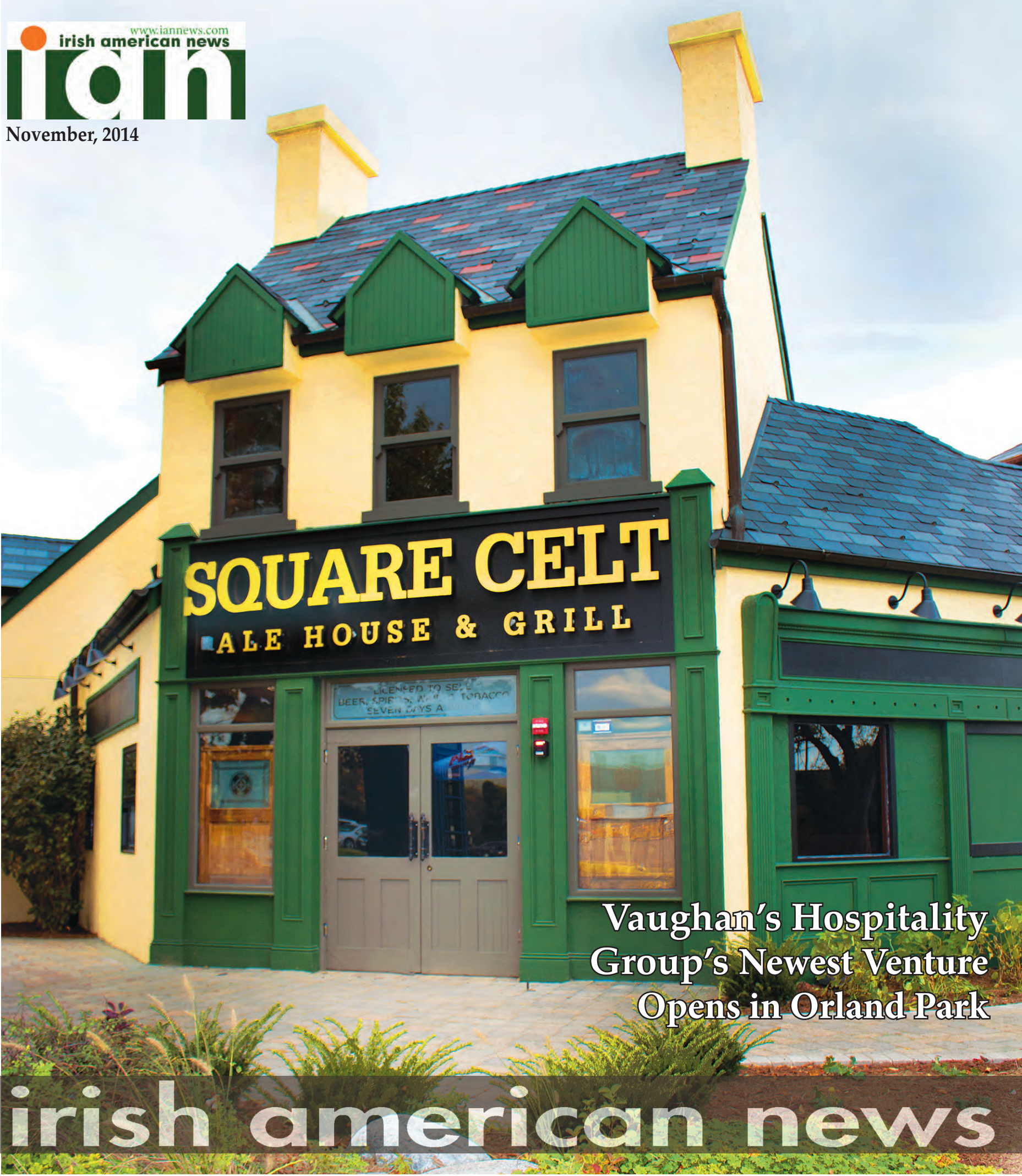




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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



36.5% in the rest of Europe, a Europe recovering, incidentally, from war damage – something neutral Ireland had been

A Man For All Seasons

Who did Irish television viewers choose in 2001 as the Irishman of the Twentieth Century? The answer might surprise. None of the Taoiseachs I mentioned in my last piece, nor our Poets. No sports personalities or rock stars. It says a lot about the public's ability to be discerning that they chose a mild mannered former civil servant, **Ken Whitaker**, (pictured) still happily with us at age ninety seven.

A strong candidate as the greatest living Irishman, he is now the subject of a compelling biography by one of Ireland's foremost biographers, Anne Chambers, which traces his rise in the bureaucratic ranks, his spells as Secretary (head) of the Department of Finance, and Governor of Ireland's Central Bank (Ireland's Fed), and his long and very active retirement.

Particularly fascinating is the account of the close working and personal relationships between Ken Whitaker and two Irish Taoiseachs, Sean Lemass and Jack Lynch and his involvement in the two defining aspects of their rule, handling the economy and dealing with the crisis in Northern Ireland. In both of these his role and influence were key, without ever stepping over the boundary lines between dutiful civil servant and elected politician.

Ken Whitaker was no Sir Humphrey, the character in a 1980s BBC satirical comedy, a bureaucratic mandarin who shamelessly manipulated his political master. "A brave idea, Minister," Sir Humphrey's response to a ministerial initiative which was either suicidal politically or of which he did not approve. Sir Humphrey also stood ready to advance the five reasons for doing nothing on any issue.

Whitaker defined his approach as giving Ministers the best possible unbiased advice when policy was being considered, and, once decided on, carrying out that policy to the best of his ability, regardless of personal views. But this could require at times a need for harsh truths, none more so than in the Ireland of 1957.

The period since 1945 had been disastrous for Ireland, economically and socially. Several appalling governments had presided over stagnation that threatened to become terminal. Between 1949 and 1955 Ireland's GNP increased by just 10.5%, compared to

spared. In 1957 2% of the population - almost 60,000 people – emigrated. My own family was among them, as were some people reading this column.

De Valera, re-elected Taoiseach at seventy five, seemed oblivious. He was on recent record as stating that the restoration of the Irish language remained "Fianna Fail's greatest national objective." Economically the country had languished behind high tariffs to protect a handful of inefficient industries, while agriculture, exporting almost exclusively to Britain, was hamstrung by Britain's cheap food policies. This low risk and myopic approach might have been justified to get the country through the Second World War without starving but by 1957 it



had had its day. Irish politicians seemed never to have heard of Keynes, which had at least the virtue that they did not try to borrow to the hilt.

There was no lack of ideas. Ken Whitaker had plenty, He was just forty and already acknowledged as Ireland's most brilliant civil servant. His rise had been meteoric, culminating in his appointment as the youngest ever Secretary of the Department of Finance, acquiring on the way a Master's Degree in Economics as well a considerable reputation among his peers internationally. His problem was that politicians simply did not listen.

Then one did. Whitaker's blunt analysis of the Irish Economy for the new government pulled no punches. "Policies of protectionism were condemning "the people to a lower standard of living than the rest of Europe." Then the killer. Unless there were new policies, Whitaker wrote, "it would be better to make an immediate move towards re-incorporation in the United Kingdom rather than

wait until our economic decadence became even more apparent."

Harsh truths indeed from a civil servant to his political masters, but words that needed to be said – and listened to. The strong man of the Cabinet, and heretofore leading advocate of protectionism, Tanaiste Sean Lemass, listened and threw his weight behind Whitaker.

The seminal "Economic Development" document, written by Whitaker and a small dedicated team, was approved by the Government during 1958. It was eventually published, unusually, under Whitaker's name. There would be no doubting who had come up with the new ideas, but once they worked there was honour all round. The ideas could not have worked without political support, and to his credit Lemass provided it.

Whitaker's ideas were incorporated in a modest economic programme for growth up to 1963 including export-oriented expansion, the encouragement of inward investment and movement towards free trade. The targets were achieved, critically boosting the country's morale by showing that things could improve. Further programmes followed. The economy, and Ireland, was never the same again, with Lemass, Taoiseach after 1959, providing the muscle.

Chambers' book is packed with fascinating detail on the political and economic events of the years that followed as Ireland

grew economically and, with Ken Whitaker's sure hand at the tiller, opened up to international organisations and towards the emerging EEC. He was never afraid to speak his mind and rapidly became the close confidant of both Lemass and his successor, Jack Lynch.

Ken, a Northerner from Rostrevor, had developed a close personal relationship with Northern Ireland Premier Terence O'Neill in the course of attending IMF meetings. This relationship led to the ground-breaking O'Neill Lemass meetings in 1965, which initiated dialogue between the two parts of Ireland and fostered the beginnings of official cross border cooperation. Whitaker thought long and hard about how relations between the two parts of the island might be improved.

This stood him – and Jack Lynch, and Ireland – in good stead when O'Neill's reforms collapsed and the North began to slide towards chaos. A passionate opponent of violence, he presented a thoughtful position paper to Lynch as early as November 1968 pointing clearly to the ruinous costs of any reunification and advocating a long term strategy of good neighbourliness. In 1969 he moved to become Governor of the Central Bank at age 52, for reasons still unclear. What is clear is that he and Charlie Haughey, his Minister, did not get on. We can only speculate.

Continued to page 4



Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Socks in the Frying Pan stole the show at this year's Irish Fest in Milwaukee. Like We Banjo 3 two years ago, Socks burst on the scene with a set of stunning performances that saw larger and larger crowds each day of the festival. You can always tell when an act is hot hot hot at any festival. Word of mouth. Actually, these festivals where acts create such a buzz are a microcosm of the Irish traditional scene in general. It has always been thus. Hard to think that 40 plus years ago, the jungle drums were beating with such names as Plaxty, DeDannan, and The Bothy Band. Many times, the buzz, the suss, the smoke signal is warranted. Many times, it is not. Bands come. Bands go. So do singers.

But it is always fun to see a new group get hot. After all of these years covering Irish music, the reasons why a certain group catches on and gets a big vibe going, while others do not, is a mystery. The biggest factors must surely be the quality of the musicianship, singing, tune and song selection, as well as a pleasing demeanor onstage. Socks has all of these, and so does Aodan Coyne. Aodan is the group's lead singer. In their appearances at Irish Fest there did not appear to be a main spokesman for the trio. Were there, it would be Aodan. Rather, the show was more like an unplanned explosion with all three band members joyfully competing to increase the craic. Spontaneity. Fun. Three guys really enjoying what they're doing. Having seen these groups come and go over the years, what can happen, unless they're careful, is that the spontaneity can become forced. Too many bookings, too much time away from home, too many commitments and too many hurt feelings have compromised and killed most bands in Irish music. It is a simple equation, really. There is either too much work, or not enough. Too much success, or not enough.

The brothers Shane and Fiachra Hayes play button box and fiddle, respectively, with Aodan doing the work on vocals and guitar. Oh, they are mighty! That is the major gist, the central turning point, the Alpha and Omega for all of

matters. So, it occurs to you while you are watching Socks onstage, and you are laughing and having a great time, that they would be just as good, or even better, in a small session pub in Ennis—where they are from. When we heard the group's first, self-titled album, we knew they were different. As we noted at the time, it has been



years since a new group debuted using such intricate and beautiful harmonies. Harmony is a talent that has been lost in many groups. Thank goodness, we thought, Socks brought it back to the forefront where it belongs.

Now comes Aodan's brand new solo CD, *If We Only Knew*. I know it took a long time to get to the point of this review, but stick with me. Aodan is a wonderful singer and a good guitar player. While the group's concerts are spontaneous in nature, this album is beautifully and precisely prepared. Aodan himself penned two of the songs and arranged all of them. This is traditional Irish music lovingly and reverentially presented. We could not recommend this CD more highly to you, and we said the same thing to you about the group's first CD. This is a major new force on the trad scene. These three musicians matter. We can only hope that Aodan and the Hayes brothers don't become a statistic. They are already popular and will get increasingly more so. Here come the strains that can hurt great, young groups. We hear a group with a singer like this,

these young groups. You have to have the musical chops. Without those, nothing else

and we get greedy. We want more and more. We hope that the familiar Irish musical pattern does not take hold. The longer these lads stay together, the more music we'll get. There is nothing in this group not to like. Heck, there is nothing in this group not to love. They're young, they're fun, and they are terrific musically. The moment that they lose this spark has been experienced by most other Irish groups. We could name names, but why? Our hope is that Socks and Aodan are in for along run. If We Knew Then presents a gifted young singer, showcased in a brilliant bit of business. That should be

remembered. When they are surrounded at next year's festivals and concerts by the current crop of drive-by fans more in love with them than the music, they will do well to remember that the music is what can sustain them. They are not just good, they are wonderful. Irish traditional music is a very insulated art form. It does not have a vast audience. Real art almost never does. It is God's music, and occasionally a group like Socks and a singer like Aodan come along and can offer an increased appeal for the music in introducing it to many new acolytes. But it is the music, always the music, that comes first. Are these three wise enough to understand the reality of that? We think so. We hope so. Oh, this is mighty!

A Man For All Seasons

Continued from page 3

He continued to provide counsel and advice to Jack Lynch, particularly in facing down Haughey, Blaney and co in 1970 – another reason for his country to thank him. And, for a generation, he provided considered and reasoned contributions to the search for peace. He became a senator. He continued to work on for decades in other areas of public service, chairing bodies including prison reform, the Irish language, Irish fisheries, and, at eighty, a constitutional review group. He retains a love for classical music.

His biography is well worth a read, capturing the man, and would make a good Christmas stocking filler. One chapter, "A Man for All Seasons" is clearly one affectionate image the author has of her subject.

Ken Whitaker was born in the Year of the Rising. It would be fitting if he were there to celebrate its centenary. No one deserves the Centenarian Bounty more.

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Orland Park's Square Celt Ale House and Grill Opens

By Ryanne Gallagher Johnson
 Square Celt Ale House & Grill, the latest in the line of restaurants brought to Chicago by Vaughan Hospitality Group, and the first restaurant in the chain built outside the city, opened its doors on Monday, October 20th in Orland Park.

Seventh in the line of successful locations, Square Celt is a combination of restaurant, bar, sport, and Irish. The building has undergone extensive remodeling and features nine thousand square feet, plus an outstanding six thousand square foot beer garden. The interior holds a bar room and a grill room each outfitted with newly constructed copper bars and fireplaces, a party room for groups of 40 or so, close to 40 televisions, and two video walls.

"It's a really nice, warm atmosphere," says Kevin Vaughan, co-owner.

When shopping for a location outside the city, Vaughan explained that, "Orland Park is an amazing commercial suburb. We're adjacent to the mall, right

across from the Cheesecake Factory... We felt that (the area) was underserved with restaurants, and (particularly) there's not a lot of places that do a hybrid bar/restaurant/sport all together. The building itself is amazing, and the beer

garden is 6,000 square feet, so we just thought it was a no-brainer."

On top of the reconstruction, Square Celt also boasts Australian chef Anthony Di Fabio, who Vaughan says has "done a masterful job of revisiting our Irish reci-

pes and coming up with our key signature Irish items: fish & chips, Shepard's Pie, bangers & mash, etc.

Along with the Irish touches, the menu features a Sunday Brunch Buffet, and items smoked in-house, such as brisket, pork chops, and half chicken. The drinks menu includes 30 beers on tap, wine, and

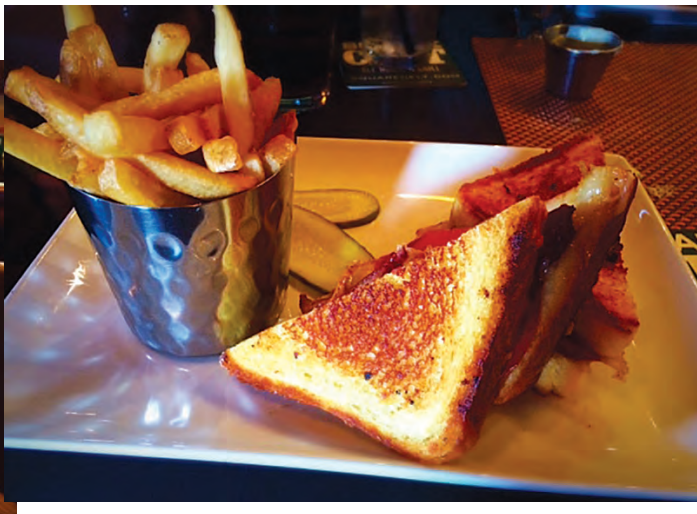
a signature cocktail list. "We're a Chicago-Irish influenced place, but not primarily an Irish restaurant."

Vaughan Hospitality Group, owned and operated by the Vaughan Family, originally from Ireland, have opened six additional locations. Vaughan's Pub Northwest Side, Vaughan's Pub Lakeview, Corcoran's Grill & Pub, Mystic Celt Bar & Grill, Emerald Loop Bar & Grill, and Monty Gaels Tavern & Grill. The Vaughan's parent's opened the original Vaughan's Pub on Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, in 1987 after moving from Ireland in 1984, and they still consider it to be "the best bar we've ever had." A little corner bar that catered mostly to immigrants from Ireland, it was the inspiration that sent the Vaughan children out to follow in their parents' footsteps when they opened the second Vaughan's location, and every one since then.

Square Celt is located at 39 Orland Square Drive in Orland Park, adjacent to the Orland Square Mall. Stop in and say hello!



Present at the Ribbon Cutting at the Square Celt, (l to r): Carl Novacovich, Lisa-Marie Benton, Justin Wiltalka, Kevin Vaughan, Kristan Haywood Vaughan, Orland Pk. Mayor, Dan McLaughlin; Anthony Di Fabio, Melissa Skora, and Village Manager, Paul Grimes.



Senator Gary Hart To Play Diplomatic Role for State Department in Northern Ireland



new talks, supported by the United Kingdom and Ireland. I am confident Senator Hart will help the parties strengthen the institutions and economy of Northern Ireland, as well as reinvigorate efforts to promote a shared society. Our Consul General in Belfast Greg Burton will serve as Senator Hart's deputy for his Northern Ireland work. Senator Hart expects to visit Belfast before the end of the month.

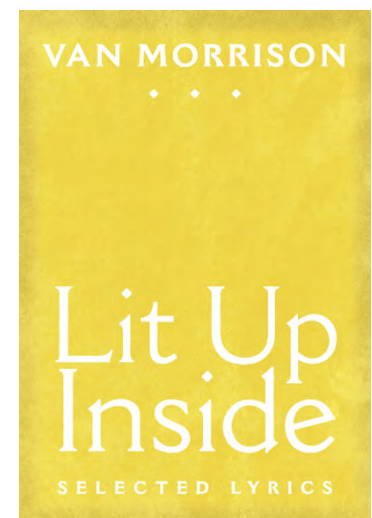
round of talks to achieve a lasting peace. We welcome these

Lit Up Inside: Selected Lyrics of Van Morrison

Lit Up Inside, a book of selected lyrics by Van Morrison, with an introduction from Eamonn Hughes and foreword by David Meltzer and Ian Rankin, is now available for purchase!

Van Morrison selects his best and most iconic lyrics, spanning 50 years of writing and representing his entire creative journey.

"One of the greatest singer/songwriters of all time, Morrison has been following his muse in an uncompromising way since the early Sixties. He has explored soul, jazz, blues, rhythm & blues, rock and roll, Celtic folk, pop balladry and more, forging a distinctive amalgam that has Morrison's unvarnished passion at its core. He has referred to his music as "Caledonia soul," reflecting his deep immersion in American roots music and Ulster-Scots. This personal selection of what Morrison himself has judged to be his most important and enduring



lyrical work will stand as a landmark public statement from an otherwise intensely private artist, an intimate and very intentional view onto what Morrison himself esteems as his creative contribution." (citylights.com)

A must-have for any fan, this book will make a great holiday gift this year.

years in the Senate, or his work on the U.S. Commission on National Security in the 21st Century, Gary is known as a problem-solver, a brilliant analyst, and someone capable of thinking at once tactically, strategically, and practically. He's been engaged already in the intellectual side of our government's foreign policy during this Administration, whether as chairman of the State Department's International Security Advisory Board, or as chairman of the Threat Reduction Advisory Council at the Department of Defense. Now we're fortunate that he's agreed to devote some additional time to engage in the tough and patient work of diplomacy as my Personal Representative, including on issues related to Northern Ireland. He does so with my confidence and trust.

Senator Hart has spent many weeks in Ireland and Northern Ireland over the past 30 years. He has listened and spoken to the people of Northern Ireland, and he knows many of the leaders. I've asked Senator Hart to support the parties in Northern Ireland as they enter a new

Press Statement
John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
October 21, 2014

I have asked Senator Gary Hart, one of our country's most respected and accomplished senior statesmen, creative and strategic thinkers, and my longtime friend who has been working with the State Department for close to two years, to also play a direct, on-the-ground diplomatic role.

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A good customer stopped by the shop the other day with a copy of my first column to remind me that this November marks my 7th year writing this column.

Amazing what you can get away with when no one's looking! I want to take the opportunity to thank Cliff Carlson, our publisher, for putting up with me for 7 years and to thank my wife, Gayle, for proofing all of those columns, and writing a couple when I couldn't. I recall when time passed much slower, today 7 years goes by in the blink of an eye.

Now for some good news. Socks in the Frying Pan, the popular new group from Clare, has been invited back to nearly every place they played this year, so if you missed them this year, you'll get another chance next year. The boys are reportedly putting together material for a new CD which they'll begin work on as soon as they get home. Looking forward to whatever they'll record and definitely looking forward to seeing them in person again.

As much as I enjoy the festival season, seeing what the bands have to offer, meeting old friends and all, it's still a relief when the season ends and I get to stay home on weekends. There's no shortage of good live music in the Chicago area, thankfully, but now I get to pick what I want to hear, for awhile. We finished up the season in Louisville Kentucky on the beautiful campus of Bellarmine University where they hold the Louisville Irish Fest. I want to give a shout out to Rita Riley, who is our contact there, the first person we see when we get there and the last person we see when we leave. Rita probably puts a couple hundred miles on her sneakers that weekend and is the nicest person to work with you could imagine. Headlining this year was a band that I have enjoyed listening to for many years, Dulahan. The band consists of Leo Butler on flute, whistle bagpipe; Mark Sandlin on mandolin, guitar bouzouki and banjo; Bart Carson on percussion and John Lardinois on fiddle. I left

Piping It In

Jack Baker



out the lead singer, Kyle Aughe, who also plays guitar, banjo, bouzouki and harmonica, because I wanted to note that he writes all the songs on their CDs! That's



right, each and every song on their CDs is an original composition and damn good stuff it is. Kyle tends to write from the Irish-American perspective, not surprising since he is Irish-American but that doesn't limit his writing abilities. A song he wrote for his wife, "Irish American Girls" is among the best I've ever heard. On their new CD, "88 Years", they have a song called "Sons of the Irish Heroes" that speaks to the task of gaining freedom for Ireland, the work that's been done and the work that's yet to be done, and it's a gem of a song. I've already heard other bands doing covers of Dulahan tunes and there's a good reason for that in that this is bright, fresh song-

writing full of love for the music and love for the subject. This is the new Irish-American music and I like the way it sounds.

More good news comes to us from the good folks in Hoffman Estates. The Celtic Festival there, that's held in the Sears Center, will go on next year on Saturday March 21st, the Saturday following St Patrick's Day. Free admission and free parking will still make this the most affordable of shows and a big lineup of activities for kids will make it a very family friendly festival. Save the date and I will report more news as I get it

Lastly I would like to put in a pitch for the Christmas Bazaar at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday December 6th. This is the longest running Christmas bazaar in the city and is always the start of our shopping. We can usually fill at least half our list just at this one event. It's a fun time for everybody with a full Irish breakfast and mass to start it off and a visit from St Nick to cap it off. In between there are a raft of shopping opportunities with craft and Irish vendors, a raffle and a chance to sit and chat with friends over a cup of tea. The Galway Bakers will be there with seasonal goodies a plenty. I'll be there too. Hope to see you there.

Word is that there is going to be a big push this month to get all those folks whose memberships in the Irish American Heritage Center

have lapsed to renew. I know mine is due. So let's all get with it and renew your dues and keep this worthy organization working.

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Global Football To Return To Ireland For 2015 Celtic Lacrosse Open

Teams From North America Will Head To Limerick For Under-19

And Open Tournament Played In Partnership With Ireland Lacrosse

Global Football will return to Ireland next year, but will champion a different sport as teams participate in the three-day 2015 Celtic Lacrosse Open at the University of Limerick with the finals being played on the Fourth of July.

Global Football has partnered with Ireland Lacrosse, the sport's national governing body, to organize an exciting new tournament, which will feature teams competing in Under-19 and Open divisions.

"We are eager and excited to work with Ireland Lacrosse on what promises to be a fantastic event," said Global Football President Patrick Steenberge. "The two successful GIFT American football events we

held in Ireland in 2012 and 2014 created a wealth of contacts, partners and friendships that we are delighted to rekindle as we continue to focus on the Emerald Isle for some of our most prestigious events.

"Lacrosse is a sport growing rapidly in popularity in North America and players will have a great opportunity to showcase their talents in Ireland and also enjoy a fantastic visit overseas. It is refreshing to have the national governing body of a sport embrace our initiatives as we are accustomed to in so many other countries, and recognize the opportunity to further develop lacrosse in Ireland."

The GIFT tournaments produced by Global Football in Ireland, the latest in association with the Croke Park Clas-

sic, brought 14 teams, more than 2,700 visitors and drew in excess of 12,000 spectators



to games played at University College Dublin, Donnybrook Stadium, Parnell Park and Pairc Tailteann.

Ireland Lacrosse Chief Executive Officer Michael Kennedy said: "Lacrosse was first played in Ireland in the late 1880s,

between Canadian and U.S. exhibition teams, so we are excited about connecting with our history of the game here by once again welcoming teams from North America. When I met Patrick at the World Championships in Denver this past summer, I was impressed by his experience, and look forward to working with him and his organization to help attract players, coaches and teams to Ireland."

Ireland Lacrosse works to develop the sport throughout Ireland for men and women at all levels from youth to adult, while managing, overseeing and supporting the Irish national teams (men's senior, women's senior, men's U-19 and men's indoor).

The teams traveling across the Atlantic will depart on June 30 and will hit the practice field at the University of Limerick the

following day to prepare for three days of lacrosse action, which kick off on Thursday, July 2. The finals of the 2015 Celtic Lacrosse Open will be played on the Fourth of July and participants will then join the city of Limerick parade to celebrate the traditional American holiday.

While visiting Ireland, the touring players, coaches, families and friends will visit the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, The Burren and Galway, tour historic Croke Park, learn Gaelic games at University College Dublin and enjoy a Dublin city tour, including a visit to the Guinness Storehouse. They will return to North America on July 8.

Players and coaches wishing to participate should contact Global Football President Patrick Steenberge: Tel: 817-219-7274 / Email: Patrick@GlobalFootball.com.

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Gun-Running -the story of the Howth & Kilcoole Gun-Running 1914

A book by the author Vincent Breslin commemorating the centenary of the Howth & Kilcoole gun-running 1914 has just been published. This is but only the second book ever to be published on the event and the first in 50 years. In Mr. Breslin's book the historical background to the gun-running is explored and the three week sea-voyage is told by those who sailed

aboard the various yachts involved. The author uses eye-witness statements by Irish Volunteers and Fianna Eireann members who were present at Howth and Kilcoole when the arms were unloaded and this first hand evidence adds to the dramatic events.



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The story of the subsequent Bachelors Walk Killings is detailed and the lives of all the major and minor participants are documented. This meticulously researched book is published to coincide with the centenary celebrations of an event that heralded the Easter Rising of 1916. The author has further researched and added what subsequently happened to those who planned, funded and executed the gun-running of 1914. The book should be on the reading list of anyone interested in the history of Ireland's efforts at self determination. It is available in most bookshops and may be purchased online from the Sinn Fein bookshop at www.sinn-feinbookshop.com

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



This month I am reviewing three outstanding mysteries I have read and very much liked and want to bring them to your attention.

Two are set in the 1920's in this country and one set in the late 400's in Ireland, the beginning of the middle ages.

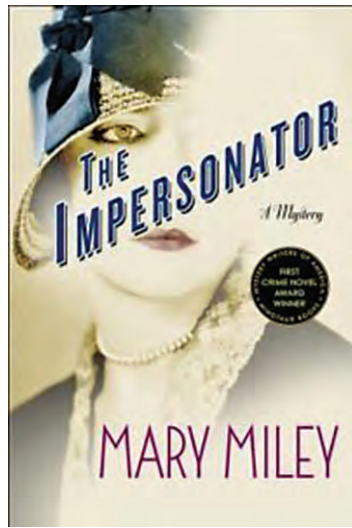
All three read well because of the ability of the authors to get you to feel a part of the mystery. This results because of great dialogue, believable characters and constant suspense. Read and enjoy.

The Impersonator

By Mary Miley
Minotaur Books

There's an exciting, colorful, new detective on the mystery scene. This debut mystery novel

is set in the Jazz Age. The novel introduces us to Jessie Carr, a



young woman who is everything you would want in a detective. She is intensely observant, smart and resourceful, strong and confident and she even has great skill at forming human relationships.

These skills help her to quickly create close bonds with people. Lovers of mystery books will be hearing a lot more about Jessie Carr in the future.

Several years before the novel begins, the heiress to the Carr family fortune disappeared. Many searches and police investigations produced no information or even a body.

An unscrupulous family member talks a look-a-like vaudeville performer into pretending to be the missing young woman but the impersonator promises herself to try and find out what really happened to the missing heiress.

The family members love and trust the look alike. When she tells them the truth about who she is, they want her to stay anyway and become Jessie Carr! About this she says: "When I had taken on this, I'd adopted more than Jessie's name. I'd taken her family... her past and her future. I became Jessie Carr."

The look-a-like had acted in vaudeville for many years and thinking about her acting experience, says: "I've never been a good liar. A good actress yes, but

acting is pretending not lying, and it's done in front of people who are willing to participate in the deception. No one in an audience ever really believed I was Romeo's Juliet...or any of the characters I played. Lying is different."

The novel is set in the 1920's, the era of Prohibition. The woman who becomes Jessie Carr is keenly knowledgeable about that. "Prohibition had brought a profusion of ills, one of which was the proliferation of bathtub gin. It wasn't always gin and it wasn't always made in a bathtub, but it was everywhere... and people breaking the law tended not to be fussy about recipes. White lightning, rotgut, moonshine, panther sweat - it had a hundred names and as many unpredictable ingredience, like embalming fluid or creosote. Everyone knew of someone who had gone blind, been paralyzed, or died from drinking bathtub gin."

The author, Mary Miley, lives in Richmond, Virginia. She "taught American history at Virginia Commonwealth University for thirteen years, and has published extensively in the areas of history and

travel."

This extraordinary novel won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition.

I hope this is just the first novel about the adventures of the extraordinary Jessie Carr.

In the final scene Jessie is full of fear but doesn't let this cloud her actions. She is determined and valiant.

I hope this is the first of many novels about this gutsy person. Jessie Carr shows us the potential strength of human beings.

Silent Murders:

By Mary Miley
Minotaur Books

This mystery is deeply enjoyable because it is constantly suspenseful, has intriguing characters and challenging turns of plot.

It is set in the 1920's, an era marked by a strong desire to forget the suffering and privations of World War I. This is the era known as the Jazz Age. There was a compulsion to drink, in spite of

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the absurdity of Prohibition. Silent movies, with their mega stars, were popular, sophisticated and inexpensive to see.

The author Mary Miley, takes us into this world and even permits us to closely view some of the stars of the silent screen. She presents the movie stars as fellow people. And we get close-up contact with stars like Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin and Myrna Loy.

She does this by developing Jessie Beckett, the detective, into a real person. Jessie's years as a vaudeville actress, keen observation and her great personal courage



make her an admirable sleuth.

Jessie moved to Hollywood and took a job at a movie studio. It is a lowly entry level job, but she is hard working, smart and friendly. The movie people she works with come to like her and rely on her.

The press release describes how she becomes involved with murder. "Jessie's thrilled when Bruno Heilmann, a movie studio big wig, invites her to a party. She's even more delighted to run into a face from her past at that party. But the following day, Jessie learns that sometime... in the morning both her old friend and Bruno Heilmann were brutally murdered. She's devastated, but with her skill as an actress, access to the wardrobes and resources of a film studio... and with her resourcefulness and discretion, the owners of the movie studio turn to her for help." The owners are the mega stars of the silent movies: Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.

Mary Miley has meticulously researched the era, as you would expect from a former college history teacher. For more information about the author of this amazing book, see the reviews of *The Impersonator*.

These quotes show the colorful, vibrant quality of Miley's writing.

• Jessie's impression of Hollywood: "Hollywood is kind of like a fancy casino full of flashy gamblers and

ruthless cheats. No one has a past and the present is already over because everyone is busy living for the future - the next dollar, the next deal, the next love. A throw of the dice turns shop girls into stars and princes into paupers. But here the jackpot isn't money - it's fame."

• Jessie waits in a police station: "I tried to distract myself by watching the noisy symphony that played in front of me. Clerks banged file drawers, secretaries clattered away ... on Remingtons, telephone bells jangled, sergeants barked orders, detectives argued, and the swinging gate that divided the public from the police added an unsteady percussion to the whole. Division six was a crowded place, even on a Sunday. Crime doesn't take a day off."

Saint Brigid's Bones - A Celtic Adventure

By Phillip Freeman, Pegasus Books

"It was as if someone had stolen a mother away from her children."

The order of nuns founded by St. Brigid has the mission of helping the poor and needy, especially battered women and homeless children.

Brigid was respected by Druids and Christians alike. The Druids respected those who were sensitive to the needs of others. Her bones are venerated because they are believed to cure people.

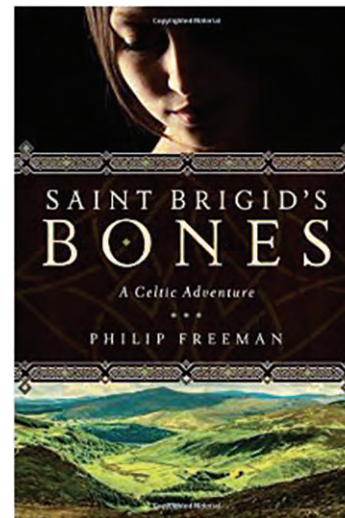
These relics were kept in a locked chest in the convent's church at Kildare, but someone has stolen them. The bones had attracted pilgrims who hoped for a cure. The convent's abbess sums up what could happen without them. "You know how precarious our situation is ... Without the bones of Brigid, visitors will stop coming to Kildare, donations will cease and we won't be able to continue our ministry to the poor." And later, "The authorities in Armagh, not to mention some in Rome, would love to shut us down. A thriving religious community run by women is the last thing they want."

The abbess appoints young Sister Deidre to find the bones. She says: "The only people who can move freely between tribes are members of nobility such as yourself. You are a bard, a member of the Order of Druids." "In addition to your ability to travel, you have many friends throughout the four provinces of Ireland... and ...are insufferably curious. If anyone of the community of Brigid can find those bones, it's you."

Sister Deidre sets out on her quest. We go with her on her travels to many parts of Ireland. Because of her greatly respected

position in society as a bard, she can question many people, often people who try to hide behind their authority, but she'll have none of that.

As Deidre says: "Bards just don't play music...we compose praise poetry for kings and warriors, memorize endless



genealogies and celebrate the history of our people... We're also responsible for chastising the powerful. I once composed a stinging satire against Ailill, the king's younger son, who was cheating his tenant farmers. The satire made him so ashamed he broke out in blemishes all over his face. Oh, how he hated me after that!"

When Deidre seeks advice from her cherished grandmother, who is also a Druid, Deidre says: "Last night, just as I was falling asleep, I thought I heard a voice speaking to me."

Grandmother: "What kind of voice? What did it say? ... never dismiss the

power of dreams or voices in the night. That's how the spirits often speak to us!"

Psychologists today, are quite aware of the power of the subconscious.

Some of the events take place at Samhain (pronounced sowen). It is the origin of our Halloween. Deidre describes this important day: "Samain... falls at the start of the dark days of winter and is the time when it's between the world of mortals and the realm of the spirits is the thinnest."

Deidre prays: "Power of the Other world... if you hear the prayer of a Christian on this Samhain night please help me find the bones of Brigid."

The king's sleazy and unscrupulous son is a suspect. On that night, Deidre says to him: "If you did steal the bones, I hope the spirits are kind to you tonight. You know they always liked Brigid."

Deidre is not intimidated by the mighty or by the dangerous. She pursues the goal of recovering the bones. She finally succeeds.

Phillip Freeman, the author, creates convincing characters who use realistic dialogue. It is like I hear used in every day speech. Another nice feature of the book is that pronunciations of the names of people and places are clearly shown. Like this: "from the start people had called Cill Darra or Kildare, 'The Church of Oak'."

All books about Celtic Heritage should be this readable. Phillip Freeman has a PHD in Classics and Celtic Studies from Harvard University. He is the author of thirteen books and has a gift for writing readable prose. He lives in Iowa.

I hope to hear more of Deidre in the future.

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Julie Rodriguez, Registered Representative of Voya Financial Advisors.

Contact Tara at Aishling Companion Home Care at 708-728-5538 with any questions.

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Paying a Tax on a Tax... And a Little Help from Down Under

Wasn't that an absolutely wonderful sight on Saturday the 11th of October? Mark it in your diary. It was the day when sleeping, abused Ireland woke out of its coma and decided that in the immortal words of Howard Beale, the Mad Prophet of the Airwaves, it was 'as mad as hell and not going to take this anymore!'

Around 100,000 people from every walk of life clogged the streets of Dublin in peaceful protest against the introduction of the venal and immoral water charges. And let's get one thing straight right away, reporters from afar: this is NOT because we have been getting it for free all these years. We have always paid through our taxes and household charges. Hell, you're journalists: don't just take whatever little pack the government hands you and run with it. Get out there and talk with those of us who will not pay.

Did we have a problem with a fair charge? No; but try looking at smirking loathsome chancers

like Phil Hogan; try swallowing the casual announcement that fifty million Euro has already been spent on consultants; take a look at who sits on the Irish Water Board; then shake your head at the endless cronyism in this country and tell me you want to hand over money that will be used to bail out a few more speculators or -heaven help us -another bank.

And if we ever needed further proof that RTE, our national broadcaster, was a bought-and-paid-for tool of this corrupt government, well the proof was on display that very evening. They pulled out of the air a figure of 30,000 protestors that was a lie that even the newsreaders must have found embarrassing. Then they showed two snippets of the crowd just beginning to gather, instead of the enormous swell of people who were there as the day progressed. Parts of Dublin were brought to a standstill and yet it only scraped 45 seconds and third place in the evening news. Lads, I know that you're not the brightest, but the world

has this thing called the Internet now. We know when we're not being given the truth.

I stopped paying for my TV license four years ago, when I got rid of all the channels. I have a box in the corner that I watch an occasional DVD on and for anything else I depend on my computer; if I want a laugh at the non-reporting on the evening news I head for the 'Olde Brewery'.

I was hounded by goons for all of that time. They kept saying: 'If you have a TV you must have a TV license.' I would point out to them that it receives no channels and I'm not paying a cent towards RTE anyway. Eventually they took me to court last February. Since 272 hardened criminals had been imprisoned in 2012 and 242 in 2013 for non-payment I was advised to bring clothes and toiletries to take to jail with me. I did just that, in full expectation that I would be writing my next column from a prison cell. (We know how to deal with crime here. Of course, yesterday a self-confessed rapist was let out on bail and the chances of a banker going inside are slim to nil, but we do have our priorities and we're tough as hell on TV license evaders.)

To my surprise Judge Mary Fahy listened to my explanation and threw the whole thing out; but what an utter waste of taxpayer's money and my time.

Well, here we go again: quiet

intimidation has already begun, terrorizing people that they will switch their water down to a trickle and putting out the notion that they'll be getting banged up.

I wrote to Irish Water's Q & A line last week to ask them what happened if you had for example a bowel or prostate problem...anything that might necessitate you having to flush the toilet more than your neighbor. I had heard that there would be no allowance sorted out until 2017. I was promised an answer in 24 hours but of course I'm still waiting. Not that I ever had any confidence in them, but I've got less now.

I was proud of the Irish people last Saturday. Now roll on the local demonstrations on the 1st of November. Stick together and let's see them try to jail all of us.

Some Thanks in Order...

Since I seem to spend so much time castigating (with reason) our politicians, let me say many thanks to Senator Fidelma Healy Eames. She was the one and only politician to put in an appearance at a small press release that the children's cancer charity Hand in Hand held in the Maldron Hotel, Oranmore this week, with everything provided by the management. She has never held my disagreements with her against me (my late dad used to say that I could start a row in an empty room) and has been foursquare behind us in the year in which I've been volunteering.

To my surprise her husband, local farmer Michael Eames also came along later. I had assumed that he was there to pick up his wife; but in fact she stayed until the end whilst Michael spent a half-hour simply meeting people and finding out what we were up to. It didn't go unnoticed, by me at any rate.

Since the Senator has received a hammering in some quarters of the press in the past, her kindness -from which she has never tried to score political points-- shouldn't go unremarked; and since we receive no State funding I also want to thank her for her time-consuming attempts to secure some for us.

The evening turned out to be rather memorable. The biggie for us is that we are opening Ireland's first ever children's cancer support center right here in Oranmore. (More of that at a later date.) We also received a visit from ex-pat Corkman Mike Bowen. A fascinating character, Mike has lived for many years in Australia, where he is a business executive. Something of a renaissance man, he is also a talented writer and poet, as well as being an accomplished singer/songwriter. Indeed, he has written a really beautiful song specifically for us to use as a charity single and recorded it with a ten-year-old girl from Melbourne, who has the most angelic voice I've ever heard. He has signed over the rights to Hand in Hand and I'll keep you informed as to when we get the single marketed. In fact, Mike arrived off the plane with 400 copies that he had done at his own expense-- cover, artwork, everything. He also had the most moving letter from young Chelsea, the singer; and she offers in it to become email friends with any of our ill children who wish to contact her.

Mike writes in his press release:

"I have travelled 13,000 miles in order to lend a hand, look for sponsorship and encourage Irish people—business and otherwise—to join with me in raising funds for this important and overlooked (by some!) charity."

It really says something when a guy from that far away can be touched by the plight of our children and yet our own politicians remain as stony-hearted as ever.

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Irish and Polish Touch to Cheese and Sausage Mecca

By James McClure

Many regulars were saddened when a legendary roadside cheese shop and tourist attraction closed its Lake Geneva doors in November of 2012 after more than seven decades.

Now The Cheese Box is celebrating its first anniversary of being back in all its 1940 glory, harking to a time when Wells Street was U.S. 12 and a main thoroughfare for Wisconsin-bound tourists from Illinois and Chicago seeking fun, adventure and cheese among the small cottage motels welcoming

in Genoa City.

The first order of business was not to change a winning recipe for longtime customers. "We made sure we kept everything the same so people would feel comfortable," notes Cheri. "People came back," adds Johnny.

They came back first of all for trademark Christmastime gift boxes...big traditional circular containers stuffed with rounds of unique Wisconsin cheeses, wines, sausage and the genuine "Cheese Box" Braunschweiger.

The in-store assortments that

The Cheese Box is also showcasing a number of local Lake Geneva products.

Johnny B is also adding his own special touch with daily specialty soups, home-

made white chicken chili and other unique offerings. "I try to stay ahead of the game by offering something different on a regular basis," says Johnny, who notes that in-store regulars who stop by will return for the freshness and quality in a snack, gift or lunchtime meal.

"I may run out of something but they know I'm making it fresh the next day and will come back." Cheri adds that "we try to keep everything very much natural,

cheese spreads not to mention their unique Chocolate Cheese made with cheddar cheese, cream cheese and rich cocoa.

The Hollywood relatives chip in to. Cheri's little sister, movie actress Virginia

Madsen, consults on some of the wine selections (including currently available Coppola brand..as in director Francis Ford Coppola) and brother-actor Michael

Madsen will be featuring some of his own "Bad Ass" Brand hot sauces at The Cheese Box..

Sorry, no Irish teas or breads but Cheri's presence gives a touch of Irish tinged with Cherokee, and her siblings have gotten their Irish on while on the silver screen.

Fresh baked breads, local honey, sandwiches, homemade toffee and fresh curds

help maintain the old tradition and new attractions for visitors.

"Our slogan is 'Something Special from Wisconsin'" says Cheri.

Next year will mark 75 years for the little store with enduring appeal. E-mail IrishRoverJim@aol.com



"Johnny B" Borowiec and his Irish American wife, Cheri, of the Chicago Madsen Clan.

drivers to the Geneva Lakes area and beyond.

The Cheese Box re-opened on November 11th, 2013 after Wisconsin's one-time largest cheese and sausage emporium and gift-box provider was shuttered by former owners Ed and Leslie Schwinn after their 18-year stewardship.

"A lot of people are really happy that we're open," says "Johnny B" Borowiec, who as owner and operator with Irish American wife Cheri brings a lifetime of food-service experience. For 12 years the Borowiecs ran the popular Johnny B's Homeplate restaurant

have been a must for generations of Lake Geneva visitors have also been a popular source of cheese and sausage gifts for friends outside Wisconsin. Mail order is alive and well again as is the online order site www.cheesebox.com

The seasonal tourist and holiday gift staples are available year-round for good reason says Cheri. "We're pushing them for birthdays, anniversaries and thank you gifts. When you think about it, what better gift is there year-round?"

Most of the offerings in-store and online are from Wisconsin, and

organic and vegan friendly. You won't get a lot of unwanted preservatives here."

Newcomers experiencing the 73-year old traditions will not be making uninformed decisions. Plenty of samples of cheese, mustards, and summer sausage are on hand and encouraged to be tried. "We want people to know and like what they are getting" says Cheri, adding "besides summer sausage we have delicious Kabanosy smoked Polish sausage."

Traditional favorites include bratwurst, salami and summer sausage along with 10 different

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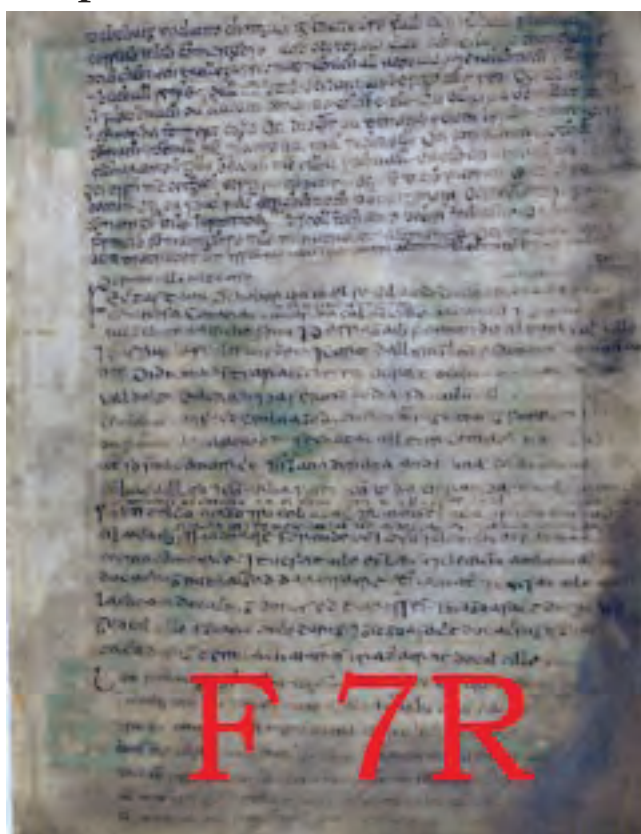
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Crowley on Kells
 By Frank Crowley



Book of Kells' Additions by People Not in the Scribal Union



Of the many interesting curiosities and minor mysteries surrounding the Book of Kells are the many ad libbed inscriptions added to the manuscript over the years. Paleographers, who study the way alphabets are written over the centuries can date a specific handwriting to a general time. They have been pouring over the Book of Kells for many years. Like visual art historians, they can determine individual hands and a general time period. Often, the person signs their comments which saves a lot of time.

land transactions are written on f 7r, continued on f 6r and completed on f 5v. This was common in those days. The church kept its own records safe. f 289v A full page addition It is a poem that explains about taxation on church property

One of the biggest problems is the degradation of pigment and ink. Often, additions made 500 years ago are now illegible. They were legible

that was levied in 1476-7 CE. It also refers to a famine in 1586 and the deaths it caused. Another section, in a different hand, refers to Queen Elizabeth, civil war and the arrival of King James, 1602-3, plague and devastation, 1604. The author adds, "God did all these things" (so) be ye converted. Richard White wrote." A Richard White is listed as a rector in a



300 years ago and some were documented then but have since degraded. That gives us a record which we take on faith. Paleographers to the rescue for additional help. One more thing. All marginalia are transcribed as they appear on the leaves.

few small parishes near Kells. Perhaps the most well known graffiti calligrapher in the Book of Kells is a Dublin man named Gerald Plunket of the 16th C. He had access to the Trinity College Library and made around 20 additions throughout the Book. He may be related to a John Plunket, listed as a rector of Killeen in the diocese of Meath in 1578.

f 7r, f 6r and f many 5v Several charters, written in Irish, concerning the monastery of Kells'

Here are a few examples of Plunket's comments. There are too many for this month. We'll get back to him next time. f 4v His first entry is on one of the canon pages. In the center, top. He writes, "This work doth pass all mens conyng/ that now doth live in any place./ I doubt not therefore in anything/ but that the writer hath/obtained god's/grace/G.P." f 8r Plunket oftens writes in the tail margin, or bottom, of leaves.

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"The birth of Christ in Bethlehem of Judea. The wise men offer gifts and the children are killed..." It's difficult to see where he ends. The rest is illegible. f 29r The first page of Matthews' gospel. Plunket repeats the first phrase of Matthew: "Liber Generations" in his typical brownish ink and someone else writes in black ink "Liber," then a black stroke, and writes, "Liber Generations." f 32v In the portrait page above the enthroned Christ, two white spandrels are a glaring white. The belief is that Plunket wrote his name there but it was erased around 1913. It can be seen in ultraviolet light.

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The Map of Colm Tóibín's Mind

One of the great successes of Irish fiction writing in the past generation has been the body of work produced by Colm Tóibín. He has greatly contributed to the internationalisation of Irish fiction, setting his novels and stories in countries from Argentina to Spain, while deftly interweaving the political backdrops of those countries with those of our own.

He has managed to turn banal subjects such as Henry James' failed attempts in the dramatic form into lively and fascinating material for a novel, *The Master*. He has joined the swarms of artists who have tried to depict the holy family in art with

something strikingly original in his novel and play, *The Testament of Mary*. The direction of his work is never predictable: it twists and turns with his instinct to explore new ground.

Then there is the man's head. On his shoulders sits something that even Pablo Picasso would have envied. Behind his skull is a brain that works in perpetual overdrive and produces a body of work impressive both for its copiousness and originality. His essays, which appear most commonly in *The New York Review of Books*, give a sense of the breath of his interests and erudition. They pick up where his non-fiction books of the 1980s and 1990s left off in their probing of historically interesting characters, their exploration of gay fiction and Irish identity.

The Irish public's first encounter with Tóibín was as a columnist and editor of *In Dublin* and *Magill* in the 1980s. Those magazines were instrumental in changing the character of Irish journalism, and it was the innovative force of

Tóibín, among many others, that achieved it. In an Ireland where homosexuality had yet to be decriminalised, they wrote about gay art; in an Ireland where huge doubt surrounded the country's Taoiseach's personal means. This new brand of Irish journalism was packaged in the stylish formatting of the magazines. *Magill*, by any standards, was very handsomely produced: the exciting voices to which it gave platform were well served by the colourful and provocative presentation of the stories they broke.

Some of the journalistic stories Tóibín wrote—one on 'The General', Martin Cahill, another on a judge who was indirectly censored by his colleagues, for example—prompted him to explore in fiction what he had reported on in fact. Tóibín wished to write about what motivated people and what they feared. So Tóibín checked into that great incubator of Irish art, the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in County Monaghan, where he would live for months at a time, pushing himself to produce first class work, emerging only to speak to his close friend, the novelist Sebastian Barry, and to raid the fridge.

Tóibín's background in journalism enabled him to create cleaner, more authentic fiction than he might have otherwise written. As he put it: 'Journalism got the poison out of me... I didn't need to put the anger into novels'. And so his fiction developed apace, and expanded into new territories, such as America. Setting a novel, *Brooklyn*, in the USA for the first time in 2009 was partly a result of Tóibín's having lived on and off in American cities for the past ten years. He was appointed to several prestigious visiting positions at

Stanford, Texas, Princeton before gaining his sinecure at Columbia University, where he is the inaugural professor of Irish literature. America has been kind to Tóibín, and it was his American-set novel that last year became Tóibín's first to be produced as a feature film (a US television film was made of *The Blackwater Lightship* in 2004). *Brooklyn* tells the story of an Irish country woman transposed to New York during the wave of Irish emigration in the 1950s. The film will premiere next year.

Yet Tóibín's finest fiction has flourished in his home town of Enniscorthy, County Wexford. Embedded in a series of dark and startling short stories, *Mothers and Sons*, published in 2006, is a depiction of a middle-aged widow's emancipation from a dynastic family business that is bringing she and her children to ruin; the story, 'The Name of the Game', is an examination in miniature of dozens of orthodoxies of small town Ireland that conspired to sustain the status quo, to stifle the lives of individual talents and to shore up the power of a few families that very cosily carve up power among themselves; the heroine of the story manages, through her own guile and hard work, to break the mould. It is worth recalling that story because Tóibín's latest work, just published this month, a novel entitled *Nora Webster*, is also set in Enniscorthy; and like some of his very best work, the novel has as its protagonist a middle-aged determined and forthright woman. Tóibín once said in interview that Enniscorthy is the map of his mind. Its characters live and breathe in his fiction. For all the international plaudits he has received and the experience he has gained, much of the inspiration that has enabled his fiction to reach its potential is attributable to joys and sorrows of his youth in Enniscorthy, and to the characters he met while growing up there. It is there that he has constructed a house that faces out over the Irish Sea and where his mind can fully unfold, and be mapped onto the page.



Colm Tóibín

Congratulations to Brad Armacost on 2014 Jeff Award

The prestigious Ensemble Award, sponsored by Actors' Equity Association, went to Seanacháí Theatre Company's production of "The Seafarer", Irish playwright Conor McPherson's boozy mystical story of a high stakes card game on a dark Christmas Eve.

Seanacháí, newly renamed Irish Theatre of Chicago, featured Brad Armacost, Ira Amyx, Shane Kenyon, Kevin Theis and Dan Waller in this talented, hilarious ensemble.



Brad Armacost as C.S. Lewis

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CIE Tours held a dinner honoring their travel agents recently at the Palmer House, Chicago.

Pictured (l to r) are: John Vavrina, Mary Pat Flanagan, William Montano, Brian Stack, and Roger Kraemer.

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Concern Worldwide Presents 2014 Thanks for Giving Gala November 15

At the Wit Hotel
Hosted by HGTV's Kevin Grace
Honoring Ethan Austin, Founder
& President of GiveForward

Concern Worldwide, a non-governmental, international humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of the most vulnerable people in the underdeveloped countries of the world, will hold its annual Thanks for Giving Gala on Saturday, November 15 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the Wit Hotel, 201 North State Street, Chicago. Kevin Grace from HGTV's Design Star and ABC's Windy City Live will be the emcee. This event is hosted by the Concern Leadership Network, an affiliated group of service-minded professionals who support Concern's mission through outreach and event-based fundraising. Annually at the Gala, an individual is honored who is using their talent, vision and voice to bring attention to the plight of those in need and recognizing them with the Spirit of Concern Award. This year, the Concern Leadership Network has selected Ethan Austin, Co-founder and President of GiveForward, to receive the 2014 Spirit of Concern Award. GiveForward is an online fundraising website allowing the easiest way to raise money for a sick loved one online. GiveForward meshes technology and transparency together in this platform that raises significant funds, over \$130,000,000 to date. www.giveforward.com.

More than 250 guests attend the event annually and enjoy an evening

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



of dancing and music by DJ Matt Roan, delicious food, and open bar generously donated by Diageo, Lagunitas Brewing Company and Goose Island. The event will feature a raffle with prizes including two passes to WXRT's private concert series. Other items include sports tickets, Jet Blue airline tickets, spa gift cards and more! The Concern Leadership Network Steering Committee co-chairs are Molly McShane and Brittany Siciliano.

Funds raised from the 2014 Thanks for Giving Gala will support Concern's emergency response programs that help refugees in South Sudan. Since December 2013, the humanitarian situation of South Sudan has deteriorated due to a civil war. Experts now anticipate an approaching famine in the region. Concern is focused on providing emergency food assistance and access to food to prevent malnutrition and disease, and has identified the following top priorities: camp management, food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection and coordination of refugees.

Tickets are \$125 and are on sale now at www.concernusa.org. For sponsorship information please contact Kim Majewski at 312.431.8400 or kimberly.majewski@concern.net.

Concern Worldwide works in 25 of the world's poorest countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean and has saved countless lives, relieved suffering and provided opportunities for a better standard of living for millions of people. www.concernusa.org



A Memorial Resolution was issued by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Frank Avila (left) to honor the passing of Maureen O'Looney. Accepting on behalf of Maureen is the Irish American Heritage Center President, John Gorski.

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A Winning Pair

By Michael Joyce

Dublin born Colette Delaney Smith (pictured) has seen her career go from investment banking to online businesses, to the last place she expected; working as producer for Simon Blake's powerful new film, *Still*.

Set around the North London council estates, the Galway Film Fleadh winning *Still* follows Tom Carver, masterfully portrayed by Aidan Gillen, (pictured below right) as he slips further into depression one year after his son was killed in a hit and run.

Colette only considered becoming a producer when a friend of

hers and Simons suggested she would be good at it, and arranged a meeting with Simon, who up until this point had mostly worked in theatre.

At this meeting he read her the script of a yet to be made comedy titled *15 Minutes*. The pair connected immediately, and went on to co-found their production

company Blunt Pictures.

As producer, part of Colette's job was seeking financing for *Still*, which involved asking "every single person you meet to invest in your film."

With their friendly disposition and infectious enthusiasm for the project, it would be a difficult pitch to resist. With investments ranging



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director don't help lift a bath up into the flat upstairs for the art department, normally it's very clearly not their job to do that" says Colette, "but anybody saying that something isn't their job, that's not appealing to me."

Colette and Simon will continue making movies through Blunt Pictures and produce smaller projects through their company Blunt Stuff.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Irish Heritage Singers Present A Festival of Music

The Irish Heritage Singers, under the direction of Paul Matijevic, present *A Festival of Music*, a concert featuring songs by Stephen Foster, musical settings of W.B. Yeats poems, choral music by Phil Coulter, and Irish favorites both old and new on Sunday, November 16, 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for general admission. Children ages 5-12 are \$5.

To purchase tickets, call the Center at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.



Visit a Winter Wonderland at the Christmas Bazaar

Get in the holiday spirit with the annual Christmas Bazaar this December.

The annual Bazaar is Sunday, December 7, from 9am to 3pm and includes mass, a breakfast, craft sale, bake sale and visit from Santa Claus. The Fifth Province Pub will be open from noon until 6pm. Mass is celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30am, with



music by the Irish Heritage Singers. A traditional Irish breakfast follows in the Erin Room. The cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and reservations are required. There is no charge to browse and shop the craft and bake sale and shoppers can enjoy the craft sale with Chicago artisans. An Irish-American quilt will be raffled off.

The Fifth Province will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland. The Bake Shop sells tea, coffee, homemade pies, bread, scones, cakes and cookies. Santa Claus visits from 1-3pm and will pose for photos with each child.

To purchase tickets for the breakfast, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or fill out the form below and mail to the Center office by November 27.

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Salon Concert Series Presents Laurence Nugent, Pat Broaders and Bill O'Donoghue



Join us for an evening of songs and tunes from the traditional, to the more modern folk music of the recent past. The concert showcases Nugent's (pictured) traditional flute and Broaders' and O'Donoghue's vocals and instrumentation.

Friday, November 14, 8pm

\$15 for adults and children 18 and under are free.

Christmas Mass
and Old-Fashioned Irish Breakfast Celebration

Join The Irish American Heritage Center Sunday, December 7, for Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by an Irish Breakfast in the Erin Room. Reservations are required.

Adults . . . \$8.00
Children . . . \$4.00

To reserve tickets, send check payable to: The Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets will be reserved for pick up on December 7. Mail check and reservation form by November 27 to: The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630.

Christmas Mass
and Old-Fashioned Irish Breakfast Celebration
December 7, 2014

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

The IAHC building is like your home or any other building. It needs ongoing cleaning, maintenance, repair and selected renovation. But the IAHC building is not like any other nearly 100 year old building in the world.

The IAHC building houses unique collections, a great staff, a great volunteer army and serves as the largest Irish American cultural gathering place in the United States.

Years of weather, meetings, concerts, renters, plays, festivals, events and more have taken their toll on the building and grounds. It is now time to pay the building back.

While our volunteers are great, they can only do so much. And while unbelievable and awesome in their collective accomplishments, they are not miracle workers.

- The volunteers cannot make asphalt
- The volunteers cannot manufacture fencing
- The volunteers cannot manufacture wire or lighting fixtures
- The volunteers cannot craft roofing materials
- The volunteers cannot make paint, stain and finishing materials
- The volunteers cannot make bricks, wood, plaster or drywall

So, while our volunteers are the key to our organization and the repair, maintenance and renovation of the building, substantial funding is needed to purchase materials and, in some cases, professional expertise that we are not capable of doing ourselves.

The BACK TO THE FUTURE pledge program successfully kicked off on September 21.

The program is designed to generate funds and an endowment for the Center's building. This program and the building work that will be done with these funds will help the Center continue to pursue our mission. Yes, a building endowment program should have started many years ago, but let's look forward, not back, and get it implemented now.

With a Capital Improvement endowment fund in place, the Center will also be in a position to better fund the mission of the Center. While the building is certainly an organizational priority and key to much of what we do, the mission of the Center is the top priority.

The day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month, year-to-year revenue from our rentals, pub, festivals, lectures, trivia nights, concerts, attendance fees, book signings, museum, membership dues, Gift Shop sales, the Art Gallery, Library, iBAM, Irish American Hall of Fame Gala, raffles and more is simply not sufficient to fund all that is needed to address all of the building issues. The building needs its own separate fund so that the mission-related activities of the Center continue to prosper.

The BACK TO THE FUTURE pledge program will help fund repairs, renovations and enhance-

ments that will allow the Center to continue to serve the mission, be an attractive venue for events and be a proud home for members and guests for generations to come.

The program will allow you to give over time in a manner that can fit your budget.

The need is now.....

- Parking Lot renovation
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- Painting

...and more

This cannot be done by volunteers alone. Funding is essential to moving forward. We are asking for your personal support and financial commitment.

- If you are a member, please contribute
- if you are a volunteer, please contribute
- If you are an IAHC partner, please contribute
- If you are an IAHC Committee Chair or committee member, please contribute
- If you are a neighbor or community business, please contribute
- If you are a group that uses the IAHC, please contribute
- If you take classes at the Center, please contribute
- If you use the Center for any reason, we urge you to contribute. You need the building and the building needs you.

We recently lost one of our founders Maureen O'Looney. Maureen's love for the Center is well known on both sides of the pond. She often shared with me how hard we all need to work to carry on a cause. She wanted me to lead an effort to make sure the Center is here for generations to come. This is the effort, and with Maureen's continued help from her special chair, we will be successful. So, please become involved and help.

As the saying goes....."You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind."

The Center needs your financial contribution. Pledge forms are now available in the office or online at www.irish-american.org.

Thank you.

John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

Note: Fundraising programs including the Annual Appeal will continue. Funds raised from this appeal, the Annual Raffle and other fundraising programs will continue to be utilized to support the IAHC operation costs.

The Back to the Future pledge program funds will be used to address capital improvements.



Back to the Future Capital Campaign

Our Back to the Future Capital Campaign continues.

The goal of this ongoing campaign is to gather the entire community to help us raise funds for our Capital Campaign, which benefit much needed capital necessities and improvements.

The funds received will determine the extent of the work we can accomplish.

The improvement projects also help the Center better address our cultural mission as we serve our members and guests.

At our September event, the Irish American Heritage Center introduced the Back to the Future pledge and stock offering program, with a goal of \$3 million. The pledge project offers you an opportunity to make a generous contribution to the Center to be spread over an extended period of time.

If you would support the Center with a pledge of \$1 a day for the next 5 years, the pledge amount would be \$1825; \$2 a day would equate to a

\$3,650 pledge; \$3 a day would equate to a \$5,475. Pledges like these would help us reach the goal so we could begin the much-needed work.

For every \$100 you pledge, you will receive one share of non-equity stock in the Irish American Heritage Center. Stockholders will be welcomed at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting, receive regular Back to the Future updates on the progress of the \$3 million goal and updates on the projects' status.

If you have not had the opportunity to pledge, please join us as we travel together BACK TO THE FUTURE.

The names below are donors who have pledged through October 1. Thank you for your generosity and support. The Irish American Heritage Center is a 501c3 non profit and gifts are tax deductible as the law allows. We will run this list monthly to honor and thank you for your continued support.

To pledge, call the office at 773-282-7035 or visit www.irish-american.org.

Back To The Future Pledges Received as of October 1

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Francis and Mary Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. P. Moran
James Fahey
Frank McCrudden
Wayne F. Kern
Margaret M. Fric
Thomas and Mary O'Malley
Thomas and Joan Kean
Patrick J. Connolly
Thomas E. Mulvihill
Kathleen Kelly

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Kevin Moran
The Hughes Family
Daniel J. Harnett
Mary Kelly
Sheila and Terry McGovern
Kathleen Brady-Murfin

\$1000-\$4999

Gloria and Bill Sedlacek
Margaret Mm McMahon
Unforgettable Edibles Catering
John P. Madden
Mary P. Carr
Thomas G. Fleming
John and Donna Quirk
Burns Family Charitable Foundation
Mary Ann Smalley
Shamrock American Club

\$5000-\$9,999

Ann I. Moran
Jeanine M. Sheehan
Jim and Janet Fennerty
Pat Flaherty

\$10,000 and Over

John and Mary Gorski

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THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

November 2014

November 1	Shamrock American Club Social	ShamAmRm	8pm
November 5	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
November 7	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
November 8	<i>From Hardscrabble to the Fifth Floor of City Hall Lecture</i>	Library	2pm
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
November 14	Salon Concert Series	Fifth Province	8pm
November 15	Roscommon Club Social	Room 309	7pm
November 16	Irish Heritage Singers Concert	Erin Room	3pm
November 18	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
November 19	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
November 21	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
November 22	<i>Flannery O'Connor Lectures</i>	Library	2pm
	Mayfair Music Club	Fifth Province	8pm
November 27	Thanksgiving	Closed	
November 30	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	IAHC Book Club		
	<i>Black Eyed Blond Benjamin Black</i>	Library	1pm
	<i>C.S. Lewis: The Man in Full Lecture</i>	Library	3pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Irish Language Class	Room 304	7-9:30pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Class	Library	11am-1:30pm



Trivia Night Fundraiser

Got a big brain? Test your knowledge at the annual Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night fundraiser, in support of the Irish American Hall of Fame and the Center. Trivia questions will cover the Irish American Hall of Fame categories: Arts and Humanities, Public Service, Business and Industry, Sports, Education, Religion and Science, plus plenty of current events and pop culture. The cost is \$150 per team and teams must have no more than 6 people. There will be a split-the-pot raffle, cash bar and a silent auction. The Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night is Saturday, November 22 at 7pm. To register, call the Center at 773-282-7035. For more information, visit www.iahof.org.



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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

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the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

- 11/1 The Tooles, 8pm
- 11/7 Ceili Mor
- 11/8 St. Patrick's Fathers, 8pm
- 11/14 Salon Concert
- 11/15 the Boils
- 11/21 Seamus O'Kane
- 11/22 Mayfair Music Club, 8pm
- 11/28 Gerry Haughey
- 11/29 Dooley Brothers

All Shows Start After 9pm

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

November Drink Special

Irish Coffee \$5

November Food Special

Spicy Wings \$6

Valid for the month of November 2014 only.



Library Lectures Continue

Learn more about Irish and Irish American literature at the Center's ongoing Library Lectures this fall. There are three lectures scheduled for November 2014 and each lecture is \$8.

- *From Hardscrabble to the Fifth Floor of City Hall Lecture* with Dr. Bill Savage
 Saturday, November 8, 2pm
 Savage will discuss the complexities of Irish identity and focus on the work of authors Finley Peter Dunne, James T. Farrell and Tony Fitzpatrick.
- *The Flannery O'Connor Lectures*

with Dr. Christina Bieber Lake and Professor Mark Bosco

Saturday, November 22, 2pm
 These lectures will delve into the life of this Southern writer whose style relied heavily on regional settings and reflected her own Roman Catholic faith.

- *C.S. Lewis: The Man in Full* with Dr. Thomas Zebrowski
 Sunday, November 30, 3pm
 Learn more about C. S. Lewis, who was a novelist, poet, academic, literary critic, essayist and lay theologian.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, John Gorski, John Mahal, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy, Sheila Murphy and Noel Rice

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



TO HELL AND BACK

The movie, "To Hell and Back," is the true story of **Audie Murphy**, the most highly decorated soldier in World War II. At nineteen years of age he won the Medal of Honor for single handedly holding off an entire company of German soldiers, in January, 1945. He then counter-attacked while he was wounded and out of ammunition.

His father, **Emmett Berry Murphy** and his mother **Josie Bell Killian**, were sharecroppers of Irish descent.

Years ago I worked with a guy by the name of **Iver Iverson**, we called him Ivy. Ivy served with Audie Murphy in France, Belgium, and Germany. According to Ivy, Audie was fearless to a fault and nobody wanted to be around him in combat for fear of being killed themselves.

In Belgium Murphy was awarded the Croix de guerre. He was also awarded every decoration the U.S. Army offers, and on top of that, the French Croix de guerre.

LUNCHEON

Lunch with Obama and Quinn was attended by 25 people who paid \$55,000 each for the privilege. Seems to me, they must have all been millionaires like Rauner.

GANG VIOLENCE MEMORIAL

It would be fitting to establish a memorial, something akin to the Viet Nam Wall, with the names of all the victims engraved on it.

If you have ever visited the Viet Nam Wall, or the traveling Viet Nam Wall, you came away with an emotional experience not easily forgotten. That experience effects you more profoundly if you know any of the men and women whose

names appear there. It will move you to tears.

I knew several men who died in combat in Viet Nam. One that stands out was a young Marine by the name of **Michael Bryant**. Mike was killed on his first day in Viet Nam. You walk away from the wall with a very strong sense of the futility of war.

If we had a gang violence memorial, maybe gang members would begin to understand how this senseless violence betrays the very community they belong to.

Police Shooting South St. Louis

An off duty police officer in uniform shot and killed an 18 year old black teenager. Reportedly the young man fired three shots at the police officer before the officer fired back. Now, wacko's from all over the country will converge on St. Louis to protest. What if the off duty policeman had been Black, Hispanic or Asian? No matter what, if you shoot at a police officer they will shoot back.

Now this 18 year old thug will be portrayed as a martyr. Some protestors burned the American flag, and others shouted, "this is what Democracy looks like!"

INTEGRITY??

Integrity is a rare and elusive attribute in the best of us. Yet, I listen to political ads on television and the politicians who are proclaiming their "integrity;" their goodness, honesty, honor, morality, virtue, character, incorruptibility, moral rectitude, and decency.

I find that politicians that proclaim their integrity often have the most to hide. Duly noted, Governor Quinn is using the word, integrity, in one of his ads.

CELTIC/IRISH

NOVEMBER CUSTOMS

November 1st. On this day people pray for the departed family member and leave food and lighted candles on the table in case their souls visit the house. This is very similar to the Mexican Day of the Dead observance.

GUBERNATORIAL

DEBATE OCTOBER 14

If you tuned into CBS 2 Chicago at 6pm on October 14th expecting to hear a debate on the real issues facing the state of Illinois, like pension reform, our bond

ratings, or why we rank 48th out of 50 states in economic development, or the reason we have the highest property taxes, corporate taxes on and on in ad infinitum. Instead we had a debate held at the Dusable Museum, moderated by CBS newsman, Jim Williams, and a three member panel.

The debate was all about who did what for the black community, and who promises to do the most for them after the election. What about the nearly 10 million caucasians who live in Illinois, not to mention the other ethnic minorities, Asians, Hispanics etc. What will you do for them, besides figure out more ways to tax them?

As it turns out, the debate was to be focused solely on the issues that face the Black community, however it was not advertised that way. If they were to do it again, I don't think they would have nearly as many people watching.

FIRST TIME

Remember your first trip to Ireland? How about flying on an Aer Lingus stretch DC8 with a stop in Montreal, Canada. The unforgettable moment after the sun rises and you come into view of the Irish coast for the first time, and see below you the "forty shades of green." Now you are forever under the spell of the Emerald Isle, the Star of the Sea.

Landing at Shannon airport you discovered there was an observation deck on the roof of the terminal where people waiting for flights to arrive could stand up there and watch everybody disembark. There on the deck was my uncle Pat, his wife Maggie, and my aunt **Bab White!** There were no jetways in those days and when I came down the steps I knelt down and kissed the ground, then I introduced myself to the first Irishman I saw. He must have thought I was absolutely nuts!

After we cleared customs, my sister Jeannie and I met our aunts and uncles for the very first time.

We loaded our luggage and five adults into uncle Pat's Volkswagen Beetle and off we went thru Limerick City to pick up the coast road where we headed for

Foynes, where we had our first pint of Guinness.

After a visit to **John Michael Boyle's** house in New Castle West, and several more stops along the way, it was late in the evening before we made it to Causeway and the Boyle farm. After a long and tiring day it was good to go to bed where aunt Maggie, God bless her, had placed two hot water bottles - one by the feet and the other higher up. I slept soundly under 10 layers of blankets looking forward to the next day.

iBAM

I hope you were there as we enjoyed an exciting evening at the gala dinner. The honorees and their acceptance speeches were absolutely brilliant. My good friend, **Martin Healy Jr.**, was named Person of the Year, a richly deserved honor. Marty took on the job of chairing the Library Fund committee for the Irish American Heritage Center all the way back to 1994. Without his leadership I don't know where we would have been today. With his leadership we have one of the most beautiful libraries in Chicago if not the entire country.

Barry "Jazz" Finnegan, the artist, amazed everybody with his charcoal on paper portrait of Samuel Beckett. We had two full days of authors signing books, so now I have two more books on my stack of books to be read.

There were two fabulous concerts, Mundy on Friday night, and the High Kings on Sunday. The auditorium was filled to capacity.

My friends from Cincinnati, Ohio were there. **Kent Covey** and **Maureen Kennedy**, who founded the Greater Cincinnati Irish Center five years ago.

Patrick and Rose Marie Egan joined us for the affair along with **Tom and Josephine Boyle** of Burr Ridge.

Truly a night to remember! I can't wait until next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen. As my cousin would say, "It's done and dusted."

Happy Birthday to Chicago's Irish Cultural Chieftain, **Jim Sloan**. Don't ask me to tell you how many candles will be on the cake! Happy Birthday Jim!

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The Houli's Hooley-



Join the hooley with Bill and Paddy Houlihan live on the air every Saturday night from 7-8PM on WSBC 1240 AM and WCFJ 1470AM with news, guests, music, comedy, and a preview of the weekend for Chicagoland's Young Irish community. Starts November 1st!





Home of the Best
Wood Roasted Chicken
Barbeque Baby Back Ribs
And OOOOOOOh!
those Real Mashed Potatoes

Dine-in - Traditional Thanksgiving Feast
\$16⁹⁵

Turkey with all the trimmings, including homemade pumpkin pie.
Open Thanksgiving 11am to 8pm.
Also available for carryout.
Items from our regular menu will also be available.

Complete Turkey Feast to Take Home
\$189⁹⁵

22 lb. turkey, real mashed potatoes, pine nut stuffing, giblet gravy, salad, vegetables, cranberry sauce, bread, and a pumpkin pie.
Serves 16. Orders must be placed by 11/23/14 to be picked up on Thanksgiving

- * Live Music Every Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm
- * Let us Cater your next Party
- * Private Party Room

Bottles of wine are 1/2 price on Mondays and Tuesdays!



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Shannon Rovers Honor Sister Rosemary of Misericordia at Annual Gala Dinner Dance 10-18-2014





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



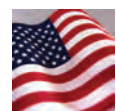
A Chairde:

All is right with the world, as the fearsome KK club in Ireland once again reign supreme, that is, Kerry and Kilkenny won the All-Ireland football and hurling finals respectively. Congratulations to both teams! I did attend the football final after a last minute ticket emerged, thanks to the intervention of some ardent GAA fans from Roscommon, who make the trip home to Dublin every year for the All-Ireland. As always, it was a great occasion and a fascinating game. My Dad and I were visiting with my sister in Inishmaan when the ticket surfaced, and I had a mad scramble to get to mainland Galway and drive to Dublin to attend the game. All part of the fun, though my poor Dad is still recovering. Inishmaan is a special place, the least developed and most traditional of the Aran Islands, it has not embraced the tourism revolution like Inishmore and Inisheer, and the population of the Island has steadily declined. There is a wonderful new initiative in place which has 30 students boarding and attending school on Inishmaan, learning

and conversing "As Gaeilge." The sounds and laughter of the youngsters attending school and living on the Island are a ray of hope for Inishmaan, which is down to a population of less than 150 people. All of our organizations in Chicago constantly need new blood and fresh faces to reinvigorate and renew, just like Inishmaan.

On behalf of all at Gaelic Park, I ask for your support of our Super Fundraiser which takes place on Sunday, December 7. It is a wonderful draw with \$80,000.00 in prizes, with half the proceeds going to maintain Gaelic Park, which belongs and is part of all of us. Tickets are available at the Park in the office or the bar and also through a vast network of sellers including all current Directors. Tickets can be purchased on the North Side at The Sixpenny Bit on Montrose, where Tom Birt has been a loyal friend of GP for many years. I hope to see you at *The Muesli Belt*, the fall performance of the Gaelic Park Players which opens Friday November 7.

John Devitt, President



11/11 FLY THE FLAG!



November Event Calendar

11/5 & 12/3	Monthly Musical Luncheons	NOON
11/7	Opening Night for <i>The Muesli Belt</i> (RR)	
11/9 & 12/14	Sunday Mass & Breakfast	10am
11/9	Book signing by author Sean Brennan immediately following Mass	
11/12 & 12/10	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm
11/27	Thanksgiving Day Carvery (RR)	
11/30	Carraig Challenge 5K Run/1.5 Mile Walk	
12/6	Comedian Brendan Grace (RR)	
12/7	Super Fundraiser Drawing (tickets available soon)	
12/11 & 12/18	Mingle Jingle Office Parties (RR)	
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. Entertainment 11/5 Joe Cullen and 12/3 Kara & Jerry.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Sunday Classic Carvery resumes November 2. Full hot buffet dinner and entertainment from 3-8pm. Sun 11/02 John Dillon, Sun 11/09 Joe McShane, Sun 11/16 Ray Gavin, Sun 11/23 Richie Z.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Pub Irish Music Sessions Thursday Evenings at 7:30pm

Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings at 7:30pm

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

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

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

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

DINING SPECIALS:

Friday/Saturday
Pub Grub & theatre
ticket-\$20

Sundays
Classic Carvery &
theatre ticket-\$27



Mick Kenna (L) and Bob Reidy cementing the deal!

THANKSGIVING SET DANCE

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Gaelic Park - Tara Room

2:00-5:00pm Dancing

5:00pm Dinner

Music by: The Tony O'Connell Ceili Band

Would appreciate an R.S.V.P. to Carol Sweeney 773-458-4672 or cjsween513@msn.com



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Gaelic Park Annual SUPER Fundraiser

Tickets Now Available!
\$80,000.00 in prizes!
Only 1500 tickets will be sold!



Tickets can be purchased from any one of the Directors, in the main office or the Carraig Pub. The drawing will be held at Gaelic Park on Sunday, December 7 at 8pm. Come early, join the fun and hear the winning tickets announced!

The Carraig Pub at CGP

Pub food served Monday thru Thursday, 5pm-9pm, Friday & Saturday 5pm-10pm.

Live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, no cover charge!

Come in for a bite and a cold one for all the Bear Games and Monday Night Football.

**The perfect food.
The perfect pint.
All at the perfect pub.**



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

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

Gender: Male or Female (circle one) Runner or Walker (circle one) Adult T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL (circle one)

Waiver: I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury to participants in this event, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages or loss, regardless of severity that I and/or my minor child/ward may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with this activity. I further agree to waive and relinquish all claims I and/or my minor child/ward may have as a result of participating in this activity against the race organization, the village in which it is held, respective officials, agents, volunteers and employees, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Parties"). By participating in this event, race organization has the right to reproduce/retain photos taken of the event and participants on race day. I do hereby fully release and forever discharge the Parties from any and all claims for injuries, damages or loss and I and/or my minor child/ward may have or which may accrue to me or my minor child/ward and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this event. I further agree that this agreement shall be governed by the State of Illinois.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

All net proceeds to Chicago Gaelic Park Charities

For information or questions call Chicago Gaelic Park (708) 687-9323

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

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

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

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Sat Nov 1	John Dillon	7:30pm
Fri Nov 7	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat Nov 8	Afterglow	9:00pm
Wed Nov 12	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
Fri Nov 14	Fabtones	9:00pm
Sat Nov 15	Jimmy and Rhonda	9:00pm
Fri Nov 21	Mulligan Stew	8:00pm
Sat Nov 22	Joe Cullen	8:30pm
Fri Nov 28	Kieran Byrne	9:00pm
Sat Nov 29	Billy O'Donohue and Larry Nugent	9:00pm

Chicago Gaelic Park
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Thursdays Irish Musicians Traditional Sessions

Happy Thanksgiving!

BRENDAN GRACE



Appearing at

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

Saturday December 06, 2014 • 8:00pm • Doors Open at 7:00pm

Tickets \$25.00 call to reserve yours NOW!

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



Christmas Tree Lighting



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JOIN US ON
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 04,
2014
AT 6:30PM
FOR OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING
CEREMONY



We'll sing
Christmas Carols
with the Choir,
make ornaments,
Play Reindeer Games,
all kinds of fun!

Hot Soup and Hot Chocolate will be available for purchase

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 708-687-9323

*Send your
wishes of light -
Send your love in light -
Send your joy in light -
Send your peace
in light -
Send a
Christmas delight!*

Mingle & Jingle

Gaelic Park's Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas Party is perfect for businesses: Who want to celebrate the holidays in a fun and spirited atmosphere, are unable to host an in-office party, or are too small to rent a hall.

Have more fun with more people as you join together with other offices in the area for one of these two big holiday celebrations! Everyone attending will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, a four hour open bar and live DJ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH AND
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH 2014
6:30-10:30pm
\$37.00 per person

Call Gaelic Park and make reservations for yourself or the entire office!
Reservations must be made as soon as possible
Payment in full due by December 1st. Adults Over 21 Only

708.687.9323

Chicago Gaelic Park • 6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL 60452 • www.ChicagoGaelicPark.org

St. Jarlath's Youth GAA

presents
**Dancing for
Our Stars**



February 7, 2015
at Gaelic Park



ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO DANCE AT:

www.chicagostjarlaths.com

Nominate Your Favorite Male or Female Dancer

St. Jarlath's will provide the services of a professional dance instructor. Dancers will be required to train a minimum of 3-4 hours a week for 6 weeks with a partner. Contestants must be over 21. Nominations will not be accepted after October 1st at noon.



Christmastime in Ireland

DIRECT FROM DUBLIN



STARRING

Tony Kenny

STAR OF JURYS IRISH CABARET

George Casey

IRELAND'S KING OF BLARNEY

Trish O'Brien

CO. CORK'S QUEEN OF IRELAND

Paul Noonan

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Dublin Trinity Band & The Dublin City Dancers

Appearing at

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

Sunday December 14, 2014 - 3:00pm

Doors Open at 2:00pm

Tickets \$25.00 call to reserve yours NOW!

Chicago Gaelic Park • 6119 W 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL • 708-687-9323

www.chicagogaelpark.org

The County Connection Corner



The County Down Association of Chicago had its final meeting on Friday, Sept. 26 at Gaelic Park, after 50 consecutive years as a social club. We wish to thank everyone who supported us through the years, especially Gaelic Park for providing a first class venue for our meetings, dances and parties.



Back Row: Ann Quinn, Bridie Knightly, Bob Knightly, Jim O'Hara, Gerry Gorman, Eugene Killen, Frank Conaghan, Tom Burgess and Brian Killen
Middle Row: Margaret Kelly, Donna Killen, Alice Conaghan, Ita McElroy, Agnes Gorman, Noreen Killen, Frances Sacks and Sharon Burgess
Seated: Marian Kowalesik, James Marks, Norah Marks and Pat Carr

*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*

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

Judges Running for Retention

Honorable Maureen Ward Kirby, Cook County Circuit Judge, County Division, is running for retention as judge in this year's election.

She's been a judge for seven years, having gotten her start as a clerk for a federal judge in the early 90's, and becoming intrigued with the idea. "I'm a decisive person, and I wanted to make a difference, and I'm now sitting in the County Division where I hear, among other matters, adoptions and civil mental health proceedings... I think, having four children of my own, and experience with kids helps in those particular areas," She says.

In this division, she sees a wide variety of cases, which makes it very important to be familiar with a lot of statutes. She prides herself on her strong work ethic.

Of her current position, she says, "I love my job. I'm honored to have my job. I know that it can be very nerve-racking for people to come to court, depending on why they are appearing in front of the judge. It's important to treat people with courtesy and respect, it's important to explain why you're ruling the way you're ruling, it's important to rule promptly, and I do all those things because I appreciate the trust that is placed in us and I think that we owe it to the citizens of Cook County to work hard every day."



Honorable Eileen O'Neill Burke, Cook County Circuit Judge of Law Division, Commercial Calendar Section, is running for retention as judge in this year's election.

She's been a judge for six years, assigned to the Law Division for the last year and a half, and has been working Commercial Calendar since April of this year. She specializes in disputes over \$50,000, such as breach of contract, fraud, and attorney malpractice.



While citing her boss, Jim Flannery, and Clare McWilliams as her mentors, she credits former Illinois Supreme Court Judge Mary Ann McMorro as her inspiration for becoming a judge in the first place, having heard a speech by the woman while Burke was in middle school.

And now, she says, "I'm in my dream job. I got lucky, and this is the place to be."

The verdict is in: Vote "YES" For Retention Judges

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Are You A Good Communicator?

I never cease to be amazed how otherwise smart, competent people are such ineffective communicators. Let me share an example from a few months ago. I was scheduled to give a presentation to a job search support group. Being less than a technological wizard, I still rely on google maps or physical maps I carry in my car. The group's coordinator gave me directions to the facility; he indicated it was close to such and such street. But he didn't mention any specifics (north, south, etc.). As anyone who drives around urban neighborhoods knows, you have to be blessed with superior visual capacity to see address numbers from the wheel of a moving automobile. The coordinator, who is a very competent guy, assumed

that I had GPS in my car. Once he realized that I didn't have GPS, it seemed he just faded from the conversation; apparently he was not sure what to say. I gave him an "out". I had allowed myself more than enough time to locate him and the facility. But once I found it I had to sit in my car for a couple of minutes to get my laughter under control. I would argue he would not have found the location if he used his own instructions. So what's the point of the story?

He seemed to be unable to give me worthwhile directions. I have often commented that giving understandable and specific instructions has become a lost art. Think about it. Does your superior give you instructions (directions, if you like) that are as Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson said in "A Few Good Men", CRYSTAL CLEAR. Such instruc-

tions are precise and complete; if they are followed carefully you will succeed in the accomplishment of your mission.

Even if you are CRYSTAL CLEAR, there is some small portion of people who simply don't get it. But for the most part, people of average intelligence can follow good instructions.

If you are the person issuing the instructions, you need to think about how you are going to share them with the people who will be receiving them. You need to consider the level of awareness they possess. Are they familiar with the terms you are using? We all know that (fill in the blank) talk over our heads because they use terminology that does not speak to the average person. Whether that person is an auto mechanic or a Ph. D in the sciences, s/he needs to translate their technical terms into understandable language.

I am reminded of a situation that has been buried in my memory for some 40 years. An audit client was playing "games" with his corporate tax calculation. The senior audit and tax personnel tried to convince this gentleman that he was breaking the tax laws of the US. He was adamant that he paid the amount that he felt was due the government. The argument went on for some time. Finally a plain speaking tax manager said, "what we are trying to say, Mr. Client, is you will be spending the rest of your life in a federal

prison for tax evasion, unless you pay the proper amount of tax as deemed by the IRS." The gentleman's face went very pale and he said, something like, okay, now I understand. Pay whatever we have to pay. I did not come to this great country to end my life in prison. Apparently all the discussion of the intricacies of the tax code simply didn't register with him. But once the tax manager spoke the truth in very plain and specific words: Pay or go to jail if caught; real communication had been achieved.

How often does our failure to clarify the full meaning of our instructions cause a problem? Let's be sure that we don't always blame the recipient of the instructions; it could be our fault. So be sure when you ask or order a person to do something, that you ask them to tell you their understanding of what you want. How many times have you been in a conversation that has gotten out of control only to have one of the parties finally say, oh, that's different than what I thought you were saying, or a comment something similar to that? We often make decisions on our perception of what our boss wants, rather than on the reality of what the boss really wants.

Think of the lengthy conversations you have been in where you don't really know what has been asked of you? He said this or that. Who is HE? A casual observer of the conversation could conclude that HE could really be

one of three or four people mentioned in the discussion. Don't you think that a brief summary of the conversation would help to minimize the error factor? As we have all learned, haste does not make waste. As a passenger you say to the driver, turn here. Does that mean to turn instantly or at the next driveway or light? Which way will you be turning?

In summary, you could probably improve your communications by doing just a few things. Assess the awareness level of the person to whom you are speaking. Don't assume that he understands your jargon or can read your mind. Ask the person to repeat back to you his understanding of what you desire. I don't think you can attain perfect communication each and every time, but you can certainly enhance the possibility. Carpe Diem.

For Your Consideration. The only person stopping you from doing something is yourself, and looking for excuses all the time just gets in the way of obtaining your own goals. It's like the writer who keeps getting up and straightening out the pictures on the wall.

Singer Chrissie Hynde, formerly with the PRETENDERS band.
James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm. #630-684-2204 jamesffitz37@hotmail.com web:jamesffitzgerald.com

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



GOP To Deliver Immigration Reform

As I began my reflections this month my eye was drawn to an on-line blog with the caption: Can the Republicans deliver on Immigration reform? With less than a month before we go to cast our votes it is a good question to ask. The answer depends of course on whether the GOP can take control of both houses following the mid-term elections.

Right now the polls suggest that there is a great chance of the Republican Party taking charge of both chambers. No sensible punter would bet against them holding on to their majority in the House. The Senate is certainly within their reach, however, at this stage the result is too close to call.

One wonders if the GOP should they take control of the Senate, will they deliver an overhaul of our immigration system. The party is aware (as we have often note in the past) that without the support the Hispanic community they have no real chance of taking back the White House in 2016. Will the strong right wing section of the party, controlled by the "tea party" change their view of "il-legals" and support "amnesty"

for the undocumented? I guess gentle reader, we will just have to wait and see.

On a different note, my attention was drawn this week to a service that has been launched by a fellow Clare man called Alan Foudy: Funerals Live. The following is taken from their web site@ Funeralslive.ie: It offers families the option to record their loved ones funeral service to include family and friends who are unable to make it in person. We offer mourners the opportunity to take part in the grieving process through a secure online viewing system. With the families permission we record the funeral service and make it available within a few hours through a secure online portal.

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viewed by those who have received a specific password to ensure high levels of privacy. We aim to provide a professional and discreet service which respects the sensitivity of the occasion, conducting our work from an appropriate distance so as not to disrupt the ceremony

The Falcon And The Branch

Once there was a king who received a gift of two magnificent falcons. They were peregrine falcons, the most beautiful birds he had ever seen. He gave the precious birds to his head falconer to be trained.

Months passed, and one day the head falconer informed the king that though one of the falcons was flying majestically, soaring high in the sky, the other bird had not moved from its branch since the day it had arrived.

The king summoned healers and sorcerers from all the land to tend to the falcon, but no one could make the bird fly.

He presented the task to the member of his court, but the next day, the king saw through the palace window that the bird had still not moved from its perch.

Having tried everything else, the king thought to himself, "May be I need someone more familiar with the countryside to understand the nature of this problem." So he cried out to his court, "Go and get a farmer."

In the morning, the king was thrilled to see the falcon soaring high above the palace gardens. He said to his court, "Bring me the doer of this miracle."

The court quickly located the farmer, who came and stood before the king. The king asked him, "How did you make the falcon fly?"

With his head bowed, the farmer said to the king, "It was very easy, your highness. I simply cut the branch where the bird was sitting."

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

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Divorce Celtic Style

By Catherine Duggan

One Celtic custom that survived the conversion of Ireland to Christianity was divorce. Ancient Irish law, written in the seventh century, and known as Brehon Law, set forth several reasons that divorce could be obtained. In the modern era, divorce was not permitted in Ireland until 1996.

A wife could divorce her husband if he failed to support her, if he spread a false story about her, if he circulated a satire about her, or if he tricked her into marriage by sorcery. A man who was sterile, impotent or who practiced homosexuality could also be divorced. If the husband repudiated her for another woman, she could choose to divorce him, or stay in the house, along with the 'secondary wife.'

A wife could divorce her husband if he became too fat to have sex!

The law provided that a husband could strike his wife to correct her, but she was permitted to divorce him if his blow caused a blemish.

Finally, a man had to be careful about sharing with others the intimate details of his sexual relationship with his wife, since she could divorce him if he was indiscreet because, as the law stated, "it is not right for a man

who tells of bed to be under blankets."

There were several grounds on which a husband was permitted to divorce his wife. They also included unfaithfulness, persistent



thieving, inducing an abortion on herself, bringing shame on his honor, and smothering her child.

The rules for the division of property upon divorce were thoroughly modern. The share of each spouse depended on the kind of marriage, the amount of property brought into it by each partner, and the proportion of the household work borne by each. Each partner received back what he or she brought into the marriage, as well as a portion of the

profits earned and acquisitions made during the marriage.

The importance of the woman's role in the rural economy was recognized. For example, since textile production is labor intensive, and the value of the product is the result of the work performed, rather than the original worth of the raw materials, the woman was entitled to a larger portion of all clothing and woven cloth.

The division of property was based on three factors: land, labor, and capital or livestock. The portion assigned to land and capital was distributed regardless of the conduct of the spouses. But if the marriage broke up due to one partner's fault, then the labor portion went to the innocent party. "If one of them is ill-behaved, the labor portion of the ill-behaved falls to the well-behaved."

The law stated, "If they divorce, each divorce shall be without mutual defrauding. If they divorce by mutual consent, let them divide their property in accordance with legal propriety." And this was the seventh century!

In many ways women in Celtic Ireland were dealt with more fairly than in the rest of Europe at the time, or indeed under common law for centuries.

Catherine Duggan is an attorney and the author of *The Lost Laws of Ireland*.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who were the Vikings and why did they come to Ireland? Vikings were Scandinavian Pirates, Norse Seafarers, and pagans (however they had a belief in an after life because they thought it would be great to die in a battle because they believed it would lead them to Valhalla their idea of heaven) The Vikings were from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. They started to invade around 790AD. They invaded Ireland, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. Vikings invaded lands for 250 years and 40 of which were in Ireland. There are different theories of why they invaded. One is because they wanted revenge for pagans being forced into baptisms, during the Era of Charlemagne (Charles the great) it was convert or die. Or They invaded because there were trade inequities, lack of good farmland in their own country or over population. Or maybe they just exploited a moment of weakness in Europe.

The first raid was on Rathlin Island off the coast of Antrim. Churches and monasteries were being burned

to the ground, people were being murdered, kidnapped, valuable objects stolen and towns erased. They pillaged villages night and day like they had nothing to lose. Men came on long boats that could hold 60 men at a time. The Vikings that invaded Ireland were usually from Norway while Vikings that invaded England were Danish. The pagans that they were they didn't care or respect the Christian symbols/sites in Ireland. Many Vikings took monks as prisoners. One of them was Sceilg Mhicils an Abbott and he died of thirst. St. Colum Cilles Monastery in Iona was burned in 802. They would raid, steal, kill and go back to Scandinavia to sell their booty and then come back to Ireland and do it all again. They found that the monasteries were the richest hence they suffered the most, sadly. The brutality the Vikings displayed has made many tales.

Irish kings and monks began to fight back they had to learn ways to defend themselves and quickly. So as the saying goes necessity is the

mother of invention. Kings had many round towers built with one entrance and the height of the entrance could be 10 feet tall. Just when it seemed Ireland would be conquered by Vikings Ireland began to develop tactics it needed and the raids stopped. The Vikings turned their attention to England. The Vikings left their mark on Ireland in several respects and it would shape future generations to come. They settled towns and eventually had an extensive cultural assimilation into Irish life. They started to fight side by side with the Irish. Maybe a product of the theory if you can't beat them join them. There was a great transition also due to inter marriage, we had a Irish- Norse syncretism. There are many movies made about the Vikings, some include: 13 Warrior, The Vikings, and Erik the Viking.

A brief time line of Viking history in Ireland

790AD – The Vikings arrive in Ireland performing small raids

- 806AD – The Vikings raid Iona Abbey killing all 68 occupants

- 841AD – Dubhlinn (Dublin) begins as a Viking settlement

- 851AD – Battle at Dundalk bay between Norwegian Vikings and Danish Vikings takes place

- 852AD – Armagh is destroyed by Vikings

- 869AD – King of Connaught defeats Norwegian Vikings near Drogheda

- 902AD – The Irish attack and drive the Vikings from Dublin into Wales

- 999AD – Brian Boru defeats the Vikings

- Gaelic words for the month:

- *Castle-Caislean

- *Foreigner-Eachtrannach

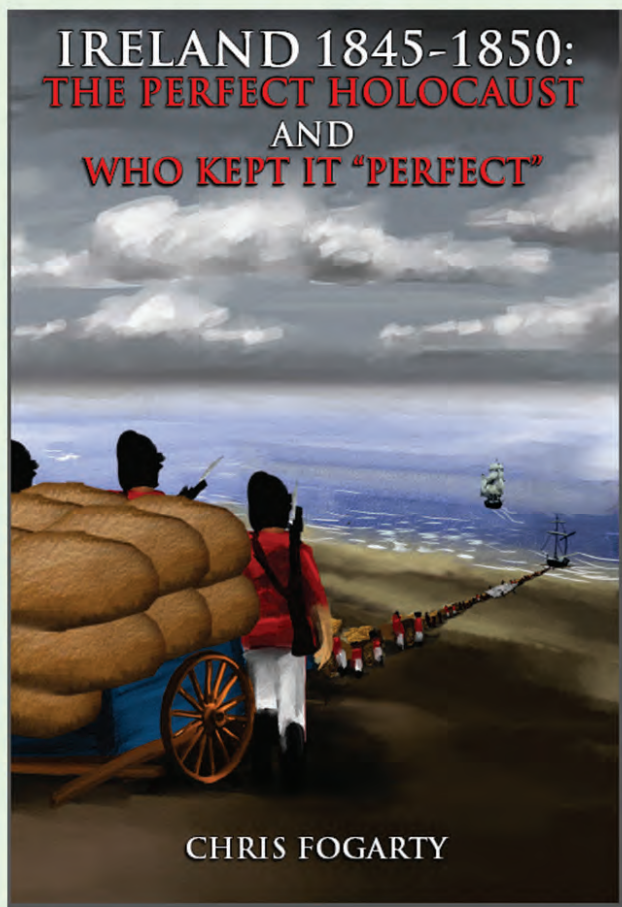
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Jump into 
Ireland

Discover The Rugged Beauty And Rich Culture Of Sligo And Donegal

It's often said that the well-heeled traveller knows the value of going off the beaten track. Nowhere is this more true than in the north west counties of Donegal and Sligo, two of the most scenic in Ireland. Together these two gems are Ireland's Wild West. Steeped in history, going back to neolithic times thousands of years before the birth of Christ, their magnificent land and seascapes have for centuries inspired some of our best musicians, artists and writers. It is a natural, rugged, timeless beauty replete with towering mountains, stunning sea cliffs and mile after mile of rolling hills and plains. Peace and tranquility are the watchwords here. Driving between the small villages, idyllic market towns and picture-perfect seaside ports, showcases vistas that are almost lunar in some parts. It is a unique experience, even in a country like Ireland, famed for its wonderful views.

Both counties are home to a wide variety of music. They each are associated with the highest quality of traditional music. Sligo this year played host to the Ireland's biggest tradfest, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, and will host again in 2015. Attendances at the Fleadh, as it is commonly known, can exceed 400,000 over its nine day duration. At its core the Fleadh is a competition for amateur traditional musicians but it also attracts the very best bands from all over the country and beyond who fill every street corner, bar and hotel, entertaining aficionados and the rest of us alike. Sligo has a special affinity with the guitar and hosts guitar festivals several times a year, probably the best known of which is the Strandhill Guitar Festival.

A rich vein of musical heritage runs right through the heart of Donegal, as you might expect from a county that has given us Enya, Clannad and Daniel

O'Donnell. If it's guitars in Sligo it's definitely fiddles in Donegal. The Donegal Fiddle Tradition is a unique style of playing that draws on the county's close ties with Scotland. Famous exponents in recent decades include James Byrne, Paddy Glackin, Tommy Peoples and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh. Donegal's relationship with the fiddle is easily seen by the many festivals devoted to this instrument each year.

All over the north west of Ireland local musicians gather in pubs for regular Seisiúns (sessions) and play impromptu for everyone that wants to listen. Most have been playing since early childhood and have musicianship in their families going back for generations. It is a very accessible and highly enjoyable way to get in touch with one of the most unique facets of Gaelic culture.

Donegal is the second largest county by area in the country, after only Cork. Once you cross the county line you immediately know you're in Donegal. The lyrical accents, the scenery and architecture, the preponderance of ancient stone crosses and other artifacts, and the wealth of Gaelic speaking communities all combine to give the county an identity that is entirely its own. I once spent a couple of months learning the Irish language at Oideas Gael, the world-renowned Gaelic school in the unbelievably beautiful



coastal village of Glencolmille. Oideas Gael has gotten countless Irish Americans up to speed in the language of their forefathers over the years; it has also helped Irish presidents and Ministers master their own native tongue. But perhaps most impressive of all is the view the very first time you arrive into the place. There is only one way in and out and the drive takes you through pristine farmland until you get to the glen itself. Then you descend into the village past the 600 foot high cliffs of Glen Head, where the Atlantic Ocean is at its most untamed. It is truly awe-inspiring, like so much of the county.

Sligo offers similar beauty and

much of the landscape is dominated by the almost spiritual presence of the famed Ben Bulbin, the mountain under which one of Ireland's greatest poets, William Butler Yeats, is laid to rest in Drumcliff Cemetery: "Under Ben Bulbin's Head" as the bard himself predicted. In fact much of the Sligo coastline is named Yeats Country and there are many sights and places to visit associated with the poet including a boat trip around the Lake Isle of Inishfree or a walking tour around Hazelwood, treading in the footsteps of the Wandering Aengus. William wasn't the only famous Yeats though. His brother Jack is one of Ireland's best known painters. You can see Sligo's influence on Jack B Yeats for yourself at the Model Gallery in Sligo town. Sligo is a repository of, and still the engine behind some of Ireland's richest culture.

The north west is also a mecca for sports enthusiasts. It's beaches regularly make the top twenty lists in surfing magazines and there are a host of ocean fishing and equestrian opportunities year-round.

For the golf enthusiast the north west offers some of Ireland's best courses. Between them,

Sligo and Donegal boasted no less than six of the country's top 25 courses in the Golf Digest Ireland 2014 list. This is no mean feat when you consider the competition includes world famous tracks such as Ballybunion, the K Club, Mount Juliet, Royal County Down and Royal Portrush to name just a few. Ballyliffin Golf Club for example, in Donegal, is home to the most northerly located course in Ireland. Both the Sir Nick Faldo designed Old Course and the Glashedy Links are truly great challenges for experienced and weekend golfers alike. Champions Rory McIlroy and Darren Clarke are regular visitors. Rosapenna Golf Resort, next to Downings in Sheephaven Bay is Europe's largest links golf resort, and a particular favorite of Graeme McDowell.

If you're looking for a chance to see Ireland at its tranquil, picturesque best, Sligo and Donegal should be on your bucket list. Far away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities these two counties give you a chance to really get away from it all, immerse yourself in a culture and surroundings that are as undisturbed by the centuries as anywhere in Ireland. For all the information you need to plan a wonderful trip check out www.ireland.com, always the best resource for accommodation, travel tips and ideas about things to see and do.





LOOK OF THE LASS

By Serafina Marmo

It's time to break out the heavy jackets and the knitted scarves -- it's going to be a chilly year in the Windy City! While you're digging, take a peek into your Mom's hidden box of clothes from the 90's she hoped to never see again. Why? Because plaid is back and better than ever!

With a big thanks to our Celtic ancestors, plaid, or tartan, has been popping up everywhere this fall/winter season, and everybody is trying to get a hold of the trend as it continues to explode in the fashion industry. Iconic celebrities like Kate Middleton, Cara Delevingne and Miranda Kerr have been recently seen sporting the print, and as expected, they are rocking it immensely. Whether they're on the catwalk, the street, or



Plaid Dublin



Plaid Roscommon



in a magazine, these celebs have shown prime examples of how to rock fashionable plaid articles or accessories.

What is so great about plaid is it's range of versatility. The timeless look isn't exclusive to the preps anymore. Whether you're going for grunge, casual, or high fashion, the intricate patterns appeal to all. Stores from Topshop and H&M to designers like Tom Ford and Ralph Lauren are stocking up on the major comeback, making your ideal piece a breeze to discover.

Now for a bit of Irish history: Did you know that the main function of tartan (in 3rd Century AD) was to distinguish clans from one another? Though the colors and lines have been altered and customized since then, your ancestors most likely wore a pattern specific to your family name. If you happen to be an O'Brian, Healy, O'Neil,



Plaid Derry

Flynn, or McNamara, you're just some of the families that still have access to your ancestor's tartan! And if you're not one of those lucky people, don't worry, the county that you hail from has its own too! Whether you're from Derry, Westmeath, Roscommon, or Dublin, it is incredibly easy to find your own.

Dublin, taking the fashion world by storm, hosted the Dublin Fashion Festival that took place from August 4th to August 7th this year. The event was kicked off by

none other than the RTE star and fashion icon, Angela Scanlon, and what was she wearing? A gorgeous tea length, red plaid skirt. What better way to welcome the style than in a trendy fashion show? The craze didn't stop there, however, as the beautiful top fashion model, Teodora Sutra strutted down the runway in a magnificent matching plaid skirt and knee-length coat. That being said, the Dublin Fashion Festival gets two thumbs up for executing the tartan look phenomenally.

Who knew that something with such purpose would be so fashion forward in the future? So here's to the Celtics from years and years ago for not only being cultured and traditional, but for being truly awesome fashion designers.

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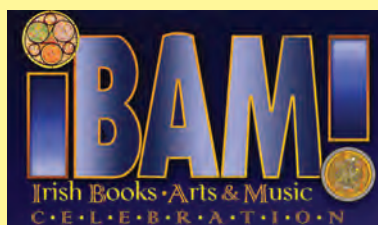
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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Winter is Coming

There is generally an excitement and dread about the changing of seasons. The movement from summer to Autumn is, for the most part, a welcome change from the hotter days. Winter, however, can provoke strong feelings.

In Chicago last year, winter arrived like the unwelcomed guest who overstays the welcome. Record snowfalls, sub-degree temperatures, and warnings of frostbite dogged us from one week to the next. After my first winter in the city, I was convinced that I would never make it through another one. I was skeptical of those who advocated that one gets used to such harsh conditions. And, a decade later, I'm still unconvinced of the sagely wisdom.

It's not all bad; I get great mileage in relaying the worse of the weather back to Ireland in the

most harrowing terms. Stories of blizzards, extreme snowfalls, and ice make for great conversation for the land of rain and mist. Not convinced of my graphic descriptions of the fatal season, I can amplify my story with pictures. Within seconds the Atlantic is bridged via technology, and the damp, temperate climes of Ireland, comes face to face with the extremes of the Midwest. Suddenly, as if by magic, my tales of frost bite warnings, people falling asleep to their death and deathly car accidents, take on new vigor.

Another discovery I've enjoyed making since coming Stateside,

has been an appreciation of Christmas. While in Ireland I never really enjoyed this festive season. The endless jingles, monotonous songs, and unreal expectations invariably ended in over eating, no snow, and a week of leftovers. None of the charm or magic lasted



beyond the over cooked turkey and dry stuffing.

One after another, the high hopes would dissipate with lack of snow, banal T.V shows, and

the unwanted, useless, gifts. My Grinch self grew stronger each year, and by the time I left Ireland, I'd already started traveling over the holiday season to countries that didn't make such a big deal of holiday.

During the last decade, my ex-

One year my brother, who works at a hostel for homeless men, offered me an electric blanket. One of the residents, who had died, had left this blanket, which was going to be thrown out. The blanket was a single, and I had a double bed. It would also be fair to say that the blanket was also well used. There were exposed wires, and using it was a hazard to anyone's health, but I was desperate. I would lay the blanket across the bottom of the bed and get into a fetal position, and move upwards with the heat.

I know this must sound austere, and primitive, but this is how it was for a long time. Life was not easy for a lot of us in Derry. Heat costs were costly, and you made do with what you had.

We weren't aware of being hard up. Did we get used to it? I'm not sure that people ever get used to these difficulties. Given the choice, no one would have to get use to it. The same is true for a lot of people here too.

But before I left Ireland, I moved into a new house with central heating, the windows didn't rattle, and I ditched the old electric blanket. My creature comforts grew, as did my distaste for the Derry wintery showers.

In Chicago, it's cold, but it's also dry. I don't find myself having to rush home to turn on the heat, and pacing around until I can feel the effects of a switch. I move from cold to heat with great convenience and the result is a happier man.

It's hard to state these things without sounding as if everything is better in the United States, but the truth is, some things are. There are things that I prefer in Ireland, but winter is not one of them. When winter comes these days, I wrap up, bitch about the weather, and think about what I'm missing in Derry. Winter is coming, and it's good to be able to appreciate its frosty, snowy, demeanour without it seeping into my bones, and chilling the heart into despair.

perience of Christmas, American style, has been positive. So while the snow and ice frustrate me, the hardened cynic has thawed inside. I've begun to enjoy the need to lighten up the extreme weather with an event that promotes a sense of heart-warming cheer.

Let's not go overboard, I'm not out singing Jingle Bells on the street. I haven't worn the party hat since leaving Ireland, and the mistletoe is nowhere in sight. Winter has come and gone over the past ten years, but it's been different. I've learned to appreciate the old habit in a new way.

What has changed is hard to quantify. In Ireland the season with the rain and strong winds combined with hail dampens the spirit. When I was in Derry, I lived in an old country house that had no heat, apart from one coal fire in the living room. The windows shook constantly with the wind. And, friends who visited wouldn't take off their coats when inside. There was no hot water, so I had to boil a kettle to shave. There was an electric shower, which was great, until you stepped out of the warm water and into the cold damp air. When I went to bed at night, I laid buried under a weight of bedclothes.

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



PADRAIG MCSHANE, a Moyle District Councillor, once lived in Chicago. After some years he decided that he could do more good for his people by returning home. Immensely popular, an elected member of the District Council, McShane's

Response: unanimous from both

IRISH NONPERSONHOOD was the law in Ireland for centuries under British rule. Any English person in Ireland could, on any whim, and with impunity, kill any Irish man, woman or child, all excepting five Irish families whom the British did not strip of legal personhood. Under British law in Ireland, only those five families possessed legal personhood. The law against murder protected them but no other Irish person, on the basis that murder applies only to persons, and the people of Ireland were legally non-persons.

TODAY, while the Free State Irish are "free-er;" in the Six-County part of Ireland still under British rule the murder of any Irish Catholic, though a *de jure* crime, needn't be prosecuted. The broad-daylight murders of fourteen Derry human-rights marchers by two British army regiments, in front of the world's news media, have never been prosecuted. Called "Bloody Sunday," that massacre underlines the permanent criminality of British rule in Ireland. Ditto Britain's unprosecuted massacres of Irish Catholics in Ballymurphy, Loughinisland, McGurk's Pub, the Dublin/Monaghan car-bombs, Omagh (arranged by MI5/Chicago FBI), the Miami Showband, etc., all, perps unprosecuted though mostly named. Ditto the Ulster Volunteer Force's random, drive-by murders of some eight hundred innocents in ones and twos in Six-County Irish communities to "soften them up" for the Good Friday Agreement.

WHO WON? For forty years British reporter Peter Taylor has had the confidence of combatants, both loyalist and republican. All gave him interviews and he never betrayed them. He recently canvassed them as to which side, if any, secured their interests in that conflict.

sides: the GFA gave victory to Britain/Loyalism, defeat to Ireland/republicanism.

STUDY THE PHOTO carefully. It shows a pyre readied for last July 12th's annual celebration of a 1690 Protestant (English) victory over Catholics (Irish). The "celebration" continues annually, to show "who's boss." This pyre, in Dervock, a small Co. Antrim village, is typical across the Six-Counties. On the lower Irish Tricolor see the usual "KAT" for Kill All Taigs (Catholics/Irish). With other Irish Tricolors set for burning see "PADRAIG MCSHANE; DEAD MAN;" a public death threat against an elected representative of the people. The police arrested nobody.

empathy is all-embracing. He recognizes the humanity of the devastated people of Gaza, and helped organize and trucked overland with needed supplies from Antrim-to-Gaza. He arranged the twinning of Gaza and Moyle District, Gaza's first twinning with another community. Padraig's brothers, Shay and Regan, productive and prosperous, live in Chicago and are my fellow-members of Chicago's original Clan na Gael. Continuing death threats often keep Padraig up at night protecting himself and his family. A few nights ago that unprosecuted death threat against Padraig was acted upon. British terrorists fire-bombed the McShane

home, doing extensive damage. Luckily, Padraig and his wife and toddlers were away visiting relatives.

STILL NO ARRESTS, though the perps are known.

MCSHANE'S EXPERIENCE is not unique. The Occupied Irish not only face such crime; the authorities are often the perpetrators. While British mass murderers of the Irish remain unprosecuted, the Irish are subject to imprisonment without charge, to official frame-ups. Typical of such blatant gov't crime is the ongoing frame-up of Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton. Still in the news is Sammy Brush. As a member of the infamously-criminal UDR, Brush and IRA volunteer Tommy McKearney, in the land of McKearney's ancestors since time immemorial, engaged in combat. Both were wounded. Tommy was imprisoned for many years, Brush was awarded Britain's MBE. What

Chicagoan can forget the MI5/FBI role in the Langert family massacre, their fabrication of evidence, perjuries, false arrests and wrongful, failed, prosecutions? And that was before that MI5/FBI gang went to Ireland and Omagh and their successful deployment of the same evidence fabrications,

perjuries etc. that had failed in Chicago's Federal Court.

HOPEFUL SIGNS While McShane speaks for and is supported by his Irish constituents, not all pro-Brits wish him harm. Local Protestant reverends have expressed to McShane their repugnance toward the would-be murderers.

MY MARY is recovering from surgery, doing well, and has required my attention. Will soon distribute my book.

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

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS? See www.terrorismireland.org

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

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



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We Get Letters

Dear Editor:
Hello, my name is Virginia Hamann, President of 'No Illiana 4 Us', the bi-state grassroots Non For Profit Corporation whose mission is - we are a group of concerned citizens that are opposed to the proposed Illiana Tollroad fighting for the No Build Option and improvement of existing infrastructure.

I am writing to bring awareness to EVERY Taxpayer in the State of Illinois prior to the upcoming CRITICAL Election. Many of us in the Direct Path of the Proposed Illiana Tollroad are well aware of what the project entails. However, in many areas of Illinois it is being misrepresented by IDOT what the project means to EVERY Taxpayer in the State of Illinois.

As our World continues to change & be engaged in ever increasing turmoil & conflicts. We as a Region, State & Nation must become more self-sufficient & self-sustaining & less dependent on foreign coun-

tries for our food sources.
IDOT has proposed a roadway project from I-55 to I-65 in Indiana. Due to Illinois dire financial situation the project was to be a P3 - Private/Public/Partnership. But at a recent IDOT sponsored investor Fair, it came out that NO Investor is willing to take the financial guarantee of the proposed project that Crain's, the Tollway Authority, CMAP Board, ELPC, Openlands, Sierra Club, No Illiana 4 US, and multiple other Groups have coined a "Boondoggle & Run Away Train Project".

Our current Governor has repeatedly pushed to make the ILLIANA Tollroad the #1 road project in the state in front of EVERY other project, regardless how

important other road projects may be.
This project has also been pushed as a 'Jobs' project although in Oct.'13 former IDOT Secretary,

Ann Schneider (whom has since resigned due to scandal) stated that the Illiana Tollroad would only produce 894 long term jobs. NEVER has this proposed project properly taken into consideration the detrimental effect this road will have on Agriculture.

The land in Will County, Illinois is not only rich in soil but rich in heritage of farmers whom for

generations have as good stewards of our land poured their blood, sweat & tears into this

rich land to reap the rewards of their hard work at harvest time and pass on the ART of being Good Stewards to the next generation. This way of life and hard work has been passed on for over 175 years in this region. The Illiana would destroy between 3000-6000 acres as well as affecting hundreds of businesses and destroying far more jobs than the 894 long term jobs, that former MPO Chair Ann Schneider

stated the Illiana would produce.
In addition to destroying Valuable Midwest Farmland the Illiana would have the 'Berlin Wall' effect on all the rural communities it will divide and sever as well as adding hours more time, fuel and work to deliver our commodities to the elevators and markets, contrary to what IDOT is touting & stating.

The Illiana would also commit Rural Genocide on the community of Symerton leaving only 2 homes of a population of 106 according to local residents.

I implore Every Registered Voter In The State Of Illinois to find out where your elected representatives stand on the proposed Illiana project and Vote Them Out if they support this financially unstable boondoggle project that will fall on the backs of Every Taxpayer in the State of Illinois if it comes to fruition. IDOT & the State of Illinois could put plenty of people to work by simply repairing, maintaining & upgrading it's existing infrastructure that is in deplorable condition receiving a D it's reportcard.

Get Out & Vote, Stop This Politically Motivated Project That Will Cost Us All.

Sincerely,
Virginia Hamann - Pres. 'No Illiana 4 US' NFP corp.

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Guilty Pleasures

Christine Gallagher Kearney



For many Irish Americans, life in the Midwest typically means periodic visits from family members living on the Emerald Isle. In between those visits, however, a sense of isolation from loved ones becomes more and more acute, and a forlorn feeling starts

regularly scheduling video chats with my sisters. On many such occasions, a few of us are sipping wine while the other drinks coffee—this is all thanks to vast time differences.

Other days, I recreate Sunday stew for two. Michael and I have



to set in. We long to be closer, to have family geographically near.

I wish I could pick up the phone and invite my in-laws or parents for Sunday stew. "Come on over tonight, for stew," I hear myself saying. "Yes, please, bring wine and dessert." For the time being, my wish will remain nothing more than that, as immediate family members on both my husband's and my side of the family live in far-flung places... Ireland, Australia, California.

Back in Chicago, I create the family community I crave by

adapted the beloved traditions of our large network of extended kinfolk for our own small family unit. It's not quite the same, but it fills part of the void.

Over those tasty dinners we reminisce and daydream about going back to the home country. This reoccurring conversation is based on nostalgia, rather than reality, as we'll be in Chicago for a long time. The piping hot pot of stew grounds us in the moment and we continue eating.

The warmth of an autumn stew, with its hearty vegetables

and tenderly cooked beef or lamb, manages to fill the longing-for-home-void, warming us on the inside. The savory stock is as rehydrating as a good Belfast rain shower.

The process of preparing the stew is surely part of its pleasure. I find comfort in the ritual of chopping and peeling the vegetables that eventually end up bobbing in the stock, slowly turning from hard to soft. Sometimes, I pretend that my Mom is prepping alongside me, dicing an onion to five-star precision.

Other times, after having consumed a filling bowl of stew, I imagine doing dishes with my father-in-law in his Carryduff kitchen. The window above the sink hangs open, letting the steam escape from the hot water pouring from the faucet. He sings ditties and children's songs as he dries the plates. I thank God I'm on my feet, so that gravity helps digest Sunday tea as I hum along.

It is not a mystery or anything new, really, that food and family go hand-in-hand. As we approach Thanksgiving in the Midwest, I'd like to take a moment to give thanks for those who are near and for those who are far. I think out loud: "You're always with us, on our minds and in our hearts. Maybe, just maybe, you'll come to visit again soon? I'll cook you dinner!"

The rich stews, and the age-old rituals of preparation they require, are symbols of that connectedness. As I slurp a hot bowl of meats and vegetables—much to Michael's annoyance—on a November evening, I remember whom I long for and wonder how, if possible, I will temporarily fill the void.

A treasured visit from family, of course, is what soothes that sense of loneliness best. However, the pleasure of stew is more readily accessible and will, fortunately or unfortunately, have to stand-in. At the very least, a fragrant stew, slowly simmering on the stovetop, brings to mind a mental picture of many spoons and bowls circling the pot, like a family, coming together.

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Recipe

November Slow Cooker Stew

(Adapted slightly from Jamie Oliver's Jools' Favourite Beef Stew.)

- knob of butter
- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 package of sage (large handful of leaves)
- 1-2 pounds of stewing steak or beef skirt, cut into 2 inch pieces (or use lamb if you prefer)
- sea salt and freshly ground pepper
- flour, to dust (gluten free okay)
- carrots, peeled and cut in thirds
- 1-2 cups of butternut squash, deseeded and roughly diced
- 8-12 small potatoes, red and yellow
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree
- ½ bottle of red wine
- ½-1 pint beef or vegetable stock
- zest of 1 lemon, finely grated
- handful rosemary, leaves picked

1 clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped

freshly ground pepper and a bit of salt. Bring to boil for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, then transfer to slow cooker with setting on 'high' for 4-6 hours or until meat is tender, stirring occasionally over the 4-6 hours. Mix lemon zest, chopped rosemary and garlic together and garnish each dish of stew. Add salt to taste. Serve with wine and fresh bread.

Big Screen Irish Movie On Easter Rising, The Moment Famine Ireland Chose Free Ireland

"If I had one quarter the strength of Seán MacDiarmada, I am satisfied.

Wherever he walked, there went with him all the shades of the great Irishmen of the past. He was god-given.

He was humble in the knowledge of his own greatness and in the task which he had chosen to do.

He did not seek glory as a personal investment but as a National investment.

He was not Seán MacDiarmada, he was Ireland."

Michael Collins

In the early years of the last century a group of principled and passionate Irish men and Irish women led a rebellion against the British Empire. The 1916 Easter Rising also saw a new document drawn up, the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, to declare separation from Britain. One of the rebellion organizers and signatories of the Proclamation was Seán MacDiarmada, also known as Sean McDermott. Born in 1883 in the rural countryside of Ireland which bore the stark reminders of the oppression and poverty of the years of the Great Hunger, Seán grew up to champion the cause of the Irish Nationalism and Freedom. A lifetime admirer of Robert Emmet, he was the organizer for first Sinn Fein election candidate and in 1910 founded the newspaper Irish Freedom, with Bulmer Hobson and Denis McCullough.

MacDiarmada became a national organizer for the Irish Republican Brotherhood and was mentored by veteran Fenian Tom Clarke. His public speaking made a deep impression and he was described as, "striking handsome and earnest, speaking with natural eloquence and with a sincerity which held his audience, gay and light-hearted with a gift

of telling a humorous story and a tongue that was witty without being malicious."

In 1911, MacDiarmada was stricken with polio and ever after needed a cane to walk. During the years leading up to 1916 he was committed to activities furthering the cause of a free Irish nation. Arrested in May of 1915 in Tuam, County Galway under the Defense of the Realm Act for giving a speech against enlisting in the British Army, he was released in September of 1915 and joined the Military Committee of the IRB, the group responsible for planning the upcoming insurrection "at the nearest opportunity."

In 1916, as Ireland was still suffering the effects of the famine or Great Hunger, an event began that would change the country forever. The Easter Rising was the rebellion to free Ireland from centuries of British Imperial rule. Just as George Washington had fought to free America, a group of 1,500 men and women fought for Irish freedom from the British Empire.

Seán MacDiarmada was stationed in the General Post Office in Dublin during the rebellion, which lasted for six days during Easter Week. It was he who read Padraig Pearse's letter of surrender to those in the GPO. After the rebellion, the centre of Dublin City was in ruins. As they were captured and brought to Kilmainham jail for execution, the rebel leaders were booed and mocked by the citizens of the city. However, when all the rebel leaders were executed, the nation rose up united in mourning. This led to the War of Independence led by Michael Collins and a tragic civil war.

Within a few short years, a new Irish government free from Imperial Rule was formed. Everything changed for Ireland and its citizens because of The Easter Rising.

Seán MacDiarmada was executed by firing squad on May 12, 1916 at the age of 33. He and James Connolly were the final two to be executed. Connolly was so badly injured in the fighting that he was carried by stretcher to the courtyard and tied to a chair and shot, and MacDiarmada walked to his death using his cane.

Before his execution, Seán MacDiarmada wrote in a letter to his sisters, "I feel happiness the like of which I have never experienced. I die that the Irish nation might live."

This story has never been told. Until now, in the centenary year.

Since 2012, the award-winning filmmaker Kevin McCann has developed a full-length movie, *The Rising*, telling the story of the emergence of Seán MacDiarmada as the mastermind of the Easter Rising. Though not as well-known as Patrick Pearse or James Connolly,

MacDiarmada was among the first to sign the Proclamation of 1916. The two-hour movie will bring to life the events leading up to and surrounding the Easter Rising of 1916. The movie will be released in 2016 to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the rebellion.

"As a filmmaker from Ireland, my interest to date has been subjects looking at identity, history and struggle," says McCann. "We are setting out to change the way Irish people think about themselves by telling a universal story of a slave looking for freedom for his people. He fought for a revival of the spirit of the Irish people, and an end to a slavish mindset." *The Rising* reveals how Ireland rose from famine to rebellion and is the prequel to the Michael Collins movie, which starred Liam Neeson. It's a story that most of Ireland and its diaspora do not know. It must be told and now is the time to tell it.

Kevin believes the story of *The Rising* is as relevant today as it's ever been and is seeking support from the Irish community to bring this film to the screen. Supported by the film board in Belfast and some County Councils, he has been in the United States for much of the past year, and received the support of many individuals, societies, unions and businesses. The Easter Rising was funded by Irish America and this big screen remembrance will be funded by Irish America also. With production planned for next year, he is meeting investors to back this \$6 million movie. "This is the only full-length dramatic movie on the rebellion due for release in 2016. The investors I am meeting see its historical importance as well as its commercial potential. We are working together to ensure the story of 1916 is told respectfully to a wide audience".

Kevin is a graduate of the European EAVE Producer Program and has run the production company Maccana Teoranta since 2005. His work includes the film *The Boys of St. Columb's* for BBC/RTE and his last film *Volkswagen Joe* has won six international awards this year.

This is a movie 100 years in the making and it finally will show a global audience how the Easter Rising rebellion was the defining political event in twentieth century Irish history - the turning point from famine Ireland to free Ireland. The account of how men and women fought for independence deserves to be remembered and respected. As our team puts our shoulders to the wheel to make this vision a reality, we invite everyone to be a part of telling it. Just like in 1916, we need Irish men and women to join us.

Kevin goes on to say, "With the 100 year anniversary of the Easter Rising approaching there is a groundswell of interest in the story of what motivated these heroes to seek a transformation in their country despite much opposition. This is not just an Irish story. It is a human story about fighting for freedom from oppression. Please connect with us through the social media links at www.therising.ie and contribute to our funding campaigns. Help us to bring Ireland's birth of nation story to a world audience and tell the true story of a forgotten Irish hero."



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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell



and she gave me her blessing. She appears on the DVD that was filmed at my concert in Derry. I treasure my memories with her and I'm sure Her and my Dad are smiling down on me, with that same love they

song that will live forever. Nathan has an amazing talent for writing and performing. John Pettifer is an unbelievable guitarist and writer also. I feel very honored to be in the company of all my co writing friends.

Congratulations to the Dalton family on their new pub "The Longford" on Cicero Avenue, in Crestwood. I had the pleasure of playing there on the opening weekend. What a great atmosphere the "The Longford" has. I wish them great success.

Also congratulations to my brother Nicky

Hello everyone, I have been very busy this past few months with television and radio interviews to promote my book, CD and DVD. I am very happy with the feedback from my Autobiography. All the comments have been very positive. It took me a long time to agree to write it and I was a little apprehensive at first but now that it is published I am very happy and proud that I have written it. I enjoyed my interview on the Late Late Show with Ryan Tubridy. Totally unrehearsed, which is the way I like to do it. We had some good laughs during the show. I received so many, texts, emails, phone calls and cards congratulating me on the interview. I thank you all for your messages. I've also enjoyed playing my concerts all over Ireland. On my way back from my concert in Westport, Co Mayo, I visited St. Attracta's Nursing Home in Hagfield, Charlestown. I sang for the residents there and they really enjoyed themselves. It was a lovely feeling. Some even helped me out and some got up for a dance. A very special visit for me.

I wish my Mother was here to help me celebrate my 50 years. I am lucky that we were blessed to have her around for so long. I read the book to her and played the CD

always gave me. Hope to meet you somewhere over the next few months.

Take care and now I'll hand you over to Joe. Love always, Margo Thank you Margo,

Hope everyone had a good Halloween. Now we're sailing towards Thanksgiving. Maybe its because of my travels this year or maybe because I'm getting older but this year seems to have just flown by. That's maybe a good introduction to our song of the month. The song was written from some thoughts that Margo had about her Mom and Dad. Its about the times when most of the men had to travel away from home to find work. So families were deprived of spending time together. The song is called "The Years They Seemed Like Days". This song is on Margo's album called "The World Through My Eyes"

I did a lot of writing while I was home in Ireland this year with Margo. I also took a few trips over to visit Nathan Carter and wrote some songs with him and John Pettifer who is Nathan's lead guitarist. One evening we were finished writing for the day and were about to head out for a relaxing night when Nathan came up with an idea for a song about Enniskillen. So we stayed on for another hour and wrote the song. I'm glad we did. I think it will be a

"The Years They Seemed Like Days"

Written by Margo O'Donnell, Joe McShane and James Thacker

Verse 1

She recalls just how they met on that wet and windy day
On the way to work that morning he stole her heart away
He threw his coat around her with rough and calloused hand
And she felt the gentle nature of that hard working man

Verse 2

They were meant to be together but she found herself alone
He had to travel far away there was no work at home
But she knew it was true love right from the very start
Because even when he had to leave they never grew apart

Chorus 1

And the days they seemed like years counted in her tears
With little time together she held his memory near
Waiting for that precious morning he'd come through the door again
And she'd look into those smiling eyes of her hard working man

Verse 3

They brought him back one morning, never more he'd have to roam
He looked so contented that God had brought him home
His wife's poor heart was broken, as she wiped the tears away
Saying I'll meet you up in heaven and a bright and happy day

Chorus 2

And the years they seem like days counted in her tears
With little time together she hold his memory near
Waiting for that precious morning they'll meet at heavens door again
She'll look into those smiling eyes of her hard working man

James on his new CD. The album features a duet with Nathan Carter called "Come On In". It is a great track and a very well produced album.

Song writing tip - When writing a song you have to say exactly what you mean, with every word you commit to your lyric sheet. Don't worry about this as you're writing the original draft because doing so often means your song will never get written. The best song writers have mastered the craft of rewriting.

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

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WTFW Highlights President Reagan

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Welcome to Chicago Archbishop Cupich!

We at Catholic Charities join with Catholics throughout the Archdiocese as we sadly see our beloved Cardinal George retire, yet joyfully anticipate the installation of Archbishop-designate Blase Cupich on November 18.

Over these past several weeks we have learned that our new leader is a great administrator and has successfully seen the Diocese of Spokane through a difficult time in its history. But more important than hearing the accolades of his administrative acumen, it has been a blessing to learn about Archbishop Cupich's great faith in the Church and his tremendous love for Jesus Christ!

With all of the media coverage surrounding the appointment, one of my favorite images that our new Archbishop gave us was that of him keeping focused on Christ. When asked if he was worried about the challenges of coming to a much larger diocese like Chicago, he jokingly remarked that he thinks of Peter who was able to walk on water only as long as he kept his faith and looked toward Jesus. He said, "As long as my eyes stay fixed on Christ, and realize it's His work, I'm fine. If I don't, I'm all wet!"

Although Archbishop Cupich made this comment in a humorous manner, it truly is a simple, yet powerful message for each of us: keep our lives focused on Christ. Rather than be paralyzed by seemingly insurmountable difficulties or distracted by our successes, we must remember that Christ is always with us; we just need to listen. He will walk with us on the journey of life, help us make good decisions to stay on the right path, celebrate our joys, comfort us during our anguish and sorrow, and bring us peace and hope for the future.

At Catholic Charities, we

are tremendously blessed with thousands of volunteers and donors who help us "keep our eyes on Christ" by sharing His peace and hope with more than one million people who seek our help each year. Whether it's unemployment, addiction, divorce, mental or physical illness, teen pregnancy, or family crisis, Catholic Charities encounters those who some would say have lost their way, yet the path to our door was made clear for them.

Modeling Jesus' tender and enduring presence, Catholic Charities joins with people side-by-side on their journey to wholeness and health. With our professionally trained staff and specialized services that address multiple needs, but also a "hand up," ensuring that those who come to us can begin to rebuild their lives and have hope for a better future.

Just as Catholic Charities brings Christ's light to our struggling brothers and sisters, in their very presence they bring Christ to us. We welcome Him in the hungry family who receives hot meals at our evening supper program, in the domestic violence survivor who finds safety in our shelter, in the senior we greet with smiles as we drop off a meal or provide assistance with daily chores, and in the veteran who is battling post-traumatic stress disorder. We feed, clothe, shelter, and care deeply for our vulnerable brothers and sisters because Jesus told us that "Whatever you did for these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40). Yes, Christ is all around us; we just need to listen.

Catholic Charities is thrilled that the Holy Spirit has led Archbishop Cupich to Chicago. We look forward to doing Christ's work together as we share his passionate love for our Lord!

No One Should Be Afraid to Call 911

A couple of weeks ago, I received a haunting phone call. The person on the other end of the line was calling on behalf of a friend. The friend had not been heard from in weeks. When I asked the caller why no one had filed a missing person's report yet, the answer was heartbreaking: the missing friend was undocumented, and family and friends were afraid to expose this fact to the authorities.

The fear of contacting local law enforcement – even by a victim of a crime or someone in danger of becoming one – is just one example of the many reasons we need a comprehensive overhaul of our immigration laws and an

Illinois-wide law prohibiting all law enforcement agencies in our state from honoring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers. Without these changes,



Raia Stoicheva

undocumented victims will continue to be re-victimized by a system that discourages

them from coming forward.

That being said, local law enforcement agencies in the City of Chicago and Cook County do not honor ICE detainers; they are prohibited from doing so by law. In Chicago, police officers cannot ask about the immigration or citizenship status of people interacting with them – be it to report a crime, a missing person, or during an arrest – and cannot disclose the citizenship or immigration status of those people without being "required to do so by legal process" or the consent of the person involved. At least in these Illinois jurisdictions, it is safer to report crimes as an undocumented person.

If you'd like to share your stories, participate in educating others about the need for an IL TRUST Act, or if you have further questions about this topic, please call me at 773-282-8445. You are welcome to share your stories anonymously, but please know that your information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone without your consent.

WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

We hold walk-in clinic hours on Thursday evenings from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. First come, first served. Clients will receive a consultation with an immigration attorney. The consultation lasts approximately 45 minutes and costs \$30.

Clients are encouraged to bring all relevant identity and legal documents – e.g. their passports, birth certificates, marriages licenses, etc. – and, especially any communication with U.S. immigration authorities in order to receive a more holistic and accurate analysis of their questions.

Raia Stoicheva is an Immigration Attorney for Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, 4626 N Knox #301

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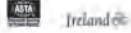
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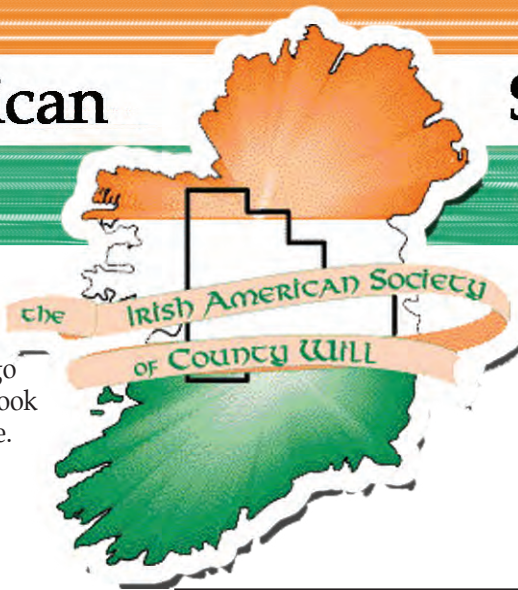
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Rialto's Festival of Trees

The Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet is a local treasure. We are proud to participate in the Rialto's Festival of Trees by having an Irish Tree on display from November 24 to 30th.

Please be sure to go to the Rialto and look for our special tree.

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

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

Join IASCW at Joliet Christmas Parade

The IASCW will be helping "Light Up The Holidays" by participating in the Joliet City Center Christmas Parade. Anyone is welcome to join us on Friday Nov. 28. The tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. kicks off the parade. there will be plenty of room to ride and walk. Information about meeting location will be posted on the www.countywillirish.net, or email Chris Schaal <schaal.chris@yahoo.com> for more information.

High School Students Get Ready To Study in Ireland

The IASCW will again be granting a scholarship to high school students who are interested in attending the Irish Life Experience program. Applications will be sent to high schools in Will County in mid-January. For more information about the requirements and program, go to www.countywillirish.net.

4th Annual Will County Celtic Fest Another Success!

Thanks again to everyone who joined us for another successful year at Will County Celtic Fest. It was held in September at the St. Joe's Park in Joliet, which is a fantastic family venue. The entertainment was exceptional again this year, thanks largely to Flipside Works, who organized the lineup. Also, a very special thanks to our volunteers and our sponsors. Without them, we would not have been able to continue to feature Irish and Celtic culture.

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Del Mar Builders
Magner's Cider
Guinness
Irish American News
WJOL & WCCQ
Kraus Cable
Farmer's Weekly Review
Drop Zone

The Pat Paul Memorial Scholarship Awarded

The St. Patrick's Alumnus group, in conjunction with the IASCW gave away a total of \$3,500 to three winners for the Pat Paul Memorial Scholarship at the Will County Celtic Fest, which was hosted by the IASCW. The scholarship was created in 2013 to honor a beloved 8th grade teacher from St. Patrick's Grade School in Joliet. Pat Paul made profound impressions on young students for many years. The scholarship was modeled after his values of honor, hard work and helping others. The three winners were selected out of 21 applicants who exemplified themselves in all three areas.

Winners:

- Nicholas Borgra of Joliet Catholic Academy was awarded \$1500
- Jarelle Daniels of Joliet West High School was awarded \$1500
- Meg Spesia from Joliet West was awarded \$500



Meg Spesia and Nicholas Borgra with Mike Reilly

(below) Members of the Irish American Society of County Will-sponsored rugby teams the Morigans and the Shamrocks.



Studying Abroad Through A Chicago Student's Irish Eyes

By *Katheryn Morley*

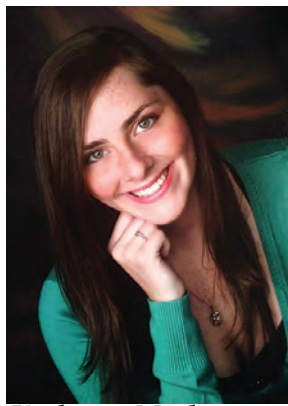
In 2009, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to study abroad in Ireland. I was nineteen at the time and just a sophomore in college. As a shy young adult, I worried whether I would make new friends, if I would be accepted by my Irish classmates, or if I'd be deemed the weird foreign kid. Somehow the anticipation of embarking on an exciting journey into the unknown overwhelmed my nerves and I packed up my whole life. After paying for my way-too-heavy luggage, I sat anxiously

in O'Hare International airport alone, terrified, and thrilled. Having never gone far away from home for school, I wasn't sure quite what to expect.

After the eight hour plane ride we arrived at Shannon Airport. The scenery was more than I could have imagined. Although everyone emphasizes how green the landscape of Ireland is, one cannot fully grasp the beauty of the lush green grass until she is there, taking it in for herself. Upon exiting the plane, I walked up to the customs man in my green coat, clutching my green

bed pillow, feeling like such a cliché. An Irish American arriving in Ireland all in green- it hadn't crossed my mind until that moment... I can't help it if I look good in green! However, the man was friendly and told me I surely looked like I had relatives there.

Next, I mentally prepared for what would surely be a very embarrassing scene as I found the luggage corral and waited to gather my several large over-



Katheryn Morley

weight suitcases. As I attempted to retrieve the first one, a young man offered to help me. He was an American from Deerfield, IL and was also studying abroad. He instantly became my hero. I definitely could not have managed all my luggage alone! I thanked God for sending me this reassuring new friend so early in my trip. We made our way to Limerick University.

At orientation I learned that there were many other American students studying alongside me. All our contacts at the college were very helpful and friendly. I settled in nicely, unpacked my bags and realized that, in what seemed like several hundred pounds of luggage, I'd failed to pack rain boots. On my first trip into town I found it was not wise to neglect packing rain gear when traveling to Ireland in January. However, after buying an umbrella at Penny's, I surmised I would survive. After all, being from Chicago I've experienced much worse weather than Ireland's mild temperatures mixed with heavy rain.

Soon after, the Irish students began to move in and classes began. I was enrolled in Irish Folklore, European Cinema,

History of Irish Revolution and Times, and Irish Contemporary Literature in English. These are classes typically offered to exchange students. They discuss aspects of Irish culture while being friendly to those who had not experienced the Irish school system. All of these subjects were fascinating to me. Learning about folk tales and their history while being immersed in the country for the first time, reading Irish authors whom I never would have discovered on my own, exploring the evolution of European cinema and its effects on filmmaking, studying the history of Ireland and attempting to remember all the names of Ireland's heroes – it was a wonderful new kind of education.

I found the people at the university and in the town all to be cordial. It was such an endeavor for me to be a newbie in a college town, let alone in Ireland. My new friends and I would walk over muddy campus fields to go to the movies or to grab some food or a beer. Whoever said the food in Ireland is boring was wrong! Anywhere that you can get Irish breakfast any time of day, or better yet a breakfast roll- Irish breakfast on a hoagie- is fine by me!

I was told Limerick is known as "Stab City," and all I could think of was the line from the movie 'The Untouchables' where Jim Malone says: "He pulls a knife, you pull a gun. He sends one of yours to the hospital, you send one of his to the morgue! That's the Chicago way!" Coming from a city like Chicago, I felt I could handle the most violent city in Ireland. During my stay there, I am happy to report that I never was, nor ever saw anyone else, threatened with a knife. I couldn't imagine any of the kind people I met to be violent. To be honest, the worst thing that happened to me while abroad was my purse being stolen from a restaurant – and that was in Barcelona!

Much of my time spent in Ireland was filled with travel throughout Europe. International flights within Europe are so effortless to manage. We

could easily take a plane to Italy, Spain, or France. And so we did! Traveling throughout Ireland and the rest of Europe made my education abroad really worthwhile and so well-rounded. It is not often that a college student has the opportunity to gallivant around the globe. It would be a shame not to take full advantage.

We went on Spring Break in Italy and Greece. What American college student can say they had a Spring Break like that? I glided along the canals of Venice, marveled at The David in Florence, and ate the best pizza ever in Naples. We toured all of Rome in a day (and a half) taking in the Coliseum, eating gelato at the Trevi Fountain, exploring the Sistine chapel, and receiving holy water at The Vatican. After a long ferry ride to Greece, made longer by missing the announcement for our stop (it was all Greek to us), I even ran into a kid from my high school in the resort's hot tub! Both of us free from the high school scene, enjoying an amazing experience, lounging in a hot tub on the Island of Corfu! Perhaps it took being far from home and on a crazy adventure to find our true selves. The only typical thing I did that Spring Break was to get sunburned.

My experience studying in Ireland was the best time I've had so far in my life. Integration into the school was easy, since everyone spoke English. I explored cultures and landscapes that I had only read about in books or seen in movies.

If the opportunity arises to travel to Ireland, or better yet spend time studying there, I encourage anyone to jump at it. There is so much to be learned inside and out of the classroom. I took in so many wonderful things; more than I could process at the time. Looking back, the trip was a fantastic whirlwind that encouraged me to explore new things and helped expand my horizons. When it was time for my trip to end, I didn't want to come home. I could have continued touring and learning forever.

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Remembering Maureen O'Looney

By Maureen Callahan

I feel I should begin this column with a disclaimer. I don't have much experience with memorials, but when I heard of the passing of Chicago's great Irish matriarch, I was heartbroken. I'm not alone. Myself and so many others are mourning. Literally thousand had relationships with her through her store, her church, and all the committees and organizations both Irish and non-Irish she belonged to here in Chicago, and those reaching far back across the Atlantic Ocean in her native Ireland. A woman of extraordinary kindness, encouragement, and unprecedented generosity, she had an awe-inspiring sense of responsibility to others, whether she knew them well or not.

Anyone who knew Maureen knows this introduction hardly scratches the surface.

When I took this assignment, I assumed I would include my own memories, conduct some interviews, talk to family and friends and include the highlights of her full-to-the-brim 93 years. In beginning the process, however, people have provided so many anecdotes that I have decided, with editor Cliff Carlson's permission, to run a series of articles remembering the life of Maureen O'Looney over the next few months.

I know many of you readers knew Maureen well. I encourage each and every one of you to please send along your memories and share your funny stories, thoughts and opinions with me. I promise to include all of them in one way or another. You may reach me at misscallahan@hotmail.com. If you prefer to speak on the phone, please email me your phone number. If you are not email savvy, you may contact editor Cliff Carlson for my phone number at 847-872-0700.

The first two memories come from
Brigid and Meghan Callahan:

If you're a Chicagoan and claim to be Irish, but you don't know Maureen O'Looney, then you're not really Irish. We can't quite recall the first time we met Maureen, but she is hard to forget. From just meeting her, we could tell she



was a strong woman-opinionated, funny, independent, and a nucleus around which Chicago's Irish community orbited. At six years old, my mother enrolled us in Irish dancing and with that came the frequent trips to Maureen's Irish import store to purchase Irish dance shoes. We coveted the Claddagh rings that sparkled inside the cases while our mother squeezed dance shoes two sizes too small onto our battered feet. We felt the soft wool of the Aran sweaters against our skin while our mother entered into a two

hour conversation with Maureen and the other women in the store. We looked at Celtic designs and read about our last name's heritage while we'd wait patiently for Irish conversations to end (and they never do end between two people from County Mayo).

Every Irish person—from the North Side to the South Side, the suburbs and greater Chicago area could easily recognize the signature red hair, red lipstick, glasses, and shamrock pinned to Maureen's vest.

Our family knew Maureen like any other Irish-American family did. She was always kind and she was

always busy. But there was a purpose to it. She had a mission. And she accomplished it. She brought the warmth, beauty, charm, and passion of a small island to a big city. She ignited a fire of unity and activism between two countries. She'll be remembered and her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched. We remember hearing her and my dad bantering about "the auld country," sifting through traditional Irish music cassette tapes in her shop, watching her talk about Taytos on Conan O'Brien and laughing so hard, and seeing her walk through the halls of the Irish American Heritage Center regularly. She was incredibly well-respected- the leader of the Chicago Irish community. She made us think about the type of woman she was and that we want to be: strong with an incredible sense of humor, well-respected and admired.

Maureen Callahan is a frequent contributor the Irish American News. misscallahan@hotmail.com

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