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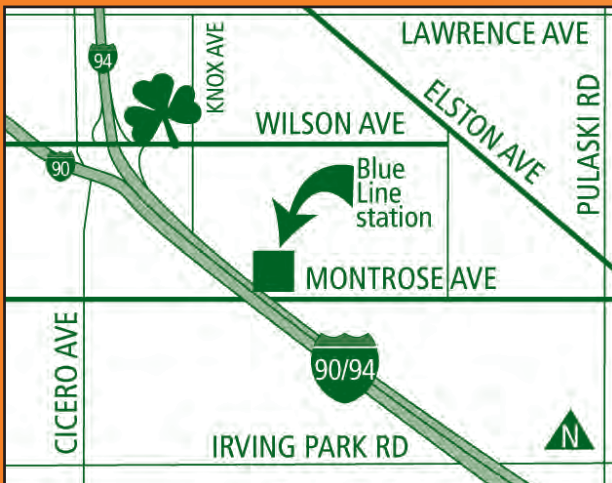
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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Votes For Emigrants?

Irish citizens living abroad may have an opportunity to vote in the election for the next Irish President, due in 2018. A recommendation to that effect was proposed by the Irish Constitutional Convention last September. Two major hurdles have to be negotiated before anything happens. Firstly the recommendation has to be approved by the Government. Secondly any proposal has to be passed by referendum.

The artificial deadline for a Government decision has passed. There may be more time to wait. We are now at a key moment politically, with parties absorbing the recent results of local and European elections. An issue pertaining to a possible vote in four years' time is hardly likely to seize the Government's attention with a general election less than two years off. Moreover, the Convention's recommendation is just slightly contentious enough to give politicians pause, unlike some others, uncontroversial and which have been nodded through. In the end the Government may well accept the proposal. But then the referendum has to be carried.

The Irish Constitution came into force at the end of 1937. Though on the whole it has served the people well, at this stage it is showing signs of its age. Of the thirty six referenda proposing amendments, two thirds have taken place since 1992, reflecting both changing lifestyles and attitudes among the electorate and Ireland's changing position in the world. While it is difficult to generalise, one thread evident from the referenda results has been the reluctance of voters to be swayed by arguments advanced by politicians. Some proposals which seemed reasonable, including those regarding the EU, have come a cropper at the ballot box.

A number of parliamentary and officially sponsored Constitutional reviews have taken place since the sixties but it has become clear that the Irish political establishment has no appetite for any radical reform of the document. We have been left with some useful analytical reports, suggested alternatives and amendments but very little else, the reviews on occasion serving merely to kick the can on an issue down the road.

The current government, elected in 2011 on a tide of "a plague a both your houses," had another bash, announcing in its programme for government the setting up of a "Constitutional Convention to consider comprehensive constitutional reform." The areas identified hardly lived up to the rhetoric. They included a review of the Dáil electoral system, reducing the presidential term to five years, providing for same-sex marriage, removing blasphemy from the Constitution and a possible reduction in the voting age. The first threatened to be a non-runner from the off, the rest were at best non-controversial, at

worse irrelevant. Two other areas mentioned promised more - amending the wording on women in the home and encouraging greater participation of women in public life, as well as "other relevant constitutional amendments that may be recommended by the Convention."

The Convention was duly launched in 2012, holding its first meeting on December 1st. It consisted of 100 members, two thirds randomly selected members of the public, and with terms of reference expanded to include, as well as those mentioned, consideration of "giving citizens resident outside the state the right to vote in Presidential elections." Hence the current recommendation. The Convention completed its deliberations in March 2014.

The Convention's recommendations can be divided roughly into three: those immediately acceptable politically, those requiring further consideration and those likely to prove unacceptable. In the first category, recommendations to reduce the voting age to sixteen and to legalize same-sex marriages have been accepted by the government and will be put to the people in 2015, together with a recommendation to reduce the age for presidential candidates from 35 to 21. In the second category are the Votes for Expats issue, the recommendation to replace the blasphemy provision with a ban on incitement to religious hatred, proposals to alter the current wording regarding women, reform of Dail procedures and the recommendation to include references to certain economic social and cultural rights.

In the final category is the most contentious recommendation by far - that proposing changes in the Dail electoral system. This calls for constituencies to have a minimum of five seats; at present (the next election) only eleven out of the forty constituencies will have the current maximum of five seats. The recommendation, if accepted, threatens to alter dramatically the composition of the Dail, giving greater opportunities to smaller parties and independents at the expense of the larger parties.

Currently, while second preference transfers can and do provide spice and uncertainty to election results, the general rule of thumb is that, in a multi-seat constituency, to get elected a candidate requires a certain percentage of the first preference votes, represented by 100 divided by the number of seats plus one. So in a three seat constituency a candidate requires 25% of the vote (100 divided by four), in a four seat constituency 20% (100 divided by five), in a five seater 16% (100 divided by six), and so on.

It is not hard to see how the current arrangements, under which two thirds of Dail seats are in three and four seat constituencies, favour the larger parties. In the three-seaters in particular the prospects for an independent or a small party seeking to break through are bleak. The big picture is whether larger constituencies (five or five plus) would lead to a proliferation of smaller parties and independents and what effect this would have on the functioning of Irish parliamentary democracy.

In the early years of the state there were a number of constituencies with more than five seats, including one (Galway) with nine, without any earth-shattering splintering of the vote. And, to take the

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current Dail, there are six identifiable party groupings, plus independents, while after the 2002 election there were seven. The jury is still out, but the best guess is that the larger parties, with one eye on the increasing volatility of the electorate, and the other on their own political skins, will opt to hunker down and stick with the status quo pending further consideration of the issue. It is one, incidentally, on which the Constitution says nothing beyond declaring that any constituency must have a minimum of three seats.

What are the chances, then, for yet another referendum before 2016, permitting citizens resident abroad to vote in presidential elections? The issue is not straightforward. Extending the franchise to non-resident citizens is complicated, politically, legally and administratively. An argument in favour is that it would constitute a positive gesture towards the diaspora, suitably topping off a decade of increased official engagement with that diaspora.

The recommendation comes at a time also when the issue has built up a moderate head of steam with lobbying from some of the recent economic emigrants for a say in how the country has been and should be run. Their argument is that their emigration was involuntary, is temporary, and that having a vote would enable them to keep in touch. Whether this will cut any ice with domestic politicians fearing a backlash remains to be seen.

Sean Farrell is a former Irish Consul General in Chicago.

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Bring in Summer With Gaelic Park GAA Games

By Ryanne Gallagher Johnson

In anticipation of the launch of the summer GAA games at Chicago's Gaelic park, which run from May-August this year, IAN publisher, Cliff Carlson, spoke with some key players in charge of helping organize the 2014 games. Mike Flanagan, Chairman of the Chicago and Central Division Boards for the GAA, Colm Egan, Gaelic Games Development Officer for Central Division, and John Devitt, president of Gaelic Park, spoke a little about what we can expect from this year's competitions, how Irish sports have become a big deal in the States these last few years, and why the GAA is such an incredible program for youth and adults alike across the country.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting institution. It's a volunteer led, community based organization that promotes Gaelic games. The GAA is part of the Irish consciousness and plays an influential role in Irish society. The U.S.'s governing body for the organization is the North American County Board (NACB), and it promotes Hurling, Gaelic Football, and Camogie. Clubs participate in Divisional Championship competitions to qualify for Finals in their respective sport

As in Ireland, the GAA in the U.S. is volunteer based. Professionals from Ireland are sent here to train coaching and referee courses, and students are then expected to do foundation-level classes for other participants in the Chicagoland area, which ensures that all coaches and referees in North America are GAA

certified.

"We have very dedicated coaches on all sides of the city. In fact, across the North American continent, they're very dedicated coaches, who work very hard to promote our sports and translate their love of the game onto the children that



they work with," Chicago's Gaelic Games Development Officer Colm Egan says.

In order to meet financial needs for events, clubs pay an affiliation fee each year, which is divided among the Ireland contingent of the association, the NACB, and Chicago's own branch. The portion of the costs that stays here is used to administer our games. Fees have increased in recent years in order to keep pace with the changing economy, and a \$5 per person charge has been added to the gate of every Sunday game, which primarily helps our clubs travel to finals.

After a disappointing decline in the interest in Irish sports in recent decades, attendance and participation has had an encouraging upturn in the last year or two, and the clubs are slowly becoming popular once again. This can be attributed, at least in part, to Ireland's diaspora and the recent push to encourage those with Irish roots to visit the Motherland. More people are taking an interest in their heritage, and with that comes a desire to participate in cultural activities. It's also quite helpful that so many of our own popular sports are very

similar to Irish favorites, and our athletes find that their skills translate well to Gaelic sport playing.

In fact, Mr. Egan's primary goal has been to grow Hurling and Gaelic Football across the Chicagoland area, with a focus on youth and youth schools programs. "Our kids here in the States tend to be very athletic, and when they play other sports, they easily transition into playing Gaelic games. If they're a basketball player or volleyball player, they tend to really like Gaelic Football, as do the soccer guys. The lacrosse and hockey guys easily transition into hurling," explains Mr. Egan.

Previous sporting experience and knowledge is neither a prerequisite to participate, nor a stipulation of enjoying the games as a spectator.

"There's a lot of games that Americans enjoy, and they'll see elements (of those) flowing through the Gaelic games," Chicago and Central Division Boards Chairman Mike Flanagan ensures.

This summer, Gaelic Park hosts a full docket of GAA games. Mr. Flanagan's job is to handle the registration of the players and schedule the games, and he's very hopeful of this year's participation. "We're looking forward to a great summer. We've seen a lot of growth in the GAA in Chicago," he says.

A lot of teams are set up to compete in the 2014 season, with

approximately 400 kids playing with youth teams, and 600 members in adult teams. This is a promising turn out, as teams in years past weren't being replenished fast enough, and had begun to rely on summer tourists to make up the shortfall of participants. But the increase in numbers over the last three or so years is showing big signs of change on the horizon, with a turning point occurring last year in terms of spectators and team participation.

"It's exciting (for us) because these are our national sports... It's part of our DNA," says Gaelic Park president John Devitt. "The most important thing about the GAA is that there's a social aspect in terms of these clubs that are in existence (15 clubs affiliated). They're a great social outlet for the people who play the games. They have their own dinner-dances and their own functions and their own fund raisers. They're viable and very active throughout the year, even though they only play for three months. They're a big part of the social network among the Irish-born and the Irish Americans here. And the Sunday games at Gaelic Park is a big social event as well."

All the benefits of belonging to a sports team, with the added bonus of incorporating cultural aspects, the self-sufficiency of each club providing its own funds, and the dedication of all the volunteers who make the



games possible, is what sets the GAA apart from other sports organizations. Those involved are truly in it for the love of these Gaelic sports.

The GAA will be running many events in Chicago this summer, including summer camps (GAA Gaelic camps, or Cul Camps), which offer Irish football and hurling for youths. The schedule for Gaelic sports in the area is looking very promising, and hopefully this year

sees as impressive a turnout as last year did, which will bode very well for the future of Gaelic Sports in the U.S.

Info about the GAA is at www.northamericangaa.com; Central

Gaelic Games Development information, including info on camps and the Chicago GAA is at www.chicagoirishsports.com; and schedules and summer GAA games at www.chicagogaelicpark.org.



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A Salty Tale of a Young Man's Musical Dreams and Struggles in 1970's Ireland

by Cahal Dunne

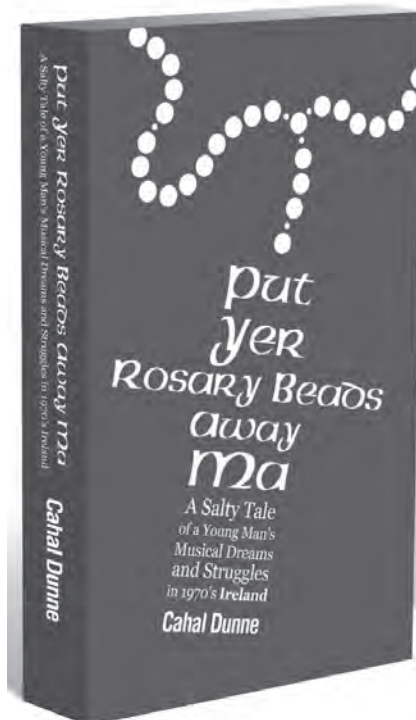
In his new book, Cahal tracks the progress of a young man from Cork City: choir director, music teacher, and showband musician, to seminal Celtic rocker, Eurovision-acclaimed songwriter, and US based solo performer since 1983. He does this through a series of interwoven vignettes, some hilarious and some heart wrenching, but all vastly entertaining. I can unreservedly recommend this book to anyone who would like an insider's perspective on the Irish music scene of the 1960's and 1970's.

Seamus Kennedy

Singer Songwriter Author, Washington, USA

Anybody who ever played in, or danced to the beat of an Irish show band, has to read this book. Apart from that however, it is a great read in its own right, and should appeal to anyone who likes a story of a young man's dreams and struggles to make them come true. A universal tale, beautifully chronicled.

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Celtic Youth Foundation Boxing Exhibition to Benefit Martin McGarry Scholarship Fund

Celtic Youth Foundation Boxing Exhibition to benefit Martin McGarry Scholarship Fund

Join Mike Joyce and his family on Thursday, June 26th at 6:30PM at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th Street in Merrionette Park, IL, for a night of boxing, food, and family fun.

Proceeds from the Celtic Youth Foundation event will go to endow the Coach Martin McGarry-Service to Others Scholarship Fund at St. Barnabas Catholic School and to provide other needed opportunities to deserving young people.

Admission is \$30 for Adults and \$15 for kids under 21, and includes music, buffet, and open bar as well as the pleasure of watching these young athletes spar for a very worthy cause.

Mike Joyce, founder of The Celtic Boxing Club, said, "Martin McGarry has dedicated his entire adult life to helping others in the community and in the boxing arena. Marty taught me through boxing and by example. He taught me life is very tough, he taught me that hard work pays off, he taught me to never quit or give

up and he taught me to give back to others. Marty also taught these values to his four wonderful children and the hundreds of kids he has worked with over the years. THANK YOU MARTY! Your service to others can never be repaid."



Martin McGarry with the one and only, Muhammed Ali.

The event is being presented by The Celtic Youth Foundation as part of their initiative to combat gang violence throughout the Chicagoland area by providing internships, mentorships, scholarships and apprenticeships to deserving young people who meet the high standards of our program.

Among the organizers in the neighborhood.

"Our mission is to revive the concept of regional/cultural foods here in the U.S.," Greene said. "In Europe, every region has their spe-

cialties in little jars and bottles and is fiercely proud of them. We're

program that night is Mike Joyce's sister-in-law Rasheda Ali Walsh, daughter of world famous boxer Muhammed Ali. Rasheda lost her cousin, an innocent high school student, to tragic gun violence in Chicago. Moved by the work of the Illinois State Crime

Commission and the Celtic Youth Foundation, Rasheda has signed on as the official spokesperson for The Celtic Youth Foundation. Rasheda's son Nico will also be boxing that night in an exhibition. It was a Police Athletic League Boxing program that started her father, Muhammed Ali, on the road to boxing.

Please join us on Thursday June 26th at Bourbon Street for this very worth cause.

The Celtic Youth Foundation has applied for recognition as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and anticipates receipt of same within the next 180 days. The Celtic Youth Foundation anticipates that donations to the Celtic Youth Foundation are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the fullest extent allowed by law.

working with rare heirloom fruits and veggies that have an anchor in the U.S. and showcase them in recipes that really make the flavors shine."

The Pantry, which came about first through imported foods, recently launched Heirloom Fruit Curds, which Greene explains is "like a lemon curd, but using wild foraged, native American fruits instead of lemon."

"The Paw Paw (from the Midwest), the Huckleberry (from the Pacific Northwest) and the Lingonberry (from Alaska). It's the perfect symbiosis of a classic Irish treat Americanized. We use real eggs and butter for the creamy texture, not pectin like most commercial brands." she said.

But while a number of unique Americanized foods have already been created during the three-year history of Scrumptious Pantry, Greene says she is always looking for more ideas and open to adopt recipes submitted by citizens

Southside IRIH



who may remember a favorite dish growing up, perhaps one their grandmother had that you couldn't find in a restaurant.

Through identifying forgotten fruits and vegetables and preserving those unique flavors, Scrumptious Pantry celebrates food originated here in America.

"As a culture, we should go beyond a Philly cheese steak and hot dog and express our culinary traditions," Greene said.

"We are trying to connect America to their food culture and food history," she added. "People really appreciate the focus on the interest in organic and natural food, which has increased lately. People are

now more connected to their food."

For Scrumptious Pantry, a line of hot sauce could be next on the horizon. "Hot sauce is coming, but what always makes me happy is when people share their recipe. Maybe someone knows of a specific apple their fore fathers brought from Ireland that they are planting in a Chicago backyard," she said. "If anyone has a story like that, I would be happy to hear it. Who knows, it may be the next big thing."

Scrumptious Pantry products are available nationwide at Whole Foods Market and on their website, www.scrumptiouspantry.com

Scrumptious Pantry in Logan Square

By Tim Moran

Food with a regional identity has come to the United States, and Chicago is at the epicenter of the concept drawn out by Lee



Greene, founder of Scrumptious Pantry in the city's Logan Square

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



I went last night to review the production of Henry V by the Chicago Shakespeare theatre. The quest for power, the proliferation of propaganda, and misrepresentation of facts, reminded me of that saying 'truth is the first casualty of war'. While watching the young Henry (only 25) disguise his lust for power in pious nationalism, I was finding myself drawing parallels with what is presently happening in Ireland. Gerry Adams (Sinn Fein) is arrested and subsequently released, when it is alleged that he was involved with the killing of Mrs. McConville in 1972. McConville, a mother of ten, was accused of being an informant. The accusation was untrue, the killing unnecessary, and to make matters worse her body was among the 'disappeared' some of whose graves were never found.

My initial response to this news was confusion. I believe that the family deserves justice for their mother. They were orphaned by this dreadful murder. And, to add to their misfortune, they were unable to locate her body for years. It is hard not to emphasize with their quest for justice. But, and here's where it becomes murky, the arrest of Adams, and his release, reiterates the fragility of the 'peace process'. In the pursuit political stability, it is believed by those in power, that the past needs to be forgotten in order to move into a peaceful future. But is it so easy to forget?

The ghosts of the past refuse to be dismissed. McBeth kills Banquo but his murderous action has consequences and the apparition pricks his conscience. The past cannot be negotiated with and it comes back to haunt us in all sorts of ways. Ironically, while McConville's killers' walk free, her family continues to live in fear. After the murder of his mother, Michael McConville was abducted when he was 11 years old and told to keep quiet. 42 years later, he still lives in fear while walking the

same streets with those who took his mother's life. For this family, and the families of the Omagh bombing as well as other unsolved killings the past is not dead, nor forgotten. The unfinished business of the dead lies with the need for justice, or perhaps justice is also a causality of war?

The appeal of the dead cannot be quieted by threats of the endangering the peace process. If one cites South Africa, then you equally need to support such cases with the need for confession, or admission of guilt. Peace and reconciliation cannot be sustained unless those who have committed such atrocities have the guts to make public confession. The past needs to be addressed, and faced up to before we can move forward. Is it fair or just for the families of those who have suffered loss to simply be bullied and victimized by those who promote the peace process? If those who have unjustly killed want to have peace, then it is fair to require them to own their actions publicly so that we can move forward.



A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

Doyles Pub in Richmond

Jeanne Doyle has made her statement by owning and managing the popular Irish Pub for the last twenty years in Richmond, IL by serving phenomenal homemade food with smiling, friendly service.

Doyle's Pub opened in 1994. Originally, it was the second oldest establishment built in 1844 as an Old Saw Mill, first known as The Richmond Mill owned by Charles Cotting and Wm Purdy. It got its name by having a contest to see who could climb to the top of the Mill first. The winner got to name the town. The build-

The peace process should not be a baton used to silence those who want civil rights and justice for all. Is it unrealistic to expect the same justice from those who fought to bring equality and fairness? How can we expect those who advocate the peace process to act with impunity if we don't see transparency? I am skeptical that issues such as this, whether they become manifest in audiotapes, or some other manifestation, will ever be forgotten unless they are dealt with fairly. What can we expect when we try to suppress the truth? Simply, a wallpapering over the deep, wounded cracks in the hearts of those who continue to mourn. The expectation for public confession must be unilateral. It goes across the board when it comes to owning up to murderous actions, whether indirectly or directly 'executed'. The British armed forces, the RUC, and Protestant paramilitaries should be held equally accountable.

In Henry V, the young king gets what he wants. He subdues France into submission but he engenders and fosters resentment, and hostility. It is impossible to suppress the truth forever. Unless the crimes of the past are addressed justly, the peace process will remain a hiding place for the guilty.

ing was partially destroyed in a fire in 1925. It was then turned into a restaurant in the 1960's. Grandma Doyle arrived from Galway, Ireland in the 1930's and received the 18th liquor license in the state of IL and this started the family business. It went through four owners before Jeanne purchased it in 1994.

Jeanne can be found in the kitchen most mornings making homemade soups, sauces, chili, salad dressing and desserts. Oh and don't forget about the fresh roasted Corned Beef for one of the finest Rueben's around

or those award winning Hot Wings. It does not have to be winter outside to enjoy the most delicious soups you will ever taste. Jeanne's unparalleled culinary skills will have you tasting Split Pea and Ham Soup, Cream of Mushroom or the Guinness Chili. All three items can be an appetizer or a full meal which are prepared fresh daily and served piping hot with local high quality ingredients. Doyle's offers a wide array of pub snacks and meals. Some of the favorites are the Murphy's Mussels, which are farm raised, sautéed in white wine, garlic, onion and butter which are perfect as an appetizer. You will have to try the Bangers n'Mash which is Irish sausage with homemade mashed potatoes, Guinness gravy and glazed apples. Another cannot miss is the Jameson Pork Chops which are infused with Jameson whiskey, and include broiled, glazed carrots, mash potatoes, sliced apples and garlic bread. The Saturday night specials will be hard to choose between. The Friday Fish Fry are beer battered Icelandic Cod with homemade coleslaw, corn fritters and choice of potato pancakes, fries or potatoes. The Corned Beef and Cabbage is a premium round of corned beef, boiled cabbage, new red potatoes, carrots and celery served with horseradish sauce, rye bread and butter.

You will find that Doyles friendly service is made up of Quinn Patrick, Kierre Elaine and Grace Kathleen, who can be found behind the bar or on the

floor following the lead of their mom Jeanne.

If you have been on the quest to find The BEST Bloody Mary, look no further! This Ultimate Bloody Mary will surpass all others. The impressive drink will arrive with a celery stalk, pickle, beef stick, ham, cheese and yes, tomato juice!

Quinn will be happy to serve you one of their Irish beers on tap such as Guinness, Smitty's, Harp or Mayners Irish Cider. If you fancy a sip with your beer, they always have Michael Powers, Paddy's, or Jameson's ready to go. Don't forget to ask Jeanne about the baby Guinness. She would love nothing more than to pour you one! There weekly specials are as follows:

Monday Closed
Tuesday Classic Cocktail Night
Wed Drink & Food Specials
Thursday Bike Night - Tons of fun & give-a-ways (spring/fall)
Friday Fish Fry
Saturday Prime Rib

Doyle's is a family friendly, rider friendly, quaint Irish Pub, serving homemade foods and top quality Irish beers such as Guinness, Smithwicks and Harp to name a few. Don't forget to check the events page on their website for special theme nights, parties and our live music lineup. I look forward to seeing your friendly face there!

Doyle's Pub
5604 Mill St.
Richmond, IL. 60071
PH: (815) 678-3623
Email: jeanne@doylespubrocks.com



Quinn and Jeanne Doyle look forward to seeing you soon!

Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Black-Eyed Blonde

By Benjamin Black,
Henry Holt and Company

"Life is far more messy and disconnected than we let ourselves admit."

This mystery book is written in the style of Raymond Chandler. His writings evoke the Los Angeles of the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, and are classics of the Noir genre. In his novels and film adaptations, we follow the adventures of Phillip Marlowe, the detective he created.

Chandler was one of the major writers of Noir

classics. He lived from 1888 to 1959. Marlowe's adventures in the search for the truth are the focus of "The Big Sleep," "Farewell My Lovely," and "The Long Goodbye."

John Banville, winner of the Man Booker Prize (Ireland's Pulitzer), uses the pen name Benjamin Black to write compelling mystery novels set in the Ireland of the 1950's.

I greatly admire John Banville's Benjamin Black novels and have read all six. His work is clear, fresh, and totally absorbing.

When Chandler passed away, a list of possible future titles was found in his desk. Banville chose one of them and wrote this wonderful book.

"It is the early 1950's Marlowe is as restless and lonely as ever, and business is little slow. Then a new client is shown into the office. And, you guessed it. The new client is the black-eyed blonde.

These quotes give a taste of the book. Mar-

lowe describes the manager of an exclusive club: "he waited another moment, then put out his right hand for me to shake. It was like being given a sleek, cool-skinned animal to hold. The most

striking thing about him was a quality of stillness. When he wasn't moving or speaking, something inside him seemed to switch off. I had the feel-

ing that nothing the world could come up with would surprise or impress him."

Marlowe eating at the Bull and Bear:

"I can't say which are worse, bars that pretend to be Irish, with their plastic shamrocks and shillelaghs, or Cockney-fied joints like the Bull. I could describe it, but I haven't the heart; I think dartboards and wooden beer pulls and a framed pink-tinted photo of the young Queen Elizabeth - on a horse."

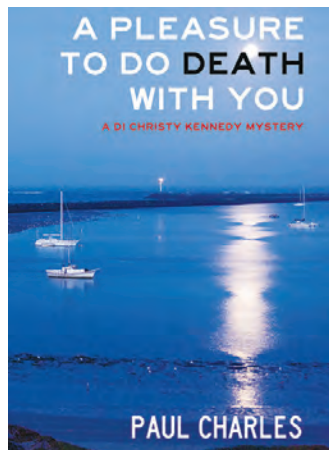
* Marlowe leaves his office: "The night outside was cool now. I had parked the car on Vine, under a street lamp. It

looked like a big dark animal, crouching there at the sidewalk, and the headlights seemed to be giving me a baleful glance."

* "Life is far more messy and disconnected than we let ourselves admit. Wanting things to make sense and be nice and orderly, we keep making up plots and forcing them on the way things really are."

A Pleasure to Do Death With You

A Di Christy Kennedy Mystery,
by Paul Charles, DuFour Editions



The author of this suspenseful and marvelously detailed book writes about the way a detective thinks. Yes, it is a police procedural, but the focus is very much about the thought processes of detectives.

Paul Charles, the author, grew up in County Antrim in Northern Ireland. As a young man, he wanted to be a part of the music business. Thus he moved to London. He

still "runs a music promotion company" there, and now lives in the Primrose Hill area of London.

The fictional detective Inspector Christy

Continued to page 10

Eoin Colfer Announced as Ireland's Laureate for Children

Novelist Eoin Colfer was announced as the third Laureate na nÓg, Ireland's laureate for children's literature, at a special event at the Arts Council. The



announcement was made by Fergus O'Dowd, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources and Environment, Community & Local Govt, with responsibility for the NewEra Project.

Laureate na nÓg is an initiative of the Arts Council with the support of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Children's Books Ireland, Poetry Ireland and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The honour was established to engage young people with high quality children's literature and to underline the importance of children's literature in our cultural and imaginative lives.

Eoin Colfer was born in Wexford in 1965. Having qualified as a primary school teacher, he worked in Wexford before travelling and working in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Italy. His first book, Benny and Omar, was published in 1998, based on his experiences in Tunisia; it has since been translated into many languages. A sequel followed in 1999. He attained worldwide recognition in 2001, when the first Artemis Fowl book was published and became a New York Times Best Seller, as did some sequels. Among his other popular works are Half Moon Investigations, The Wish List, The Supernaturalist, and a series of Eoin Colfer's Legends. In January 2008, Colfer published a book titled Airman, another best-seller. His latest novel, Warp The Reluctant Assassin has been nominated for the CBI Book of the Year 2014. To date more than half of his books have reached the New York Times list at least once. Eoin Colfer currently lives in Wexford, Ireland with his wife, Jackie, and two children, Séan and Finn.

Speaking about his appointment as Laureate na nÓg, Eoin Colfer said: 'I

feel incredibly honoured and incredibly petrified to be taking on the Laureate mantle after Niamh and Siobhán. I feel I am representing my family and my county and indeed all book people in Ireland which is not something I mean to take lightly. I intend to spend my time spreading stories to every nook and cranny in the country. Nobody is safe. It doesn't matter where you hide - I will find you and tell you a story.'

Elaina Ryan, Director of Children's Books Ireland said: 'Laureate na nÓg stands for so many things: honouring the talent of Ireland's extraordinary writers and illustrators; celebrating children's literature and recognising its crucial place in the lives of children; and bringing people together in Ireland and internationally to talk about children's books and the possibilities they represent. Children's Books Ireland is thrilled that Eoin Colfer will be Ireland's third Laureate na nÓg - his imagination, energy and accessibility to so many audiences are among the many attributes that will make Eoin a wonderful Laureate.'

Sheila Pratschke, Chair of the Arts Council, said: 'To date, Laureate na nÓg has been a tremendous success, and the stellar work of Eoin Colfer's predecessors, Siobhán Parkinson and Niamh Sharkey, has broadened and deepened the imaginative worlds of young people across the country. The Arts Council is delighted to award this honour - the highest to be awarded to a children's writer or illustrator in Ireland - to an artist of such high achievement and with such generosity of spirit. We have no doubt that the Eoin Colfer's term will be exciting and inspired, and we very much look forward to the two years ahead.'

Nóirín McKinney, Director of Arts Development at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland said: 'Laureate na nÓg is an important vehicle for us to increase the recognition of the importance of Children's literature and advocate the benefit of creativity among our young people. Following in the trail-blazing footsteps of Siobhán Parkinson and Niamh Sharkey, Eoin Colfer is an inspired choice for the third all-island Children's Laureate. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is delighted to be working with our cross border partners to strengthen his island-wide ambassadorial role.'

For further information about Eoin Colfer please see www.eoincolfer.com.

Continued from page 9
Kennedy also grew up in Northern Ireland, before coming to London to join the police force.

In a recent interview, Charles said, "Strangely enough our house is directly across the road from where Inspector Christy Kennedy has lived during the ten mysteries."

Several times the author makes proud reference to Kennedy's Irishness. It sounds like a cliché, but the writing is compelling. And, I couldn't put together the clues to solve how the murder was done, until Charles explained it all in the last pages.

A special thank you to DuFour Editions for publishing the book and then distributing it here in the U.S.

Kennedy is deeply admired as a person by his fellow detectives as well as for his outstanding record of solved cases.

Kennedy sums up his approach to a case: "It's been my experience that gut instincts only get in the way. The investigation must be about amassing information and then, when you've collected all the information possible, you stand back, and see how it all fits together."

*Kennedy describes a person to be interviewed. "Rodney Stuart was a man reluctantly approaching his fifties. He was slim (ish), but not in a fit kind of way. He'd obviously lost weight but hadn't bothered to do the

necessary exercise, so the skin kind of hung off him. He'd obviously tuned into MTV because his dyed blond, three quarters of an inch long hair was oiled and spiked upwards so that his scalp and all its blemishes were clearly visible. His red-blotched face gleamed as if someone had shined it with cooking oil. His brown, bloodshot eyes moved in a slow, uninterested way."

* While waiting in the lobby of a San police station: "he heard officers dealing with a man in his early twenties who'd been assaulted by two known acquaintances who'd "disrespected" him. From what Kennedy could gather the three had been involved in an auto theft. Auto theft sounds so much better than stealing a car when the 'disrespecting' took place. It seemed to be a weird charge for the young victim to me making, so his listlessness and vacant look were perhaps due more to self-induced chemical abuse."

*Kennedy's impressions of America: "To Kennedy's eyes America looked different, because it was different. It was colorful, energetic, distracting. It was people friendly, and its people were friendly. It was engaging. America didn't know the meaning of the word shy."

Frank West is a retired teacher and has written book and play reviews since this paper's inception in 1977. Many are online at www.irishamericannews.com.

Vieux Carre at Raven A Must See

By Tennessee Williams

Reviewed by Frank West

What an incredibly riveting production. Vieux is a great script that deserves this outstanding production by Raven Theatre.

The Play is full of life and empathy for the human condition. Throughout, Williams treats the people he encounters with enormous compassion. Tennessee Williams wrote many classic plays of 20th century drama: "The Glass Menagerie," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" are a few.

As a young man he began writing Vieux Ciarre, and its themes and concerns were constants in his life.

Williams lived from 1911 to 1983. He grew up in Saint Louis, but his family was so dysfunctional that as a boy he was sent to live with his grandfather in Mississippi. His grandfather was an Episcopal priest and one of the first plays he wrote was about this church experience. It would continue to echo in his work all his life.

That memory of his grandfather preaching about sin and damnation and his own sexual orientation were lifelong sources of shame and guilt. He grew up in an era of nearly universal scorn and oppression."

In 1937 he moved to New Orleans. The imaginative young man was penniless, but now he was a full-time writer.

Quoting from the press release about Vieux Carre: "An autobiographical play that Williams first began writing about the time he started 'The Glass Menagerie,' it concerns a young writer who in 1938 moves to a ramshackle French Quarter rooming house that's home to an assortment of desperate and eccentric characters.

The New York Times said Vieux Carre is, along with 'The Glass Menagerie,' one of two "critical bookends" to Williams career."

His early plays show his genius, but they didn't bring him fame or financial success. Until, in 1944, "The Glass Menagerie" was produced in Chicago and

was immensely successful.

the play is a "memory" play about his experiences in New Orleans and the people he met there. It is composed of vignettes of the people who lived in the boarding house. He took a gutsy and fearless look at them, but a deeply compassionate one. Later in life he would observe about life and drama "Life is all memory."

He was particularly sensitive to the painful loneliness and desperate need for human contact of the people in the boarding house. He even has the landlady say, "There is so much loneliness in this house that you can hear it."

The set is a potent and richly detailed creation. It is unusually powerful and strongly supports the play. Director Cody Estle praises the sets designer, Ray Toler: "Raven Theatre has a stage large enough to show all the rooms of the boarding house in one vista. it will allow us to make the house a character of the play in its own right."

This outstanding production of Vieux Carre runs now through June 28 at the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St. (Clark at Granville).

Its presented Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 and Sundays at 3pm.

Tickets and information are at 773-338-2177 or raventheatre.org.

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Main Floor Plan

Top View

06/28

16

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

We enjoyed a wonderful visit from President Michael D. Higgins and First Lady Sabina Higgins on May 11. The President acknowledged the immense contribution of Gaelic Park in fostering our Irish Heritage, and as a center for emigrants to ease their transition into America. The most memorable part of the President's address was his reference to the contribution of the GAA throughout the world, as a beacon for emigrants in whatever part of the globe they find themselves, and the plight of the undocumented Irish who live in the shadows. It was fitting that President Higgins recognized the many people not of Irish descent who contribute so positively to the Irish experience in America, and who participate and enjoy our Irish culture just as fervently as any one of Irish descent. The United States of America is the "great melting pot" where we all learn to understand different cultures and customs while we cling lovingly to what is part of our DNA. We are keenly aware at Gaelic Park that as an ongoing Banquet and Bar facility that is open to the General Public, we treat all our customers and clients with equal respect. It is interesting to note that while America has been and is still learning to cope with the many issues that a multi-cultural society deals with, Ireland is just starting that process with the wave of new emigrants who entered Ireland during the Celtic Tiger years. Our Fest is

over for another year, and I want to thank all the volunteers who sacrifice their weekend and make it possible. June brings the start of the eagerly anticipated GAA season, and the welcome return of the famed St. Brendan's Football Club. We would all love to see the latest wave of emigrants who are living and working in downtown Chicago participate and join one of the existing football or hurling clubs or form a new club. I look forward to a regular Wednesday schedule starting in June of barbecues on the patio, where all the senses are satisfied, the smell of barbecue ribs on a wood fire, the sound and sight of The Claddagh waterfall and the taste of a Pint of plain. I look forward to seeing all the IAN readers over the summer months.

John Devitt, President



Chicago Sun Times photos

IRISH FEST Thank You

To our membership volunteers who worked tirelessly during the Irish Festival weekend...

To our set up and tear down volunteer crew for all the long hours they gave the week before and after the Fest...

To all our bakers who donated sweets to the Tea Room...

To our fabulous CGP management and staff for all the extra hours they put in during this 4 day weekend...

To all our CGP organizations and Board of Directors for coordinating and assisting with all the scheduled events each day of the Fest...

And to Frank Bradley, Fest Chairman, and his team for all the behind the scenes planning that made Irish Festival weekend another huge success!

raibh maith agaibh

Jane Event Calendar

6/4 & 7/2 Monthly Musical Luncheon NOON

6/22 Clare Day for Special People

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

Sunday Mass & Breakfast/Classic Carvery resume in November.

Ladies Auxiliary resumes in September.

Pub Trivia returns in the fall.

Thursday Evenings Family Music Sessions in the Pub will resume in the fall.

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

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

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

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org



The County Connection Corner

June 22 Clare Day for Special People

July 13 Clare Picnic

Antrim Armagh Carlow Cavan Clare Cork Derry Donegal Down

Dublin Fermanagh Galway Kerry Kildare Kilkenny Laois Leitrim

Limerick Longford Louth Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly Roscommon

Sligo Tipperary Tyrone Waterford Westmeath Wexford Wicklow

Jack Walsh recently celebrated his 100th birthday at the Sunday Classic Carvery. Jack is from Kerry, and he and his wife Mary are long time members of Chicago Gaelic Park. We wish Jack a prosperous year ahead!



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





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



BEANBAG LEAGUE The Carraig Pub has openings for individuals or teams who would like to participate in a summer beanbag league. Games are held on Tuesday evenings beginning June 3. Teams should have a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 people. Call Theresa Broderick for more information (708) 687-9323

PATIO DINING Now that summer weather has arrived, do you feel like eating outside? We have a beautiful outdoor patio available to pub customers most nights, Monday through Thursday. The patio is covered and next to a delightful landscaped area complete with waterfall. Families are also welcome to use the extensive playground located just off the patio. No need to worry about your children running around and bothering other guests. Parents can relax and enjoy a peaceful dinner or drink while they keep an eye on the children playing nearby. Small riding toys, balls, bubbles, beanbags, hula hoops and more will be available for children to play with. Dinner and drink specials available!



Join our text messaging club to receive amazing discounts. Free appetizer with purchase of two entrees for signing up!

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

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- Daily Drink and Food Specials
- Expanded Pub Food and Appetizer Menu - Available Daily
- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Fri June 6	Midlife Crisis
Sat June 7	Jimmy O & Rhonda Lee
Wed June 11	Frank Rossi
Fri June 13	Joe McShane
Sat June 14	Mulligan Stew
Fri June 20	Vocal Illusion
Sat June 17	Bernie Glim & Country Roads
Fri June 27	John Dillon
Sat June 28	Ray Gavin Band

Chicago Gaelic Park

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www.chicagogaelicpark.org



SAVE THE DATE!

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August 5-7, 2014
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Cost \$70 per child, \$5.00 discount for additional siblings
Includes Lunch & snacks

Call 708-687-9323 to Register
www.chicagogaelicpark.org

SUMMER BARBEQUES ON THE TARA ROOM PATIO

Beginning Wednesday, July 2 until September 10, a barbeque will be held on the patio every Wednesday evening, weather permitting. Charlie will have the grill going, and we will be serving our famous barbequed ribs, burgers, hot dogs, salads... and more.

There will be live entertainment beginning at 6:30pm.



7/02	Bernie Glim
7/09	Frank Rossi
7/16	Bernie Glim
7/23	Richie Z
7/30	John Dillon
8/06	Ray Gavin
8/13	Frank Rossi
8/20	Bernie Glim
8/27	Bernie Glim
9/03	Bernie Glim
9/10	Richie Z

Death Penalty Debate

Clayton Lockett, convicted murder, took 45 minutes to die because the IV line

came out of the vein it was inserted in or the vein ruptured. He was convicted of shooting a 19 year old woman and watching his friends bury her alive when she didn't die from two gunshots.

How could anyone consider that what ever happened to Clayton Lockett was inhumane? He got off easy!

Hillary Clinton I personally don't understand all the hype about her running for president. Will the voters be swept off their feet by the prospect of having the first woman president? Who will vote for her? Women, the LGBTQ community, liberals of all persuasions, the Chicago Democratic Machine, blacks, hispanics and anyone else who perceives themselves as being disenfranchised. Who Won't vote for her? Gennifer Flowers, Monica Lewinski, Paula Corbin Jones, and the families of a lot of people who died mysteriously in Arkansas, Arkansas State Troopers, and Kathleen Willey. Do you want a 70 year old grandmother in the White House?

USS Essex I had a chance encounter with an elderly man wearing a baseball cap that was embroidered with the name of the ship, USS Essex and aviator's wings. I knew that ship was an aircraft carrier, but I asked him just the same if the USS Essex was an aircraft carrier? He said, "Yes." "You were in the Pacific," I said, "how many of the major battles were you in?" He replied, "all of them. I joined

Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



deputy chief of staff for Todd Stroger Carla has been sentenced to 6.5 years in prison. She managed to steal about

the Navy in 1940 and served until the end of the war."

The Essex sailed for the Pacific in May, 1943 and joined task force 16 attacking Marus Island, then she became the flagship of task force 14, striking Wake Island and Rabaul. She aided in the invasion of Tarawa, then on to the Marshall Islands, the Battle of Kwajalein, then a series of raids on the Japanese anchorage at Truk. She participated in the attacks on Guam, Tinian, and Saipan in the Marianas. She sailed to San Francisco for an overhaul and then returned to take part in the battle of the Phillipine Sea, then went on to Peleliu, provided cover for the landings in Leyte in the Philippines, where my uncle, Bill Boyle, landed with the Army and won a bronze star there. The USS Essex was also in the battle of Lingayen Gulf, where a man who owned a company that I worked for was the executive officer of another ship in that battle. Hamilton Vose Jr. was a U.S. Naval officer and was awarded the Ensign's Pennant and a battle flag following the battle of Leyte Gulf.

The Essex went on to Lingayen Gulf, Okinawa, Formosa, Sakishima, and Hong Kong. Then on to the invasion of Iwo Jima, and landings on Okinawa.

That's some record! As he left the clinic he smiled and said, "it was nice talking to you." He was slender and had a lively step. Later it occurred to me that he had to be

over 90 years old. I asked him if he was an aviator, and he answered, "no, I was a fueler." I never did ask him his name. Next time you see a Vet wearing a baseball cap with the name of the unit he was with or the ship he was on, say hello! You are probably meeting an unsung hero.

Carla Oglesby
Top aide and former

\$325,000 by rigging contracts. If you recall, contracts under \$25,000 don't need approval of the Cook County Board. At least two of those contracts went to companies she either owned, or formerly owned. Having lost her job when Stroger was defeated,, she applied for unemployment compensation which she continued to receive even after her arrest.

Predictably, she won't serve the full term of her sentence, and she will no doubt wind up on the county or city payroll again, and down the road collect a pension. You can't beat the Illinois Democrats for unethical behavior.

President Higgins

It was great to have the President of Ireland, his Excellency Michael D. Higgins, visit Chicago. Sadly, his entourage were lacking in diplomacy. Ordinarily an Irishman can tell you to go to Hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip. That was not one of their talents. A disregard for local traditions left scars.

Healthcare Are the hospitals run by the Veteran's Administration a template for the affordable care act? Canada has socialized medicine and Canadians wait months for cat scans and MRI's. Who do you trust?

Governor Quinn \$55 million has been squandered on a so called anti-violence campaign. Many think the program was a thinly veiled effort to capture votes.

Minimum

Wage Fast food jobs were never intended for the bread winner. When McDonald's opened in Des Plaines, April 15, 1955, you can be sure the jobs were part-time and filled mostly by high school students.



You're planning a trip to Ireland. You've been and have yearned to go back. You've dreamt of a trip to Ireland --- even from your armchair. This column hopes to reach each of you. Our format will be simple. As a veteran of Irish travel (26 times to date), a former travel agent who specialized in Irish travel for 16 years, and now currently working as a sales representative for an Irish-based tour operator - Brack Tours - I feel genuinely qualified to address the popular topic of traveling to Ireland. What I don't know the answer to, I will seek the source. Each month, I will write of what I know, interview someone in the Irish travel industry and answer a travel question submitted by an IAN reader. The reader will be rewarded with a prize (besides the answer to their question)! Remember there are no stupid questions, especially when we are speaking of a land where most questions are met with another question!

We plan to cover as much of the 32,599 square miles of the island as possible --- from Kinsale to Killybegs, Galway to Glendalough and Belfast to Ballyvaughan. We will "visit" cities, villages and townlands (do you know which city was voted amongst the friendliest in the world?). We will offer

tips, advice and suggestions to add value to your trip and avoid pitfalls (Did you know that you cannot exchange U.S. \$100 bills in banks in Ireland?).

We will help you in your venture to pursue any of your special interests while there. Did you know you could sea kayak in West Cork? Bungee jump, gorge walk, or wakeboard in Connemara? Take an afternoon class at the famed Ballymaloe Cookery School? Deep-sea fish off of the Dingle Peninsula? Go surfing in Lahinch in Co. Clare or Bundoran in Co. Donegal?

I know journalism is supposed to be unbiased and objective. In full disclosure, this article won't be. I am passionate about Ireland. It offers the visitor unparalleled scenery, sites of historic significance, abounding culture, and most importantly its gracious and welcoming people. The poet, W.H. Auden, was quoted as saying, "Of all possible subjects - travel is the most difficult for an artist, as it is the easiest for a journalist". With that said, I hope to paint a picture so vivid, you see yourself there.

Go dté tú slán - "May you go safely", Mary Ann

I invite all suggestions, comments, and of course questions. You can reach me at travelwithmaryann@gmail.com

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



THANK YOU, MURDERER BIRO. You are in downstate Pontiac prison since 1991, sentenced to Life Without Parole for two 1st Degree murders and one homicide of the Langert family, crimes you committed when you were sixteen. We have never met but this letter gratefully acknowledges your magnificent deed in saving me from your fate if not execution. You were the local police's sole suspect, but MI5/FBI Agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley arrived, usurped investigatory authority, prohibited the police from investigating you, and he and his mole Jerry Boyle persuaded TV Reporter Carol Marin to break the "news" of an "IRA link" to your murders. The rest of the news media parroted Marin's falsehoods. Under Buckley's direction North Shore Policemen Fay and Keel lounged in my building lobby informing the doorman and residents that a murderer lives here, naming me to them. Days later, on June 5, 1990, under MI5/FBI agent Buckley's direction, Glencoe Policeman John Fay signed a report so cunningly contrived that it doomed me had you, David, not exposed its criminality by bringing justice upon yourself.

By confiding in your high school friends you stopped one set of MI5/FBI crimes. Your murder weapon was neighbor FBI Agent Lewis' 357 Magnum. When your wrongfully acquired Illinois State Firearms License arrived in the mail your mother intercepted it and entrusted it to Lawyer Lewis who was defending you against other shooting charges. When he refused to surrender it you threatened to break into his office and steal it. He hired a firm that installed an electronic security system of his office but you broke through it and, finding his wife's gun in his drawer, you stole it and made it your murder weapon. Despite your break-in threat and your previous shootings, neither Agent Lewis nor her lawyer/husband reported your actual break-in or her missing gun, even after your lethal shootings in that small village.

David: This paragraph is extraneous to you. Despite Agent Buckley's many crimes regarding your Langert murders he remained free. On other charges, equally bogus, he incarcerated "the Chicago Four" (Frank O'Neill, Tony McCormick, my wife Mary, and me) in Chicago's federal jail and tried to imprison us for the rest of our lives (Case 91CR911). Fifteen months later all charges against us collapsed when Buckley's only evidence, an FBI audiotape, proved massively "doctored." Whether

despite (or because?), Buckley had gotten the news media to blame your murders on the IRA, a year later his MI5 handlers deployed him to Ireland. He remained there until 15Aug98 excepting a brief visit to the Atlanta Olympics bombing murder site where he and colleagues

performed his specialty, they framed Security Guard Richard Jewell for it. Jewell later received some \$2million in damages but soon died. The 15Aug98 murder of 29 in Omagh (blamed like the Langert atrocity on the IRA) was "mission accomplished." MI5 demobilized them that evening. Familiar with Buckley's perjuries and evidence fabrications we tried to save his first Irish target; Michael McKeivitt (husband of Bobby Sands' sister). We'd never heard of McKeivitt but felt obligated to try to save him. At McKeivitt's 2003 trial we saw Buckley for the first time since 1993 when we exposed his crimes in Federal court in Chicago. Nevertheless, he and main witness David Rupert (a life-long criminal per a NY State Police affidavit) succeeded in Dublin with perjuries/fabrication that failed in Federal Court. McKeivitt remains in Portlaoise prison. Rupert's life as a con-man and criminal had kept him destitute – but he finally extracted \$millions from both MI5 and the FBI by abetting their crimes.

Back to you, David. MI5/FBI's decision to abet your crimes by attributing them to the IRA and me was a small step toward their Omagh atrocity which served to demonize the IRA, to ultimately win for Britain Ireland's contested Six Counties. That surrender of territory achieved the planned goal of freeing up Britain's military without which our Neo-Cons could not have initiated their Supreme Crimes against Iraq, etc. So you were an incidental, temporary beneficiary, kept at large, by criminals acting on a scale far beyond your understanding. Neither you nor your father responded to my attempts to reach and help you.

Here is my heart-felt plea on your behalf: *Sixteen-year-old David Biro perpetrated a heinous crime for which he has already served thirteen years in prison. Most teenagers, especially boys, are lucky to achieve maturity without disaster. Films seem to have exacerbated David's vulnerability. For whatever psychological motive, David saved my freedom if not my life by sacrificing his own freedom. Provided that he poses no threat to the community he deserves prompt release, not incidentally for saving me. What other prisoner can, like David, honestly say they saved a life and stopped major crimes? Prison and Parole authorities; you know of David's crimes, please consider David Biro's magnificent deed. Ask me for documentation.*

Background: Weeks before the Langert murders FBI Agent Joe Doyle alerted Mary and me that some of his colleagues were bribed and subverted by MI5, and due to our having led Illinois's Bloody Sunday, MacBride, and Doherty campaigns, they were planning crimes to "neutralize" us. Doyle commented angrily; "Traitors! I could spit in their faces." While Mary and I remain alarmed; Doyle is petrified. He proved too fearful to willingly testify that he had alerted us. Yet, we now ask Doyle to stand up; to finally honor his Oath to uphold the Constitution.

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2014 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing

Concern Worldwide U.S. will hold its 2014 Concern Chicago Golf Outing, presented by Collins Engineers and The McShane Companies, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at Harborside Interna-

tional Golf Center in Chicago. The afternoon format includes a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start and access to driving range, golf cart, lunch, dinner and an awards program. Billy Lawless, Chair of

Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform is this year's Honorary Chairman. The Co-Chairs of the golf outing are Steve Fitzgerald and Ed Stritch. Funds generated from the event will benefit Concern's emergency relief and long-term development programs in the areas of



education, health, livelihoods and HIV and AIDS. To register for the golf outing and learn about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kim Majewski at kimberly.majewski@concern.net, 312.431.8400 www.concernusa.org.

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Community Shred Day

**Saturday, June 14, 2014
10 a.m. to Noon**

Protect your identity by shredding your old financial statements, documents and bills. Industrial shred trucks will be on hand to destroy your materials while you wait. Four locations for shredding:



- Chicago-Pulaski – 6155 S. Pulaski Road
- Bridgeview – 8020 S. Harlem Ave.
- Oak Lawn-Ridgeland – 8855 S. Ridgeland Ave.
- Orland Park-179th – 17865 S. Wolf Road

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Charity Golf 6-24

On Tuesday June 24th 2014 there will be a Charity Golf Tournament at the Gleneagles Country Club for the benefit of MMM Educational Scholarship Fund, a non-profit organization.

MMM Educational Scholarship Fund was established to provide children with an understanding of the value of their education, the importance of having a goal and the opportunity to achieve that goal. Your support provides that each year the fund will award selected full time students in the elementary years through college; an opportunity to receive a scholarship to assist them in obtaining their goals.

The Charity Golf Tournament is the largest fundraiser to award educational scholarships to full time students who meet the academic challenges, social commitments to their community and the determination to achieve. If you are unable to golf but would like to contribute donations can be sent directly to MMM Educational Scholarship Fund at the address below. If you have any questions contact our Event Coordinator, Mary Murray at 773-220-9474 or email at MMMESF2013@aol.com.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Get your Irish on at the Irish American Heritage Festival

July 11, 12 and 13

Tickets are now on sale for the 29th annual Irish American Heritage Festival.

Irish Fest is July 11, 12 and 13, 2014 and showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. It features more than 100 performers for 3 days on 5 stages.

The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Center and is one of its largest fundraisers.

Confirmed performers include: Gaelic Storm, Phil Coulter,

the Tossers, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, Dublin City Ramblers, the Killdares, Brother Crowe, the Mickey Finns, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, the Chancey Brothers, Red Rebel County, Emish, the Academy of Irish Music, the Larkin and Moran Brothers, the Dooley Brothers, Baal Tinne, Piobagusfidil with Patrick and Karen Cannady and friends, Mulligan Stew, RicoQuinn, Irish Heritage Singers, Gerry Haughey, The Tooles, Black Donnelly's, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band, Gerry Carney, Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers, Mulhern School of Irish

Dance, Trinity Irish Dancers, the Holy Hour House Band featuring Laurence Nugent, Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, Trinity Irish Dancers, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Tooromeen School of

Irish Dance and Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance.

In addition to the great music lineup, the weekend is packed with the regular festival favorites: Irish and American food and drink from vendors such as the Abbey Pub, Harrington's Catering and Deli, Winston's Market and the IAHC, shopping, step dancers, cultural exhibits and children's activities.

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

Cultural offerings include poetry readings, language lessons, one-act plays and art and museum exhibits. Our Tea Room returns as a respite for folks looking to cool off with live harp and piano music, a proper cup of tea and sandwiches in the air-conditioned Shamrock American Room.

Back for 2014: The Fine Spirits Tasting Tent with whiskey, beer and

mead tastings, visits from Irish Wolfhound dogs, the Men in Kilts Contest, the Craft Beer Tent, the Irish Soda Bread Contest, the Freckle Contest, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the ShamROCK Stars singing contest for kids and the Irish organizations partner tent.

New for 2014: Sunday Mass in the Main Tent at 11am with music by the Irish Heritage Singers, followed by outdoor Irish BreakFEST and Bingo.

Getting to the Fest: Attendees are encouraged to take public transportation on CTA trains and buses, or Metra trains. Bicycle racks will be on hand for those wishing to come by bike.

Fest hours are: 6pm to 1am on July 11, noon to 1am on July 12, and 11am to 11pm

on July 13.

Tickets are \$10 in advance for adults (until the end of business on July 9) and \$15 at the door on Friday and Saturday.

On Sunday, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Seniors are \$10 and children 10 and under are free. Tickets for Phil Coulter on Friday night are \$35, which includes admission to the festival.

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



Tea with Harriet Beecher Stowe

Saturday morning teas continue at the Center this summer. The June Tea is Tea with Harriet Beecher Stowe. This tea is also a Mother and Daughter Tea and attendees can bring family members to enjoy the day. This eclectic afternoon tea includes sandwiches and desserts, as well as a performance by Paddy Lynn.

Harriet Beecher Stowe is one of America's most influential novelists and author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This little five foot woman from New England stirred the conscience of America on issues of slavery and influenced the course of American



history. Stowe was a housewife with six children and an abolitionist who was determined to write a novel so powerful that it would change the way people viewed slavery once and for all. Her book sold millions of copies

world-wide and was translated in over 60 languages. She became an overnight sensation at a time when America was on the brink of the Civil War.

Professional storyteller and actress Paddy Lynn portrays Stowe in this insightful and emotional one-woman presentation.

Tea with Harriet Beecher Stowe is Saturday, June 28, from 11am to 1pm and the cost is \$25. Children 12 and under are \$10.

Reservations are necessary and must be made by June 24. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Tee Time for Golf Open

The 24th Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Saturday, June 28.

The scramble style outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC.

The price is \$125 per person and includes greens fees, a cart, dinner, cocktails, entertainment and prizes.

For tickets, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603 or the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

We are also offering sponsorship opportunities. Among them are:

• **Hole sponsorship: \$100**

- **Gift basket sponsorship: \$150**
- **Golf ball sponsorship: \$400**
- **Dinner sponsorship: \$800**

In exchange for sponsorship, participants will have a sign acknowledging their support on the hole of their choice and will be listed in the *Heritage Line* in August.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603.





THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

It has been a great spring at the Center.

We have overcome a particularly brutal winter and brutal recession and are stronger because of it. The decisions we made and the action plans we implemented have helped us grow stronger. Survival can be a painful process but when accomplished is a tribute to all those who helped.

The St. Patrick's Festival and fundraiser was a record breaker and attended by Mayor Emmanuel. The Hall of Fame Gala was a success. The 1st Annual Bridal Fair, the 2nd Annual Open House, Irish Fest and the 24th Annual Golf Open are planned and will soon happen. The Annual Raffle is gathering steam. The salon concerts and teas being planned by the Cultural Committee have been very successful. Room 311 is being renovated. The Roof Project is about to begin.

The visit to the Center by Irish President Michael D. Higgins was an historic occasion for the Center. The visit displayed to the local community, the nation and the international community that the Center is an important part of Ireland and the Irish American environment and one that has significant cultural prominence.

Recently, we held an important Town Hall and Board Nomination meeting. We have a great slate of candidates for the June election. Also at the meeting, I shared with the group where the Center was at, where we are at now and where we are heading; all a part of running the Center like a business and developing a financial foundation that allows for us to carry on the mission. I shared the elements we have addressed including financial responsibility, cash management, risk management, utility cost control, accountability, balanced budgets, partnerships, relationships, sustainability, volunteerism, membership growth, youth inclusion, board development, staff development, fundraising and more. Initiatives for positive change are in place and we are in a better place.

At the meeting, I also announced the largest fundraising project since the beginning of the Center. The program that will help continue the vision and dream of the founders. The program will help us as we move on in this century and help us to serve not only this generation but future generations to come. The "BACK



TO THE FUTURE" \$3 million Capital and Business Improvement Plan is designed to attract all levels of giving and will allow for pledge contributions over time. The success of this program and the future of the Center is in your hands. Let's get shoulder to shoulder

with the heavy lifting on this one. This is an opportunity for collective action and not to be missed, and when accomplished will allow for a healthy center economic life. "The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure."- *Sven Goran Eriksson*. IAHC stock will be offered to levels of pledges. More details to follow.

We held a 2014 Irish Fest meeting recently. I heard high tech words like social media, digital technology, Twitter, Groupon, internet, scanners and more. Cash flow, revenue growth, membership and volunteerism were embraced. These words and what they represent are a part of the new Fest because we have embraced the youth who have joined the committee. I was the oldest person in the room. I was happy about that. I remain committed to financial performance and youth inclusion. The Fest will flourish this year with new products and events, new people and new successes. Yes, we are blessed that many of the faces will be the same, but many of the faces will be new and smiling at their contributions and successes. Shake a hand at the fest, meet a new volunteer and welcome the new faces.

I, and the board, and the committee leaders have a responsibility to you to leave the Center in a better position. That is an expectation you should have of your center's leadership team. The plans I have presented will help you help me and the Center leave the center in a better place for the future.

Provided we as the board, the members, volunteers, adults and the seniors of the Center get behind the new programs and, at the same time, welcome the youth, embrace them and let them in the decision making process, we will greatly enhance the Center's relevance and help the Center to stay viable and solvent in the future.

Like a good farmer, provided we water the grass roots of the youth, we will most likely find a fruitful harvest.

Please fill up your watering can and help me water.

John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

Summer Art Exhibit Showcases Celtic Art

Join us in the IAHC Art Gallery for a new exhibit from Irish American artist Michael Carroll. The show, *Illumination* runs this summer.

For more than twenty years, Celtic artist Michael Carroll has been resurrecting the art of the 8th century Irish monk. Picking up where the scribes left off, Carroll creates illuminated works on parchment that resemble lost pages from the *Book of Kells*. Regularly appearing in Chicago-area venues, Carroll's art has since travelled the US and overseas, most notably in the American Celtic exhibit which toured the country from 2001-2003 and again for its 10th anniversary from 2010-2013. He was also featured in the UK show *Celtic Art: An Exhibition of the Artform* in London and Birmingham in 2001.

Carroll's intricate, hand-painted pages are produced with authentic medieval tools and

materials, such as calfskin vellum and goose quill pens.

The multilayered textures, incredibly small scale and attention to detail must be seen to be believed.

The exhibit runs from Friday, July 11 through July 26 on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. There will be a reception on Friday, July 18 from 6pm to 9pm. During Irish Fest weekend, the exhibit will be open from 6pm to 8pm on Friday, July 11, from Noon to 5pm on Saturday, July 12 and Noon to 5pm on Sunday, July 13. Fest admission fees apply.



BECOME A MEMBER

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

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit www.irish-american.org, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

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THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



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June 2014

June 1	Open House and Bridal Fair	Whole Building	Noon
June 6	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
June 7	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
June 8	IAHC Raffle Picnic	Fifth Province & South Lawn	Noon
June 11	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
June 14	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
	Shamrock American Social	ShamAmRoom	8pm
June 17	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
June 20	Shamrock American Club Meeting	ShamAmRm	7pm
June 21	Louis Sullivan and Chicago and Augustus Saint-Gaudens	Library	2pm
June 28	Tea with Harriet Beacher Stowe	Fifth Province	11am
	IAHC Golf Open	St. Andrew's Golf Club	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

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
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Class	Library	7-9:30pm

Library Lectures

Learn more about Irish art and architecture with an afternoon of lectures this June in the IAHC Library.

Louis Sullivan and Chicago and Augustus Saint-Gaudens features a multimedia presentation on Irish American Chicago architect Louis Sullivan and Irish born sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens, presented by Diane Dillon and John Foley.

Louis Henry Sullivan was an American architect, a mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright and an inspiration to the Chicago group of architects who have come to be known as the Prairie School.

Diane Dillon, who will present on Sullivan, is a scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library.

Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens is acknowledged to be the foremost American sculptor of the late 19th century. He is known for his monumental

depictions of Civil War heroes, including General William Tecumseh Sherman, in New York's Central Park and General John A. Logan in Chicago's Grant Park.

John Foley, who will present on Augustus Saint-Gaudens is a Chicago writer and CPS high school Humanities and English teacher.

Louis Sullivan and Chicago and Augustus Saint-Gaudens is Saturday, June 21 at 3pm and tickets are \$5 at the door.



design by Louis Sullivan

No Cover *Free Parking*



the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

JUNE ENTERTAINMENT

- 6/6 Ceili Mor
- 6/7 RicoQuinn
- 6/13 the Tooles
- 6/14 Party Music with DJ
- 6/20 Sean Cleland and Friends Salon Concert, 8pm, \$12
- 6/26 The Dooleys
- 6/27 John Devlin
- 6/28 Gerry Haughey

All Shows Start After 9pm

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

June Drink Special

\$4 Sam Adams Summer Ale 20 oz.

June Food Special

Free Appetizer with Main Entree

Valid for the month of June 2014 only.

IAHC Raffle and Picnic

Join us for the IAHC Raffle drawing on Sunday, June 8 at 4pm, during our annual Raffle Picnic. The picnic is from noon to 6pm, on the South Lot Lawn and inside the Fifth Province. The day features hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, live music and a cash bar. Tickets for the picnic are \$5 for individuals and families are \$10.

Tickets are still available for the June drawing and a chance to win \$30,000. Only 1500 tickets are being sold.

We hope you will 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.

PRIZES:

First Prize	\$30,000
Second Prize	\$10,000
Third Prize	\$ 5,000
Fourth Prize	\$ 1,000

Checks, cash, Visa or MasterCard are accepted. To purchase tickets, call the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, Alan Duggan, John Gorski, Mary Griffin, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy and Sheila Murphy

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

\$ Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Women: Be Wise About Social Security

For a woman, electing her Social Security income benefit may be the most important financial decision she makes in her lifetime. Singles, and especially couples, can miss opportunities to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars of additional income over their lifetimes by making poor Social Security income election decisions. Consider this: for couples and many single women (e.g. divorced, widowed), the difference in lifetime income between a smart Social Security strategy and just collecting at the earliest age they are eligible can commonly be well over \$100,000. And, if a woman experiences a very long lifespan, this number can be in excess of \$250,000.

Women outlive men by four to five years on average and, as a whole, tend to have a lower lifetime Social Security earnings history than men. Women also often marry men older than themselves, and, therefore, being the likely survivor of the two, the Social Security decision has a much greater impact on them. Moreover, when and how women make their Social Security income election tends to have a "multiplier effect" and can greatly impact the longevity of their retirement income stream and assets. A woman's Social Security income election made in the context of prudent asset allocation and retirement income positioning will literally pay off for her.

Most Americans dismiss Social Security with one of these responses, "It's not really that much money anyway" or "I'm just going to take it as soon as possible because it's going to run out and I want to get whatever I can now." Discussions on this topic with women approaching retirement age often reveals that the majority are not aware of the significant impact this one-time decision will have on their retirement finances. Not only does it affect the longevity and lifetime total value of their assets, but also their income stream and standard of living in retirement.

Since Social Security is a given, stable, lifetime income stream and (so far) even includes cost-of-living adjustments, women need to consider Social Security as one of the first "assets" to be evaluated when creating a retirement income plan. Women will then be in the position of determining allocation and drawdown of other savings, IRAs, pensions, etc. that can be used to extend their years of financial security.

There are many smart, actionable ways for single, married, divorced, and widowed women to capture more Social Security income over their lifetimes. Consequently, it is important they be informed and smart about the choices that are available to them. By using the rules and strategies that apply to their unique circumstances, women can provide an added safety net for themselves by intelligently planning for this stable, guaranteed lifetime income stream.

A single woman can potentially collect more lifetime income (longevity withstanding) by delaying the age at which she starts collecting benefits from eligibility at 62 up to the full retirement age (FRA) of 66 or even age 70, if possible. A married woman can take advantage of several rules and strategies to maximize her lifetime Social Security income. Understanding how the spousal income and survivor benefits work and correctly applying it in Social Security income planning can be a significant generator of additional income for a couple. And, as the likely survivor, it is critical for a woman to plan for maximizing this benefit as much as possible for the years she will be on her own. A divorced woman who has been married at least 10 years and divorced at least two years may be eligible to collect off her ex-spouse's earnings. She may collect these benefits as early as 62 while her earnings benefit

continues to grow due to "delayed retirement credits." A widowed woman can receive full survivor benefits when she reaches FRA or reduced benefits as early as age 60. Her benefit amount will depend on her age and on the amount her deceased husband was entitled to when he died. If he was already receiving reduced benefits, her survivor benefit will be based on that amount.

In summary, the Social Security

income election decision should not be made in a vacuum. Women should strongly consider working closely with a financial professional who has the experience and tools to guide them through the Social Security income election maze. The financial professional should also be able to help women synchronize their Social Security income election with their bigger picture retirement income plan. A woman's Social Security income

election is one of the most important money decisions she may make in her lifetime, so she will want to do everything possible to get it right and maximize this golden pool of income.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Daly Investment Management, 180 N LaSalle St Suite 3700 Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-239-1317, Email: john@dalyinvestment.com

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Snobs have given culture a bad name.

But culture is all around us in the simplest things. The roman orator Cicero first used

the term, and it meant literally, "cultivation of the soul".

I got a good look at our culture last month. Kudos to Consul General Aidan Cronin on the way he and his office handled the visit last week of Irish President Michael D. Higgins to Chicago.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Sunday night appearance by the President at The Irish American Heritage Center as well as the reception in his honor at the Drake Hotel on Monday night.

I was excited about meeting the President but also had an ulterior motive. As a filmmaker I've been trying to screen my film, "OUR IRISH COUSINS" in Ireland at one of their prestigious film festivals. I'm not naïve enough to think that you just submit your film and cross your fingers. I'm from Chicago, and I know that the best way to get into the club is to have your

Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



clout put in a good word for you. It goes back to the old adage of ward politics when precinct captains instructed those looking for a city job, "We don't want nobody, nobody sent!"

So I've been soliciting my friends in Ireland to help me lobby for the film. The film has a strong message for the Diaspora to "come home" to Ireland and will increase tourism to the Emerald Isle. And I've got the reviews and newspaper clippings to prove it. An Irish premiere would raise the profile of "OUR IRISH COUSINS" considerably for the good of dear aul' Ireland.

So who better to lobby for "OUR IRISH COUSINS" than the President of Ireland himself, Michael D. Higgins? I put together a plan to get the film into his hands while he was in Chicago last month.

My welcoming gift to Chicago for Michael D. included a DVD

of the film with press clips and a letter entreating him, I'm asking you, Mr. President, to be our champion. Please join

me in calling the Diaspora home to Ireland. And come home they will, to stimulate Irish tourism and ultimately benefit Kathleen Ni Houlihan.

I brought my welcoming gift with me on Sunday night to the Heritage Center. It was sold out and expectation was in the air as I grabbed a seat and tried to figure out how I was going to get the package into the President's hands.

Musicians gathered on the stage and the Heritage Center choir sang in Irish from the balcony before he made his appearance. A nice touch I thought as I sat back and continued plotting my delivery. Then a group of young Irish dancers took the stage, and put on a rousing performance. The Trinity Irish Dancers had just returned from the World Irish Dance Championships with a gold medal. They were terrific and put on a hard shoe routine

that rivaled Flatley's best and I suddenly felt myself brimming over with pride for these Chicago kids showing the President of Ireland their moves.

When the President finally spoke he talked of Irish and Irish-American culture and how it unites us all. I'm paraphrasing but what hit home for me was when he said culture was a living, breathing thing, constantly changing and morphing into an ever evolving celebration of the society that creates it. And right there, at that moment I could feel it. We were all a part of it, our Irish culture: mystical, spiritual, and enveloping us all in the love we share in our communal heritage.

President Higgins liberated Irish culture for me that night and reminded all of us that it starts in the heart of our very being and should be celebrated with song, dance, laughter and conversation. It's the craic!

A great thirst came upon me then and I left my seat to find refreshment and maybe a way backstage to deliver my gift. I roamed the hall of the IAHC and saw security everywhere and then happened upon a friendly face, Consul General Aidan Cronin himself. I'm sure he was slightly busy at that moment but I asked him anyway, "How can I get this into the President's hands?"

Leave it with me; I'll see that he gets it.

Jackpot! Now I could relax and have a pint.

Not taking anything to chance I put together an exact replica of the welcoming gift on Monday night for the reception at the Drake. It's not that I doubted Aidan but I wanted to put my film directly in Michael D's hands myself if the opportunity presented itself. And it did.

I met my pal Mike Joyce and his lovely wife Jamillah Ali for the re-

ception and was immediately enveloped in more Irish culture, Chicago style. One after another I happily engaged with friends in the community who have helped me over the years, all gathered in the ballroom of the Drake. I got in the receiving line and met the President and his wife Sabina and put my gift in his hands! Cliff Carlson took a picture!

Later on I watched Cardinal Francis George make his way up to the line to shake the hand of Michael D. Here's a guy who is undergoing chemo and is no doubt in terrible pain but made a special visit to meet the President of Ireland that night, to take part in our Irish culture.

"Cultivation of the soul", indeed!



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Guilty Pleasures

Christine Gallagher Kearney



When I think of my time living in Ireland, I often think of guilty pleasures. Taytos immediately come to mind, followed by a dinner from the "chippy," complete with a potato pasty.

It's easy to dismiss the nostalgic pull of certain foods, particularly guilty pleasure foods. In America, eating healthy is all the rage. But what about a one-off indulgence every once in a while?

This is my ode to Ireland's guilty pleasures.

I'm looking at you, Taytos brand crisps. The remarkable thing about these crisps is that they taste like real potatoes. I never thought this was possible until the moment on a balmy summer night in Belfast, long ago, when I bit into my first Tayto. The crunchy crisp melted in my mouth and the fine salt crystals danced on my tongue.

I clearly recall the taste and the thought that immediately followed: "I'm essentially eating a vegetable!" I didn't feel guilty munching a whole bag of crisps since they were almost "real potatoes." I even washed the whole thing down with a pint of Guinness.

Now, some of you may have a thing for Taytos' prawn cocktail flavored crisps. My apologies to you all, but I prefer the original. I'll eat the cheese and onion flavor and the salt and vinegar flavor, but I cannot, as hard as I've tried (and Lord knows I've tried), eat the prawn cocktail flavor.

Chalk that up to my childhood landlocked in the Midwest, where lake fish leapt into boats and onto plates. Needless to say, it's taken me a long time to appreciate seafood in all of its forms, some of which may never leave my plate and

will eventually be abandoned in the compost bin. Clean plate club be damned.

The Tayto prawn cocktail couldn't change my mind, but the battered cod from the chippy did. My first experience eating a real plate of Irish fish and chips was unremarkable, but it opened the door to a new



world of possibility: seafood I would be willing to eat!

Let's be honest about one thing: the bread batter certainly helps make eating fish easier for a seafood neophyte, like me, especially if the fish is unfortunately fishy — in other words, when it tastes like the bad smells at the fishmonger.

The other thing that makes fish-eating easier is getting fish and chips with a pasty side. A pasty is mashed up fried potato that comes in the shape of a hamburger. More potatoes!

But, I digress.

After I've finished a bag of original-flavored Taytos, then polished off my non-fishy fish and chips and pasty, I like to indulge in a Cadbury Flake. They say it's: "Only the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate, tastes like chocolate never tasted before." If you've never heard of this delightful chocolate treat, then you're in luck, because I am about to explain it to you.

The Cadbury Flake reminds me somewhat of a Kit-Kat bar because both are quite flaky. The best thing about the Cadbury Flake bar is that it comes in a dark chocolate flavor! Maybe I'm the only one who gets excited about dark chocolate because it often seems that the milk chocolate Flakes reign among my Irish lady friends.

Ultimately, this is what I love about guilty pleasure food: everyone has his or her own preferences, and most of the time, nutritional value is the last thing on anyone's mind. Taste reigns, even if it's artificial.

But hey, a one-off indulgence every once in a while never hurt anyone. Not even me.

A Recipe for Guilty Pleasures

1 bag original-flavored Taytos
1 fish and chip with a pasty side

1 Cadbury Flake, dark chocolate or milk

Take your time to enjoy all the flavors. Pair with a Guinness and reruns of Father Ted or EastEnders.



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LOOK OF THE LASS



Put Your Gansey On!

Growing up in an Irish household I heard the term Gansey quite often by my father when there was a complaint about it being too cold in the house or if you were going out and it was chilly. The word used in Irish is geansai, a Gaelicisation of Guernsey which has been re-Anglicised to gansey in Hiberno-English. My father would say sharply, "Put Your Gansey On!" That meant that either the heat was not going up, or beware if you were going outside in the cold for the fear of catching a cold.

What is a Gansey you ask? It's a sweater! I know – should we really be talking about Ganseys and sweaters now? Now, after we have finally had a few days of warmth! Absolutely it is time to talk about your Gansey. Now is the time to get your Gansey on sale!

Growing up in the Gavin household I learned another wise thing and that was from my mother. My mother always shopped at the end of the season. She would shop a season ahead. It was very smart and it was very clever and she taught me and my sister well. Our mother told us when you go shopping, do not look at the racks with the season looming upon you, look at the sales racks and think ahead. You will get the best deals and you will certainly end up with a



much finer wardrobe in the long run. Let's say you really want to buy a sweater and it is \$120 and there is no way in the world you are going to spend that type of money on just one Gansey. Now, let's fast forward to a few months later where you may find that same sweater now marked down say 60%. You can purchase the same Gansey for \$48 and put it away for the fall. What a great surprise you will have come fall when you open your box of treasures you bought at the end of the winter season. You will not only be excited about the season, but

you will have beautiful clothes that you may have even forgotten about.

So, what is the history of the Gansey, Aran Jumper or Irish Sweater as it is mostly called today by Irish Americans? These sweaters were originally knitted by the wives of island fishermen. It is said that the sweaters started in the Aran Islands that lies at the mouth of Galway Bay, at the mercy of the relentless Atlantic Sea. The women used unscoured wool that retained its natural oils (lanolin) which made the garments water-resistant, which was perfect for repelling water so there was no need to change due to the sweaters getting soggy. The Aran Sweater has been passed down from generation to generation, and has since become the ultimate symbol of Irish Clan heritage.

It has also been said that these sweaters were used to identify bodies of fishermen washed up on the beach by the stitching of the clan and families. Each family had their own design. There is an official register of these historic patterns that can be seen in the Aran Sweater Market on the Aran Islands. The Irish Sweater contains approximately 100,000 stitches and can take a knitter up

to 60 days to complete, and most of the stitches used in the Ganseys are taken from Celtic Art. Most sweaters are either made by machine or produced on a hand loom, unless you are lucky enough to have your Granny break out her knitting needles.

So, let's get out there and shop for those Irish sweaters now! Put them away and come fall you will be thrilled with yourself when you realize that you were so smart to purchase your Ganseys at the end of the season at marked-down prices.

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Irish import store operators, Paddy Barry (L), and his son, John, (R) enjoyed a visit with the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina at the Drake Hotel.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Silly Or Serious

I have just returned from another trip to our Nation's capitol and another round of meetings with congressional offices. The speaker of the House, John Boehner has said recently that he would like to pass immigration reform this year. And, the message coming from his colleagues in the republican caucus leaves one wondering, is the speaker party to a silly and worse still cynical political move or is he serious about convincing his party to finally get the job done.

I question the speaker's sincerity because this is an election year and many political pundits do not rate the chances of getting immigration reform done this year very highly. That said, there are some encouraging signs, Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R) from Washington State (and the fourth in the house hierarchy), made a statement saying that she sees an immigration bill coming to the floor before the August recess. If past history is to be seen as an inspiration for optimism, then, it is good to recall that two major pieces of immigration law were passed in "lame duck"

sessions, one in 1986 under Regan and the other in 1996 under Clinton. Each party can claim credit for action on an important piece of legislation after the elections.

The Irish President, Michael D. Higgins paid a visit to Chicago this past month and it was an honor to have him pay a visit to our office in the IAHC. The President is patron to the Irish emigrant chaplaincy in the UK and has both as an academic and public servant, taken a personal interest in migrant affairs for many years. He is a passionate supporter of social justice issues both in Ireland and abroad. He spoke eloquently of the need to do everything we can to support the undocumented members of our community. He also reminded us of the extraordinary contribution made by Irish people in the US and in the mid-west in particular. He expressed the hope that the plight of the undocumented would be resolved with legislation in the not too distant future.

Supposedly A True Story

When Gandhi was studying law at the University College of London, a white professor, whose

last name was Peters, disliked him intensely and always displayed prejudice and animosity towards him.

Also, because Gandhi never lowered his head when addressing him, as he expected... there were always "arguments" and confrontations.

One day, Mr. Peters was having lunch at the dining room of the University, and Gandhi came along with his tray and sat next to the professor. The professor said, "Mr Gandhi, you do not understand. A pig and a bird do not sit together to eat."

Gandhi looked at him as a parent would a rude child and calmly replied, "You do not worry professor. I'll fly away," and he went and sat at another table.

Mr. Peters, reddened with rage, decided to take revenge on the next test paper, but Gandhi responded brilliantly to all questions. Mr. Peters, unhappy and frustrated, asked him the following question. "Mr Gandhi, if you were walking down the street and found a package, and within was a bag of wisdom and another bag with a lot of money, which one would you take?"

Without hesitating, Gandhi responded, "The one with the money, of course."

Mr. Peters, smiling sarcastically said, "I, in your place, would have taken the wisdom, don't you think?"

Gandhi shrugged indifferently and responded, "Each one takes what he doesn't have."

Mr. Peters, by this time was fit to be tied. So great was his anger that he wrote on Gandhi's exam sheet the word "idiot" and gave it to Gandhi. Gandhi took the exam sheet and sat down at his desk trying very hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move.

A few minutes later, Gandhi got up, went to the professor and said to him in a dignified but sarcastically polite tone, "Mr. Peters, you signed the sheet, but you did not give me the grade."

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

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Francis Crowley holds an M.A. in education. He teaches traditional Celtic art, gives presentations of the Book of Kells in Chicago and nationally, and writes a column on the book for the Irish American News.

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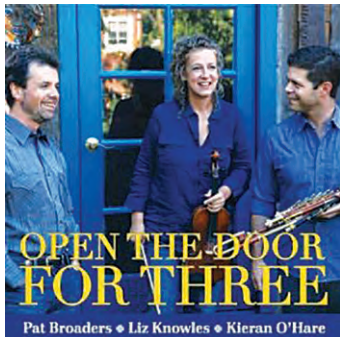


They say there aren't any giants in this world but I beg to differ. There are giants and a goodly share of them live in the Chicago area and play Irish music. I give you Liz Carroll and her new CD "On the Off Beat", certainly a giant piece of work

and one of the finest fiddle recordings I've ever heard. I give you Paddy Homan and his newest CD "The Hard Way Home", a giant recording and one of the best tenor voices ever. The list is nearly endless of the giants who live and play in this area and three of those giants have recently banded together to create

one of the sweetest recordings we've seen in quite awhile. Pat Broaders, Liz Knowles and Kieran O'Hare have released a CD titled, "Open the Door For Three", openthedoorforthree.com, and it is a giant accomplishment, to say the least. For those of you who don't know them, Pat plays bouzouki with an artistic touch that dazzles lesser mortals and a singing voice whose only fault is that we don't get the chance to hear it more often; Liz plays fiddle with a razor sharp style that leaves the ear wanting more and Kieran is a triple threat musician who's accomplished on uilleann pipes, whistle and flute. I had heard much about this CD and heard a couple of cuts on WDCB but it was a happy man who watched Pat roar up on his motorcycle recently to bring me a supply of these CDs. Where do you start on a CD that's this good? Not a bad track on this one and a couple that are even better than great, such as Pat's vocals on "Beeswing", words fail me, Liz's original composition "The Gift of Falling", loveliest fiddle piece I've heard in awhile and Kieran's piping on the first cut "Snug in the Blanket", I could listen to him play all day long. Yeah, there are giants and we are blessed with a bunch, listen to this CD and you'll agree. Good news is that "Open the Door For Three" will be playing at Milwaukee's Irish Fest this year and you can bet that if I can get away from the booth, I'll be sitting front row center.

Another nice note, Socks in the Frying Pan, that genius group from Ireland whose CD I was so taken with last year are going to be playing at Milwaukee and at Muskegon. I'll be looking forward to hearing these guys



in person. Literally, in this morning's mail I received a copy of the new recording from the "Bagpipes and Drums of The Emerald Society, Chicago Police Department" and I was proud to get it. The Emerald Society band started 32 years and I'm proud to say I carried a flag in the color guard, exactly twice, at the Vietnam Veterans parade in the 80's and again at the Cleveland Police Memorial when none of the regular color guard could make it. This police band is one of the few such bands to be able to proudly state that all members are active or retired law enforcement. There are seven members who have been with the band for all 32 years; Thomas J. Cody, piper; William Foley, piper; Pat-

rick Goodman, piper; Jack Lynch, piper; Si O'Donnell, piper; George Ohlin, piper and Daniel McGrory, piper. Under the direction of Pipe Major Bruce Quintos, the band has played parades, concerts and funerals for over three decades and has brought much honor to themselves as well as inspiring a lot of folks to learn the pipes. The band does not compete in pipe band competition but they have many fine pipers and drummers who could put together a competition band in a heartbeat if only there were more hours in the day. On their new CD, the band performs many of the pieces they're famous for such as "Balmoral", their "Quiet Man Set", "Fields of Athenry" and "Celtic Elvis". Their "Celtic Elvis" set consists of "Love Me Tender" and "Can't Help Falling In Love With You". These officers have a lot of fun with the music but that helps offset the feelings from Police Officers and Fire Fighters funerals that they play at. All in all it's a great CD from a great bunch who always put on a great show. Hope I'm around to see their next 32 years.

A little more good news. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (I'd call it Obamacare but some people froth at the mouth when they hear that), accordion great Jimmy Keane was finally able to get the hip replacement he so badly needed and was up walking within three hours of surgery, a tough boy that one. I hope that this means that we'll all be able to hear Jimmy's accordion more often now. Good on ya Jimmy!

June brings us the biggest and best bagpipe competition in the Chicago area. The Illinois St Andrew's Society Scottish Festival

and Highland Games, June 20th and 21st at Hamilton Lakes in Itasca, Illinois (www.chicagoscots.org) Most of the competition will take place on Saturday the 21st, starting early with the solo competition and ending with full band competition. Another highlight of the day will be the highland dance competition where you'll have a chance to see some of the top dancers in the world. There will be a host of other activities during the day, great fun for the whole family.

Just in, the date has been set for the Northwest Celtic Fest in Hoffman Estates at the Sears Center. The 4th annual fest will take place on Saturday March 21, 2015! Mark your calendar. To get a glimpse of this year's fest, check out the link on our website, www.rampantlion.com

All for now, catch me at the store, 630-834-8108 or on line at jack@rampantlion.com Slainté

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Gaelic Storm Set Sail to Deliver Hard-Hitting Show at Durty Nellie's

Gaelic Storm is bringing their high-intensity live show to Palatine, IL. The genre-bending quintet will howl through a set at Durty Nellie's on June 13th, flaunting their ruckus reputation. The group will perform in support of their most recent album, 2013's *The Boathouse*.

A seafaring album of traditional songs of the ocean, *The Boathouse* was recorded in one whiskey-fueled week in a converted boat-house on The Chesapeake Bay. The *Boathouse* is the first release from Gaelic Storm's "Small Batch Sessions," a new series that will offer truly exclusive releases only available for purchase on the band's website and at their live shows.

With catalog sales of more than 1 million, the group has now had four consecutive albums debut at #1 on the Billboard World Albums Chart: 2008's *What's the Rumpus?*, 2010's *Cabbage*, which remained parked in the top slot for three consecutive weeks, 2012's *Chicken Boxer*, and 2013's *The Boathouse*.

The Boathouse is the sixth album to be released on the band's

own label, *Lost Again Records*, and showcases the incomparable songwriting and accomplished musicianship of a band that has made their mark bringing fans to their feet 200 days per year.

In recent years, they've performed on the same bill with acts ranging from *Zac Brown Band* and the *Goo Goo Dolls* to *Emmylou Harris* and *Lyle Lovett*. Known for their unique blend of rock, bluegrass and African influences with a fiery, high energy Celtic foundation, Gaelic Storm shows have been called a "whirlwind ruckus" (*Village Voice*). Watch the video for "Rag and Bone" from 2012's *Chicken Boxer*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB8CuFPMKv8> "Its festive live show is the main reason every album the group has released over the past decade has reached the top three on the world-music charts." - St. Paul Pioneer Press

180 N. Smith St., Palatine, IL 60067
Doors @ 7PM / Show @ 8:30PM

Tickets At Durty Nellies!

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Are You Ready For A Few Late Spring Time Suggestions?

As the weather finally improves, let me offer some suggestions that should enhance your life. I have been working for a long time in a wide variety of organizations and I have learned a few things. Here are a dozen suggestions that spoke to me and hopefully will make good sense to you also.

1. Be courteous to everyone. First of all, it's the right thing to do. You also never know when some discourteous conduct is observed and will later haunt you. We often gauge things or people based on one or two (almost incidental) observations. So being discourteous to a waitress or a checkout clerk can affect how you are viewed by your "fellows." Conversely, a courteous person tends to be appreciated by everyone. Be respectful of everyone regardless of their station in life.

2. However good your communication skills are, work on improving them. The impressions we create in our conversations with others are often determined by how we express an opinion. Stay away from negative comments; find ways to state even negative thoughts with a positive halo to them. And by all means stay away from vulgarity; it is not normally appreciated. Think, even if only for a moment, before you respond to a significant question.

Re-read every one of your emails before dispatching; given the incredible speed of your mind and the relative slowness of your typing fingers, often critical words are left out of the message. The result is an inaccurate and/or confusing message.

3. Follow the advice of Kenny Rogers; know when to hold and when to fold. Sometimes we insist that our position on some matter is unquestionably correct. Please consider the possibility that you could be wrong; ad-

just your tone accordingly. You need not be disagreeable when you really only mean to simply disagree.

4. I would also recommend the quote attributed to Thomas Jefferson, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." The real challenge is to learn how to "stand like a rock" without conducting ourselves as rock heads. As someone else said, if you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

5. Seize the moment; take the initiative. When an opportunity presents itself that will allow you to

advance yourself, take the risk. As you know, we have become a very risk adverse society. Some studies say that our failure to take risks adversely affects our success. As General Colin Powell's *Leadership Primer* states, "don't wait until you have enough facts to be 100 percent sure because by then it is almost always too late."

6. When an opportunity surfaces that will allow you to help someone, take it. Most people find giving assistance to someone in distress is quite invigorating and satisfying. Haven't you found this to be true?

7. Maintain your honor. "Always tell the truth" does not mean that you have to immediately blurt out a criticism about some dreadful act. Rather it could mean that you should carefully develop what to say so that the truth is seen as that, not as an indictment of the other person or of their views.

8. Listen to your critics; their counsel can be invaluable, even if it is unwanted by you. Consider this rule; you will examine anyone's criticism of your actions. But of course after thorough consideration, you might decide that the criticism is unwarranted and invalid.

9. Be mindful of time. Be on time for meetings. Be prepared for meetings; do your homework before the meeting, not during the meeting. Develop your own agenda; what are the points that you want to share. Bring a positive idea or two to every meeting; do not arrive empty handed. Start your work day with a list of the most important tasks you need to accomplish that day.

10. Learn how to "sell" your ideas or programs, rather than bulldozing them through. This demands that you spend the time to develop and articulate a point of view. It's critical that you learn how to gauge the interest level of the other person.

11. The title of the song "Put on a Happy Face" constitutes great advice. No one likes to deal with a sour puss. A smiling face will often facilitate a discussion; you are signaling that you are a receptive person looking to solve problems, not create them. Remember the glass is always at least half full. In brief, be positive, be positive and then be positive.

12. There aren't many boring things in the world; however a lot of people are boring because they can't see the value or beauty of something or somebody. Your personality can be enhanced by your reading habits. If you read broadly you might well be seen as an exciting and interesting person to be around.

As you reflect on these suggestions, consider how helpful they will be in your day to day work life. We all like to deal with thoughtful, courteous, intelligent, and well-mannered individuals. Be one!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: *Much education today is monumentally ineffective. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants.*

John W. Gardner

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm. #630-684-2204, Web site: jamesffitzgerald.com.

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Celebrate Bloomsday at the School of the Art Institute

Bloomsday is coming. We will celebrate the life and work of James Joyce at the

School of the Art Institute... 37 S. Wabash, in Chicago... Monday, June 16 from 2:00 pm until 5:00. We will have open microphone readings of our favorite selections from Ulysses, and other readings from James Joyce. Irish stories and poems are also welcome. Please come and share your most beloved... but brief... bit of Irish Literature. This will be a fun, informal, entertaining and educational Irish Literary event.

Following the readings, we will continue the party by going across the street to Grant Park for a picnic. Richard Thompson, the wonderful poet



and traditional musician from the UK will performing. We will supply some food for the group, but we hope our friends will bring along their own picnic basket and a cooler of Irish beer.

This event is sponsored by the South Side James Joyce Society... St. Joseph and St. Aidan's Church in Blue Island and by the Veteran's Art Therapy Program at the Art Institute of Chicago.

For information contact Rev. Rod Reinhart 708-528-9862 or Suellen Semekoski 773-907-8182

President Kathleen Therese Meany, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, stated that "for the first time in the 124 year history of the District we have a female Head of Engineering, Catherine A. O'Connor."

O'Connor joined the MWRD in 1998 as an Associate Environmental Engineer and worked in an array of positions in the Engineering, Maintenance and Operations, Monitoring & Research Departments.

MWRD Executive Director, David St. Pierre added "Dr. O'Connor is the absolute best person to fill this very important role. She possesses the knowledge, skills and relationships it takes to manage and construct important projects that have a huge impact on the lives of the residents of Cook County."

Pictured, left to right, are Catherine A. O'Connor, David St. Pierre and President Kathleen Therese Meany.

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Save the Date

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www.WillCountyCelticFest.com

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

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

Irish in the Civil War Sunday July 13, 2014

Joliet Historical Museum, 1 PM
The Irish American Society of County

Will is hosting a talk on the Irish in the Civil War, conducted by local expert, Brian Conroy. Conroy's interest in the American Civil War led to his involvement in bringing history to life as a Civil War Reenactor, first with Camp Douglas and currently with the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. Conroy began volunteering with the Will County Historical Society in Lockport as a docent and board member, as well as a museum assistant for the Joliet Area Historical Museum. In April 2013, he became a Certified Interpretive Guide with the



National Association for Interpretation, and has worked on interpreting 19th Century education, the Wells Corner School House from Homer Glen, and exhibits on Will County in the Civil War and World War I.

His presentation, entitled "The Irish in the American Civil War," will be on the Irish participation in and contribution to both sides of the American Civil War, the New York City draft riots, Irish regiments and notable Irish who fought, different flags used and more. The presentation will be held at the Joliet Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet at 1 PM. This is free to the public.

May Social in Manhattan, IL

Every month, the society tries to plan a social event around the county. May was held at the Bit

O'Blarney Pub & Grill in Manhattan after Murrigan's and Shamrock's rugby games. Previous socials were held at O'Charley's in Joliet, and at Tradition's in Joliet.



Murrigans Rugby

Murrigans came to defend their title this year as they won CARFU Ball in 2013. This year they took first again for 2014, going undefeated without a try scored against them all day. Scores from the matches were as follows: UIC 82-0, DePaul 64-0, Chicago Sirens 45-0.



Multicultural Palooza

June 28
Join the IASCW and other cultural organizations to celebrate diversity and ethnicity. Enjoy free admission to exhibits, demonstrations, music and dance performances. It will be held June 28 at the Joliet Area Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

County Will Irish Gather in honor of St. Patrick's Day

Over 100 members and friends of the IASCW gathered on March 16 to honor St. Patrick. The Mass and luncheon was held at the Joliet Junior College Renaissance Center ballroom in downtown Joliet. Attendees enjoyed the sounds of Casey McGrath's violin during cocktail hour. Dinner entertainment included the Sullivan school of Irish Dance and Harpist Janelle Lake.

Calendar of Events

Member Picnic at Rugby 7's Tournament
Sat June 7th Free

Cultural/Ethnic Palooza
Sat June 28th Free

Brian Conroy: Irish in the U.S. Civil War
Sun July 13th 1:00 PM
Joliet Area Historical Museum
Free

Milwaukee Irish Fest Bus Trip
Sat Aug 16th Leave: ?? a.m.
Return: 10 pm.

4th annual Celtic Fest
Sat-Sun Sept 6-7th
All day St. Joe's Park \$5

IASCW Annual Meeting
Sun Nov 2nd 1:00 PM
Joliet Area Historical Museum
Free

For more information, call 815-791-6424 or email tmb777@aol.com.

Kelly For Mayor?

William Kelly to make an announcement at 'Reform Chicago' Bash with Dick Morris on June 20 Chicago, Illinois, May 19, 2014 – Former White House advisor and best-selling New York Times author Dick Morris will join William J. Kelly for a special reception a spirited televised town hall on the critical issues facing real Chicagoans on Friday June 20th.

After a private VIP roundtable, the televised town hall will take place and Morris, Kelly, and a panel will take questions and comments from the audience on issues such as the pension crisis for police, firemen, teachers, and city workers, education, and Chicago's violence epidemic. Mayor Rahm Emanuel's job performance, his poor approval ratings, and the CNN 'Chicagoland' controversy will also be discussed.

After the town hall, guests are invited to an after party with food, Irish dancers, bagpipers, and a cash bar.

Kelly says that he will also be making an announcement at the event that will have a major impact on the 2015 mayoral elections.

"I can tell you this much: that the real people of Chicago deserve a real mayor," Kelly said when asked if he was running for Mayor. "Chicago has become a city of the 1%, a city of elites. Rahm's billionaires might be better off with him as mayor but are real Chicagoans better off? The answer is no."

"We need to create the financial climate that brings jobs back for real Chicagoans and rollback property taxes so that families and businesses can prosper. There are corrupt practices and wasteful government inefficiencies that real Chicagoans can no longer afford. We have to crackdown on those practices now," Kelly adds. "We have to restore law and order so Chicagoans can walk down the street in safety. Finally, we have to make education a priority and help our teachers train Chicago's leaders of tomorrow. That needs

to be the focus if we are going to make it Chicago again."

Kelly is the host of Power Player, an entertainment-driven news program that airs on Tribune's 24-hour news network CLTV.

A life-long Chicago, Kelly was born in the city's Beverly neighborhood, which is part of the 19th



ward. William's mother, Barbara Kelly (née Anderson), is a retired public schoolteacher. His father, William Francis Kelly, a Naval veteran of WWII, was the principal of Abbott Elementary School in Chicago, educating underprivileged children in the city's Armor Square neighborhood for decades. Kelly's family emigrated to the U.S. from Sweden and Ireland. His great grandparents were from County Mayo, Ireland.

A life-long Chicagoan, Kelly graduated from Christ the King grammar school and Quigley Preparatory Seminary South. While at Quigley, Kelly was a regular contributor to the "Mass for Shut-Ins" TV program on WGN-TV. While attending Loyola University of Chicago, he was elected

sophomore class president. His senior year, he attended Loyola's Rome Center and spent the year, traveling throughout Europe.

In 2010, Kelly ran for Illinois Comptroller on a platform of "exposing insider deals" and making government "more transparent." He came in second in a tough three-way primary battle against incumbent Judy Baar Topinka.

A veteran TV producer of Emmy award-winning programming, Kelly questioned then candidate Rahm Emanuel about his lack of Chicago residency in a sidewalk interview back in 2010. The incident went viral after a CBS reporter threatened to deck Kelly. Some say that Kelly lost his radio show on AM 560 WIND after he filed a legal challenge to Emanuel's mayoral petitions based on residency.

Kelly also founded the Knights of Columbus Mother Cabrini Chapter and served as Grand Knight. He is currently the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Chicago Division #1. He also serves on the Finance Council of the Irish American Heritage Center.

Kelly organized a successful fundraiser through the Ancient Order of Hibernians for Irish exchange student, Natasha McShane, last fall.

Tickets for the Reform Chicago TV Town Hall and after party reception go on sale this week www.williamjkellyforchicago.com with suggested donations of \$20 per ticket. For VIP roundtable and host committee sponsorship opportunities, contact Reform Chicago at (312) 768-8683.

Mary Ellen Considine



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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Looking Up When Things Look Down

April 15th is not usually a day many people look forward to. If thoughts of tax deadlines weren't bad enough, I awoke to a spring day both chilly and cloudy.

Then it started snowing. Snow? Really? I looked down at my smart phone and noticed an e-mail from the boss at my former radio station here in the Lake Geneva, Wisconsin area. Aha! My triumphant return to a Saturday radio show I once hosted would be coming true.

Well...no it wouldn't. The note was a polite thanks for my offer to fill a seeming vacancy but nothing

more. Obviously the little station had other plans.

Sigh. Don't even ask about happy returns. The only thing I'll be returning is 10 Benjamin Franklins to the IRS whenever I can afford it, which will be no time soon.

I trod through the snowfall to the Williams Bay post office and ran into the director of the tours for the nearby University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory.

Would he open the facility for the rare total lunar eclipse due just after midnight?

"No...unfortunately total cloud



cover is predicted and it will be very cold tonight," he replied as he turned up his collar and headed back outside into the January scene that pelted down upon the April day.

Total cloud cover indeed.

I went through the day vaguely down about life, not quite content about the present and no exciting hopes for the future.

I couldn't quite put my finger on why I wasn't content. I have a wonderful place to live, Williams Bay is restful, exciting and adventurous in all kinds of seasons. God has blessed me in numerous ways.

The ultimate barometer of whatever was bugging me hit the scale with a miniature tiger roar and a fluff of red-orange fur as Kitty the cat leapt on my bed at midnight. As I lay on my side feeling funky she stretched out on my hip, yawned and fell asleep with a whirring purring.

She always knows when I'm upset and immediately applies an ample helping of purring cat.

"Jesus came that you might have life and have it abundantly," the local preacher had just said

Interceltic Festival in Lorient France Celebrates Ireland This Year Aug 1-10

Brittany, France August 1-10, 2014 will hold the largest festival in France attracting more than 700 000 visitors every year.

The Interceltic Festival in Lorient unites all the celtic countries (Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Galicia (Spain), Asturias (Spain) and Acadia (Canada) as they show off their culture and heritage.

Every year one of these coun-

tries is the country of honour and for 2014 it is Ireland.

More than 200 concerts are planned, as well as unmissable events such as the Big Parade of celtic nations (large procession with 3500 performers in traditional costumes and interceltic nights at the Moustoir stadium.

For more information visit <http://www.festival-interceltique.com/>

three minute drive to the Yerkes Observatory.

Beneath the terra cotta gargoyles and three telescope domes I went to the front door and rang the doorbell...it resounded and echoed like the campus bells of the University of Chicago itself, but I was about the only one there in the Wisconsin countryside.

With a lone amateur photographer for company I gazed up at a glorious sky of hundreds of stars and planets and a bright red moon hung like a lantern by the Creator.

Down in Chicago a crowd had gathered at the Adler Planetarium but their skies were blocked. On the radio WGN's Nick Digilio tried without luck to establish a connection with Adler.

When I called in the producer put me on immediately with Nick and I gave an eyewitness report that went out across to much of America just as the most dynamic moment happened when the Sun spun out of the Earth

's shadow just enough to backlight one side of the auburn lunar celestial body.

Live radio. It doesn't get any better than that.

Time and again God has made big things out of small things, and victories out of defeats. People out of dust. A defeated giant out of small stones. A meal for thousands out of two loaves and five small fish.

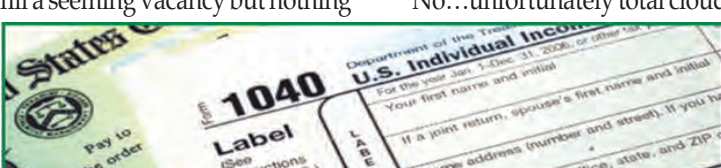
Is it any wonder than that He could take a dreary day of little expectations and turn it into a night of the biggest tapestries and the largest forum?

Maybe the little radio station didn't have anything for me. The biggest station surely did. The only expectation we need is to trust God and his promises to make all things new.

You can find it in the Old Testament of the Bible and repeated in the New: "The Sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, on the great and magnificent day of the Lord."

The Maker of the Moon and Sun and Earth sets it all in motion and knows what's best. No reason to look down, and every reason to look up.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com



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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



and federal programs. We can also assist in filing applications for some of these benefits. If you

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 HERITAGE CENTER - TARA CLUB
Wednesday, 11th June 2014 – Celebrating Another Great Year! Joint Meeting with Tír na nÓg

It's hard to believe it's almost time for our summer break! This week we will offer Mass in celebration of another great season together and the many wonderful programs we enjoyed this year. Meetings will resume in September at the IAHC.

GAELIC PARK – EMERALD CLUB
Wednesday, 18th June 2014 – Celebrating another Great Year

As we break for the summer we will mark the conclusion of another wonderful year of senior group meeting by celebrating mass at Gaelic Park. We wish our seniors a happy and health summer and look forward to more fun in the fall.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LONELY SENIORS

We are still recruiting volunteers for the upcoming Chicago launch of Irish Senior Connect, a telephone listening line geared towards Irish and Irish American older adults. A key component to the success of ISC is the volunteers that assist in running the listening line. There are a variety of opportunities to get involved in this meaningful project whether you want to man the phone lines and provide your own listening ear to isolated seniors or you would prefer to be involved in

the planning and development of the service. Volunteers are provided with training and support at all times. If you would like to get involved or would like to know more about ISC please call me at the CIIS office on 773-282-8445.

BENEFITS ENROLLMENT

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is currently enrolling low income seniors into benefit programs that can help them to meet expenses related to food, utility bills, and healthcare. Using a quick screening tool we can determine eligibility for hundreds of local, state,

think that you or someone you know could use some assistance please call our office on the number above.

TELL THE TRUTH AND SHAME THE DEVIL

It's few of us who can say that we do not indulge in the occasional white lie. Sometimes a mistake can lead us directly into the firing line and a creative retelling of the facts is a necessary maneuver to avoid a good tongue lashing. At other times a fib is needed to lubricate social interactions and avoid embarrassment. Often a lie must be employed to get you out of an arduous task (the convenient onset for back pain, for example)! However, our little departures from the truth may actually be doing us more harm than good. I recently stumbled upon an article in Time Magazine which suggested that telling the truth may make you healthier. The article explored a study conducted by a professor of psychology at Notre Dame University. The average American lies about 11 times each week. The study recruited 110 adults and asked half of them to stop lying for 10 weeks. A lie was defined as 'any false statement', but did not include things like omitting the truth, keeping secrets, or dodging questions they did not want to answer. A reduction in lying was reported by both groups but the group that was told specifically to stop lying reported an improvement in their mental health by experiencing a reduction in instances of negative emotions such as sadness or stress. Many also reported a reduction in negative physical conditions such as headaches or sore throats. Over all, fewer lies mean fewer health concerns. So there you have it; telling the truth is good for the soul and good for the body!

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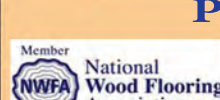
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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The New Land League

An organisation has formed in the past month in Ireland to combat the repossession of land and property. The self-styled "New Land League" takes its mandate from the extraordinary efforts of Parnell and Davitt in the 1880s to achieve the return of Irish land to Irish people. As the organiser of The New Land League, Jerry Beades stated, expressing his frustration with the banks: 'Are they going to evict them all? It's impossible. They have to come up with meaningful and realistic solutions'.

Good to know that some people are realistic about facing up to the problem. So, finally, is there a body strong enough to coerce the banks into confronting the issue of private debt? Do not count on it. The New Land League is a nascent entity with big ideas and a small following. Also, it is founded on a somewhat specious non-party political premise. Its organisers might study their history a little more, and take a steer from historical precedent on that matter. A central reason for the success of Michael Davitt's Land League is attributable to his good judgement in allying himself with Charles Stuart Parnell. That the 'Uncrowned King of Ireland' picked up his crown from the potato patch was as true as it was a rapid progression. With societal and political concerns so tightly organised, the British government began to concede ground (pun intended) to The Land League almost immediately.

Aside from the lack of party political underpinning, the new incarnation of The Land League needs, paradoxically, a more intense face-off than the one that currently exists in Ireland. After all, repossessions have so far been relatively rare in Ireland and The New Land League's importance will be proportional to the degree of provocation its members receive.

Such repossessions as do take place are often sold at auction, but what is never reported is that those auctions constitute a very interesting development for any group that pretends to subvert the government and banking hegemony. Restricting this discussion to rural Ireland, there exists revolutionary tendencies in events that occur before, during and after many auctions in Ireland today—if that potential could be translated into political action. How many times does the buyer at an auction of a seized property covertly represent the former owner who is, technically, bankrupt but has in fact squirreled off funds to buy back the property through the dummy bidder? How often must a new owner pay an auctioneer a pre-agreed amount of money under the table, say thirty percent of the asking price, which is kicked back to the original owner as a sop? How often does an auctioneer consent to market properties in a fire sale only if they were built by an out-of-town builder, and refuse to have anything do to with purveying the properties of

a local builder? You get the picture.

Even those banks that dare to appoint repossession sheriffs to muscle in on hapless people in arrears can be foiled by their own chain of command. It has been known in the past two years for a sheriff to be openly contemptuous of his hirer: to arrive at a site on a mission of snatching assets and 'not see' anything worth taking. If banks are slow to repossess holdings in Ireland there are compelling reasons for their hesitancy. The New Land League might focus on publicising quite how faulty and risky the banks' repossession mechanisms are.

But then there is the really alarming stuff. Consider the case of an entrepreneur who took over a repossessed filling station and shop in Blacklion, Co. Cavan, a whisker's distance from the border with the Northern Irish State. Ordinarily, such a business should be profitable. Filling stations on the Southern side of the border bring a steady stream of traffic from the North, where petrol and diesel are more expensive. But after the ousting of the owner and the new broom's arrival, business declined. The new man's tenure ended after his son, who was tending the cash register alone one night, received baseball bat wounds to the head from attackers wearing balaclavas. Shortly afterwards, the thugs went for the property itself: during the night on March 6th this year, a Hymac Caterpillar, which was being used for roadworks beside the station and left by the roadside overnight, was hijacked and its bucket arm repeatedly rammed into the building almost triggering a fire that could have incinerated the town. The fuel station reverted to receivership, where it languishes. It is a damaged, vacant lot—a metaphor for what banks have made of much of the country.

The most systematic breach of the peace in Ireland vis-à-vis property has surrounded Seán Quinn's estate. A border businessman of humble origins who became the wealthiest man in Ireland, Quinn is now routinely in the High Court in Dublin to salvage what he can of the empire he built up, predominantly close to the border, on both sides.

But would-be repossessors of Quinn's businesses are on the ropes too. Things began badly for them when, on August 8th 2011, the home of Paul O'Brien, the man appointed chief executive to the Quinn Group by receiver KPMG, was attacked. Intimidation has steadily continued. Today Quinn's businesses and assets are attacked about on average once a fortnight; the attacks, redolent of the IRA's "economic targets", are not faint-hearted and they have repelled investors.

How could such maniacal practices take hold in a country where they would have been unthinkable ten, even five, years ago? It is as though a national psychodrama is playing out to find a cure that is already commonly known. We know that the banks need to write down loans to keep businesses going. We know that appointing receivers will not be widely accepted by local communities. Proper leadership would not go through the painful motions, but rather insist on an immediate solution. The New Land League's frustration is very widely shared and their arguments for a solution are solid. But they need a leader to drive them.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell



Hi Everybody,
Margo will be back again next month. I'm sure you all join me in sending thoughts and prayers to Margo and all her family on the recent loss of their mother, Julia O'Donnell R.I.P. I know Margo will miss her very much, she would talk to her Mom two or three times everyday. I guess no matter how long you have a parent, when you lose one it creates a great void that only they can fill.

This month has been so mixed with different emotions, a lot of which have been very hard on the heart strings. I sat through the sentencing of Herberto Veramontes. I was there along with Natasha McShane's family and I listened to the statements from Stacy Jurich and Natasha's mom Sheila. It was very emotional. It was also very hard to listen to the defense attorney's trying to make little of it, albeit they're entitled to there say. Veramontes showed no signs of remorse and ended his little rant with god bless you guys and didn't even look at the McShane family. Who he referred to as guys. He was handed a sentence of 90 years, so with time

off for good behavior, of which he knows nothing. Plus time already spent in jail. He will be 105 when he comes ready for parole. But as Sheila McShane said to the judge "what ever sentence you give to him. Natasha is serving a life sentence of her own for doing nothing wrong".

A happier thing this month was Nathan Carter did not disappoint his audience. He had them dancing and singing along and I'm pretty sure he left a great impression behind him here in Chicago. There is something very special about that young man. He did his final show on Sunday (memorial weekend) and the next day, him and the band headed for Nashville, where he will record 4 songs. One of them is a song called "Caribbean Feelin'" which Margo, James Thacker and I wrote with him.

Other news - our good friend and sometimes writing partner Gerry Carney will be

in Chicago the last weekend in June and first two weekends in July. He will be performing at the Irish American Heritage Center Irish Fest. He will also be doing some local gigs while he is here. Gerry is a very accomplished song writer who I have the greatest respect. His family are having a very hard time right now as they spend most of their time at the hospital with Gerry's brother Paul. Paul is very sick so it would be really nice if you will include him in your prayers.

Hopefully we will be back next month with some good news. Our song this month is a song that Margo and I wrote with Gerry Carney. It is one of the tracks on my latest CD which is titled "You've Got My Heart". The idea for the song came from a conversation with Gerry about his brother, Paul Carney. Margo and I said we would keep Paul in

our prayers. Gerry said I believe in prayer. The three of us said we believe that every prayer is

heard. So the song was born. Until next time, be good to each other. Joe

"Every Prayer Is Heard"

Written by Gerry Carney, Margo O'Donnell and Joe McShane

Verse 1

Sometimes the stars will flicker in the sky
Somtimes tears will fall from our weary eyes
And feeling like no body hears a word
Its good to know that every prayer is heard

Verse 2

In a heartbeat our life can change direction
But silently our thoughts can reach to heaven
Though loaded down with pain so hard to bear
I just feel inside that every prayer is heard

Chorus

Gonna look up to heaven when I can
To feel the comfort from a blessed hand
A ray of light from heaven shines on earth
And I believe that every prayer is heard

Verse 3

As I bow my head tonight in search of grace
This precious gift will take me to a place
Where all of my belief will be conferred
Because I believe that every prayer is heard

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CIE TOURS
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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



"Exhausted and joyful!" That is how Kate Mulvaney, Director of Catholic Charities Health Initiatives, describes how she feels after one of Catholic Charities' five Health Fairs offered in underserved communities throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. Kate says there is such great need for the Health Fairs, that she often wonders how we are going to serve all the people. But, by God's good grace, we always get that one extra physician or hospital group who volunteers at the last minute and helps us meet the staggering need. It almost sounds like the miracle of the loaves and fishes!

Catholic Charities Health Fairs began twelve years ago as a direct result of greater numbers of people coming to us with unmet medical needs—needs that continue to this day despite policy changes to expand health care. Many people lack a "medical home," a place to receive regular health care, often relying on the closest emergency room for routine medical care; many are uninsured, and those that are insured cannot afford their co-pays and deductibles; and many, especially immigrants, are mistrustful of medical establishments and have significant language barriers, forgoing necessary medical treatment because they do not understand or are afraid.

Letting medical needs go unchecked greatly diminishes people's ability to move out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency because poverty and health are inextricably linked. The poor are exposed to greater personal and environmental health risks, are less well nourished, have less information and are less able to access health care; they thus have a higher risk of illness and

ing ability, reduce productivity, and lead to a diminished quality of life, thereby perpetuating or even increasing poverty. In short, those living in poverty are much more likely to be sick, and it is very difficult for sick people to move out of poverty.

When Catholic Charities created our Medical Council to help us with the Health Fairs in 2002, we had no idea that the Fairs would blossom into such a vital service that today help over 1,200 people annually. By recruiting major medical schools, local hospitals, and hundreds of volunteer medical professionals to donate services and supplies, and partnering with local parishes to provide the space, the Health Fairs are completely free of charge, wonderfully comprehensive, and offered in a safe, trusted environment right in the most needy communities.

When an adult or child comes to a Catholic Charities Health Fair, they receive a full physical, as well as any relevant tests the physician deems necessary such as on-site screenings for bone density, lead, diabetes, podiatric problems, or glaucoma. They also receive full dental exams, vision testing, and children can be brought up-to-date on all immunizations. Most importantly, every patient receives one-on-one education in their own language or through an interpreter on their specific health needs, and is connected with a "medical home," so that proper follow-up can occur and future medical needs can be addressed.

Catholic Charities Health Fairs are filled with the spirit of Christ and are a great gift to all involved. The patients are deeply grateful, offering warm hugs, melt-your-heart smiles, and sometimes even baked goods to the volunteers to show their appreciation. The medical volunteers are thankful that they have an opportunity to use their unique skills to do God's work. Catholic Charities and our parish partners are blessed to bring these two groups together to improve lives and help people live with greater dignity. The fact that we can come together to serve this many people in such a positive way truly is a miracle—but then again, nothing is impossible with God!

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



This month is all about two wonderful cd's. Very different. But they share one commonality—extremely talented people involved in both.



First up: Tuning the Road by Louise Mulcahy. You know Louise Mulcahy. If you don't, you should. She is part of the ever-fab Mulcahy family. I believe they are out of Leitrim in Ireland. Dad Mick raised Louise and sister, Michelle deeply in the tradition, and has produced two of the most influential practitioners of our music. Michelle has been honored in this column several times for her work as traditional music's most influential harpist. She is a wonder, to be sure. But ah, her sister! Both girls are now in their early 20's. Both are gorgeous, and both are massively talented.

Irish music has the power to make young girls into beautiful women. It is just the fact and not to be questioned. Play Irish music young, and you will be a total fox forever. Louise was correctly known as a child prodigy on the uilleann pipes. She's also a wonderful flute player, and all of that is here on this cd. It is on Clo iar-Chonnacta. She is joined by several star musicians. Who would not want to be on this cd with her? There are 14 cuts on the cd. There is more flute than pipes featured. Occasionally, Louise will lapse into a common error of young flute players in pushing your instrument too hard and giving it too much of an edge. However, the overwhelming majority of her flute playing on this

cd shows an ability and taste far beyond her years. Her piping is, as usual, flawless. Oh, oh, to have been around in the days when dad Mick packed up his button box, his daughters and their instruments, and played sessions at every performance opportunity they could. Magic times. But, at the end of all those miles and all those hours, we have Louise and her sister, Michelle. Thank heaven and thank Mick. This album will immediately qualify Louise for finalist consideration for Female Musician of the Year. We are at a loss to see who could beat her. The Mulcahys are now central to the tradition, and that means that the tradition is in good hands. Roll on, Louise and Michelle!

Next up, a wonderful find. The O'Schraves are based out of Camden. This is another real family-ish group. We are not sure how they are all related, except musically, (we ran out of time on deadline). We do know that it is the best family act in the business. We know that they are extremely close friends, extremely close musically, and they love the French-Canadian approach to the music. "Schryer" is the key name

here that brings all this together. I realize now I'm spending way too much time in trying to figure out how these family members are related. Far more important is the album entitled, Family Day. There is such a breadth of music here. There are 15 tunes and songs. We admit to being a sucker for a waltz, and there are two gorgeous ones here. But these Canadians who are based, we believe, in Sault St. Marie play all their music with such verve, ability and taste that it is hard to pick favorites. Find this cd. Up until a short time ago we had no idea that the O'Schraves even existed. Thanks to Imelda Bhroga's and my Dublin-based Sunday



show, LiveIreland.com, listener Gail Conrick (herself a Canadian) brought the family to our attention. We owe her one! This is sensational, and a real find. Over the years, we have joined you, the

reader, in looking forward to the big new cd's out from all the big names in the business. Also, over the years, nothing has pleased us more than to become suddenly aware of a more unknown act. It is truly like finding a diamond in a clear stream. Wonderful. Fresh. So it is with the O'Schraves. We think of the Bluegrass families like the Cherryholmes, now retired, and other family groups on the road currently, in Irish music. You know who they are. They are good, if basic. Then come the O'Schraves. This is another level entirely, and we are members of the fan club instantly. They are a worthy and early favorite for Newcomers of the Year. We've

talked with you before of how difficult it is to describe a cd with the written word. Hopefully you've come to trust our ear when you come to spend money on a cd. This isn't like the old days when you could go into a booth in a record store and listen to an entire album before you bought it. So, finally, any music journalist has to ultimately just say, "Trust us." The O'Schraves and Louise Mulcahy are the real deal. Wow! Trust us.

Don't forget to join Imelda and me on Sundays at noon on LiveIreland.com out of Dublin, Ireland for the world's most listened to Irish music program, the Bill and Imelda Show. We also want you to join us Monday nights at 10pm for House Party on WDCB, 90.9 fm and wdc.org. The show features bluegrass, some Irish and some Cajun. We have a ball. And so will you. We also have the facebook page where Imelda and I hang out and chat with you during the show--House Party WDCB. Hope to see you for both shows every week. And, don't forget Maryann Keifer on WDCB at 9:00 with Ireland Tonight!

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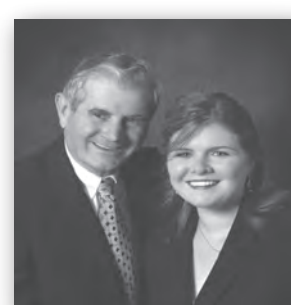


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Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



What Was It The Vikings Did? Part 1

Viking's invasion Timeline of Ireland and Britain is not listed with certainty. Records I've searched contain a mixture of verified facts, legends and errors. Also, similar names of kings appear often in these histories.

789 First recorded Viking raid in Dorset, southwest coast of Britain. They killed at least one person.

793 Vikings raid monastery of Lindisfarne, Northumbria. An Anglo-Saxon native of Northumbria at the court of Charlemagne wrote of the attack: "Never before has such an atrocity been seen." He added, "It was God's punishment on the kingdom for its fornication, adultery, incest and greed." That sounds familiar.

795 Vikings attack Iona, Scotland, for the first time. First recorded raid on Ireland was the monastery of Rechru on Ratlin Island in County Antrim.

798 Ratlin, Isle of Skye, attacked.

802 Iona attacked for second time, Church pillaged and burnt. Remember, this is the monastery founded by St. Colum Cille, where work on the Book of Kells was probably begun. Book was not listed as stolen.

806 Vikings attack Iona again.

This time they kill 68 monks. Again, the Book of Kells was not discovered by the Vikings.

807 Surviving Monks in Iona evacuate the relics and what is thought to be the Book of Kells to land granted them in Kells, Co. Meath. (At that time the Book was called 'Colum Cille's Book.')

823 Vikings visit Blasket and Saltee islands.

824 Skellig Michael Island attacked. Abbot was taken away, died sometime later.

825 The monk Blathmac at Iona refused to tell Viking raiders where Column Cillis relics and portable shrine were hidden. They kill him.

835 Danish Vikings attack the Wessex King Ecgbeht with the aid of their Cornish allies.

837 Turgeis attacks Ireland with 120 ships. Sixty sail up the Boyne and 60 sail up the Liffey. He takes the fishing village of Dublin and builds a secure fort. It is his base for further raids. He continues his conquests in Ireland and settled what became the first urban centers: Dublin; Wicklow; Wexford; Waterford; Cork and Limerick. He also raided locations in Wales.

839 Vikings raid and destroy two churches in Armagh.

845 The Annals of Ulster report the death of Turgeis, the leader of the settlement at Dublin. He was captured by Irish soldiers and drowned in Lough Owel in West Meath. There are a number of legends about his capture and death, and the spelling of his name.

851 According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, King Athelstan of Kent led an attack against a Viking invasion off the coast of Sandwich, England. His navy captured nine ships but the rest escaped. His brother, Aethelwulf of Mercia, was killed by a Viking raiding party.

856 Rhodri Mawr The Great of Gwynedd and Powys (Wales) defeated Viking raiders.

867 Two rivals for the kingship of Northumbria, Osberht and Aelle, were in the thick of battle near York. The Viking's "Great Army of Conquest" showed up and saw an opportunity. The Vikings defeated both armies and killed both of their leaders. The "Great Army" went on the attack in the surrounding countryside and killed many people outside and inside the town of York. Then headed south for more battle. Later the town was renamed "Yorvik," and became the Viking capital.

869 Yorvik became stronghold for continued conquest of Britain. They moved into East Anglia and battled the forces of King Edmund. After his army was defeated and he was killed, the Vikings cut Edmund's head was cut

off and threw it away to prevent a proper burial. Finally, his head and body were brought together and buried in East Anglia. The location is known as "Bury St. Edmunds." Oddly enough, that name was used as a pseudonym for a Chicago theater critic in the 70s.

870 Vikings raids in northern Britain near Scotland led by Ivarr the Boneless and Olaf the White. The Vikings captured the king of Strathclyde and took him back to their camp in Dublin.

871 A number of battles between Vikings and a Wessex army led by brothers Aethelred and Alfred. Aethelred was killed during the fights and eventually Alfred became king.

874 The monastery of Ripton on the River Trent became a Viking base. They sent a raiding party south to Mercia, were met by King Burhred who escaped defeat, fled to Rome where he later died.

877 Welsh King Rhodri Mawr had to escape to Ireland after a defeat by the Vikings in Anglesey.

878 King Rhodri Mawr returns to Anglesey to fight the Vikings. He is killed in battle.

880 An Irish monastery in France, Perrona Stockroom, is attacked and destroyed by Vikings.

886 Now some developments take place that utterly change the power relationships. Alfred, King of Wessex takes London and makes a treaty between himself, Viking leader Guthrum and the East Angles. Alfred and Wessex rule the west and Vikings control the east. English and Viking laws were considered equal. "Danelaw" is established.

899 Alfred kept his kingdom free of Viking raids, (see above) After he died, his son Edward the Elder gathered the Wessex army to retake the west from the Vikings.

918 Aethelflaed, the daughter of Alfred of Wessex was the widow of her uncle, Aethelred. She moved into Viking territory and built fortifications. As her effort started to succeed, she died.

919 New waves of Vikings attacks begin in Ireland. King Niall Glundubh organized the clans in the north of Ireland and all the branches of the Ui Neills (O'Neill). Battles did not go well for his armies. He headed south to Dublin

and was overwhelmed by Vikings. In the battle, King Niall and 12 other Kings were killed.

927 Altheistan of Wessex retook Yorvik (York) and Cornwall from Vikings and Welsh Kings agreed to pay annual tribute to him.

937 Dublin Viking settlement was secure and thriving. The armies of Viking King Olaf Guthfriths of Dublin joined with the Kings of Strathclyde and other Scots to invade England. Athelstan of Wessex joined with West Saxons and Mercians to defeat the invaders.

946 Altheistan of Wessex dies. He is succeeded by his half-brother Edmund. In an encampment of his army, a fight started among his troops. In an effort to stop it, Edmond was killed.

954 Eric Bloodaxe, son of Harald Finehair, King of Norway, was invited to protect the town of Yorvik from Scots and Irish invaders. He failed. As he was escaping to the north, he was caught and killed.

991 Danish Vikings invaded Essex and slaughtered the defenders.

1007 The Church at Kells was raided. Among other valuables, they find the Book of Kells. The valuable covers were ripped off and book inside was discarded. It was found two months later. About 28 pages were lost.

1013 Swein Forkbeard, son of the Danish king Harold Bluth, raided England for 20 years. He finally led a major invasion of east England called the Danelaw area. He then turned south invaded London. Aethelred escaped to Normandy in France. The whole country was then under Danish Viking control.

1014 The power of the Vikings in Ireland was broken by Brian Boru, King of Munster and considered High King of Ireland. He defeated the Vikings and their allies from Leinster. However, Boru was killed after the battle. and the hope of uniting Ireland died with him. Swein Forkbeard died.

1016 Aethelred Died. Swein's son Canute and Aethelred's son Edmund made a truce to divide England between them. A short time later, Edmond died and Canute ruled alone. He became King of Denmark three years later.

Next: Part 2 The lasting influence of the Vikings.

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St. Mary's Camogie Club in Chicago

St. Mary's Camogie Club, formed in 1998, is based on the south side of Chicago and is currently the only camogie club in the city.

Camogie is women's hurling, an ancient Irish sport similar to field hockey and lacrosse. We just celebrated our 15th anniversary as a club this past year by winning a North American senior camogie championship! With a lot of hard work and local support, especially from

long-time sponsor, Jack Desmond's Irish Pub, we are proud to have won 5 senior titles since 2007.

We are comprised of both Irish and American-born women and are always looking for new members of any age. Being the only club in the city has its challenges, but we are fortunate that we have neighboring clubs in St. Louis, Indianapolis and Milwaukee whom we compete against in tournaments throughout the summer before playing in the North American finals every Labor Day Weekend.

Chicago is hosting the finals in September 2015 and we are aiming to have an all-American junior team to compete as well as our senior team. We are hosting our annual Camogie Development Tournament in Gaelic Park on Saturday, June 21st.



(l-r) Mary Redmond, Aileen Lawlor (President of the Camogie Association of Ireland) and Anne Redmond with the senior cup.

St. Mary's will welcome St. Louis and Indianapolis and will also run a FREE mini-camp for girls. Any girl under 16 is welcome, no experience is necessary! Any girl over 16 that wants to try camogie can come to the tournament or contact us through our website www.chicagocamogie.com. Tournament times and other info will be up on the website. We have a link there for kids as well! Irish students traveling to Chicago for the summer are also welcome to join!

Over the years, we have had women from all over Ireland play for us and their presence has really helped us grow our game. Speaking for my own club, our girls have learned so much by training with, and competing against, the high standard of Irish players and they are now taking their place on se-

Live On-Demand Streaming Service for GAA Games Now Being Offered

At an event in RTÉ recently, Noel Curran, Director General of RTÉ and Páraic Duffy, Director General of the GAA, launched GAAGO, the new subscription-based online streaming service, which will offer live and on-demand GAA games to audiences outside of Ireland starting with the 2014 GAA Championships. The event hosted in RTÉ's Studios, was live streamed online to an international audience.

Launching the new GAAGO service, Páraic Duffy, Director General of the GAA said, "We are delighted to announce details for GAAGO and we look forward to its roll out in the weeks and months ahead. For the first time our games will be available to followers around the globe through the same service and we are enthused at the prospect of making it easier for people - both

Irish and American - to watch our games. Our starting 13 senior panel in the final against Toronto last year included 6 American born girls, a number that is increasing every year. We have more Americans picking up the game each and every year with clubs sprouting up all over the country

Contact Ann at 708-220-9311

GAA members and new audiences alike - to make a connection with top level football and hurling regardless of where they might be. I would like to acknowledge the expertise that RTÉ have brought to bear on this process and we look forward to building on what is another important part of the global media rights strategy announced



Noel Curran, Dir. General of RTE and Páraic Duffy, Dir. General of the GAA, launched GAAGO. photo: ©INPHO/James Crombie

last month".

Noel Curran, Director General, RTÉ said, "The launch of GAAGO is the latest evolution in the long and proud shared history between RTÉ and the GAA. RTÉ's relationship with these games began in 1926 and has constantly grown and evolved with the audience and changing technologies ever since. Gaelic games, like RTÉ, are at the centre of Irish life. They are part of the very definition of our culture and identity. RTE is proud to be in partnership with the GAA to bring

our games to an international audience and provide a sense of home from home for Irish diaspora and GAA fans worldwide".

The new GAAGO subscription service will be available to Gaelic games enthusiasts everywhere in the world, outside of the Island of Ireland. All 45 televised games from the 2014 All Ireland Senior Football and Hurling Championships, as broadcast by RTÉ and Sky, will be available to watch this season. A worldwide GAAGO 'Season Pass' (excluding the Island of Ireland and Great Britain) is priced at €110

Pay-per-game priced at €10 will also be available to purchase. For the quarter-final, semi-final and final stages of the All-Ireland Championships the pay-per-game price is €14.

Games will be streamed in high-quality HD with full commentary, scores, and studio programming as broadcast to audiences in Ireland. Subscribers will be able to view the games online on any internet-enabled device including mobile phones, tablet devices and laptops.

For audiences worldwide, RTÉ's The Sunday Game highlights program will continue to be available free on RTÉ Player. Register for further information by visiting www.gaago.ie. Subscriptions are available to purchase in the lead up to the first game being streamed on GAAGO in mid-June.

Team picture from the finals in Cleveland (Labor Day Weekend 2013)



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