier and former CIA agent. Casey reorganized Reagan's Presidential campaign before the New Hampshire primary in 1980, leaving Reagan as the foremost candidate for the nomination.

Appealing to an electorate that was frustrated with a stagnated economy and the ineffective President Carter, Reagan won a landslide election in 1980. Reagan quickly filled his administration with loyal Irish Americans. Ray Donovan of New Jersey became Secretary of Labor, and American Express President Don Regan became Secretary of the Treasury. Casey was appointed Director of the CIA. Augmenting his tremendous skills as a speaker, Reagan recruited Tony Dolan and Peggy Noonan as speechwriters. The list could go on. Reagan's ability to govern was assisted by a legion of Irish American Republicans who proved that the Irish were now important to both of the major American political parties.

Reagan's Irish heritage would prove vital to his ability to promulgate his policies. Although the Reagan landslide election of 1980 also brought in a Republican majority in the Senate, the House of Representatives, which is critical to the passage of any legislation, remained solidly in the hands of the Democrats. Reagan knew that he needed a solid working relationship with Congressional Democrats in order to get his legislation passed. So within weeks of his inauguration, Reagan invited House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill and his wife over to the White House for dinner. Reagan's congressional liaison was merely hoping that the dinner would be at least cordial and a tentative opening to a decent rapport. However, the aide was astonished that from the moment Ron and Nancy Reagan welcomed Speaker and Mrs. O'Neill to the private White House dining room, the two Irish American

*Continued to next page*

*Continued from previous page*  
 politicians jumped into a heady, friendly banter that lasted the entire evening. After a long session swapping Irish jokes, Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan parted with a strong bond formed. Their relationship would figure in the passage of many important bills, not the least of which was Reagan's cornerstone Tax Reform Act of 1986, which radically reduced income tax rates.

Reagan always presented himself as the quintessential American, a frame of mind developed in his early days in the Midwest. He never promoted himself as an "Irish American", but he was proud of his Irish heritage. Reagan survived a harrowing assassination attempt in 1981, one which brought a bullet close to his heart. Along with him, his Press Secretary Jim Brady, Secret Service Agent Timothy McCarthy (now the Chief of Police of Orland Park), and Officer Thomas Delahanty were all shot. When Agent McCarthy first spoke with the President after his surgery, Reagan jokingly asked him, "What did this guy have against the

time of his young adulthood, Reagan was unaware of the facts behind his Irish heritage. Peskett worked with a team of Dublin genealogists and completed the work by the time Reagan was elected President. Before his inauguration, Reagan received a detailed report from Peskett's team revealing to him for the first time the identity of his great-grandfather Michael O'Regan and his baptism in Ballyporeen, Tipperary. Reagan excitedly shared the news with his brother Neil.

Armed with this evidence of a direct link to Ireland, Sean

about his Irish ancestry and the history of the Irish.

At the time he became President, Reagan, who had visited Ireland twice before, viewed the IRA as a terrorist organization whose actions served the greater purpose of the Soviet Union's encouragement of revolution around the world. It was this view that prevailed when, months into his administration, Reagan was confronted with the hunger strikes of Bobby Sands and his fellow Provisional IRA prisoners in the Maze prison in Northern Ireland. Reagan's position was that the hunger

Fitzgerald's diplomacy resulted in a real interest on the part of England's Tory government to enter into an agreement with the Republic of Ireland regarding Northern Ireland, an unprecedented development. Ambassador Donlon, working through Irish American William Clarke, Chairman of the National Security Council and close confidante of President Reagan, obtained Reagan's key support in advancing Ireland's interest in an agreement with British Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher. In talks with Thatcher at Camp David and elsewhere, Reagan made it clear

ancestry were conjoined in one of the highlights of Reagan's years in the White House, his 1984 visit to Ireland. Clearly aware that a substantial number of both "Reagan Revolutionaries" and "Reagan Democrats" were Irish, Reagan decided to visit Ireland before his re-election campaign began later that year. In June 1984, Reagan made his third trip to Ireland, and his only one as President and to his ancestral home. Staying at Ashford Castle in County Mayo, where his Irish American Hollywood friends John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara had stayed while filming "The Quiet Man" thirty years before, Ronald and Nancy Reagan began their Irish homecoming. After visiting University College Galway, Reagan rode a helicopter to Ballyporeen, where most of South Tipperary turned out to see Reagan examine the baptismal records of his ancestor Michael O'Regan. Saluting pub owner John O'Farrell who pleased Reagan a few years earlier by opening the Ronald Reagan Lounge in Ballyporeen, Reagan made a speech from a platform in front of the pub, and enjoyed a post-speech Smithwick's with the O'Farrells.



***"The Reagan Presidency" is airing on PBS and WTTW Channel 11 for three consecutive Thursday nights in prime time in June – at 8 PM on June 13, 20 and 27....***



The boyhood home of President Ronald Reagan in Dixon, Illinois

Irish?" Indeed, the surnames of those wounded prompted the New York Times to write an editorial entitled "Sons of Ireland", in which the Times noted that their Irish surnames reflected a "paradigm for the emergence of the Irish in America" and that "indomitable Irishry" still made its mark on the world. Indeed, President Reagan's legacy is a significant chapter in the history of the Irish in America.

#### **REAGAN AIDS THE OLD COUNTRY**

When Reagan ran for President in 1980, English genealogist Hugh Peskett, knowing Reagan's roots were likely in the British Isles, began an exhaustive investigation into Reagan's ancestry. Due to the fact that Reagan's Irish relatives all died off by the

Donlon, the Irish Ambassador to the United States, embarked on a campaign of cultivating Reagan's empathy for the policies of the Irish government similar to that successfully done with Tip O'Neill and Senator Edward Kennedy. Of critical importance was preventing Irish American sentimentality from interfering with official Irish policy regarding the IRA, which was into its ninth year of its terror campaign in the British Isles. Once Reagan's official Irish ancestry was established, Ambassador Donlon arranged to have Reagan feted at a St. Patrick's Day lunch at the Irish Embassy in Washington. Having already begun a warm relationship with Donlon, Reagan was honored by the Embassy lunch and spoke with affection

strike was an internal affair of the British government. However, the world wide controversy instigated by the hunger strike was evidence to the Reagan administration that Irish politics had the power to affect world affairs.

The election of Garret Fitzgerald as Taoiseach marked a turn in Irish politics. Fitzgerald believed a new approach to the Northern Ireland situation would end IRA violence, and he launched the New Ireland Forum, which was an initiative to explore these approaches. The Reagan administration supported this initiative. Indeed an important conference was convened at Airlie House in Virginia in 1985 involving all governmental parties with an interest in Northern Ireland.

that the United States preferred an agreement between Ireland and the United Kingdom over Northern Irish affairs. These efforts bore fruit, culminating in the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, which gave Ireland a consultative role in Northern Irish affairs. Equally significant was the Reagan administration's endorsement of the Irish Development Fund, which committed substantial American funding to pro-peace initiatives in Northern Ireland. Most observers see the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 as a significant precursor to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. And this is as much a part of Reagan's legacy as any other.

Reagan's endorsement of the New Ireland Forum initiative and his fondness for his Irish

met with Taoiseach Fitzgerald and gave a speech in the Dail Eireann, promoting the spirit of the New Ireland Forum and urging peace in Northern Ireland. Five months later, Reagan was re-elected in one of the greatest landslides of any Presidential election. Clearly, Ronald Reagan was one of our great Irish Americans.

***Author, John Curry, is a Chicago lawyer with Pol-sinelli PC who served in the US Department of Justice during the Reagan administration. He is a member of the Reagan Alumni Association and the Reagan Presidential Library Associates. His father was from Swinford, Co. Mayo and his grandfather from Furies, Co. Kerry.***



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

We are very grateful for the many volunteers who contribute their time and often their expertise to Gaelic Park throughout the year. We are also very proud and thankful for our staff volunteers who contribute to the maintenance and beautification of Gaelic Park on a regular basis every week. We have lost several great staff volunteers in the past year, and we would love to see some new faces come on board. There is a great camaraderie and satisfaction among the staff volunteers who come together three or four days every week to work and to socialize. It provides a great opportunity for those who have extra time on their hands to get up in the

morning with a sense of purpose, and to play a part in keeping our Irish Center in pristine condition. Contact Gaelic Park Office at 708.687.9323 to join our staff volunteers. The Football and Hurling Teams in Chicago are all talking of increased membership and interest for the upcoming season. I have read that 300,000 people have left Ireland in the past four years with over 40% in the 18-24 age brackets, and it seems that Chicago is welcoming a fair share of new emigrants. Gaelic Park will host a full schedule of games every Sunday starting in June, and we welcome the teams and look forward to a full and competitive schedule.

**John Devitt, President**



### Irish Cultural Camp

**August 6-8, 2013**

at Chicago Gaelic Park

**Open for children aged 6 to 14 years**

**Focus will be on Irish Sport, dance, music, language, drama, mythology, storytelling, history and much more!**

**Cost \$70 per child, \$5.00 discount for additional siblings**

*Includes Lunch*



**Chicago Gaelic Park**

6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 60452 (708) 687-9323 / [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)

## Monthly Park Calendar

6/05	<b>Monthly Musical Luncheon</b>	NOON
6/12	<b>Frank Rossi in the Pub</b>	6:30pm
6/23	<b>Clare Day for Special People</b>	
<b>Soon to come...</b>		
7/10	<b>Frank Rossi on the Patio</b>	6:30pm
8/19	<b>Lady of Knock Commemoration</b>	

**Sunday Celtic Suppers** will resume in November.

**Sunday Mass & Breakfast** will resume in October.

**Ladies Auxiliary** will resume in September.

**Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings** will return in the fall.

**Musical Luncheon** RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Entertainment for Wednesday, June 5 will be Phil & Amy.

Doors Open at NOON, Lunch at 1pm - \$13 per person

Monday Evenings **Set Dancing** 7:30pm

(continues in summer)

Tuesday Evenings **Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili** 7:30pm

Thursday Evenings **Family Music Sessions in the Pub** 7:30pm

Sunday Afternoons **GAA Live Telecasts from Ireland** 9:00am

**GAA Games** Noon

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323

[www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)

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

## the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

### Live Music in the Pub

Sat	June 1	Kara & Jerry Eadie	9:30pm
Fri	June 7	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	June 8	The Frett Brothers	7:30pm
Wed	June 12	Frank Rossi	6:30pm
Fri	June 14	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	7:30pm
Sat	June 15	Richie Z	8:00pm
Fri	June 21	Chris Heroldt	7:30pm
Sat	June 22	Mulligan Stew	8:00pm
Fri	June 28	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	7:30pm
Sat	June 29	Ray Gavin Band	8:00pm

**Chicago Gaelic Park**

6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL

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[www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://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.



**Gaelic Park can be found on FACEBOOK AND TWITTER! TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!**





# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## CARRAIG SUMMER BEAN BAG LEAGUE



The Carraig Pub has openings for individuals or teams who would like to participate in a summer beanbag league. Games are held

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## PUB DRINK SPECIALS

<b>MONDAY</b>	
Mixed Domestic Bucket	\$10
Mixed Import Bucket	\$14
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
20oz Guinness, Harp, Smithwicks, Bass Pints	\$3.50
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Half Price Canyon Oaks Wine Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, White Zinfandel	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	
Bud/Bud Lite 16oz Draff	\$1
Long Islands	\$3
<b>FRIDAY</b>	
Cosmopolitans	\$5
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Corona/Corona Light	\$2.50
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Stella Artois	\$3.50
Whipped Mango Shot	\$3.00



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## The County Connection

**County Down** will have a meeting at Gaelic Park on Friday, July 26th at 7:30pm.

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## PUB DAILY SPECIALS

<b>TUESDAY</b>	
Roast Sirloin of Beef Dinner	\$8.25
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Barbecued Ribs Full Slab	\$15.75
Half Slab	\$8.75
<b>THURSDAY</b>	
Pork Chop Dinner	\$9.95
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<b>FRIDAY</b>	
Fish Fry Fried Shrimp	\$8.95
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<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Steak & Shrimp	\$11.50
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
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## Rugby Rocks

By Rachel Gaffney

Each and every Sunday morning after mass, our ritual began. I ate my weekly pack of Tayto crisps, drank a soda, ran around the stands with my friends and my father huddled with his coat collar pulled high around his ears watching the rugby game at Cork Constitution rugby club. As the years rolled by, I stopped running around the stands and slowly but surely began to attend the rugby games of my own volition. The rivalry was fierce between both teams, spirits were high and the excitement that came from watching this fast paced game was unlike any I have yet to experience elsewhere.

As much as I love football (yes, American football) my heart belongs to the exciting and skillful game of rugby. Now, as a parent of teenage boys, playing both sports, I have witnessed the growth of rugby in the seventeen years living here in the USA.

The game of rugby football was played in 1820 with an uneven number of players on each side. They could kick the ball from their hands but a game could take days to complete. In 1823 a boy named Webb Ellis saw a more effective way of gaining ground by simply picking up the ball and running with it. From that day on the game changed forever, but it not appear as a rule until 1845.

Rugby has always been known as a gentlemen's game in Europe, but not so in America. I was astonished when I first heard the opinion that it was a game played by thugs. How could this be? Some parents have offered opinion that it is a game for kids who do not

get selected to play football, that it is the most dangerous game, as they do not wear helmets. What we perceive to be true tends to be our truth. Perhaps we need to hear, read and see a little more first.

175 years after Webb Ellis ran with the ball in Rugby, a boy from a town called Pella, Iowa sat along the sidelines with his freshmen friends and watched his college, The University of Northern Iowa play in a rugby match. That same night, another team in the university was short a player and rather than forfeit they asked him if he would play. "I don't know how to play this game" came the reply "If someone throws the ball to you, catch it and if someone on the other team has the ball, tackle them", was the quick response.

He borrowed some cleats, walked on the field and so began the rugby career for Paul Emerick, who made his debut with the men's national rugby team, the Eagles, in 2003, competing in the 2003, 2007 and 2011 Rugby World Cups. Paul became the leading try scorer among active U.S. players.

When I asked about his thoughts during his first rugby experience, he said, "I was attracted to it because of the freedom of play. I noticed it wasn't scripted like football. Plus, I got the chance to run the ball, I only played defense when I played football".

The past ten years have been a 'bit of a dream' said Emerick. He has played for Chicago, Italy, Ulster and recently signed for

another season with the London Wasps. It did not come without hard work and a lot of athleticism.

Paul has one older brother and three sisters, who are all new rugby fans. They too have come to love the game. He was preparing to travel to Iowa that weekend for the annual 'Sham-



rock Shakedown' run by the Iowa High School Rugby Association. He said there will be a coach's clinic before the high school kids descend upon them.

Chris Draper, an IRB referee (International Rugby Board) has led the charge for the phenomenal explosion of interest in this sport in Iowa. Emerick told me that 750 kids registered for that weekend alone.

On June 8th this year, the Eagles will do battle with the Irish at the BBVA Compass stadium in Houston, Texas. Head coach Mike Tolkin will lead them. Tolkin was an English teacher and rugby coach at Xavier High School, a Jesuit school located in Manhattan, until his appointment as Head Coach of the United States Men's National Rugby Team in 2012.

Mike has witnessed firsthand

the rapid growth of the sport in North America. He has coached youth rugby for over twenty-five years. He now sees kids as young as 9 years old playing touch rugby and reiterates that it takes great athleticism to play rugby, being fit, strong and agile.

He frequently refers to the

"unique fraternity" that exists in the game of rugby. As a parent, I can attest to this as I watch firsthand. Both my sons play at Jesuit College Prep in Dallas. Led by Rugby Director, Coach Anthony Mattacchione, these boys learn a discipline that they do not learn from any other sport. They learn how to be gracious winners and gracious losers.

As soon as the game is over, they dine with the visiting team. Coaches from both sides sit together and the captains of each team exchange school shirts, ties or hats as a sign of respect.

Through each and every game over each and every year, I have heard Coach Mattacchione deliver the same speech. "You can be fierce and competitive on the field but once you step off that field you may end up in college

together or across the boardroom together and your respect for each other is what matters most"

Rugby players often have to travel to another city or state to play a match as it is not as popular as football, therefore it involves overnight stays. To keep costs low and to foster relationships, players play host to each other. My sons have stayed in Houston, Austin, New Orleans, Philadelphia and New York. We have hosted kids from Canada and Kansas City. This is the side of rugby that is rarely revealed, a gentle, kind side, a caring and respectful side.

Coach Tolkin has his work cut out for him going from coaching a boys high school team to the national men's side, but from all accounts it sounds like he is well respected by players and coaches, respect yields bountiful fruit.

June will be a good test for the Eagles as the world cup qualifier is this summer, but Tolkin says they will be "firing on all cylinders"

Houston promises to be alive that weekend with rugby fans from all over the country. This test match will be a wonderful opportunity for high school players to come together and watch this gentleman's game. The Jesuit Rangers Rugby teams will be there, supporting the USA Eagles.

My life and this story began in the stands of Cork Constitution Rugby Club but I now find myself deep in the heart of Texas and developing a love for red, white and blue.

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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea  
Tom Boyle



of the United States have asked that Catholic institutions not honor government officials or politicians who promote abortion with their laws and policies."

Well then, why does the Church continue to allow them to receive the sacraments? Next time the liberal politicians - be they Democrats or Republicans - line up at the communion railing at Holy Cross Cathedral, don't give them communion.

From the Holy Cross website: "All who are properly disposed are invited to experience Jesus' true presence, body, soul and divinity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist." "For my flesh is meat indeed! And my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, abides in me, and I in him." John 6:56-57.

The black ministers in Chicago are strongly opposed to same-sex marriage, and have put the politicians on notice. If same-sex marriage is approved we will vote you out.

What we have now is Church and State inextricably entwined over our left-leaning government trying to legislate what is socially acceptable, and writing laws that sanction issues like sexual preference and same-sex marriage. Where is Sigmund Freud when you need him? Amen!

## Casinos

Our politicians seem to think that the revenues from gambling will solve the financial dilemma we face in Illinois.

Just remember, every dollar spent on gambling hurts the general economy. That money is not spent on food and clothing or the necessities of life. It's not spent on appliances, home improvements, new cars, or vacations. When money is spent on all of those things, the state of Illinois collects sales taxes. What's their return on money spent on gambling? Let it ride! Congratulations to Governor Quinn on his promise to veto this legislation.

## Moving On

June 10th marks the end of my term on the Board of Directors at the IAHC. A thank you to all of those with whom I have worked over the years. I wish them continued success and at this point and time will pass the baton to a new runner.

## IRS

Eric Holder? On the way out? Low level employees decided to go after 501 (c) with conservative values? If you buy into that I've got a good used car for you over on Cicero Ave.

## McCormick Place

A basketball court for DePaul? Hotels? TIF money? What's up? A big construction project for the labor unions who desperately need the work. This will help to appease them while their benefits are cut!

## Crime in Chicago

The gangs are saying, "catch us if you can." Mexican heroin is at the core of the problem. That reinforces the argument to seal the border.

## English

The melting pot is just not working wherever you go, it's like being in a foreign land. Last week in Walmart, the cashier was conversing with two other Indian women in Hindi. She had a very shrill, loud voice. Sure, it's great to speak in your "native tongue," amongst friends."

We expect that when we dine at a Thai, Chinese, or Mexican restaurant, they will all speak in their own language. Try the Polish deli if you want to feel transported to Warsaw! "The Lord did confound the language of the earth." when they were building the Tower of Babel.... Push 3 for Polish, push 4 for Hindi, and push 5 for Mandarin.

## Cardinal Sean O'Malley

The Boston Cardinal boycotted the commencement ceremonies at Boston College because Taoiseach Enda Kenny was to speak at the event. The Taoiseach is supporting abortion legislation in Ireland.

According to the Cardinal, "The Catholic Bishops



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## Master Traditional Irish Musicians Bring The Magic Of Ireland To Students Of All Ages

*Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week provides unique learning opportunity for kids and adults*

CHICAGO, May 1, 2013 – The Irish Music School of Chicago is hosting its third annual Irish culture summer program from July 21-27. The Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week (formerly Scoil Cheoil Chicago) will bring traditional Irish music, singing, dancing, language, and arts and crafts to children and adults. All events will take place in the Avondale neighborhood of Chicago centering at Chief O'Neill's Restaurant at 3471 N. Elston.

Students of all ages and abilities as well as those who

don't play an instrument will have the unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in several areas of Irish arts. The week will start with an Opening Gala concert on Sunday, July 21. A kid's day camp will take place Monday through Friday, July 22-26 and adult workshops will happen in the evenings. Students learning will culminate in a finale recital for family and friends on Saturday, July 27.

The world-renowned musicians and teachers include Séamus Ó Beaglaoich, Oisín Mac Diarmada, Brian Cunningham, Bernadette Nic Gabhann, Seán Cleland and other special guests and tutors. The faculty will be teaching a wide range of subjects including Traditional Irish Music, Sean-Nós Dancing, Irish Language (Comhrá Gaeilge), Irish and English Singing and Celtic Arts and Crafts.

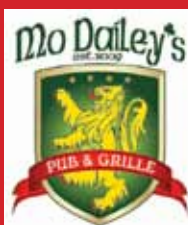
Chicago has a long history with traditional Irish music and the events of Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week serve to continue that legacy. "The Francis O'Neill Irish

Arts Week further serves to cement Chicago's historic place as a bastion of Irish music. The week has something for all ages and plays fitting homage to former Chicago Police Chief, Captain Francis O'Neill, who preserved traditional Irish music for future generations. This week continues that legacy," said Mac Diarmada.

Kids ages 6-16 can take part in the Day Camp which will include full day of learning and fun from (9am – 3pm). Each day will include singing, dancing, language and music instruction. Adults and older kids can participate in the evenings through master workshops and lectures.

The Irish Music School of Chicago is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Seán Cleland to preserve, cultivate and pass on the living tradition of Irish music to the next generation of Chicagoans. The School dedicates its time throughout the year to teaching the art of traditional Irish music to children and adults in a community focused environment. The School brings in master musicians from both here and abroad to enhance the education of its students and audience.

For more information about the Irish Music School of Chicago, please visit: [www.irishmusicschool.com](http://www.irishmusicschool.com).



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#### TUESDAYS

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**DAILY:** \$5 Martinis & \$4 Cherry, Grape & O Bombs!

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am – 10:00am	Tin Whistle/ Fiddle	Tin Whistle/ Fiddle	Tin Whistle/ Fiddle	Tin Whistle/ Fiddle	Rehearsal	
10:00am – 11:00am	Singing & Storytelling	Singing & Storytelling	Singing & Storytelling	Singing & Storytelling		
11:00 – 11:15am	Morning Break					
11:15am – 12:00pm	Irish Language	Irish Language	Irish Language	Irish Language	Rehearsal	
12:00pm – 12:45pm	Lunch					
12:45pm – 2:00pm	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts		
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Sean N <sup>o</sup> s Dancing	Sean N <sup>o</sup> s Dancing	Sean N <sup>o</sup> s Dancing	Sean N <sup>o</sup> s Dancing		Finale Recital 4pm

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# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane  
and Margo O'Donnell



to thank Cliff Carlson and Cathy Curry for writing the liner notes for my new CD "Reflections" and for the photography, Cathy you are the best. I look forward to writing about my trip in next months column but right now I have to live it first. I am being distracted by Shirley Jones frying Irish bacon and eggs and the aroma is getting to me I'm sure you get the picture.

Song writing tip - That last statement "I'm sure you get the picture" is one of the major ingredients to writing a good/great song. If you create a picture for the listener its a winner. "Peaceful Easy Feeling" by The Eagles is a good example. The first lines are -

I like the way your sparkling earrings lay  
Against your skin, it's so brown.

Until next time, be good to each other.

Good night and God Bless from Ireland,

*Margo and Joe*

that I remember so well. I'm afraid between Margo and my family I'll be killed with kindness (what a way to go)

Margo has asked me to join her in Bundoran, Donegal, for an awards show, so I am looking forward to that. I will get to meet Lisa McHugh, who recorded 2 of our songs. There will be a lot of other Irish entertainers there, so it sounds like good craic.

This month I suggested that we use a poem that Margo has written about her Father and is included in her book, due for release next year, to coincide with her 50th year in the entertainment business. I have been given the honor of reading parts of the book and I can't wait to read the full version. At this point I want

*Hi everybody*

As I write this article-guess what, I have my friend Joe McShane here with me in my home in Ireland.

We are really spending quality time and its wonderful. Last evening we went and visited "The King of Country Music" Big Tom or as Joe and I call him our very own Johnny Cash. Tom was so glad to see Joe, I went into his house and told him Joe was outside, right away I could see his mind go back in time, remembering past times of Joe singing in his bar in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, "The Log Cabin", Joe had a pint of beer with Tom the night before he left for America over 13 years ago. He also did his first recordings in the Big Tom Studios

Tom pushed himself out of his chair and said where is he, let me see him, I led him

outside and stood back and it was like time stood still as two old friends embraced each other. I see Tom a lot cause we live close but it was lovely watching Joe and Tom together.

On a sad note we lost pure solid gold just two weeks ago, George Jones died after a short illness in Nashville, Tennessee, I cried when I heard of his passing, known to us all as the possum, we will miss him. R.I.P. dear Georgie.

In our world of Country Music, a pure legend has passed on He has gone to join God's Choir, George Jones really does belong

Known to all of us as the Possum, with a voice of solid gold Rest in Peace our dearest Jonesy, For-ever in God's home

For now take care of each other as I say to him sitting beside me, over to you Joe

*Thank you Margo,*

Its great to be home. For me it hasn't changed all that much, it still has that warm friendship

## Margo's Poem About Her Father

What my Father meant to me no words could ever say  
Always there to listen if I ever lost my way  
So kind and understanding a light that shone so bright  
When he was gone I missed him each morning, noon and night.  
To me he was a hero the man who hung the moon  
He had the greatest presence when he walked into a room  
But my father was so humble no big pomp or style  
His hand reached out in friendship yes he'd go that extra mile  
The love I felt for you dear dad will never fade or die  
Till the day I go to join you in God's home in the sky  
Where we will be together no more parting no more pain  
So rest easy dearest father until we meet again

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## Real Ireland

By Rachel Gaffney



### The Summer Table Competition

It feels as though summer is trying to ease its way into our lives at the moment. At times this statement may seem defunct

we get a deluge of rain in a normally hot Texas or an ice tsunami in Minnesota in May, but the signs are still there. Flowers are bursting through the soil surface, sales for antihistamines are on the rise and this years range of swimsuits are appearing in the stores.

This time of the year prompts us to use color that we do not use during the long and cold winter months. From pastels to vibrant reds and purples we flirt with color for a few months, raising our serotonin levels once again.

Color has various affects on us. If we are to think about

the color red, we tend to think of the raging bull, the red rag to the bull, the fiery red head and often associate red with danger. Red is a powerful color but when a little

white is added, we get the color pink. Pink is a calm and tranquil color and a color, that although I do not wear is a color I like to use



on my summer table.

Some of the things that my mother or grandmother said to me growing up were simply things they said to me. I did not know

them as 'sayings' or old 'Irish sayings'. They just wove them into daily conversation as a matter of fact. I hope I am making sense here. I learned that when you only have what's before you, then you are 'making a silk purse out of a sows ear'. In other words , when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade !

We feel this pressure to be perfect. To be the perfect housewife, entertainer and cook. We leaf through the pages of magazines and look in awe at the tables before us. The thought enters our minds that we are not as good and how could we recreate this. Never giving a thought that it took several hours to recreate this image, with a team of photographers and food stylists. Our table should be just that. It should be 'our table'

Look around you and see what you have . It works. I guarantee you. In fact I am challenging you here. To help you along, I will share an example with you.

Last year, I hosted an afternoon tea. I made my Irish butter shortbreads, and iced them very simply with a pink

glaze. I walked into the garden and plucked a handful of pink rhododendrons. From my pantry I grabbed an old plate and vase and there was table scape. Yes, it is that simple. It has to be that simple.

The pleasure must come from sorting and shopping through your own kitchen cupboard or your grandmothers heirlooms sitting in your dining room, waiting for a 'special occasion' when in fact that special occasion is now.

You may have an incredible herb garden or just have one shrub of rosemary. You may have all greenery or just a few trees. You may have scraps of fabric sitting in your craft room or sewing box, pieces of tile or stone or old jars and cans. Whatever it is that you have , I am asking you to create your own summer table. Then, take a photo and share with me.

EMAIL: Rachel@Rachelgaffneys.com

Send me your photograph of your summer table. Explain what materials you used and how easily

you came across them. What inspired you? I will need your name and email address along with your permission to share your photograph for this competition.

The winner will receive a set of natural Irish linen and cotton tea towels with pattern taken from the

historic book of Kells

Follow Rachel Gaffney on Twitter: @Rachelgaffney on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/rachel-gaffneys-real-ireland/112638525439124?ref=ts>

Closing Date for competition: July 25th 2013.

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# View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



yes that, right—for novelty coins? 'Shite and onions', proclaims Jim's shade.

No slouch when it came to politics, Joyce would have seen this

coin as another grand diversion, one of many provided by our government and central bank in recent times. So diversions aside, consider the following reality that could be coming soon to our ATMs: dried up bank accounts accompanied by television footage of a hubristic European Central Bank official gloating that his policy of squirreling away citizens' deposits is justified.

Over a single weekend in mid-March, while much of the rest of the world was tipsily distracted by St. Patrick's Day, Irish people suddenly became virtuosos of the intricacies of the Cypriot deposit account regulations. The Cypriot scandal intensified the crisis in confidence in the Eurozone, contagion being politically the most salient effect of financial meltdown in a small Eurozone state: Nicosia today, Dublin tomorrow. We learned that the CEO of Cyprus' Laiki Bank had been reassured that there would be no raid on deposits in a letter from the Cypriot Central Bank dated February 11th; such an act would 'contradict the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus

and of Article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention of Human Rights'. Phew, Cypriot deposit holders were protected by the said constitutional and human rights until, well, the following month.

Irish panic at goings-on in Cyprus was well-founded. Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Eurogroup Chairman, let it slip that the proposed haircut of 60% on Cypriot deposits of over €100,000 would also be imposed on other countries who need a bailout. He and his colleagues rushed in vain to cover-up this astonishing admission. German Finance Minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, for example was explicit (for each of the following assertions read the opposite): 'Cyprus is and will remain a special one-off case', 'Savings accounts in Europe are safe'. So will the shock-wave of Cyprus cause Irish politicians finally to sit up and call a few of the bluffs that have resulted in the serfdom of our country, to play our weak hand strongly?

Don't hold your breath. Sadly, the denizens of the Dáil have placidly accepted that our parliament is a glorified county council. As no organised movement has come into being yet to force the Dáil's hand, that outlook will continue. The result of this is political stasis, for the time being. The solution to the economic freefall we are now experiencing will almost certainly come outside the country. That reflection does not redound to our independence as a people and the question begs, how did our subservience come about?

In the run up to Ireland joining the European Economic Community there was a great deal of elation and some trepidation in the country. T.K. Whitaker, a self-effacing but extremely able civil servant, often credited with authoring our economic turnaround in the 1960s from an agrarian black hole to a modern, technological state, was clear-headed about Ireland's position in Europe. In 1962, eleven years before Ireland's accession to the EEC, Whitaker wrote to the Minister for Finance stating, 'Nobody so loves us as to want us in the EEC on our own terms'. We know how this story ends. Ireland voted to join Europe in 1973 and has been a conformist European minor partner ever since. Whitaker's misgivings about entering the Rich Man's Club have, fifty years

later, come to haunt us. The standard argument today is that it behooves us to be good Europeans. This guilt trip has been with us for some time. But still louder sounds Whitaker's voice, now that the collusion between European governments and the elites who run their banks has fully revealed itself. Over the past six years, it has become clear, through craven relations with European leaders and visionless economic policies, that Ireland no longer can even discern what its terms are. Its position is that it does not have a position. Its leaders await orders and then implement them.

In truth, Ireland has few aces left to play. We rely so heavily on multinational companies for what is left of our economy that, say, deciding unilaterally to leave the Eurozone would be enormously complex and best by high risks; any legal case over the constitutionality of our paying bankers' debt, such as the one taken by David Hall this spring, will flounder: even our judiciary has an in-built sense of our unimportance in the European structure.

That is the state of Old Ireland. Our European masters are overseeing the modern economic equivalent of medieval blood-letting that putatively will lead to a cure. Is it any wonder, then, that our Minister for the Arts is prostrating himself before actor Tom Cruise, luring him to be an ambassador for Ireland abroad—to bring to our shores films like Oblivion?

## Cheapening Your Coin

The Irish Central Bank has just introduced a ten euro coin with an engraved quotation from James Joyce's Ulysses. Only problem is that the pen-pushers misquoted Joyce. The coin reads 'Signatures of all things that I am here to read', but Joyce never wrote the word 'that'. Backpedalling, the Central Bank issued a statement—'the error is regretted, it should be noted that the coin is an artistic representation of the author and text and not intended as a literal representation'. Aha, that explains it. Our chief bankers have become artists. Denied control of the financial structure in Ireland, they have formed themselves into an artistic group to interpret Joyce.

It is tempting to speculate what Joyce, a notorious spendthrift in his life, would have made of the misquotation. Now a resident in Limbo, his spiritual home, does Joyce smile or frown to see independent Ireland lost to a European bureaucracy and an emasculated Irish Central Bank reduced to appropriating his words—and it cannot even do that,



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## Secrets of an Abandoned Village

Nestled on the slopes of the Comeragh Mountains in County Waterford, Ireland are the remains of a village called Ballintlea whose inhabitants left over 100 years ago. This village is not unique; there are a number of them scattered over the county; forlorn and neglected for the most part, visited only by cows. But these abandoned villages all have numerous stories of love, loss, hardship and most fundamentally, separation.

In the hard times that devastated Ireland during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, emigration was essential in a lot of cases for survival, and Ballintlea was no different. Despite having a stunning view of the



Irish Sea, the village is half way up one side of the mountain range that divides County Waterford into two. As a consequence the land would have been difficult to farm and most were smallholdings, the families barely able to scratch enough food out of the land. Isolation would have been an important factor in the way of life. The mountain itself, owned by the local landlord Sir Edward Kennedy, was rented out to all families and used as common land for grazing.

The Hercules Project, based in Co Waterford has carried out some research, to find out a bit about the people who lived there and where they went, particularly those who emigrated; and found out from local people that Worcester, Massachusetts

was the area to where people from this parish would generally emigrate.

The names of the families living in the village between 1901 and 1911 were Moran, Keane, Fitzgerald, Colman, Lennon, Riordan, Flynn, Grady, Foley, Keating, Lenihan, Reilly, Walsh, Kittiea, Power, Ryan, Greedy and O'Driscoll.

Could this have been the story of your grandparents or great grandparents? If you would like to delve into the Sense of Place of your ancestors or find out a little more about these families please join our social network <http://mysenseofplace.ning.com> and you can share your history. We'd love to hear from you.

2013 is the year of the Gathering, an Irish nationwide initiative to bring home tens of thousands of our diaspora; it will be the biggest homecoming Ireland has ever seen. You could be a part of this. Check out [www.thegathering.com](http://www.thegathering.com). As part of this, all Powers, by blood, kin or affection will be welcomed to Co Waterford from 31st May-4th June; for an opportunity to become immersed in the ancestral and spiritual home of the Power clan see [www.powerclangathering.com](http://www.powerclangathering.com) for event itinerary and travel information.

The Hercules project based in Dunhill, Co Waterford is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Programme (INTERREG 4A).



## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



I had finally made it. I was at the World Championships of Irish Dance. It was every dancer's dream to be here. I was finally one of the few that can say they danced at the World Championships in Boston. It was all so surreal when I first walked into the room to look at the stage. I had seen plenty of pictures of it before but to see it with my own two eyes was so incredible.

It was hard not to get caught up in all the excitement of the entire atmosphere. There were so many people that weren't from America, which is so different than any other major competition. It seemed everywhere I looked there was one world champion or another.

But I knew I had to stay focused. I could have fun after I had danced my choreography. We had worked so hard at our choreography and I knew my team would rock it out there. I was so excited to dance on the world stage but there was also a little voice saying, "What if you mess up?" I tried to push that thought out of my head but what if I did? What if I was the one that messed up and ruined everything for my team? (It would not have been the first time that happened.) I kept my confidence though. I knew that if I freaked out then I probably would mess up. I could hardly sleep that night.

When I woke up, I hopped straight out of bed and for the first time, I was excited to put my wig on. I was actually anxious to get over to the practice rooms. The first dance I had to dance was my ceili. Waiting backstage was definitely one of the most nerve-racking parts. My team tried to keep each other calm, saying encouraging things to each other, but we all knew that we were freaking out inside. (I personally thought I was going to faint and puke all at the same time.) It was all of our first time at worlds. I tried to push all other thoughts outside of my mind except the

motions of the dance as I walked up the stairs and onto the stage.

The bright lights prevented me from seeing the crowd but I could see the outline of the judges. I put on my biggest smile and danced my heart out. When I walked off the stage, I thought my team did really well. We didn't mess up so that's always a plus. We waited for our recalls patiently.

When they had started announcing recalls. We found out we made had made it to the 2nd round! When we got up to dance the 2nd time, it wasn't as stressful, but I was still a little nervous. We didn't recall that time, but that's ok, we received our medals that I will always cherish. It gave us more time to focus on our bigger dance, our choreography. We had loads of time to practice and calm our nerves before we went on stage again.

When we went back stage we were all feeling the stress. My fear of messing up was coming back to me again. Watching the other teams did not help because they were all very good. I was confident in our brand new choreography and we had some spectacular dancers on our team. As I walked on the stage I felt a boost of confidence reminding myself of how good it would feel after we finished. I could hear the music starting, I took a deep breath, and I danced the best I ever had in choreography. We had a

new move in our dance where it would look as if my teammate was walking down the stairs off of a boat (the stairs were our arms). We were taking a big risk with this move. I held my breath as we approached this moment, if it was successful it would be legendary and if it failed we would not have a shot at winning. As she jumped onto our arms and walked down I knew it was a success. I could hear the crowd gasp as this was taking place and then a loud ovation as we finished. I got off the stage and I was so happy that we rocked it out there and I began to cry a little. My team felt the same way. As we waited for awards we were very excited. They began to read the scores on the big board for everyone to see. After the first 3 judges scores were announced, we were in the lead. Then we began to lose our lead as more scores were read. After the final tally, we finished 6th in the World. We were very disappointed. We thought we had a top 3 finish. Our team received the loudest ovation of all the teams and people not associated with MHG told us we deserved better. It was a bitter pill to swallow but we know we were awesome! We vowed that we would take Oireachtas and Nationals the following year. I had a great time in Boston; it was an experience I wouldn't change for anything. I realized how much I had missed by not going to Worlds before and am very determined to get back for solos one day. My new determination must be working because I came in first place for the Blue Grass Feis in Lexington Kentucky last week. I am half way to OC.

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## A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

Did you know that Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove has been in business for 38 years? I sure didn't! Paddy Barry came to the United States in 1968 for the Democratic convention in Chicago. When he arrived by hitchhiking from Miami, his hair was long and he was considered a hippie. People who were picketing the convention thought he was

following that in 1975, Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove and then in 2005 the Irish Boutique in Crystal Lake.

The Irish boutiques and Paddy's on the Square are everything Irish! Between the three stores, there is nothing you can't purchase...that is Irish!

The Irish Boutiques have fine may choices of china, Beleek, Waterford crystal

Grove, IL. With the help of Maureen O' Looney and Mary Rustian, they opened the Irish Boutique May 1, 1975. Fol-



post cards and memorabilia too. Don't forget about the beer bottle kilt that is a must have.

If you are a book lover you will want to participate in the Irish Book Club at Paddy's on the Square. They meet once every two months on a Thursday night to discuss the book the group ha read. While discussing the book, they are enjoying Barry's tea and biscuits and whatever pot luck item that is being shared. The group usually continues the conversation late in the evening at an unofficial party at the Village Tavern down the street. The current book is titled: 1949, Novel of the Irish Century. It is the third of a series by Morgan Lilywelyen. They would love to have more people share their enthusiasm, so if interested the next book get together is scheduled for July 19th at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!

Paddy and his children Cecelia, Paul and John are busy getting ready for some upcoming summer events.

They will include The McNulty Irish Dancers on some Saturdays in July in Long Grove. You can say hello to them at the Arlington Heights Irish Fest on July 27 -28th, and the Irish American Heritage Center fest on July 13-15 or the Milwaukee Irish Fest Aug. 16-19 where he is one of the original vendors going back 30 years. He will be welcoming guests at one of their



two booths!

Long Grove is a quaint, town with charm that is distinctively real. Visitors love the relaxed pace and interesting mix

of local shops, restaurants, art, and entertainment. Famous for their annual festivals and lush green spaces, Long Grove, was recently named one of Chicago's Best Public Spaces. Upcoming events include the following:

- Veterans Recognition on July 29
- Fine Art and Wine Festival on August 18 and 19th.
- Apple Fest on Sept. 28, 29 and 30
- Oktoberfest on October 13 and 14 th  
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Irish Boutique - 434 Robert Parker Coffin Road Long Grove, IL 60047-(847) 634-3540 Paddy's on the Square- 228 Robert P. Coffin Rd. Long Grove, IL 60047 (847) 634-0339 Irish Boutique - 17 Crystal Lake Plz, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 459-1800



*John and Paddy Barry. There is always a Caed Mile Failte at any of their stores!*

there to help and offered him free food. He knew he was home. But he could live in the U.S. legally only if he went to school and found a job in 6 months. Paddy's first job was in Park Ridge as an electrician.

In Ireland, Paddy was born in the smallest county of Ireland called County Louth, fifty miles north of Dublin. Paddy has a claim to fame in the small town of Louth. Rumor claims that he drove the fairies out of Ireland in 1955 by adding electrical lights inside the ancient cavern of Newgrange.

Back in Ireland, Paddy was closely associated with the Legions of Mary, a volunteer for the Jesuits. He wanted to continue his volunteering in Chicago. The first person he met there was Linda, who would become his wife. The first Irish retail location they opened was in Highwood, Illinois. For two years, they enjoyed their business there, but they were enticed to open a location in Long

and Tara's diary jewelry. They have many customers coming in for their Claddagh rings and Celtic wedding bands selection. They also sell delicious Irish sausage, bacon, soda bread, candy and Barry's tea. They receive a new batch of Irish fry goodies every week from Winstons! Don't forget they have fragrances for men and women; one of their best sellers is "Patrick" fragrance for men.

Paddy's on the Square sells beautiful en and women's Irish wool sweaters, t-shirts, jerseys, and adorable and funny baby clothing. Some of their popular items are the Women's Micro weave scarves, men's tweed caps all made in Killarney. They have an amazing array of music selections and you can take home your own Irish Tin Whistle and teach yourself how to play with the manual. You can purchase pete bails for the fireplace, healthy shamrock plants and other garden items. For the Quiet Man fans there is plenty of DVD's,

**Newgrange** (Irish: Sí an Bhrú) is a prehistoric monument located in County Meath, on the eastern side of Ireland, north of the River Boyne. It was built around 3200 BC, during the Neolithic period. There is no agreement about what the site was used for, but it has been speculated that it had some form of religious significance because it is aligned with the rising sun, which floods the stone room with light on the winter solstice. Newgrange is older than Stonehenge and the great pyramids of Giza. It is in fact alongside the similar passage tomb mounds of Knowth and Dowth. Newgrange also shares many similarities with other Neolithic constructions around Western Europe.

After its initial use, the entrance to Newgrange was sealed and it remained closed for several millennia, subsequently gaining several associations in local folklore and mythology. It first began to be studied as a prehistoric monument by antiquarians in the 17th century CE, and over subsequent centuries various archaeological excavations took place at the site before it was largely restored to an interpretation of its original Neolithic appearance by conservators in the 1970s. Today, Newgrange is a popular tourist site, and according to archeologists, it is "unhesitatingly regarded by the pre-historian as the great national monument of Ireland" and is also widely recognized as one of the most important megalithic structures in Europe.)

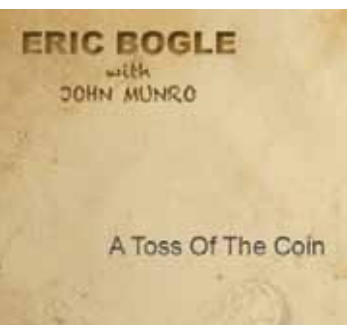
## Piping It In

Jack Baker



Just when I get to the point where I think that the CD industry is dead, a flock of new CDs comes in and settles on my desk. This month I've got to play catch up and let you know about some of the new and very worthwhile new releases.

Greentrax Records, one of the finest labels anywhere, has scored with two new releases that I'm rather fond of. Firstly, Eric Bogle, who hung up his touring shoes last year, has certainly not hung up his song-writing shoes and his new CD,



"A Toss Of The Coin" is proof of that. Aply assisted by John Munro, "the band" as Bogle used to refer to him, this recording has seven new Eric Bogle songs, two from John Munro and three others. Among the others is Eric's arrangement of "In Flanders Fields", the WWI poem



written by Canadian Physician and soldier, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Others have tried setting this to music before but

Eric Bogle's version is the best I've heard so far and certain to be responsible for a harvest of new tears at Remembrance Day services. The new tunes reflect the news of the day and will certainly cheese off as many as they please. That's why I love Eric Bogle.

Greentrax does it again with the release of "Ceolbeg Collected", 16 tracks of the Scottish folk group Ceolbeg featuring the best from all of their recordings. I have been a big fan of Ceolbeg ever since I first heard their version of "Zito the Bubbleman" and it's on here along with pieces that have been out of print for years. If you know Ceolbeg you'll love the recording and if you don't, here's your chance to get caught up with them.

I finally got the new Laura Smith recording in the store. Titled "Everything Is Moving", this is a classic and everything Bill Margeson wrote about it is true (read his May column) so I really don't need to say more except that you can consider this one two thumbs up (my Roger Ebert tribute).

Enter the Haggis has released their latest CD, "The Modest Revolution". If you like ETH, you'll love the new CD. Their vocals are clear and strong, their instrumentation absolutely rocks. This is a rock band with real musicians, not one of the play it loud and fast so no one notices when we screw it up. ETH started out as a fine band and have grown with each new CD. It's nice to see Celtic rock played well and I look forward to seeing these guys at the festivals this season.

While I'm talking rock with bagpipes, I probably should mention the new Red Hot Chilli Pipers recording "Braveheart",

a CD & DVD combo pack. As always it's good piping and good rock and good fun. I found it interesting though that there was not a single mention of who



was playing with the band in the CD and absolutely no liner notes. The DVD was interesting but...that's all I'll say about that. There were also a lot of rehashed tunes that have been previously recorded by the band. This is the band's fifth release and I'm afraid they are trying to get more tricks out of this pony than it is able to provide.

I was happy to run into Colin Grant-Adams recently at the Hawaiian Scottish Festival. It gave me a chance to chat with him and his lovely wife Julia and listen to his songs,



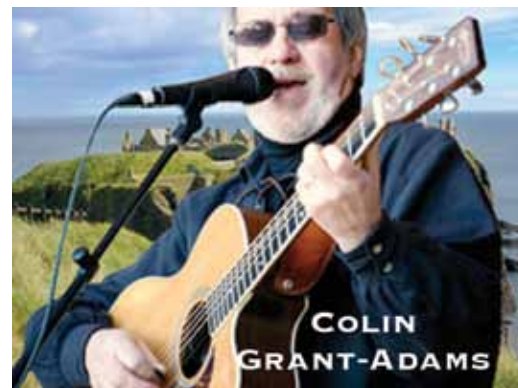
always a pleasure.

Colin is a Scottish folk singer who could do quite nicely for himself by using his excellent voice and considerable guitar skill to perform covers of popular Scottish songs, but no, that's not enough for him. Instead Colin comes up with new and innovative arrangements which always manage to take me by surprise and sound lovely. I also picked up a quantity of his most recent recordings, "Rubies and Diamonds" and "Songs For The

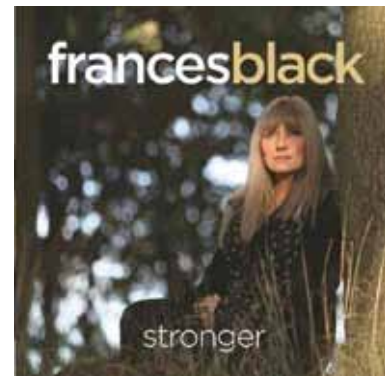
Road". Both recordings are fun and both have Tommy Makem tunes on them, "Farewell to Carlingford" on the first and "The Rambles of Spring" on the second. However, the second CD really turned my ear with the finest collection of my favorite tunes that I've heard in quite awhile. He performs a beautiful rendition of Davy Steele's "Last Trip Home" and a spirited version of Kenneth McKeller's "The Tartan".

I'm just happy to see talented troubadours like Colin Grant-Adams still singing the old songs and doing such a good job of it.

The last CD I'd like to talk about is from an artist we've heard way too little from for awhile. France Black has released a new CD, "Stronger" on



Compass Records. This collection finds her recording some of her favorite songs, songs that were important to her during good times and bad, songs that helped carry the weight when she needed them to. I have to say that I prefer her to the original artists. It is a well-crafted record-



ing with great musicians backing Frances' lovely voice. She closes the album with "Waltzing's For Dreamers" a song she has performed for a long time but never as lovely as this. It has been a wait for this album, but it is well worth the wait.

More new CDs came in as I was writing this so there will be new stuff to talk about next month and good news too. One of the highlights of last year's Milwaukee Irish Fest was We Banjo 3, Enda Scahill's new band. I've got the word that they will be coming back to Milwaukee this year. Also on the bill at Milwaukee this year will be Scottish singer Ed Miller, making his first appearance there. This is a singer you do not want to

miss, one of the greatest ballad singers with one of the greatest voices. Listening to Ed Miller is an experience you won't forget.

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## The Irish Rover

By James McClure

### Father's Day Card from Heaven

With my June issue deadline looming, I rolled out on the edge of my bed considering that this would be the first June I couldn't write to my father and wish him a Happy Father's Day. His cat yawned, stretched and cuddled on my lap as she did on his up until June 31st, 2012 at midnight. I could have sworn I heard a slight echo of my Dad's strong voice and "Why don't you let me handle it, Boy? You hop back and stay cozy under those covers!"

Kitty pawed at my face and said MEOW MEOW POPPA MEOW LOOK!

Sure enough there was an unopened 2008 letter from my Dad peeking out from his bookshelf by my bed...hand-lettered with his trademark BLOCK LETTERS

### John Gurhy Book Launch

John Gurhy has expressed great satisfaction with the launch of his book Rogues Rats Rascals. He wishes to thank all for a wonderful welcome and up to last weekend nearly 300 copies had been sold.

It is getting great reviews and will soon be launched in Ireland.

The book is on sale at the following locations Pappas Deli Palos Hills, Jack n Pats on Ridgeland, The Celtic Crossing Clark St and Irish American Heritage Center.

### ROGUES RATS RASCALS

100 original poems by John Gurhy and 70 funny short stories about great Irish characters



John Gurhy  
The Paddy Poet



made from simple Bic pen. Make of it what you will.

90 year old James Henry McClure pretty much pegged what 95 year old J.H.

Would say to his youngest son James Joseph....

DEAR J.J.

HOW'S MY LITTLE BOY?

OLD MAN DAD IS DOING HIS BEST TO KEEP AT "IT" FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON OF COURSE.

JOINING YOUR MOM IS PROBABLY MY NEXT GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND ONE THAT I'M COUNTING ON WITH OF COURSE NO GUARANTEE IS THERE FOR SUCH A WONDERFUL THING TO HAPPEN. (I MUST BE HONEST, I AM NOT PURSUING THE POWERS THAT BE TO HURRY UP THAT MOMENT WHICH IS UNFAIR I'M SURE TO HER OVER YOU GUYS—TO STICK AROUND FOR MORE TIME THAN WE HAD/HAVE.)

I GUESS WHAT WE CALL THE HUMAN "MIND" HAS A NEED TO SET GOALS OF IMPOSSIBLE THINGS SO THERE IS ALWAYS A DRIVE TO KEEP "GOING STRONG" AT THE HUM DRUM OF DAILY DUTIES AND SCHEDULES THAT WE FACED "IN LIFE."

I KNOW THIS IS ALMOST GIBBERISH TO YOU WHERE "NEW GIRL", "NICE NAVY UNIFORM" OR "THING AT WORK" OR "CAR'S RUNNING GREAT" IS THE HEADLINE OF THE DAY!

HERE IS: OH, LUNCH! OR "WARM SHOWER" OR "TIME MAGAZINE" JUST GOT RECEIVED! LETTER FROM SON J.J. OR NIECE CARA... "HOW THOUGHTFUL!"

(Believe or not at this exact point in reading the letter Dad's orange tabby Angel cat Kitty crawled on top of my head and purred)

EVERY "LOOK OUT KITTY! THAT'S MY HEAD YOU'RE SITTING ON" IS "AN EVENT,"—MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HAD "ON" THAT SWEATER FOR A WEEK OR SO, WOW!

I JEST A BIT BUT IT IS TRUE. I GUESS THE BALANCING THING IS I HAVE SO MANY PHYSICAL PICTURES AND THINGS FROM MY PAST LIFE HERE THAT THEY STAY FRESH IN

MY MIND NO MATTER WHEN THEY HAPPENED--

THE DAY WE GOT TO TOKYO.

THE MORNING WE CROSSED PAST THAT ECONDRON GREEN ON THE WAY TO THE OFFICE TO TAKE SOMETHING TO MOM OR TO RELAX AT MY DESK OR TO GET A SANDWICH AT THE CLUB FROM CLEO.

A TRIP OUTSIDE TO SEE IF THE SQUIRRELS HAD RAIDED THE LAST FEW GRAPES OR IF THE CLEMATIS ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE ABOUT TO BLOOM OR IF THE HEDGE AT THE CORNER OF THE HOUSE NEEDS A HAIRCUT!

THOSE WERE THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" WITHOUT REALLY GOING BACK...YOUR MOM WAS AROUND OR OVER "AT THE OFFICE."

SOME WHERE ON A WINDOW SILL OR SHEET OR CHAIR OR CORNER I HAVE THE PICTURE OR THING THAT RECALLS THAT WONDERFUL POR-



TION OF MY LIFE.

LUNCH COMING UP SOON. NOTHING ASTONISHING ABOUT "THE DAY"--IT'S A STEADY WINTER SCENE OF TYPICAL WISCONSIN WEATHER. CLOUDY SUN UNDER COVER, LITTLE TRAFFIC TO BE SEEN.

THE CALENDAR HERE CALLS FOR LUNCH TODAY TO BE:

SHEPHERD'S PIE

FRUIT ROLL

ICE CREAM

THEY VARY THE FOOD PRETTY WELL AND PUBLISH IT MONTHLY IN ADVANCE SO ANY OF THE OLD DEARS WHO WANT TO CAN SKIP GOING TO THE DINING ROOM IF THEY ARE ON THE PAY-BY-MEAL PLAN.

MOST RESIDENTS JUST TODDLE IN 30 TO 15 MINUTES AHEAD OF SERVING TIME AND TAKE THEIR SEAT AT THEIR TABLE WITH THEIR PICKED FRIENDS AND WAIT FOR THE CARTS TO ROLL.

MY DEAR SON I HAVE NOTHING BUT PATERNAL PAPAISHIP TO SAY BUT MANUFACTURED AN "ENVELOPE", PUT ON STAMP AND GOT THIS LETTER STARTED. IT IS DIFFICULT DESPITE PATTY'S FINE JOB OF FITTING OUT THIS 2 ROOM SETUP AND MANAGING TO GET ALL MY STUFF OUT OF 3901 AND UP HERE ON WALLS AND SHELVES.

FUNNY, I HAVE NO "RECOLLECTION" OF THE MOVE. I DO RECALL BEING IN ANOTHER PLACE UP HERE WHICH WAS ALSO O.K. BUT LIMITED BY COMPARISON. THIS FACILITY ROOMS ABOUT 150 I THINK. PROBABLY A THIRD STILL MARRIED COUPLES. BUT "OLD" GIRLS AND AVID OLD GEEZERS LIKE ME—MOSTLY "LOCALS" I'D GATHER WHICH MAKES SENSE.

TAKING BOTH CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND LOCAL GREEN BAY GAZETTE. I HAVE FRESH READING AND THE "BIG SCREEN" W. CABLE MULTI CHANNELS PROVIDES PLENTY OF VARIED INTEREST/ENTERTAINMENT WHEN BOOKS GET BORING.

I WOULD LIKE MORE TIME WITH FAMILY IF GEOGRAPHY AND TIME/SPACE WEREN'T AS RESTRICTIVE AS THEY HAVE TO BE. PAT GIVES ME MORE TIME THAN SHE SHOULD WITH HER OWN TO LOOK AFTER. FORTUNATELY GRAND KIDS JOHN AND

JEANNIE HAVE THEIR OWN LIVES DOWN IN CHICAGO AND CAN COME UP WITH EASE ON FAMILY OCCASIONS.

I'M STILL PONDERING HOW THE CHICAGO CEMETARY PLOT IS GOING TO DO "FOR THOSE YET TO NEED A PLACE OR A PLOT. I WILL HAVE TO WORK ON IT AS THE NEXT BIG PROJECT SO THERE IS NO UNHAPPINESS WHEN THE NEXT NEED OR SO COMES UP AS IT WILL OF COURSE.

SO MUCH FOR SAD TALKS ON A BEAUTIFUL DAY EVEN THOUGH IT'S WINTER. TOO BAD I CAN'T TAKE A "WALK A BOUT."

LOVE, DAD-O

How I wish I could take that last walk with you Dad-O. How I wish I could. Happy Father's Day.

Oh...and I'm just fine, Poppa, thanks. Who wouldn't be with someone like you for a father!

E-mail: IrishRoverJim@aol.com



## pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



### Humility and Courage in Teaching

"The unambitious sluggard pretends that the eminence is not worth attaining, declines altogether the struggle, and calls himself a philosopher." Barry Lyndon - William Makepeace Thackeray

William Makepeace Thackeray's work dominated my interest as a graduate student. When I took my Masters at Loyola University in English Literature, students were given a very broad course of readings to supplement the core studies necessary for the degree and directed in those studies by exacting experts in their fields within the discipline.

It was a 'bitch and half,' as my Dad was wont to describe and also wonderfully exhilarating, while humbling. Newly married and freshly blessed with a baby girl, in my ninth year of teaching and locked into a pay grade that bordered on educational sharecropping at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, Illinois. Armed with BA from Loyola that served me very well as a baby teacher, heavier intellectual ordnance was needed to deliver the goods on target and on time to my students.

Teachers, all too often, 'run out of ammo' and the result is a breakdown in classroom discipline, because young people want their teachers to challenge them. If a teacher has nothing to give, kids get bored, the fight is over and the white flag goes up -" I will make separate peace. Here are some interesting articles about rock music lyrics, read these, silently, and make no noise and everyone gets a B." "Deal!" . . . for the moment.

Teachers who grab a degree from a diploma mill in order to meet certification can bounce up the pay scale and maintain certification standards taking course entitle - "Breathing for Credit - Dewey in the Classroom with Jane Addams." The result of such

academic stress management and Earn While You Learn methodology can be measured and tested by the sorry state of American education. Why in the world would a teacher of history and social studies opt to take a Masters degree in Sports Communication? More money and it is easy.

I took classes in Literary Studies (bibliography and research), Criticism (classical to contemporary), Old English, Chaucer, Anglo-Saxon texts, Medieval poetry, Modern poetry ( Pound, Eliot, Yeats, Stevens, & etc.), 19th Century British novel, Shakespeare's Tragedies, Shakespeare's English Plays, Independent studies on Thackeray, Dickens, American novel, 18th Century Satire, Pope and Thackeray's lectures in America.

My director was Dr. Allan Frantzen and celebrated Anglo-Saxon scholar with whom I studied Old English and Anglo-Saxon texts, as well as the initial Literary Studies class. In that course, most of my classmates were teachers with years of experience in the classroom and smattering of recently graduated scholars from the Loyola undergraduate school. Within two weeks, I was the only teacher still in the seats. Career educators we leveled by the criticism of their written work - "How can you give my paper an F?????" The question was ignored in the spirit of genuine sympathy, but the teacher persisted until the Director gave the reply, "Very well. Your written presentation ignored all of the standards called for in MLA style book and was generally sloppy, slipshod, dull and came no where near to answering the assigned question>"

Umbrage - "I have been teaching English at John Dewey High School for ten years and have never been so insulted in my life!"

Patient counsel -" And that, sir, seems to be the core of your

problems, here."

Exit, the future M.Ed. candidate for Phoenix University, of PO Box 000.

I made it through Literary Studies with a grade adequate to continuation in the program . . . it stands as my lowest grade in my graduate transcripts. Old English was not as intimidating, but so much more enriching - 'meat first; spoon vitals to pour on,' Twain's bully shouted. and on that

I found the common thread from Beowulf to Henry Esmond - human virtue: Humility Oferhyda ne gym, mære cempa! (Don't be an arrogant jerk, Big Shot!

The shop ( poet) warns the famous warrior). Humility requires understanding that our deeds have consequences linked to a Higher Cause: Fate (wyrd), or God.

Beowulf tells another great warrior-rival who did the Saxon Dozens him of his deep-diving battle with Sea serpents that Wyrd Off nere . . . (Fate often saves the doomed man, if his courage is good) There is much going there. Doomed means judged, or 'time's up!' Fate and Doom are very different and dependent up courage. The Anglo Saxons turned Christ into a marauding warrior who 'harrows' Hell - loots it of its captives: Adam, Abraham, Moses & etc. Christ takes the wounds and accomplishes his mission. These Old English treasures are the texts being ignored by too many academics in favor of literature-lite, graphic novels and PC.

The top warrior must humble himself despite his gifts and skills.

Thackeray maintains humility welded to genius is virtue. In The History of Henry Esmond, the greatest historical novel in print, Thackeray presents 18th life through the language, politics and personalities of the Age of Queen Anne (Swift, Addison, and Richard Steele). Here is the same Beowulf-ian theme gussied up with gilded words from Esmond, a soldier-poet commenting of the bibulous Steele a better soldier and poet:

The gentlemen ushers had a table at Kensington, and the Guard a very splendid dinner daily at St. James's, at either of which ordi-

naries Esmond was free to dine. Dick Steele liked the Guard-table better than his own at the gentlemen ushers', where there was less wine and more ceremony; and Esmond had many a jolly afternoon in company of his friend, and a hundred times at least saw Dick into his chair. If there is verity in wine, according to the old adage, what an amiable-natured character Dick's must have been! In proportion as he took in wine he overflowed with kindness. His talk was not witty so much as charming. He never said a word that could anger anybody, and only became the more benevolent the more tipsy he grew. Many of the wags derided the poor fellow in his cups, and chose him as a butt for their satire: but there was a kindness about him, and a sweet playful fancy, that seemed to Esmond far more charming than the pointed talk of the brightest wits, with their elaborate repartees and affected severities. I think Steele shone rather than sparkled. Those famous beaux-esprits of the coffee-houses (Mr. William Congreve, for instance, when his gout and his grandeur permitted him to come among us) would make

many brilliant hits—half a dozen in a night sometimes—but, like sharp-shooters, when they had fired their shot, they were obliged to retire under cover till their pieces were loaded again, and wait till they got another chance at their enemy; whereas Dick never thought that his bottle companion was a butt to aim at—only a friend to shake by the hand. The History of Henry Esmond, Chapter XI.

The playwright Congreve receives short shrift from Esmond via Thackeray, because he acts like and happens to be a snotty, arrogant jerk, who verbally bitch-slaps others and withdraws. Drunk, or Sober, the kindly Steele treats every friend like a friend - not as grist for his resume, or catalog of wit. It takes courage to be kind-hearted.

The rigors of the texts and more so the direction of the instructors salted my simple skills as a preservative, but also candied up my grey matter with more and better references to the poems, novels, plays and essays I would teach in future.

I know my stuff and the kids were never bored, because I was never bored. Teaching can never be allowed to be dull.

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## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### Good Time To Review Your Career?

We seem to have become a very busy society. Everyone you talk to says that they have a great number of things "on their plate". But many of us would also agree that the summer months seem to have less of the stress we feel during the cold winter months. Hopefully you can schedule a couple of hours over the summer to assess the status of your career.

1. Do a thorough self-analysis of your strengths and capabilities. Supplement your own analysis with the counsel and observations of a couple of close colleagues who know you well and who are willing to be totally honest. They may be friends, but they don't have to be your best buddies. Sometimes a "colleague" will be more specific and direct.

2. Prepare a list of valid criticisms that arise from the self-analysis and from the observations of your colleagues. Decide on what course of action you need to take to correct these matters. The hard hearted approach you need to take at this time can be invaluable; you may find that the "strengths" of yesterday have become the "distractions" of today. The care free youth gives way to the more serious minded adult.

3. Look carefully in assessing the "technical" deficiencies you may have. One of these deficiencies that I see regularly is a lack of a college degree. It's not that the person is unable to compete academically. Rather it is that something such as family illness or inadequate funds has gotten in the individual's way. Often this temporary barrier morphs into a long term one.

4. Finishing a degree for a non-traditional student (NTS) is far easier than once thought. NTS is an ill-defined term but it suggests that part time status and age are common elements. Virtually every major university, including the Ivy League schools, has degree programs for such persons. I talked to an insurance adjuster recently; he

said he was a college dropout and that his lack of a degree has hurt his chances for promotion. But he refuses to think about finishing his degree because he erroneously feels that it would be a very long and arduous task.

5. Seek out a few people who can be mentors for you. If you select a few tough minded individuals they can be invaluable in helping you to focus on the right path. They can add some wisdom to your experiences.

6. Seek the counsel of some potential advisers within your own organization. Let them know that you are interested in advancement. Hopefully they will become advocates for you. Don't shy away from "tough" assignments; rather seek them out and volunteer. Seek out opportunities to become more visible in your organization.

7. Find subtle ways of advancing your agenda. Let your management know that you are not just one of the crowd. Research your business and industry; share your findings with the appropriate individuals. Seek the support and counsel of your advisers.

8. Establish goals for the next twelve months; put them in writing and make them as specific as you can. Consider setting some longer range strategic goals which will certainly require some "serious" thinking time. Don't skimp on this task, it can provide you with a road map for your future.

9. Be honest with yourself about the likelihood of your advancement. Are there some factors that you simply can't overcome? If every member of management has gone to School A and you went to School B, will you always be an outsider? Obviously some people would view this situation as a challenge. Good for them, but are you willing to pay that price?

10 I just finished a book, Charlie Wilson's War, in which one of the main characters is a self-described "ethnic" from Aliquippa, PA,

whereas the entire power structure of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) at that time were all Ivy League school grads. This very productive and successful operative was viewed as an outsider for his entire career; in brief, he didn't have an Ivy League pedigree. He was never allowed to be a member of the inner circle.

I once worked for a firm that merged with another consulting firm; there were two "camps" in the firm for as long as I was there. Each side created barriers against the members of the other side; it certainly diminished the effectiveness of the firm.

11. Be realistic with your expectations. Do you really want to be the Chairman of the Board? Or do you have some other "sweet" spot that you would prefer?

12. There is always the other option—take your talents and skills somewhere else. Some say "I stay because I know the organization needs me". To them, I would refer to my wife's comment "Don't kid yourself; Jack Kennedy's body wasn't even cold when he was replaced by LBJ".

Yes, of course, some people will miss you and you them. However the organization will continue, for good or for bad, without you. A week (or sooner) after you have left "your" organization, you will become a historical character. And you may be blamed for every mistake made in the last six months of your service. You have a choice as to when you leave your employer, leave at the time most attractive and convenient to you. *Carpe Diem.*

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand. *Colin Powell.*

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and career transition firm. [www.linkedin.com/pub/jamesfitzgerald/22/668/10b](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jamesfitzgerald/22/668/10b). Web site: [Jamesffitzgerald.com](http://Jamesffitzgerald.com). Email: [Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com](mailto:Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com). Phone: 630-684-2204

### Graduates: Do You Have A Job Lined Up?

By James F. Fitzgerald

As a longtime advisor to job seekers, I would suggest that you need to be aware of these nine elements in the search process:

1. It is essential that you know what kind of job you are looking for. You should do some research before making your decision on the desirability of this or that type of job. In order to sell yourself to a potential employer, you have to be convincing that you are really enthused about a specific sort of a job. You need to be able to define and describe the job you desire. Once you decide on the ideal job you must focus all your energy on securing it.

2. When you talk to ANYONE you need to tell them four things about your job search: what you have been doing, what kind of work you are looking for, where (location) do you want to work and an idea of your salary expectations.

3. You need to help everyone you talk with understand why you should be hired. You should focus on telling them the skills or talents you would bring to an employer.

4. Recognize that there are three basic ways of finding a job. First, personal contacts—the single best way to locate that new job. Second, target companies—why not try some companies that you already know something about? Third, the everything else category

i.e., job boards, computer listings, web sites, employment agencies/search firms, and advertised positions.

5. Prepare a resume that focuses on your achievements, including significant ones that occurred on your high school or college part time jobs.

6. Prepare a presentation of your relevant experiences, skills and talents. Rehearse it frequently. Be sure it highlights the reasons why you should be hired; tell them your strengths and how they apply to the job you are seeking. Read a book or two on interviewing. "Interview Disaster to Interview Master" by Robert Ward is quite good.

7. Get yourself in front of potential employers. Realize that you are on stage; they are your audience.

8. Work on your job search every day of the week. Think of yourself as your own full time sales representative.

9. Remember you are going to change jobs a number of times; start building your network of contacts NOW.

James F. Fitzgerald is president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based executive coaching and outplacement firm. Web site: [jamesffitzgerald.com](http://jamesffitzgerald.com) Email: [jamesffitz37@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesffitz37@hotmail.com) Phone: 630 684-2204

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## An Immigrant's Musings

By Fr. Michael Leonard



**NEW IMMIGRATION BILL**  
Since I last put fingers to keyboard for IAN, we have had the introduction of the much-anticipated bill from "the gang of eight". Named The "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act". 2013

This bill, at 844 pages, is not exactly bedtime reading, unless you want a cure for insomnia. It begins with the thorny issue of Border Security. This is a subject that causes much heated discussion in Washington and well beyond the halls of congress.

The legislation proposed is an attempt to deliver what was promised under President Regan, namely, to gain control of the borders and put an end to illegal entry to the US. The fact that we have an estimated 11 million undocumented people in the country today is evidence that the 1986 laws failed to deliver.

The current proposal has elements included that were not even part of the conversation in 1986. For one thing, the technology to monitor the border, which is now proposed, was not available back then. Secondly, the technology needed for internal enforcement and included in "E-Verify" is a major tool to ensure that all non-US born workers becoming part of the labor force are doing so legally. Lastly, and equally important is the proposal to expand the various categories of visas available to employers to match more closely the actual needs of the US labor market both, for high and low skilled workers.

I have always argued that one of the best ways to reduce unlawful entry is to create a better system where the legal avenues are sufficient to the task. If our neighbors from Mexico and South America have the opportunity to come here legally, why would they ever want to

risk dying in the desert to enter without papers?

One aspect of migration that is sadly lacking from this proposal is any effort to look beyond our borders to the root causes, which force people to leave their homeland. Catholic Relief Services promotes programs that are aimed at alleviating poverty in the sending countries. We are living in an age where the need for global cooperation and development are very urgent. This needs to be reflected in our planning, particularly for the future needs of our country and our planet.

The debate has begun in the US Senate and will soon follow in the House of Representatives. Let us hope and pray that it will bear fruit in the passage of legislation that we can all be proud of.

Why is there war?

It was my first day at school. I felt nervous and scared. I went to all my classes with no friends. It felt like no one cared.

I listened anxiously to all the lessons and waited for lunch break at one. Then finally the bell rang. It was time to talk and have fun.

In the lunch line I met a new friend who wore a hijab on her head, and though I am Jewish, we got along fine, and I was so relieved when she said, "Sit with us, at our table." She pointed to the one next to the door.

So I agreed, and took my tray and was about to walk with her across the floor, when suddenly I felt a nudge. "Hey, I saw you on the bus," said a tall girl in a long skirt. "I see your Jewish star necklace. You should sit with us."

At that moment I looked around, and that's when I noticed, to my surprise, The nations of the world, isolating them-

selves. That's what I saw through my own eyes.

The Spanish only sat with Spanish, the Hindus only with Hindus, The Russians always with the Russians, and never the Arabs with the Jews.

I saw the reason why war gets started. Everyone sticks to their own kind. The lunchroom was a map of the world. Why was everyone so blind?

And so I turned down this girl, and went with the first, and there was no enmity. I built a bridge between two worlds when I sat with those different from me. Hope you will do the same.

By Sharon Fleischer 11th Grade  
Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: sliabhanoir@yahoo.com or 773-282-8445

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## Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



# Tornado Watch

I would thrill to "The Wizard of Oz" many times as a child, but my first experience of that wicked tornado made a deep impression on the soft putty between my ears. We lived on the edge of the Chicago city limits, not far from where Tornado Alley ended along Southwest Highway in Oak Lawn, and so whenever the clouds turned an ugly shade of greenish-gray, my hopes rose accordingly. Maybe, just maybe, this would be the year I'd finally get a glimpse of a real, live twister.

The weather was lovely that Friday afternoon in April 1967, providing relief from the long, frigid Chicago winter. The snows had only just melted away, and finally we kids could run outside and play. By three o'clock dark clouds had gathered in the southwest, threatening to spoil our after-school fun. Around four-thirty, Mom leaned out the front door, glanced up at the sky and shouted for us to come inside. Soon my brother and sisters and I sat at the TV watching cartoons. Suddenly, Underdog's drawl was cut off in mid-sentence by a shrill beeping. As my mother rushed in from the kitchen, a row of white letters began to scroll across the screen, right over Polly Purebred's open mouth.

"Not again!" Mom groaned, wringing her hands.

"...has issued a tornado watch effective until 6 p.m. for the entire Chicago area," a recorded voice read out loud.

"That's us!" shouted Denise.

"A tornado? Coooool!" I breathed, in awe. Frightened, two-year-old Mary Ellen began to wail.

"It's not a tornado warning, only a watch!" Mom reassured her. "But we should go down to the basement, just in case."

"But we're watchin' our show!" Denise protested, pointing at the screen.

"It doesn't matter, there's a storm coming. You know the drill! Downstairs, now!" She swooped up Mary Ellen and herded the rest of us into the basement,

while distant peals of thunder cracked the sky. Mom had to fiddle awhile with the coat-hanger antenna on Dad's ten-band radio, as of course I'd broken off the original long ago.

"This is your National Weather Service station KW039, with the latest forecasts for northern Illinois," the announcer said in a clipped, Esperanto monotone, like a Russian who'd studied English in Havana. "A tornado warning has been issued for the



following counties: Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, Grundy..." Cross-legged on the floor, I gazed up longingly at each flash of lightning while the announcer continued to drone on in Esperanto. Frustrated at being trapped, I drifted off into deep, angry thoughts, nearly missing the final words of the KW039 report.

"...at 5:28 p.m. Central Standard Time, a ground observer reported the tornado near Washtenaw Avenue, at..."

I didn't even wait to hear whether the twister was way down on 131st street, or only a mile away at 91st. A real, live tornado had touched down on our block! I might never, ever get a chance like this again. In an instant, I'd torn away the blankets and raced up the stairs as my mother screamed after me to stop. Mom was just steps behind as I flung the door open and dashed out to the front lawn. Alas, the

high trees all down the street blocked three-quarters of my view. Ominously, not a single bird sang in the trees, and every leaf hung dead-still, the jaundiced light filtering down unearthly, golden. Knowing I had only seconds to spare, I scanned the skies in a frantic search for Dorothy's twister. Wait!—that dark blotch to the right—could that be it? Suddenly I felt a downdraft of cold wind, and a heavy hand on my shoulder. I groaned, and turned to look up at my captor. Her hair whipped back and forth across her face, which to my surprise was contorted not only in anger, but genuine fear. Bracing herself against the rising gusts, Mom cupped her hand and shouted in my ear.

"MICHAEL!!! What do you think you're doing? You're going to get yourself killed!"

"I wanna see the tornado!" I pointed

up at the darkened, roiling southwest skies. All down the block the elms bent low under the lash of the returning wind. Broken-off twigs and leaves sailed over our heads and onto the lawn with the first droplets of cold rain.

"We're going to get struck by lightning out here!" my mother shouted. "Or hit by a tree! C'mon, let's go!" She gripped my collar tightly and began to pull me along behind.

"But, Mom!" I whined, digging my heels into the wet sod.

Then the deluge poured down upon us, just as Mom grasped the handle of the back door to hustle me inside. Safe on the landing, suddenly our ears were split by a piercing, rising, foghorn wail. Frozen to the spot, I glanced up at my mother in alarm. Her eyes looked like two wide, deep blue saucers.

"Quick, Michael! Downstairs! NOW!" she yelled, urging me forward down the steps. As the whooping air raid sirens screamed, I scrambled down the stairs to the southwest corner. My excitement knew no bounds...what if the tornado really was coming up our street, just as wicked as in "The Wizard of Oz"? And of course I'd miss it all, stuck down here with my siblings! I crept to the edge of the blanket, and then dashed to the basement window to sneak a quick peek. But to my dismay, the rain had reduced visibility to near-zero.

"Michael!" shouted Mom. "Get away from that window, this instant! Sit down, right here next to me!" The look she gave me held not one shred of compromise, so I scowled and trudged back to the blanket.

"This stinks! I'll never get to see a tornado!" I moaned. At this rate, I'd be old and gray and still looking for my first twister. Just then, the room flashed brilliant white and a mighty thunderclap shook the house, rattling all the panes. At the same instant, the lightbulb overhead flickered to sickly yellow and then plunged us all into darkness. My sisters squealed in terror and my brother yelped, and I must admit I let out a squeak or two, myself.

"That one was close! Patrick! Where's the flashlight?" Mom's voice called out, the echoing rolls of thunder fading away. A fumbling beam of light spun crazily as Packy set it down on the blanket, pointing up like a weak floor lamp. In the soft yellow glow, I admired the sight of my mother's face lit in profile, silhouetted like some elegant lady in an 18th century cameo. She smiled, hugged little Mary Ellen closer to her side and rummaged in her bag of snacks, handing one to each of us as a token of her comfort. There we sat in a circle on the blanket, munching our cookies, listening to the wind and rain, safe in the southwest corner with Mom; the warm, familiar taste of chocolate chips reassuring us that all would be well.

As the black sheep of the family, I'd always believed that if variety was the spice of life, the thrill of danger made for one fine, hot chili pepper. And so, on the day the great tornado of 1967 approached our neighborhood, I'd escaped the basement and my mother's clutches, running outside in hopes of seeing my first twister. Of course, she'd hauled me back inside, just in time. When Dad got home, he grounded me for life yet again. The next morning I stood on our front porch, amazed to find that despite yesterday's balmy temperatures a light blanket



of fresh snow had fallen during the night. But underneath, the remnants of the storm could still be seen. Down the street a venerable old oak had succumbed to the gale, its trunk split in two by lightning. I shuddered to think that it had missed our house by less than fifty yards.

"C'mon, kids, we're going for a ride," said Dad, car keys jangling. "You too, Mike. In fact, you especially. Grab your jacket, let's go!"

Heading west on 83rd, he turned onto Southwest Highway where it gently curved and crossed the city limits into the suburbs. This was a familiar route, but today I pressed my nose up against the glass, staring at all the toppled oaks and maples. With growing excitement, I pointed out every single one to my brother and sisters in the back seat as we passed.

"I got a phone call this morning, Mary. While you were in the shower," said my father, his eyes fixed straight ahead on the road. My mother turned her head sharply at the strange tremor in his voice.

"Why? What's the matter, Joe? What happened?"

"It's Harold Cody. He..."

"Oh, no," gasped my mother, her hand flying up to cover her mouth.

"He got killed, Mary, in the tornado. He was out there yesterday, in Oak Lawn..." His voice broke, and he gripped the wheel fiercely.

"Oh, not Harold! And—oh my God, his poor wife!" She shook her head in disbelief, tears in her eyes. Then, she spun in her seat to fix her gaze on me.

"Michael! The next time I tell you to come in out of the storm, you'd better! Or, so help me..." Her voice trailed off.

Dad, without a glance in the mirror or turning his head, nodded in agreement. But when we stopped for the red light at 95th Street next to Oak Lawn High School, my father growled over his shoulder at me.

"Huh! Still wanna go out in the middle of a tornado, Mike? Go ahead! Take a look for yourself, and then tell me that!" His voice sounded grim and harsh, but cracked on the last word. My

mother gasped again, whereas my own jaw merely dropped open, falling to my chest.

The scene outside our car window was one of pure and total carnage, a surreal, ravaged wasteland. Fallen rubble lay piled along the base of the school building while tree trunks stood like five foot tall jagged stumps, snapped in two and their tops blown across the field. In the parking lot, dozens of cars had been flipped over; a few lifted up and plunged halfway into the sod. A row of Army trucks blocked access to west 95th, while amid the rubble armed National Guardsmen stood talking with local policemen. My father continued on past, driving as slowly as possible so that his wayward son might get an educational eyeful. He knew me well. As always, I just had to see it for myself... and this was one sight I'd never forget.

From the smell of perfume and Old Spice, we knew our parents would be going out the next evening even though it was a weekday. Dad tromped down the stairs in his dark navy suit and black wingtips, stopping to watch the newscast over my shoulder, who sat on the carpet in front of the TV set.

"Dozens of homes were flattened," said newsman Fahey Flynn, "with at least thirty dead and hundreds of injured. The tornado crossed Southwest Highway at 95th Street during rush hour traffic, flipping over cars and causing many fatalities. After partly destroying Oak Lawn High School, it ripped through the villages of Hometown and Evergreen Park. The funnel weakened as it crossed into the city, cutting through Dan Ryan Woods and damaging homes in the neighborhood near 87th and Damen..."

"Dammit, Mike, that thing came within a mile and a half of here!" my father shouted. "If I ever catch you outside during a tornado warning, you'll be grounded for life, and then some!"

Shaken by the mayhem on the screen, I turned and looked up at him over my shoulder. He stared

at me for a long moment, but then softened his gaze, and patted his coat pockets with both hands.

"Mary! Where are my car keys?" he called out.

"They're right there, on the coffee table!" said Mom, picking up her purse. "C'mon, Joe, we'll be late for the wake. Are you ready to go?"

"I'm ready," he said, very softly, and put his palm against the small of her back as he escorted her to the front door.

"We should be back by nine, I think," Mom called to our babysitter.

"Remember what I said, Mike." Dad leaned back inside across the threshold, and furrowed his brow at me. "If it storms again tonight, stay inside!"

"I will, Dad. I promise."

"And if there's a tornado warning, everyone is to go immediately to..."

"The southwest corner," I answered, along with the rest of my siblings.

"Of what?" he prompted sternly.

"The basement!" we all yelled. Dad smiled, tipped us a salute, and closed the front door.

Only a mile and a half away! It could so easily have happened right here. All of this could be taken away, in a flash of lightning and a breath of wind: every friend, neighbor and loved one that I'd ever known...gone.

At age six, the first comprehension of one's own mortality is almost too much to bear; but to realize that one's own parents are also heir to the frailties of the flesh is a revelation of cosmic significance. The glint of fear in my mother's eyes as the tempest overtook us on the lawn that afternoon would be one I'd never forget. She was my guardian angel and protector, but then who could protect her from the raging indifference of the elements? For her part, she trusted in her faith to provide the strength to bear the burden. As for myself, after the initial shock had passed, I believe I admired her courage, even then. Though mortal, she and my father would somehow stand up to the storm, face all dangers, do anything and

everything in their power to keep us safe. And that, for the moment, was good enough for me.

I must confess that the awesome forces of Mother Nature would forevermore hold me entranced, especially after my close encounter as a young lad. It's been over four decades since, and just as my young self predicted, here I am, old and gray and still looking for my first twister. But though I enjoy a good lightning show, during severe weather I now proceed directly to the cellar. For even

to this day, whenever the sirens wail, instantly I am six years old and home again, on one of those darkening, unearthly still, yellow-green afternoons when we fearfully huddled in the southwest corner, there in the basement of our little house at the end of Tornado Alley.

*These stories are excerpted from Celtic artist Michael Carroll's books "Meehall" and "The Trouble With Meehall," available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). Michael's artwork may be viewed at [www.mccelticdesign.com](http://www.mccelticdesign.com).*



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# Artist Joh Behan Exhibition in Ireland

**Event:** Exhibition opening on Sunday June 2nd. at 3.00pm  
**Artist:** John Behan R.H.A.  
**Title:** Of Land, Sea and People.  
**Venue:**  
 The Western Light Art Gallery  
 Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo.  
**Curators:** Sean & Margaret  
 Cannon 098 43325.



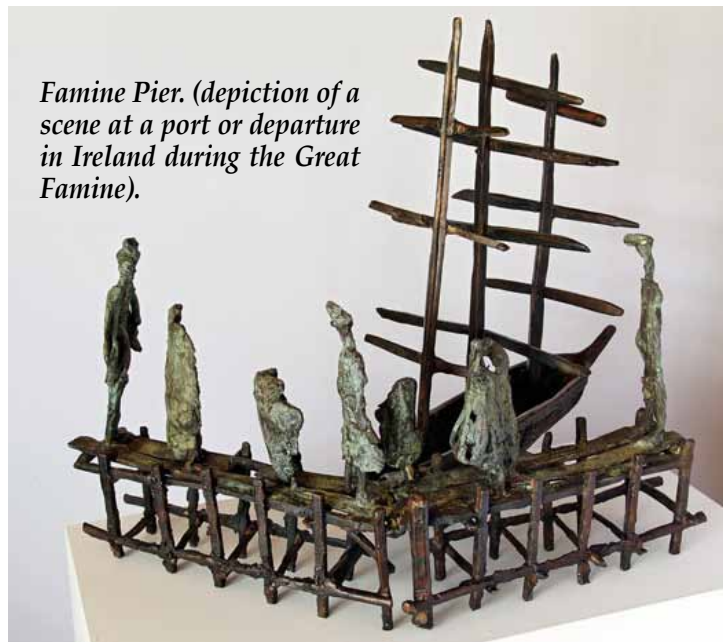
John Behan

The solo exhibition by John Behan runs from June 2nd. to June 9th. His work will continue to feature in their group exhibition through to October this year. It is 45 years this year since

I sat eating breakfast in the Gresham Grill on O'Connell Street looking at the sculptured story of The Tain in metal surrounding me on the walls of the restaurant then. I had no idea who the sculptor was. Many years later I became aware that it was the work of John Behan R.H.A.. It was the first commission for the man who has become one of the most celebrated artists in Ireland and abroad.

John is an old friend of Achill Island having visited regularly and exhibited with the gallery for many years. He has spent time in the Heinrich Bóll Cottage on Achill and much of the work he has created for this exhibition is related to island life. The exhibition will include many of John Behan's themes in his work today which include Irish Mythology, Music, The Sea, The Irish Famine, and the Irish Jewish relation-

*Famine Pier. (depiction of a scene at a port or departure in Ireland during the Great Famine).*



ship explored through James Joyce's Ulysses. The work in the exhibition will display equal numbers of sculptures and wall hangings.

The guest speaker will be Achill Island born poet and writer John F. Deane. He is a member of Aosdána and he founded Poetry Ireland and the Irish Poetry Review.

John Behan was born in Sheriff Street in Dublin in 1938. His teenage education in Ireland led to further studies in Oslo and London. He was a founder member of

the New Artist group in 1962 and the Project Art Centre in Dublin in 1967.

He became an Associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1973 and a full member of the Academy in 1990. He is also a member of Aosdána. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland Galway in June 2000 on the occasion of the unveiling of the commissioned sculpture Twin Spires at the college.

Notable among John Behan's major public commissions is the Famine Ship in County Mayo situated at the bottom of Croagh Patrick. Other major works include his Flight of Birds, Daedalus, Millennium Child, Arrival outside the United Nations in New York and Equality Emerging.

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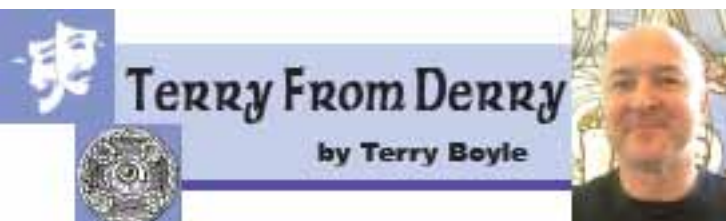
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Taking a trek through Derry's Bogside one begins to step into a neighbourhood that is and has been in constant state of transition. The city of St. Columba has had its fair share of 'troubles', and successes. And the Bogside has absorbed those extremes with fortitude, journeying from the heady days of the Civil Rights movement, to Bloody Sunday to now being an integral part of Derry, the city of culture. Walking among signs of a troubled past; Free Derry Wall, and the Bloody Sunday Memorial one cannot fail to see the city's recent history of the Troubles dubbed over the gable ends of houses. The Bogside Artists have captured the neighbourhood's trail of tears with Murals, or memorials, that greet the visitor or native with scenes of bloodshed and violence. But the story is not concluded in tragedy. The final mural depicts a dove, a symbol of peace, as the culmination to the struggle for Civil Rights. Peace can be realized when social inequalities are addressed politically, socially, and economically. This message lies at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, and it was this perspective that became the catalyst to writing about those who suffered in the cause of fairness.

When I was approached last year to write a play about the Underground Railroad in Southern Indiana, I was drawn back to one of the Bogside murals. The penultimate mural, the precursor to the symbol of peace, is the struggle for dignity and equality, represented by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For those who of us who grew up during the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S or N. Ireland, we were touched by the vision of a man whose dreams of a peaceful struggle to counter social injustice were realized through his courageous efforts. His inspiration, drawn I'm sure, from those early pioneers who fought to abolish slavery, reached not only his people, but also others throughout

the world that suffer wounds of racism and sectarianism.

Since the Northern Irish Civil Rights Movement is indebted to this African American visionary, I felt strongly drawn to writing a play that honoured those who laboured to create a socially active ethos that would in turn produced strong leaders such as Dr. King. In my reading of those involved in the pursuit of freedom during the early 19th Century, I was struck by the bravery of both black and white women and men to challenge injustice, and discrimination. A group of New England Baptists, who had migrated to Lancaster County, Indiana, became fierce abolitionists. They, in collaboration with former slaves, created a network of stations, safe houses if you will, to transport those enslaved to freedom. Each conductor on this Underground Railroad risked their freedom, even their lives, in this enterprise.

Among their achievements, they established Eleutherian College ([http://www.eleutheriancollege.org/Index%20Page/Index\\_page.html](http://www.eleutheriancollege.org/Index%20Page/Index_page.html)), the second only college in the U.S to admit women and African Americans. The college became a light on a hill shining its prophetic mission of equality along the Ohio River. Among those who committed themselves to this noble cause were slaves who choose to remain in captivity in order to free others. Since the fear of being discovered dissuaded those involved from writing down their history, many of these brave people remain unknown, and lost to obscurity. Among the scant recollections of these times I was able to build a composite of one individual who represented the many. Georgina, the Everyman and woman, of those among the enslaved who worked to free others before themselves, was for me a woman who is able to transcend her position as a minority as female and an African American.

Working for a slave auctioneer, Georgina provides the abolitionists information and facilitates the liberation of many of those who are to be sold at auction. Her sacrifice embodies the best of humanity, a sense of altruism that surpasses self-protection and self-regard, and becomes an example that inspires future leaders of Civil Rights. What began as the struggle to equalize races has become a movement to provide equality to all regardless of race, creed or sexual preference.

The tragedy is that we are in danger of losing one of these important National historic building. Eleutherian College, while deemed to be a National landmark, is still in need of repair. While

Federal funding has maintained the integrity of the structure; there is a lot more work to be done inside the building. Places such as Eleutherian incarnate the spirit of freedom. The actions of those involved in this prophetic mission have influenced men such as Dr. King, the leaders of the Civil Rights movement in Derry, and the current struggle for sexual equality. These places remind us of how far we have come, and encourage us to work against inequality and social injustice on every level.

In losing such places we lose the echo of the past that inspires and challenges us to not settle for anything less than true democracy for all. Our desire to keep these symbols intact demonstrates their

value to us as a society. We treasure those who have gone before us in keeping alive what they sweated blood to attain by reinvigorating, re-interpreting the essential message to each generation. The Underground Railroad is still a living issue for many people throughout the world. A group of New England Baptists working in Southern Indiana, a college built to serve minorities, and an enslaved woman continue to speak to us through those walls.

The play, *Nothing's Stops this Train*, will be performed this summer throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Chicago. The proceeds will of course go towards the restoration of Eleutherian College.

## RIVERS INSTITUTE AT HANOVER COLLEGE PRESENTS

### *Nothing Stops this Train*

The Rivers Institute is proud to present *Nothing Stops This Train*, a play about the Underground Railroad by Terence Boyle. *Nothing Stops This Train* is Dr. Boyle's latest play, and is touring this summer along the Ohio River in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. The play tells the fascinating story of John and Sarah Tibbets and a slave named Georgina who helps other slaves escape. The play is set in Lancaster Township, home of Eleutherian College, the second College in the United States to admit students regardless of race or gender. Sarah Tibbets journeys into her own memories and recounts tales of slaves fleeing their masters across the Ohio River with the help of Georgina.



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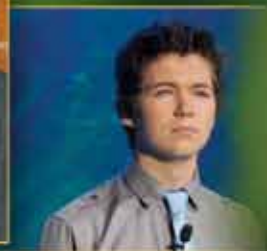
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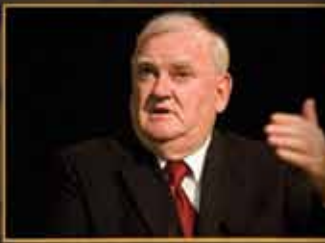
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Our article today is filled with expectation but clouded by effort regards Ireland documents for your pedigree and genealogy. Many people encounter the claim that considering the loss of significant national records in the Four Courts bombing and fires of 1922, that research in Ireland is a lost cause. However, experts have learned to build a case, to counter that disappointment, with alternative approaches, and an ever growing awareness of hidden treasures in other holdings and archives.

Yes, most census entries before 1901 are gone except for a few scraps, and gone were many Legal Will proceedings and more. But any quick glance at the popularity of family history and the heritage of Irish roots should encourage you to continue since those deficiencies are stopping no one. In fact, some of those ashes served to bring to light private materials or copies of such, which were gathered to replace needed information that was necessary to reestablish ongoing society needs and/or business-as-usual. And since then, other materials termed as census-substitutes and alternate indexes have been used to also supplement any researchers' quest.

After a thorough and exhaustive examination of all available documentation and clues in

America, and after compiling history from all your known relatives, then your search for Ireland resources can start -- beginning with the obvious possibilities first. Sean Murray, in his "Primer for Irish Genealogy" has followed the pattern of the most respected guides, like James Ryan and his series on Irish Records, and An-



gus Baxter (Society of Genealogists) "In search of your British and Irish Roots".

It becomes clear that the topics and avenues of relevant search categories follows a knowledge of available records, from the time period of interest. The more you learn about what type of paper trail may have followed your ancestor, the better position you will be in to pinpoint their inclusion. For most people, that will start with church records or civil registrations -- another reason to emphasize the importance of knowing as precise a location as possible, to focus your searching with that. The closer you can identify the geography of your

people, the more accurate and better opportunity the results.

But don't be put off if you draw a blank with an elusive index on many online research sites. As one example, many Roman Catholic parishes in Dublin, and their Church of Ireland counterparts, have been cooperating with the recent internet portal churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords This is an excellent site, and user friendly tool, to do a quick survey, which includes parts of Cork and Kerry as well. But it is not comprehensive, and even specific register books are not complete. We have located some years, which were missing from the electronic text, but found in book form elsewhere. And nothing beats perusing the actual handwriting, in person, on microfilm, or digitized, page by page, in case your ancestors entries were skipped, misinterpreted, misspelled, or footnoted with additional information!

Most Catholic parishes maintain the original, a copy, or the bishops transcripts, within their own facilities. However, some have been relinquished to an archive, diocese, or national institution for a better preservation environment. Church of Ireland records have been centralized at the offices of the Representative Church Body, and any searches or extracts are fee based requests. Other denominations and faiths have similar various collections, and the biggest challenge is to determine what you are looking for and where it is held.

Work in parallel with general history, and remember that many useful sources for Ireland

genealogy are also in U.K. and European archives. Dr. David McCready, author of "The ordination of Women in the Church of Ireland", Published by the Royal Irish Academy, has given us the following advise: "There are abundant resources available to research your Irish heritage. One of the first ports of call should be the National Archives of Ireland, which has a whole section about genealogical research on its website: <http://www.nationalarchives.ie>. The same is true of the National Library of Ireland website: <http://www.nli.ie/>. For those whose origins lie in the northern part of the island, another invaluable resource is that provided by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, <http://www.proni.gov.uk/index.htm>.

The first place to go specifically for Church of Ireland records is the RCB Library in Dublin, further details of which can be obtained from their website: <http://www.libraryireland.anglican.org>. The possibilities offered by the RCB should not be neglected by those whose ancestors were not Church of Ireland. To quote a recent post by Fiona Fitzsimons: Given the administrative role of the Church of Ireland as the State church, the wills and marriage records of the diocesan (Consistorial) courts also encompass Protestant Dissenters and individuals who were Roman Catholic can also be found in the wills and administrations records. More unexpectedly, Church of Ireland parish registers will often record Presbyterian marriages up to 1782, and Methodist marriages up to 1845. Burial registers particularly of rural parishes, will often

also record an entire community in death, regardless of their religious denomination.

To ignore the records held in the RCBL would be a cardinal sin for the genealogical researcher, even if the person or family you're tracing was not a member of the Anglican church in Ireland (http://blog.findmypast.ie/2012/01/the-representative-church-body-library-part-1/). Although it is great fun to return to the éauld sodí for the purposes of genealogical research not everyone can do this. Nonetheless, they can seek the help of professional researchers, of which there is a recognized association, details of which can be found at <http://www.apgi.ie>.

Volunteers groups and heritage centers are also available in Ireland which may assist in facilitating inquiries and searches, as a courtesy or by fee. And, libraries have unique holdings, though typically understaffed considering the volume of requests. However, new initiatives such as "Ireland Reaching Out" at [irelandxo.com](http://irelandxo.com) are trying to fill that void with a network of local parish enthusiasts with specific interests in civil districts, in the native economy and culture, and records of those communities.

Above all, patience and time will bring awareness, reading and learning about the local history, gaining familiarity with records available containing those potential neighbors, and through gathering and building a full-fledged fleshed-out biography of your people AND their allied kin, migration companions, and significant players in the immediate lives of your ancestors.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Beam Me Up:

Chris Hadfield Makes Children of Us Once More

*'It's nice to be against things; but sometimes we have to be for things also.'*

--from the brilliant film, 'The Libertine' with Johnny Depp and John Malkovich

How very pleasant indeed to wake up yesterday, May 14th, to some good news for a change. Commander Chris Hadfield was returning to Earth after five months in charge of the International Space Station. During that time he has gathered around 850,000 Twitter followers and has, seemingly very casually, made our tentative baby steps into space engineering for the average person—who possibly was even unaware

that we actually HAD a space station at all until the commander began to send those astonishing images of his.

Chris Hadfield has made many of us feel like children again. I know that when I sat down to watch him performing David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' on Monday morning I had what must have been a big dopey grin of happiness on my face and—yes, it's true—just the faintest sheen of tears in my eyes. Just for a few moments my father was alive again, I was eleven years old and the Bowie album of the previous year—1969-- was waiting for me under the Christmas tree. And on that previous magical year there had been the most extraordinary event of all. On the street where I lived all of the television sets

were on as a man took his first footsteps onto the white disc that we have stared in awe at ever since we oozed our way out of the primordial swamp. I recall to this day one of the neighbours, Mr. Beattie, saying: "Well, we did it." And that's exactly how it felt. It was as if every single one of us had a hand in getting there.

I suppose it was a long time later before I first heard the term 'global village', but on that long-gone day I suppose that even at such a young age I could have explained the rough concept of it.

It was one of those moments and instilled one of those feelings that I at least just never quite got over. In fact I have little doubt that it led directly to my life-long love of science-fiction.

Three years later, and four years after its initial release, a dream came true when I finally sat down to watch Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey". For the first time I real felt some kind of spirituality. I use that for want of a better word. It's not quite correct but it's the best that I can do.

It brought this feeling that there was just something out there—not necessarily a God, it didn't hit me like that at all—but something that was so much bigger than us. And I would hate to work out how often I have seen that film since. And it is new every time.

Again, because of the often poetic Tweets that accompany Chris Hadfield's astonishing images, we find our sense of wonder and awe returning to us, and that's something that life may have blunted over the years. In fact on that very subject he responded with this moving comment when asked to give advice to children about how to make their futures:

"Look at what you want to be and start sculpting yourself into that person.

"Don't let life randomly kick you into the adult you don't want to become."

That seems to me as good a piece of advice as any you could give to a kid.

His images of the Sahara desert are extraordinary: where you may have had a vague concept of it being an empty waste, it is instead revealed from space to be glowing with colour. As to the Bahamas, he said that it was the most beautiful country, "with vast glowing reefs of every shade of blue that exists."

And his images of Ireland are to be treasured. A week ago as I write this we were privileged to see in a 'God's eye-view' the majesty of a storm covering the coast. And as he passed over Dublin, where his daughter Kristen is studying at Trinity College, he caught our imagination again by sending:

"Ta Eire fíoralainn! Land of green hills and dark beer. With Dublin glowing in the Irish night."

And of course he delighted everyone—even a St. Patrick's Day grump like me—by tweeting on March 17th:

"Wearing the green—Happy St. Patrick's Day from the International Space Station!"

Somehow Hadfield can pull this kind of thing off without looking in the least bit corny; but then if he can pull off wearing a moustache you would have to ask if there is anything the guy can't do. I don't think that I've seen a hairy face outside of Gerry Adams in years!

Passing over Belfast he asked: "Belfast, at the mouth of the River Lagan. Strangely, not the river the city was named after. Who can tell me why?"

Do you know something? We have a long and embarrassing history of making a holy show of ourselves in tripping over each other in order to claim everyone from Mohammed Ali to Barack Obama as one of our own. Well, Commander Hadfield may be a Canadian but I wouldn't groan if he was given some sort of honorary title. If you deserve to be rewarded for making people feel good about themselves again, even for a minute, then this guy deserves it.

And even for someone like myself who has always been interested in this kind of thing, there were little snippets of information that made you sit back. On why the astronauts don't wash their clothes:

"It's too water-intensive. We wear our clothes until dirty and then just throw them away." Who knew that?

Amusingly old Captain Kirk, William Shatner himself, sent him a message last January: "Are you tweeting from space?" To which Commander Hadfield replied:

"@WilliamShatner. Yes, Standard Orbit Captain. And we're detecting signs of life on the surface."

I wonder how many of us looked up at the sky last night because of him, with a feeling of reawakened wonder and awe at the vast universe and the beauty that surrounds us.

Arthur C. Clarke once wrote that NASA, which was supposed to dominate the seventies, was instead dominated BY them. There are many theories as to why the public lost interest in our work in space, but one thing is for sure: Commander Chris Hadfield has restored that interest. At least, for a while.

As for me, I'm off to see 'Star Trek: Into Darkness' this evening. I would have been going in any case. The expectation is just that bit sharper now. Thank you, Chris Hadfield

Email me at chasbrady7@eircom.net or read my blog on www.charleybrady.com.



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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



Poles, Palestinians, Indians; no other genocided nation has leaders as debased as those "Irish" pols.

IRELAND'S

SHAME was deepened by the participation of representatives of thirty-four nations to hang the wreaths. They were followed by the questionably-innocent mayor of Kilrush and Clare's County Council leader.

**WHAT MAKES** Ireland so uniquely timid; so lacking in honesty and respect for its millions murdered? Its gov't isn't the sole culprit; Ireland acquiesces to its crimes. Is there a genetic component to courage? Has Britain's murder of Ireland's most courageous over twenty-six generations (8.5 centuries) left Ireland courage-deficient? In the past three decades Ireland, like Irish-America, has learned it was Holocaust; not famine. Why did Kilrush's few hundred observers acquiesce so cravenly, so publicly?

**IS IRELAND FREE?** "Ireland's" Consuls-General in Chicago have, without exception during the past forty years, acted for Britain and against Ireland and Irish-America. One dissuaded justice-seekers for the tortured and framed Birmingham Six and Guildford four. His successor argued, along with the Brits, in Springfield against the MacBride Principles. (We won; they lost; 84-14 in the house; 53-2 in the senate.) The next worked for Britain and against Ireland and Irish-America during the City of Chicago MacBride campaign. Daley, Burke, and O'Connor betrayed Chicago; but we still won, eventually unanimously. The next Consul-General actively sabotaged Irish-Chicago's efforts to free Joe Doherty from his eight years of uncharged Federal imprisonment. Upon our educating Irish-Chicago about the 69 British regiments that starved Ireland, the next Consul-General began publicly reestablishing "potato famine" (abetted once

by a Concern rep). The "Irish" gov't promoted Britain's Good Friday Agreement (GFA), and prior to the GFA's sanctioning referendum it hung 6' x 16' high banners on roadside lampposts from Maynooth to Kinnegad; with one message; VOTE YES FOR PEACE. The GFA contained only one enforceable requirement; the gutting of Articles 2 and 3 of Ireland's 1937 Constitution that had laid permanent claim to the entire island and territorial waters. The gutting was done; achieving the largest surrender of national territory in history absent catastrophic military defeat (and the IRA was NOT defeated militarily).

**WHY? WHY** do Ireland's officials, its academia, its news media, especially its State-Owned Radio Telefis Eireann, all promote British interests and oppose Irish ones? Answer: Ireland's Oireachtas (congress) was established, TEMPORARILY, under King George V's "Irish" Constitution - to serve British interests.

**SOVEREIGNTY!** Billy McGuire, Head of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, points out that Ireland's true Constitution was written in 1919 in Vaughan's Hotel in Parnell Square; Dublin. He contends, with impeccable reasoning, that King George V's political creation, the Oireachtas, imposed under Lloyd-George's threat of "immediate and terrible war," must be abolished; that Ireland must be run for Irish benefit, no longer for Britain's. The recovery of sovereignty would undo the new slavery being imposed on Ireland by Brussels for British and German banksters. Meanwhile, criminals within the U.S. gov't have disinterred the British empire as the Anglo-American-Israeli empire. Some call it "The 1%." Like all empires it favors predation, not production nor general well-being. That empire, like Ireland's Oireachtas, must be abolished, along with its system of financial predation. But while empire wields its apparatus of death; can justice be reestablished bloodlessly? Are We, the People, virtuous enough? Contact fogarty@att.net, 312/664-7651

**REGULAR READERS** know that what we all once called the "famine" was no famine; the 1845-1850 Holocaust was perpetrated by 69 British army regiments, 35 militia regiments, 12,900 constables, warships, etc. See my [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org). The Kilrush, Co. Clare area agricultural output was usurped by Landlord Vandeleur and exported, thus starving the people. A Vandeleur commanded the Clare militia which, with the constabulary, and army when requested, starved Kilrush and district by removing, at gunpoint, that food to ports in Kilrush, Kilkee, the Fergus estuary, etc., for export. Six English coast guard stations surveilled Clare's coast. Militarily successful; it left countless mass graves across County Clare.

**YET, SUNDAY, 12May2013**, in the middle of a Kilrush street, "Ireland's" gov't conducted a major ceremony of False Witness to genocide; plumbing the depths of its own treasonous depravity. Within a half mile was one of the mass graves it was concealing. Ireland's shame was shown to the world by RTE. When the program started, someone phoned me, alarmed, from Ireland and I watched it, live, on my computer. Athwart the street was a large pavilion and stage where sat President Higgins, Prime Minister Deenihan, an "Irish" army chaplain and other accomplices. Both Higgins and Deenihan pushed the old, discredited "potato famine" lie to the max (Cause of Death; Terminal Stupidity); one going so far as to resurrect the 1990s smear of "potato people." There were prayers, by priest, parson, rabbi, and imam; the latter three perhaps innocent rather than complicit. There is no excuse for the priest. He knows.

**THE EVENT'S** fraudulent, transient nature was driven home by the presentation of wreaths. They weren't reverently placed at one of Kilrush's Holocaust mass graves to wither away over months; but were hung on pegs on easels in the middle of the street to be cleared away within the hour. There were army drum rolls, a bugle, sabers dramatically pointed at something, they even used children to prop-up their lie.

**WHAT OTHER** nation has politicians so base as to cover up a genocide of millions of its own people? Ransack your memory; no other such nation exists. No representative of Native Americans; nor Native Australians, Maoris, Africans, Jews,

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