

Chicago Comedy Film Festival Screens 'The Yank'

*(l to r): Colm Meaney,
Niki Spiridakos, and
Sean Lackey, in 'The Yank'*



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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



years, including a bitter civil war, in which his government executed, controversially, without trial, seventy seven republicans arrested under emergency legislation.

His government went on to establish the institutions of the new state, including, crucially, a universally accepted and respected unarmed police force, in tandem with the downsizing of a large army. Economically he pursued prudent policies while diplomatically he sought to broaden the scope of Irish independence by pushing the limits of the "dominion status" accorded to Ireland by the peace treaty with Britain. Under Cosgrave Ireland remained a democratic state even as countries elsewhere were sliding into autocracy or dictatorship.

To Be A Taoiseach

Ireland's ninth Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, died recently after a cruel battle with Alzheimer's, only days before the 20th anniversary of the event that will forever define his political career – the 1994 IRA Ceasefire. His death brought to mind the, perhaps apocryphal, remark of his predecessor, Charlie Haughey that, while nobody would go down in history for fixing Ireland's economy, whoever solved the Northern Ireland problem WOULD be remembered.

Reynolds did not end the violence but he certainly introduced a game – changer. After 31 August 1994 things were never the same. Certainly the pieces had been on the board for some time, but without the dedication, effort – and courage – of Reynolds and a small number of officials, the ceasefire would not have occurred when and how it did. Put bluntly, there are people today who would not be alive but for Albert Reynolds. His otherwise controversial reign as Taoiseach was unremarkable set against this achievement.

Reynolds' legacy is secure. What of his fellow Taoisigh? He had 8 predecessors, and, in the two decades since he resigned, 4 successors. This in almost a century of uninterrupted parliamentary democracy, something Ireland shares in Europe only with Britain, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland and of which we can justifiably be proud.

The jury is still largely "out" on his four successors, particularly the last two. John Bruton, the shortest serving, Reynolds' successor, will probably best be remembered as a safe pair of hands who helped further embed the Peace Process. His government also took the first major steps to combat organised crime by sanctioning the seizure of criminals' assets.

Bertie Ahearn, Ireland's second longest serving Taoiseach, is still a figure of controversy. What is not in dispute is the sterling work he put in on the Peace Process, a hands on involvement culminating in the current political settlement.

The towering figure of De Valera has to some degree overshadowed his predecessor, W.T. Cosgrave, the first head of government of an independent Ireland (not, technically a Taoiseach, but included in the pantheon). Cosgrave's achievements were considerable. He shepherded the state through its first

Cosgrave was succeeded in 1932 by De Valera, who was Taoiseach for twenty one of the next twenty eight years and who has been the dominant Irish political figure of the Twentieth Century. For better or worse, love him or loathe him, we live in an Ireland largely shaped, institutionally, by him. We live by his Constitution, some elements of which are well past their sell by date, but which still, overall, commands a high level of legitimacy and acceptance among the electorate.

Whether he would necessarily have approved the changes made in it since 1937 is moot; the important point is that the Constitution contained sufficient provisions for organic change and amendment to have lasted. The Constitution, making Ireland a republic in all but name, was the culmination of De Valera's policy after 1932 of using the available constitutional and legislative levers to diminish the remaining trappings of British rule.

His other vital, and defining, achievement was to maintain Ireland's neutrality – and territorial integrity – during World War Two. The fact that Ireland was not directly in a major theatre of war undoubtedly helped, but it could have gone differently in the context of the Battle of the Atlantic. Britain invaded Iceland in 1941 and Churchill cast covetous eyes at, and made noises about, seizing Ireland's ports, inexplicably ceded by Chamberlain in 1938 (but then that was the year of Munich!).

De Valera's adroit political and diplomatic footwork in the first years of the War was crucial. Ireland would be "neutral with a certain consideration for Britain," a Dev quote contained in Joe Joyce's fascinating recent novel "Echobeat" about Ireland in the winter of 1940, which I commend

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strongly. And Ireland remained neutral. De Valera's one rush of blood came with signing the Book of Condolences for Hitler. Yet he bounced back weeks later with a memorable response to a Churchill tirade against Irish neutrality, his radio broadcast of May 1945 unforgettable.

De Valera stopped short of declaring Ireland a republic. That was done in 1948 in Canada by his successor, Fine Gael's John A Costello. The declaration appears to have been a solo run but once made there was no going back. This was about his only contribution in two terms as Taoiseach. His first government collapsed in 1951 soon after a capitulation to the Catholic Church over proposals to provide limited free medical care to mothers and children, Costello declaring he was an Irishman second and a Catholic first. The 50s were a dreadful decade for Ireland economically and Costello did nothing to help.

Nor did De Valera, who continued to idealise a pastoral rural based economy before being finally kicked upstairs to the ceremonial role of President in 1959. His successor was the pragmatic Sean Lemass, by then almost sixty, who had been an able and pragmatic Minister for decades. Once in power, he set about reorganising Ireland's economy to drag it into the second half of the Twentieth century. He encouraged FDI, cut tariffs and began attempts to join Europe, as well as commencing a dialogue with

his Northern counterpart. He is generally regarded as the father of modern Ireland and perhaps the best manager to hold the office of Taoiseach, partly giving the lie to son-in-law Haughey's remark about fixing Ireland's economy.

Lemass was succeeded in 1966 by Jack Lynch, a former GAA star and essentially a compromise candidate. Mild mannered Lynch was in power when the North boiled over. His defining moments came in 1969 and 1970 when he saw off a major threat to our democratic institutions by resisting calls to intervene in the North and later firing several Ministers, including Haughey, over a plot to smuggle arms to republicans. For that we should be grateful. Less so for his tactic of buying the 1977 election, generating a culture of expectation and entitlement which dogs us still.

Lynch's tenure was interrupted from 1973-1977 by Liam Cosgrave, son of W.T., still happily with us at 94. Cosgrave, a devout Catholic, voted against his government's legislation on contraception, but will also be remembered for a fearless and no nonsense approach to upholding law and order in the face of threats by subversives.

Charlie Haughey and Garret Fitzgerald continue to stoke public interest and debate sufficiently to merit a second column between them. There will be space also for some thoughts on Brian Cowen and the performance to date of Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

About the Cover

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Chicago Comedy Film Festival Shows 'The Yank' October 17th

Shot on location in Cleveland, Ohio, Dublin and County Clare, Ireland, "THE YANK" is a farcical comedy satire that tells the story of Tom Murphy, a middle-aged, Irish American bachelor from Cleveland. For Tom's family, "the ideal woman" for their son is hard-working, family-oriented and (like his parents) 100 percent Irish. So when his best friend, Marty, decides to get married in Ireland, Tom's family and friends send him off to the 'Emerald Isle' on a side splitting epic adventure.

Tom's plan to find his dream takes him on a journey of self-discovery to a land that defies his original expectations. He may find out that the grass isn't always greener, even in Ireland. With the help of relations he's met for the first time, he

may ultimately determine what it means to be Irish in 2013....the year of THE GATHERING!!!!

"THE YANK" was written and directed by Sean Lackey and stars Colm Meaney ("The Commitments", "The Van", "Star Trek"), Fred Willard ("Best In Show"), Niki Spiridakos ("Blind Ambition"), Kevin Farley ("Tommy Boy"), Martin Maloney ("The Hardy Bucks Movie"), Nicole Forester ("Jack Reacher", "Boss"), Charlotte Bradley ("Veronica Guerin") and introducing Sean Lackey.

It will be shown on Friday, October 17th at the Chicago Comedy Film Festival, which is located at the ICON Theater on W. Roosevelt Road. Tickets available at www.chicagocomedyfilmfestival.com



Starring in 'The Yank,' Colm Meaney, Niki Spiridakos, and Sean Lackey.

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Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Names New Members for 2014

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame has announced its new members for 2014.

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various areas of life in Michigan.

The Hall of Fame has posthumously named Stan R. Tyler Jr. of Muskegon, MI, as its 2014 member in the field of Philanthropy. Mr. Tyler was the long-time owner of Tyler Sales Co., Inc., one Michigan's



Norman Byrne

at his induction.

In the category of Business and Industry, the Hall of Fame has selected Norman R. Byrne of Ada, MI. Mr. Byrne is the founder of Byrne Electrical Specialists, Inc. in Rockford, MI. For more than forty years Mr. Byrne has been a prominent business leader and community benefactor in West Michigan.

In the area of Public Service, the new member is the Hon. James L. Ryan of Detroit. Judge Ryan is a former justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and retired judge of the United States 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Ryan also served as a Military Judge in the U.S. Marine Corps and Naval Reserve for more than thirty

years.

In the field of Education the Hall of Fame will be admit-



Honorable James Ryan

ting to membership Michael Flanagan of Lansing, MI. Michael Flanagan has been the Superintendent of Education for the State of Michigan since



Catherine Heinzman

2005. He is the first Michigan Superintendent to receive the distinguished service award from the National Association of State Boards of Education.

Catherine "Kitty" Heinzman of Detroit has been selected in the area of Arts and Entertainment. A native of Westport in County Mayo, Ireland, Kitty Heinzman was already an accomplished Irish dancer when she immigrated to Detroit in 1958. Since then she has popularized Irish dancing in Michigan by instructing three generations of hundreds of young students. With her children she founded the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, one Michigan's most prominent Irish dance schools.

The new members of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame were inducted in Muskegon at a special ceremony on the Dance Stage of the Michigan Irish Music Festival at Heritage Landing at noon on Saturday, Sep-



Michael Flanagan and the Class of 2017

tember 13, 2014. The public was invited to the ceremony and to a reception with the inductees afterward.

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame was founded in 2012 by the Muskegon Irish American Society, and is permanently displayed in Hennessy's Irish Pub in downtown Muskegon and on the Hall of Fame website. For more information please visit the Hall of Fame website at <http://www.michigan-irishamericanhalloffame.org>.

Contact Kevin Donovan, President, Muskegon Irish American Society

231.571.2033 kevin@donovanmail.net.



Stan Tyler

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Ian Paisley... the Final Analysis

By Sabina Clarke
The death of Ian Paisley, Stormont's former First Minister,

for me an intriguing figure-- a person of interest and fascination--not the cardboard caricature



founder of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP-- Ulster's most intransigent politician, a fire and brimstone preacher whose catchphrase "No Never" incited many unionists to violence— sent shock waves around the world.

Despite his advanced years-- he was 88 years old when he died on September 12th-- his death still came as a surprise. The 'Big Man', seen as Ireland's most divisive and polarizing figure, seemed indomitable. Hadn't he survived similar bedside vigils so it was almost expected that he would cheat death once again.

I vividly recall the time in 2008 when he and Martin McGuinness Stormont's Deputy First Minister traveled to the U.S. on an economic investment mission for Northern Ireland. At the time, this unlikely duo seemed almost unfathomable. I remember passing up on interviewing Reverend Paisley in New York—which I later came to regret—concentrating instead on catching him in Washington, D.C. only to be shut out since it was suddenly decided that no interviews would be granted in D.C.

So, it was not until Paisley's about-face that I came to appreciate the enlightened Paisley --the man who displayed the courage to change; the man who took an historic leap for peace by putting old hatreds aside and walking into government with Sinn Fein, his most hated foe.

It was then that Paisley became

portrayed by the news media— uncompromising and virulently anti-Catholic. a complete bigot full of vitriol.

And it was precisely because he took a risk and rose to the challenge by entering into government with Sinn Fein that he paid a huge price— forced out of government as First Minister and abandoned by the Free Presbyterian church he founded.

In the BBC documentary "Paisley..From Genesis to Revelation" , Paisley attempted to set the record straight and launched a blistering attack on First Minister Peter Robinson his successor at Stormont and senior church figures within his own Free Presbyterian Church.

O'Hara and Friends Salon Supports Breast Cancer Awareness in October

During the month of October, O'Hara and Friends Salon will go "Pink Out Loud" for breast cancer awareness month. Their efforts will benefit Little Company of Mary Cancer Center in Evergreen Park.



By Tim Moran
Southside Editor

Several fundraising events are planned all month long.

Oct 1 - Vender night - where you can shop from 5-9 p.m. (Origami owl, Tastefully sinful cupcakes, youngique, Sarah's bows, Crochet items. ETC)

Oct 15 - Braiding class - \$20 per person (not including children) learn four different braids

6-8 pm.

Oct 22- essential Oil education class 6-8 p.m.

Oct 30 - Mark Toland Mind reader/Illusionist - As featured on WGN-TV - Will be performing 2 shows 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

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In one of his sermons, Paisley said, "If you hear in the press that Ian Paisley is dead, don't believe a word of it. I'll be more alive than ever... I'll be singing as I sang never before." Paisley, as always had the last word.

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2013 event co-chairs, Kathy McCauley, Molly McShane and Jeanne Wrenn & Spirit of Concern Award Honoree, Liam Burke.

vent malnutrition and disease, and has identified the following top priorities: camp management, food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihoods, protection and coordination of

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Symbolism of the Eight Circle Cross The Book of Kells

The content of the Insular Gospels used by the scribes came from source-books that were traded between the scriptoriums. They not only contained the texts to be included, but also examples of the main illuminated opening words or phrases of each gospel as well as animal symbols that could be used to illuminate the texts.

The unique design of the Eight Circle Cross f33r in the Book of Kells incorporates a design of interlacing lions, peacocks, snakes, and humans.

Lions have long been associated with the ideas of power, majesty and divinity.

For example: In Egypt lions were the symbol of the war goddess Sekhmet and the model for the body of the Sphinx.

Greeks believed they were connected with the gods Artemis, Cybele, Dionysus and Phoebus.

Juno, the Roman goddess' favorite animal was a lion.

The lion was the most sacred animal of the Babylonian goddess Ishtar.

Mesopotamian kings associated themselves with images of lions.

They appear on the Temple of Shara in Iraq.

Lions are carved on Sumerian seals.

In ancient times, special characteristics were attributed to lions.

1. When lions hunted, they would erase their tracks with their tails as they walked. Lions slept with their eyes open. Lion cubs were born dead, but their lion-fathers roared on their face and breathed life into them after three days.

The belief in these characteristics were the sources of Christian adaption of the lion



as a symbol of supreme divinity.

For example, lions erasing their tracks represented the way Jesus revealed his divinity only to his disciples.

Even while sleeping, lion's eyes are kept open representing God the Father's ever-watching his children.

The lion-father roars and brings his cubs to life three days after they were born, representing the resurrection of Jesus after

the crucifixion.

In addition, the lion was the symbol of the Israelite tribe of Judah. Jesus, a descendent from the tribe of Judah was referred to in Revelation as the Lion of Judah.

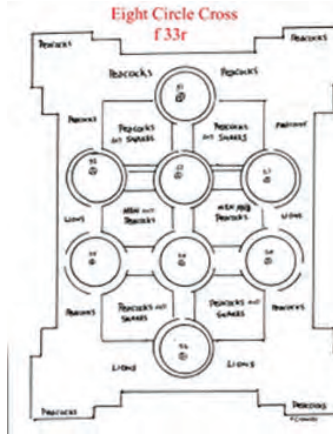
Peacocks

Early Egyptians believed that peacocks did not decay after death. Greeks described the tail feather design as eyes of the god Argos.

In Christianity, the peacock is a symbol of eternal life. The peacock's tail feather's "eyes" symbolizes the "all-seeing" Church, along with the holiness and sanctity associated with the Church. Additionally, the peacock represents resurrection, renewal and immortality within the spiritual teachings of Christianity.

Snakes

For example, since ancient times snakes were considered symbols of renewal and youth because they regularly shed their skin. In the Christian era it became a metaphor for the resurrection and renewal of Christ's everlasting life. I must add that most Irish scribes knew of snakes only from drawings and legends and added things like faces that looked like duck faces and fish-like fins at the end of their tails. Other aspects of snakes, like the connection to Eve in the Garden of Eden, are not referenced.



Though they have pagan origins, images of snakes, lions and peacocks are widely used symbols in the Book. This is an example of appropriating ancient ideas and using them for Christian purposes.

There are 340 surviving folios that comprise the Book of Kells, which means 680 pages. There are only two pages that don't have any decorated embellishment. Over 2000 little jewels of images are scattered throughout the pages. Many of them are symbols that add meaning to the text, others like dogs, cats, mice and rats are just what they seem. They all add to the uniqueness of the Book of Kells.

The interlacing designs in the panels that make up the Eight Circle Cross are so detailed and minute that I added a sketch to label

which animals are depicted in the various sections. It should be noted that the design of the middle horizontal two sections are interlaced men and peacocks. This is symbolizing the bond between the Church and humanity.

The eight circles are filled with golden-yellow spirals of various sizes. As you can see, the number of spirals in each circle is over 50. Most are about 1/4 inch and many are smaller. I imagine that meditating and focusing on these spirals until they seemed to spin could be the eighth century equivalent of animation.

Imagine how that effected the spirituality of those who did that.

An exhibit of Vikings is coming to the Field Museum in February, '15.

Can't wait!

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



1014: Brian Boru and the Battle for Ireland

By Morgan Llywelyn, O'Brien Press/
DuFour Editions

Brian and his commanders understood the great importance of the impending battle. As his soldiers marched across Southern Ireland, they also must have felt the great importance of the coming battle. Their destination was Clontarf, North of Dublin. The battle occurred on Good Friday, April 23, 1014.

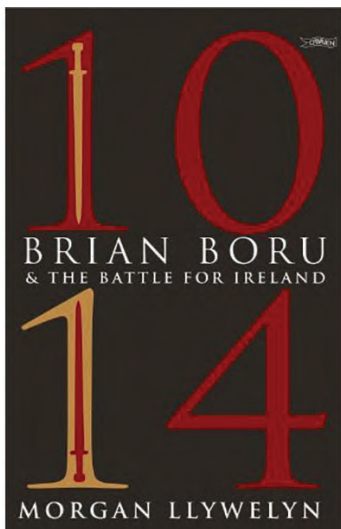
Brian Boru was Ard Ri, or High King of Ireland. He controlled the Southern half of the island, and most of the

kings in the Northern half recognized his authority. He probably hoped to continue the unification of Ireland and to make heirs hereditary monarchs.

Brian used a third of the tributes paid to him each year to build roads, and bridges, drain bogs so they could become farms, repaired churches, monasteries and libraries.

"He even sent emissaries abroad to find and bring back treasures which the Vikings had stolen" Brian Boru felt "the entire island was his to protect."

Morgan Llywelyn's 1014 - Brian Boru and the Battle for Ireland is a splendid book. It is a "factual history of one of Ireland's milestone events." Her skills as a storyteller permit the reader to feel the enormous, fateful tension leading up to that very important battle.



Llywelyn has won many prizes for her 19 historical novels, "about Ireland and the Celtic peoples." Brian's descendent, Conor O'Brien, say: "She has an uncanny knack of carrying the reader back through time and a deep almost intuitive understanding of ancient Ireland."

For the accuracy of the present book, she consulted historians, military experts, the National Library of Ireland, private libraries, even the Irish Meteorological Office for their tidal calculations for that fateful day. She carefully studied the ground where the battle was fought and even walked the

route Brian's army took from Clare to Clontarf. She has drawn an authentic portrait of the man who worked so hard to assure Ireland of lasting peace and prosperity.

An enjoyable feature of the book is that the reader is given the pronounceable equivalent of the Irish names and words used at the time.

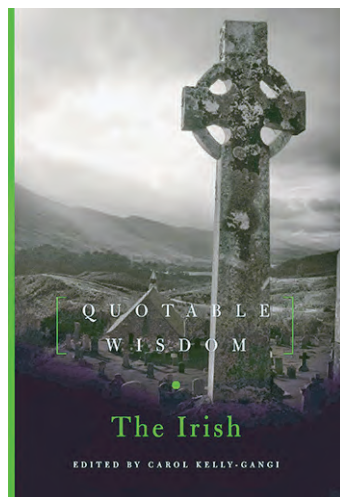
Brian was a tall, well-built man. He was 73 and "was a vigorous, robust individual (he had several wives and many children) a battle-hardened warrior who had fought in combat only the year before and had remained strong enough to ride a horse halfway across Ireland."

As he rode at the head of his army: "His great sword was at his hip. That was what the men needed to see: Brian Boru, able and ready for battle."

The opposing armies came to Clontarf (there were Irish and Vikings on both sides). Brian's army won the battle, but he and his heirs, wer killed.

With no powerful unifying leader, Ireland sank back into tribal warfare and political chaos.

When the English invaded, about a



century and a half later, they took advantage of this. They played off one tribe against another, until they controlled all of Ireland.

The Irish: Quotable Wisdom

Edited by Carol Kelly-Gang, Fall River Press.

The editor asks the question, "what does it mean to be Irish?" Hundreds of quotations about the Irish have been gathered together to answer that question.

The editor suggests an answer: "possessing traits such as a self-deprecating sense of humor; having the gift of gab, being a born storyteller, or standing strong in the face of adversity." However, the quotations in this book help to answer that question. These are some of the quotations I especially like: "Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead. The consciousness of loving and being loved bring a warmth and richness to life that nothing else can bring." Oscar Wilde

"Laughter is wine for the soule - laughter soft, or loud and deep, thinged through with seriousness the hilarious declaration made by man that life is worth living." Sean O'Casey.

"Life is not meant to be easy, but take courage: it can be delifhtful!" George Bernard Shaw

"I want to be thoroughly used up when I die. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life

is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." George Bernard Shaw

A favorite quotation of President Kennedy: "You see things, and you say why? But I dream things that never were, and say, 'why not?'" George Bernard Shaw

Down on Cyprus Avenue

By Paul Charles, DuFour Editions.

What a wonderful discovery! Paul Charles writes powerful mysteries. They are engrossing, emotionally involving and deeply satisfying.

Recently he wrote "A Pleasure to Do Death With You: ADI. Christy Kennedy Mystery" (reviewed here in June, 2014). His newest mystery is Down on Cyprus

Avenue. His novels are police procedurals, and as you'd expect, very detailed.

A police detective says gathering information about the case is crucial. He says: "it's vital we have all of the pieces of the puzzle before we endeavor to try and put them together."

Thanks to DuFour Editions for publishing and then distributing these wonderful mysteries.

Selected Plays of Paul Vincent Carroll

By Colin Smithey Ltd./DuFour Editions

The publisher says about Carroll that he "was the first Irish Catholic to write for the new Irish National Theatre after independence." Later, Carroll won awards in this country and in Ireland and his plays were considered to be promising new pieces for the theatre. He was popular in the 1930's and 1940's.

Henrik Ibsen strongly influenced him. And the Dictionary of Irish Literature says about that influence: he attempted "to stimulate thought and to reform people through the medium of the stage." And a recurring theme in Carroll's work is the struggle "between materialism and man's higher aspirations."

The texts of eight of his plays are included in this book. As are articles he wrote about playwrighting.



Murphy's Troubles

By Rex Owens

"We are Irish. We want our country back."

Congratulations to Rex Owens. He has created a powerful example of historical fiction. This book is a visceral and emotionally evocative work.

the review could be written from several approaches. I chose the historical-political one.

the main character is Ian Padraic Murphy. He is a fictional Irish author with an enormous following of faithful readers. In

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secret, he wrote the training manual for the Provisional IRA.

the Troubles in Northern Ireland lasted from 1968 to 1998. That name is a euphemism for a civil war.

During the period of The Troubles, I traveled in the North (also called Ulster) and many times visited relatives who live near the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The author is very accurate in showing the constant tension and wariness of people during that period.

The cause of that long war occurred many centuries ago when Ireland was invaded and occupied by the British.

Murphy agreed to write the training manual and as he talks to other Irish patriots he states his motivation: "It is a simple fact. We are at war with the British Empire."

Ireland needs an army to defend her and it's our job to form that army.

I propose that we organize the Provisional Irish Republican Army."

It is a fact that the British had invaded and occupied Ireland. They are the aggressors and terrorists, not the Provisional IRA.

The IRA fought the British Army and its SAS Regiment. I'm sure the British army soldiers were all angels, just as the Black and Tans Auxiliaries were in a previous generation.

All rings true, except Murphy's moral qualms and feelings of guilt at the end of the book. Quilty for what? Bad things happen in war.

People are killed, and maimed, and hurt.

This quote is about those who were really at fault: The British "did the same to Wales and Scotland. They just can't stay on their own island. How many Irishmen have died to be rid of the British?"

The bombs and bullets of the incredibly brave soldiers of the IRA forced the British to the negotiating table. "The time for

peace was overdue, Ireland was weary of the Troubles." The result was the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

The Agreement was an outline for sharing political power in Northern Ireland, between those who want to maintain union with Britain and those who want an all-island Irish Republic.

the author points out that the Agreement recognizes that . . . "identity critical to self-esteem "Thus the people of Northern Ireland . . . could identify themselves and be accepted as either Irish or British. "The citizens of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement by an overwhelming majority."

The peace agreement has endured. There will be hostility amongst both sides for many generations. this was the case after our own civil war.

Murphy's Troubles is a powerful and thought-provoking book.

these points in the book are pertinent. Michael Collins was convinced that if it took creating two Irelands to have peace, the price was worth it.

the people voted with him too.

"Collins died in County Cork because de Valera's boys couldn't accept two Irelands, preferring civil war."

A student in Murphy's evening class asks, "I want to know what you feel is the core of novel writing. "Sweet Jesus, the best question of the night. The core, I believe is story. That's what it's about, isn't it? Plot, character, pace, language - none of it matters without story."

To the student that asked the above question. "We pluck stories from the air and give them form and meaning with words. We know our world, ourselves, by our stories."

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



Words With Melody

By Melody Gallagher



Carnival at Bray

by Jessie Ann Foley

When her flighty mother marries Irishman Colm, Maggie uproots her life in Chicago to move with her sister, her mother, and new stepfather to Bray, Ireland. An outsider in more ways than one, Maggie struggles to adapt to her new home across the Atlantic. Socially rejected at school and constantly at odds with her family at home, Maggie finds solace and understanding in her uncle Kevin. Maggie idolizes her uncle, a rocker whose vices lead him to trouble and who is often a point of contention between Maggie and her mother.

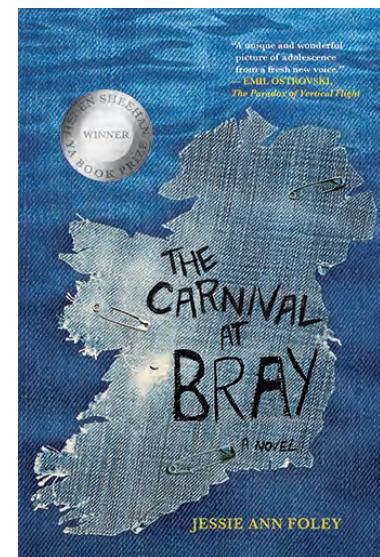
Despite a shaky start, things begin to look up when Maggie meets Eoin, an attractive local young man whose own past is rockier than Maggie's. However, when tragedy strikes, her world is once again turned upside down. Fleeing in the middle of the night, Maggie goes on a trip of self-discovery that will change how she sees the world and that will lead her to find out what is truly important. Through it all Maggie learns that while death may be inevitable, the will to live can burn brighter in the darkest of times. Set in the early 90s Grunge era, Carnival at Bray takes place in a world of music, drugs, and romance. It captivates the reader from the first page

and for a long time after the last.

What Jessie Ann Foley has created with Carnival at Bray is a work of art I have not often enjoyed in young adult novels. Her writing is lyrical, her characters memorable. The reader follows Maggie as she stumbles through the ups and downs of adolescence, an uncertain yet strong protagonist. One of the most intriguing points of the story is the resolution. As in real life, not all conflicts are resolved by the end

and tied up with a neat bow. By the final page, Maggie does not go to bed with her problems magically fixed. However she comes away with a new understanding about life that it's the bad times that make the good ones that much more precious. This is what makes the Jessie Foley's characters and story so relatable and enjoyable. It is a compelling and beautiful story that is applicable in any generation, future and past.

Carnival at Bray is a phenomenal book of first love, loss, family, and discovery. It is about the heartbreak and necessity of growing up, and that loss does not have to be an end. It can also be a beginning. Anyone who has ever felt like the outsider in life will find something worthwhile and meaningful in this book. It is a book that I would read again and again and that I highly recommend to any lover of YA novels.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



A Quiet Man; and One who wasn't so Quiet...

So... the week in which I'm writing this is the one in which Ian Paisley went off into that good night; and at the end, I suspect, he did go gentle. After all, he had been a very different figure in these past years from the ranting old-time preacher and bigot that I would have grown up with. Certainly, we're not getting to any great extent the very different arguments that accompanied the passing of Margaret Thatcher.

Instead, we're hearing 'towering figure in Northern Irish politics' and 'transformation into Elder Statesman.' And of course nothing could be more truthful than either of those two assessments and the many more that are accompanying his death. Yet...

For myself, as I do so often these days, I wonder what my late father Tom would have made of it all: what would he have thought of eulogies from one-time enemies such as Martin McGuinness or Gerry Adams?

Tom was a quiet and unassuming man, but at one time the very name of Paisley was enough to set him off on a rant all of his own. In his day Paisley, with his firebrand

oratory, was almost on a par with internment and the hunger strikes when it came to bringing people over to the Republican cause; and as I grew older and was able to tell Tom of some of the—to him—astonishing stories of how many decent acts Paisley did behind the scenes for the same Catholics that he reviled in public, he found



Ian Paisley

it hard to credit. Paisley was a complex man, to put it mildly.

In government documents released in accordance with the 30 Year Rule, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland James Prior makes a remark that like a lot of his kind of hard-core Unionists there were people 'like Paisley, who were schizophrenic'. I doubt

that Prior was passing any sort of opinion on the man's mental state and yet the word seems curiously apt.

Certainly, Ian Paisley may have been the reverse of the old adage and was in fact a house angel and street devil.

Well, he's gone now and—showing one of their best traits—the Irish are unwilling to speak ill of the dead. After all, this man has a family who as I write are mourning him. So that's as it should be. Still, you're reading this some weeks later and so it's worth a quiet reminder that despite the good things achieved in his later years, it would have saved many lives if he had come around to a more peaceful way of thinking earlier. And that statement of course can be twisted as it will be pointed out that the same could be said of the other side as well. It galls just a little, though, that only the good things are remembered when his ruthless casting aside—just for example—of such moderates as David Trimble are all but forgotten.

We've seen it all before, of course: live long enough and your transformation from bad guy to hero will often end up complete.

In relation to Big Ian and how many years he spent as a truly divisive force for communities, I was also this week given a wonderful example of how great communities can be when they come together in celebration of

just living.

The Lodge at Ashford Castle in Mayo held the launch of the Cong Festival (which grew out of the Quiet Man Festival) this week. It will run from October the 9th through the 12th and judging by the programme and enthusiasm it promises to be something special. Since they are so kindly donating a large part of the proceeds to the children's cancer charity Hand in Hand, Development Manager Jennifer Carpenter and two volunteers, Dee and myself, were invited along.

You know that feeling when you walk into a room of people who are overwhelmingly positive about what they are doing? When you just know from even half-a-dozen words with them that they are doing something for more than themselves; that they are doing it for their entire community? That's what it was like; and what a stunning setting to present it in. Check it out; you'll see how lucky I feel to be even tangentially involved.

When you stop and think about it, isn't it incredible that a movie that was made back in 1951 inspired a purity of passion that is still felt more than six decades later?

That a film like *The Quiet Man*—which probably seemed slightly corny even at the time—, became so much more than just another movie is by itself remarkable. It was shot in and around Cong, with many of the cast staying in Ashford.

be told that the symbolism being made use of with Hands of Fame and Hand in Hand wasn't entirely coincidental.

During her brief talk, Jennifer said:

"We are delighted to have your invaluable support behind us, especially in the light of the complete absence of State funding. It takes a lot to keep a child stable; and since treatment tends to go on for years rather than months, eventually you run out of favours to call in. For that reason alone we are eternally grateful to all who have been involved in choosing us as one of the [two] charities who will benefit from your generosity."

Immediately following this a very impressive guy called Paddy Rock, a committee member, took the microphone in order to remark:

"Despite being delighted to help out Hand in Hand it is a pity that some of our politicians appear to be blind to what these people are trying to do. Hopefully we'll eventually get a Minister for Health who understands the need to help charities like this."

Mind you, in light of the three-day (and ridiculously over-the-top) public bitch slap that Health Minister Varadkar got from Enda Kenny this week, it's hardly surprising that my colleagues and I haven't heard a dicky-bird from him since he took over.

I can't sign off this month without thanking the many of you who took the time to write and share your stories and personal memories of Robin Williams in light of last month's piece. I'm more used to penning stuff that irritates people so I was rather taken aback to find that others were as moved as I was by his passing. And thanks also to the two very amusing voices who didn't agree. 'A smirking face you'd never tire of slapping?' I'm not sure if that referred to me or to Williams; but either way it made me laugh.

You can contact me at chasbrady7@eircom.net or read my blogs on www.charleybrady.com or www.cbsays.com.

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A Chairde:

The date, Saturday, October 11, has been designated as clean-up day at Gaelic Park, and we are reaching out to all our membership, constituent groups and IAN readers to volunteer a half day of your time to help maintain and keep Gaelic Park beautiful. This promises to be a fulfilling, light-hearted experience with start-up on patio 7.30am, with coffee and assignments, and finishing the day at 12.30pm, with soup and sandwiches. Please wear appropriate clothing, and we hope for a pleasant fall day, with a rain date of Saturday October 18.

The hAon Do Tri Committee are working hard to raise funds for an electronic scoreboard at Gaelic Park which will benefit all. They are selling commemorative bricks which will be a part of the scoreboard, and if all 200 bricks are sold, construction of

the scoreboard can begin in Spring of 2015. The plan is for the project to be completed for the GAA season and North American playoffs, which are scheduled for Chicago on Labor Day weekend of 2015. We had many wonderful barbecue nights on the patio over the summer, and I would like to congratulate and thank the staff, chefs Charlie and Santiago and the musicians for the many memorable nights. Many patrons discovered what GAA fans have known for years, that the covered patio space with waterfall in the background is a wonderful spot to spend a summer evening. We hope to expand and improve this experience in 2015. Our first mass of the season is Sunday October 12 at 10am, and I hope to see you there or at the Irish Breakfast which follows Mass.

John Devitt, President

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- Traditional Irish Music Session Hosted by Members of The Irish Musicians of Chicago and their Students every Thursday at 7:30pm

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Live Music in the Pub

Fri Oct 3	The Chancey Bros	7:30pm
Sat Oct 4	John Dillon	7:30pm
Wed Oct 8	Frank Rossi	
Fri Oct 10	Gerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat Oct 11	Coco & Fancy	9:00pm
Fri Oct 17	TBA	
Sat Oct 18	Coyote Riot	9:00pm
Fri Oct 24	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	7:30pm
Sat Oct 25	Kieran Byrne	9:00pm
Fri Oct 31	Chicago Kingsnakes	9:00pm

Thursdays Irish Musicians Traditional Sessions
Pub food is served Monday-Thursday 5pm-9pm,
Friday & Saturday 5pm-10pm and Sunday 3pm-8pm

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



October Event Calendar

10/1 & 11/6	Monthly Musical Luncheons	NOON
10/8 & 11/12	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm
10/11	Fall Cleanup Day	7:30am
10/12 & 11/9	Sunday Mass & Breakfast	10am
10/24	Family Halloween Party	
November...		
11/2	Sunday Classic Carvery (RR)	
11/7	Opening Night for <i>The Muesli Belt</i> (RR)	
11/27	Thanksgiving Day Carvery (RR)	
11/30	Carraig Challenge 5K Run/1.5 Mile Walk	
December...		
12/6	Comedian Brendan Grace (RR)	
12/7	Super Fundraiser Drawing (tickets available soon)	
12/11 & 12/18	Mingle Jingle Office Parties (RR)	
12/13-14	Mary McSweeney Art Exhibit	
12/14	Tony Kenny Christmas in Ireland Concert (RR)	
12/31	Family New Year's Eve Party (RR)	

* (RR) = Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Monthly Musical Luncheon Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm for just \$13 per person. Entertainment 10/1 is Joe Mc-Shane; 11/5 Joe Cullen; 12/3 Kara & Jerry *RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

Sunday Classic Carvery resumes November 2. Full hot buffet dinner and entertainment from 3-8pm. *RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings begins October 7 at 7:30pm.

Irish Music Sessions in the Pub Thursday Evenings at 7:30pm

Monday Evenings	Set Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili	7:30pm
Sunday Afternoons	GAA Live Telecasts	9am
Sunday Evening	CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM	7-8pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelpark.org



The County Connection Corner

Share your County upcoming events with our readers....call the Gaelic Park Office or email your news to dunmaynor12@yahoo.com.

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

CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

The Library at Gaelic Park opened earlier this year and is conveniently located on the 2nd floor in the Shamrock Room (stairs & elevator).



Our bookcases are now filled with beautiful books about Ireland (fiction and non-fiction). There are numerous novels written by famous Irish and American authors. You will also find easy reading and picture books for the younger children, cookbooks, scenic picture books,

language and a vast collection of books covering every major event in Irish history. The book check out process is simple... you can relax, sit and

read a while, or take books home with you and just return to the main office (books about Ireland or written by Irish authors are still being accepted for our shelves). Please make time to stop in and enjoy our Library soon...come see what everyone is talking about!



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\$25 Bears Game Special Deal includes.....

Domestic Beer Bottles, Draft and Mixed Drinks plus Free (half time) Food Buffet!

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Irish Musicians Association of Chicago LIGHT LUNCHEON Annual Fundraiser

Sunday, October 26, 2014, 2 - 7 PM
Gaelic Park - Emerald West
6119 W. 147th Street
Oak Forest, IL



Ceili Dancing Set Dancing
Waltzes Songs
Raffle Prizes
50/50 Split the Pot

Admission \$20 - Cash Bar

For information, please contact Mary Carmody at 708-424-3035

Gaelic Park's Children's Halloween Party
Friday October 24, 2014
6:00pm

Happy Halloween

We'll have Hayrides, Bobbing for Apples, Making smores around the fire pit, Spooky Bozo Buckets, Halloween movies and much more!

COSTUMES ARE OPTIONAL!

Food and drink will be available for purchase

Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL (708) 687-9323 - www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Chicago Gaelic Park Carraig Challenge

Cross Country 5K run / 1.5 mile walk

November 30, 2014

Race Location:

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest, IL

For more information go to chicagogaelicpark.org

Online registration at www.racetime.info

Questions, contact Chicago Gaelic Park (708) 687-9323

Chicago Gaelic Park

Carraig Challenge

Cross Country 5k Run / 1.5m Walk

Race Date / Time: Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 10:30 A.M.

Race Location: Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452

Registration Fees:

Registration.....	\$25.00	Student Registration.....	\$20.00
Family Registration (3 or more).....	\$20.00 per participant		
Day of Registration.....	\$30.00		

Race Day Registration & Packet Pick-Up: November 30, 2014 - 8:30 to 10:15 A.M.

Registration Form and entry fees can be mailed or delivered to Chicago Gaelic Park at above address. Online registration available

To register online go to: www.chicagogaelicpark.org/CarraigChallenge or at www.racetime.info

T-Shirt* and free Carraig Pub Drink Ticket to all registrants. *T-Shirt and/or sizes not guaranteed for race day registrants

Awards to the top three male and female age group finishers in the Run Category

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GPP Fall Production *The Muesli Belt*

Gaelic Park Player's Presents *The Muesli Belt* directed by Katie McKiride, which opens Friday, November 7 at 8pm

and will run for three consecutive weekends.

Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8 at 8pm

Sunday, November 9 at 3pm

Friday, November 14 and

Saturday, November 15 at 8pm

Sunday, November 16 at 3pm

Friday, November 21 and

Saturday, November 22 at 8pm

Sunday, November 23 at 3pm

The play was written by Jimmy Murphy, and takes place in Dublin in 1999, when the demolition ball of progress is banging on the door of a decrepit community. Mossy, a developer, played by Robert Reidy, has his eyes on the prize by tearing down the old properties for a new "muesli belt" — trendy bistros, health food stores and new apartments, to accommodate an expected influx of well-heeled yuppies.

The play takes place in a local, run-down 100-year old neighborhood pub resting on what has become prime real estate. The pub's proprietor Mick, played by Mick Kenna, also

owns the house next door, and the prospect of such a large plot of land to build on has gung-ho Mossy salivating. Tommy, played by Pete Simon, is Mick's best friend, who is recently retired and has saved every penny to finally purchase the house from Mick. Nora, played by Angela Beckefeld and will be making her first debut with the Gaelic Park Players, plays a sharp-tongued salon owner, who stands by her convictions. Sinead, played by Sabrina Mangan, is a young, level-headed barmaid who lends an ear to all. *The Muesli Belt* focuses on a circle of friends whose decisions or lack of could ultimately alter their lives and the community's forever. Will Mick keep the property, sell the house to Tommy, or sell out altogether? This is a play you will not want to miss, so please come out and join us on one of the weekends in November. Contact the Gaelic Park Office at 708.687.9323 to reserve your tickets today!

Friday and Saturday performances \$20 Pub Grub dinner & theatre ticket.

Sunday performances \$27 Classic Carvery dinner & theatre ticket.

An Invitation... CGP Ladies Auxiliary

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—William Butler Yeats

Fall Clean Up at Gaelic Park - Volunteers Needed



On Saturday October 11, Gaelic Park is inviting volunteers to participate in a major fall clean up around the whole facility. All tradesmen such as painters, carpenters, landscapers etc, and helpers are needed. Gather up your shovel and tools

and come to Gaelic Park from 7.30am until 12.30pm. Organizers and volunteers will meet on the patio at back of the main building at 7.30am. Please call General Manager, Marian Ryan, to register or for more information at 708.687.9323.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Nothing is Funnier Than Unhappiness: Samuel Beckett's Endgame

Showing at The Right Brain Project
Anyone familiar with Beckett's work knows that nothing is sacred, or rather, nothingness is sacred. Walking into the theatre and being greeted by the mute sign language of Clov, was interesting. The director, Aaron Snook, (in following Beckett's lead) brings the world of the theatrical action to meet the audience before the play begins. The fourth wall is well and truly broken before a word of the play is said. Snook cleverly re-works this

play to deepen the grooves of loneliness and despair by stripping the play down from 4 to 2 people. And, while 2 characters are technically omitted, they are wonderfully made present in a way that causes us to question what constitutes theatrical presence. Four characters, two players, is not the trick of magic but of the mind and memory.

What I like most about The Right Brain Project, apart from its dynamic energy, and creativity, is its ability to transform space. The set design by Arnel Sancianco managed to get the clutter on stage to produce the effect of emptiness. In-between looking like a demolition site and a run-down living space achieves the stagnating environment of a hoarder. The items, the junk, hold tremendous emotional value and significance to one hoarding, but to outsider it's a tragic need to fill in the emotional vacuum.

Both actors, Vincent Lonergan (Hamm) and Bries Vannon (Clov) deftly dance around the themes of isolation and interdependency. Vannon captures the passive aggressive mindset of the victim who rejects and needs the abuser. Throughout the play, his agility, and versatility come to fruition in never knowing why he stays with Hamm. The actors both deliver the nuances of this tragi-comedy with a clear sense of commitment, though at times it seems as though Hamm is too self-conscious of the dialogue, but this was an early performance and I'm sure that will disappear. For those who have only heard of Beckett in relation to Waiting for Godot then it's time to whet your thirst and drink deeply of this excellent production. It's not all doom and gloom, the humour that unhappiness produces is all here. www.therbp.org/endgame

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The McLean Avenue Band

By Ryanne Johnson

The McLean Avenue Band, lead by Irish musician Padraig Allen, is based out of New York and features five artists of different musical talents who specialize in festivals and other special

events. Their repertoire ranges from classic Celtic folk to rock, covers, and country, and their performances provide audiences with a lively, unforgettable set.

Allen, who originally traveled to the U.S. as a member of The Whole Shebang, hails from County Westmeath in the center of Ireland. He spent eight years with that group, after which he toured and played with many others, including The Prodigals, The Dublin City Ramblers, and his uncle's band Foster and Allen. Now a guitarist, vocalist, and emcee with the McLean Avenue Band for the last five years, he and his band mates are keeping busy with a full tour schedule and recording a new album.

Most recently, they performed at the Milwaukee Irish Fest in August, an event Allen has been involved with since his days with The Whole Shebang, and they were slotted to perform at the Nevada Irish Fest in California at the end of September. The band does a lot of traveling around the country, and occasionally in Ireland, but their home base remains in New York, and the majority of their shows are in the Tri-State area.

With an eclectic sound that meshes guitar, fiddle, accordion, and vocals, and encompasses such a range of genres, Allen explains that their new album will be "mainly Irish traditional with a mix of originals. Some fun songs, some serious, and the bluegrass style runs through the veins of the band." Their previous CD, "Easy & Free" ("which was neither easy, nor free to record," Allen joked) is 14 tracks of 'a vast range of styles and influences from playing with different artists over the past twenty years' (McLean Avenue Band's website), and is available for download and order

For more information on The McLean Avenue Band, including shows and tour dates, visit www.mcleanavenueband.com



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Shane Murray Corcoran

By Michael Joyce

Shane Murray Corcoran has come a long way from Dublin to play the role of eccentric, draft dodging Frank Lubley in The Raven Theatre's latest production All My Sons.

Shane Murray Corcoran came to

Chicago first through an exchange program between the College he attended in Dublin and Columbia University. In a cold January he arrived in Chicago, the day before his 21st birthday, and soon fell in love with the city and the theatre culture.

That September Shane returned home to finish the remaining year in his college. After graduating, he found himself, like most, lacking direction. Eventually he resolved he would come back to Chicago.

"I came back last summer to visit some friends, and decided I'd audition for a few things, just to see what's on offer."

He was eventually cast in a role in a Citadel Theatre production, which would begin rehearsals the following December, two days after Christmas. He said, "I went home for a couple of months to spend time with friends, spent Christmas day with my family, then come Stephens Day I got on a plane and never looked back."

Despite Shane's young age he has a wealth of experience due to the fact that he started acting at the age of six. Unsurprisingly, it wasn't the six-year-old Shane who took the notion to start acting, rather it was family friends who noticed his imagination while on vacation in County Wexford, and suggested his parents enroll him in drama classes. They did, and shortly after he was told of a movie that was auditioning for a young cast member.

The movie was Angela's Ashes, and the role was that of Malachi, the protagonist's younger brother. Over the course of several months, Shane auditioned while his Father corresponded with movie producers, and eventually he landed the role.

"That's kind of how I fell into it, step by step, and I never looked back."

Since then, Shane has had a variety of roles at different production levels, notably he played a young Arthur alongside Keira Knightly and Clive Owen in the movie King Arthur. He recalls the A-list cast as being very grounded with "no big Hollywood egos," explaining, "I have one really fond memory being on set and having some downtime, and just kicking a football around with Clive Owen."

Despite experiencing the big budget films that most actors crave, Shane says he finds himself drawn to the more intimate productions, finding a perfect home in The Raven Theatre.

He explained, "What I love about The Raven is that even though it's a non-equity theater, it's ran like it was an equity theater"

This professionalism ensures that the productions are top class, but the tight knitted environment prevents the atmosphere from becoming over professional or sterile. Director Michael Menedian even had a barbecue for cast and crew when the theatres last production wrapped. It's this environment that makes Shane feel welcome in a big city far away from where he grew up.

"It just feels like a family, like a home away from home."

All my Sons runs until November 15th. Tickets are available at The Raven Theatres website.

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Governor Robin Quinn

Robin Quinn, Robin Quinn, Riding Through the Hood! Robin Quinn, Robin Quinn, with his band of men. Loved by the poor, feared by the rich! Hurrah, for Robin Quinn!

Cullerton, Madigan, and Durbin are in his band of merry men. One for all, and all for one! Oops! That's the Three Musketeers.

Governor Quinn's neighborhood initiative distributed

Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



something like \$55,000,000. Question is, who got the money? The money is gone and so far, it hasn't been accounted for.

A federal investigation is underway into Governor Quinn's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative. Although state money

continues to flow into community anti-violence organizations, namely, the Justice Information Authority, which Governor Quinn oversees. Is he pandering to the Black community to get their vote?

Seems to me, the anti-violence organizations have not been very effective. Maybe Friar Bruce Rauner, who happens to be Friar Tuck's cousin, can knock Robin Quinn off the log. Friar Bruce Rauner can a strong bow draw: He will beat you and your yeoman, set them all in a row.

The Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key, who wrote the words to the Star Spangled Banner, was a slave holder, and it seems there are some parts of the lyrics in the third stanza that make a very vague reference. "No rufuge could save, the hireling and slave." It's so vague, it's really a stretch, but I suppose we'll have another flap over the Star Spangled Banner and more people pushing for us to sing the song, America the Beautiful.

Domestic Violence

No issue is ever one-sided and this problem is pervasive in society as a whole. Child abuse on any level is unforgivable and leaves emotional as well as physical scars. When we were children we lived in abject poverty. On a cold winter Sunday morning my mother gave me a quarter to go buy a loaf of bread at Schneider's Delicatessen, not even a half block from the house. There was a large empty lot next to the house which we called, The Prairie, and I had to cross it to get to Schneiders. I was bundled up, it was freezing cold, and deep snow lay on the ground. I put the quarter in my mitten for safe-keeping and headed for the delicatessen. When I got there, I ordered the

loaf of bread. When I pulled my mitten off the quarter was gone. There was a hole in the mitten and the quarter was lost in the deep snow in the prairie. I went back home and I told my mother what happened. She hit me across the face and called me an eejit. I never forgot that moment.

I know she hit me out of frustration, for now there was nothing to eat in the house. We sometimes got bread fried in bacon grease for breakfast which sometimes had to last us all day.

Should she have been arrested for child abuse? Absolutely not. Her despair over not being able to feed five children overcame her. Oddly enough, we lived across the street from the convent, and no loaf of bread from there ever made it across the street to our house.

Back to domestic violence on the level of professional football. Remember that the overwhelming majority of these men were recruited to play football at major universities and were plied with the promise of full scholarship, allowances and often times the company of young women by alumni. They were worshiped, idolized, and made to believe they could get away with anything as long as they scored touchdowns and the team won championships.

Now you move up to the professional ranks. Big money! Contracts for millions of dollars. Adrian Peterson's salary amounts to \$641,000 per week.

It's only a small percentage of the players that are involved and it would take Sigmund Freud to attempt to explain relationships between men and women. Did one provoke the other or maybe liquor, and or drugs were involved? Does the bedroom come into play? Every case is different!

It's not just pro sports that is affected with domestic violence. It is pervasive throughout our society, and it goes beyond husband and wife. I recently attended a wedding and sat next to a Chicago Police Sergeant, a woman who works on the Southeast Side. I asked her what

the majority of her calls about. She said the majority of calls they handled were domestic violence. I said, "Oh, husbands beating their wives? She said, "No. Sons beating their mothers."

Go figure.

Karen Lewis

Most of us can't even begin to imagine her as Mayor of the City of Chicago. She has a very narrow view of the big picture. Among her special talents is the charismatic belligerence she has shown on many occasions. That won't work too well when you are presiding over the City Council.

Election Time

Governor Quinn continues to hammer Rauner for being wealthy. Very wealthy! When did we last have an election with this kind of mudslinging?

Governor Quinn has been visibly angry, as he knows Rauner has a good chance of beating him. Of course, the opposition party has now arranged it so you can register to vote on election day, and no photo ID is required.

FDR

Somebody once paraphrased a remark by President Roosevelt, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, and light up a Camel. This is the promised land." Unfortunately, a lot of people believe that.

11th Ward

Alderman Balcer is stepping down and the nephew of Richard M. Daley, Patrick Thompson, has announced his candidacy for the 11th ward. Maureen Sullivan, community activist in the 11th ward, will give Thompson some tough competition. Sullivan helped to found the Bridgeport Business Association, and the Palmisano Park Advisory Council. She also served on the McClellan Elementary School Council. Maureen co-authored the book, "Images of America, Bridgeport." If you live in the 11th ward you now have a choice. Sullivan would like to throw a wrench into the gears of the Machine. sullivan11thward.com.

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George Hudson Passes

George Hudson. Originally of Grangemouth, Scotland passed away peacefully on the morning of Wednesday September 10 in his home with his family at his side.

He had a radio program on WOPA "Music from Great Britain & Ireland" in the mid-sixties. George owned and operated Gaelic Imports, The Atlantic Fish & Chip Shop, Dirty Dicks Pub and Austin Travel along with his wife of 63 years and sons Steve and Scott.

He loved life and enjoyed success in all he did in the Irish & British communities in Chicago. His family and friends are proud of him and his achievements and he will be remembered and missed by many.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

**IRISH AMERICAN
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WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Irish Heritage Singers Present a Festival of Music

The Irish Heritage Singers, under the direction of Paul Matijevic, present their annual concert this fall.

This year's concert features arrangements of songs by Stephen Foster, musical settings of W.B. Yeats poems, choral music by Phil Coulter, and Irish favorites both old and new. Don't miss

a great afternoon of Irish choral music in our Erin Room.

A Festival of Music is Sunday, November 16 at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for IAHC members and \$20 for general admission. Children ages 5-12 are \$5.

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



Celebrate German & Irish Traditions with McToberfest

Slainte! Prost! Join us for our 4th annual McToberfest celebration with live German and Irish music, dance, food and drink.

McToberfest combines the largest and most spectacular social event in the world: Munich's Oktoberfest, with the hospitality and high spirits of an authentic Irish pub. The Center's Fifth Province will be transformed into a German beer hall with a lot of Irish-ness mixed in.

Entertainment features Frank K Duo and Company performing German music, One of the Girls performing Irish

music, and Identity Irish Dancers. There will be German and Irish beer and food for purchase, and a split the pot raffle.

McToberfest is Saturday, October 18 from 7pm to midnight. Tickets for admission and buffet for IAHC and DANK Haus members is \$12, and \$15 for non-members OR \$5 for IAHC and DANK Haus members and \$7 for non-members for admission only.

For tickets and information, call 773-282-7035, or visit www.irish-american.org.



Trivia Night Fundraiser

in support of **The Irish American Hall of Fame** and the **Irish American Heritage Center**

Trivia questions will cover the Irish American Hall of Fame categories: **Arts & Humanities, Public Service, Business & Industry, Sports, Education, Religion and Science (plus plenty of current events and pop culture!)**

Saturday, November 22 at 7pm

Teams of no more than 6 people \$150 per team, Silent Auction & Split the Pot Raffle & Cash Bar

To register, call the Irish American Heritage Center at 773-282-7035

Watch for the announcement of the 2015 class of Inductees into the Irish American Hall of Fame in January 2015!

SAVE THE DATE:

Irish American Hall of Fame Awards Gala

Saturday, April 25, 2015

For more info on the Irish American Hall of Fame, visit www.iahof.org





THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

President's Message

Welcome to Fall! As far as the weather, we have had a much nicer summer than last year. There is so much to share with you, so here goes...

MAUREEN O'LOONEY

We celebrated through our tears and heavy hearts, the life and times of Maureen O'Looney with an overflow crowd in the Auditorium on August 24. All of us found strength in knowing Maureen is in a special place and watching over us forever. Our sympathies to all of the O'Looney family.



shingling is done and the flat roof is well underway. It may be a cold winter but it will be a dry one due to the new roof. Thank you to the Building Committee and volunteers who helped drive this program to completion.

DONATIONS

As you plan your end of the year taxes, please consider the Center. Our BACK TO THE FUTURE \$3 million pledge program helps you help the Center. All donations to the 501c3 Center are tax-deductible, as the law allows.

HERITAGE SINGERS CONCERT

Don't miss a great afternoon of music at the Singers' annual concert on Sunday, November 16 at 3pm in the Erin Room.

GIFT SHOP

The IAHC Gift Shop is the perfect place to find Christmas and holiday gifts and foods for your celebrations. Remember, IAHC members receive discounts!

MEMBERSHIP

Members will receive their annual IAHC membership renewals in the mail in October.

You can also renew your membership online at www.irish-american.org Thanks to the Membership Committee for all they do.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Save the date for Sunday, December 7 for a day filled with food, holiday spirit and family fun.

2015 RAFFLE

Our 2015 raffle will kick off later this year. A \$100 ticket will give you the opportunity to win prizes, as you help us meet our goals. Watch your mail and the website for this important Center fundraiser.

LED LIGHTING

We are looking into programs to modify all the Center lighting to reduce energy expense.

IT

We are working on all our computers with an outside firm to, as best as possible, make sure we are protected and up-to date with efficient, effective and protected software and hardware.

Room 311

The renovation of room 311 is approaching completion. This room will serve as a multi-purpose meeting and rental room. Another great job by our volunteers.

Room 306

The room has been cleaned out and painted. Additional renovations are being evaluated as we prepare to make the room available for



meetings and rentals.

HERITAGE LINE

We are planning to re-introduce a quarterly Center newsletter. This will allow us additional printed and website space to share more IAHC news with you. You will also continue receive monthly updates in *Irish American News*.

TASTE OF IRELAND

We are currently soliciting vendors for our Taste of Ireland event on Saturday, November 15. This exciting event will bring the best of local Irish food to you.

HOLIDAY ROOM RENTALS

We have introduced a special program and pricing for holiday room rentals. Select your room and the food/drink package and save. Hurry while the best dates are still available. Call the main office or check the website.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

It is not too soon to pencil in where you plan to spend New Year's Eve. Join us in the Fifth Province again as we ring in the New Year.

Lots to do and see; and it all helps the Center as well.

"Watch the website"... you will hear this more often as we continue to enhance the site to provide up-to-the-minute information on programs at the Center. In addition to providing information, the website helps us save money.

Come join us!

An Irish Welcome

Here's C ad M ile faite to friend and to rover
That's a greeting that's Irish as Irish can be
It means you are welcome
A thousand times over
Wherever you come from, Whosoever you be

John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

BACK TO THE FUTURE PLEDGE PROGRAM

The \$3 million pledge program goal is off to a great start as a result of the September Back to the Future Fundraiser and the campaign mailing we you recently received. You can still continue to give by stopping by the office or donating online.

iBAM!

It is that time again! On October 3-5, join us for the Irish Books, Arts and Music celebration. Meet the authors, artists, musicians and performers who always make this a great event. Join us for a gala dinner in the Erin Room on Saturday night and the High Kings in Concert on Sunday evening. Visit our website for tickets and information.

McTOBERFEST

This is a one-of-a-kind and IAHC original event that combines Irish and German culture, food, dance and music. Join us in the Fifth Province on October 18 for a lively and fun night.

TEAS and SALON CONCERTS

These monthly cultural events will help connect you and your family with the Center and all the great Irish culture we have here. On October 11, enjoy Tea with Mary Pickford.

ROOF

The new roof is well along the way to completion. The tuck pointing is done, exhaust fans are in, the copper valley work is complete,

Tea with Mary Pickford

Celebrate the life of Mary Pickford, "America's Sweetheart," in a fascinating performance at the October Saturday Morning Tea Series.

As one of the most powerful women in early films, Pickford's career stretched from 1909 to 1933. Beloved for her long blonde curls and endearing charm, she was mobbed by crowds wherever she went, in America or abroad. This portrayal explores Pickford's remarkable career as well as her unique legacy as the first motion picture superstar.

Performer Leslie Goddard has been



presenting history lectures and performing first-person programs in the Chicago area for more than a decade.

The Saturday Morning Teas at the IAHC have featured such women as Emily Dickinson, Jane Austen and Jacqueline Kennedy. Enjoy tea, sandwiches and dessert, while learning about notable

women in history and literature.

Tea with Mary Pickford is Saturday, October 11 at 11am. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by October 8 by calling the IAHC Office at 773-282-7035.

Alice Munro Lecture

Join us this October for a lecture on author Alice Munro.

Alice Munro, Her Life, Her Fiction and Her Fiction about Fiction is presented by Joyce Goldenstern, who has taught writing and literature for more than 20 years, and presented seminars on Munro at the Newberry Library.

Alice Munro, born in 1931 in Wingham, Ontario, has been writing innovative fiction for six decades. She won the Man Booker International

Prize in 2009 and the Noble Prize for literature.

Her stories offer humorous and poignant details of her Scotch-Irish heritage and of daily life in Huron County, Ontario and have been praised for their seamless handling of the passage of time and for their awareness of storytelling.

Alice Munro, Her Life, Her Fiction and Her Fiction about Fiction is Sunday, October 26 at 3pm in the IAHC Library and is \$5.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



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October 2014

October 3	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
October 3-5	iBAM! Irish Books, Arts and Music	Whole Bldg.	
October 4	Shamrock American Club Social	ShamAmRm	8pm
October 10	Salon Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
October 11	Tea with Mary Pickford	Fifth Province	11am
October 17	Shamrock American Club Meeting	ShamAmRm	7pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
October 18	McToberfest Celebration	Fifth Province	7pm
	St. Patrick's Fathers Dance	Room 109	8pm
	Roscommon Club Social	Room 309	7pm
October 22	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
October 26	Book Club Meeting <i>Someone</i> by Alice McDermott	Library	1pm
	Alice Munroe Lecture	Library	3pm
October 29	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	3pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Memor Classes (thru 10/14)	Library	4-6pm
Tues	Celtic Art Class	Art Gallery	7pm
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues, Thurs,			12:30pm-
Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	2pm
Wed	Irish Language Class	Room 304	7-9:30pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Thurs	Memor Classes (thru 10/16)	Library	7-9pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Class	Library	11am-1:30pm

Fall into the Irish American Heritage Center to celebrate the season

Receive 15% off any room rental booked from October 1 through



November 15. To book your event call 773-282-7035 ext. 21 or e-mail roomrentals@irishahc.org.

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the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

OCTOBER ENTERTAINMENT

10/3 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
 10/4 RicoQuinn
 10/10 Salon Concert
 10/11 Mulligan Stew
 10/17 In Spite of Ourselves
 10/18 McToberfest, 7pm
 10/24 Dooley Brothers
 10/25 Mayfair Music Group
 10/31 Joe McShane

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October Drink Special

Two Brothers Sidekick Pale Ale \$4

October Food Special

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Valid for the month of October 2014 only.



Think You're So Smart? Quiz Night Returns to the IAHC

Test your trivia knowledge with Quiz Night at the Center.

The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for the top three teams, and food and drinks



are available from the Fifth Province Pub.

Fall 2014 and 2015 Quiz Nights are October 17, November 21, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15 at 8pm.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, John Gorski, Mary Griffin, John Mahal, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy and Sheila Murphy



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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Are You Willing To Criticize A Fellow ?

A current theme in our society these days is bullying. I would suggest that most of us think of that trait as manifesting itself on the elementary school playground or electronically at a more advanced age like high school. I am convinced that many youngsters who are bullies conduct themselves that way out of ignorance not meanness. They were never taught that tacky, vulgar conduct is destructive at any level. Perhaps they were rewarded for such conduct when they were kids; their "toughness" was admired by enough people that it may have appeared acceptable, if not appreciated by others.

But now the same people find their careers stymied by their conduct and they don't understand why. Their earlier boorish conduct was quite acceptable. Why is it no longer okay?

Within the last several weeks, I have heard people discuss their willingness or reluctance to criticize a fellow employee, club member, or neighbor. What I find so interesting about this positive/negative debate is my long held personal observation that most of us are not inclined to tell a person that s/he has some troubling characteristics or manners. We may, of course, tell everyone else within hearing distance of our frustration or disdain for the individual, but we can't seem to tell the person directly.

Having grown up as the youngest in a family of seven, I was frequently criticized for some thoughtless or mindless conduct. As I remember it, I developed an attitude of acceptance. That is to say I felt obligated to think about the criticism and then decide whether I could learn something

from it. Clearly, as the youngest, I knew my siblings had an edge on me, if only their greater life experience than mine. I also need to confess that I grew up in a house full of smart people, so I came to recognize their point of view was probably better thought through than mine. That awareness gave me the incentive to find value in their criticism. Of course, I wouldn't have found much value in someone simply berating or cursing at me; which was not done in my family. Those experiences can be difficult to dismiss lightly, but if you try to put yourself in the other person's shoes, you will find that frequently it will diminish your own frustrations.

As I got older, I recognized a troubling tendency on the part of many people. They would tell anyone who would listen what a fool or idiot you were, but they would not share this opinion with you.

Hopefully, most of us grew up in happy homes. However, some of us may have grown up in very dysfunctional families where parents encouraged unhealthy behavior between siblings. They virtually insisted that you should demean your siblings. They rewarded meanness; they encouraged anger and disdain between siblings.

Now fast forward that same individual into adulthood; he hasn't lost that distasteful habit of berating people. No one has ever really helped him understand how unacceptable that conduct is to the vast majority of people. Perhaps you are the individual who can help this person to recognize their poor judgment and resultant conduct.

If you want to do a very charitable act, perhaps you should tell the bully face to face of your concerns. In my mind it is a real act of courage to tell a bully to his face that his conduct is really

disliked or despised by others.

I can recall telling a young accountant, years ago; that his conduct was very troubling to me and others. My observations to him were delivered in a direct manner, but certainly not sarcastically or angrily. He seemed to feel the need to make unwarranted mean spirited comments to almost everyone he interacted with. He was clearly offended and obviously annoyed by my comments.

I told him that he should ask his wife if there was any truth to my observations. He did just that over the weekend. To his credit, he came in to see me Monday morning and shared his wife's comments. And he said he was absolutely shocked, no one had ever told him how tiresome he could be. He became a changed man (and a very successful one I might add). But to be honest, I have also had some people take serious offense to my direct comments and disappear from my life.

Some people will tell you that perhaps you should ask a few others to join you in this intervention. Perhaps that view would suggest that your superior numbers would facilitate the likelihood that the "accused" will accept the criticism. But in my mind "ganging" up on an individual is likely to elicit a defensive attitude. One reason for multiple participants is if there is a real possibility of a physical response by the person.

When we were children there was an old rhyme that said "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." What nonsense! If we are honest with ourselves, we can still hear those mean words of many years ago, ringing in our ears to this very day.

Learning how to function more effectively in our society will no doubt enhance your career. Learning how to help a person see the errors of their ways can be a real blessing. Would you help just one of your colleagues to see how their hurtful verbal abuse can crush a person's spirit? Such behavior on

your part might accrue to your benefit; you could be viewed as a leader in the making. Perhaps you could make it one of your annual resolutions to "improve" the world around you one at a time. Carpe Diem.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: A true hero gets out of bed every morning and goes about life's daily tasks unnoticed, unassuming and unsung. A true hero takes on responsibil-

ity, speaks kindly, acts fairly, endures patiently, and faces every day with simple strength. A true hero persists in things that really matter. Author unknown.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm. Web:jamesffitzgerald.com. Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com #630-684-2204

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Ian Paisley's Passing

As I begin this month's reflection news is breaking long be remembered for his bombastic preaching style and his "no surrender" approach to Irish nationalist. He has left us with many

memorable statements; these are a few examples, which I trust will bring a smile to your face:

"The scarlet woman of Rome"—this was how he famously referred to Pope John Paul II.

When asked in New York in 1994 if he would shake the hand of Gerry Adams he responded: "Mr. Adams would have to repent from his evil ways, I am here tonight by the grace of God, a sinner saved by grace."

"The IRA's bishop from Crossmaglen"—was how he described the then head of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Tomas Cardinal O Fiach.

One of my personal favorites: "Line dancing is as sinful as any other type of dancing,

with its sexual gestures and touching. It is an incitement to lust."

"No, I wouldn't" — his response to John Hume, the leader of the SDLP party who said that if the word "no" were removed from the English language, Paisley would be speechless.

"If anybody had told me a few years ago that I would be doing this, I would have been unbelieving" — inside the Parliament Buildings at Stormont, after agreeing to enter a power-sharing government with former IRA leader Martin McGuinness as his deputy First Minister.

This last quote is a reminder to all of us to, never say never, Paisley learned that in the end he would have to change his

attitude to power sharing and in the interests of peace sit down and work with his sworn enemies.

GOSSIP TEST

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"Hold on a minute", Socrates replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

"That's right", Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "Actually I just heard about it and ..."

"All right", said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary."

"So", Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: The filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well", concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

Author Unknown

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

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Irish-American Sisters Launch Social Networking Service

Two Irish American sisters, Kathie and Molly Driscoll, are launching a new social networking service for Chicagoans in their 40's, 50's and 60's called Selective Connections.

Kathie is a resident of Beverly and Molly resides in Glencoe.

Selective Connections (www.selectiveconnections.com) is a resource for busy Chicagoans to find meaningful friendships and

relationships both online and in person.

It is divided among eight categories including entertainment and adventure, foodie, business, relationship, health and fitness, travel, shopping, and vol-



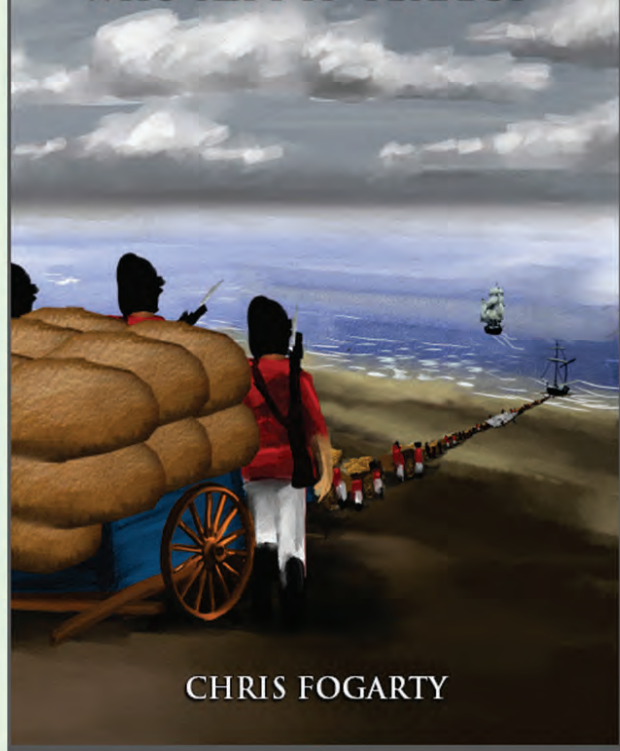
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Kathie Driscoll

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unteer, so members can connect with others who share common interests.

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40's-60's, but also invites them to attend weekly group events, including cooking classes, kayaking trips, winery tours, volunteer opportunities, and lakefront cruises, among many others.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Deep in slumber I thought I heard the voice of Henry McGlade, the guy who does the entertainment report on Sean Ginnelly's Good Morning Ireland show, reporting on the shock and awe of people in Ireland when they discovered that the new Rose of Tralee had come out as a lesbian.

I gotta be dreaming, I thought to myself.

Then I heard McGlade's excited voice break into his best rendition of Bill Zwecker when he reported the following.

The Hollywood Reporter brings us this exclusive! International film star and Academy Award winner Daniel Day Lewis



has signed a multi-million dollar contract to play the coveted role of Irish diplomat Aidan Cronin (pictured above) in the film adaptation of the NY Times best-



selling non-fiction paperback book for the last 52 weeks, "The Ambassador".

"The Ambassador" has been a runaway hit since its debut, written by investigative reporter Izzy Cusack. It's a potboiler about espionage and terrorist activity in Chicago in the summer of 2013. The terrorist plot was thwarted by the intrepid deeds of Irish Consul General Cronin and the book lifts the veil on the shadowy world of international intrigue that bubbled over in the Irish community of Chicago that summer.

Hollywood hopes to turn "The Ambassador" into an Irish James Bond style blockbuster next year. The story has enough twists and turns to excite audiences globally.

As most of us know by now, the terrorists had been plotting to poison a shipment of Guinness to Chicago that summer. Tracking down the suspects and making sure "the black stuff" was potable for drinking involved a labyrinthine society of Irish and Irish-American Chicagoans.

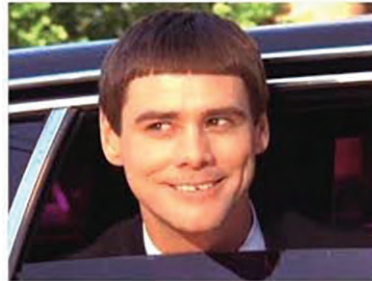
Key to the investigation was the role played by an undercover agent of Interpol, a man from Clare, who posed as a mild-mannered retired all Ireland football and hurling champion named P.J. O'Dea.

P.J. would call the office of the Consul General on a regular basis and speak with embassy administrator Pat Neary, with what seemed like Chicago political minutia and gossip, but was actually a highly clandestine code to set up an elaborate wire tap system designed to snuff out one of the prime suspects, an Irish accordion player named Joe Cullen.

The investigation ultimately cleared Cullen but the book went to great lengths cracking the code of P.J. and Pat Neary's conversations, including the cryptic remark O'Dea shouted

into the phone as he concluded each coded conversation, hanging up the phone, "Let me speak to Marie!"

It was later discovered that the poisoning plot was triggered by rumors, panic and paranoia triggered by a pious pledge of



a boycott of Guinness by an Irish-American radio personality named "Houli", who was angered by Guinness pulling



sponsorship of the Boston and New York St. Patrick's Day parades and he labeled them "anti-Catholic". Houli held to the boycott for six months but later acquiesced when Cardinal Dolan accepted the Grand Marshall post in the NYC parade and radio host Sean Ginnelly offered to buy him a pint one night just weeks before Houli was heading to Ireland, conveniently enough.

MGM also announced additional casting of the film, including Brendan Gleeson in the role of publican and immigration champion Billy Lawless, Finoula Flanagan as Pat Neary, Jim Carrey as Joe Cullen, (pictured above), Michael Fassbender as Vice-Consul Nick Michael, Olivia Wilde as Maedhbh Cronin, and the late Irish character actor Cyril Cusack as radio personality Skinny Sheahan.

Wait, what? And that's when I woke up!

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



This year is the Millennial (1,000) Anniversary, of the death of Brian Boru, (b941-d1014) Ireland's greatest King. Also known as the Emperor or lion of Ireland and patron of the arts, there is the Brian Boru Harp. He was a great military leader who led his people to victory and he secured Ireland's freedom from foreign oppression. He was born Brian Mac Cennetig. He was named Boru after the adjacent village where he was born, in Killaloe Co. Clare. His mom was the sister to the mother of Conor, the King of Connaught, so you could say it was a family affair.

Brian ended the domination of the high Kingship of Ireland, the Ui Neill dynasty, they were in power for over 600 years. He undermined this rule/dynasty in 1002 he succeeded in forcing the Ui Neill to recognize him as superior. He became king of Munster and then eventually king of Ireland. In 1004 Brian marched through Meath to Armagh and made an offering of Gold upon the altar acknowledging the ecclesiastical supremacy of Armagh

It was a turning point he had demonstrated that one didn't have to be a descendant of the

Niall clann to put forward a claim to the kingship. He altered the rules so this kingship of Ireland's monopoly was up for grabs. This was in effect for a century until the kingship went into suspension soon after the anglo Norman invasion.

The Normans killed Brian. He was a deeply Christian King so it was ironic that he was killed on Good Friday. He was killed at the battle of Clontarf in Dublin in 1014. He is buried in the N. Walls of St. Patrick's Church in Co. Armagh. There is a valuable compilation of history books about Brian Boru in Trinity College "Annals of Loch Ce."

This year in Ireland they are commemorating Brian Boru at different events throughout the year. Lord Mayor of Dublin Oisín Quinn joined Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan T.D. at Trinity College Dublin, to announce the program of festivals and events which will run throughout the millennium year 2014 at nationwide locations the life and death of Brian Boru.

Gaelic Words for the month:
Brave=Croga - Hero=laoch
Country=Tír

Questions or suggestions email me, Molanive@yahoo.com



How Should I See Ireland?

Here's a question that is often asked...How should I see Ireland? Should I take a motorcoach tour or drive myself? Like anything, there are pros and cons to both. It's up to you to decide which suits your personality and traveling style best. Here we'll look at those pros and cons.

Escorted Motorcoach Tours – Especially for the first-time visitor, who is uncomfortable with the thought of traveling on the other side of the road, this may be the wisest choice. However, the benefits extend beyond just having someone doing the driving. Your guide (who in some instances is also the driver), will impart Ireland's long and sometimes embattled history, share its rich culture, entertain you with its folklore and of course, enchant you with his Irish wit and humor. He is part skilled driver, historian, concierge and entertainer in one.

Since the driving will be left to someone else, EVERYONE gets to enjoy the scenery and the occasional pint!

Escorted tours have an itinerary designed to show the visitor the most popular sites within a reasonable timeframe. The BEST of tour operators, also share the lesser known sites and secret photo opportunities that may be bypassed by the independent traveler.

Escorted tours allow you to budget much of your traveling expenses in advance because many of your meals, sight-seeing and entertainment are included in the price of the tour. Be mindful that gratuity to your driver/guide is typically NOT included in the cost of your tour and you should allow approximately 5-10 Euros (or approximately \$7 - \$12

USD) PER PERSON/PER DAY.

In a luxury motorcoach, you ride high above the stone walls, affording you panoramic views of the countryside.

One of the most pleasurable aspects of a motorcoach tour is meeting other travelers, who oft time become good friends.

Independent, Self-Drive Tour – Best suited for those who prefer less structure, possess a sense of adventure, and are relatively anxiety free of driving on the other side of the road. It is still HIGHLY recommended that you avail of the expertise of a travel professional who is well versed in Irish travel. I advise that you work with a reputable tour company/travel agent that will actually assist you in designing a suggested day to day itinerary. They will prevent you from making the mistake of thinking you can visit Belfast and the Blarney Stone in one day. Too often, independent travelers bite off more than they can chew when estimating the time it takes to travel a relative short distance by mileage accounts. To that end, I usually recommend if you only have 7 nights, stick to exploring a region, rather than the whole country. This will allow you to truly experience some of the culture, from somewhere other than behind the wheel. I can assure you, a day of leisurely exploring West Cork and its quaint villages and scenic shores, beats racing from Dublin to Waterford to Cork City to Killarney in a day.

A couple of tips for those who choose to self-drive. Opt for an automatic transmission, even if you're accustomed to driving manual shift in the States. Shifting with the opposite hand and driving on the opposite side of the road is more taxing than you might

imagine. When making turns, and if you're unsure if you're in the correct lane, make sure the passenger side is on the "ditch" side. Lastly, consider purchasing the SUPER CDW (Collision Damage Waiver) locally. It costs roughly 15 Euro per day, but reduces your liability to the vehicle to zero (with some exclusions --- windscreen/windshield and punctured tires to name a couple). So, no worries, if you brush up against that hedge.

While the initial cost of the trip will be less expensive, bear in mind the cost of petrol, meals, and attractions.

Growing in popularity is the Chauffeur/Private Drive Tour. Often overlooked in the past due to the perceived expense, its advantages has families and friends traveling together to consider it as a viable option. Once the cost of the driver/guide is shared amongst each participant, it becomes rather feasible, especially in light of the benefits. Here you have the best of both worlds --- a driver/guide with the flexibility of designing a customized itinerary that suits your group. Your itinerary can combine special interests (golf, horse riding, cooking, angling) along with genealogical pursuits (a visit to the ancestral townland), or truly off the beaten track adventures (think the "Magic Road" in Co. Louth --- a gravity defying road or "The Gobbins" a cliffside coastal walk in Northern Ireland opening next spring). The pace is set by you, with wonderful insight offered by your driver/guide. Any added cost is definitely offset by the unique experience you're sure to have.

So, now that you know how you can see the country, isn't it time you did?

Until next time,

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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The pipes, the pipes are calling.

So are your cousins, the festivals, the sessions,
the shops, the peat fires, the fry-ups and the pubs.

You've got plenty of reasons to come home to Ireland this year. And we'll be happy to give you a million more - that's the record number of visitors who came from the U.S. during the year of The Gathering. And the wonderful festivals, music and sporting events are still going strong in 2014. So make plans today to visit the friends and family you've missed. Because if you listen closely, you can hear them calling.

Jump into 
Ireland



Piping It In

Jack Baker



The Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon really paid off this year. As I mentioned last month Muskegon is one of my favorite festivals for so many reasons but primarily for the music. They featured Socks in the Frying Pan, the phenomenal trad band from Clare and Kennedy's Kitchen,



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the phenomenal trad band from Indiana. I had said that I was looking forward to seeing and hearing the Dave Curley Band and man, I was not disappointed there. The band consists of Dave Curley, who also plays with Runa and Slide, performing on guitar, mandolin, banjo, bodhran, piano and some of the sweetest vocals, very reminiscent of Andy M. Stewart in his Silly Wizard days, and Mick Broderick, who also plays with Slide, on bouzouki, cittern, mandolin, bass and bodhran. These two multi-talented multi-instrumentalists would be plenty by themselves but they also have Jefferey Hill on bass, Tom Boyer on organ, Matt Mancuso on fiddle, Aaron Malone on fiddle and, last but certainly not least, the finest

percussionist in Celtic music today, Cheryl Prashker. I loved watching the entire band but its Cheryl's delicate touch on percussion that fascinates me, she always seems to know just how much percussion to add to set the pace and I swear she has a mental metronome that keeps her on a perfect beat. Altogether a solid, thoroughly entertaining sound. They do have a CD for the new band, "A Brand New



Day", and it's a gem. The second cut "This Train's Not Bound For Glory" is a classic, or at least my favorite. You can read more about the band at www.davecurleymusic.com, but do be patient, the website status was "coming soon" today when I checked it out. Figures with all that Dave has on his plate these days that he wouldn't have time to get to the website but I'm sure that as soon as he catches his breath, he'll be on it. Meanwhile, we have a lovely and talented new band and new CD to enjoy.

My friend Ken Onstad, who owns New Folk Records, never fails to amaze me with excellent CDs he produces and this month he's come up with a couple of beauties. First off is the re-release of a James Keane classic, "with Friends Like These". Featuring the incomparable but-tonbox of James Keane accompanied by Garry O'Briain on guitar, mandocello, piano, mandolin and keyboards; Tommy Peoples and Paddy Glackin on fiddle, Matt Molloy on flute, Liam O'Flynn on pipes and whistle, Kevin Conneff doing vocals and bodhran and oth-

ers, this CD is a who's who of classic Irish music. Originally recorded in 1997, it has been re-mastered this year and re-released. It contains 15 tracks of flawless classic Irish music and should be a "must have" for the library of every serious fan of Irish music. As my mentor Bill Margeson would say "It's the real deal!" James Keane, www.jameskeane.com, has never put out a bad recording, some are better than others and this is probably his best.

The second new gem to come from New Folk is the new recording from Randal Bays and family, titled "a Rake of Tunes". What a lovely thing it is when a whole musically talented family gets together and plays with all the joy and love of music in their hearts. That's what we've got here. Randall Bays certainly knows his way around a fiddle as does his wife Susan and their sons, Willie



on flute and Owen on concertina and no slouches as well. Put all four together in a relaxed setting and just listen to the lovely music that happens. The CD has 23 tracks of the finest trad with a couple original tunes thrown in for good measure and not a clinker in the bunch. Recorded clean, with no frills added, this is Irish music in its pure form as it's been played for generations. If you want to know what it's all about, try this as opposed to the hoked up baloney you see on TV and you know to what I refer.



JAMES KEANE

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

GARRY O'BRIAIN

TOMMY PEOPLES

PADDY GLACKIN

MATT MOLLOY

LIAM O'FLYNN

KEVIN CONNEFF

One of the finest stage shows on the Irish music fest circuit these days has to be Scythian. They define themselves as "a Slavic-Celtic High-energy barn dance road-show" who "play gypsy-infused American Celtic with thunderous energy, technical prowess, and storytelling songwriting, beckoning crowds into a barn-dance rock concert experience". Couldn't say it better myself! They're totally fun to watch and listen to as they caper about the stage giving out with the most impressive conglomeration of tunes that somehow hold together in a comprehensive performance.

Refusing to let themselves be pinned down to one or two, or three, or more styles, the band lets their musical curiosity take them where it will and always end up delighting the crowds. Now celebrating their 10th anniversary as the band that knows no boundaries, Scythian has released "Jump at the Sun", their newest CD and, as usual, it's a pip, great fun to listen to and totally impossible to define in 25 words or more. I learned a long time

ago that this band is unique and the best way to appreciate them is to simply saddle up and enjoy the ride, and don't worry where you're going. They have also undertaken a new project, a book! Detailing the bands' adventures on a trip to Ireland, the book, "Turas" is full of photos, recipes, songs and, of course, fun. You can find out more at their website, www.scythian-music.com.

That's all for now, you can catch me at the store, 630-834-8108 or online at store@rampantlion.com Slainté

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LOOK OF THE LASS



one of the main hat fashion events in the United States. Most of the hats are adorned with flamboyant embellishments that include ribbons, flowers and feathers galore. It has been said to find a

lady without a hat on during the Kentucky Derby is almost considered a scandal, not just a mere fashion faux pas. Wearing a hat to the Kentucky Derby is believed to bring good luck! Also, wearing a hat is much like getting into costume. You might be very surprised to see what character you become! The women at the Derby usually wear Southern Belle style hats. The bigger, the better. The winner of the Kentucky



Colleen Nolan, Chicago Rose, and Stephanie Coull, Ottawa Rose

Derby Hat Contest receives loads of cash and prizes. If you are hoping to go to the Kentucky Derby, you will have to wait until next year. It is scheduled again for May 1st & 2nd 2015. But, don't wait too long to make hotel arrangements, they book up fast and it is a sell out before you know it.

So, when deciding on what to wear to the Galway Races or Kentucky Derby, which comes first – the dress or the hat? It all just depends on your personal preference and the type of hat you are wearing. If your hat is having a pattern party, keep the dress design simple and stick to one color. If the hat is simple and elegant, keep the outfit simple for a very classy look. If you want to wear a crazy bright colorful outfit, keep it consistent and accent the hat most of all! So, honestly it really doesn't matter which comes first, the dress or the hat – it all depends on which you find first and fall in love with. And, it all depends on how crazy and fun and bold you are!

King Lear

by William Shakespeare
Reviewed by Frank West

There is an extraordinary production of *King Lear* being presented now at The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. The publicity sheet says it is Shakespeare's: "... most towering achievement." The great Chicago actor Larry Yando plays the king. He shows the many facets and enormous power of Shakespeare's achievement.

William Shakespeare's plays have endured for centuries. This is because his plays tell adventurous stories and often contain humor, but they are always about what it means to be human.

The press release summary says: "A monarch obscured by the shadows of dementia revolves to retire and divides his kingdom among his three daughters. The unexpected consequences of losing everything that defines him is shattering, a sobering reminder that even the most powerful can be undone."

The director, Barbara Gaines, brings this intimately to us: "Most of us know what the experience is of seeing someone you love being diminished by age. It's the natural order of things." but the hurt is profound.

The story is believed to have come from Celtic legend. Called *King Lear*, the Celts probably puzzled about the effects of age-

ing, as did other ancient peoples.

William Shakespeare wrote *King Lear* between 1603 and 1606. There are two themes in this play. The major one is how overwhelming fate is and with its great cruelty to King Lear. Shakespeare describes in heart breaking terms the ingratitude of his daughters and how dementia has taken away his power or thought. However the other theme is very important and lurks behind the action of the play.

Queen Elizabeth died in 1603. She had no direct heir. She was the last ruler of the House of Tudor.

Her grandfather was victorious in the civil war known as The War of the Roses. Her father, the notorious Henry VIII was desperate for a male heir. There was none. Elizabeth survived the struggle for the throne and brought England peace and prosperity.

When she died, there was a great fear that civil war would breakout again. To emphasize this during the period when Shakespeare was writing *King Lear*; was The Gunpowder Plot of 1605. It was an attempt to blow up parliament and create religious war. It was foiled.

King Lear is a masterpiece. It will be presented at The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. now through November 9. The theater is located at 800 East Grand on Navy Pier. 312-595-5600 or www.chicagoshakes.com. online.



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Chris Fogarty



GOV'T CRIMES. It's not just the gov't. It's also us. We be-medal some killers and go to war against others. Propaganda recently converted anti-war America into a majority gung-ho for war. The propaganda's success consisted in establishing a new category of homicide; beheading; that uniquely requires going to war, while making wholesale murder, mass murder, increasingly acceptable.

BEHEADING was always heinous, intolerable; but it has been propagandized into something unique; the sole form of organized murder that requires going to war. The cynically whipped-up outrage reveals the thinness of our civilization. The "OK" homicides are those perpetrated by the U.S. and Israel. While beheadings are now *cassus belli*, most other organized homicides are supported with our \$taxes. Admirable homicides are; dismembering of entire families, squashing multiple families by collapsing their apartment buildings, poisoning communities by bombing water treatment plants, lethal diseases by bombing sewage treatment plants, bombing hospitals, schools, mosques, and UN shelters.

ISLAMIC STATE is America's "bad guy" du jour. First, some background: Post-WWI Imperial Britain and France expanded. France grabbed Lebanon and Syria, Britain took Palestine and Mesopotamia (Iraq). Saudi Arabia, Gulf Emirates, and Yemen were allowed statehood by accepting Britain's protection racket. When Kurds refused to give \$millions in jewels to Britain's royal family every Christmas Britain retaliated by erasing Kurdistan off the map, making it part of today's Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, thus permanently genocidable. In the 1920s "Bomber" Harris, affectionately called "Butcher" by subordinates (before his WW2 fire-bombings

of German cities), used to invite fellow aristocrats on open-cockpit air safaris, sportively shooting and bombing Kurdish villages. The Kurds would scatter upon hearing the approaching planes, so Harris put timers on his bombs to explode hours later. That post-WWI vindictiveness has left the Kurds the world's largest stateless nationality today. Britain, creating new states on a "divide-and-rule" basis ran national boundaries through ethnic groups, splitting them up. Though secular dictators Hussein, Assad and Ahmadijad and their forerunners kept discord suppressed, those maliciously-imposed boundaries have caused trouble ever since.

AMERICA, born in anti-colonial revolution, helped to dismantle British colonies almost everywhere. FDR started the freedom of Antigua and Trinidad via his early WW2 "Battleships-For-Bases" pact with Churchill. JFK continued that policy, especially in Africa. But our policies differed in oil-rich lands. Britain, having run its navy for decades on Iranian oil lost that gratis source when newly-elected President Mossadeq nationalized it. The US, via the CIA and Kermit Roosevelt, promptly staged a bloody coup, replaced Mossadeq with U.S. puppet Shah, and commandeered Iran's oilfields. Despite the US/Shah's rule-by-assassination, the Iranians freed themselves, taking over our embassy in Teheran, and elected a new government. The US punished Iran. It provided Saddam Hussein with funding, munitions, and poison gas to make war against Iran. Millions died in that war; and when it ended in stalemate, our Neo-Cons targeted Saddam and Iraqi oil. It was catastrophe; more than a million innocents died, millions exiled into Syria, 4,489 of our servicemen dead, many thousands wounded, and \$1.5 trillion thrown away.

ISIS IS BLOW-BACK. Why respond with more of what created them in the first place?

THE "GREAT GAME," once Britain's Arabian-Eurasian strategy, is now America's (more accurately U.S./U.K./Israel's). But its incoherence is stunning. Once-admired America has made itself a pariah, feared and loathed internationally. All but the most stupid know that social media makes it impossible for America to get away with the sort of abominations that Britain once perpetrated throughout its empire. Those days are gone; now such crimes are exposed immediately. The world KNOWS. It heard Asst. Sec. of State Victoria Nuland's shocking conversation with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. Everyone heard her mention the \$7billion already spent to remove Ukraine's elected gov't, and worse, the world heard her naming the U.S. puppets to be imposed on Ukraine. The world knows that those she named are now in power, one is the president. The world heard two foreign ministers, one from Estonia, who talked with the chief surgeon treating shooting victims in Maidan Square. The world (except Fox viewers) learned that both sides in that square were being killed by the same shooter firing from a building controlled by the CIA. Knowing all, or any part, of this, it is deeply humiliating that Obama and our news media are "informing" us that Putin's involvement in Ukraine is THE problem.

THE COST OF WAR is bankrupting America. \$Trillions. Patriotic, law-abiding Americans oppose war but are facing difficulties due to a heedless gov't bribed by AIPAC and the military/industrial complex. Who favors war? Qui bono? Other than AIPAC the main perps are corporations; Lockheed Martin (Hellfire missiles), Raytheon (Tomahawk missiles, sea-launched), General Dynamics (various munitions), General Atomics (Predator drones and updated Reapers), Northrup Grumman (Global Hawks),

BETRAYAL is far too common. Traitors in "Ireland's"

gov't recently refused to release patriot Michael McKeivitt. Meanwhile, it actively covers for those who murdered thirty-three in the Dublin/Monaghan car-bombing, and the murder of twenty-nine in Omagh. It refuses to investigate MI5/FBI agents Buckley and Rupert and their mission in Ireland from 1994 until the evening of the 15Aug98 Omagh bombing. Buckley's performance regarding the Langert family triple-murder in suburban Chicago explains why MI5

used him for Omagh; but, as Rupert told Sun-Times reporters; "The Fix is In."

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irish-holocaust.org.

GFA BENEFICIAL? See www.michaelmckevitt.com, and www.billymcguire.com.

MI5/FBI; See www.chicago-mole.org.

WRITE to Ireland's patriot/prisoners. For names/address-es contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Support for Downtown Lake Geneva Parking Garage Ramps Up

Senior Correspondent

Voters in Lake Geneva will have the final say this November on whether the city should build a parking ramp to address long-standing downtown parking problems.

Part of the problem is seasonal, as the 100,000 residents of Walworth County seemingly double in summertime and on warm weekends as people flock to the area from all over Wisconsin and Illinois

and second home "Snowbirds" return from Florida hibernation.

The shores of Geneva Lake swell with boats and tourists while in the streets of Lake Geneva swell with a surge of too many automobile parkers and not enough spaces to park in.

Kevin Fleming, who has owned the Irish clothing and accessories store on Main Street for 37 years, leads a contingent of downtown business owners who are urging



Kevin Fleming in his Irish import store in Lake Geneva.

the city to build a four-story parking ramp to address the problem. "Parking in Lake Geneva has been an issue for as many years as I have been here and for many years before that," said Fleming, who is president of the Downtown Lake Geneva Business Improvement District.

"We currently have an opportunity through our Tax Incremental Financing district, or TIF, to do the financing. That's why it's come to the forefront right now," explained Fleming.

"The parking ramp will add over 225 parking spaces, and it will also provide a good location for businesses, it will help alleviate some of the parking problem in the neighborhood it's near the school, it's good for beach traffic so all-in-all it's a win-win situation for the residents, for the visitors, and the business people."

Nadia Jenkins of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin who visited during the Labor Day weekend with her husband and family, said "it's probably not a bad idea to make more parking available, I think that it would have to be carefully selected as to the location because I certainly wouldn't want a parking structure to ruin the aesthetic look of the downtown area."

Different architectural concepts are being discussed in city committee.

Some local residents like Sam Mantych are all for the plan, who said the issue is a daily one for him. "I think it's a great idea to do

the parking ramp due to the fact that all the parking around here is all metered and it costs a bunch of money, a lot of people have to park two, three blocks away just to come down here for the couple blocks of stores that they have," said the Lake Geneva resident.

"And also it will get people to stop parking in my driveway since I live downtown here. We've had a lot of problems with people just parking in my driveway thinking they can do whatever they want."

The parking ramp, which city planners are terming a parking garage, would be located behind the closed Geneva Theater on a current city lot off Cook Street. One proprietor next to the site had mixed feelings about the plan and declined comment, other than to say that extra spaces would be a benefit to customers but noise and a lack of spaces during construction could be an issue as well.

Lake Geneva's most prolific parker has a big brown truck and a bigger headache when it comes to finding a space. One of the town's UPS drivers, who preferred to not give his name, has to deliver to all the businesses while attempting to find what space he can in alleys, back lots and double-parked on the street.

He said a parking garage will add to the problems. "It's gonna be a disaster, because it's hard enough for me to park down here to begin with and now they're just gonna add more parking, more people... it's not gonna be good for me."

The driver made those comments just after dropping off a load of Irish goods for Kevin Fleming, who feels that not only is time a consideration but also money.

"The city will not have to borrow any money, parking revenue will not have to cover the building costs of it, the TIF district will provide the funding for it. We're not sure what the final number is going to be but it will be a few million dollars and the money is there for it," said the owner of Fleming's Ltd.

Muriel Strickler of Burlington is a regular visitor to downtown Lake Geneva and said now is the time. "I think it would be a very good thing. We have such a shortage of parking spaces, especially in the Summer when so many tourists are here. We definitely could use it."

"The TIF is going to close in the next few years so now is a great opportunity to do it," added Fleming.

The final decision will come in November when Lake Geneva voters will have an Election Day referendum on the parking ramp.

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Guilty Pleasures

Christine Gallagher Kearney



It all started with an email from my sister, who is deep into the process of becoming Australian. She forwarded her invitation to a formal citizenship day ceremony, inviting us to "join her in spirit." We're excited for her, but I suppose this means she's not returning to the United States anytime soon.

The invitation included a note that tea would be served following the ceremony. My other sister, who lives in Minnesota, commented, "I think it's funny that they serve tea after the ceremony. Will there be crumpets too? Gosh, I love those things." This set off an email chain about the larger and culturally determined significance of tea.

According to my freshly minted Aussie of a sister, "tea" in Australia means different things depending on the time of day: "morning tea" is the snack that you eat between breakfast and lunch; "afternoon tea" is the nosh you eat between lunch and dinner (it may or may not include tea and could simply be coffee). "High tea," on the other hand, is a meal all its own and includes crumpets, scones, clotted cream and other refined delicacies.

Since I've spent much of my adult life drinking Irish tea, I'd like to offer a different perspective. Whenever we visit my husband Michael's family in County Down, his mom, stepdad, sisters, brother and brother-in-laws generously offer to pour us a cuppa tea every 30 minutes. In Ireland, it seems, that kettle never stops boiling! When I visit over the Christmas holiday, I drink seven cups a day or more. Indeed, I get my fill for the year!

I learned the hard way that there is an art to making Irish tea. With my first attempt, eager tea drinkers (Michael's family) took one sip and then dumped out their freshly brewed cups in

the sink. Some complained it was



too weak, others that I didn't add enough milk. Try again!

Taking pity, Michael's brother-in-law, a patient teacher, showed me the tricks. First, fill and

switch on the electric kettle (the water boils much faster using one of these simple appliances). Second, set out the tea cups or mugs (be sure to check with everyone requesting tea that you have their special vessel). Third, place enough tea bags inside a metal tea kettle on the stove-top to cover all the tea drinkers (usually this means two to three Nambarrie or Punjana tea bags). Fourth, pour boiled water from the electric kettle into the metal kettle. Fifth, switch on the gas and let the tea and hot water mingle for a few minutes (longer if you prefer stronger tea).

Using a tea towel, tightly grasp the handle of the metal kettle while you pour the tea, now honey-colored, into the cups or mugs. Tea seems to taste better



when it's poured into mugs with amusing decorations. In Michael's family, that includes one with garish floral designs and another, with a photo of the cast of Friends wrapped around its midsection. As you pour, make sure not to overfill the chalices or you may not have room for milk and sugar.

This is the part where things get tricky: No matter how expertly you prepare the tea, it's

important to remember that everyone likes their tea a slightly different way. Some like it black, others prefer it with one sugar or two, and still others favor a combination of tea, sugar and milk.

While it is tempting to take orders ahead of time, this tends to be an exercise in futility, because people often change their minds about how they want their tea depending on the number of cups they already drank that day. If this is their fifth cup of the day, the tea aficionado may only take a splash of milk to avoid more sugar intake (especially if they are a "two sugars" type of person).

So now that your head hurts from processing all of this, holler into the adjoining "good room" (a.k.a. living room for the guests) and ask everyone to shout in their requests. In the end, you may only screw up one cuppa out of the seven you prepare.

Oh, and don't forget the Mcvities Hobnobs.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Swedish playwright August Strindberg is known for, among other things, his unremittingly bleak view of human nature and his depiction of torturous relations between the sexes. Against the backdrop of such gloom, the producers of *Miss Julie*, a new film based on Strindberg's play of the same title, saw fit to transpose his bleak vision of human beings to the uplifting socio-political circumstances of the Northern Irish State. *Miss Julie* had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival on Sunday 7th September and I happened to be in town.

Set in 1890, *Miss Julie* tells the story of an uppity young lady of a manor who has been disappointed in a marriage engagement. To vent her frustration, Julie fixes her attention upon Jean/John, a domestic servant who has far more education and confidence in himself than Julie expects from someone of his station—and she finds in him a worthy adversary. The two sparring partners, John and Julie, centre the film and carry its action. The instinctive consent, the click of the heel that John displays when given an order gives way to a tightening of the jaw when Julie plays at being a woman rather than the baron's daughter. "I knew who I was",

as John puts it, remembering the moment when his eight year old brother had died beside him and when the family was living in what amounted to a pigsty. Julie cannot understand such deprivation. Her defence is to revert to the comforts of her caste, and to make John kiss her boot. His wrestling with pride and subordinating that pride to her tests always makes *Miss Julie* a compelling drama. John does manage to turn the tables and issue orders of his own, only to be put back in his place: something Ingmar Bergman characterised as the pair's swapping each other's masks.

Miss Julie has been adapted several times by filmmakers, but the latest version, written and directed by Liv Ullmann, is the first one to situate the film in Ireland. Northern Irish accents and cadences work well throughout the film. Colin Farrell, who plays John, is a pitch perfect Fermanagh man: "well, I tellya now", "why didn't ya waarom the plate?" Ullmann ensured that the dialogue rings true for its Northern setting, for example by occasionally ending sentences in a conjunction as is often done in the Irish language, "Frankly speaking but"—and it worked to great effect.

Catholic names for the underclass and Protestant ones for the Ascendancy also help to give this film historical resonance. All in all, this is *Miss Julie* tantalisingly inserted into the Anglo-Irish circumstances of 1890, which had the potential to give the class struggle inherent in the script a particular piquancy.

Castle Coole in Co. Fermanagh is an intriguing setting for the film. On arrival at the film's location, Ullmann chose not to dwell on the Roman architecture and Ionic columns that one might expect in a film set there. Instead, as she told the press in Toronto on September 9th, when she

fully explored Castle Coole, the impact of seeing where the servants lived persuaded her to give the film a different look. Historically, servants were positioned deep underneath the castle, with tunnels constructed for them lest they obscure the view of their overlords. In her original screenplay, Ullmann positioned the servants looking through wide windows over bright vistas (it is set in midsummer, after all. However, seeing Castle Coole made her realise the importance of having servants scampering around in the castle's nether regions. There are innumerable such Big Houses throughout Ireland and the feature of servant's tunnels is quite common in many of them, but there is a particular concentration of Big Houses in what became the Northern Irish State, and a particular enthusiasm among some to preserve them. In such houses, servants could be fired if they were discovered to be literate—for some, being fired transpired to be a blessing that prompted their departure for a better life in the New World.

The Northern Irish Ascendancy in this film could have been accented all the more. Ullmann, in response to a question I posed about why she chose not to bring out a Protestant and Catholic dimension of the story more, stated that there was already enough in the play to work with; maybe so, but the result is a film made in an Anglophone locale rather than a film fully wedged to its Irish setting. Had Ullmann gone all the way in depicting a jumped up Irish "sarvin boy" pushing back against the ruling class in the Ireland of the time—post the Land War and with the land acts forcing the transference of power and status throughout Ireland from the ruling class to small farmers—there was scope to see Strindberg's brilliant drama in an entirely new way.

In Strindberg's masterwork, the traditional seat of power begins to crack as the lower orders revolt, which links it in an uncanny way to one of this month's biggest stories: the threat represented by the rapid swing towards the answer "yes" on the part of Scotland's electorate to ending their membership in the political

union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland. After systematically bullying the Scots for over a year with threats of disinvestment, currency segregation, and the massive relocation of financial and insurance institutions from Edinburgh to London should the Scots declare their independence in the forthcoming referendum, the English Conservative Party turned to begging in the final hour. The Scottish Saltire flag flew over his residence, 10 Downing Street, as David Cameron and his cohorts made dainty appeals to their northern cousins to 'stay with us'. Even a worm turns and how.



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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



next few months.
Take care.
Love always
Margo
Thank you Mar-
go,

And thank you so much for having me on your show. I really enjoyed the whole event and you had them in the palm of your hand, as you always do. Congratulations on your 50th year in the music business. Here's to many more! Also congratulations and great success with your new book.

Well my trip back to Ireland was a wonderful time. I got to hang out with my son Declan. At least for a while, until he started to bond with his cousins. I don't think he realized he had so many relations. He sort of dumped me for them. Poor Dad..

I'd like to mention a man who is very dear to me. You may have heard of a singer called Nicky James (not the rock singer). Well Nick is my brother and I want to congratulate him on his recent CD titled "About Time" which is being released in the next couple of weeks. Nick has done a lot of promoting of people like Gene Watson, Larry Gatlin and just a bunch of American country stars. He has also promoted shows with a lot of the Irish bands like Nathan Carter, Derek Ryan, Declan Nerney, Jimmy Buckley and just a load of other artists. He stays very much in the background and helps an awful lot of entertainers. So I thought it was time someone shone the light on him for a change. Nick was very instrumental in Nathan Carter's career taking off. I want to congratulate him on his new recording.

The first duet that Nathan Carter has ever recorded to my knowledge is performed along with Nick on this album. It is a song called "Come On In." It's a great track and if you have never danced the jive, this song would make you want to learn. So Nick, I wish you great success with it.

Margo mentioned a song last month that we penned together and unfortunately we were late sending it in for our column. It's a true story about a homeless Irish man and a story of human nature. Margo will write more about him in one of our up-coming columns.

Until next time, be good to one another,
Joe and Margo

Hello Everyone,

Well it was great to have my dear friend Joe home in the summer. We wrote some more songs together. Joe also appeared on my Killarney show at the INEC. He walked out on that stage with his acoustic guitar and harmonicas and that wonderful voice of his and sang some beautiful Irish ballads. You could have heard a pin drop in the audience. I was so proud of him. Chicago you are very blessed to have such a talent.

As I write this, we are in the middle of September. And I have been sitting here reading the first copy of my book, which O'Brien press sent me. My book "The Promise and the Dream" will be published and available on the 22nd September. That is my Mam and Dad's Wedding Anniversary. I'll be appearing on the Late Late Show on Friday 26th September to chat about my Biography. The next day I will be travelling down to Cork for my concert and I am looking forward to meeting everyone. It is a long time since I sang in Cork. I remember singing at the dances in the fabulous Maudie Mac's. The place would be packed. Those were the days. I am so glad I was part of that era which I don't believe, will ever be repeated. We would play seven nights a week to packed Halls and Marquees and there was very little advertising back then. Just posters along the road or an add here and there. No big advertisement campaign. Throughout the coming months I will be signing in bookstores, so come along and say "Hello" if you are in the area. I will post a list of bookstores soon.

I feel blessed to be celebrating 50 years in the music business and I am going to give myself a clap on the back as I think I deserve it, don't you? I have come through a lot of ups and downs. Some sad and some happy times as you will read in my Biography. This being my 50th year in the music business, I am doing some concert dates. Just to meet up with fans and friends whom I miss since I stopped touring for health reasons. Hope to see you sometime over the

Don Juan in Hell Opens October 18

This brilliant and funny discourse remains relevant today, as the legendary wooer of women goes toe to toe with The Devil in a sardonic debate about the human condition, gender equality, nationhood, and more. If you enjoyed Man and Superman last season, you will love the rarely performed Act 3, Scene 2, which is Bernard Shaw's famous dream sequence, in which Jack Tanner is transformed into the legendary Don Juan.

Don Juan in Hell features ShawChicago favorites: Christian Gray - Don Juan; Mary Michell - Dona Ana; Jack Hickey - The Devil; Richard Marlatt - The Commander

Don Juan in Hell runs from October 18 through November 10.

Tickets may be purchased by clicking [Don Juan in Hell Tickets](#) or by calling 312-587-7390.



Christian Gray



Mary Michell



Jack Hickey



Richard Marlatt

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Don Juan in Hell - Oct. 18 thru Nov. 10, 2014

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"The Lovely Gra Mo Chroi"

*I travelled with my country band from the dear old Emerald Isle
Through Scotland, Wales and England we sure put up the miles
This song I sing for you tonight is about a certain show
My band and I were playing at the famous Galtimore
That night as I was walking in London's city fair
I heard a voice call out my name and saw him laying there
Just another homeless man and shabby clothes he wore
Then he told me a story that shook me to the core
He said the curse of drink came ore me and stole my youth away
Now my bed is cardboard boxes at the closing of the day
I once stood proud and tall you know and earned an honest pay
But now I long for Ireland much more than words can say*

Chorus *Please sing a song of Ireland so I can picture home
Before my childhood faded and a boy began to roam
Leaving Mom and Dad behind who loved me tenderly
So sing that song for me tonight, the lovely gra mo chroi
To see my country man like this so sad and so alone
I couldn't walk away that night, this man had touched my soul
Then I asked him if he'd come and listen to the show
As I felt the hand of God take us both across the road
I clasped your hand in friendship and sang that song for you
I could see your time on earth was short and I knew what I must do
So I took you home to Ireland just to be there for a while
And I laid you down to rest my friend beneath the Irish soil*

Chorus *I sang a song of Ireland so you could picture home
Before your childhood faded and a boy began to roam
Leaving Mom and Dad behind who loved you tenderly
So here's a song for you tonight, the lovely gra mo chroi*

Bridge *You became my dearest friend and as I stand here by your grave
I'll sing another song you loved at the close of an Irish day
Written by Margo O'Donnell and Joe McShane*

Knowledge is Power

In my July article, I wrote about what steps undocumented folks can take to prepare for any future legalization efforts. President Obama is expected to announce an administrative reform measure after the upcoming November elections. Although there has been a lot of politicking around this subject



Raia Stoicheva

in the past year, it is matter of "when" not "if" reform comes.

Along those lines, it is important to stay informed. A new website has been launched for exactly this purpose: www.undocumentedirish.com. There, you can find the most up to date

news about all things immigration reform, as well as other useful online resources.

If you have more specific questions about your own immigration situation, you are welcome to join us at one of our legal walk-in clinics for a confidential consultation. Check out our Facebook page or call us at 773-282-8445 for the most up to date information on the time and place of our clinics. Raia Stoicheva, Immigration Attorney, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, 4626 N Knox #301
rstoicheva@ci-is.org
<http://www.ci-is.org>

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



Senior Groups

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

Irish American Heritage Center - Tara Club
 Wednesday, 8th October 2014
 - Medicare Update

Joint Meeting with Tír na nÓg
 Just when you think you really understand Medicare and how it affects you, it changes! This is particularly true during the annual open enrolment period for Part D prescription drug plans. To bring us up to date with more recent changes to Medicare we are joined by a representative from the Senior Health Insurance Program at the Illinois Department on Aging.

Wednesday, 29th October 2014 - Take Care of Those

Hips! (note change of date)

Join Dr. Terry Younger, orthopedic surgeon with Swedish Covenant Medical Group, as he explains the causes of hip pain, new treatment options and what to expect should you need hip replacement surgery.

Gaelic Park - Emerald Club
 Wednesday, 1st October 2014
 - Behind the Scenes at Croke Park

Croke Park, now a stadium in the heart of Dublin City with a capacity of over 82,000, has been the home of Gaelic games since 1896. Today, we will watch a fascinating documentary that goes beyond the action on the field and gives an insider's account of what it takes for the stadium to host a massive event - the All-Ireland Football final. The documentary runs longer than our regular meetings - 104 minutes total.

Wednesday, 15th October 2014
 - Medicare Update

Just when you think you really understand Medicare and how it affects you, it changes! This is particularly true during the annual open enrolment period for Part D prescription drug plans. To bring us up to date with more recent changes to Medicare we are joined by a representative from the Senior Health Insurance Program at the Illinois Department on Ageing.

Annual Fall Outing - Wednes-

day, 22th October (Note change of Date)

Join us as we set out in search of all that is best about fall in the Midwest! There are few better places to appreciate the change in the seasons that at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. We will explore some of the 285 acres of beautiful gardens and lakes by trolley and enjoy a delicious boxed lunch. All those interested should call our office on 773-282-8445 for further details.

Volunteers Needed

Irish Senior Connect (ISC) is a listening phone line for isolated seniors. It has been running for over two years now in Boston and last month became operational at Chicago Irish Immigrant Support. ISC is an invaluable service to lonely older folks providing much needed social interaction and a listening ear. 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.

After nine years as the Executive Director, we must bid farewell to Brendan Magee as he moves on to pursue exciting new opportunities in the fight for immigration reform. Good luck and God speed!

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Here are several tasty treats for you. Let's start with the new, new first. Sox in the Frying Pan has a self-titled album out. These three young men are terrific musicians with an obvious sense of humor. Brothers Shane and Fiachra Hayes on accordion/fiddle/banjo are accompanied by Aodan Coyne on guitar and vocals. We would expect these three from Clare to be excellent on their instruments, and they



are. What is most notable is that they are also tremendous in their vocal work. Irish groups for the last several years have not been known for having beautiful harmonies in their vocals. No offense, but they just haven't. Socks in the Frying Pan is different. Wonderful vocals. We are fans. To do the festival circuit, we think they are going to need a fourth player on keyboards to give the group some bass. But that is just nitpicking. Let's just deal with this album, and it qualifies them early for the New Group of the Year.

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

The leading female Irish vocalist of our day is quite likely Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. She is the former Female Vocalist of the Year here. Her new solo

album again puts her in the front runner position for this year's Award. You know her, or should, as she is the singer for the popular group Danu, but it is in her solo work where she really shines. Like on this album, the English title of which is The Small Hours. We were hip to this album by the great Alan O'Leary at Copperplate in London. Thank you, Alan, and thank you Muireann. She is just wonderful.

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

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

From Greentrax, we have received Celtic Airs and Reflective Melodies. It is gorgeous. This



photo by Shane McCarthy

all-Scottish cd presents many of the leading musicians of our day, both past and present. Many people feel that nobody plays the airs better than the Scots. We tend to agree, and you will hear why on this album. Another win-

ner in a long line from Greentrax. It is perfect for serious listening, or just lovey background. We cannot recommend it highly enough.

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

In packing up the cd's we were digging in nooks and crannies and found an album sent to us by the aforementioned, Copperplate. How we missed this, we don't know. It is a few years old. We never heard it. We never reviewed it. Somehow, with getting 500 cd's a year, it fell between the cracks. Criminal. The album is called The Ominous and the Luminous by Micks Sands. Alan O'Leary tells us that Mick is from Northern Ireland originally but now lives in London. He is one

of the best Irish singers we have ever heard. Mick is also a gorgeous flute player. He sings and plays Irish music the way others want to. We know Alan has it at Copperplate. Just Google, Copperplatedistribution.com. This gem may be hard to find, otherwise. Don't repeat our mistake. Find it.

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

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Mick

Mike Morley



Shell Game

While preparing different column this month, I received a link from son, Colin, that I decided to share instead: a PBS radio interview with reporter Chana Joffe-Walt about Social Security's disability programs. During a 6 month investigation, Joffe visited areas in the US where 25% of residents, having successfully claimed to be suffering from a disability preventing them from holding down a job, receive monthly Social Security disability payments (average \$1000) along with health care benefits.

Many locals placed the blame on "freeloaders", sometimes with a racial angle. But reporter Chana Joffe Walt looked deeper into why today over 14 million Americans are on disability.

The number of workers on disability has been doubling every 15 years despite programs meant to correct that, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. Joffe: "In the 1990s, unemployment declined, crime declined, welfare was down, the economy was doing great... And the numbers grew" despite great gains in prosthetics and communication technologies to help disabled people communicate and function. Disability numbers (now 14 million people) are not announced regularly like those on unemployment, jobs

and welfare. As the economy slowly recovered from its slump, we were informed monthly that an average of 150,000 new jobs were created. We weren't told that 250,000 people each month were also applying for disability.

Joffe visited Hale County, Alabama and noted: "the banks are open late on the first and the third of the month when the disability checks come in... it's hard to find a parking spot on Main Street that entire week, and grocery carts are always full to the brim... Back pain is everywhere. The number of people suffering from disabling back pain in Alabama doubled in 10 years... in Hale County, it basically seems like there's one guy, a man whose name was mentioned in almost every story people told me about becoming disabled, Dr. Perry Timberlake... the only general practitioner in Greensboro... he's one of only a few white people in town who chooses to live in a black neighborhood."

Besides general health questions, Timberlake says, "I always ask them what grade did you finish... A lot of them have finished the 12th grade. But a lot of them have finished less than that. ... not too many sit down jobs with that. I don't care how smart you are." Timberlake feels poor education equals inability to function gainfully. Joffe then began to realize that in Hale County there were likely very few non-

physical jobs open to those with a high school education or less.

Retraining following job loss? Joffe tells of one Work-source trainer who told a client: "I'm going to be honest with you. There's nobody going to hire you. We're just hiding you guys... keeping you out of the picture". He advised the man: "Just draw your unemployment, and just suck all the benefits you can out of the system until everything's gone. And then you're on your own."

David Autor, MIT economist: "that's kind of an ugly secret of the American labor market ... part of the reason our unemployment rates have been low until recently is that a lot of people who would have trouble finding jobs are ... on the disability insurance program. And they don't show up in the labor force statistics. And so it artificially reduces the unemployment... This has been going on pretty rapidly for now more than 20 years." Autor says disability has become a sort of de facto welfare for people without a lot of education or job skills, but: "Once people go in that direction, they're unlikely to come back".

Joffe: "Once a worker gets on disability, there are really only two ways out. You get old enough that at 65, 66-years-old, you move on to a different government program, Social Security for seniors, or you die." But a guaranteed \$13,000 per year, with health insurance, looks lots better than a chancy \$15,000 minimum job.

Social Security denies disability benefits to about 2/3 of people applying the first time. As a result Joffe says a: "vast disability industrial complex" of law firms has sprung up. "If a person applies for disability, is denied, hires a lawyer, and then wins, he gets back pay for the time he waited for his hearing. Lawyers get a one-time fee, a portion of the back pay, up to 25% ...each year, the Social Security Administration makes more than \$1 billion in payments directly to attorneys that have prevailed against it..." And 75% of the time

they prevail. Why? One reason is that the government is not represented at the hearing. "In these courtrooms, the judges are employees of Social Security. So they have a dual role-- to represent the government and to make a fair and objective determination." There is no opposing counsel arguing the government's case. Winning clients average \$250,000 to \$350,000 in lifetime payments, plus benefits.

In his 1998 State of the Union Address Bill Clinton proudly announced "we ended the old welfare system. And we're now replacing welfare checks with paychecks".

After Clinton's reforms in 1966, states had an incentive to get people off welfare. But if there were no jobs, where could they go? States began eyeing a federal disability.

Pat Coakley is head of the Social Security Advocacy management team for the Public Consulting Group: "what we're offering is to work to identify those folks who have the highest likelihood of meeting disability criteria. We will screen through their case loads. We will look to identify these individuals. It's also removing that person from the state welfare program."

Joffe: "For the people on welfare, disability is a much better deal. In some states, you can make four times as much on that program than on welfare."

And it's a win for PCG. In its bid for the state of Missouri, the company asked for \$2,300 per person it removed from state welfare rolls. Coakley says PCG's win rate is "70 to 75%".

Joffe: "There was one line in the PCG contract with Missouri that stood out to me. PCG requests a fee of \$1,745 for each successful foster child SSI application. What that means is if PCG gets foster kids on disability, the program called SSI, it gets paid for that too. Kids ...the number of kids is almost five times greater than it was 25 years ago. It's true. Yet another rapidly growing group of disabled Americans- children."

She spoke with a vibrant 10-year-old, Jaleel, who just loves

school: "Jaleel's mom gets about \$700 a month for his disability ...when you're a kid, a disability can be anything that prevents you from progressing in school. And in the last two decades, there's been an explosion of kids on disability for mental or intellectual issues. It's now 2/3 of the kids on the program. Jaleel is a kid you can imagine doing very well for himself. He is delayed. But given the right circumstances and support, it's easy to see that over the course of his schooling, Jaleel could catch up. School's his favorite thing to go to.

So let's imagine that happens. Jaleel does well in school, overcomes some of his disabilities, and he doesn't need the disability program anymore. That would obviously be great for everyone, except it would also threaten Jaleel's family's livelihood... Because Jaleel's family, like a lot of kids on disability, survives off that check... There are lots and lots of poor families in exactly this same impossible situation." Like one mother in Greensboro Alabama who "told her 18-year-old son not to work, because it'll get in the way of a disability check".

The disability programs, "along with associated health care, cost about \$260 billion a year... That's a lot of money. That's eight times more than we spend on welfare. In fact, it is more than we spend on welfare, food stamps, the school lunch program, and subsidized housing combined. A lot more."

So, like the welfare programs which Clinton crowed he ended, disability offers incentives not only for adults to remain out of work, but also for their children to drown in underachievement.

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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



Each October Catholic Charities releases our Annual Report, reflecting on the prior fiscal year's accomplishments and gratefully thanking our donors and volunteers who make it all happen. We chose the title One Heart, One Mission for our recent 2014 report because it captures so well the philosophy of Catholic Charities.

For Catholics and Christians, charity is not just about giving material things, it is about acting with heart—acting in the name of Christ to bring the love of God to people in need. Those we help do not need to be Catholic or even Christian, but our Christian faith is central to why we care for the poor and how we do it. Each person helped is treated with heart, for in each person's distress we see the suffering Christ, who reminds us, "Whatever you did for these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).

At Catholic Charities, our hearts beat in rhythm with the heart of Christ, always helping those who are broken or down-hearted, and treating each individual with the unconditional love and respect they so desperately need and deserve to enhance their God-given dignity. This past year we opened the doors at our 161 locations to more than 1.1 million people. We welcome them as we would our mother, father, brother, sister; as we would welcome Jesus. We are no longer strangers, we are friends. We invite them to be fed, comforted, sheltered, educated, and cared for at any stage in their lives.

Every day at Catholic Charities we witness small acts of God's grace. Whether it is a formerly homeless man and his children moving into their own apartment as we helped 735 families do last year; one of our 3,700 older adults enjoying a nutritious meal, learning a new fitness routine, and playing cards at a senior center; a family being able to stay in their own home and avoid foreclosure as we helped 6,700 households do last year; or a young girl, one of 1,500 at our child development centers, relishing her playtime in a safe environment and proud of herself for learning the alphabet...we see

Christ's transforming power in each life we touch.

Part of Catholic Charities' mission is to go to where our help is needed most. We have intentionally opened service locations and expanded the breadth of services offered in some of the most troubled neighborhoods in

Cook and Lake Counties—areas plagued by violence and despair, where jobs are scarce, nutritious food can be a bus ride away, and empty lots are uninviting reminders that they have been forgotten. It is in these desperate communities that we see some of the most inspiring glimmers of hope: a dad wanting to become a role model for his children by earning his GED; a mom shopping for healthy groceries at one of Catholic Charities' neighborhood Women Infant & Children grocery stores; or a grandparent thanking God for the "nicest apartment she's ever had" at one of senior residences. What a blessing it is to bring hope and light to communities who urgently want to be out of darkness!

So many of you, dear readers, are faithful donors and volunteers at Catholic Charities, and I sincerely thank you for your support during this past fiscal year. I hope you will take a moment to read One Heart, One

Mission, as I know you will be thoroughly inspired by the wonderful work we have done together! Guided and inspired by the heart of Christ, Catholic Charities is privileged to lift the burdens of those who are struggling and give them the tools they need to overcome crisis and poverty.

To view a copy of Catholic Charities 2014 Annual Report, One Heart, One Mission, please visit www.catholiccharities.net

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