

February 2014



# Michael Londra

Music and Londra Meant to Be . . . p 50

*photo by  
Cathy Curry*



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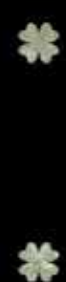
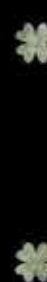


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## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



### Blessed Are the Peacemakers

2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Northern Ireland Ceasefires. It's a measure of how far we've come that the failure at the end of 2013 of special envoy Richard Haass to secure agreement among the North's political parties on some outstanding issues has generated little reaction. Despite evidence of a growing sense of anger frustration and alienation among some younger working class loyalists, there is certainly no threat of a resumption of the grim cycle of violence that scarred the North for a generation before 1994.

But first things first. On 22 November last Fr Alec Reid died. A Redemptorist priest, Fr Reid will forever be remembered in one of the iconic photographs of the "Troubles," as he administered the last rites to two British army corporals, murdered by the Provisionals in 1988 after blundering into a republican funeral. It was a grim time, only months after the Remembrance Day bombing in Enniskillen, with the two communities seemingly totally polarised and no apparent prospect of political initiative to end the violence.

However, only a short time later Fr Reid was the major facilitator in setting up what became known as the Hume-Adams dialogue, meetings between Gerry Adams and John Hume, which played a vital part in launching the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Over the years he remained actively involved in the peace process, facilitating dialogue and contacts. It was Fr Reid who, together with Methodist Minister the Rev. Harold Good, announced in September 2005 that the IRA had decommissioned its weapons. He also became involved in attempts to resolve the conflict in the Basque country. His singular contribution to the achievement of peace in the North cannot be overstated.

Serendipity. The release of the British and Irish state papers from

thirty years ago at the end of 2013 provides a certain analogy with Fr Reid and "the darkest hour." The documents just released, which merit detailed and careful analysis, cover the years in the wake of the Falklands' War, and portray fairly frosty relations between the Irish and British governments.

From the papers, the prospects for political progress seemed bleak. Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald's attempts to find a political way forward with the initiative of the New Ireland Forum met with the firm rebuff of Thatcher's famous "Out, Out, Out" press conference in November 1984. Speaking less than six weeks after the IRA attempt to assassinate her in the Brighton Bombing, she dismissed the three suggestions of the Forum: a unitary state, a federal/confederal state or joint British/Irish authority. The British seemed also to have considered at the time repartition of Northern Ireland, though how seriously this was taken other than as a doomsday option for dealing with Nationalist alienation is a matter for conjecture.

Yet within a year, on 15 November 1985, the Hillsborough Agreement was signed. Clearly, thinking people – a small number of officials on both sides and a totally committed Garret Fitzgerald – set to work to pick up the pieces and seek to find a way forward. The Agreement was historic in that it aligned for the first time British government policy with the majority rather than the minority on the island of Ireland, inter alia by establishing a consultative role for the Dublin government in certain aspects of the governance of Northern Ireland.

There were unintended as well as intended consequences, with violence continuing for nearly a decade, but the Agreement was a catalyst and laid the basis for breaking eventually the political

stalemate. The strands began coming together in the early nineties with some attempts at talks featuring the two governments and the main political parties in Northern Ireland but excluding Sinn Fein. This exclusion, and the continuing background of political violence, doomed the negotiations at first but, in the words of one seasoned transatlantic observer, the pieces for a settlement were on the table.

The logjam was finally broken with the historic Downing Street Declaration of 15 December 1993. In the Declaration the British government declared inter alia it had no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland and that it was for the people of Ireland alone to determine their future. This proved sufficient to nudge the IRA and then the loyalist paramilitaries into declaring ceasefires in the autumn of 1994.

Much of the credit for the Declaration must belong to the then Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, who worked tirelessly, with the aid of, again, a small team of officials, to achieve a path to peace from the moment he became Taoiseach. It was certainly, as Newton observed, a case of standing on giants' shoulders, in terms of the foundations already laid by Garret Fitzgerald, John Hume and Alec Reid among others, but Reynolds' unique approach was to seek peace first and sort out the constitutional modalities later.

There can be no doubt that this approach, which is also Reynolds' political legacy, worked. It is, therefore, particularly sad to record that Albert Reynolds, now stricken by the final stages of Alzheimer's, was too ill to attend the Declaration's twentieth anniversary celebrations in Dublin last December. Mrs Reynolds attended on his behalf, together with the former British Prime Minister of the time John Major.

Political developments within Northern Ireland since 1994 have resembled a roller coaster ride with advances, setbacks, swoops and ascents. But the peace has held, Sinn Fein is now in government with the DUP and, gradually, differences have been ironed out, starting with the easiest. But a significant rump remains and

it should be kept in mind that political consensus exists only to the extent that all sides feel it is better to be inside the tent than out in the cold and that "jaw jaw is better than war war." There are still two tribes in Northern Ireland with different concepts of national identity.

Hence the Haass involvement, this time also without any direct input from the two governments. Two of the issues that divide – parades and flags – are of totemic significance to many on the loyalist side who regard them as zero sum ones where any concession would signify defeat. 2013 saw some serious and nasty rioting over both issues, particularly over the flying of the Union flag over Belfast City Hall. The flag is now a badge of identity, just as the schools attended and the games played were and still are. There

is much talking and teasing out on these issues still to be done. A change in mind-set is perhaps too much to hope for.

The third issue – coming to terms with the past – is even more tricky and has an ominous external dimension. A lot of blood was shed, a lot of innocents murdered on both sides, a lot of hurt is still to be got over. Recent revelations confirming not only collusion between the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries but even involvement by some of those forces in numerous killings over a generation have complicated matters further. This is one that will run. The glib call for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as in post-Apartheid South Africa is simply not applicable. In South Africa one side was victorious, one side lost. In Northern Ireland there have been no losers.



*Mayor Daniel McLaughlin of Orland Park, who is also the Committeeman of Orland Township, has announced his endorsement of Michael Barrett, the Democratic Judicial candidate for the 15th Sub Circuit. Barrett is a resident of Orland Park and has been endorsed by the majority of Democratic Committeemen in the 15th Judicial Sub Circuit.*

*"I am proud and thankful to have such an outstanding lawyer as our judicial candidate" stated Mayor McLaughlin*



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## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



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That company imports books about Ireland and distributes them here.

Dufour Editions is located in Chester Springs, PA and for more information call 610-458-5005 or email info@dufoureditions.com.

### The Theatre of

#### Conor McPherson:

*"Right Beside the Beyond"*  
 Edited by Lilian Chambers and Eamonn Jordan, Carysfort Press and Dufour Editions.

Several of Conor McPherson's plays have been performed in Chicago to great acclaim. Seanachai Theatre Company just presented the Seafarer - a masterpiece!

McPherson is 42 years old, lives with his wife and daughter in Dublin, and is a very productive playwright.

This book is a collection of essays about his enormous output, and range and depth of the work of this gifted playwright.

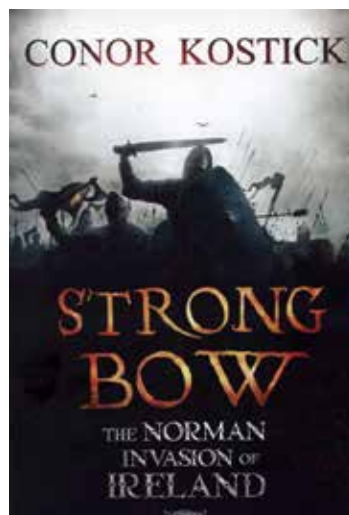
The essays consider McPherson's use of 'comedy and humour,' his use of monologue, and his understanding of the supernatural and the power of the unconscious in humans.

### Strongbow: The Norman Invasion of Ireland

By Conor Kostick - O'Brien Press, Dufour Editions

This exciting book has colorful characters motivated by greed and jealousy, battle scenes, and many interesting historical details. The pictures are brilliant. It is carefully researched and very readable.

The invasion by the king of



England in 1169 began 800 years of bloodshed and suffering by the Irish people.

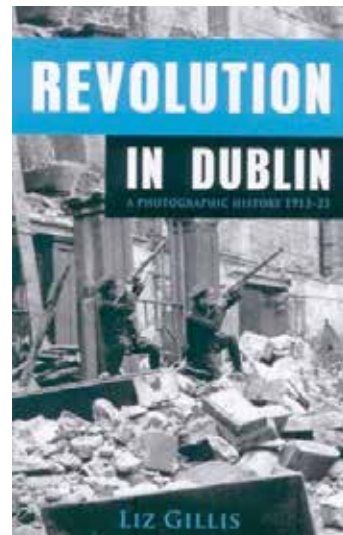
The story begins when Pope Adrian IV issued the Papal Bull, "Laudabiliter. In it he asked the English king to invade Ireland to end Celtic Christianity, which was a relaxed, humane style of Christianity. The Pope wanted to impose the harsh Roman style based on rules and authority.

The King of Leinster had been deposed and banished because of misconduct. He was Diarmaid Mac Murrough. He asked Henry II, the King of England, to help him get his kingdom back. In 1169 Henry II sent the first of a powerful force of Norman knights to invade Ireland. The English never left.

### Revolution in Dublin: A Photographic History - 1913 -1923,

by Liz Gillis, Mercier Press and Dufour Editions.

Quoting from the book's introduction: "The 1913 Lockout, Home Rule, the First World War, the Easter Rising, the War of Independence, The Civil War are all iconic events that happened in ten short years . . . and also helped generate change around the world." Ireland went "from

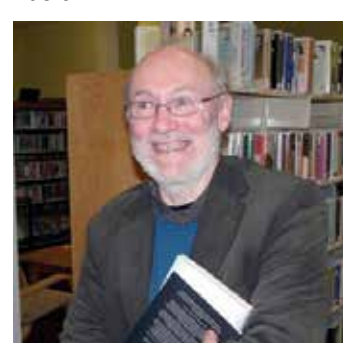


being a most valuable dominion of Great Britain to being the country that would initiate the demise of the British Empire." The period covered in the book was a time of larger-than-life persons "but this book shows through fascinating photographs the story of the thousands of ordinary people who were involved in all these events, either as active participants, or just trying to live through the upheaval."

### The Fall of Ireland

By Dermot Bolger, New Island Books - Dufour Editions

A constant theme in Irish literature is trying to see the differences between reality and illusion.



Author Dermot Bolger reads at Cork City Libraries during World Book Fest.

This novella is written by Dermot Bolger. He uses exquisitely beautiful language. You would expect this precision and precise use of words because he is a poet and novelist.

The collapse of the Irish economy is a metaphor for a character he uses. He is Martin, an aide to government ministers. Martin reviews his life and his marriage to see what is real and endur-

ing and what are delusions and passing.

The writing style Bolger uses and his insights are shown by these quotes:

\* Looking from his hotel room "he stared out the full length glass window at a hard fall of snow lying on the streets. The city out there was vast and unknowable. Maybe life was unknowable too."

"Why did it need to have been one thing or the other? Maybe nothing in life was black and white, fully real or illusionary?"

### Enigma: A New Life of Charles Stewart Parnell

By Paul Bew, Gil and Macmillan Books - Dufour Editions

During the late 1800's Charles Stewart Parnell almost brought Home Rule peacefully to Ireland.

this would have avoided years of bloodshed and suffering. But Unionist politicians with the Catholic Church destroyed him. He died in 1891.

This book is about that amazing man. Parnell lived from 1846 to 1891.

"A Dictionary of Irish Biography" says "Parnell was one of the greatest leaders Ireland ever had." He brought reform to the land code, which ended the economic power and arbitrary authority of the landlords. This "brought about the greatest social revolution in modern Ireland."

A famous scene in Irish literature is that of the Christmas dinner in James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man." For brevity I have selected the most telling parts:

Dante, a woman at the dinner table, broke in angrily: "If we are a priese ridden race we ought to be proud of it. They are the apple of God's eye." Later she says: "God and religion before everything! . . . God and religion before the world!" She shoved her chair violently aside and left the table. At the door [she] turned around violently and shouted down the room. "Devil out of hell! We won! We crushed him to death! Fiend!

Mr. Casey, another guest at the table, bowed his head on his hands with a sob of pain, "Poor Parnell!" he cried loudly. "My dead king!"

If Parnell had succeeded in bringing Home Rule to Ireland with an All-Ireland Parliament, there probably wouldn't have been an Easter Rising, an Anglo-Irish War, Black and Tan War, or a civil war after independence or a Civil War (The Troubles) in the North of Ireland in our time.

Parnell would probably approve of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. It has finally brought peace, and respect for the Nationalist and Unionist traditions and a shared government in the North of Ireland.





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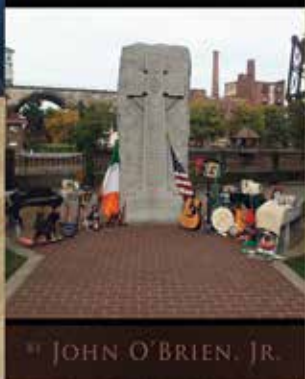
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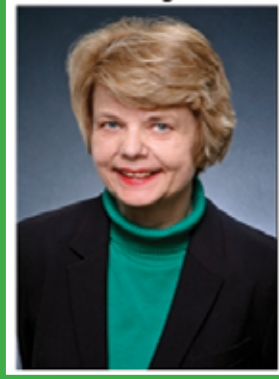
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## Look of the Lass

As I sit down to write my first article for the Irish American News on Irish Fashion and Beauty, two lines of a song by William Pembroke Mulchinock plays over and over in my head; "She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer. Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me." The song, "The Rose of Tralee." Beauty within! The most important beauty of all! So, I have decided to write about the beauty within every Irish lady.

Have you ever noticed that when you first meet someone, your first impression of that person may be, "oh, she is lovely," or "isn't she beautiful?" But, as you get to know that person, and as time goes by, she becomes more beautiful because of the person within. She shines from the inside out! I think that this is particularly true of all Irish women; there seems to be a striking glow and certain energy. I'm not just saying that because I am 100% Irish, mind you, it's true!

I remember my first visit to Ireland with my family and attending the Rose of Tralee Festival not knowing much about it and being in the audience and watching girl after girl being interviewed on the stage. The Rose of Tralee is a two-night televised event with a five-day festival in Tralee, Ireland. Young ladies of Irish descent travel

from all over the world in hopes of becoming The Rose of Tralee. The Rose then becomes an Ambassador of Ireland and travels the world doing good works for many. I was amazed on how poised, intelligent and graceful these young ladies were. They were full of energy and every one of them was a shining star. I was simply awestruck. As my three daughters watched in the audience, I could



By: Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo

only hope that some of these traits would rub off on them that night. What fine examples these wonderful Irish young ladies were. I was so proud to be an Irish woman!

One true example of a girl who is absolutely radiant from the inside out is our 2013 Chicago Rose, Bridget Conway. She was sponsored by The Skinny & Houli Radio Show and really didn't have any idea what she was getting herself into! Skinny said, "Bridg' - throw on the sash and get up on the stage and let them know who you are." Well, she did just that and was on her way to Ireland to represent Chicago on the international stage. She continues to be a role model and example of Chicago's finest. She will be heading off to Belarus with a few other hand-picked Roses to care for the Children of Chernobyl. Bridget will visit The Vesnova Children's Mental Asylum, which cares for children



with radiation-related mental and physical handicaps, on Feb. 21st. Birth defects among children in the area are common. According to the

Foundation, children born since 1986 face a 200 percent increase in birth defects and a 250 percent increase in congenital birth deformities.

Bridget is fundraising to support her own travel costs and to provide food, bedding and clothing for the children in Belarus. Bridget is required to bring her own food and water to avoid radiation contamination. Her goal is to raise \$1,500. Those who would like to donate to the cause can email Bridget directly at [bridgetroseconway@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetroseconway@gmail.com).

Ladies, as you get ready for the St. Patrick's Day season, break out those Irish sweaters and all your fine greenery and shine! It's just so much fun to be an Irish woman and what a blast to go out and celebrate our wonderful heritage with such beauty. Oh, and don't forget to visit our website [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com). You can find details for entry for the South Side Irish Queen Contest and preliminary applications for the 2014 Chicago Rose of Tralee selection to be held on April 5th at the Irish American Heritage Center.

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## The Shamrocks Men's 2014 Rugby Schedule

Home games are played at Central Park on Park Road in Manhattan behind Fire Station #1. There is no admission.

- 3/1 Home vs. Woodsmen (at Manhattan Irish Fest)
- 3/15 Home vs. Akron
- 3/29 Home vs. Rockford
- 4/5 Home vs. Green Bay
- 4/12 Home vs. Springfield
- 5/3 at Peoria
- 5/10 at Milwaukee
- 5/17 Home vs. Illiana
- 5/24 at Dragons
- 5/31 at Bloomington

## The Morrigan Women's 2014 Rugby Schedule

Home games are played at Central Park on Park Road in Manhattan behind Fire Station #1. There is no admission.

- 3/1 Home vs. NIU (at Manhattan Irish Fest)
- 3/15 Home vs. Akron
- 3/22 at ISU
- 3/29 Home vs. Scylla
- 4/5 Home vs. Vixens
- 4/12 at Ann Arbor
- 4/26 Playoffs
- 5/10 Tournament in Lemont
- 5/17 Home vs. DePaul

## Irish Life Experience Study in Ireland Scholarship Application Deadline March 1st

High school students are invited to apply for a scholarship to study in Ireland with the program, Irish Life Experience. Essays and applications are due to the IASCW no later than March 1. For more information and to download an application, go to [www.CountyWillIrish.net](http://www.CountyWillIrish.net).

## Calendar of Events

### The Irish and the I&M Canal

**Sunday Feb. 16, 1-3 pm**

*Historical presentation following the IASCW general meeting.*

Joliet Historical Museum  
204 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet

Come hear one of the leading experts in Irish in Illinois. Dr. Eileen McMahon, a history professor at Lewis University, where she teaches U.S. immigration, ethnicity and race. She is the author of *What Parish Are You From? The Chicago Irish Parish Community and Race Relations, 1916-1970*. McMahon also contributed "The Illinois Irish," in Michael Glazer, ed. *The Encyclopedia of the Irish in America*. Dr. McMahon served as editor of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* from 2007-2113

### Celtic Celebration

**Sunday March 16, 12-4 pm**

*Irish Mass, Dinner, Music and Dancers*

Renaissance Center  
(next to Historical Museum)  
214 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet

Join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. Doors open at Noon with Casey McGrath Bahar, an Irish violinist will perform when the doors open at Noon until Mass begins at 1 p.m, with featured harpist Nicole Luchs. Afterwards, a corned beef and Irish stew buffet dinner will be served at 2 p.m. with Sullivan Irish dancers at 3 p.m. The timing this year is earlier, so you can join other St. Patrick's Day festivities. Members of the Irish American Society of County Will have discounted tickets for \$45, and non-members are \$60 each. Anyone coming for cocktails only are \$25 each. Reserve seats with Sheila Corrigan at 815-727-0994 by March 6. For more information, click to [www.WillCountyIrish.net](http://www.WillCountyIrish.net).

# Clancy's Benefit for Irish Heritage Scholarship with Sean and Charlie

Clancy's Pizza Pub owners announce the launching Clancy's Irish Heritage Scholarship. The Oak Lawn Irish pub is hoping to encourage kids to participate in Irish cultural activities such as Irish dance, Gaelic sports or music, and to ease the burden of the parents wishing to send the students to

the St. Patrick's week festivities which will include the March 9th benefit, a Lenten fish fry on Friday March 14th, the southside parade post party March 16th and St. Patrick's day celebration March 17th. Clancy's promises to have loads of corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, music and family fun



participating private high schools. Sean and Charlie will perform at the inaugural event on March 9th. "We are in the process of setting up a 501(c)3 charity to entice students to embrace Irish culture" says proprietor Katie Clancy who has two daughters that were raised in the Irish dance community and her youngest, Erin, now attends Mother McAuley Catholic high school. Clancy's has leased a hall adjacent to the Oak Lawn pub for

all week. On September 5th, Clancy's will team up with 2014 Southside Parade Grand Marshalls "The Mulliganeers", a renowned kids charity Golf tournament at Cog Hill which will benefit both the Clancy's Scholarship and The Mulliganeers. For information, contact Clancy's at 708-422-1110. Learn more about Clancy's Irish Heritage Scholarship, events or golf tournament at [www.ClancysScholars.com](http://www.ClancysScholars.com).

# New Irish Shop in Town

*By Maureen Callahan*  
While gearing up for the St Patrick's Day holiday, check out Celtica Gifts at 1940 W Montrose Ave (1/2 block east of Damen on Montrose brown line stop). It's the new spot for all things Irish, along with selected items from Wales and Scotland. You'll get a warm welcome from Cecilia Carroll who

sodas, Barry's Tea and Cadbury chocolates. Host an authentic Irish breakfast for the holiday with a selection of Winston's meats, Irish bacon, black and white pudding, sausages and sausage rolls, complete with ethnic condiments. Keep warm this winter with a loaf of McNamee's brown bread and some Knorr Irish potato soup from



hails from County Mayo. Cecilia is the former co-owner of Tara Imports on Southport Ave. She now brings a bit of Ireland to the North Center/Ravenswood business enclave. Stop in for your fix of Irish

the selection of mixes. Stay toasty and warm with an Aran sweater or poncho from a selection of woolens imported from Ireland. Also available are a selection of authentic Guinness mer-

chandise, including rugby jerseys, hats, pint glasses and other items. Pick up a perfect gift for the home from Bog Standard candles, Islandcraft wooden frames and candle holders or a framed Irish wedding, birthday or christening blessing. For special occasions check out the selection of Belleek and Royal Tara

china as well as Galway crystal. Pick out a claddagh ring from the selection of jewelry. For the wee folks, choose from clothing, toys and storybooks.

For a little bit of Erin on the north side of Chicago, visit Celtica Gifts 773.784.7712 [www.facebook.com/CelticaGifts](http://www.facebook.com/CelticaGifts).

# A New Year to Fight On

As we begin 2014, we gear up for another year of comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) advocacy. For Illinoisans, CIR means keeping families together. According to new data released by the analysts at Rob Paral and Associates, close to 200,000 Illinois families include at least one undocumented member. About seventy (70) percent are families with children. This means that hundreds of Illinois children, the vast majority of whom were born in the U.S., live in daily fear that one or both of their parents could be taken away from them through deportation. No child should live with such anxiety.



Raia Stoicheva

While the federal battle rages on, there are steps that Illinois can take to alleviate the pressure on its undocumented residents and their families. Currently, federal law authorizes immigration officers working for U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

forcement (ICE) to require local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to hold people who have become eligible for release for an extra 48 hours (not counting holidays and weekends) to take physical custody of them for purposes of removal from the U.S. While Cook County and the City of Chicago have passed ordinances circumscribing the enforcement of this law, the rest of Illinois counties have not.

The stated goal of this federal law is to remove dangerous criminals from the U.S.. However, this is far from what happens in practice. According to data compiled by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, the majority of people detained under this law pose no significant risk to public safety. In the first six months of 2013, only about a quarter (26%) of people held had any serious criminal convictions; adding people with traffic

violations (including DUIs) and marijuana possessions, the percentage climbs only to 38%. This means that close to two-thirds, 62%, of people held under this program had absolutely no criminal backgrounds. These policies tear families apart, endanger immigrant communities by discouraging them from contacting local law enforcement to report criminal activity, and make all residents of Illinois less safe by diverting local law enforcement resources away from local needs (The federal government does not compensate LEAs for the costs of extended detention.)

Last year, the Illinois General Assembly voted to treat undocumented Illinoisans with dignity by allowing them to obtain Temporary Visitors Driver's Licenses. Now, Illinois can go one step further by passing a state law, similar to the TRUST Act in California, limiting the conditions under which local LEAs can hold people in custody after they become eligible for release. For example, the state statute could restrict continued detention only to persons who have been convicted of a violent felony under state law or to people with outstanding warrants for other serious crimes. In this way, the interests of public safety, justice, and families will be served in Illinois.

As always, if you have any questions about immigration-related issues, please call our office at 773-282-8445 or email me at [rstoicheva@ci-is.org](mailto:rstoicheva@ci-is.org).

# Bill Dougherty Runs for President of FOP Lodge 7

Bill Dougherty, acting President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, joined the Chicago Police Department in 1987 and worked in the 009th, 008th and 22nd districts as a patrolman and tactical officer. Bill began his FOP career as a watch representative in the 009th district.



In 1999 Bill served on the board as a trustee for a three year term. He was elected to the office of 1st Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge 7 in March 2002 and became a field representative. Bill is in his fourth term as 1st Vice President. Bill

currently Co-chairs the Grievance Committee and also serves on the Legal Defense Committee, Political Action Committee, Picnic Committee and Golf Committee for the Lodge. Bill has previously served on the Disability

Committee, Awards Committee and the Legislative Committee.

He has served on the Lodge's Core Group and Chairs the Health Insurance Committee for contract negotiations for the last two contracts. Bill has also served as Chairman of the Grievance Committee for the Illinois State Lodge. Bill also skates with the FOP Stars Hockey Team. Bill and his wife Deb live on the Southside with their four boys, Kyle, Noah, Griffin and Ethan.

Dougherty is now a candidate for President of F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7 in the upcoming March 6 elections.

# O'Brien's Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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## 26th Annual "United-4 a Cure" Set for February 22 at The Riviera

A pair of south side Irish Americans have been making a difference in the world of funding cancer research for a quarter-century now.

The annual "United-4 a Cure" dinner dance held at The Riviera

Country Club in Orland Park has donated thousands to more than a dozen different universities, hospitals and clinics since the fundraiser began in 1989.

Under the direction of Orland Park native Dan O'Donnell and

Chicago native Marty Flood, this year's fundraiser dinner dance set for February 22 at the Riviera will be the 26th annual.

The recipients of the funds will be the University of Chicago, for the study that deals with the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia; the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, which will fund on-going work in Mesothelioma and its early detection through the use of bio-markers at the Mayo Clinic for two causes: the use of an estrogen by-product in treatment of skeletal cancers and a combination drug therapy which mitigates the progression of the most common type of kidney cancer.

The three were selected out of 18 programs that sent proposals.

Previous recipients have included Little Company of Mary Hospital, Loyola University and Northwestern Memorial Foundation among numerous others.

The Irish American News speaks to event organizer Marty Flood.

IAN: Irish American News

MF: Marty Flood

IAN: What went in to the decision to select the three recipients out of the 18 that submitted proposals?

MF: We wanted to select three recipients this year with consideration given to: diversity of subject to be studied, time frame of study,

budget, our familiarity with the researcher and the novelty or uniqueness of the approach.

IAN: You and Dan O'Donnell have been running this event for quite awhile. What was the original inspiration back in 1989?



By Tim Moran  
Southside Editor

MF: A lot of people ask that and I don't really know if there was an "inspiration" at the start. In the beginning it was really community involvement. The "inspiration" came when we realized that, what we were doing, really could make a difference.

IAN: Has this always occurred at The Riviera?

MF: Absolutely the Riviera is the only place. This event is only possible because of Dan O'Donnell's two businesses: Riviera Country Club and Sports Center and Pinnacle Custom Homes. They have been underwriting the entire event since the beginning which has made it possible for 100 percent of the proceeds to go directly to the recipients. The Riviera also hosts a Super Bowl Party from which all of the proceeds support United-4 a Cure. We're looking forward to moving on to the next 25 years and our 50th Annual Riviera Dinner

Dance for the fight against cancer. Hopefully we won't need fundraisers like this 25 years from now!

IAN: Please share any specific stories of how you felt rewarded after presenting the donation for research over 25 years.

MF: One of our larger recipients over the years has been Dr. Michele Carbone of the University of Hawaii and his research into mesothelioma, which is known to be caused by asbestos exposure and is prevalent in tradesmen. We began funding some of his research while he was at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. He and his associate, Dr. Haining Yang have made tremendous progress in the early detection of mesothelioma through biomarkers. They have also identified a gene that determines who will get mesothelioma and have begun the coordination of testing with the Steamfitters Union in New York. Dr. Carbone actually credits the Riviera and Friends as a sponsor of his studies in articles written in the American Journal of Medicine and other publications. Dan O'Donnell and I met with Dr. Stephen Russell at the Riviera CC. Dr. Russell is from the Hematology Division of Mayo Clinic. We discussed his research into the use of the measles virus in the treatment of cancer, which the Riviera C.C. event supported in 2010. The theory is that, since viruses attack cells, they will attack and kill cancer cells as well. They used the standard measles vaccine dose and kept working their way up with no effect. They knew it had an effect when they worked with mice however, that was a relatively

stronger dose. They went back to the manufacturer at Mayo and said, "We've got to have something stronger." You see, the virus is cultured in cells that amplify and multiply the virus. Not all cells do this at the same rate so the idea is to search for and test cells that will do a better job of amplifying the virus to make it stronger. The manufacturer made the dose more than 100x's stronger. Dr. Russell recently had a patient with multiple myeloma. This disease is usually treated and always comes back and is ultimately fatal. This 49 year old patient had been treated for the myeloma twice before with stem cell transplants and now it was back a third time. She now had a tumor on her forehead the size of a golf ball that had penetrated the bone and it was evident that the cancer was in her bone marrow, with 3 other hot spots. She agreed to the measles virus treatment study and they used the new stronger dose (one intravenous treatment for about an hour.) Six weeks after the treatment, they found through CAT scans and PET scans that the cancer had completely dissipated throughout her body. It appears to be gone and the woman said she feels much better than she had in years. The results have been extremely promising as they will continue the study and hope to duplicate these results. Probably the most fulfillment for Dan O'Donnell and I is when we are able to connect supporters of

the event and their families when they need help with the institutions whom we have supported in the past. We've gotten to know a lot of people at these institutions and they're always willing to help. We've probably put about 25-30 people in touch with the right medical professionals at Cancer and Medical Centers and that's a really good feeling, I've got to tell you.

IAN: How much money is given for research every year and what is the expected donation this year?

MF: While we had 5 years where we raised over \$100,000, since the economy took a downturn, we have been averaging between \$75,000 and \$85,000 a year. Through the generosity of the Riviera C.C. and Pinnacle Custom Homes who underwrite the entire event, 100% of the proceeds go directly to the recipients. This year, we have committed \$80,000 to the recipients at University of Chicago, Mayo Clinic and the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii for projects involving Leukemia, Osteosarcoma, Kidney Cancer and Mesothelioma. One message that I'd really like to convey is that we're always looking for new supporters and faces at the event. People who come to the event for the first time typically return with a table of friends the following year. It really is a great time and it's a way for every individual to feel like they're making a difference.

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# Southside IRISH



## O'Hara and Friends Salon Welcomes You

By Tim Moran  
Southside Editor

ALSIP - Since April 1 of last year, Cathy O'Hara has been living a dream.

That's when O'Hara, a native of Alsip, opened up a hair salon of her own. And ever since, O'Hara and Friends Salon at 5418 W. 127th Street has been a popular spot for everyone's pampering needs.

"I always wanted to have a salon of my own," said O'Hara, a 32-year veteran hairdresser who previously taught at Pivot Point Beauty School in Chicago and worked for years at another salon in Oak Lawn. "I was just waiting for the right time. It's nice to be able to keep business in the same neighborhood I grew up in."

And while gelling some of her hairdressers personalities has been tricky at times, O'Hara, a graduate of Shepard High School, says her team of John, Jerry, Gabrielle, Morgan and Melanie "get along like a family."

"All of our stylists participate in continuing education to stay updated on product, knowledge and latest styles," she said. "We are always doing advanced education."

It's the family atmosphere O'Hara speaks of that has allowed her to switch things up at times and create a unique salon filled with fun specials and services that are geared to benefit the community.

February is particularly a big month. From February 1-14, anyone purchasing a

\$100 gift card will receive a free small box of Fannie May chocolate.

"We're your one-stop shop for all your Valentine's Day needs," says the salon's Facebook page.

O'Hara is also looking forward to hosting a St. Baldrick's Day event at the Paul Mitchell-focused O'Hara and Friends Salon on February 28. The O'Hara stylists will be shaving heads from 1-8 p.m. that day to fight childhood cancer.

Having already participated in similar



Regina Rickert (left) and owner Cathy O'Hara are looking for new clients at O'Hara and Friends Salon.

events at Sheperd and St. Rita high schools, O'Hara is thrilled to support a good cause at her own business.

"It's really good to give back to the community like this," she said.

Tickets for the St. Baldrick's Day event

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are \$5, with all proceeds going to fight childhood cancer. To sign up, go to [stbaldricks.org](http://stbaldricks.org) and under the events tab, look for O'Hara and Friends.

February is also "Chocolate Month" at the salon. On February 4, a dove Chocolate representative will be at the salon with Chocolate Martini's. Chocolate manicures will be given as well from 5-7 p.m.

O'Hara is also planning to bring in a spiritual medium this month "just to do something different."

"We aren't an ordinary salon," she said. "We like to have fun."

But O'Hara's contributions to the community do not end in February. Events and donations to a variety of causes continue year round.

"We often raffle baskets to help families down on their luck with high expenses," she said.

She also raffles a variety of items in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with proceeds donated to the Advocate Breast Cancer Society. In April, she plans to do something similar for Autism Awareness Month.

"We like to make a difference, even if it's only \$100 or \$200 at a time," she said.

O'Hara is half-Irish, but the

*Top left: John Earnest, who has been a stylist at O'Hara and Friends since they opened in April, doing what he does best*

*Top right: John Earnest, who has been a stylist at O'Hara and Friends since they opened in April, doing what he does best.*

*Below: Stylist Morgan Copolino poses for a photo with two of her youngest and most loyal clients.*

inspiration for the name "O'Hara and Friends" comes from Cathy's late husband, who passed away in 2002 of cancer.

"He worked for Amtrak and had a lot of friends," O'Hara said. "He would light up a room whenever he walked in."

The inspiration has paid off. Reviews for the salon on Facebook include "Hottest new salon in the Southwest Suburbs," "Amazing staff and atmosphere!" and "Love this place. My main man is John - He is the best!"

As a member of the Oak Forest / Crestwood, Palos, Alsip and Worth/Chicago Ridge chambers of commerce, the salon



will be featured in the Oak Forest Fleadh, the suburb's popular St. Patrick's Day event.

"We do a lot for a little place," she said.

'Like' O'Hara and Friends Salon

Follow them on Facebook for information on all upcoming events and specials.

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## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



This is one of those months where we start off with great ideas for a column, and nothing happens. This is always the slowest month of the year when it comes to new CD releases. Understandable. The pre-Christmas rush is over and the January doldrums hit.

There are some great concerts coming up at Old Town School of Folk Music. Several people will turn out for Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul on March 9th. For us Bluegrass fans, Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers are in on March 30th. Celtic Fiddle Festival

featuring Kevin Burke, Christian Lemaire and Andre Brunet will be there on April 24th. The fabulous Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill will be in on May 17 followed the next night by the stunning Claire Lynch Band, a multi-award-winning dream of a bluegrass band. Old Town remains one of the best concert venues in America. Excellent seating design joins with their Bose sound system for great nights of music.

Speaking of that, April is going to see the launch at Chief O'Neill's of our own Paddy Homan's brand new and wonderful CD, *The Hard Way Home*. Details are still being worked out, as Paddy continues to try to get together with his pal and record producer, Dennis Cahill. As you know, Dennis is on the road almost constantly with Martin Hayes. This will, however, remain a special night to plan for, and of course you'll be made well aware of the how's where's and when's in plenty of time.

One of the greatest innovations brought to us on the Internet is Concert Window. One of the movers and shakers in it is Dan Guerny of the New York-based trad band, The Yanks. If you're not already hip to it, here's how it works: You can pay in advance if you want to, and everyone has to pay something. I think the minimum is \$5 but that seems too cheap, and maybe the best bargain of the decade. What happens is at a pre-set time, you go into the Concert Window site, and there you are in a very intimate, live visual and audio setting with a master musician or singer. We went in and saw about 45-minutes to an hour with Jimmy Keane, our local Male Musician of the Decade. Out came his accordion, and on came the tunes. During the show at any time, you can contribute some money for it. There were a

good number of people in Jimmy's show and there is a wonderful addition. There is a side chat room going on in the same screen. You can post to chat with everybody who's in there, watching the show with you, literally from all over the world. Oh, it is mighty! Another wonderful box player, John Whelan, was in the chat room—yes, that John Whelan from Boston. You really do feel as if you are sit-



Jimmy Keane

ting with all these people. You all love the same artist or you would not be there in the first place. There are many more acts being planned for Concert Window. Go online and check it out. Mark my words, this is the future. It is a wonderful augmentation for musicians' income and provides a much needed personal outlet for the artist and their fans. This cannot be recommended enough. Get on the Concert Window mailing list and you'll get frequent updates about who's going to be in concert. To repeat, this is the future come to call.

Another thought just jumped into our head. If you have not already, find your way to Kathy Brown's South Side house concerts. I frequently weep that my Pub Quiz responsibilities (I host 4 per week) keep me from going to some of these experiences. The


house concerts offer, when properly run, the exact same experience as Concert Window—truly up close and personal enjoyment of Celtic Music. God's music. Believe me, Kathy's are well run. How do you know who is coming and when, to Kathy's? Good question. Read on. Her concerts have become so popular that bands are calling her and asking to play there. House concerts and revo-


lutionary media opportunities such as Concert Windows are offering a much-needed income opportunity to these artists. Nobody ever got rich in Irish music. Well, maybe the Chieftains. But no one else. For so many of these singers and musicians, it is a real financial struggle to be able to perform the music we all love. So God bless Kathy Brown and her ilk, and God bless Concert Window.

The best way to find out about Kathy and Concert Windows is by listening to Ireland Tonight, every Monday evening at 8 o'clock. The show airs in Chicago on WDCB, 90.9 fm, or on computer at [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org). We also want you to join us on LiveIreland.com out of Dublin, Ireland. Every Sunday we

are on for two hours, beginning at noon Chicago time. You'll hear and learn about all the latest and greatest on both shows, Ireland Tonight and the Bill and Imelda Show. We are told that we now have more listeners for the Sunday show than any Irish music program on the RTE. We find that hard to believe, but we sure hope it's true! (I still don't think it is.)

That's it. Next month, we'll get back to the business of reviewing CD's and telling you what is worth the money. We have had several people come up to us and tell us that they gave or received Laura Smith's incredible *Everything Is Moving* cd at Christmas. Without exception, everyone is raving about it and you will, too. We had better not go down that road. Once we start naming names we can't stop. \*Ta!

AS SEEN ON  PBS



# Celtic Woman

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 16**

**CHICAGO THEATRE**  
Presented by CHASE

**ON SALE NOW**

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CHICAGO THEATRE BOX OFFICE, [ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster.com) OR CHARGE BY PHONE AT 800-745-3000.

[THECHICAGOTHEATRE.COM](http://THECHICAGOTHEATRE.COM)





# THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

## St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the Center Festivities are Among Chicago's Largest!

Join the Center as it hosts some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day

we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit the Center in the month of March.

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

celebrations this March 2014. This year,

On Saturday, March 15, the

### St. Patrick's Festival, Saturday, March 15 1pm to Midnight

#### Fifth Province

- 1pm Tim O'Shea and Philip Crickard
- 3pm Shannon Rovers
- 3:30pm Dooley Brothers
- 6pm Mulligan Stew
- 9pm Fonn Mor

#### Auditorium

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

#### Erin Room

- 2pm Wiggleworms
- 3:15pm Wiggleworms
- 5pm Sullivan Brothers
- 7:30pm In Spite of Ourselves

#### Room 310

- 2pm Academy of Irish Music
- 4pm Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends

#### Room 111

- 1pm to 6:30pm Arts and Craft Fair
- 8pm Francis O'Neill Ceili



Center holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This large-scale, family-friendly annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food, children's activities and an Arts and Craft Fair, with vendors selling Irish gifts.

The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups and performers on tour from Ireland.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 13. Children 12 and under are free.

On Sunday, March 16, the Fifth Province will be open for adults wanting to continue the holiday fun. Stop by for a pint, live music, NCAA games on our large TV screens, darts and a limited traditional Irish menu. Hours are from 1 pm to 8 pm. 21 and over only.

Come back for more fun with the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Monday, March 17. The day-long celebration in the Fifth Province

includes music, dance and facepainting for children. The party is from noon to 10pm



and tickets are \$10 at the door. Children 12 and under are free. There will be a mass at 11am.

Tickets can be purchased for 3/15 by visiting [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) or calling the Center at 773-282-7035. There is no cover for 3/16 and tickets for 3/17 can be purchased at the door only.

Want to volunteer? Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Carmel O'Kane at [cokane@irishahc.org](mailto:cokane@irishahc.org)





# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### President's Message

The winter is a special time. We have the holidays... and the snow and the cold. In Chicagoland, the holidays, snow and cold go hand in hand.

Also, at this time of the year, we all seem to be blessed with a communal and almost instinctive sense of giving and helping.

We have all seen it.

• We love to shop for Christmas to give to others and the best return gift seems to always be a simple smile or a "how did you know?"

• Buying for another feels better than receiving.

• When it snows or is very cold, neighbors help neighbors, strangers help strangers, the young help the old and new friendships spring up. We all watch out for each other.

This Christmas I enjoyed giving but I must confess I enjoyed receiving more than ever as I received a most precious gift. I received a gift of life and energy when Mary handed me Finnegan, our new Yellow Lab puppy. Finn has helped us through these cold and snowy days and nights. She has kept us focused on her and not the snow, ice and bitter cold as we do our best to help her be safe, happy, and grow to be healthy. She has helped us give more of ourselves.

It struck me tonight as it is -17 degrees here with a wind chill of -47degrees, that the Center is a little like our situation with Finn. The



Center has helped all of us; volunteers, members, neighbors, partners, staff and others to give more of ourselves. The Center, like Finn, is a gift of life. And, as good volunteers we expect little in return. We give of our time,

our finances and more, and we do this because it feels good to give.

We all love to give back to the Center and we all pitch in to help each other and the mission of the Center.

As we embark on the new year, here's to continuing that spirit of giving and helping at the Center.

Thank you for all you do!  
**John Crowley Gorski**  
President, IAHC

### IAHC Annual Appeal

This February, we continue our Annual Appeal Campaign.

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

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

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

The names below are contributors through January 15. We will continue to list donor names through the March 2014 issue.

#### Benefactor (\$500-999)

Larry and Ethel Doyle  
The Harrington Foundation  
John T. McEnroe

#### Patron (\$250-499)

James J. Convery  
Bridget Fallon  
Bernard L. Hollywood  
Michael T. O'Regan

#### Advocate (\$100-249)

Tristia Barrett  
Christy Benton  
Tom and Sarah Boyle  
Patricia A. Branigan  
Mary Burke  
Tom and Ann Cahill  
John Conroy  
Agnes Curtis  
John D'Alessandro  
James E. Deignan  
The Bridget M. Flanagan Revocable Trust

Frank and Lorie Gagliardi  
Jean Anne Kennedy  
Edward J. Lesniak  
Joseph F. Luby  
Donald L. Mahoney  
Kathleen A. Mallon  
Mary McManamon  
Garrett C. Meade  
Donna Quirk  
Bernard H. Ryan

#### Friend (\$1-99)

Rebecca Belmont  
Stephen Connors  
William Cowhey  
Barbe Creagh  
John A. Donohue  
Patricia Fraser  
William Gorman  
Deborah Hobson  
Larry Hunt  
Kathleen P. Kinahan  
Sr. Ann Kathleen McDonnell  
William McGovern  
David L. Phillips  
Michael J. Phillips  
Christopher T. Quinn  
Ronald P. Sullivan

### Valentine's Mead Tasting

This Valentine's Day, fall in love with Mead in the Fifth Province with a tasting and tutorial on this honey based wine. Locally made by Wild Blossom Meadery of Chicago, these wines run from sweet to mild to hot and spicy.

The Tasting is Friday, February 14 from 7pm to 10pm. The cost



is \$12 and comes with a mead flight of 5 mead varieties for \$12. Must be 21 to participate.

### Sheila Doorley, Patrick Quinn and Frank Quinn Salon Concert

Sheila Doorley, Patrick Quinn and Frank Quinn return to the Fifth Province this February as part of the Center's monthly Salon Concert Series. The group performed at iBAM! Irish Books, Arts and Music in 2011.

Sheila Doorley on button accordion is from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, and started playing at age four. She qualified for the All-Ireland championships for six years in a row from the age of nine to fifteen.

Before moving to the America in 2000, she toured extensively with the Daithi Rua band and the Davey Arthur Band in America, Europe and the Middle East. Now based in Chicago, Doorley has played with Gan Bua, the Barry Fagan Band and at sessions throughout the city.

Patrick Quinn is a multi-instrumentalist and plays banjo, flute,

whistles, mandolin and guitars. Quinn also spent several years in Ireland as a child, learning tunes and playing sessions around Dublin, Kerry, and Mayo. Originally from Cleveland, he has lived in Chicago for the past eleven years.

Frank Quinn on guitar, is a veteran of the Irish music scene in Chicago, having played with such bands as the Drovers, the Muck Brothers and Mauds Gonne.

The opening act will be students from the Academy of Irish Music.

The Sheila Doorley, Patrick Quinn and Frank Quinn Salon Concert is Friday, February 21 at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$12 for adults and children 18 and under are free.





# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### Seán Keane in Concert

The Center is pleased to host Seán Keane in concert this March for an evening of traditional Irish music.

Seán Keane from County Galway's musical voice is unique and his songs encompass a mixture of traditional Irish folk music, pop, blues and country. Growing up in a family of singers and musicians, Keane learned the sean-nós style of singing, and by the time he reached his teens had collected thirteen All-Ireland medals in Fleadh Ceoil competitions. He was by then an accomplished whistle and flute player as well and had taken up the uilleann pipes and bodhran.



When he joined his first group, Shegui, he had already served a long apprenticeship; after travelling throughout Europe with the band, he left to join Reel Union, a group which also featured sister

Dolores and accordion player Máirtín O'Connor.

Together with Frances Black and others, he was a founding member of the group Arcady. He has been voted Performer of the Year by readers of *Irish*

*Music Magazine* and called "the greatest Irish musical find of the '90's" by the *London Independent* and "the fastest rising star of the Irish music scene" by the *Irish Times*. Keane has released seven solo albums and collaborated on five others.

Keane regularly tours in North American and Europe, as well as appears at major festivals worldwide.

Seán Keane in Concert is Saturday, March 8 at 7pm in the Erin Room. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10. Reservations are highly suggested as seating is limited and only 300 tickets will be sold.

### John Ford Lecture

Learn more about John Ford at a lecture and book signing this winter. Author Joseph Malham will talk about enigmatic Irish American film director and read from and sign his book, *John Ford: Poet in the Desert*.

Ford, who won six Academy Awards, is known for such film classics as *The Searchers*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* and his epic, *The Quiet Man*. Ford created timeless classics as he explored the role of myth, history,



tradition and war in epic dramas of the individual, the family and community.

Malham is artist-in-residence at St. Gregory the Great Church in Chicago. His book on Ford offers facets of the dark yet towering poetic genius in a fascinating analysis of the artist's personal life.

The John Ford Lecture and Signing is Sunday, February 23 at 3pm. Refreshments will be served and donations will be accepted at the door.

### Annual Raffle

The Annual Raffle continues this winter. This year, 1500 tickets will be sold and there are more and larger prizes! We ask you again 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 building.

#### LARGER & MORE PRIZES!

PRIZES:	First Prize	\$30,000	Third Prize	\$ 5,000
	Second Prize	\$10,000	Fourth Prize	\$ 1,000
	Monthly Drawings (4)	\$ 1,000 each		

Join us on Sunday, June 8 at 4pm, in the Fifth Province for the grand prize drawing. You need not be present to win. Before that, join us at these events for a \$1,000 drawing at each:

February 7 IAHC Volunteer Dinner March 17 St Patrick's Day Celebration

*Note: Winners of these drawings will be re-entered and eligible for all future drawings, including the Grand Prize drawing.*

Tickets are available from the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Checks, cash, Visa or MasterCard are accepted. To purchase tickets or join the Raffle Committee, contact Chuck Grant at 773-551-1924 or email [clgrant@ameritech.net](mailto:clgrant@ameritech.net).



### Announcing the 2014 Inductees!

#### Arts & Humanities:

Michael Flatley

#### Business & Industry:

George Meany

#### Education:

Mother Mary Frances Clarke, BVM

#### Public Service:

Commodore John Barry

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones

President Ronald Reagan

#### Religion:

Bishop Fulton Sheen

#### Sports:

Connie Mack

#### Science:

Brigadeer General Michael Collins

[www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org) • [info@iahof.org](mailto:info@iahof.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Awards Gala is April 12, 2014!



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### February 2014

February 1	Piobairi Shamrock American Club Social	Fifth Province Sham Am Room	5pm 8pm
February 7	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
February 8	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
February 9	<i>Put the Nuns in Charge!</i>	Fifth Province	3pm
February 11	Tara Club and Tir Na Nog Meeting	Room 304	10am
February 14	Valentine's Mead Tasting	Fifth Province	7pm
February 15	Roscommon Club Social	McGinty Room	8pm
February 18	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 304	7pm
February 21	Shamrock American Club Meeting Quiz Night Sheila Doorley, Patrick Quinn and Frank Quinn Salon Concert	Sham Am Room Room 109 Fifth Province	7pm 8pm
February 23	John Ford Book Signing and Lecture	Sham Am Room	3pm
March 2	Wearing of the Green Dance	Erin Room	5pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Memoir Writing Class (from 2/4)	Library	7 pm
Tues	Celtic Art Classes	Room 304	7-9pm
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	Irish Language Class	Room 304	11-1:30pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Thurs	Memoir Writing Class (from 2/6)	Library	4pm
Thurs eves.	Memoir Writing Class (from 2/6)	Library	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Class	Library	7-9:30pm

### BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it. Running, maintaining and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit code on card's back: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ANNUAL DUES

#### Individual Membership

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

#### Family Membership

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

#### \$250 - Harper

3-year membership -no annual dues

#### \$500 - Bard

5-year membership -no annual dues

#### \$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership -no annual dues

#### \$2,500 - High King

25-year membership -no annual dues

#### \$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership -no annual dues



No Cover

Free Parking



# the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

- 2/1 The Celtic Groundhogs
- 2/7 Ceili Mor
- 2/8 Seamus O'Kane
- 2/14 Gerry Haughey
- 2/15 Party Music
- 2/21 Sheila Doorley, Patrick Quinn and Frank Quinn Salon Concert
- 2/22 Dooley Brothers
- 2/28 Steven Davern and Eric Nyberg



All Shows Start After 9pm

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

### February Drink Special

MEAD \$4

### February Food Special

Large Slice of Pizza \$2

Valid for the month of February 2014 only.

### Lenten Fish Fry

The Center continues its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this March and April.

The Fish Fry begins Friday, March 7 and runs through April 18 from 6:30pm-9pm in the Fifth Province.

The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music begins at

9pm. The dinner consists of fried cod, fries and a vegetable.



Families can enjoy a meal together and kids can watch two children's movies that will run each Friday during the meal. Parents are encouraged to bring a video game, book or toy for kids to play with during the Fish Fry.

**The Heritage Line Staff** Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

**Contributors:** Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, John Gorski, Chuck Grant, Mary Griffin, Kathy Kelly, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy, Sheila Murphy and Noel Rice

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

# Lauren Brougham Glennon

Punch  
171



Punch  
171

## Democratic Candidate for Judge 3rd Judicial Subcircuit

Proud Southsider, resides in Beverly  
Sr. Associate with Worsak & Vihon LLP  
Active volunteer with

Ignite the Spirit Charity of the Chicago Fire Department  
and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation

## SHAWCHICAGO Presents Saint Joan

Joan, a simple country girl, hears voices urging her to unify France. The result is tragedy and Sainthood.

CHICAGO---November 15, 2013---Shaw-Chicago continues its 20th Anniversary Season with Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan directed by Artistic Director Robert Scogin. Saint Joan runs February 1 - 24, 2014 at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Tickets are on sale now for \$30, with discounts for students and seniors. For more information call ShawChicago at 312.587-7390 or visit [www.shawchicago.org](http://www.shawchicago.org).

Saint Joan is the story of a simple country girl, Joan of Lorraine, who becomes the catalyst for a unified France, out of its many fractious independent territories. Propelled by saintly voices that only she can hear, she persuades the timid Dauphin to give her command of the French forces, and defeats the invading English army. In the ensuing power struggle, she is accused of heresy and witchcraft by Church authorities. She is imprisoned, tried and burned at the stake. She was exonerated of all charges in 1456; and declared a saint in 1920. Shaw's play, based largely on the transcript of her trial, is thought by many to be his masterpiece.

Saint Joan features ShawChicago veter-

ans Gary Alexander, Matthew Gall, Jack Hickey, Joe Lehman, Skip Lundby, Doug MacKechnie, Richard Marlatt, Jonathan Nichols, Matthew Penn, Mark Richard and Jhenai Mootz as Joan. They are joined by Alan Ball making his ShawChicago debut.

Robert Scogin, ShawChicago's Artistic Director, is celebrating his nineteenth season at ShawChicago where he has directed more than fifty productions of Shaw's plays. He was the winner of The Chicago Drama League's 2008 Crystal Award, and has appeared on

Broadway in Shakespeare's Henry V, and Off-Broadway in A Road Where the Wolves Run and Children of the Ladybug. He taught and directed Shakespeare and Shaw at the Turkish State

Theater Conservatory in Ankara and Konya, Turkey. He returned to Turkey in March of 2007 to

direct Shaw's Arms and the Man (in Turkish) for the Konya State Theater Conservatory's Second International Theater Festival. In March of 2009 he staged the world premiere of his new adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts on World Theater Day in Konya, Turkey.

For more information about ShawChicago, visit [www.shawchicago.org](http://www.shawchicago.org).



Please join **Sister Rosemary Connelly** and **Anne Pramaggiore**, president and CEO of ComEd, for a special luncheon to benefit the children and adults of Misericordia/Heart of Mercy with our Guest Speaker,

**Amy Rule, CHICAGO'S FIRST LADY**

presented by ComEd



**Tuesday, February 11, 2014, Noon Luncheon**

Jan Marie Ryan Center at Misericordia Home  
6300 North Ridge Avenue, Chicago 60660

For more information, please contact Jenny Frain Graziano at:  
773-273-4160 or [jennyf@misericordia.com](mailto:jennyf@misericordia.com)

Misericordia provides a network of services and a continuum of care for more than 600 children and adults with mild to profound developmental disabilities. The individuals supported by Misericordia are from diverse ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Misericordia Home is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit - FEIN #36-2170153

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

# Katherine A. O'Dell

Candidate for  
Judge in 10th Subcircuit

Punch  
172



Vote  
Democratic

Former Cook County States Attorney  
Past President of the Justinian Society of Lawyers  
Member Illinois State Bar Association



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

Spring is just around the corner, and we know this is not because of the weather. We have the annual February favorites at Gaelic Park... The Merry Ploughboys, The Wolfe Tones, Bridal Boutique, All-Ireland Trivia Quiz and the Gaelic Park Annual Convention. Beat the winter blues and make plans to join us at one or more of these events. There will also be a free showing of the movie *Da* on Sunday February 9 in the Tara Room followed by a brief discussion. The movie *Da* is based on the Hugh Leonard play starring Martin Sheen and Bernard Hughes. It is a little gem of a movie about a New York based playwright going back to Ireland to bury his Dad and reminiscing about growing up. The main theme of the movie is one that all immigrants struggle with "you can go back,

but can you go home." Our lives are shaped by our environment, and we do change, although many of us do so screaming and kicking every step of the way. Some immigrants assimilate and embrace everything the New World has to offer them as soon as they land, while we all know people who live their lives like they just got off the boat. The beauty of Gaelic Park is that we allow immigrants to revisit their roots and take pride in their DNA. I believe the success of the Irish in America and elsewhere is because of what we bring to the table, not what we left behind. In February, we can laugh, sing and dance our way out of winter at Gaelic Park, and if you love conversation, come see the movie *Da* and join the discussion afterwards.

**John Devitt, President**

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

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

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

## the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

### Live Music in the Pub

Fri	Jan 31	Three Men in Kilts	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 1	The Larkin Bros	8:00pm
Fri	Feb 7	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 8	Rico Quinn	8:00pm
Wed	Feb 12	Frank Rossi	6:30pm
Fri	Feb 14	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 15	Chicago Kingsnakes	8:00pm
Fri	Feb 21	Nick Gonzales with Brian Thoma	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 22	John Dillon	7:30pm
Fri	Feb 28	Billy O'Donoghue & Larry Nugent	7:30pm
Sat	Mar 1	Mulligan Stew	8:00pm

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

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



## Monthly Park Calendar

2/12	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30pm
	<b>NO MARCH MEETING</b>	
2/5 & 3/5	Monthly Musical Luncheon	NOON
2/8	St. Jarlath's Dancing For Our Stars	
2/9 & 3/9	Monthly Mass & Breakfast	10:00am
2/16	Bridal Boutique	
2/21	All Ireland Trivia night	7:30pm
2/22	Wolfe Tones Concert - \$25	
3/2	CGP Queen Contest	
3/7 thru 3/17	<b>IRELAND ON PARADE WEEK</b>	
3/16	South Side Irish Sunday Celebration	
3/17	St. Patrick's Day Concert	

### Sunday Afternoon Films at Gaelic Park

2/09, 2pm, **Da** (directed by Matt Clark)  
3/02, 2pm, **Doubt** (written and directed by John Patrick Shanley)  
**Sunday Classic Carvery** features a carving station hosted by Chef John, an extensive salad bar, additional hot entrees, a potato bar with choice of potatoes and toppings, a selection of vegetables, choice of soups, dessert station and tea/coffee. Each Sunday, a different carving station is presented with delicious entrees such as roast beef, turkey, ham, pork or lamb and all for the low price of \$17 for adults, and \$10 for children under 12 years old. Dinner is served from 3pm to 6pm and live music continues until 8pm.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**Monthly Musical Luncheon** Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm and entertainment for just \$13 per person.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**Pub Trivia** Tuesday Evenings continues every Tuesday at 7.30pm with Quiz Master, Tim Tobin, testing your knowledge on all kinds of topics. Teams can consist of up to five players and the cost is \$5 per person. Prizes are given each week and twenty percent of the weekly entrance fee is donated to a local charity at the end of the season.

Monday Evenings	Set Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili	7:30pm
Thursday Evenings	Family Music Sessions in the Pub	7:30pm
Sunday Evening	CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM	7-8pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org



*Deepest sympathy to the family of our former Director, Kay Knightly, who passed away on Christmas Day. Kay's presence will be sadly missed by everyone here at Chicago Gaelic Park. May she rest in peace.*



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## Gaelic Park Queen Contest

The 2014 Irish Festival Queen Contest finals will be held on Sunday, March 2. The Queen and one runner-up will be announced during the Sunday Classic Carvery. The newly selected Irish Festival Queen and runner up will be participating in many ceremonies and special events scheduled at Gaelic Park during the coming year including the *Ireland on Parade St. Patrick's Day Week* celebrations and the *Memorial Day Irish Festival* weekend. They will be given the high seat atop the Gaelic Park float at all of the St. Patrick's Day Parades. Gifts and prizes, including a round trip ticket to Ireland sponsored by Gadabout Travel and Aer Lingus, will be presented to the Queen, and the newly elected runner-up will also be the recipient of many wonderful prizes.



**This contest is open to all single girls of Irish heritage, aged 18-26 (up to March 2) with a registration fee of \$10. The deadline for entry is Friday February 28.** Applications are available on-line at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) or at Gaelic Park's front office.

## Gaelic Park Players Present....



**8th Annual Trivia Contest** Plan to be at Gaelic Park at 7:30pm on Friday, Feb. 21. Bring your own team of five or come as you are, and we will place you on a team that night! It's a great time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Come on out for the game and stay for the craic, it will be mighty. Cost is \$10 per person. Any questions, please call Larry Coughlin at 708.532.0526.

## Spring Play *The Butterfly of Killbegs*

Performances: April 11, 12 & 13 (no performances Easter weekend), April 25, 26 & 27 and May 2, 3 & 4. A comedy in three acts, written by Brian Foster about the swinging 60's clash with traditional values! More to come...

## Chicago Gaelic Park Student Cultural Scholarships

Chicago Gaelic Park  
Announces  
Student Cultural Essay Contest 2014

Topic for 2014:

**"Who is your Hero or Heroine?"**

**Eligible Student Categories:**

This program is open to all students in good standing.

**Grammar School**  
Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

Maximum of three typed pages (8 1/2 by 11)  
Awards in order of merit \$1000, \$750 & \$500

&

**High School**  
All Grades

Maximum of five typed pages (8 1/2 by 11)  
Awards in order of merit \$1000, \$750 & \$500

**Random Draw of \$250**

For Grammar & High School participants  
To reward effort & give recognition to other than six winners

Essay to be returned to Chicago Gaelic Park Office by  
**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

Essays will not be returned  
Individual winners will be notified by phone  
Awards are issued jointly to student and parents  
Independent academic committee evaluates essays

**Winners announced at Gaelic Park**  
**Sunday March 09, 2014 at 10am Mass**

**Awards presented March 30, 2014 at The Sunday Classic Carvery**

## st. patrick's day at CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

### St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Monday March 17, 2014

Doors open 12:00pm

Lunch Served at 1:00pm

Music by Joe Cullen

And a show by Cross Keys Irish Dancers

Tickets \$25.00



### Annual St. Patrick's Concert Starring

## Paddy Homan

Accompanied by

**Dennis Cahill, John Williams & Teresa Shine**

## Saturday

## March 15, 2014

**Doors open 7:00pm**

**Show at 8:00pm**

**Tickets \$20.00**



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## St. Jarlath's Youth GAA Presents: DANCING FOR OUR STARS

Saturday, February 8 at Chicago Gaelic Park  
Doors Open at 6:30pm  
Show starts promptly at 7:30pm



Seven couples will dance their hearts out to earn judges scores and audience votes! Only one couple will win the coveted mirror ball trophy! Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased at [www.chicagostjarlaths.com](http://www.chicagostjarlaths.com) or from one of our wonderful dancers! Limited amount of tickets will be sold. Can't make it to the show? Support your favorite dancers by voting on-line! \$1 per vote with a minimum of 10! Questions can be emailed to [dancing4ourstars@gmail.com](mailto:dancing4ourstars@gmail.com). St. Jarlath's Youth GAA appreciates all of your support! Please remember - **THIS IS AN ADULTS ONLY EVENT!**

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**More Irish Radio on 90.9**

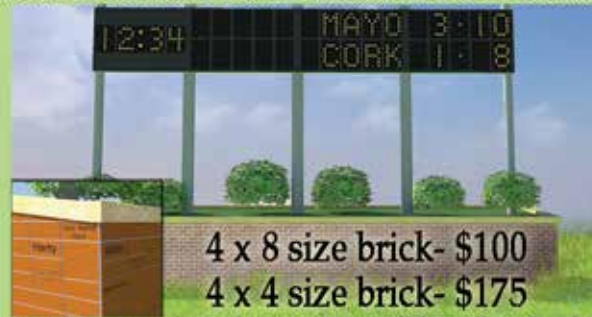
Chicago radio station, WDCB (90.9fm) has announced that its Monday night Irish programming is changing, beginning Feb. 10th.

Shay Clarke's, Blarney on the Air starting time will move from 7:00 to 8:00. Bill Margeson and Maryann Keifer's, Ireland Tonight will move from 8:00-9:00, the

same night, with Maryann taking over the helm of the entire show.

Bill and Ireland Tonight's Producer, Imelda Bhroga will move to a brand new program, Mondays starting at 10:00. Entitled, House Party, the show will center on a mix of bluegrass, Irish and Cajun music, featuring the inter-cultural sharing of the musical styles of each. Each show will be one hour long.

**SPONSOR A BRICK AND SCORE FOR GAELIC PARK!**



4 x 8 size brick- \$100  
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The Haon Do Tri scoreboard committee will be selling bricks as our final fundraiser to raise the necessary funds to build the official Gaa score board for Gaelic park. Scheduled to be in place for summer 2014, this is a wonderful opportunity to shop early for Anniversary, Christmas, Birthdays, and St Patrick's Day gifts. We will not be accepting orders after March 31 2014. Questions? Email us at haondotrigaa@gmail.com

Cut along dotted line. Send this form along with your checks to Haon Do Tri PO. Box 649 Orland Park, IL 60462

Name and Phone Number

Each line on the brick can have up to 18 characters including spaces and punctuation. The 4x4 brick has 3 lines of text available and the 4x8 has 6 lines of text available. Please print clearly

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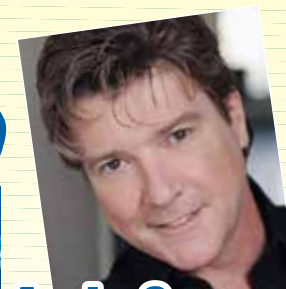
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For The Latest on Andy's Appearances, Recordings & Trips visit [www.andycooney.com](http://www.andycooney.com)



## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



In pretty much every sport that you do, it all comes down to how you perform in the actual game or competition. Sure you want to practice immensely so you can progress. It doesn't matter if you can do it perfectly in practice. You need to be prepared for the vast amount of nerves, slips, stumbles, and falls, a wig coming off, etc. I've learned that lesson many of times in my life as an Irish dancer. That's what I had to keep in mind going into the 2013 Mid-American Oireachtas.

I'm always excited for Oireachtas. Even when it's the last practice and the teachers are screaming for perfection or you're side stage ready to perform a dance you've been practicing for several, long months. I don't let my past expe-

riences at Oireachtas weigh me down. It's a new year with new steps and hopefully an improved me. The morning of solos, I could not wait for the day. I was so confident in my steps and ready to show everyone what I had been working on. My treble jig and slip jig went by so quickly. There was nothing I would have done differently. I had danced exactly how I did at practice (maybe even better) and I couldn't wait for recalls.

Recalls are the worst because they make you wait so long for them. You're just waiting to hear if your day has been ruined or made and the fear of that is outstanding. When the announcers finally do begin calling out the recall numbers, the panic you feel is out of this world. I know I always

shake with nerves. I was hoping and praying that this would not be another year of disappointment. I had worked too hard. My number was the one they were calling next and I wanted to cry and then throw up. Time slowed and I began thinking negatively but wait, they did it! **THEY CALLED MY NUMBER!!! I HAD RECALLED!!** I don't remember but I jumped on somebody and started squealing. I couldn't get too excited though because I was the 2nd one up to dance my set, the final dance of the day.

Before I knew it, I was up on stage with my toe pointed ready to go. This was going to make or break my score. I was doing great on my set when the unthinkable happened, I slipped, big time. I tried not to think about it the rest of the dance and focus of finishing the dance strong. After that, all up to awards. I was worried. I know I had recalled and that was my goal, but there was a little part of me, and I speak for dancers everywhere, that wanted

to surpass my expectations and just wow everyone. When it was time for results, I was just grateful to have made it to this point and be at awards for the first time in 2 years. They called 3 people before they called me. (I was not the first one called. Another achievement.) I was awarded 50th place. I can't say I'm completely satisfied with my results because I would be lying. I won't be satisfied until I have qualified for worlds. I have 2 Oireachtas left and I just know I can do it. I was proud of myself. I had moved up 20 or so places from last year and that's all you

can really hope to do, improve. I know if I work as hard as I have this year, my goals are within my reach. Training for next year starts now. (And hopefully Nationals. I just need one more 1st at a feis and I have plenty of those coming up.)

My choreography did better than expected. We placed 3rd and we were against many good teams. There were some mistakes in our dance so we were ecstatic with how we did. Oireachtas 2013 was my best Oireachtas yet but I know that with a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, next year's will be even better.



Bill Margeson, Maryann Keifer, and Shay Clarke round out your Monday night trio of Irish and bluegrass radio. Signal bad? listen live on your computer or smart phone at [WDCB.ORG](http://WDCB.ORG) story p 21

## RJ BALSON'S "All-Natural Irish Bangers" Are Back!

RJ Balson & Son has been practicing butchery for almost 500 years, since the year 1535. The family butchers from Southwest England are "Britain's Oldest Business" and "Europe's Oldest Butchers", and they are most likely the oldest butcher family in the world. Since 2007, the Balson family has made their award winning English/Irish specialty meats available in the U.S.A. through their website and online store ([www.buybangers.com](http://www.buybangers.com)) and through various small specialty shops across the country.

Starting mid-February and while supplies last, "Balson Bangers" will be stocked and sold at all COSTCO Club locations in the Northeast and Midwest (see map below).

RJ Balson USA President Oliver Balson says, "We are absolutely thrilled with the COSTCO placements. We are encouraging customers to stock up on the bangers, as the price will be exceptional and the sausages can freeze for 6 months. This presents a huge opportunity for shoppers to show that there is a strong demand for authentic English and Irish items like bangers and back bacon. We are humbled and grateful for the support we have received from the Ex-Pat community here in the States and we continue to work with major retail buyers to make these items more accessible."

The Traditional Bangers will be available until St Patrick's Day or while supplies last. The item will be sold in a 2 lb. pack and can be frozen for up to 6 months. The following COSTCO Club Regions will be stocking Balson Bangers: **NORTHEAST:** VA, WV, PA, NJ, DE, MD, NY, RI, CT, MA, VT, NH and Wash D.C., **MIDWEST:** KS, NE, MO, IA, WI, MI, MN, IL, IN, OH, and KY).

The Balson family would personally like to thank you for your support in bringing British and Irish specialty meats to the U.S.A.!



= COSTCO Warehouses stocking Balson Bangers



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by Bernard Shaw

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**February 1-24, 2014**

Saturdays, Sundays at 2 P.M.  
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Monday, Feb. 10 at 2 P.M.  
Mondays, Feb. 17 & 24 at 7 P.M.

**Ruth Page Theater**

**1016 N. Dearborn**

Tickets: \$30, Seniors \$25, Students \$15

More information available at [www.shawchicago.org](http://www.shawchicago.org)



## Eli's Cheesecake and O'Briens Announce "Cheesecake With an Irish Twist" Bake-off

Calling all bakers! Eli's Cheesecake and O'Briens invite bakers to enter the "Cheesecake with an Irish Twist" Bake-off on Sunday March 2, 2014 at 2pm at O'Briens located at 1528 N. Wells St. in Chicago.

Eli's currently makes Irish Creme and Irish Mint cheesecakes which are favorites at the St. Patrick Day Parade Queens Contest. Cakes will be judged on originality of flavor and appearance. The winning recipe will be produced by Eli's bakery through the month of March, and will be available for sale at Eli's Cheesecake World retail store located at 6701 W. Forest Preserve Dr. in Chicago (corner of Montrose and Forest Preserve Dr.) and served at O'Briens! Proceeds from the winning cake sales will benefit Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Winner also receives one year supply of Eli's Cheesecake (one per month).

Please call/email Eli's Cheesecake to register: Mary Gale 773-308-7019

Mgale@elicheesecake.com. Bakers should bring their entry and recipe to O'Briens on Sunday March 2, 2014 at



photo by Laurie Proffitt

2 PM. and plan to stay to present their creations to the judges.

Please note: Eli's prides itself on using the finest all natural ingredients. When baking the winning recipe, Eli's will interpret it as closely as possible using Eli's standard of ingredients.

**For tickets call 312-587-7390 and mention the Irish American News to receive a 10% discount.**

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The difference is a faith-based, college-prep education.  
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The 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen, (c) Lauren Elizabeth Catinella, and her Court, celebrate with fresh cheesecake donated by Chicago's famous, Eli's Cheesecake. Pictured (l to r): Erin Mulcahy, Lauren Corry, Maureen Schulman, Lauren Catinella, Marc Schulman, Mary Kate Casey, and Moira Dolehide photo, Dean Battaglia.

### Help Wanted - Advertising Sales

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# Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



## Now That We Have the Vellum, Ink and Colors, What's Next?

The next step in producing a medieval gospel generally goes like this:

The vellum from one calf is laid out, measured and cut to the size for two folios. That is, a bifolio, a piece that will be folded in two, which means two pages with 4 sides.

A monk will use a stylus, made of metal or bone with a sharp point, to make tiny holes in the vellum indicating where faint ruled

lines for the margins and text lines will go, usually 17 or 18 lines per folio, with a few exceptions. Sometimes, a template is used, which makes the work go faster.

When finished with lines ruled the folio will look like our modern-day school loose-leaf paper. Vellum is usually too thick to allow rulings on one side to be seen on the other, so each folio was ruled separately on "R," right side, and "V," left side. A second set of pricking can be seen on a few folios. This could be from scribal errors or a pricked folio was repurposed.

Folios with major decoration were painted separately on single

folios and could be completed without slowing down the work on folios with just text. When that happens, the remaining text that was planned for the reverse of the decorated page would be added later. It could only be guessed as what would actually be left for the



reverse of the decorated folio. The goal was to have the least amount of text left to be added. The scribe could add the remaining text and fill in the extra space with initial letters and flourishes. Too much text would be a problem to fit.

Now the scribe is ready for the writing of the text. The equipment is cheap and easily found. What is needed are flight feathers of a

robust bird such as a goose or swan and a small sharp knife. The knife is known as a penknife!

The main shaft of a feather is called the rachis. Growing from this

on both sides are barbs, the feathery bits, and all the barbs from top to bottom are called a vane. Unlike what we see in the movies, enough of vanes are removed to make room for a hand to hold the quill. Or they could be removed completely.

To begin, the bottom three inches or so of the shaft is inserted in hot (350 degrees) sand until the sand cools. This strengthens the shaft making it flexible and easy to trim. Now the end of the feather is

scraped clean of any membrane. Using a long cut, the end of the bottom of the shaft is removed at a diagonal. Anything inside is cleaned out. A second, shorter, cut is made that narrows the tip to the desired width. Now we have a beginning of a nib. A short slit is made in the nib to allow ink to flow. Now the nib can be trimmed straight across or angled.

An additional use of the penknife was to correct errors

the scribes made while copying the text. One of the great things about vellum is if an error is made in the text, the scribe could scrape the dried ink carefully and remove the mistake. This was generally only for small errors such as a misspelling. Whole sentences and

passages were handled differently. We'll examine that in the future.

One kind of ink used by the scribes was made with soot from burned

wood or bones mixed with gum arabic and water. Another kind was

called oak gall ink. It was made from oak galls and iron sulphate.

Oak trees form an isolating sphere or "gall" around a wasp egg

that was injected into the center vein of a leaf. The pulp in this gall is mixed with iron sulphate which is made by adding iron nails to a solution such as vinegar. All this is fermented, then mixed with gum arabic and water to make an ink that lasts without fading for a 1000+ years.

Next time we will examine the work of the scribes who created the magic in the Book of Kells.

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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea  
Tom Boyle



### Rose Parade

Same sex marriage on a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade! The AIDS Healthcare Foundation float carried the groom and groom, Aubrey Loots and Danny LeClair. Reverend Alfreda Lenoix presided over the ceremony. This year's parade theme was "Dreams Come True," instead we've got a nightmare. Just like the story in South Pacific, "One Enchanted Evening they met across a crowded dance floor and somehow they knew. They knew even then! Who can explain it? Who can tell you why? Fools give you reasons, wise men never try."

Reverend Alfreda Lenoix is the pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church. She said, "Until you can look in the mirror and see God, then you don't know God." "Religion is for people who are afraid of going to Hell . . . Spirituality is for people who have already been there." Where is Vladimir Putin when you need him!

### Pat O'Brien

Pat O'Brien the movie star, wrote his autobiography many years ago and entitled it, *The Wind at My Back*. Published in 1964, you might enjoy this passage from the book. "It was hard to kill the cartoon Irishman, because frankly, when I was a kid we all enjoyed him. My

father would roll with laughter at Mr. Dooley's remarks on events of the day; the wittiest Irishman since Bernard Shaw. On a lower level there were Maggie and Jigs and corned beef and cabbage humor, and happy hooligan, both racial insults, but we kids didn't know it. "The Cohen on the telephone" on the gramophone, in the desperate mugging of the Celtic pratfall comics in the Keystone comedies at the movies we also swallowed. It was a more innocent time and immigrant ships were still bringing over relatives with the thick brogue, the funny clothes and the black stick. A throwback in time as Pat O'Brien grew up in Milwaukee Wisconsin and went to parochial school with Spencer Tracy. It's interesting to note that he mentioned Mr. Dooley. Probably many of you reading this article don't know who Mr. Dooley was. Mr. Dooley was a fictional character created by Finley Peter Dunne, a Chicago newspaper man. Mr. Dooley was very philosophical and had commentary on every aspect of politics, both local and national.

### Phil O'Connor

In October, 2013 we lost our friend, Phil O'Connor. Phil was a great volunteer and he is sorely missed at the Irish American Heritage Center. Over the years Phil

served on the Operations committee, the Building committee, the Board of Directors, worked in the boiler room, and ran the bingo operation for many years. On many occasions I worked with Phil on various projects. How well I remember the time we dug the pit to house a new sump pump in the boiler room. Phil was from Castle Island, Co. Kerry. God bless the work.

### Dennis Rodman

The Chicago Sun-Times headline said, "Hair Brain..." "I thought the expression was "Harebrain." Either or, I agree. What's going on at the State Department? Why does Dennis Rodman still have a passport? He admitted to being in a drunken state when he made his comments while in North Korea regarding the American hostage they are holding.

Conveniently, Dennis is now at an undisclosed alcohol rehab facility in New Jersey. He has apologized for his remarks. Harebrain: definition, crackpot.

### Reverend Wright

There was a wonderful article in the Chicago Sun-Times by Stephano Espisito on January 15, 2014. The irrepressible Reverend Wright was taking pot shots at our President, Barack Obama. Wright called for Martin Luther King's "Revolution of Values" and the rejection of the "Three Headed Demon of Racism, Militarism, and Capitalism."

The remarks were made at a breakfast co-hosted by the Chicago Teacher's Union commemorating Martin Luther King's birthday.

Perhaps the Reverend Wright should look to the legacy left by Nelson Mandela, and think more positively. Reverend Wright had negative things to say about Abraham Lincoln, who he said enjoyed N----- jokes. Arnie Duncan, the Secretary of Education got his job because he had a good hook shot.

Chicago Teacher's Union President, Karen Lewis defended Wright's remarks saying, "they would need to be seen in a broad context."

In case you don't know it Reverend Wright, we are all tired of war. We are tired of seeing our men and women in uniform coming home missing arms and legs and suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. Why on earth did the Chicago Teacher's Union choose you to speak at the breakfast is beyond comprehension as you don't seem to share Martin Luther King's values. You like to demonize people who don't share your hate-filled vision of the USA. Why not move to some other country?

### Chicago Queen

What's it like to be a judge at the St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen contest? Are the contestants judged on beauty alone? Definitely not! When you look at the resumes and the accomplishments of these young women, you learn quickly you are dealing with the cream of the crop, and these young women are proud of their heritage.

### Clergy Abuse

For those of you who oft time question the many articles I wrote about clergy abuse, the Church is finally releasing all of the records. There are far more cases of abuse than we ever imagined. It took a great many years to finally hang the dirty laundry on the clothesline. The Catholic Church alone is certainly not the only guilty party. There are many other churches and synagogues who have endured the same problem. When are they going to own up?

### Irish Wisdom

"A government which robs Peter to Pay Paul, can always count on the support of Paul." *George Bernard Shaw.*

**Good Morning Ireland Radio Show**  
**CHICAGO**  
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# ShamROCK Chicago Works With Tourism Ireland To Make Chicago the Greenest City in World on St. Patrick's Day

ShamROCK Chicago, working with Tourism Ireland, will coordinate efforts to "Green" a variety of iconic Chicago landmarks and sites in the week leading up to St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Building on the historic success of Tourism Ireland's "Global Greening" campaign that has "Greened" world-wide sites such as the Sydney Opera House and Eiffel Tower, the initiative will showcase Chicago's Irish support and attempt to make it the "Greenest City in the World." Led by the ShamROCK Chicago Council with cooperation from the City of Chicago, iconic Chicago locations and area businesses, the "Greening" will be a seven-day buildup of lights, culminating on March 17 with the many city-wide celebrations demonstrating our Irish pride.

"Tourism Ireland is delighted that Chicago has committed to be a part of this year's worldwide 'Global Greening' campaign," said Bernard McMullan, Publicity and Communications Executive for Tourism Ireland.

"Chicago has been going green on St. Patrick's Day for a long time and we look forward to having the city's great landmarks stand alongside some of the most well-known sites in the world that have joined us in the past, such as the London

Eye and Pyramids of Giza," he continued. "With Chicago's strong Irish heritage, it's very fitting that Chicago plays a prominent role in the 'Global Greening.'"

As part of the effort, the theme of the annual Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade will be "Green is the Goal," a nod to the Chicago Blackhawks, whose President and CEO John McDonough will serve as parade Grand Marshal. Now in its 59th year, the parade is sponsored by Plumbers Local 130 and James F. Coyne, Business Manager and General Chairman of the Parade. Held on Saturday, March 15 beginning at noon, the parade will kick off with the "Dyeing of the River" at 10:00 a.m. near the Michigan Avenue bridge. More information can be found at [www.chicagostpatsparade.com](http://www.chicagostpatsparade.com).

Beginning Monday, March 10 and continuing through Monday, March 17, a succession of iconic sites will light up green. The "Greening" schedule is as follows:

- Monday, March 10: "Taking it to the Streets"
- Tuesday, March 11: "Tall Buildings and Chicago Icons"
- Wednesday, March 12: "Eating Green around the City"
- Thursday, March 13: "Broadway in Chicago Goes Green"
- Friday, March 14: "Northside

Green Pride"

•Saturday, March 15: "Green is the Goal" Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and dyeing of the Chicago River

•Sunday, March 16: "Southside Irish Pride"

•Monday, March 17: Final Mystery Greening\*

\*Facebook visitors will have the opportunity to provide input as to which icon they would like to see 'Greened' for our final day. More details to be provided soon.

Any Chicago location that would like to participate in the "Greening" initiative should visit [www.shamrockchicago2014.com](http://www.shamrockchicago2014.com).

About Shamrock Chicago

The ShamROCK Chicago initiative was launched to bring together the vast groups of Irish citizens by highlighting Chicago's rich Irish heritage, its yearly celebrations for St. Patrick's Day and its cultural ties to Ireland. It has no political or fundraising agenda, and was imagined solely to inspire and encourage Irish Pride to promote tourism in Chicago.

For info on "Greening" initiative, please visit [www.Shamrock-Chicago2014.com](http://www.Shamrock-Chicago2014.com). You can also join the conversation on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/Shamrock-Chicago](http://www.Facebook.com/Shamrock-Chicago) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/shamrockchicago](http://www.twitter.com/shamrockchicago).

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Everyone expects a non-medical companion care company to offer the traditional services of personal care, grooming, hygiene, healthy meal preparations, and housekeeping. However, the non-traditional services or services you wouldn't expect a non-medical companion company to offer are

what sets Aishling and her care givers apart from the competition. They provide transportation to doctor visits, physical therapy sessions, grocery store trips, shopping trips, and even a ride to the park for local cultural and community events. Aishling ensures "above and beyond" service is

mandatory from all of her care givers.

Aishling offers free in-home consultations to assist in obtaining the best one on one care for your loved one. If you know someone who deserves the best service in non-medical companion care, give Aishling a call at 708.728.5538 and set up a free in home consultation. More information is also available at [aishlingcare.com](http://aishlingcare.com). We all need to remember, one day each of us are going to need to be taken care of. Who will be taking care of you? And what kind of service will they be providing? If you are looking for something "above and beyond" the usual non-medical companion care, Aishling Companion Home Care has what you've been searching for.



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## A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

### Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



With the 2014 federal and state legislative sessions upon us, we as Catholics and Christians must be sure lawmakers keep a realistic pulse on the needs of all of our brothers and sisters, for our society is measured by how our weakest members are faring. While the improving economy brings hope and jobs to some, to others the improvement is scarcely being felt. As we celebrate the growth in jobs and declining unemployment, we must also remember to be cautiously optimistic about the numbers being bandied about.

We know that the unemployment rate has dropped considerably since the height of the recession—it was less than 7 percent nationally in December 2013 compared to 11.3 percent when it peaked in December of 2009. This is good news. But we also know that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of November 2013, Illinois still had one of the highest unemployment rates of the 50 states at 8.7 percent. The fact that we are lagging nearly two percentage points behind the rest of the country is definitely not good news.

There is also the matter of the underemployment rate, which counts those looking for work, those who want a full-time job but who can only find part-time work, as well as discouraged job seekers. As of November 2013, that number had improved, but was still hovering around 13 percent.

We also know that although individuals may be employed full-time, in many cases they are not earning enough to support their families. While there were roughly 200,000 jobs added to our economy each month in 2013, only 10 percent of those jobs came from high-wage sector jobs in the automotive, construction, and oil and gas exploration areas. Nearly half of the jobs were from the low-wage sectors of retail, leisure and hospitality, temporary workers, and low-wage segments of health care.

While the labor statistics do help explain the big picture, at Catholic Charities, we see the faces behind the numbers. Well before the statisticians finish their

crunching, we have already fed, clothed and sheltered a family of four whose father lost his job. As they try to explain why people are still suffering, we have already provided job

training to a single mother of two so she could get a higher paying job to support her family. And as the politicians debate whether to extend unemployment benefits, we have already provided homeless prevention services to a family about to lose their home.

In good times and bad, Catholic Charities is there to make sure that people can take advantage of new opportunities in the job market, and we are there when the opportunities are few and far between. We know first-hand the struggles people are having and we are compelled to speak out on their behalf.

When the budget battles begin in Washington and Springfield, Catholic Charities will be strongly urging lawmakers to remember the real stories behind the numbers and to preserve and expand the vital safety net of services that families rely on for food, child care, job training, education, substance abuse treatment, counseling, and affordable housing. Those critical services that keep low-income families afloat must go hand-in-hand with creating a favorable business environment so that companies can thrive and afford to pay their employees living wages. In Illinois, it is imperative that the state resolve its dire fiscal crisis which negatively impacts every citizen and business in the state.

As the "State of the Union" and "State of the State" Addresses kick off the legislative sessions for 2014, please join Catholic Charities in improving the "State of Well-Being" for all families, especially those who have not yet been touched by the economic recovery.

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## 16th Women of Concern Awards Luncheon

Concern Worldwide U.S. Honors Marie Tillman, President and Co-Founder of the Pat Tillman Foundation and Susan Walsh, Founder and President of Little by Little at the 16th Annual Women of Concern Awards Luncheon

Chicago—Concern Worldwide U.S., the international humanitarian organization, will honor Marie Tillman, President and Co-Founder of the Pat Tillman Foundation, with the 2014 Leadership Award, and Susan Walsh, Founder and President of Little by Little, with the 2014 Humanitarian Award for their outstanding humanitarian and philanthropic leadership at its Women of Concern Awards Luncheon in Chicago on Friday, February 28, 2014 with a reception at 11:00 a.m. and luncheon and awards program at 12:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive.

"Marie Tillman and Susan Walsh are not only pioneers in their respective fields—they are inspirations for positive change," said Joseph Cahalan, CEO of Concern Worldwide U.S. "Their compassion and commitment to bringing equal access to healthcare and helping veterans and active service members fulfill their academic dreams have undoubtedly touched and transformed the lives of thousands of people."

In response to the nationwide outpouring of support following her husband Pat Tillman's death in 2004, Marie Tillman co-founded the Pat Tillman Foundation, where she served first as a member of the Board of Directors and now as President. In 2008, Marie led the effort to redefine the Foundation's mission by developing the Tillman Military Scholars Program, which aims to create the next generation of leaders by helping a select group of veterans, active service members and their spouses to fulfill their academic dreams. To date, 290 Tillman Military Scholars—representing 34 states and attending 92 academic institutions nationwide—have been awarded more than \$4.1 million in scholarship support. A native of San Jose, CA, Marie graduated with honors from the University of California,

Santa Barbara. She worked in Marketing and Production at the Arizona Republic and ESPN and her memoir, *The Letter*, was released in June 2012. Marie currently lives in the Chicago suburbs with her husband and family.

Susan Walsh has been a pediatric nurse for more than 30 years, and an educator in the graduate nursing program at the University of Illinois in Chicago. In 2006, having led medical teams several times a year into Haiti, Sue and her husband Brian founded Little by Little to improve health and well-being in the Haitian village of Gramothe. On January 12, 2010, Sue and her medical team were working in Haiti when the devastating earthquake struck. Little by Little provides support to those in need and promotes self-reliance and sustainability through educational initiatives. In addition to continuing mission trips to provide basic healthcare, especially to mothers and children, Little by Little's long term goal is to advance the maternal child wellness center and support sustainability and reciprocity for the villagers

of Gramothe. Sue is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and author of the 2011 book, *Walking in Broken Shoes: A Nurse's Story about Haiti and the Earthquake*. Sue and her family currently live in the Chicago suburbs.

Now in its 16th year, the event attracts more than 600 guests including members of Chicago's business and community leaders and raises more than \$340,000 for Concern's work with the extreme poor. Marie Tillman and Susan Walsh will join past honorees of the Chicago Women of Concern Award Luncheon such as Shirley Welsh Ryan, Mari Gallagher, Catherine Bertini, Samantha Power, Mary Dempsey, Avis LaVelle, Justice Anne Burke, Aimee Mullins and Mary Houghton.

Felicia Middlebooks of WBBM Newsradio will emcee the event. The Chicago Women of Concern Awards Luncheon honors women who have demonstrated the qualities of justice, generosity, and compassion in their work and daily lives. Ticket prices are \$150 per ticket and \$1,500 per table. Corporate sponsorship packages

range from \$3,000 - \$20,000. To purchase tickets, please visit [concernusa.org](http://concernusa.org) or call (312) 431-8400. Funds raised through the event will support Concern's work to break the cycle of extreme poverty in 25 of the world's poorest countries. Follow #ConcernWomen and @Concern on Twitter for more information and live update from the ceremony.

About Concern Worldwide

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and

advancement of the most vulnerable people in underdeveloped countries of the world. Concern works in the areas of emergency response, education, livelihoods, health, and HIV and AIDS in 26 of the world's poorest countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean, and has saved countless lives, relieved suffering and provided opportunities for a better standard of living for millions of people. For more information, please visit [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org) or follow on Twitter and Facebook.

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# The Irish Rover

By James McClure



## Bridget McCarthy's God Girl

One October morning back in 2012 Bridget McCarthy dropped her 11-year old daughter Avery off at Delavan Christian School in Delavan, Wisconsin just west of Lake Geneva.

Bridget was always a bit taken aback by her second daughter's unabashed embrace of the God Thing. Avery, who insisted on going to the private Christian school, would speak openly of her love of God and His son Jesus, even speaking of starting a Bible study among classmates.

"She wanted to save the world," Bridget recalls, along with her own skepticism at the time of a child's innocent pleadings to make a difference even if it only changes one person's life.

Bridget lost the argument a couple weeks earlier as to how to spend 40 dollars at a Christian rock concert by up and coming star Jamie Grace. Something permanent and sensible like a t-shirt or a CD? Nope, Avery insisted on her mother instead putting all the money down to help sponsor a needy child in Africa as part of a ministry at the concert.

And then there was the letter. Avery wrote to the little girl in Rwanda, despite many advisory guidelines in the program. Well that a mother could control...Bridget set the letter aside to make sure she could review it before sending and discuss it with Avery.

That discussion never came, nor did any other conversation after the irrepressible and bubbly Avery said goodbye to her Mom at the school entrance.

"You know Mom, I really am a God girl!" said Avery with a smile and joy. Bridget says "and then off she went skipping and laughing...it was the last image I have of her."

Late that night Avery and her big sister in high school were driving back from Avery's gymnastics practice at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater when a freak car accident claimed the little girl's life on a country road.

No texting, no alcohol, just a seemingly senseless collision with a roadside pole in which Avery was the only fatality.

"As soon as Avery died everybody said I was going to be in ministry," says Bridget. McCarthy adds that she found that as hard to believe as her daughter's sometime over-the-top religious fervor.

"I'm just lucky that God chased after me

as hard as He did!"

In her grief and shock it took a week before Bridget summoned the courage to open and review that letter Avery wrote to Alphonsine in Rwanda.

"It was like the coolest letter," says Bridget, who felt the words not only appropriate for the sponsor child, but for herself.

Avery wrote:

"I will carry you in my heart forever. I will never forget about you. Do you know Jesus?"



If not I will tell you about Him."

Bridget McCarthy in coming months would start a ministry juggernaut that surged forth with all the love, joy and fervor that Avery would have wanted.

EVERYday Ministries was set up as a nonprofit. "The goal is to be Avery's voice for many of the things she wanted to accomplish in helping others," Bridget explains.

"The God I grew up with was very strict and unapproachable. Avery's God is very different. He's present and knows you. She taught me a lot about that too."

Within a few short months a ministry benefit concert was organized headlining

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Avery's fave Jamie Grace and local product John Trost, who is also making his way in the Nashville music scene and himself an alum of Delavan Christian School.

Throughout last year the ministry grew with participation in fundraisers, outreaches and impromptu counseling. Bridget now serves lunch at the school two times a week and coaches the girl's basketball team along with her fiancée.

Bridget resigned her position as an assistant zoning administrator with a nearby municipality in September and in October made an impact locally and around the world with an outreach called "19 Days", which marked the 19 days between what would have been Avery's 12th birthday and the year anniversary of her death. Adults and children in the area were urged to do one nice thing a day to make a difference in someone's life.

A blog on Facebook called "Stumbling Towards Perfect" chronicles Bridget McCarthy's journey through the whole process toward selflessness and Godliness.

She's heard from as far away as Ireland, India, Australia and France and touched parents locally with her newfound perspective. "When a parent loses a child it's almost an open invitation to others to come forward and say 'me too.'"

The next stop on Bridget's journey following Avery's example will be a mission trip to aid the poor in Haiti. At the same time a branch of AVERYday Ministries called YOUTH ACT! (short for AVERYday Compassion Team) has embarked on a program for Fifth Graders on up to identify a need in Walworth County, let people know about it, and then come up with a solution.

Care packages for the homeless, one of Avery's many compassions, is first on the list.

As for Avery, "She is so happy now. She is right where she wants to be."

"We need to listen to our kids more," says Bridget McCarthy with a smile and now heartfelt conviction. "When you know God is in control, you can find so much joy in everything!"

She too now says, as Avery McCarthy said in that letter that still brings tears to Bridget's Irish eyes:

"Do you know Jesus? If not I will tell you about Him."

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## From Ireland to Direland

An interesting and thought provoking book crossed my desk this week in the form of a novel titled, "From Ireland to Direland". ISBN 9781937004989 brought to the market by Old Line Publishing,

an American company based in Maryland.

It is written by an Irish Author, under the name of John Henry, now resident in Dublin, who, after living abroad for many years

returned in February 2011 to find the country transformed for the worse. As the author said to me, "sometimes living day to day with a situation we don't see things clearly," but his absence gave him a new vision and he became increasingly angry with what he

saw as the lack of accountability and the denial at all sorts of senior levels. So he wrote this book to try and highlight the position and to offer what he sees as an option to rectify it while bringing justice to those who deserve it.

About the book: Provoked by a

raw deal Jack Sarsfield breaks his bank manager's nose and knocks in his front teeth recording the incident on his smartphone as he does so. He uses the video clip to coerce the bank manager into silence and walks away free (and who wouldn't like to). Jack had been a gentle man throughout life but a combination of his wife's terminal illness and an underhand injustice from his bank, coupled with the apparent immunity from any retribution or accountability of politicians, bankers, property

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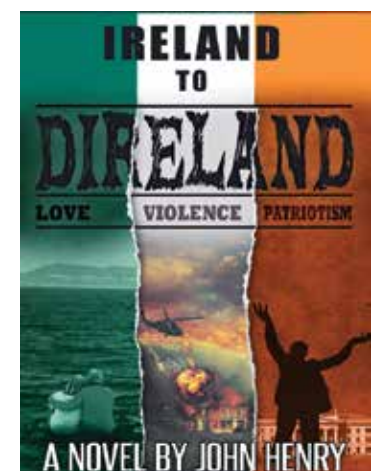
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developers and the 'elite', drives him over the edge and into direct action! Dangerous? Yes indeed, but this time 'they' aren't going to escape so lightly! He sees no point in simply replacing one set of nest-feathering politicians and untouchables with another so he sets about changing the whole system with 'Technology Driven True Democracy'. But at what price?

As the cover states it is part love story part political and social hand grenade. It is a novel after all but it deals with things in a very matter-of-fact and practical way, and the long-term solution it offers is extremely thought provoking.

Having spent the last five weeks in the USA the author has also seen how the system here can also incorporate political divisiveness and obstinacy so he feels the book holds a resonance well beyond the shores of Ireland.

Prior to this book the author published another novel titled, "A Recipe For Disaster" ISBN: 9781937004705.

Both books are available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble etc. as paperbacks and e-books.



## Piping It In

**Jack Baker**

by Gayle Baker



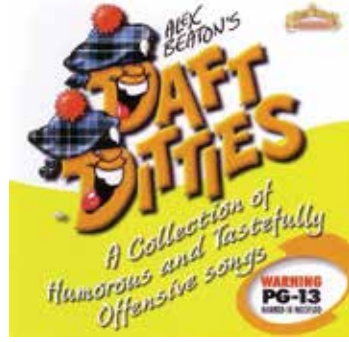
Jack is taking a long deserved vacation, and he's down in Florida soaking up the sun! He asked me to cover this month's column, since I'm still up north here, freezing my heinie off! I took him up on the offer and since there are no new CDs to really report on, I thought I'd take a trip into the archives, and drag out those recordings that are my standbys. These are discs that I fall back to when everything else sounds old or tiresome, tunes that I always will listen to no matter what mood I'm in. These are CDs that make me laugh, get my blood flowing or just take me back to that relaxing time on the beach and I would like to share them with you. Maybe you will find someone new or someone old you have forgotten about!

In 1987, Alex Beaton released *Daft Ditties*, a collection of humorous and tastefully offensive songs. Alex has a great voice, and although health issues have sidelined him, his catalog of recordings remains available. Some of my favorite tracks are *Wee Castanettes*, a fun song about inappropriate advances; *Big Nellie May* which is about a lady golfer, and *Maid When You're Young (Never Wed an Old Man)*. Alex is always good for a chuckle!

Seamus Kennedy released *Bar Rooms and Ballads* around the same time and his baritone voice and guitar bring lots of life to this live recording. He always does a variety of trad and not, fun and sad on each CD. This CD has *Three Minute Hamlet* which is like *Cliffs Notes* sung, plus one of my personal theme songs *Mom's Lullaby*, the beautiful and haunting *Kilkelly* and a taste of Seamus' wild side in *How the Yodel was Born* by Doug Green of *Riders in the Sky*.

*Kila* has always been my go to group when it comes to eclectic and up-tempo tunes. They are always my recommendation for something different. *Tóg É Go Bog É* came out in 1997 and this

band of Irish speakers loves to take trad just a little further on. Mostly instrumental, there are a few songs but the rhythm is what keeps me coming back for more. *Gwerzy* is a very rhythmic, fast driving, melodic tune and if you look on



You Tube, goes with a very surreal video! *Jasmine* is a lovely ballad, but the style is such that there are no words. You'll understand when you listen. This is a disc that is never out of reach.

Michael McGoldrick has always had vision when it comes to Irish music. He has been a part of so many bands in so many different ways over the years, it's not easy to tell where his influences come from. In 2000, he gave us *Fused* and it became THE soundtrack of many dance groups to choreograph to. Music flows and tempos change from beginning to end of several tracks. Trad pieces take on a contemporary feel without losing their tradition. *Lough Mountain* keeps it upbeat and makes you want to dance in your chair or on the floor.

Alasdair Fraser and his band *Skyedance* released *Live In Spain* in 2001 and it include guests from the Spanish Celtic branch of the family, including *Hevia*, *Mikel Laboa* and others. The music is traditional but with an addition of Spanish flavor and never stops until it's supposed to. *The Spark and Way Out To Hope Street* are tracks that feature so many musicians, it's difficult to keep track of who's who. *Harris Dance*, which includes *Ruileadh Cailleach*, has been one of my favorite pieces since it first appeared on *Alas-*

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dair's *Skydance* CD. You just can't sit still when you listen.

The newest classic in my list is by *John McSherry* and *Donal O'Connor*. *Tripswitch* came out in 2006 and the combination of *Uilleann Pipes* and fiddle plus guest musicians on an assortment of guitars, bouzouki and percussion make the sound of each piece so full. I have always been a fan of great guitar playing and this CD is full of it, topped off by *McSherry's* and *O'Connor's* skillful

performances.

As one snowy, cold day merges with another, it's nice to have some great music to pull out, dust off and slip into the player. The music brings me right back to festival season, listening and talking and seeing new bands.

Jack will be back in the paper next month and hopefully there will be some new CDs to hear about. In the meantime, stop by the store or email him at [jack@rampantlion.com](mailto:jack@rampantlion.com).

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## Hedda Gabler

By Henrik Ibsen

Reviewed by Frank West

Eugene O'Neill described Ibsen's work as "intensely human and understandable" and "much nearer to me than Shakespeare."

**Hedda Gabler** is a masterpiece. Ibsen wrote it in 1880. It is a penetrating look at the psychological make-up of a woman. The playbook quotes Oscar Wilde: "I felt pity and terror, as though the play had been Greek."

As the child of General Gabler, a general in the Norwegian army, Hedda grew up as a privileged child. She was probably shown great deference and because of this she became self-centered and selfish and with no feeling of empathy for anybody.

The play is filled with subtleties and symbols. The director, Kimberly Senior,

has a great wealth of theatre experience and dramatic vision. She gets extraordinary performances from the actors and they clearly show the subtleties in this compelling production.

The play is set "in the fashionable part" of a small town in Norway. Barbara Figgins, as Aunt Julia, perfectly shows us the town's conventional and unquestioned society.

Hedda's dreams of social prominence cause her to marry George Tesman, an academic with good career prospects. However, he seems only interested in his historical research – even on their honeymoon!

Hedda feels trapped by a society that expects her to be wife, mother and homemaker. It would have been fine if she freely wanted these positions. She rebels against this expectation and shows the selfish traits she developed as a spoiled

child.

The plays of this period required little thinking. Light, romantic comedies were common. However, the plays of Henrik Ibsen were a different matter. They showed the complexity of human motivations and behaviors. They were praised by James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Henry James and many others.

Ibsen realized that the subconscious is a powerful motivator. As Hedda says: "Sometimes I just do things. I don't know why."

A picture of Hedda's father, the stern, dour General, is a prominent part of the set. His presence hovers over the play. Psychologists would later call this a "super ego."

Great praise for Mark L. Montgomery, who as Eilert Lovborg, shows us the pow-

er of Dionysian energy. He was only a few feet from me when he came on stage, and he was literally shaking with this force. At first he uses this force creatively but then, sadly, very, very destructively.

Eva LeGallienne, an actor who played Hedda with great sensitivity, says Ibsen's ideas were "so startling that they struck the smug, complacent society of the time with the force of a tidal wave, and revolutionized not only plays... but the pattern of thought of men and women everywhere."

Hedda Gabler will be presented now through March 16 at Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

The performance schedule is: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00, Saturdays at 4:00 and 8:00 and Sundays at 2:00 and 6:00. The Box Office number is 847-242-6000 or go to [writerstheatre.org](http://writerstheatre.org).



## South Side Irish Parade Pre-Parade Fundraiser

The festivities for the 2014 South Side Irish Parade kick off with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The family-friendly event will feature raffle prizes, a silent auction, live music by Matt Ladd Band and Sean and Charlie, plus the South Side Irish Parade Queen Selection. This year's pre-parade party will be held at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park. "The pre-parade fundraiser helps us create excitement for the parade while also

Queen. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be prominently featured during the South Side Irish Parade and also ride in the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. A panel of judges will interview contestants at 2 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street just one hour ahead of the South Side Irish pre-parade fundraiser. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be announced at the pre-parade fundraiser. The winner will also receive sponsorship from the South Side Irish Parade Committee to go on to compete in the Chicago Rose of Tralee contest as the South Side Irish Rose. The Chicago Rose of Tralee contest will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center on March 29, 2014. The Winner of the Chicago Rose of Tralee will receive an all-expense paid trip to Ireland for an experience of a lifetime.

Interested young ladies of Irish descent between the ages of 18-27 are encouraged to apply. For more information and an application please see [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com). The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world.

Tickets for the pre-parade fundraiser cost \$30 at the door and include draft beer, dinner buffet and live entertainment. 2014 South Side Irish Parade merchandise will also be available for purchase. For more information visit <http://www.southsideirishparade.org/>. Saturday, February 22, 2014, 3:00pm - 8:00pm, 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W 115th St Merrionette Park, IL 60803



raising funds needed to help put on the parade. The cost of presenting the parade in a safe family-friendly way has risen dramatically in recent years. Your support at the Pre-Parade fundraiser will help us offset these necessary costs and help continue to present the South Side Irish Parade as a special way to celebrate and honor our Irish heritage," said Kevin Coakley, co-chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee. "We welcome everyone to attend the Pre-Parade Fundraiser, its a great way to come out and show your support," adds Coakley.

One of the highlights of the fundraiser is the selection of the South Side Irish Parade

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I had drinks with my crazy brother Brian one night over the holidays. When we were kids we called him Tommy, but about thirty-five years ago he insisted that everybody start calling him "Brian". Maybe he figured he'd done enough damage with one name so he should start using an alias. But what's in a name? This rose by any other name would still be a hooligan!

We went to Glascotts on Halsted for our reunion, not far from his bachelor pad on Clybourn. He'll be seventy this month and he's the original dirty old man, hoping to meet some dirty old ladies at the senior citizen complex where he lives. The only cougars Brian will be meeting these days would be staying at Sheehy's.

Forty years ago we hung out in this neighborhood, in this very bar. Like time travelers now, we sit and marvel at the changes today. Once we were the young bucks chasing chicks in Glascotts. Now we're the creepy old guys sitting off to the side ogling the trixies on their I-phones.

I order a couple of pints and Brian and I talk of the good old days, growing up on the ol' South side. The Hallidays were our next-door neighbors then; widowed Muriel and her eight kids, a great family. Ray was the oldest Halliday and he and Tommy went to Brother Rice together every day, after eight years of Christ the King grammar school. They were the same age and they were pals.

I had just run into Ray myself at my brother Danny's wake a few weeks earlier and he was the usual gregarious, energetic, spitfire he'd always been. He told me he was sorry to have missed Tommy and he asked me to send his regards. I told my brother this in Glascotts and he proceeded to tell me an old story.

When they were both about sixteen, Ray had a job as a busboy at the Martinique/Drury Lane on 95th Street. It wasn't until Tommy watched him one night in Waxman's drug store drinking coke after coke from the pop machine and scarfing Mallo bars that he realized, "Ray is making some serious coin!"

Hey Ray, can you get me a job bussing tables at the Martinique? "Maybe!" Ray said with a huge grin as he consumed his candy.

The next day as they were thumbing home down 95th Street from Rice, Ray told the driver, "Let us off here, I'll take you in to get you the job"

Tommy was amazed.

Really?

"Yeah, come on."

So Ray took him into the Martinique/Drury Lane complex and was giving Tommy the world tour. He took Tommy into the kitchen to look at the food, then the place where all the tablecloths and napkins were stored, the walk-in freezer, and the whole shebang. Meanwhile my bro is getting irritated with Ray's culinary class and wants to get to sign up for his new career as a busboy.

Okay I get it. Now who do I have to meet to get the job?

Ray chuckles like Ronald Reagan and says, "Well!"

Suddenly he lights up and grabs Tommy by the elbow. "Say, how would ya like to shake the hand of Pat O'Brien?"

Pat O'Brien?

"Yeah, Pat O'Brien!"

Pat O'Brien the movie star?

"He's a friend of mine! He's doing "Father of the Bride" at the Drury Lane. He's my buddy, come on."

Ray raced up a set of stairs and led my brother down a long

and how his mom went to mass every day and how he has five brothers and a sister and they've seen all his movies.

Ray is pounding on the door now and finally it opened and there he was, Pat O'Brien.

He looked much older than he did in the movies of course because most of them were made in the forties. Brian told me, "I kind of half expected to see him wearing his roman collar like the priests he played in "Angels With Dirty Faces", and to hear him say, 'Hi ya fellas, whaddya know,



James Cagney and Pat O'Brien

whaddya say?"

"But he actually reminded me more of Dad, in his dress pants and wearing one of those t-shirts with the spaghetti straps, ya'know a wife beater. And he also looked very pissed off!"

Pat looks at the two teenagers and barks, "What is it?"

Ray goes into his routine, "Hiya Pat, it's me Ray, remember?"

"Yeah, the bus boy, whaddya want kid?"

I want ya to shake hands with my next-door neighbor Tommy Houlihan!

Pat O'Brien turns and stares at him and I think that's probably about the time my brother had the first inclination to change his name.

Brian tells me, "Pat O'Brien now has smoke coming out of his ears, and his blood pressure starts boiling. Whatever he had been doing when Ray knocked on the door was a lot more important than shaking hands with the busboys buddy. He slammed the door on us and said, 'Get lost!' or words to that effect."

I asked Brian, "Did ya ever get the bus boy job?"

He didn't. But I'm sure Brian can use that Pat O'Brien story on some of the ninety-year-old cougars in his building. None of the other dirty old ladies would remember him.

hallway and up to a door that he then knocked on with authority.

In those days Tony DeSantis, the impresario behind the Drury Lane, had a swanky apartment built adjacent to the backstage area for the stars who appeared at his theatre. It was convenient and classy for the stars and nobody bothered you, until Ray Halliday knocked on Pat O'Brien's door.

Pat O'Brien was the legendary Irish actor, best friends with Jimmy Cagney and Spencer Tracy, and had appeared in hundreds of classic films, usually as the friendly priest who steered the gangsters along the right path. He was also memorable for playing the title role in "Knut Rockne, All American" as he urged the lads back to the gridiron to "win one for the Gipper!"

My brother was skeptical of Ray's friendship with the actor but didn't want to miss the chance to shake hands with the great Pat O'Brien. Tommy had show biz aspirations himself and thought maybe Cagney and O'Brien could discover him and cast him as a young Spencer Tracy in their next gangster flick.

Ray rapped on the door three times very insistently as Tommy looked over his shoulder and wondered what he would say to Pat if he opened the door. Maybe some bologna about being Irish

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## Trinity College Dublin Announces Appointment of the Seamus Heaney Professor of Irish Writing

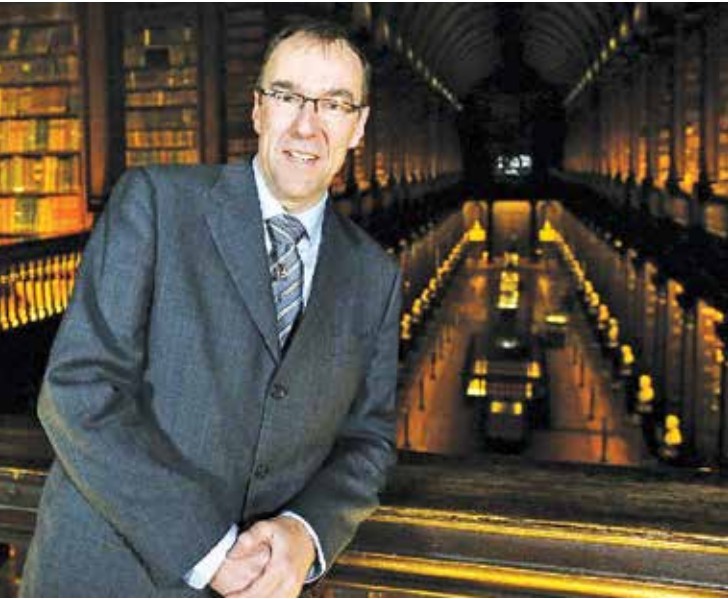
Professor Chris Morash Takes Up New Seamus Heaney Professorship of Irish Writing

Dublin, January 20th, 2014 – Professor Chris Morash (pictured) has been appointed as the Seamus

find new ways to understand and to assert the value of Irish literature," said Professor Morash. "The creation of this post is an assertion of that value. I look forward to contributing to the challenge of

Place, which he co-authored with Shaun Richards and is published by Cambridge University Press. Mapping Irish Theatre makes the argument that for the past century, Irish theatre has depended upon a 'sense of place' that is rapidly fading, compelling Irish theatre practitioners to find new ways to connect with Irish audiences. One of Ireland's most acclaimed new theatre directors, Louise Lowe of ANU Productions, will formally launch the book.

The School of English, one of the oldest in the world, founded the first ever Chair of English Literature in 1867. Many major Irish writers over the centuries have attended Trinity – including Jonathan Swift, Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, Bram Stoker, J.M. Synge, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde, William Trevor, Sebastian Barry, Deirdre Madden and Anne Enright.



Heaney Professor of Irish Writing at Trinity College Dublin. The Professorship is named in honour of one of Ireland's greatest poets and Nobel Laureate who had a long standing relationship with Trinity. Professor Morash's appointment was announced at a special event in the Long Room in Trinity College today (January 20th).

"This is a seminal appointment in Irish academia and will act as a form of legacy to Seamus Heaney's significant contribution to Irish writing and literary studies. The professorship was established in the last year of the great poet's life and he had expressed delight at his association with it. We hope to fulfill the aspirations for the role that we discussed with him at the time, and build on Trinity's extraordinary literary tradition with significant impact for writing in Ireland and internationally," said Dr Patrick Prendergast, Provost of Trinity.

Professor Chris Morash, was formerly Professor of English at NUI Maynooth where he also set up the Centre for Media Studies. He has published widely on Irish writing.

"The profound transformations of culture that have taken place globally over the past couple of decades make it imperative that we

giving it substance."

The new position was established with the philanthropic support of a number of benefactors, most notably Dr Mark Pigott, KBE, and Dr Martin Naughton, Chair of Glen Dimplex.

"Through the philanthropy of these donors this important professorship has been made possible. We are very appreciative of their generosity and vision in supporting the new appointment," said Dr Prendergast.

Associate Professor Eve Patten, Head of Trinity's School of English, warmly welcomed Professor Morash to his new post and said: "This is a poignant occasion but a happy one too. The School has always played a leading role in the development of Irish literary studies, and the appointment of the Seamus Heaney Professor will consolidate our commitment to Irish writing and literary life as a whole. We are delighted to have Chris join us – he is a scholar of outstanding international reputation and a tremendous addition to Trinity College."

On the occasion of the announcement of his appointment, Professor Morash also launched his new book, Mapping Irish Theatre: Theories of Space and

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**About The Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC):** Founded in 1987 and believing in justice for all and solidarity in the face of hardship, the IPC is committed to welcoming the "stranger among us" and providing compassionate assistance and encouragement to individuals in need of spiritual, social, legal, and educational support. Please visit our website at <http://ipc-boston.org> for more information. The IPC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Position Summary

1. Provide dynamic and entrepreneurial leadership to Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers to promote excellence in fulfilling the IPC's long-range vision, strategy, goals, and objectives.
2. Perpetuate the IPC's values with a sincere dedication to providing constituents with spiritual comfort, care, and support with sensitivity to cultural traditions.
3. Hold a passion for and an unwavering commitment to support Irish and other immigrant groups.
4. Direct programmatic, organizational, financial, and community outreach plans to position the IPC as an influential and valuable resource for immigrants and their families.
5. Establish and sustain strong, collaborative relationships with individuals and other organizations aligned with our mission.

### Responsibilities

1. In conjunction with the Board of Directors and Development Consultant, develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising plan to increase programmatic capacity and help achieve fiscal sustainability.
2. Manage organizational staff, and develop outcome measurements to monitor program effectiveness and feasibility of

new initiatives, as well as operational advancements and administrative functions.

3. Develop and direct programs that minister to the spiritual, social, emotional, and practical needs of immigrants.
4. Maintain clear and timely communications with the Board of Directors.
5. Direct Administrative, Operations, Fiscal, Program, and IT operations to insure the implementation of best practices throughout the organization.
6. Direct the development and administration of all budgets and financial plans.
7. Collaborate with Board to insure the fiscal health of the organization.
8. Maintain compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
9. Advocate on behalf of immigrants through collaborative relationships with diverse private and public immigrant organizations and governmental agencies and policy makers.

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environment.

2. At least seven years of proven success in organizational, program, and financial management; donor cultivation and stewardship; fundraising and development; grant writing and management; community relations, marketing and public relations, and event management.
3. Familiarity with corporate, foundation and private donors in Boston and elsewhere that may be approached and engaged in supporting the IPC.
4. An accomplished, innovative, and enthusiastic strategist capable of representing and leading the IPC with the highest level of professionalism, discretion, and integrity.
5. An empathetic and approachable communicator with excellent interpersonal skills, presentation skills, and a passion for working with Irish and other immigrant groups, as well as the dedication to pursue and engage others in accomplishing comprehensive immigration reform.
6. Knowledge of, and empathy for the problems and issues facing immigrants, in particular issues in the Irish immigrant community.
7. Familiarity with software to maximize efficiency of contact and donor management.

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### What Does 2014 Hold For You?

Somehow journalists feel body about the New Year as the compelled to challenge every- old year fades. In brief, they ask,

Please join us at our signature event.

# 2014 Ireland Network Chicago Ball

Saturday, February 15, 2014  
The Drake | Chicago

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Simon Carswell**

Washington Correspondent for *The Irish Times*

For information and reservations, go to [theirelandnetwork.com](http://theirelandnetwork.com)

## 2014 Ireland Network Chicago Ball

### ★★★★ RAFFLE ★★★★★

Help us to help others—both globally and locally.  
All raffle proceeds go to CONCERN Worldwide  
and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support.

### Four lucky winners will receive one of the following magnificent prizes:

#### FIRST PRIZE

- ★ Round trip flights for two on Aer Lingus, Chicago-Dublin direct
- ★ Two nights in Dublin at The Marker Hotel
- ★ One night in Killarney at The Brehon Killarney
- ★ A round of golf at The Killarney Golf & Fishing Club

#### SECOND PRIZE

- ★ One night in the Princess Diana Suite at The Drake Hotel, Chicago

#### THIRD PRIZE

- ★ Two nights in a suite at The Palmer House, Chicago

#### FOURTH PRIZE

- ★ Dinner for four at Farmhouse Chicago

Tickets are \$50 each, or three for \$100. Only 300 tickets to be sold.

Buy tickets online at [theirelandnetwork.com](http://theirelandnetwork.com) or in person at Ireland Network events.  
If any tickets remain, they will be available at the Ball on Feb. 15.  
Winners need not be present to win. (But we hope you will be!)

BEST OF LUCK!

what does 2014 hold for you? Are you ready for the next year or do you still have too many unfinished tasks that should have been done in 2013? Did you find 2013 a very profitable and satisfying year or just the opposite? We are now a month into the New Year. How are you finding it?

You and I both know that anything that happened before you read this article is already history. You simply can't change the past regardless of what anyone tells you to the contrary. So, Lord willing, we will be going through this same exercise 11 months from now.

The challenge is back in your hands. Take a blank sheet of paper and write down your hopes, your wishes and your dreams for this New Year. Create that BUCKET LIST that people talk about all the time.

It's my understanding that a bucket list is a compilation of things that you hope to do before you die. We have all heard people say after some important event in their life, "now I can cross that one off my bucket list."

But many of us have probably stuck with the same old boring resolutions such as:

- "Stop smoking,
- Lose weight,
- Work harder, or
- Establish a retirement fund."

It seems to me that those resolutions don't work much beyond the first couple of weeks of the New Year. Be honest with yourself; how are your resolutions holding up a month into the New Year? How about trying a different approach?

Maybe a bucket list will have more staying power and more energy attached to it. As you think about your bucket list, remember it does not have to be filled only with awesome things like winning the lottery, or sky diving, or surfing, or walking the same trail across America as Forrest Gump did.

No, maybe a more satisfying and realistic bucket list would include things like taking that trip of your lifetime. That trip you have dreamed of for years, perhaps a trip back in time for

you. Maybe it is to your old neighborhood, the place where you grew up, or the place where your parents or grandparents lived or came from.

I recently spoke to a college classmate of mine, Tim Guiheen, who told me that he and his daughters visited the ancestral home of his grandparents in Ireland just a couple of years ago. He said that after that visit he asked himself why he had waited so long. In fact, he was so taken by the first trip; he went back again last year. We have all heard stories like that many times. Perhaps we are simply fearful of what we will find. Maybe the trip won't live up to our expectations, whatever they might be. Are you willing to take a risk?

What if the extended Guiheen family had expressed total disinterest in the visiting Yanks? It could happen. Instead he felt like he was "home" with the relatives he met.

One can see why web sites like Ancestry.com intrigue us. I spoke to a man today who told me he visited Ireland again a year ago and felt more welcomed than ever, because this time he had located some family members three or four generations removed. So even though the earlier generations of his family have been gone for years, he felt more connected. Now he has some current family and a little history he can relate to.

I can only surmise that many of our fellow American born friends and family whether their families were from Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Italy, etal feel the same.

You might say that a trip to the "old country" wherever that is, just isn't a real possibility, for any number of reasons; health, finances or family commitments. Well then, you could try adding some simple, but appreciated items to your bucket list? For example, you could track down an old classmate or old workmate to advise him or her how important they have been to you over the years? Could you find an old teacher or boss who taught you so much and warm their lives

with a greeting of appreciation and fondness?

I have talked to people who have done such things many times and they claim that whatever the effort was on their part, it proved to be satisfying to both them and the recipient of their kindness. Don't you have a couple of people you could "reach out and touch" who helped you when you needed some help?

My wife wrote a letter to one of her college professors years after their paths had parted. Some-time later, a close friend of the professor advised my wife of the professor's death and one of his last requests. He asked that his friend arrange to have my wife's letter of thanks be read at his funeral service, as a eulogy to his life. This was a request by a distinguished professor and world traveler who was delighted to be remembered so appreciatively by a former student.

If you choose not to do something like this, that's your call. But please don't blame it on the lack of time; remember Michelangelo lived in the same 24 hour block of time that all the rest of us do.

If you started the New Year with a positive attitude, psychologists say it will definitely be better than if you started with a "woe is me" attitude. Positive self-expectation impacts greatly on our lives. Carpe Diem

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless facing them. Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain, but for the heart to conquer it. From Rabindramath Tagore who was Asia's first Nobel Prize winner in 1913; for literature.

PERSONAL NOTE: I would like to belatedly thank my two wonderful editors for all their help in 2013: my wife, Sandee Wask Fitzgerald and my brother, Joseph Fitzgerald.

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## The Great Banger Debate

By Christine  
Gallagher Kearney

Christine Gallagher Kearney is a Public Voices Fellow with The OpEd Project, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Board of Ambassador Council member, co-founder of ChiFems Action Network and Past President of DePaul University's Women's Network. She has published in places like ForbesWoman, Women's eNews and Girl w/Pen! (now a part of The Society Pages).

My husband Michael loves sausages, as many Irish folk do. Since arriving in Chicago in 2008, Michael has been on a quest to find a sausage like the kind "you get back home."

On a cold December afternoon, I sat with Michael devouring a "classic" Irish breakfast at The Irish Bistro in North Center. Michael couldn't get past how much the Irish bangers tasted like the beloved sausages of his County

Down childhood.

The barmaid told us that the sausages were from John Diamond—we had never heard of him or his sausages. Michael took to his phone and looked him up. An article from 2010 popped up, it discussed the Irish banger in Chicago.

The company's Facebook page featured a close-up of a sausage, crisp and brown. From the tantalizing photo, you could imagine how moist it would taste, the thin casing splitting easily under your teeth at the first bite.

After I downed my cup of tea and Michael finished his pint, we took a swift pace north on Damen Avenue toward Montrose to finish some Christmas shopping---we would shortly be headed to Ireland to be home for the holidays. After crossing enough items off our list, we decided to make our way west when we came across a small Irish

shop called, "Celtica."

I spotted Michael's mother's favorite brand of tea, which she purchases by the box-full at her local Sainsbury's. "Shall we bring her some tea?" I asked and he rolled his eyes and laughed.

Inside, the shop was filled with knickknacks, food stuffs and other Irish novelties (e.g., a pot of real Irish dirt). The shop owner chatted with a customer as she pulled items out of a chest freezer and placed them neatly in bags on the counter. Another woman browsed



the shelves.

As I peered at teas and flour for soda bread, while imagining myself in the kitchen becoming an expert soda bread maker, Michael noted the reasonable prices as he ran his fingers across bags of Taytos and Christmas selection boxes.

When living away from Ireland, ordinary things become extraordinary---they pull at your heart strings. Finding Taytos unexpectedly for sale in America, for instance, creates a burst of excitement and a feeling of being

at the counter as if in a Donegal pub, debating the high and low points of sausages. Pretty soon the conversation turned to the topic of soda bread and the other woman, who had been browsing, confided that she made it from time to time, selling it at farmer's markets. I asked if she would share her recipe, but she averred, mumbling about "family secrets."

Finally, Michael managed to bring the conversation to a halt when he mentioned potato bread, "I line the bottom of my suite case every time I come home and then it all goes in the freezer." The Celtica shop owner swooned over the thought and simply said, "Yes, potato bread."

As I listened to the varied Irish accents, I was suddenly transported back to Ireland. I felt happy---happy that Michael could find community around food, around a sausage, something you could call simple, but ultimately has a very complex cultural value. And although Michael considers Chicago his home now, I know how important moments like these are for him to build a community in Chicago, his home away from home.

We said our goodbyes with the promise to return and left the shop. We may not have agreed on the best Irish sausage in Chicago, but we certainly had a spirited afternoon connecting with others in Chicago's Irish community over our shared love of "what you get back home."

I carried a strong feeling of Ireland with me the rest of the afternoon realizing that a walk around the neighborhood is enough to connect Michael to his Irish roots, me to mine and us to each other.

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## Brendan Houlihan Running For MWRD Commissioner

Brendan Houlihan is a candidate for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. There are ten candidates running for three Commissioner Seats in the March 18 Democratic County. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District includes all of Chicago and the vast majority of Suburban Cook County.

Houlihan was born and raised in the south suburbs and currently lives in Palos Heights with his wife Bae and their daughter Aisley.

"My daughter is part of the reason why I chose to run for Water Reclamation Commissioner," Houlihan states. "Not only do I want the best possible future for my daughter, I want the best possible future for all generations. The issues that the District faces regarding keeping Lake Michigan safe and clean and mitigating flooding in our region are so important to our all of our well-being."

Brendan Houlihan cares deeply about making sure Chicagoland's water is as clean as possible, and will push to ensure that all District treatment plants remove harmful chemicals like nitrogen and phosphorus, significantly

reducing the amount of unsafe chemicals in our water supply. Houlihan believes that standardizing the requirements of District treatment plants is critical for our region's water purity. "With standardized requirements, we no longer have to worry about some plants discharging waste into the waterways, despite other plants responsibly treating their waste," Houlihan says.

This past month, Houlihan publicly called on Congress to restore funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an initiative focused on keeping Lake Michigan clean. That very same day, Congress did indeed restore minimal funding to the initiative, but Houlihan knows that in the long-term, the MWRD will need to continue to lobby Congress and other funding sources to ensure that Lake Michigan is protected.

"I will do everything I can to protect Lake Michigan, in order to keep our water safe for future generations." Houlihan states. "One of my top priorities will be to address short and long-term solutions to the invasive species problem that has been affecting our Great Lakes."

Houlihan is no stranger to elected office. In 2006, he was elected Commissioner of the Board of Review. At the Board of Review, Houlihan advocated for transparency in the property tax appeals process and set in motion the course to bring online appeals to homeowners. Houlihan also facilitated an extensive outreach program throughout communities to assist taxpayers and ensure that tax dollars were being put to good use, while implementing technological advancements that significantly reduced wasteful paper usage and increased paperless filings for appeals.

Houlihan is campaigning tirelessly across Cook County and is looking forward to March 18. "I have always had a strong passion for public service and I am dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. I will protect the health and safety of our communities, improve water quality, guard against flood damage, and ensure that the District is properly and efficiently managed. Join my campaign at [www.brendanhoulihan.com](http://www.brendanhoulihan.com) and help us fulfill our mission!"

connected to home, just as tucking into an authentic fry-up has the ability to transport you across the pond. At times, engaging in a conversation, where the accents are firmly rooted in Belfast, Dublin or Cork, can sharpen a longing for home; at other times, it can ease that longing.

"Where do you get your sausages?" He asked the shop owner without much of an introduction, as he made his way to the counter. "Winston's," she replied, pulling out a pack from the freezer. The sausages, although rock hard in their plastic wrap, seemed ripe with authentic potential.

Michael explained in detail how we've experienced Winston's sausages, how my Irish-American family would go out of their way to buy them from his shop near Midway Airport and how my mom would cook them. Although I'm not originally from Ireland---my ancestors moved to North Dakota from County Donegal in the 1860s---my Irish roots pushed me to appreciate the many versions of the Irish sausage.

The woman who had been quietly browsing in the shop chimed in, in an Irish accent that I couldn't place.

We spoke at length, standing



## pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Man, I took a beating in April of 1965. That was not my best year by far. The Nun I had for the tail-end of Sixth Grade at Little Flower told my folks that I was 'retarded, obstinate, disorganized and destined for bad end.' To say that I was a miscreant little jerk is not a stretch and I remain less than anal retentive in my assault upon tasks. However, bad end? I think not. I have been saved by great folks.

Immediately following one of my numerous extra curricular Pre-May Crowning beat-downs by Sister Beautifulus, RSM, I accompanied two pals Tom Scanlon and Bernie Weber eastward in the alley between 80th & 79th Street ... In their company, I took my first cigarette, actually my second, my first I got from Uncle Mike. This was my first outside of the tribal circle. My companions were considered a bad lot in the common-room of the school's convent, whose families lived in the apartments along Ashland Av-

enue on the Little Flower side. One guy, Tom, is now a retired school psychologist and the other, Bernie, became a much decorated Chicago fireman, also retired. We all three had written satirical essays on the upcoming May Crowning, which offended Sister Beautifulus, who asked me, 'What would your Father say if he saw this?' I waited a



second, timing is everything, "Who you think wrote most of its, S'ter?" Flesh and bone was now open for business. Messy desks, slipshod arithmetic no SRA work done in weeks built the hooded Black and White into a Torrent of Spring Fury! I took it on the cheeks, the ears, the snott-locker and even the gums, as did my boon chums. We celebrated this blood-bond with a pack of Chesterfields snatched from Tom's Mom's purse.

Upon the celebratory light-up, Bernie's Dad's car came bouncing through the then unpaved alley at a great clip. Old Man Weber had seen us in the act,

"Bernie, get your rump home now! Immediately, if not sooner. Hickey - I'll see your old man, when he gets off work and stops at Billy Ellis's. Hi Tom! How's

your Mom?" Mrs. Scanlon was a widow who worked for the Phone Company over on Stewart and was considered by every pater familias to be easy on the eyes. .

"Fine, Mr. Weber," Scanlon, obviously off the hook, spirited the rumpled pack of Chesterfield 's in my jacket pocket and tore ass south at the intersection of Marshfield and the alley. Mr. Weber glared at me, "You're as big a smart-ass as your Uncle Bart. I told Bernie to stay the Hell away from you. Make yourself scarce."

Swell. A brace of great communications concerning the fruit of his loins to candy Dad's ears, prior to his twenty minutes at home before he had to go his other job at the Beverly Theatre. Nun Battery followed by the manly art of snitching a nail. "I am well and truly screwed," I determined with no prodding from the audience, whatsoever. Smart Lad! I fired up another smoke and walked across Ashland Ave. to the Highland Theater - home of the Hercules versus Viet Cong and other B Movies.. There was always sexy and salacious movie posters to heighten a lad's trip to the Saturday Confessional. Always, a grand idea to tempt oneself.

I stood in the ticket bay of Highland Theatre on Ashland and smoked another Chesterfield with the existential fatalism of Sartre, jilted by some swell French Dame in tight sweater and tighter slit skirt... I looked at ads of upcoming movies that I would never see. A gruff but familiar voice assaulted my pornographic musings, "Spit out that butt, Kid." Jesus!!!!!!

Cop? Uncle? No. Ignatius the school janitor? Nope. I turned to see furrowed brows and dashing side burns, bushy eye brows and Goliath-like terror of none other than Klondike Moose Cholak - The Wrestling Foe of Man and Beast!.

The man eclipsed the waning western sun beaming on the tar roof of Billy Ellis' Wooden House, where the Old Man stopped for a Hamms and a Vinegar and Oil (Seagram's VO Canadian). The Star of Saturday afternoon pre-Confession Wres-

ting brought to me by Ben's Auto Sales on South Western Ave. snapped, "Weed's for sissies, book-worms and sob-sisters, kid."

Uh, uh stammered I, "I just tried 'cuz the guys and me . . ."

Moose Cholak glared at me, "Hey, save it for Aunt Gertie! You wanna end up being be some pencil neck, no good for anybody, salad eater, Boy?"

Given my proclivities of the tongue, I was more than familiar with the rhetorical question at this tender age and checked my natural tendency go all Noel Coward with Klondike Moose Cholak.

Rather, I penitently answered properly, "No sir."

With folded arms and a broad smile of avuncular approval, Klondike Moose Cholak ordered me to pick up the cast away cylinder of sin and put it in the cement ashtray near the curb like a good boy and then waxed poetic, "Breakfast at Tiffany's, kid. That's what smoking'll do for you and our whole county. You know, that they made it a movie a couple years back with that skinny broad from My Fair Lady.? Now, pay attention! The guy who wrote the story about that skirt that liked to shop and hang around fairies and rich creeps, started smoking at your age. I saw him on Susskind's TV show, when I couldn't go back to sleep, last week and it stuck with me. This tiny little bald guy with a pixie voice said his mom was some hillbilly hooker and that he started smoking as a little guy and it stunted his growth, made his hair fall out and talk like a girl. That's no way, Kid. Now, where's that saloon what's called The Wooden House?"

I pointed to the northwest corner of 79th & Ashland and corrected the wrestler, "We call it Billy Ellis's around here."

With a smile, Moose offered this valediction, "You got some lip on you kid. A lip on you that' would trip a pig."

How could one come to bad end in this urban Arcadia ?

I have not had a cigarette, since breakfast.

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## The High Kings: Friends for Life

2014, Sony Music Entertainment. 12 Tracks, 42 Minutes. Produced by Sharon Shannon and John Dunford

We often talk of the Ballad Boom, with a hint of nostalgia of that era, and coming along at the tail end of a most vibrant and influential period in Irish music. I have had the pleasure of seeing the High Kings live at least a half dozen times. The echoes of the Ballad Boom heyday are far more than the sons of legends moniker first attached to the group, before the

and of the band. Have a listen, you won't be disappointed.

Oh Maggie starts ~ there is the sound of the High Kings, and the great ballad bands through and throughout modern Ireland. Made famous to some degree by Tommy Makem & the Clancy Brothers, the energy and embrace birthed the Ballad Boom in the U.S. and then back in Ireland too. The High Kings vigorously stamp it with their own vibrant arrangement, a sound modern, distinct and full of joy.

Gucci ~ upbeat, moody; Jamaica goes to Ireland and Ireland's Diaspora sings to the world.

All Around the World ~ A song

Reilly classic is a little edgier, a little slower, and beautiful.

High ~ I have not heard this song before - the title matches the harmony. It has a country feel, but full of appreciation for life and how good it can make us feel.

Ireland's Shore ~ A seafaring ballad, with devil may care trademark of seamen of old. I can picture the Kings dancing on deck, accordion blazing and watchmen swaying.

Come with Me Now ~ Stroll with a maiden, a ship intrudes, as it so often did. Love laments: "I will look after you always".

MacAlpines Fusiliers ~ back to the verve and high energy, with a great beat; the old Irish classic, with a new twist that is perfect for a festival setting - dancing in the aisles and singing with the band.

Friends for Life ~ The CD title track, the whole album is a tribute to the

talent wrote its own itinerary of greatness.

of love, today, without lament and with open arms.

Leave Her Johnny ~ Acapella, each voice can stand alone; together the High Kings are magic!

Health to the Company ~ Another touch of world music, it is hard to NOT sing along to this one.

Galway Girl ~ A popular recording right now, Con O'Brien's version with the Irish Descendants is the best I have ever heard. I didn't think it would be possible to beat that, but the High Kings run neck and neck, a wonderful rendition.

Peggy Gordon ~ This Paddy

journey, reactions from the crowd, and those met along the way: influences, fans and ghost leave no one behind ~ friends for life.

On Friends for Life, the first track, Oh Maggie, is my favorite, but it was hard to choose. Every track on Friends for Life is good; every track forces a reaction and forces you to pay attention. For me, Oh Maggie and Galway Girl blaze the brightest. The whole CD is a favorite, stays in the stereo and stays at the top of my Highly Recommended CD's. *Friends for Life is a Top Shelf Selection.*



talent wrote its own itinerary of greatness.

Darren Holden, Brian Dunphy, Finbarr Clancy and Martin Furey are the sons of legends, they are also gifted, vibrant, committed and one of the most exciting Irish music bands to grace the festival and concert hall in recent memory. Friends for Life is their newest CD, fourth overall, and fantastic.

Four great voices, arrangements that touch with passion and persuasion and the obvious love and intimate knowledge of the songs they sing are trademarks of the CD



## Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



The trip back to Derry ended as it began, with the heavens lashing it down. I was sitting on the bus going to the airport, the gale force winds coming at us from every angle, and the roads slick with water when it occurred to me, why had I bothered coming back? The extreme weather wasn't the perfect end to a fortnight at home, but it certainly was consistent with the whole trip. I should've known better, but I'm forever the optimist. As I sat there watching the rain, a sea of melancholy was quickly taking hold of me.

We all love those picturesque images of Irish green fields and misty hills. And, I am as guilty as anyone else about boasting about the best of the auld sod, but my enthusiasm was, at this point, most definitely waning.

When I arrived at Dublin airport two weeks beforehand, I greeted the rain with fond nostalgia. After all, I was leaving the frigid air of Chicago behind me. In comparison to the dry, scour of the Windy City, the rain did not faze me. Fourteen days later, waterlogged and frustrated, my positive reasoning had darkened into despair. Worse again, my innate need to redeem the whole experience was fighting back like a drowning man.

When the immigrant returns, unlike the prodigal, the expectation is a coming back to the home place where the warm, fuzzy, memories displace the unpleasant ones. It's much like the Irish Tourist Board's pitch to returnees as the 'gathering'; the expectation is rooted in sentimental recollection and the desire to generate money is graciously forgotten. However, the collision between what we want and what we get is disillusioning, and I'm beginning to think that this is not a bad thing.

Before going home, I was really looking forward to the Tate Turner prize. Derry as the City of Culture was first time hosting this very prestigious art competition. So, on one of the wet, sodden mornings, I walked across the Peace Bridge to see the exhibition. Since the weather was atrocious, there were only a few of us who braved the elements. I had heard from others, previous to my visit, that the work

of the four finalists was disappointing, and anticlimactic. Obviously, I reasoned, they didn't understand modern art. The eclectic, abstraction, is a far remove from the popular impressionists or realists.

On entering the newly renovated army barracks, I was impressed. The former British army station was creatively demilitarized. The barbed wire, the high lookouts, the oppressing sense of occupation was a memory creatively redeemed. Now, with its walls de-cluttered, and callouses of war hacked off, the former military installation was visually stunning. Ironically, the real art, for me lay not with the Tate Turner prize, but the architects who were able to take a deep wound of the past and transform it into a place of celebration.

Inside the building that housed the artwork I was unin-



spired, and at a loss for words. A male caricature of a male nude, an empty room where you were asked by an attendant if you would give a pound to know about market economy, and a film about water and teapots could not outshine the efforts of a city attempting to look beyond the injustices of the past. Sometimes when our expectations collide with reality, the inevitable disillusionment may also bring with it a surprise. It's not peculiar to the people of Derry this ability to transcend and transform a horrific past. Human beings are constantly reinventing, restoring, and rejuvenating their personal stories. It's who we are. When pulled by despair

we are teased back to our right minds by hope.

My disappointment with the Turner Prize was offset by the creative ingenuity of those who designed the Peace Bridge, a reminder that art is primarily a celebration of human enterprise. Art is not a cosmetic. It doesn't cover up blemishes in attempt to create an alternative reality, but it can inspire us to see things differently.

As you can see the drowning man has begun to swim. Despite the bus rocking to the whims of the strong gusts of wind, and the lashes of rain, the optimist is not dead. In between those constant showers were moments, fractions of time, when the pulse of life beat regardless of how wet it got.

For instance, Derry for the first time had an ice rink. And my younger sister, who in her day was a star roller skater at the roller discos, had a 'notion' to go ice-skating. Now, as a grandmother, she wanted to chance fate and take me with her.

Together, with her son, the three of us clung to the side of the rink daring each other to let go. What were we doing? Were we wise at all? It was crazy, and, by some people's reckoning, stupid, but bloody good fun! Once we finally released our grip on the safety bar, we skated like Bambi, almost falling but not quite. For the next hour, we laughed, swore, and tentatively skated around and around in circles. The years fell away, we were no longer responsible middle-aged adults, and we were back in our reckless, carefree, 20s.

Then there was the night when my other younger sister got drunk. Never a drinker, she had never been drunk before. My brother, who was hosting the party, began the evening with wine, then beer, then brandy. My sister happily guzzled every concoction presented to her. The hilarity reached a crescendo when my

brother and sister were up on the floor shaking their money to Abba's Dancing Queen. It was a moment of absurdity, jocularly, but more so, it was true Irish family bonding.

As I boarded the plane, the storm had settled, and the sun shone. I was leaving again, but not down-heartedly. The wind, rain, crazy family dynamics (including my mother's immeasurable decorations), raced around my mind, swirled inside my head, and more often than not made me chuckle.

\*Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in Chicago and teaches Irish and British Literature at Loyola University Chicago. [terryaboyle@gmail.com](mailto:terryaboyle@gmail.com)

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## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



only 10% of those injured ever file a claim for compensation and only 2% file lawsuits.

According to most recent data from the National Center for

State Courts (NCSC), in 2008, tort cases represented only 4.4% of all civil caseloads in seven states reporting, while monetary disputes (contract and small claims cases) combined for 73% of cases. These cases include hospitals and doctors suing patients for unpaid bills, and then garnishing that patient's wages to collect.

3. "Illinois business is declining, in large part, because the number of lawsuits being filed by greedy people in example number one keeps going up."

Fact - The number of civil cases filed in Illinois courts have been down nearly 25% since 2007.

4. "Doctors are leaving the state in droves because the number of medical malpractice suits keeps going up."

Fact - The number of medical malpractice cases filed in Illinois has declined 40% since 2003.

5. "Insurance companies keep raising premiums on doctors because of all of these 'frivolous' medical malpractice suits that are being filed."

Fact - In 2012, ISMIE – the State's largest medical malpractice insurer – had record profits of \$57 million while the number of claims continued to drop.

6. "Anybody can file a medical malpractice suit and it is your ticket to a windfall."

Fact - Every plaintiff must have a signed affidavit from a doctor who practices in the same area of medicine as the defendant doctor which says (1) they have reviewed the file; (2) they practice in the same area of medicine as the defendant; and (3) they believe malpractice has occurred.

7. "An injured worker does not have to prove that the injury occurred "on the job" to be entitled to workers' compensation benefits."

Fact - This is the latest myth being touted by the "reformers." They are referring to repetitive trauma injuries where an employee works for multiple years performing a repetitive activity for the employer. Eventually, their shoulder, knee or elbow may give way due to repetitive wear and tear because of those job activities.

In repetitive trauma cases, the employee typically does not have a specific traumatic injury but rather the pain comes on gradually as the joint wears out. The law provides protection for the injured worker under the Workers' Compensation Act. The argument making the rounds is that the employee

didn't have to prove that the injury happened "on the job" because there was no specific trauma. It is misleading and being used as another argument to reduce workers' protection under the law.

The Illinois Supreme Court unanimously said as much in its decision in *Sisbro, Inc. v Industrial Commission*, "When workers' physical structures give way under the stress of their usual tasks, the law views it as an accident arising out of and in the court of her employment."

8. "Businesses are leaving Illinois because the number of workers' compensation claims being filed keeps going up."

Fact - In a state of 12 million people, the number of workers' compensation claims has dropped from approximately 62,000 in 2003 to about 44,500 in 2012, or a decrease of over 28%. Through three quarters of 2013, the pace of filing would lead to a total of about 42,000, or another 5% annual decrease.

9. "Once you take your lawsuit to trial, you will get a huge award."

Fact - Actually, the injured party only succeeds at trial about half of the time. According to a Department of Justice survey, of those who do succeed, half of them will be awarded \$24,000 or less in money damages.

10. "The McDonald's lady got mil-

lions and millions of dollars for spilling a little coffee in her own lap."

Fact - Stella Liebeck, 79-years-old, was trying to remove the lid on her coffee when it tipped over, pouring scalding hot coffee onto her. McDonald's sold its coffee at 180 to 190 degrees even though the Shriner's Burn Institute in Cincinnati had published warnings to the franchise food industry that its members were unnecessarily causing serious scald burns by serving beverages above 130 degrees. When Ms. Liebeck was burned by coffee, McDonald's coffee had already burned more than 700 people, including infants. Liebeck received third-degree burns over 16 % of her body necessitating hospitalization for eight days, treatment for debridement of her wounds, skin grafting, scarring, and disability for more than two years. Despite these extensive injuries, she offered to settle with McDonald's for \$20,000. McDonald's refused to settle. The jury awarded \$2.7 million in punitive dam-

ages for McDonald's callous and willful conduct. The trial judge reduced the punitive damages to \$480,000. Subsequently, the parties settled confidentially for less.

By: Martin J. Healy, Jr.  
Jack Cannon



### Fact V. Fiction – True Statistics About The Civil Justice System

As we enter a new election season, our newspapers and magazines will begin to fill with advertisements, sound bites and debates involving the prospective candidates. The attacks on the civil justice system under the nebulous term "tort reform" will again be used on each candidate to see "where they stand." In support of "reform" the proponents will use some time honored myths. Let's take a look at the top 10 myths and see how they stand up.

#### Court Reform – Fact V. Fiction

1. "The courts are overcrowded with frivolous lawsuits by people looking to get rich at the expense of corporations."

Fact - The majority of cases in our courts today involve business suing other businesses and businesses suing individuals.

The notion of frivolous injury lawsuits clogging our courts is a myth. Most cases are in fact contract case filing (businesses suing businesses or debt collections). Long-term National Center for State Courts (NCSC) data show a 63% increase in contract litigation in 13 states from 1999 to 2008. In contrast, tort filing (lawsuits for personal injury compensation) fell by 25% in those same states during the same ten-year period.

2. "There are too many lawsuit happy people in this country."

Fact - Contrary to popular myth, few injured Americans ever file a lawsuit. According to Rand Institute for Civil Justice,

## Have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day!

May love and laughter  
light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful  
friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty  
bless your world  
with joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons  
bring the best to you and yours!  
~ Old Irish Blessing

Dan McLaughlin  
Mayor  
Orland Park



## An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



### St. Bríd

In Ireland February first has traditionally been celebrated as St. Brigid's Day. The feast dates back to the early Middle Ages and coincides with the beginning of spring in the Celtic calendar. The name is most closely associated with Brigid of Kildare, but can be found with a variety of spellings, such as, Brigid, Bridget, Bridgit, Bride and Bríd.

Brigid of Kildare was an Abbess and as such the leader of a Christian community around Cill Dara in the early 6th Century. The Church at that time functioned around monastic communities, which were centers of learning and also fulfilled the role that would later be part of the services akin to hospital or clinics in our time.

There is a legend that Brigid was in fact ordained Bishop by St. Mel, the story is told that it happened when Mel was old and practically blind. In any case, Brigid had a great reputation for possessing miraculous powers and there are many accounts of her coming to the assistance of the sick and suffering.

One of the more commonly told stories of St. Brigid was when she went to the King of Leinster to ask for land to build a convent. She told the king that the place where she stood was the perfect place for a convent. It was beside a forest where they could collect firewood and berries. There was also a lake nearby that would provide water and the land was fertile. The king laughed at her and refused to give her any land. Brigid prayed to God and asked him to soften the king's heart. Then she smiled at the king and said: "will you give me as much land as my cloak will cover?" The king thought that she was joking and because Brigid's cloak was so small he knew that it would only cover a very small piece of land. The king agreed and Brigid spread her cloak on the ground. She asked her four friends to hold a corner of the cloak and walk in opposite directions. The

four friends walked north, south, east and west. The cloak grew immediately and began to cover vast acres of land. The king was astonished and he realised that she had been blessed by God. The king fell to the ground and knelt before Brigid and promised her and her friends money, food and supplies. Soon afterwards, the king became a Christian and also started to help the poor and commissioned the construction of the convent. Legend has it, the convent was known for making jam from the local blueberries that was sought for all over Ireland.

### Kiss Someone Before You Go

The subway train sways back and forth, its wheels screeching more fiendishly than ever against the tracks. Outside the window the freezing cold of winter rules and the dreary bay looks like a yawning abyss as the train rumbles across it. The carriage is filled with frozen self-centered, bored passengers. Good morning!

Suddenly a little boy pushes his way in between discourteous grown-up legs – the kind that only grudgingly make room for you. While his father stays by the door, the boy sits next to the window, surrounded by unfriendly, morning-weary adults.

What a brave child, I think.

As the train enters a tunnel, something totally unexpected and peculiar happens. The little boy slides down from his seat and puts his hand on my knee. For a moment, I think that he wants to go past me and return to his father, so I shift a bit. But instead of moving on, the boy leans forward and stretches his head up towards me. He wants to tell me something, I think. Kids! I bend down to listen to what he has to say. Wrong again! He kisses me softly on the cheek.

Then he returns to his seat, leans back and cheerfully starts looking out of the window. But I'm shocked. What happened? A

kid kissing unknown grown-ups on the train? To my amazement, the kid proceeds to kiss all my neighbors.

Nervous and bewildered, we look questioningly at his father, "He's so happy to be alive," the father says. "He's been very sick."

The train stops and father and son get down and disappear into the crowd. The doors close. On my cheek I can still feel the child's kiss – a kiss that has triggered some soul-searching. How many grown-ups go around kissing each other from the sheer joy of being alive? How many even give much thought to the privilege of living? What would happen if we all just started being ourselves?

*Author Unknown*

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

## Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



### Senior Group Meetings

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

### Irish American Heritage Center - Tara Club

Wednesday, 5th February 2014 – Doing Business in Ireland Joint Meeting with Tír na nÓg

The Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is responsible for the attraction and development of foreign investment in Ireland. We are joined by a representative from the Chicago office who will tell us more about the work done by the IDA as well as the current economic situation in Ireland.

Wednesday, 19th February 2014 – Being Smart, Being Safe

Because personal crime is a common occurrence in our society it is important to know how we can minimise the chances of becoming an unsuspecting victim. Today, a representative from the Cook County Sherriff's Office will teach us how to better protect ourselves against personal crime and how being safe is all about being smart.

### Gaelic Park – Emerald Club

Wednesday, 12th February 2014 – Being Smart, Being Safe

It's time for our annual fraud update. Every day, scammers are coming up with new ways to try to trick people out of their hard earned money. If we are to avoid becoming the victim of their scams we must stay well

practice placements with social work agencies. These placements provide an opportunity to gain a practical understanding of social work as well as some hands on experience of working with clients in a social services setting.

In the fall of 2008 CIIS welcomed me as their first Irish social work student. Since that time CIIS has been host to almost 20 students hailing from all across Ireland. CIIS offers a unique opportunity for professional development to social workers in training by bringing them into a new and different social services environment than the one that they are accustomed to back home in Ireland. The learning experiences on offer at CIIS are all the more valuable as we provide an opportunity for students to work directly with seniors, an area of social work that unfortunately remains underdeveloped in Ireland.

While on placement with us the students assist in planning and running our senior group meetings at IAHC and Gaelic Park. They also work with some of our isolated community dwelling seniors providing home visits and support services to them. However, it is not only the social work students that benefit from their time with us at CIIS. We have found that our seniors very much enjoy the experience of working with the students and their time together is deeply rewarding and valuable. The students provide a welcome link to Ireland and allow even those seniors who have not been to Ireland in many years to feel connected to the home they left. The seniors also get great satisfaction from being able to impart some of their hard earned wisdom to the students and we hope that they can take these valuable lessons back with them as they become the next generation of social workers to serve the Irish people.

informed. To give us all the updates, we welcome a representative from the State's Attorney's Office to teach us about the new tricks being used by con artists and how we can better protect ourselves from fraud.

Training a New Generation of Irish Social Workers

Despite it being one of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's most successful endeavours the Student Social Work Program is not one that people always remember when they think about the services and programs that we offer. CIIS had been able to successfully cultivate working relationships with some of the best Irish social work schools – Trinity College, Galway University, and University college Cork - to provide training opportunities to both Master and Bachelor level social work students.

As part of their professional training social work students are required to complete two



# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Defending (Kind of) Enda Kenny...

I'm pretty sure that if you take a glance out of the window just before you start this article, there's a good chance that you'll see a blue moon illuminating a scene in which a two-headed pig is flying across it. Look, this contradiction of Nature is not because I'm going to say a lot of nice things about Taoiseach Enda Kenny. I'm not. It's just that I'm equally not going to join in the general outcry as to why he didn't lay down the law whilst in Saudi Arabia last week. [I'm writing this on 13th January.]

As you will probably know by now, Kenny and his Minister for Enterprise John Bruton had thrown their boogie-shoes on and were jiving around the Gulf region on what some cynics are saying was yet another junket but which, in fairness, was a legitimate trade delegation. After a trip-in the company of representatives from Enterprise Ireland (no comment) -- to the Saudi Arabian Chamber of Commerce, they shimmied on to Doha in Qatar, before hitting Abu Dhabi and Dubai to excited squeals of delight from the gathered populace.

[Wait a minute; didn't Big Phil Hogan do the Celtic Shuffle around Qatar only a few months ago? Wasn't that the one where his crew of gougers were boasting that they paid for their own drinks? Ah, never mind; I'm sure there was a very good reason for them being there. And there's another winged pig gone flying past.]

Anyway, it seems that a lot of people are very upset at Enda Kenny for not going in with both fists swinging, challenging the Saudis on their lamentable idea of what way a civilized 21st century nation should behave. According to an assortment of politicians and even several 'human rights' groups, Enda should have taken this opportunity to make it clear that he doesn't approve of such things as... oh, I don't know what they wanted, really. For him to have a go at his hosts over their frequent executions and their unwillingness to give driving licences to women, I suppose. That kind of thing.

That's the problem though, isn't it? These were his hosts; he and Bruton were guests. It's not as if Ireland is the centre of the world. And if you're invited round to your neighbour's gaffe you don't go in yelling about the state of the wallpaper. If it had been a different kind of delegation then I would say sure, we must always raise the issue of human rights. In this case, though, it would have been ludicrous.

And unrealistic.

Enda Kenny is a man who avoids debate within the country of which he is Taoiseach so he's hardly going to slip into his Mighty Mouse outfit in front of a group of obscenely wealthy Arabs in order to read them the Riot Act. And even though I've a fairly decent imagination I can't see John Bruton turning into Secret Squirrel and handing out a lecture to a crowd who might just behead him for his input.

Mr. Kenny did have this to say, though. He proudly informed us that after meeting Crown Prince Salman at the Royal Palace he congratulated him on the Kingdom's recent election to the United Nations' Human Rights Council and added:

"Ireland obviously will work with Saudi Arabia in terms of human rights and their participation on the council."

Well, obviously. Obviously Ireland will be working closely with Saudi Arabia. And I'll bet that Prince Salman, who had possibly only been briefed hours before on precisely who Enda Kenny was, breathed a huge sigh of relief when he heard the good news.

In fairness, though: what on Earth was the Taoiseach supposed to say? And if they are honest, what would those politicians who are sniping and scoring some pretty pathetic political points on the back of it have said themselves? I'm willing to bet that the silence would have been just as deafening.

Anyway, I know that I personally wouldn't be too bloody happy if a shed load of Muslim politicians stepped off the plane at Dublin and started lecturing us on how we're running the show. Can you imagine the outcry if they pointed to Gerry Adams and yelled:

"Whoa! Didn't you used to head a terrorist organisation? We refuse to have any discussion with you!"

Heh. In fairness, Mr. Adams is on record as saying that he never had any involvement with the said organisation and that's good enough for me.

No, I'm definitely with Kenny and Bruton on this one. Especially as I got a few laughs from the whole miserable sideshow. According to Mr. Kenny, when he went on to discuss developments in the Middle East (something that I would have thought a very dodgy issue to broach), he said:

"I congratulated Saudi on their leadership in terms of moderation (Huh!? Run that past me again) here in the Gulf region and their desire for a peaceful situation on a lot of very complex and technical issues."

This is where Mr. Kenny shines, really; in the words of the song, he says it best when he says nothing at all and that is certainly what he's doing here: saying nothing at all.

There's probably no truth to the rumour that Crown Prince Salman then pulled out a map and asked Enda to point out to him where exactly Ireland was again in relation to Germany.

It's OK. I'll take that one, Mr. Kenny: on its knees waiting for Angela Merkel to give us another pat on the head, that's where. Or am I talking to people who honestly believe that we've done our time and are now coming home to a yellow ribbon tied around the old oak tree?

There's yet another winged pig gone by!

Another Illusion Shattered...

Whilst I'm on things of a Muslim bent, how disappointing to hear ex-Monty Python Michael Palin, a man I have a lot of admiration for, telling us last week that he would never make jokes about the good-humoured followers of Allah. Yeah, it's that new thing called sarcasm.

So it's all right then to poke endless fun at Catholics (I can't believe I'm defending the religion of my father) and

Jews but it's NOT OK to poke fun at Muslims? He's now joined the ranks of the once-admired Sarah Silverman in avoiding this weird no-man's land.

Timely, because the horrendous season of Awards is upon us once more, when all the once-a-year cinema goers come out of their nests. They're like the once-a-year-drinkers who show up on the ghastly St. Patrick's Day just in order to vex people who are sane.

Here's a prediction for Oscar time: Gravity is bound to get at least one because no one wants to point out that the Emperor has no clothes; and 12 Years a Slave should do really well because it's about white people being beastly to black people and no one is more fake-liberal than an Oscar-luvvie. Ah, I'm just being a grouch. I'm really looking forward to that one, especially since the great Paul Giamatti is in it.

Europa Report won't get any because it's brilliant. Neither will Mud.

You can tell me how wrong I am at chasbrady7@eircom.net or on my blog at www.charleybrady.com



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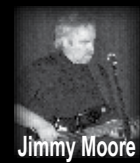
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# Music Has A Hold of Wexford's Michael Londra

It isn't difficult to love an underdog. That age-old, time-honored belief that no matter what our circumstances may be, we can eventually end up wherever we want to go, is what gets most people through their day-to-day lives. The problem is that not many people are willing to really and truly work for what they want. They take shortcuts. They piggy back on others' ideas and fame. They ride coattails all the way to the finish line. For some people, however, legitimate and undeniable persistence, ingenuity, and genuine commitment eventually pays off, and those people reach a possibility that so many others only dream about. Recently, *Irish American News* Publisher, Cliff Carlson, sat down with one of those rare hard workers, who has spent more than a decade turning his branding from "that singer from that show" to a much more well-known singer/songwriter. Michael Londra, formerly of the U.S. tour of the music sensation Riverdance, chatted about his road to this fame, and how he went from being a "nameless" voice to co-producing and starring in an Emmy-nominated PBS special, being called "one of the greatest Irish singers of our time", and eventually becoming a producer, director, and a mentor for others throughout the music industry.

Like many artists, his love of music can be traced all the way back to his roots in the dead center of Wexford town, "the opera center of Ireland", located on the southeast corner of the country. "My whole life I've been surrounded by Wexford people... we live right on the water, in a town where really, the heart of it, is music," Londra explained. "Gradually, (music) takes hold of you... there's this culture in Wexford, everybody in your life is involved (in music), because of the opera festival, and because that filters out to every class of people... no matter where you're

from or who you are... it's just a part of the town."

Born the eldest of three children, Londra even recalls some of his earliest memories as being musical ones. "...My mother's



eleven brothers and sisters, and my Granny, all singing, and me being forced to sing... those are my earliest, earliest memories," he said, joking that he never liked it, but did it because it's what his family wanted.

His indifference to music changed over the years, though, and his love for classical and folk music, in particular, grew. Unfortunately, while growing up in Ireland in the 70's and 80's, there wasn't an environment where you could pursue music professionally. So he went to school and studied to eventually become first an R.N., then a behavior therapist. It wasn't

until he was 31 years old that he decided to follow his love of music, and he began auditioning for musical theater. And although he had zero experience, he became a leading man in theaters across

Dublin.

It was during his performance of the show JFK in 1997 that he received an offer to be the lead singer in the U.S. tour of Riverdance, which had already had much success in the U.K. in the three years preceding it's trip to North America. The show performed in every major city in the country, from Radio City Music Hall in New York to the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Still, even in one of the most famous shows ever, Londra was just a notable voice, and he continued to be so during those early years of his musical career in the States. At the end of the Riverdance tour

run, Londra settled in New York City, having been offered the lead role in Riverdance on Broadway, taking the part from acclaimed Irish singer Brian Kennedy. Then, he had to set about climbing out from under the "Riverdance" rock, if he ever wanted to record and produce his own album.

He spent a long time trying to find someone to say "yes" to helping him record his own music. Finally, "after what felt like two-hundred no's", Steve Skinner, who co-produced the Grammy-nominated soundtrack of Rent, gave Londra his first recording break, aiding him in releasing his first album, Celt. From there, it took ten years of recording and releasing albums, touring in the U.S. and Europe, and slowly building up a following, before people started to recognize his music as well as his name. He has appeared with Pavarotti, Bocelli, Il Divo, Sarah Brightman, and Kathryn Jenkins on the Universal Records Asia 2009 release Arias: Ancora ([michaellondra.com](http://michaellondra.com)).

Then, three years ago, things "really started to pick up," when he co-produced and starred in the PBS special, Beyond Celtic. The show was taped in March of 2011, airing nationally over 400 times, was nominated for two Emmys, and helped really turn things around for Michael, giving him a lot of options professionally, and sending him in a new direction all together. "(The Emmy nominations) really changed everyone's perspective," he said.

The turning point in his career off-stage really came when he began working with partner Jean Clancy on the Celtic Woman project, created by Sharon Browne. "I really prefer project management over performing," Londra said. He also stated that he really enjoys working with and encouraging other artists in the U.S., and long-term, he'd like to help encourage others to be persistent in the arts and follow through with what they really want to do.

Following the desire to help others, he's been involved with many productions around the

world as an artistic director and producer. And as of last year, Londra has become a mentor for Grammy University, teaching music business to students from Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities in Nashville. There, he is now also working on his current project, an American grass-roots album, with the help of Marcus Hummon (who wrote "Bless the Broken Road" for Rascal Flatts). Stating that he loves Nashville, and is really excited to record folk-inspired music, which has always been a favorite of his, Londra said he feels "very at home" where he is now.

Recently, he performed with Judy Collins at the JFK 50 celebrations in Washington and Ireland for the Kennedy family, and sang on Jewel's latest Christmas album. Now, together with his own new album, he's also working on a new PBS special, which Londra said is very labor-intensive. "It's a LOT of work... I really had to be persuaded to do a second PBS special." Hopefully, this new special will bring him as much good fortune as the last one.

At the end of the day, Londra said he has much "Inner contentment" about his life at the moment. "Being older certainly gives you more freedom... you know what you want, and you don't care about making money or not, and that changes things... at a certain point, you just go, "who cares?," and I honestly believe that as soon as I said that, people started to care."

*If you're in the area, you can catch Michael for one night only- at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on March 15th. For tickets, and more information on Michael Londra, you can visit his website: [www.michaellondra.com](http://www.michaellondra.com)*

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Michael is a big supporter of Concern Worldwide, a wonderful Irish charity that helps those in need around the world. Check out his video at <http://vimeo.com/27884267>

# View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



## Emigration in an Age of Austerity

The report's authors went for an epochal title. It sounds a little like *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Gabriel García Márquez's wondrous novel, although the realities of emigration during a recession are not nearly as uplifting as reading the great Colombian. I am referring to the work of a triumvirate of scholars (Irial Glynn, Tomás Kelly and Piaras MacÉinri) based in University College Cork who recently published a book length investigation entitled *Emigration in an Age of Austerity*. Timely and topical, its subject is one that has touched everybody in Ireland either directly or indirectly—and many people outside our country.

Emigration has been with us immemorially. Before the foundation of the state, Irish people had been leaving en masse for the New World. The mass departure of Irish people is often attributed to The Great Famine, but Irish people had left long before that trauma as well. The theme of Irish emigration is unrelenting in our past, resulting in an expectation that one disappeared generation would enable, and even fund, the departure of the next.

Yet there was one exceptional period when emigration was not a de facto part of Irish life. During a tiny window in our contemporary history, the 1990s and into the noughties, emigration did not dominate Irish thinking or demographics. The country was gripped then by a contrary fervour: how best to integrate the arrival of immigrants into Ireland. With the popping of the economic bubble, however, Ireland fondly embraced the mass emigration that had been with us for over two centuries. It is this swathe of Irish emigrants that MacÉinri and his colleagues profile. This research is a valuable first attempt at chronicling the latest chapter of the Irish emigration story against the backdrop of past experiences of Irish emigrants.

We are informed that The Irish Times in an editorial published in the 1950s savaged De Valera for his government's role in pushing people out: 'De Valera's reaction to emigration in 1951 was to blame the victim' for leaving behind frugal comforts in search of material gain. Undeterred by such rumblings, successive Irish governments (whatever permutation the parties in power formed made no difference) contentedly sent Ireland's youth into exile. As our former Foreign Minister, Brian Lenihan Senior, gnomically observed in the 1980s: 'we cannot all live on a small island'. It is hard to trump that analysis unless one remembers that a relatively small island nation like Japan, the majority of whose land surface is uninhabitable, has historically always had minuscule emigration figures, and today 127 million people manage to live in Japan without falling through the floorboards. In voicing such views, Lenihan sang in unison with Irish governmental policy since the foundation of the state: they have all hoped that the road would rise to meet us.

This perspective epitomises current governmental policy too. Here is our Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan: 'What we have to make sure is our young people have the best possible education, so that when they go, they are employed as young professionals'. Why does Noonan not even entertain the idea that he might rather incentivise young professionals to stay and give back to the country that nurtured them?

One emigrant who participated in the surveys that form the backbone of this report accused the government of being 'bloody lazy-minded' in setting great store in emigration as a silver bullet for Ireland's woes. That criticism is not fully correct. While, certainly, the government's thinking is lazy in not seeking to staunch the

haemorrhage of people from our shores, the real problem is more profoundly rooted than in the government simply falling back on a disastrous policy.

Irish governments since the foundation of the state have blithely maintained a policy on emigration first formed by the British state. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Clarendon, wrote in a letter (7th August, 1847) at the height of the famine, that the mass emigration of Irish people would be entirely beneficial; he described how a policy to create employment opportunities abroad to lure Irish people away was necessary. Cleared of Irish people, Ireland would thus become an outside game shooting estate for the English gentry.

Irish governments absorbed this British policy and, even today, Irish politicians consistently duck out of challenging the perception that the state should seek to retain rather than dispatch its population. It is a perception that has ignoble roots, and the faintly infanticidal malady of spirit that sustains it needs to be addressed before trends of Irish emigration can be reversed permanently.

Recent Irish arrivals in North America and the Antipodes are sharply aware of the enthusiasm with which the Irish government bid them farewell. They want to have a say in the way Irish matters are handled in the future, and they have begun to agitate to achieve that. So, appropriately, emigrants' voting and representation rights are given ample exposure in this report. We are reminded that Fine Gael once tabled a motion of allotting three senate seats to non-resident Irish people: this generation of Irish abroad, which is highly educated, will not be palmed off with such a sleight-of-hand, the political equivalent of sending a monkey into space. Currently the strongest lobby group for adequate representation, Votes for Irish Citizens Abroad, is based in London. They focus on voting rights in Presidential elections as the entering wedge in the fight to have a voice in general elections.

These facts made for an interesting study of contemporary Ireland's attitudes to, and experi-

ence of, emigration. But emigration impacts much more in the heart than in trends of sociological data and in the shifting sands of politics. Human stories, too, feature prominently in Emigra-

tion in an Age of Austerity. In my next column, I will return to this most fundamental dimension in Ireland's narrative, and the emotional perspectives of emigration detailed in the report's findings.

## Loretta Brennan Glucksman to Chair University of Limerick Foundation

The University of Limerick Foundation has announced the election of Irish-American philanthropist, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, as its new Chairman of the Board. Mrs Brennan Glucksman and her late husband, Lewis L Glucksman, have been generous supporters of the University of Limerick for over 20 years, helping to fund many key projects, including the Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing; Brennan Court Residence; the Glucksman Library; the Glucksman Chair in Contem-

David Cronin, Chief Executive of the UL Foundation added: "Loretta is a shining light in global philanthropy and has led the Ireland Funds to international acclaim. We are hugely appreciative that she will chair the Foundation in the coming years as we continue to play a leading role as a model for successful philanthropic investment."

Mrs Brennan Glucksman said: "My late husband Lew and I have a long history with the University of Limerick spanning over 20 years



Left to right: David Cronin, Chief Executive of the UL Foundation, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, and UL President, Professor Don Barry.

Photo by Alan Place Photography.

porary Writing; the Glucksman Reading Room and the University Concert Hall. Lewis Glucksman was also a former Director of the UL Foundation and held the position of Chairman from 1993 to 1999.

Speaking about the announcement, UL President, Professor Don Barry said: "As we look forward to the many exciting opportunities ahead for UL, we are honoured that Loretta has agreed to become Chair of the UL Foundation. She and her late husband, Lewis Glucksman, along with their close friend, Chuck Feeney have helped to shape the University from its early days and continue to be a hugely important part of the UL success story."

and I am delighted to be able to take on this challenge as we build on the University's successes to date and the new opportunities that lie ahead".

Over the past two decades, the Glucksmans have made many significant contributions to Ireland and played a key role in philanthropic efforts to spread peace throughout the island of Ireland. In 1993, they established Glucksman Ireland House at New York University and Mrs Brennan Glucksman is Co-Chair on Ireland House's advisory board. Mrs Brennan Glucksman is Chairman Emeritus of the American Ireland Fund, a position which she stepped down from at the end of 2013 after 18 years.

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## A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

### Inn at Irish Hollow

No other place is like Galena and in Galena no other place is like the Irish Hollow. It is the jewel in the crown in the city's historic inns. You will experience an unforgettable memory of impeccable service, an exquisite retreat where traditional hospitality meets 21st century luxury both formal and casual. The veil of romance and the peaceful pace is simple and yet magical.

Galena was once a hub on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and St. Paul. The city is named for the mineral "galena", the natural form of lead sulfide and the most important lead ore. A trading post was built in Galena that led to the first steamboat arrival in 1824. By 1845 Galena was producing nearly 27,000 tons of lead ore and Jo Daviess County was producing 80 percent of the lead in the United States. These opportunities brought jobs which attracted Irish immigrants to the area who helped build the city's rail road and mine for ore. The local legend of how the Irish Hollow area name came to be was the beautiful, rolling, lush, green hills of Galena reminded the Irish of their homeland. They called that part of Galena the Irish Hollow. There are many generations of Irish still living in the Galena area. Today, Galena is filled with historic sites and unique and antique gift and food shops that will take you days to browse through. When you venture off into the countryside, you will see firsthand, how the landscape has changed very little over time.

The Inn Keeper, Matthew Carroll will ensure your stay meets every need you didn't know you would have. Matthew's Grandfather's family immigrated to the Galena area from County Cork, Ireland. He naturally brings that rare and amazing Irish hospitality to the guests. The Inn at the Irish Hollow fits perfectly into the hills of Galena with its miles of hiking trails, intersected by wild-

flowers, apple trees, rock outcroppings, wooded ridges and which connects to a 1,500 acre nature preserve. Once an 1800's whistle stop town, the Old General Store is now the Main Inn offering lush guest rooms and where you will experience their award winning kitchen meals.

The hand-crafted, delicious meals are from the world's finest natural and organic ingredients, along with selections from the Inn's own organic farm gardens. Each morning, the lavish full country gourmet Breakfast is offered at the main Inn's general store dining room, or have it delivered right to your cottage door. The tremendous seven-course candlelight dinners are included in



the seasonal packages and feature the flavors of each season. There are special menus for every season. Arrive hungry for this spectacular upcoming 7 course Spring Dinner Menu which consists of: caprese kabob with balsamic reduction, schnitzel sticks with red cabbage, cream of asparagus soup with micro greens and white truffle, bistro salad with poached egg and pancetta, sorbet of spring berries, roasted lamb chop with potatoes provincial and strawberry rhubarb cake.

Also available are wine and cheese parties for two, campfire picnics and simple suppers, to be enjoyed in one of the hidden dining spots on the grounds or in your private cottage.

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A New Day glimmers in Ireland! Its people are beginning to demand sovereignty; beginning to pay attention to the Irish

**For The Republic**



**Chris Fogarty**



Republican Brotherhood (IRB). They are beginning to notice their lack of sovereignty under the existing provisional government and Constitution that, by fraud and Black-and-Tan terror, was imposed by King George V in 1922.

Ireland is being run from Brussels, London, and international predatory finance. They countermand Ireland's elected representatives. Thus, Ireland's people have no say regarding important national policy. Without sovereignty the Irish are a defeated people, to be looted and demoted to their earlier, millennium-long era of slavery when Ireland's vast annual production of agricultural crops was robbed from them on the basis that English landlords "owned" their land. How did the international banksters manage to foist their imprudent investment losses onto Ireland's taxpayers? Is there a better definition of slavery than to be legally forced to surrender much of one's output to powerful predators?

**THE SQUEEZE INTENSIFIES** on Ireland's people. More suffer from hunger and lack of fuel, and justice is not available. Ireland's best are languishing in prison; in Portlaoise and in Maghaberry in Occupied Ireland. Britain inflicts Portlaoise punishments through corrupt "Irish" judges and gardai. **MI5, BRITAIN'S FBI**, has managed to get control of what were Ireland's main organizations. When FBI Agent Joe Doyle warned us that his colleagues were planning crimes against us to silence our human rights efforts for the Occupied Irish, he detailed the bribes MI5 used to subvert those FBI agents. In recent years MI5's HQ was moved to Occupied Ireland. MI5 led the group that car-bombed Omagh, murdering twenty-nine, to be blamed, like the Langert murders, on the IRA. It turns out that FBI Agent Buckley was not a "rogue agent." His crimes, including Omagh, were U.S.-authorized

policy. Omagh was U.S. Neo-Con policy to drive home the Good Friday Agreement's surrender to Britain of the Six-Counties. These relatively minor crimes paved the way for U.S. genocides in Iraq, etc. The State Dept's "head of the Britain desk" explained why the U.S. was not supporting the IRA. "The IRA don't have Buccaneer bombers, they don't have aircraft carriers, and we (the U.S.) need to sew up the British exchequer and free up British troops for use in our upcoming wars against Islam." Omagh was perpetrated to defeat the IRA. It worked; Omagh and Reid / Adams / McGuinness won the Six Counties for Britain. Having won the war, MI5 have not rested.

**THE G.A.A.**, Ireland's most grass-roots organization, has changed. You read here that its national officers have incorporated it into fewer hands, unauthorizedly replaced its traditional All-Ireland medals by ones without the national symbol and "Eire," replaced Croke Park's soil with English soil, accepted a sixty+ million pound British grant to rebuild GAA's Casement Park in Belfast, and allowed the RUC/PSNI to join as members while those same officers remain unprosecuted for scores of murders and continue to perpetrate crimes against the Occupied Irish. It was the GAA, organized by the IRB in every parish in Ireland that became the IRA that partially freed the nation in 1916. The GAA was obviously a key target for MI5. What Gaelic footballer or hurler would have thought of playing alongside RUC/PSNI torturers of their Six-County brothers? -Alongside the destroyers of the Price sisters? Who would have thought of bringing English soil to Croke Park? Or changing GAA medals? Or accepting British money and its entanglements? Ireland's athletes had better take back the GAA from MI5 promptly. If not, Ireland is finished as a nation.

**MI5'S CONTROL** of Comhaltas

Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE; Irish traditional music assn.) is clear. Only the extent of the control in

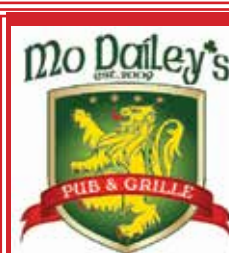
doubt. CCE played a key role for Britain in creating "Derry, 2013 UK City of Culture." Since then people are promoting a similar "Derry, 2014 Irish City of Culture." If CCE participate fully in Derry this year they will manage to be 50-50. Fifty percent pro-Britain and fifty percent pro-Ireland. If they do not participate fully they will prove to be one hundred percent pro-Britain, zero for Ireland. To be in such a no-win situation, CCE leadership, like the GAA, must be MI5-subverted. What traditional Irish musician would have arranged such an Anti-Irish deed? - While uncharged imprisonment and torture continue in Maghaberry? Like GAA members, those who play beautiful, traditional Irish music had better take back their organization from MI5. The fate of Ireland is at stake.

**THE NEWS MEDIA**, will they promote "Derry, 2014 Irish City of Culture" like they did for Britain last year?

**MARTIN COREY**, after four years in Maghaberry Prison without charge or trial, was released on January 14. The European Union forced Britain to release him. Why do Brussels and London control such core Irish issues?

**SOVEREIGNTY** is universal; all mankind have it from birth. We lose it only by failing to exercise it for ourselves. On this subject Americans can no longer preach to the Irish. Americans' sovereignty has been usurped by predatory finance and war profiteers. We have our own national rescue to mount, and must force Congress to cease violating the US Constitution.

**THE IRISH**, to recover sovereignty, must restore the Dail and Constitution that they themselves established on January 21, 1919, as mandated by the 1918 landslide election. That, alone, is Ireland's authentic government, "of , by, and for, the people." See [www.billymcguire.com](http://www.billymcguire.com). [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) or 312/664-7651



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# Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



## 2013 Review

The financial markets encountered strong headwinds but little turbulence on the way to a record-setting year. 2013 has been described as a "year about nothing." In reality, a lot happened—but nothing could challenge the market's profitable run. Investors shrugged off news of a sluggish US re-

covery, recessions in China and Japan, threats of a US government shutdown, lingering euro zone debt problems, climbing interest rates, and stock market glitches.

The US and most developed market indexes experienced double-digit gains for the year. Overall, US stocks were up for the fifth year in a row while

daily volatility fell to its lowest level in seven years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average posted a gain of 26.50%, its largest advance in 18 years. The S&P 500 Index had its best year since 1997, returning 32.39%. In the non-US developed markets, the MSCI-EAFE Index returned 22.78%.

During 2013, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed from 1.76% to 3.01%—its largest increase since 2009. Rising interest rates left US fixed income indexes with either flat or negative returns, with longer-term and higher-quality bonds declining the most. TIPS performance was notably poor. Returns in the international bond markets were mixed and emerging market bond index returns were negative.

The US economy quickened its pace slightly in 2013, overcoming the drag from higher payroll taxes and a slowdown in government spending due to sequestration cuts. Estimated GDP growth averaged 2.3% for the year, compared to 2.0% for the prior two calendar years. The improvement came in Q3, when growth jumped to 4.1%. Despite this recent spark, the recovery that began in 2009 is one of the weakest in the postwar era.

A few indicators pointed to

gradually improving conditions during the second half of 2013. Positive signs included job market gains, lower inflation, rising wages, a revival in manufacturing, stronger auto sales, increased consumer spending, and improved corporate balance sheets and sustained business profits. The housing market also improved, although most of the gains in home prices and sales came earlier in the year. Rising stock prices and housing prices helped boost household net worth to a record level in Q3. The US Federal Reserve continued their monetary efforts to drive down long-term rates, keep short-term rates close to zero, and fuel economic growth. Markets were anticipating when the Fed would dial back its quantitative easing program. The central bank hinted in May that it would begin reducing—or "tapering"—its monthly bond purchases. The message drove up US bond yields and briefly squelched markets, although the effect was short-lived.

In 2012, US corporate profits reached their highest level (as a share of GDP) in the post-war era. Few analysts expected a repeat in 2013. But through Q3, US businesses were on track for another strong year.

Observers attribute rising profitability in a sluggish economy to productivity gains, falling wages, and relentless cost-cutting among businesses. Rising profits have helped drive stock prices, but companies have been stockpiling the cash rather than reinvesting or distributing it.

In summary, it was a good year for stocks and a bad year for bonds. Momentum growth seems to be on the side of the stock market in 2014. However, investors need to be cautious and follow their investment strategy. Good gains, like the ones we saw in 2013 can cause a portfolio to fall out of balance, which can increase your risk. Ongoing rebalancing can minimize any undue risk.

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## It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane  
and Margo O'Donnell



It is a great line up of entertainers from Ireland and also appearing is the great Charlie Pride. He was on the show in Nashville when Daniel recorded

### Hello everybody,

Well we have really put 2014 in place and I hope we take our steps carefully and lovingly. As I sit here writing this I think back on how much this great big world has changed and all of our lives with it. Sometimes change is good but when change affects our true values then it is sad. I have embraced this New Year with Joy and Hope.

I have been 50 years in the music this year and oh! how many changes I have witnessed. One thing is still in tact even to this day and that is my soul. No one can take anyone's soul but "God." I know I will give that willingly along with my heart on the day he calls me home. For now I will travel on my journey and I always look forward to my feature with Joe each month.

I will be doing about ten concerts here in Ireland when I come off my cruise to the Caribbean. Those shows will be in March, April, May and August. I will not be doing my Chicago concert this October so I will keep in touch with all of you in this column.

Joe and I are still writing and singing together. Until the next time, take care of each other and over to you Joe. *Love always Margo*

Thank you Margo, You'll be heading off for the Gertrude Byrne cruise this month and I hope you have a wonderful time. I'm sure it will be great. I know there are a lot of people from Chicago going on the trip also.

"Erin Tennessee" Which I must add Margo, you were very instrumental in getting the song recorded. Well we have co-written a lot of songs since then and our latest news is Nathan Carter is in the studios now recording a song we wrote with him. It will be released some time this year. Nathan is hitting the country and pop charts in Ireland in a big way. So we are very happy to have him record our material.

I am sorry to hear that you won't be doing your concert in Chicago this year Margo. I really look forward to your shows. When I enter the back door of the Heritage Center, it saddens me to walk past the auditorium and see it in darkness so much. It used to be a place where the finest of plays were a regular feature. Also some really wonderful musical shows. When I think of all the great entertainers who visit the USA and we don't see them at our own Irish Center, it is sad. A lot of people have been asking about it, so I said I would mention it in our write-up this month.

Song writing tip of the month - Write something everyday. A good exercise is to write about a subject that you don't really feel has much to offer as a story. It's a great challenge and really gets you to think deeper. Deeper is were the good songs and stories lie. Putting yourself (feelings) in someone else's experiences in your writing, is a good work out. Until next month, be good to one another, Joe and Margo

These are a few words Margo put together for 2014  
*Come with me on this journey as I celebrate fifty years  
Years that brought me happiness mingled softly with my tears  
I have learned a lot of lessons, and many, many folks I knew  
So I feel blessed that now around me, I still have the chosen few.  
Our friends are like real diamonds, rough and smooth wrapped up in one  
Tried and tested through our lifetime, friends are God's work left undone  
So hold tightly to each other, take the road that God has planned  
Never fear where you are going, just reach for the Saviours Hand.*

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