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Judge Eve Marie Reilly visits with residents of the Alden Estates of Northmoor Rehabilitation & Health Care at 5831 N. Northwest Highway.

Judge Eve Marie Reilly, 10th Subcircuit, has been endorsed by:
The Democratic Party of Cook County and the Committeemen from the 10 Judicial Subcircuit
Chicago Federation of Labor and its 300 affiliated Unions
Chicago Plumbers Union Local 130 UA
Advocates Society of Polish-American Attorneys

An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Onwards and Upwards America

We are truly entering the political silly season. By the time this month's offering reaches print the Iowa Caucus will have come and gone.

Following the latest republican presidential debate, Trump and Cruze are very close in the Iowa polls. I laughed to hear Trump question the eligibility of Cruze for

the office of President on the grounds that Cruze was born in Canada.

It also begs the question, if Trump is as smart as he claims, why has he not asked a neutral constitutional lawyer to answer a simple question. The fact is that anyone born outside the US to an American citizen is automatically a US citizen, end of discussion, move on.

It is high time that the candidates begin to debate substantive issues, rather than wasting time on non issues.

Someone also needs to remind the Republican Party that President Obama is not up for reelection. History will be the judge of his presidency, now it's time to look to the future and offer innovative ideas for what we need to sustain the positive momentum in our economy.

I truly think that there is far too much negativity being spoken about the state of our society. Are we perfect? No, but we are still in far better shape than the candidates for President on the Republican side would have us believe.

So, please acknowledge the fact that the country has largely shaken off the worst effects of the Great Recession and we are headed for a bright future.

Enjoy Your Life at Every Moment

Once a fisherman was sitting near seashore, under the shadow of a tree smoking his beedi. Suddenly a rich businessman passing by approached him and enquired as to why he was sitting under a tree smoking and not working. To this the poor fisherman replied that he had caught enough fishes for the day.

Hearing this the rich man got angry and said: Why don't you catch more fishes instead of sitting in shadow wasting your time?

Fisherman asked: What would I do by catching more fishes?

Businessman: You could catch more fishes, sell them and earn more money, and buy a bigger boat.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could go fishing in deep waters and catch even more fishes and earn even more money.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could buy many boats and employ many people to work for you and earn even more money.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could become a rich businessman like me.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could then enjoy your life peacefully.

Fisherman: Isn't that what I am doing now?

Moral – You don't need to wait for tomorrow to be happy and enjoy your life. You don't even need to be more rich, more powerful to enjoy life. LIFE is at this moment, enjoy it fully.

As some great men have said "My riches consist not in extent of my possessions but in the fewness of my wants".

Author Unknown

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2016 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The Irish American Hall of Fame Announces its 2016 Class of Inductees

The Irish American Hall of Fame is proud to announce its 2016 Class of Inductees. Ten outstanding Irish Americans in seven categories were selected as

this year's honorees and will be honored at the 6th Annual Irish American Hall of Fame Gala on April 23, 2016 in the Erin Room of The Irish American Heritage Center located at 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL.

In addition to honoring the

following distinguished inductees and guests, The Gala will also feature a special Centenary Tribute to the Irish American contribution to the Easter Rising of 1916.

2016 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

Arts & Humanities

Brian Dennehy – Award-winning actor of stage and screen

Frank McCourt – Pulitzer Prize winning author

Spencer Tracy – Oscar-winning actor and one of the biggest stars of Hollywood's Golden Age

Business & Industry

Denis Healy - Visionary business and civic leader and President of Turtle Wax, Inc.

Public Service

Edward F. Dunne – First Irish Mayor of Chicago, the only person ever to serve as both Mayor of Chicago and Governor of Illinois, and Founding President of The Irish Fellowship Club of

Chicago

Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher – Leader of the Fighting 69th, the Irish Brigade, heralded as one of the fiercest fighting units in the history of the U.S. Army

Sports

Nolan Ryan – Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and all-time strikeout leader

Religion

Andrew Greeley – Best-selling author, sociologist, philanthropist and priest

Education

Anne Sullivan - Known in history and popular culture as The Miracle Worker for her work with Helen Keller

Science

Emily Hanrahan Warner – Member of the National Women's Hall of Fame and the first woman commercial airline pilot

Now in its sixth year, The Irish American Hall of Fame is national in scope and operated under the auspices of the Irish

American Heritage Center in Chicago. Nominations were solicited throughout the U.S. from September through December 2015. Over 300 nominations were received and a rigorous screening process was applied to produce a final slate of more than 30 candidates. A voting body of more than 100 prominent Irish Americans from across the country elected the winning 10 inductees.

The purpose of the Irish American Hall of Fame is to preserve the "story" of the Irish in America, by recognizing and honoring the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science. Telling their story preserves our story. The Irish American Hall of Fame is a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America.



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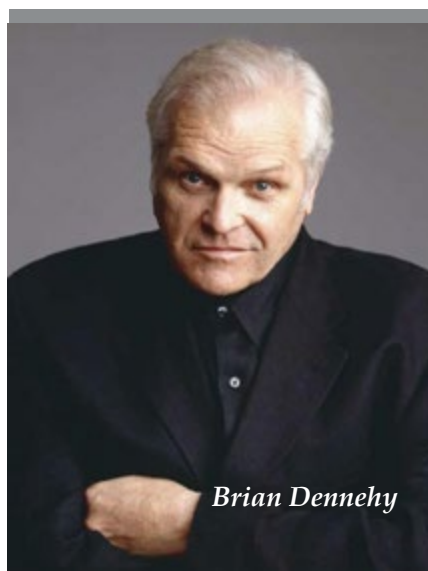
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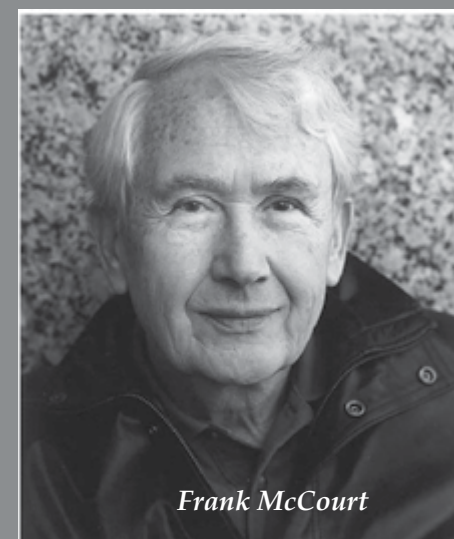
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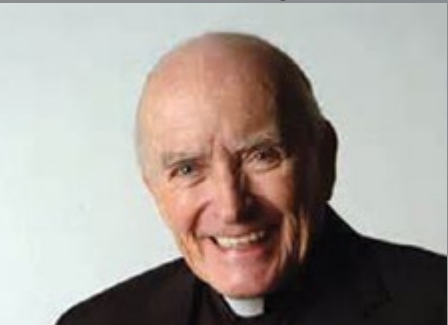
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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

February at Gaelic Park kicks off with the Merry Ploughboys on the 6th. This talented and energetic band from Dublin has been together for over two decades, and a lively evening with them is a great way to kick off the St. Patrick's season. The next day we will be enjoying the NFC/AFC Championship game in the Carraig Pub and Tara Room. Other events include, St. Jarlath's Dancing for our Stars on the 13th and All Ireland Trivia on the 26th. A commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising will be part of many of our events this year.

Gaelic Parks Bridal Boutique will be held on February 21st. It will feature top-rated vendors, great give-aways, hor d oeuvres and a fashion show. Brides to be and moth-

ers and others are all encouraged to come.

Speaking of brides, this is a Leap Month. Most have heard the story of young St. Brigid negotiating with St. Patrick for Ladies Privilege, so that one day every four years women can propose marriage to men. I'm a bit skeptical of the story, and I find the concept to be a bit old fashioned. I can't speak for the rest of the world, but at Gaelic Park women can propose to men any day of the year. The Volunteer Garden and Claddagh Falls are appropriate locations, and might I suggest St. Valentine's Night Dinner at the Carraig Pub as a uniquely romantic option?

Slán go fóil,
Bill O'Sullivan, President

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- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm
- Every Thursday Traditional Music with Pat Finnegan & The Irish Musicians

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Fri	Feb 5	The Ploughboys	8:30pm
Sat	Feb 6	Mulligan Stew	8:30pm
Fri	Feb 12	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 13	Crawford's Daughter	8:00pm
Fri	Feb 19	Gerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 20	Bernie Glim	8:00pm
Fri	Feb 26	The Fab Tones	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 27	Billy O'Donahue and Larry Nugent	8:00pm

NO COVER CHARGE

Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Chicago Gaelic Park 1916 Commemoration Living History Exhibit



Chicago Gaelic Park will celebrate the 1916 Easter Rising by the Irish Volunteers (*Óglaigh na hÉireann*) through the Centenary year of 2016. One of the events will be a Living History exhibit on Sunday, April 17th. Local children will create a "Live" historical wax museum of participants in the Rising, and important cultural and political figures of the time.

We are looking for students ranging from third to eighth grade to participate in this project. Each student will be assigned an historical individual of the time. Students will do research, create a visual display, and portray their characters on April 17th.

Kindly respond with your interest by February 8th to:
officecgp@chicagogaelicpark.org

Please put "1916 Commemoration Exhibit" in the subject line and provide:
Parent's name and email Parent's contact number Child's name and grade

2016 CGP Calendar of Events 2016 FEBRUARY

2/6	Merry Ploughboys Party	
2/13	Dancing with Our Stars	6:00pm
2/14	Mass & Breakfast	10:00am
2/14	Classic Carvery - Gerry Haughey	3:00pm
2/17	Ladies Auxiliary (no meeting in March)	
2/21	Bridal Boutique	Noon
2/28	Classic Carvery - TBA	3:00pm

Monthly Musical Luncheons* resume March 2nd with Kara and Jerry Eadie

*RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Set Dancing Monday Evenings 7:30pm

Ceili Dancing Tuesday Evenings Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm
*** Winter Break through February 16, 2016 ***

Pub Trivia will resume on Tuesday evenings in October

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



CLIP & POST



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

Save The Date

Clare Association 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance

April 9th, 2016 at Gaelic Park

5th Annual Cusack's Leprechaun Dash 5K Run/Walk at CGP

Date: Saturday March 19

Time: 10:30am (kids one mile dash at 10am)

Location: Chicago Gaelic Park Grounds

To register for the race online, go to www.chicagogusackhurl-



ing.com and look for the race link or Cusacks' Leprechaun Dash. Offline registration is an option too and can be done at packet pick up or the morning of the race.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



THE MERRY PLOUGHBOYS Party!



Appearing at
Chicago Gaelic Park

Saturday February 06, 2016

Tickets \$25.00

Doors open 7:00pm - Show at 8:00pm

Chicago Gaelic Park
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708-687-9323 / ChicagoGaelicPark.org



Join us for

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Sunday February 7, 2016

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Celebrate Valentine's Day
with Dinner at
The Carraig Irish Pub



Sunday February 14, 2016

\$70.00 per Couple

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Your delicious meal includes
soup, salad, your main entrée,
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Tickets
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Gaelic Park Wins WeddingWire Couples' Choice Award 2016

WeddingWire, the leading global online wedding marketplace, named Gaelic Park as a winner of the prestigious WeddingWire Couples' Choice Award 2016 in the Chicago Southland.

The award recognizes the top five percent of wedding professionals in the WeddingWire Network. Awards are determined by a combination of excellence in four factors: overall rating, total number of reviews, reviews performance from 2015 and consistency of reviews from year to year. Unlike other awards in which winners are selected by the organization, the WeddingWire Couples Choice Awards are awarded solely based on reviews from newlyweds.

Chicago Gaelic Park

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Presents

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Irish Festival 2016 Queen Contest

Saturday March 5, 2016

Crowning at 7:00pm



Entertainment by D.J. Bernie

Sponsored by

Chicago Gaelic Park

708-687-9323

www.ChicagoGaelicPark.org

Irish Festival 2016 Queen Contest

Application

The candidate chosen as the new Irish Festival 2016 Queen shall reign as Queen for one full year. A runner-up will also be chosen. Both the Queen and the runner-up will be invited to participate in many activities and events. During St. Patrick's week, the new Queen and runner-up will be given the seat of honor high atop the Irish Festival Parade Float. Ceremonies, contests and gala festivities at Irish Festival 2016 will be memorable and fun for the Queen and everyone involved. Many gifts and prizes will be bestowed upon the newly crowned Queen, including a \$500 travel voucher. Valuable prizes will also be presented to the runner-up. All girls are invited to enter the contest, if they meet the following requirements.

- Are 18-26 years of age up to March 5, 2016
- Single
- Must be of Irish Heritage
- \$10.00 registration fee

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Schools Attended _____

Talents / Hobbies _____

Employment _____

What do you think is Unique About you? _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Deadline for Entry is March 3, 2016

PLEASE ENCLOSE ENTRY FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)

Mail To:

Gaelic Park Irish Festival 2016 Queen Contest
6119 W 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452



The Gaelic Park Players Present The Annual All-Ireland Trivia Contest. It will be held at The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park on February 26th at 7:30pm. Open

teams of six at \$60 per team named after Irish Counties. Singles can join at \$10 and will be assigned a team. Approximately 15 percent of questions are Irish. There is a cash prize of \$250, with trophies and a cup as

well as spot prizes. Come out and join the fun! To sign up, please contact John Devitt 708-710-8591 or by e-mail Devitt62@yahoo.com

Watch this page for more information regarding our spring show "The Shadow of a Gunman". Thank you to all those who auditioned. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held at 7:30pm the second Wednesday of every month at Gaelic Park. You can also contact us at gaelicparkplayers@gmail.com.

Chicago Gaelic Park Student Cultural Scholarships

Chicago Gaelic Park
Announces
Student Cultural Essay Contest 2016

2016 – A very special year as it is the 240th Anniversary of America's independence from England's rule as well as the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. This was the demanding moment in Irish history on their quest for independence. Because of these historical events granting two nations their freedom, the topic for the 2016 Chicago Gaelic Park Essay is:

"What does freedom mean to me?"

Eligible Student Categories:

This program is open to all students in good standing.

Grammar School

Grades 6 through 8

Maximum of two typed pages (8 ½ by 11)
Awards in order of merit \$700, \$500 & \$200

&

High School

All Grades

Maximum of four typed pages (8 ½ by 11)
Awards in order of merit \$700, \$500 & \$200

Random Draw of \$200

To reward effort & give recognition to an additional entrant.

Essay to be returned to Chicago Gaelic Park Office by
Saturday, February 27, 2016 - 8:00pm

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

**Winners announced at Gaelic Park's
Monthly Mass & Breakfast in March**

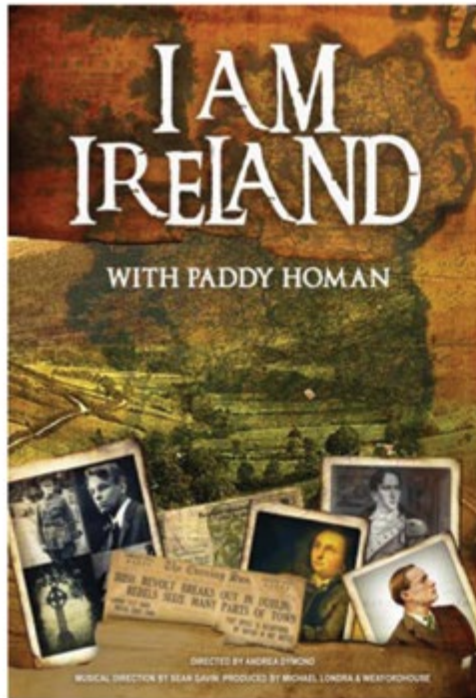


Chicago Gaelic Park

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



save the date



St. Patrick's Concert

Saturday March 12, 2016

Celebrated Chicago Based Irish Tenor, **Paddy Homan** in a theatrically staged show to remember the upcoming 100th anniversary of the '1916 Rising' in Ireland. "I AM IRELAND" will take you on a journey through the songs, speeches and images honoring and celebrating the Irish road to freedom.

Tickets \$25

Doors open 7:00pm / Concert at 8:00pm

2016 marks the Centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising that took place in Dublin, Ireland. The centenary is a huge national occasion and is being celebrated and remembered in Ireland and throughout the world. A series of events are scheduled to take place here at Gaelic Park throughout the year. On Saturday March 12th, Gaelic Park is proud to host *I Am Ireland* a show featuring Paddy Homan. The show will take you on a journey through the songs, speeches and images of the time, to honor and celebrate the Irish road to freedom. The show is produced by Michael Londra's theatrical production company "Wexford House" and is presented in two acts with images projected to bring to life the faces of the great statesmen and pictures of the time. Paddy Homan, one of Ireland's most naturally gifted tenors, will be accompanied by a three-piece band of the finest Irish traditional musicians in North America. They bring the songs to life as they weave through the words of statesmen, and they celebrate the glory of Irish music and the glory of the Irish nation.

Tickets to this show are now available in the front office and can be reserved by calling Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323. All major credit cards accepted.

49th Edition of Ireland on Parade to be Held at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park is proud to continue to host Ireland on Parade, the wonderful exhibition of the music and dance of Ireland on March 4, 9, 10, 11, & 16, 2016. Participating in Ireland on Parade this year are Lavin Cassidy School of Dancing, McCormack/Fay School of Irish Dancing, Trinity Irish Dancers, Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing, Mc-Namara School of Irish Dancing, Maiden Street School of Irish Dance, Mullane Healy Godley School of Irish Dance, Dennehy School of Irish Dance and many more. The doors open each night at 5:30pm and there is FREE ADMISSION. Delicious hot food is available for purchase each evening at 5:30pm.

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

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage
Entertainment by Joe Cullen
and Cross Keys Irish Dancers

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Doors Open 12:00 P.M.
Lunch Served at 1:00 P.M.

Admission \$25.00
No Refunds




Milwaukee Irish Fest Online Scrapbook

Milwaukee Irish Fest has announced their new online scrapbook, which is comprised of over 35 years of festival history. Developed by the Ward Irish Music Archives, the scrapbook takes you down memory lane to view festival photos, videos and other mementos collected since the festival began in 1981.

The online scrapbook features the history of the festival, showcases and volunteerism, as well as interesting facts and behind-the-scenes insights about Milwaukee Irish Fest. Users can view set lists, brochures, posters, videos and

more, all of which are searchable by year, subject, content or artist.

Additionally, users can search through the more than 800 artists who have performed at Milwaukee Irish Fest since 1981.

"Milwaukee Irish Fest has a very rich history and the online scrapbook was truly a labor of love," said Patrick Boyle, executive director, Milwaukee Irish Fest. "This new tool is another way for our organization to share our love of Irish culture with the world."

To view the Milwaukee Irish Fest

Scrapbook, visit www.irishfestscrapbook.com.

About the Ward Irish

Music Archives

Established in 1992, the Ward Irish Music Archives houses one of the largest public collection of Irish music in America. The entire collection ranges from the early 19th century to modern singers and bands including Bing Crosby and U2. The archives consists of more than 50,000 pieces, including Irish recordings, paper ephemera such as postcards, sheet music and song books, instruments, photos, concert memorabilia, rare 78s, 45s and LPs and even music recorded on wax cylinders. Housed at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Center, the archives are open to the pub-



lic. Pieces from the collection can also be viewed on tour at various events and festivals across the country. For more information visit <http://irishfest.com/Music-Archives.htm>.



Oak Forest Fleadh

Fitness, Family & Fun

Saturday, March 5, 2016

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Starting the first week of February while supplies last, "Balson Bangers" will be stocked and sold at all COSTCO club locations in the Northeast and Midwest (see map below). These traditional sausages are sold in a 2 lb. pack and can be frozen for up to 12 months. The following COSTCO Club Regions are stocking ... NORTHEAST; VA, WV, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and Wash. DC; MIDWEST; KY, KS, NE, MO, IA, IL, IN, OH, MI, WI, and MN.

RJ Balson USA President Oliver Balson says, "We are thrilled with these placements. We are continually working hard to make English/Irish products more accessible here in the U.S., and we couldn't think of a better way to do so than work with COSTCO again on our 500th Anniversary! We are encouraging club members to stock up on the bangers, as the price is exceptional and they freeze well. This presents a huge opportunity for shoppers to show COSTCO that there is a strong demand for traditional English and Irish items. We are grateful for the support we are receiving from the Ex-Pat community here in the States, and we are humbled to be a part of bringing these traditional items to U.S. markets."



 = COSTCO Clubs stocking Bangers



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Ten Years and Counting

It's hard to believe it's been ten

years since this column began in 2006. The idea began as a payback of sorts. Elizabeth Kelly, then a

sales associate with the magazine, had suggested to Cliff Carlson, the editor and publisher, I could tell some of my tales or advertise some of my wares in exchange for what I had been doing for the better part of a year. Driving several times a week from my job in the Western Suburbs to pick up Elizabeth, who had no car, from IAN's offices in Oak Park, Illinois to her apartment in the far north side of Chicago near the Edgewater neighborhood near the corner of Foster and Lake Shore Drive.

I did that for 18 months while working for the Webb Boys Dodge and Ford car dealerships in Wheaton, Illinois. I started selling Dodge trucks. Dale Carnegie, as near as I can tell in his books, never had negative thing to say about anything or anybody, except when he started out selling trucks, describing it as "a miserable job."

Arguably a low point in my career and life as divorce and a downward spiraling economy left me without much hope that I would have any kind of future roughly approximating my largely successful past as a public relations executive for an international p.r. firm and as a television news reporter who reached a top 40 market by the tender age of 23,

eventually filing reports not only on the local scene in Norfolk, Virginia but also gaining national recognition with reports that appeared on NBC's Today Show and through the 1980's, CableNews Network.

When I couldn't quite punch through the quota-laced job markets of Chicago and other television markets, I turned to public relations and lived a fascinating life through the 1990's getting companies, products and executives onto the front pages of national newspapers, the sections of national business magazines and the segments of na-

tional news programs.

If you can't join 'em, pitch 'em. I did try several times to get back into local news without success. Same for the military, which gave me a medical discharge for a misdiagnosed breathing disorder when I was months shy of fulfilling my dream of becoming a Marine Second Lieutenant. I had

affiliates and as a newly-minted Ensign in the Navy's Sea Cadet Officer Corps, where I served as an instructor of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and reported regularly for The Pentagon Channel.

That first year's column, titled "Get Your Irish Up...North!" transitioned at the start of 2007 into the present form of "The Irish Rover",

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served honorably as a Marine-Option Midshipman for more than 3 years while a scholarship student at the University of Notre Dame, serving active duty in the summers on cruisers and submarines at the height of the Cold War during the Iran Hostage Crisis. Some of the adventures I lived then have been told in the pages of this magazine. Others I recognize in motion pictures.

It's been a life of comebacks and a column describing them as well. The greatest I consider is back in September 2004 when, changing a flat tire the morning I was to switch from the Dodge to the Ford dealership, I heard a small voice from God telling me to get back to what I was good at. "Use your gifts" became my mantra as I spent the next year pursuing the impossible dream of getting back into television reporting and anchoring after 16 years out of it. By September 2005 I had achieved that impossible dream with God's good grace, delivering my first report in Anchorage, Alaska almost 17 years to the day after I left the television news business.

In January of 2006 I began writing a year's worth of adventures for IAN that occurred in Alaska as a television reporter for the Anchorage CBS and Fox News

a title based not on the song of that name but on the premise that since I'm Irish American I can pretty much write about anything under that banner, even if it's about spaghetti, as an Irishman would be eating it.

I would test that premise to its ultimate in perhaps my favorite column of the past ten years... "The Irish Red Baron"...where I went flying aerobatics with the chief pilot of the Red Baron pizza squadron during a practice session for the Chicago Air and Water Show. Only in America can you find a story about an Irishman leading an acrobatic squadron named for a German pilot chosen as the marketing mascot for an Italian frozen food.

In years to come I would chronicle what I had lost before, marriages and a military and journalism career, and write about what I would lose shortly thereafter... girlfriends, fiancées', pets, parents and underemployed jobs by the bushel. If anything the sons and daughters of the Greatest Generation have had their own great challenge: moving forward in the face of losing so much. I've been called a living Forrest Gump for the many people I've met, though that comes with the journalism

Continued on page 39

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Mugged By Reality ?

"A statesman must wait until he hears the steps of God sounding through events, then leap up and grasp the hem of his garment." "A government must not waiver once it has chosen its course. It must not look to the left or right but go forward." Two quotes from Bismarck on which

Angela Merkel must surely have reflected during recent months. The leader of Europe's most populous country, its strongest economy and dominant political force, Europe's longest serving Head of Government, is facing the biggest political challenge of her career.

Her announcement in early September that Germany would accept all refugees from Syria seemed the right thing to do. Indeed she did not have much choice. The plight of migrants trying to get to Europe had dominated the media for months following the drowning of hundreds in the Mediterranean. Public interest and sympathy increased dramatically as the flow turned into a tide and as a new route in the eastern Mediterranean via Turkey and Greece became

the preferred one. There was public horror and demand for action after the poignant images of a drowned toddler washed up on a Greek shore appeared. Throughout Europe thousands offered to help by materially assisting refugees, even offering to accommodate them in their own homes.

Europe's official response had been a number of hand-wringing EU summits, long on rhetoric, short on solutions. Many EU countries were indifferent or signed up to token

responses at best. Ireland at least joined a number of countries in sending a ship to aid in rescue operations off the Libyan coast and has committed, to date, to taking 4,000 refugees.

The increasing flow of migrants seeking to enter Europe was given impetus and augmented by the surge of refugees fleeing the worsening conflict in Syria. With no solution in sight, with ISIS controlling more and more of the country and with several million refugees already in neighbouring countries, the attraction of Europe, where some already had relatives, was obvious. The shorter and ostensibly safer sea route via Turkey beckoned and there was no shortage of people traffickers to facilitate.



So they came, in a human tide of up to ten thousand a day, arriving in Greece and pushing on through the Balkans towards more prosperous Northern Europe, the numbers supplemented by refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and elsewhere. Media coverage was frenzied, with references to a flow of biblical proportions and to the greatest mass migration into Europe since World War Two. The magnet was Germany, Europe's prosperous economic powerhouse, with a history of taking in refugees since the Nineties and which, given its demographics, needed to import labour.

Merkel's announcement that there was no upper limit on the numbers with a right to asylum did little more than paraphrase refugee rights under the 1951 Refugee Convention but signalled that Germany would welcome those from Syria trekking north. The net effect was to intensify the flow. It was after all an opportunity for a future and a new life for anyone who could make it. Europe's border controls, such as they were, buckled and were overwhelmed. The EU regulation that refugees should be tethered to the first country they entered collapsed. As the reaction began, with Hungary the first EU state to break ranks and erect border fences, and others following, the push was on to enter before the door slammed shut.

Five months later the issue has morphed into one with the potential to derail or re-orient the direction of the EU, bringing down Merkel in the process. In a domino effect, border controls are being reintroduced in a number of countries. Roughly a million refugees arrived in 2015 in Germany and Sweden alone, the other country to operate an open door policy. Winter has reduced but by no means stopped the refugee flow, with, as I write, new arrivals in Germany running at 3,000 per day.

Merkel has stuck to her guns, but is now on the defensive, under mounting political pressure from her own party, the opposition and the German states, who, with resources already strained to the limit, fear being overwhelmed by a new influx. Sweden is no better. The right to asylum looks increasingly like an albatross for both countries but one they cannot shrug off. Placebo measures to enforce asylum provisions strictly, with rapid turn around and deportation of those deemed not political refugees seem unlikely to have much practical effect. Repeated calls for EU solidarity and more burden sharing, have so far fallen on deaf ears.

It's not simply about numbers, whatever the short term pressure on resources. A Europe of five hundred million could easily absorb last year's million, and the anticipated one and a half million plus in 2016. Certainly a reduced and more orderly flow would help but the simple fact is that public enthusiasm and sympathy for the refugees has been waning across Europe.

There are reasons for this. The wealthier regimes in the Middle East are seen as doing nothing to help (Saudi Arabia offered to build 200 mosques in Germany!), and adding to the problem by waging war by proxy in Syria. Many of the arrivals are perceived not as genuine refugees but rather as economic migrants seizing the opportunity to enter Europe. A disproportionate

number of the arrivals appear to be young single men. European right wing and populist parties have cashed in, playing up the cultural and religious differences of the newcomers and suggesting that European democratic and liberal values are under threat.

Public fears were given impetus after the November terror attacks in Paris with the revelation that several of the attackers could have been recent arrivals from Syria, in fulfilment of an ISIS threat to infiltrate terrorists among the refugees. This was hardly totally surprising -most people recognise that it is impossible to guard against every fanatic - but, with European border controls seen as down or ineffective, with European tourists being targeted by suicide attackers elsewhere (most recently in Istanbul), the Paris massacre helped stoke fears and focussed suspicion on migrants as a whole.

Then came New Year's Eve, with reports of sexual harassment of women by North African men in Cologne and several other German cities, attacks which police initially covered up fearing a racist backlash. The harassment attacks were explicable but not excusable. Take a large group of young men, newly arrived in Germany, linguistically and culturally different, in particular in their attitudes towards women, and tolerated, but not necessarily welcomed with open arms, in their new host country. Place them as outsiders and onlookers at New Year festivities where local men and women are celebrating and you have a recipe for disorder. So it proved, sparking outrage not confined to feminist groups. Subsequent foolish suggestions that European women should take precautions in dress in their home countries and avoid going out alone did not help.

As of now Merkel has lost the battle for public opinion. With refugees continuing to arrive, with the associated costs of catering for them rising, with European partners indifferent, there is no easy solution. God's footsteps cannot be heard. Watch this space.

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Tuesdays With Morrie

Provision Theater Company will continue its 12th season with Tuesdays With Morrie by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom. The play will run February 10 - March 20 with performances on Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at Provision Theater, 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608. Additional preview performances will be on February 10 and February 11 at 7:30pm.

Tuesdays With Morrie is the autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie's appearance on a television news program and learns that his old professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a last class in the meaning of life.

Tuesdays With Morrie will feature Provision Theater Company Members Brad Armacost (Morrie) and Colin Wasmund (Mitch) and will be directed by Provision Theater Founding Artistic Director



Timothy Gregory.

"This is an important story for all of us", says Gregory, "because as Morrie says in the play, 'Everyone knows they're going to die, but nobody believes it.' This play asks the question, 'Once we face our fate, do we wither up and disappear, or do we make the best of our time left?' Once Morrie faced his fate, it determined how he was going to live the rest of his life. He became a lightning rod of ideas and actions. Thru his death, he discovers meaning and purpose for his life...and

of course, all carried out with wonderful humor and affection."

Ticket prices for Tuesdays With Morrie are \$30. Senior, student, and military discounts are available. Free parking is included, and groups of 10 or more receive 10% off (adult tickets only). For tickets, call the box office at 312-455-0066 or visit www.provisiontheater.org. Subscription packages for Provision's 2015-16 Season are also available.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Plough and the Stars

Coming to the Irish American Heritage Center is an opportunity to see Sean O'Casey's gritty, but transcendent, play about the 1916 Rising. The play is *The Plough and the Stars*.

Shapeshifters Theatre will present a staged reading of that play on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 in the Fifth Province. A delightful concert of live music begins the evening at 6:00. Both events are included in the ticket price of \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at 773-282-7035 x10. See you at the reading!

Sean O'Casey (1880-1964) knew well the people in the Dublin tenements. He had a great ear for the way people talk and he used this skill to create vivid dialogue. He used ways of speech to show personality and character. The result is unforgettable characters.

Steady work was very hard to get. He was 44 years old and had three plays published before finally quitting his job as a laborer in 1924.

His family was so poor that he never went to school and was self-educated. And despite severe eye problems, he was a life-long voracious reader.

He had great empathy for the poor and realized the cause of poverty was the economic ownership of the 1%. And not as the English, and even a churchman claimed, people were poor because of weak character and laziness. This led him to be a strong participant in the Irish labor movement.

Quoting from the biography, Sean O'Casey, "The 'ex-laborer genius' with the cloth cap, red muffler and trench coat, 'the slum dramatist' with his thick Dublin accent continued to enrich his plays with warm breath of humanity..."

O'Casey's plays have "...become part of the eternal mes-

sage of humanity: the tears and laughter that make men so much greater than the angels."

When the Clock Struck in 1916-Close Quarter Combat in the Easter Rising.

By: Molyneux and Kelly
Collins Press and DuFour Editions

After the Volunteers dealt him embarrassing defeats, the Brit-

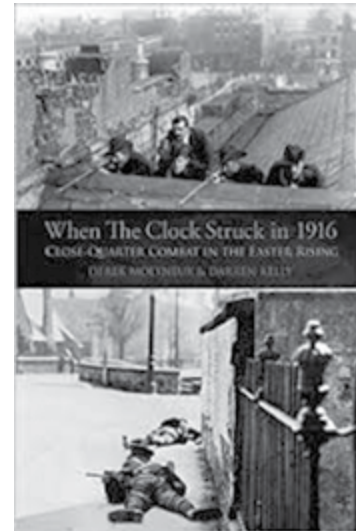
ish commander, General Lowe, petulantly called the Volunteers "undisciplined rebels."

For the last year, I have reviewed books about the Rising of 1916. Most concerned the fighting at the General Post Office. However, this outstanding book fully describes the actions that took place across Dublin. It is encyclopedic in its detail.

This review focuses on one battle—the battle for the #25 Northumberland Road. Two Volunteers held off two British battalions (total about 1,000 men) for 6 hours.

What motivated Volunteers to such super-human bravery? There were only about 1200 to 1500 Volunteers fighting in the Rising. Yet, for a week, they held off the huge British army.

Certainly, they saw the terrible conditions of the Dublin tenements. Poverty there was so profound that to feed their children, many women were forced into prostitution. The 'Monto' or red-light district, was the largest in Europe. The parents of the Volunteers lived through the horrors



of the Famine. As recently as 1890, there were over 1,000 evictions. Death usually followed eviction. The Volunteers knew that the British government was to blame. Thus they didn't flinch or give an inch during the Rising.

Now back to the fighting at the #25 Northumberland Road. That road went through a lovely, quiet, prosperous neighborhood. This

area "boasted fine dwellings that ranked with the most exclusive..." in the city. However, the areas also contained a road from Dublin's seaport and a rail line, but more importantly, a huge British army base was there.

#25 was a four story corner building crossroad. And the army base entrance was only about 200 yards away.

Lieutenant Michael Malone and Seamus Grace were assigned to this site. As the battle developed, two battalions of Sherwood Foresters were sent against them. Together they consisted of about 1,000 men. The British officers were either stupid, incompetent, or had no regard for the lives of their men, probably all three. They ordered them to attack a strongly fortified position. When the soldiers from the base reached the junction of the roads in front of #25, "...Malone and Grace let loose. The crossroads became

a scene of carnage as Malone's semi-automatic smashed into the British ranks, while Grace fired his bolt-action rifle with well-trained speed and precision. The slaughter was appalling.

Their commanding officer telephoned General Lowe to ask if they should continue. The General, in the safety of the far off command center, told him to take it "At all costs."

This showed the British attitude to the value of people's lives. No wonder the Volunteers fought so fiercely and tenaciously.

When Mark Twain Learned Me 'Bout Public Speaking

By: Conor Cunneen
Suas Cork Books

This is a book of advice for professional speakers. It is based on the words of Mark Twain. However, I'll focus the review on those parts that apply to all of us.

We are not professional speakers, and maybe will never speak to a large group. But we are ALL communicators—we communicate with written words. It takes two sides to communicate—the readers of this review and the

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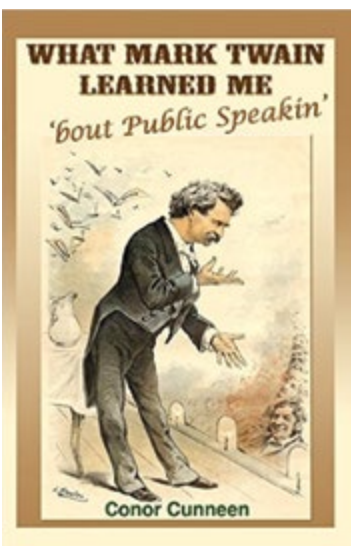
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writer of it.

The cover has a surprising statement, "Mark Twain...was possibly THE most successful professional speaker ever..."

He was regarded by many as an exceptional, important speaker, except he wasn't! Twain worked diligently at his craft, researching, writing, rewriting, and memorizing his material."

In the dedication, the author,



professional speaker Conor Cunneen, states, "...my contribution is to provide an interpretation of what communicators can learn from Mark Twain" and from his contemporaries.

This is the fifth book published by Cunneen, "...an internationally recognized...speaker..." He lives in a suburb of Chicago with his wife and two children.

There is good advice here that can be adapted for writers. These hints will give a clear focus for whatever you are writing.

-“Relate to your audience.” Ask yourself who you are writing to.

-“Know your objective.” What do you want the reader "...to do, feel, think when you are finished?

-Rewrite, rewrite. You want it to say exactly what you want. I rewrote this review many times.

-Determine if you wish to inform, persuade, inspire, entertain, or educate.

-Use evocative, vibrant words like these used by Twain: luminous, prevailing, brooding,

freckled, cloistered and loathsome.

"A simple, but effective exercise...is to write the objective...on the back of a business card-in one sentence."

Winston Churchill was one of

the greatest writers and speakers of the 20th century. He spent a great deal of time carefully writing and rewriting his speeches, "...he inserted white space to remind him where he should pause."

We naturally pause when we speak to one another. When we write, make use of commas and colons.

There is useful advice here to encourage us to be better writers, and to be careful read-

ers, too.

Frank West is a retired teacher and has written books and play reviews since the paper's inception in 1977. Many are online at irishamerican-news.com

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Hope you all had a great holiday season, blah blah blah. Time to get back to work! Before we get to three of the terrific new cds that are on offer, let's

remind you that Jimmy Keane and John Williams are returning to Chief O'Neill's, on Saturday, March 5th at 8:00p.m. You know Chief O'Neill's. 3471 N. Elston.

This is the Mighty Squeeze II. We called it the Concert of the Year the last time the two lads were there. Absolutely brilliant musicians, toe-tapping tunes, and great stories and laughs. It's just a wonderful night. Here is how you get the tickets fast and direct: Brown Paper Tickets:800-838-3006—Link: <http://amightysqueeze2.bpt.me/> It was an early sell-out last time, and will be this time. Truly. This is not one of those "be sure to get your seat by ordering early" kind of hypes. It is a fact. Anyone who

knows anything about our music wants to see this, and they will all be there. Snooze and lose. Get on it!

Aoife Scott is out with a wonderful new album called, Carry the Day. You may not know Aoife yet, but you certainly know her family. She is the next in line of the famous Black family. Her mother is Frances Black, and her aunt is Mary. She has three uncles who are also terrific singers and entertainers in their own right. This is all her burden to carry. She and I have had extensive conversations about it. When you come out of a show-business legend family like the Blacks, there are doors that open for you almost automatically. In many respects, this is easier than starting at ground zero, and having to pry each door open individually yourself. On the other hand, you will constantly be compared to your family relatives, and whatever success you have may be attributed to them, not you. At least, there are some people who will do that. Aoife is well aware of this, and seems to have it under control. It is a balanced hand, to be sure. She states, "The silliest thing in the world



Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



We have often told you that The London Lassies, by themselves, are the best female trad group in the music. In fact, Lassies' fiddler, Karen Ryan, is a former Female Musician of the Year in this paper's Top TIR Awards. As usual, The Lassies are presenting real depth and texture in the 15 selections featured in this album.

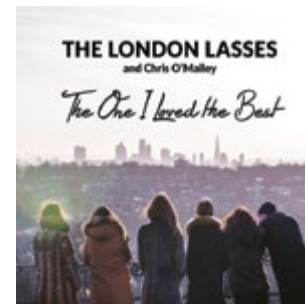
The One I Love the Best will vault these musicians into the spotlight once again with a renewed focus and vigor. As usual, The London Lassies have brought a winner.

David Curley and Mick Broderick have combined for a lovely album. The album is entitled, A Brand New Day, and it IS, indeed, for this talented twosome.

David is probably well-known to you, without you knowing it. You want to meet a busy boy? He is an active member of both Runa and Slide, two of our favorites. He also appears with Moya Brennan and also appears with the best Irish instrumental group in the world, the Brock-McGuire Band. David has a pleasing voice, and it is featured on this album. He also plays mandolin, banjo, tenor guitar, bodhran, and other bits of percussion. He also can be heard briefly playing piano on this cd, though he has tens to tell us that he is not a piano player.

What he IS, is an extremely talented instrumentalist, singer, and performing talent (a terrific hard shoe dancer!). No wonder he is as busy as he is. He now lives on the south side of Chicago, which only adds to our lustre as the best Irish music city in the world. Accompanied by Mick Broderick there are

two instrumental pieces, both written by Mick and the variety of music on the cd is lovely. Everybody in the music knows David is a really nice guy, and everybody knows he is a really super talent. Find the cd and buy it!!! Big league. Good on ya, David!



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Brooklyn

A new Irish film, John Crowley's *Brooklyn*, is up for three gongs at the Academy Awards next month. *Brooklyn* is in the running for Best Picture, Best Actress (New York born Saoirse Ronan) and Best Adapted Screenplay (based on Colm Tóibín's novel). Already a runaway box office hit in North America, *Brooklyn*'s chance to consolidate that commercial success with critical accolades in LA next month is very real.

Set in the 1950s, the film centres on the journey of Eilis Lacey, who hails from Tóibín's hometown and oft-used fictional setting, Enniscorthy. Lacey gets an opportunity, with the help of a parish priest, to emigrate to Brooklyn. The stimulating but desperately lonely experience of being an Irish emigrant provides the dramatic context for the film.

Yet this film is so much more than an Irish-American story: this is *Brooklyn* as metaphor; it is Kearny NJ, it is Boston's Southie, it is any part of the urban United States where emigrants arrived and started to assert themselves, to jostle for position and to realise that becoming American comes with a painful severance from home. However wrenching the yearning for one's original home, however strong the sense of identification with it or raw the homesickness for it, reversing the decision of transatlantic

emigration in the mid 20th Century was hugely problematic and often impossible.

The film weaves into the story the rivalry and spite between ethnicities then streaming into the United States, and how romantic love helped to transcend it. Lacey falls for an Italian man and, invited to her new boyfriend's family's house for dinner, she has to negotiate her otherness. That gets trickier, however, when a younger brother pipes up helpfully: "I should say that we don't like Irish people".

Facing life's inevitabilities provides this film with its plot points: the loss of Lacey's beloved sister, Rose, plunges her into self-doubt about where she can make her life. She does return to Ireland where, to vex things further, a man in Wexford vies for her affections, while her boyfriend back in Brooklyn keeps writing letters without receiving a reply. Watching this film I recalled again and again a statement that Gabriel Byrne made in interview, in June 2008: "life is about the acceptance of loss." Byrne, a Dublin man, transposed to New York and apt to meditate on the consequences of that life decision, could have had a part in this film?

So much of the tapestry of emigration is captured here that to isolate one of the film's strengths alone is invidious. Still, the portrayal of Ireland, deserves especial credit. So often in period dramas, a soppy unreality of the place mars a film's ability

to capture its audience. Not so here. The author, Colm Tóibín, had a flag-waving reaction to the film's setting and design: "There's also an authenticity about it. Often an Irish film is just made for the global market, and the only place it cannot be shown is Ireland, because we just go, 'It's not like that here'. This film was shown in my home town, where I am right now, Enniscorthy, last night. It was shown to two audiences of 200, and not one person said that".

The myth of Brooklyn for the Irish has evolved since the 1950s, and there are more novels and films where this came from. For instance, in the 1970s and 1980s Irish bars in Brooklyn were the destinations of choice for many Irish emigrants employed in stuffy corporate jobs in Manhattan on Friday nights. They found that, as with home so too with Brooklyn, there were constraints and pressures of tribal identity: the mandatory purchase of the *An Phoblacht* newspaper in Irish bars being one such pressure, and the assumption that accompanied it, that to be present at the bar was to be a fellow-traveller in the armed struggle in Northern Ireland. Today, despite *Brooklyn*'s having been brilliantly appropriated by young people seeking an alternative life, the place remains abuzz with Irishness. The last time I stopped into a bar in Brooklyn I met a Donegal native and ended speaking to him in Gaoth Dobhair Irish with him for half the night.

Despite the much deserved praise for this story, I still think that Colm



Tóibín's greatest fiction featured a man who traversed the Atlantic, going the other way: *The Master*, published in 2004, details the novelist Henry James' sojourn in Europe which had such an effect on him and the development of his writing. And James, as Tóibín traces in that novel, had Cavan ancestry.

Back in November 2014, this column reviewed John Michael McDonagh's film, *Calvary*, and lamented that McDonagh saw fit in the promo for the film to state in an interview: "I'm not a fan of Irish movies, I don't find them to be that technically accomplished and I don't find them that intelligent... So I'm trying to get away from the description of the movie as an Irish film in a way". Not McDonagh's finest hour (and in any case he should be judged on his work more than his fulminations). But the point he made was quite unfair and untrue. This film, which could potentially garner several Oscar awards, is an eloquent counterargument. Those nominated, and those who supported them throughout, richly deserve all the plaudits they may receive.

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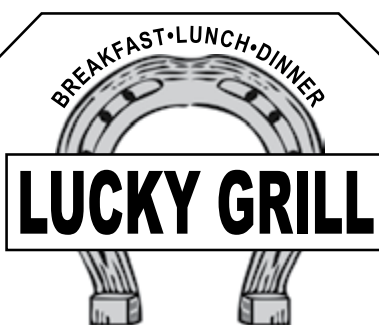
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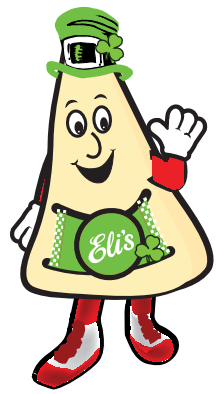
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Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, Chicago Theater Works (1113 W. Belmont), home of the hilarious, interactive dinner theater experience *We Gotta Bingo*, is happy to announce the Chicago return of *Flanagan's Wake*. Performances begin Friday, Feb. 26 (preview Thursday, Feb. 25). *Flanagan's Wake* transports the

audience to the fictional town of Grapplin, County Sligo, Ireland, where local roustabout, Flanagan, has died. Here they meet an eclectic cast of characters including Fiona Finn, Flanagan's spirited fiancée of 22 years, Brian Ballybunion, his best friend and drinking mate, Father Damon Fitzgerald, the sharp-tongued



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parish priest, Mayor O'Doul, the town mayor and bartender, the innocent Mother Flanagan and several other colorful citizens. The mourners pay their respects to the deceased in the Irish tradi-

tion (with a quick stop at the pub first). Certain performances of *Flanagan's Wake* will include dinner which features Guinness Beef Stew. Tickets are now on sale at ChicagoTheaterWorks.com

Emmet Cahill Sweetens Valentine's Day

Widely regarded as one of Ireland's most exciting young performers, multi-award winning Irish tenor Emmet Cahill will perform a special matinee Valentine's Day concert at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, February 14 at 2:30pm.

Cahill's show will include a mix of Irish classics ("Danny Boy," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Cavan Girl"), Broadway/movie hits ("Bring Him Home," "Some Enchanted Evening," "Edelweiss") as well as love songs and contemporary tunes.

Growing up in a musical household, pursuing a career in music was a natural path for Cahill to take. At age four years old, Cahill's father began teaching his son to play the piano; at age seven, Cahill began voice lessons. He was awarded a Schola Cantorum music scholarship in secondary school, studying voice,



piano, organ and violin. Cahill then went on to receive formal classical training in opera at the Royal Academy of Music (RIAM) in Dublin. While at the RIAM, he was named "Most Promising Young Singer" and was named "Most Promising Young Tenor" by the John McCormack Society. Cahill is a multiple prize winner of various classical music festivals in Ireland and was chosen to perform the Irish national anthem at Croke Park Stadium on 3 occasions.

General admission tickets for Emmet Cahill's show are \$30 and may be purchased online at <http://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/>. The Irish American Heritage Center is located 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



ful memories of the past are equally present but unattainable. When it comes to indulging ourselves in them they

evaporate. Being creatures with unreliable motivations, it's easy to sentimentalize the past, or trivialize the demons so as to rob them of their power, but, however, we look back beyond our present we are prey to our own ability to fictionalize our history.

I love walking through the streets, listening to the accent 'I know so well', and feeling both a part, and apart; as though both the present and the past casually greet each other with a nod of recognition and pass with the tip of the cap. To be a Derry man is to be marked for life.

The sodden dampness of a winter's day creeps in to your bones and reminds the body of days when you ran between showers of rain; feet soaking wet, clothes hugging your limbs with no intention

of letting go, and the grey dark skies relentless in its purging. Gusts of wind push the cold water further into the bones until they ache.

It's a psychological battle against the elements rather than a physical one. The thought of a warm fire, and a hot cup of tea are what drive you up the hill fighting against wind and rain. The epic sense of courage and valour is quickly diminished when you see others engaged in the same battle. No doubt they too are driven onwards by thoughts of a warm home, and good food.

During my last trip, I was greeted by both sun and rain. The weather seemed to make no difference to the hoards of shoppers rushing to finish their Christmas shopping. While every Christmas item was ticked off the list, the number of complaints about traffic congestion, queues at the register, and lack of festive spirit continued to rise.

Having the foresight to buy ahead of time, I had the advantage of watching the shifts of emotion move from excitement to rage and anger. No one wants to wait to be served, no one wants to wait to park, and certainly no one wants to get soaked while fighting the crowds. But this is Christmas, and the intense desire to please the god of commercialism surges to the point of becoming irrational. Gifts abound while the wallet gets lighter, and still Father Christmas demands more.

I've always been a bit of a curmudgeon when it comes to this particular holiday. Even when I lived in Derry, I would find a cheap holiday flight to a warmer place to escape the madness. Now that I'm living in the U.S I am obligated to witness first hand the economic bloodletting.

There is only one means of escape left to me, and it has been a place that has continued to bring me solace; Donegal. While all of the Donegal/border people flock across the border into Derry, I move in the opposite direction to one of my favourite places on the Inishowen peninsula, Malin Head.

The furthest northern point of Ireland, Malin Head is a spectacular place to watch the turbulent Atlantic sea at play. Here the wind and rain are welcome invaders. No one wants to come here when it's stormy, and that makes it a wonderful refuge for the curmudgeon. It's the same rain beating against you; tightening your clothes



to the skin, it's the same wild wind aiding the water spirit in its quest to drench you thoroughly, but it's not the same place. No, against the rocky edges of this coastland the wild elements of nature lift the heart and spirit. It is here, far from the tinsel commercialism of the city, is the soul of the land.

As I get older, I find myself finding a deeper connection to the land, and those who went before us. Those ancient peoples who struggled to survive against natural and political forces. As I stand against those rocks, I can imagine the greatness of those who dared to sail upon waters with no guarantee of returning alive. Those whom Synge writes about in *Riders to the Sea* whose epic journeys were regarded as the stuff of everyday life.

It seems that going home can mean more than simply returning to the same place. For people like myself, it can be a way of returning to what makes us what we are. It's the reminder of where we've come from; the calibre of those who are part of our genetic make up, and it is a profound connection with the land.

To be alone, facing the rough waves of the sea, one is among the shades of a past that lives in the story telling of poets and playwrights. However, what they evoke in us cannot substitute for the glory of being physically present in barren heather facing the storm head on, and wishing for the fortitude of those who faced these elements everyday with no relief.

It is with this thought that I return back to the fireside, and warm up to the present and its superficial preoccupations of giving and receiving. The real gift of Christmas is faith. Faith in oneself and in the sense of being connected to life here and beyond is what keeps us believing in a place called home.



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Titanic Experience

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By Rebecca Steimle

You're thinking about that trip to Ireland. But planning the whole trip yourself, your to-do list may be growing longer than your packing list. You have to find the best flight options, fares and lodging, figure out ground transportation and research sights. Should you pack

Irish sights, sounds and tastes – without logistical headaches or unexpected surprises that can ruin a trip.

"We've thought of everything so you don't have to," says Ikeda.

From capital cities to small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken tongue, this 11-day, 10-night tour encircles the

chasm, can leave tourists holding their breaths. Those who brave the bridge may not want to look down, but an outward gaze is rewarded by exceptionally beautiful views of Scotland and Rathlin Island.

Charming pastoral views – the kind from paintings to postcards – abound as the route winds through rolling hills, crystal-clear streams and lake-lapped valleys of Sligo, Connemara, Galway and Killarney. So do landmarks of history and legend, from megalithic tombs and O'Briens Tower to Blarney Castle, surrounded with rock formations whose names stir the imagination: Druid's Circle, Witch's Cave and the Wishing Steps.

The tour offers not only larg-



"Irish for a Day" at Causey Farm Photo by David Haas

A nip of another satisfying tradition awaits at Dublin's Old Jameson's Distillery.

A chef's demo at Ballyknocken House and Cookery School has visitors in flour up their

rable parts of the trip because it's just really fun.

"If you're busy and short on time, you get to see and sample so much, so you can absolutely maximize your time overseas.



Giant's Causeway-Photo by Chris Hill-Tourism Ireland

for cold? Lots of walking? How safe are the places you want to visit? Is it Euros or British pounds? Will your cellphone work? And, what don't you know that you don't even know you don't know?

There's another way: Let someone else do the work, while you sit back and savor the anticipation.

An organized tour, says Stewart Ikeda of Elm Grove, Wisconsin-based Country Travel DISCOVERIES, lets you concentrate on what a trip to Ireland is supposed to be: pure enjoyment.

And, it can help you see things differently. For more than 40 years, CTD's travel experts have specialized in hand-crafted group tours – large and small, public and private – that emphasize off-the-beaten-path, mostly rural and small-town stops with local hosts.

For the hibernophiles among us, CTD's tour "Ireland: A Celtic Jaunt" insures we see and experience the most amazing

Emerald Isle – north, south, east and west, urban and pastoral.

"In the traditional food, music and dancing to the breathtaking scenery, bustling cities and homey country stops, this route is nothing short of magical," says Ikeda.

And full of variety. It starts with detailed city tours in Dublin and Belfast, but quickly heads out to the countryside and coasts. Passengers experience some of the world's most stunningly scenic bucket-list sites, from the other-worldly basalt pillars of Giant's Causeway to the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher, whose magical vistas stretch for five miles along the Atlantic coast of County Clare.

In Ireland, says Ikeda, one appreciates that natural landscapes are not just beautiful backgrounds, but imposing forces that have shaped the Irish character for centuries. One look at the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, linking the tiny island of Carrickarede to the mainland over an 80-foot-deep



Titanic Experience Belfast. photo by Chris Hill - Tourism Ireland

er-than-life sights but intimate tastes and interactive stops as well. Tasty regional dishes, with sides of Irish music and a lively jig or two, provide a true local flavor at stops like Kate Kearney's Cottage in Gap of Dunloe. A highlight is the chance to be "country Irish for a day" at the immersive Causey Farm in County Meath, where one might try turf-cutting, milking and hurling, playing bodhrán or enjoying a traditional céilí.

elbows making scones from a centuries-old family recipe, while expert Nora Finnegan shares nearly-lost lace-making secrets at Kenmare Lace.

A surprise treat, says Ikeda, is hands-on learning a wee bit of another old Irish skill.

"After being thoroughly impressed with the amazing herding talents of the sheepdogs at Kissane Sheep Farm, we get to shear a sheep," says Ikeda. "It's often one of the most memo-

It's also a great way for families to experience Ireland in all its variety together."

"Ireland: A Celtic Jaunt" departs from O'Hare both September 6-16 and September 13-23 in 2016. International air, lodging and 18 meals are included, as well as entrance fees, meal tips, driver and guides, 24-hour emergency service, and more. To learn more, see CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/IRC or call 855-744-TRIP (8747).



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Mai's Secret Ireland

By Mai HERNON McEvilley

As a child growing up in Ireland, I was always amazed when, on the rare occasion, I would see a tourist bus come through our area which is the North West of Ireland, in South Sligo, and coming from there and spending most of my life there, I can testify to the fact that compared to the rest of the Island of Ireland, the North West did not have the volume of tourists that other parts of the country had. The majority of tour companies start in Dublin, go down south, around to south West, come up the coast to Galway and then back across the country to Dublin again, forgetting the North West.

But when the busses would come, I would always, without fail, see the bus pull up and stop outside one of our many beautiful ancient Abbey or Castle ruins, the occupants of said bus would quickly exit the bus, spend 10 or 15 min's walking around the site taking pictures and then enter the bus again and be on their way.

Since coming and living in the States

nearly three years ago, I have had many encounters with people who have taken those types of tours under the illusion that they would see all of Ireland. You might see it, but you won't get a since of it.

To this day it baffles me why anyone would spend their money and time going on a vacation anywhere only to spend the most of it on a bus. They don't get a chance to experience the real culture, the history or the people.

This is why I set up Secret Ireland Tours LLC. To give people that experience.

My idea of a vacation is that firstly I get to relax, sleep a little later than usual, not be in a rush anywhere, not have to drag



my luggage from one place to another, have the time to see places, talk to the locals, get a since of the place I am visiting.

My idea as an Irish woman who runs this small group tour business is that my



clients will have a trip to Ireland that will change their whole lives.

We bring groups of 12 per trip, and that in itself gives people the chance to get to know each other and develop friendships.

We bring you to family run rural B&B's where you stay for the duration. You can unpack and not have to worry about it until you are leaving to return to your home. You get to see how Irish families live and

indeed you have the opportunity to get to know them too. It also means that on any day that you might feel like just taking it easy and not wanting to travel with the group, you can do that.

We visit beautiful ancient sites where we get a chance to spend time walking around and inside, learning about the history of the place. We travel the highways and byways getting the opportunity to see the breathtaking scenery. Because your guides are all tradition musicians, your tours are full of music, singing and dancing, so you get to be part of Irish Culture up close and personal.

We pride ourselves in showing the real Ireland by a real Irish woman and her Irish musical tour guides. We have different lengths and types of tours, in different area's of the country. We have from Luxury Sunny South East tours where you stay in a family run Manor House, to Island Hopping tours where you visit Islands off the west coast of Ireland. Some of these are Irish speaking and great wedding destinations. We have Quaint Towns and Villages of the East and West and many more.

Our prices are very affordable and you really get great value for your money. From once you arrive in Dublin airport you don't have to worry about another thing, because we look after your every need from that point on until you are back there again waiting to return home.

We also have Secret places or events added to every trip not listed on your itinerary just to add to your experience.

So if you want the real thing, come with me a real rural Irish woman, who knows Ireland like the back of her hand, and make memories to last you a lifetime with Secret Ireland Tours LLC. Check out our website www.SecretIrelandToursLLC.com and our facebook page www.Facebook.com/SecretIrelandTours and book today.

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Culinary Travel & Foodie Adventures

By Claudia Royston

Exploring the food culture of another country is the best way to go beyond the museums and monuments and really experience it. Food connects us to places and has the ability to peel away differences and language barriers. It is the most honest and simplest expression of who we are.

Because of this, it is a path to immersing yourself in a region and truly getting to know its people and their culture and history. It's also the door to new and authentic experiences.

Popular culture and food enthusiasts are more pre-occupied

Because of their climate, their rich soil and clean water of the Atlantic ocean that surrounds them, they have the key ingredients for food that is local, sustainable, and seasonal everywhere you go in the country. All in all, they are setting the pace for the farm-to-table movement.

Smaller farms in Ireland are certainly sustainable. There is a limited landmass in Ireland so there is a universal understanding that it needs to be stewarded for the future.

Global Gourmands' tour to Ireland is an exceptional small-group culinary journey with comfort and service at its foundation. It focuses on regional cuisines, relaxed sightseeing,

have a tasting of idiazabal cheese which they have been making since neolithic times. The love of food in the Basque region today stems with the "gastronomic societies" - similar to supper clubs - where men would gather to cook, talk, play cards and enjoy a meal together.

In Peru, you can experience the finest cuisine to be found anywhere in the world right after you have wandered around Machu Picchu. Or, enjoy another gourmet



meal aboard the luxury Hiram Bingham train as you travel through the Sacred Valley. Peruvian gastronomy incorporates unique, diverse and flavorful ingredients reflecting its three distinct geographic regions with amazing beauty: the Amazon jungle, the Andes and the coastal region.

We have recently partnered SeaDream Yacht Club, which takes culinary experiences to a new level while cruising on casually elegant 112-passenger yachts. Their voyages are designed to visit the intimate ports and harbors that mega-cruisers cannot reach at the same time as pampering you with world-class fare - often bought at local markets. They have also dedicated time and resources to developing vegan and raw

food menus and gluten-free options are always available. Clients who book with Global Gourmands receive a \$200 spa credit per room.

Global Gourmands was born of a desire to share the unique experiences and knowledge of a region that food can provide - while also showcasing a culture and its people. Some of our destinations are off the beaten path, allowing clients to bring home stories and memories that will last a lifetime.

We love the small group dynamic and using the best hotels with time at leisure are the best recipe for a unforgettable experience. Please visit globalgourmands.com to find out more about our Journeys in Good Taste.™



with food than ever: where it comes from, how it's produced and how its prepared. There is also a strong appreciation of ethical and sustainable values when it comes to food nowadays.

One of the most emblematic countries of that food movement is Ireland. They have always had a close relationship with food, starting with family-focused life around the hearth of the kitchen - telling stories, cooking, singing and eating there.

And today the food movement is as strong in Ireland as anywhere. It has progressed from fish and chips wrapped up in newspaper, to sophisticated but honest meals of smoked mussels with mustard grain sauce and heirloom potatoes.

outdoor activities and is enhanced by engaging guides and authentic experiences.

There are wonderful food adventures to be had in Ireland. In addition to walking tours of food markets, you can go foraging for wild food in the forests of County Wicklow. You can fish off the coast of Dingle and learn how to prepare it at a cooking school before enjoying it for lunch. There are numerous restaurants with world-class chefs creating innovative new versions of traditional Irish fare.

There are similar food adventures to be had all over the world. In San Sebastian, Spain, you can learn to make pinchos, the Basque version of tapas, or



St Patrick's Day Parade Tour of Ireland, March 14-23, 2016



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As well as getting 'up close and personal' with Ireland's capital city, this vacation will bring you on a tour of the North of Ireland. Historic Belfast, the beautiful north coast - featuring the Giant's Causeway, and the walled City of Derry are some of the fantastic places we will visit. The rugged beauty of County Donegal in Ireland's north west and the cosmopolitan culture of Galway round out the trip.

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Take the Plunge for Special Olympics

Registration for the coolest event of the new year is now



Photo courtesy of jbrownweddingphoto.com

open! The 16TH annual Chicago Polar Plunge will take place at North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 6, 2016, offering fearless weather warriors the opportunity to dip their toes in the icy waters of Lake Michigan, all for the benefit of the more than 5,000 athletes who compete in the Special Olympics Chicago program.

The fun will kick off at 10 am when the first plungers enter the

water. Guests can dip their toes or go waist high into the waters of Lake Michigan, individually or with a team. Registration is available by visiting www.chicagopolarplunge.com. At the Polar Plunge website, plungers will have the opportunity to create their own fundraising page to help jump-start their efforts. Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$175. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individual fundraisers; best three individual costumes; best team costumes; and largest team.

All participating Plungers will receive free parking at Lincoln Park Zoo, or a free bus for groups of 20 or more; a souvenir t-shirt; warm towel when exiting the water; free photo downloads; and complimentary food at the "Melt Down Party."

For more information on the Chicago Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics Chicago, please call 312.527.3743; visit www.chicagopolarplunge.org; or email

polarplunge@sochicago.org

Pre-Parade Party for South Side

The largest neighborhood based St. Patrick's Day Parade outside of Ireland the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade, will kick off the festivities with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The family-friendly event will feature raffle prizes, a silent auction, the South Side Irish Parade Queen Selection and much more. The party will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL, 60803.

Tickets for the pre-parade fundraiser cost \$30 and may be purchased online or at the door. Tickets include draft beer, dinner buffet and live music from the Larkin & Moran Brothers and Sean & Charlie inside the 115 Bourbon Street

Performance Hall.

New this year, the fundraiser will also feature Irish traditional music sessions inside The Saloon offering a quieter

approach. Among the highlights of the fundraiser is the selection of the South Side Irish Parade Queen. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be prominently featured during the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade and ride in the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. The selection will be announced during the Pre-Parade Party. Interested young ladies of Irish descent between the ages of 18-27 are encouraged to apply. Please see www.chicagoroseoftralee.com for an application.

Also new this year is the South Side Irish Parade Film Fest. The event will be held at the Beverly Arts Center on Saturday, March 5, the weekend after the pre-parade fundraiser. The evening will feature Irish film shorts with more details available soon. Visit

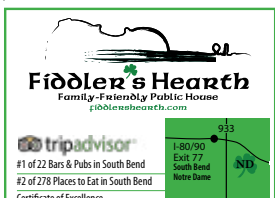
southsideirishparade.org for more information on all Side Irish Parade activities.

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Sr Myra Oconnell was born in Dublin and joined the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1943 when the Congregation was just six years old. She loved nursing, a job she car-

ried out in Drogheda, Naples and Rome before she was called to train as a Nurse Tutor. She was gentle and fun-loving and an inspiration to her students. Life took her back again to Italy and later to the School of Nursing at St. John's Hospital Malawi.

The second half of

her life was spent in USA, where she made many friends and took out citizenship. She worked devotedly in our communities in Boston and Chicago, bringing her earlier experience to the work of fundraising, office management and was a member of the MMM Formation Team. She died in Massachusetts on Dec 8th 2015



Sr Ita Moore came to the Medical Missionaries of Mary from her home in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. She was a generous and efficient administrator at various levels - in hospital administration, in our communities in the USA and as Congregational Secretary. She died in Ireland on Dec 1st 2015

Galway Fellowship Luncheon February 28th

The Galway fellowship club was started in 1981 by a group of people that decided it would be nice to have a club that would do fundraiser to help family's in need especially medical emergency and also help youngh people from Ireland. We had many great fundraiser. Dances, boat trips, racetrack outing, golf outing ,picnics and breakfasts. Our most successful fundraiser was our dinner dance, first at the Martinique and later at Gaelic park with music by some of the best. Brendan Boyer ,frank O'Hara, Pat Daley, Mike

O'Connell, Norman Payne, John Dillen and many other great musicians and dancers. Because of different circumstances we had to cut back on some of our fundraisers. Some of our members got older and some were promoted to that great Galway club in Heven. This year we are having a luncheon at The Irish American Heratage Center February 28th 1:00pm. We would love to see all our old and new friends there to help us keep this great club going. For information on luncheon or raffle tickets call Barbara Glynn 773 685 9289 or John Diamond 847 414 959

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



Dan McLaughlin
Mayor
Orland Park



Piping It In

Jack Baker



By Gayle Baker

While Jack is roughing it in Florida, it's time for my annual review column. No, I'm not reviewing anything recent, I'm going to take a ride in the way back machine and

France. There is also a formidable competition among Junior bands, which are those under 18 years of age.

The Worlds recordings are made during competition itself, so you get the raw, as it is happening

dominated these competitions over the years and many names repeat year after year. This does not diminish their quality, it only enhances it and make the challenge that much more powerful. Some of the bands you will usually see competing in the Worlds are Field Marshall Montgomery from Northern Ireland, Shotts and Dykehead and also Strathclyde Police from Scotland, and Simon Fraser University from Canada. Strathclyde Police is the winningest band with 20 wins over



revisit some older music.

This column was originally started to include a Scottish element to the review of Celtic Music, to remind us that it's more than just all Irish. The title of the column is Piping it in, so this month, I'm going back to some great, top of the line bagpipe music.

Probably the best piping can be found on the recordings of the World Pipe Band Championships, sponsored by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. These recordings were available until 2015, when it was decided that, due to the nature of the changes in the recording industry, it was no longer feasible to produce recordings for sale.

The World Pipe Band Championships, or Worlds, is just that, competition by the best pipe bands in the world, every country that fields a band can participate and most of them do. In recent years, a typical roll call of countries include the expected, like Scotland, Ireland, and Canada but also USA, Australia, New Zealand, and

sound of the band's skill and excitement. Applause is sometimes included but also sometimes cut short due to time restraints. The winners are usually placed on the recording in order of placing. Each band will have two tracks on the recording, one of their Medley and one of their M/S/R or March, Strathspey and Reel. You get a nice variety of traditional or traditional style piping.

For many years, there was one CD of the top 6 - 8 winners. The last 10 - 15 years, there were two CDs released, Volume 1 featuring the top 6-7 bands in order and Volume 2 with the next 6-7 bands in order. Then the Qualifying Heat recording was added and that featured some of the bands that never made the winning recordings but were excellent bands nonetheless. There you find bands like Ravara from Northern Ireland, City of Washington (D.C.), Clan Gregor Society of Scotland, LA Scots from USA and Bagad Cap Caval from France.

Of course, several bands have

the years, Shotts coming in second with 16 wins and Field Marshall with 10 wins. Victoria Police Pipe Band from Victoria, Australia remains the only Australian pipe band to ever win the Worlds. No US band has ever won the World Championships.

Recordings of the competitions are still available and are some of the best bagpiping you will ever find recorded. If pipes and drums are your inspiration or desire, these are the CDs you will want to have in your collection. From very traditional tunes to newly arranged and newly written tunes, you will find something in these recordings to stir your very soul. If not, you should double check that you still have one!!

Jack will return for the March column and get you back on the musical track with new releases. March will also find us at the Northwest Celtic Fest in Hoffman Estates at the Sears Arena on March 19th. Free admission and free parking cannot be beat! Contact Jack at jack@rampantlion.com



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The Bout Worth the Bucks

Although we are entering but the second month of 2016, those who follow the sweet science that is boxing have a mouth-water encounter on the immediate horizon that could well turn out to be the fight of the year.

On February 27, Belfast's Carl 'The Jackal' Frampton puts his IBF Super-Bantamweight World title belt on the line when he takes on WBA Super-Bantamweight champion, England's Scott Quigg in a unification match.

The fight will take place in the Manchester Arena and such is the excitement and anticipation for this bout that the 21,000 venue sold out in less than 10 minutes.

It will be a par-per-view experience for us living on the Eastern

shores of the Atlantic but it is the one bout this year that I have no qualms about shelling out for.

For this is a fight that has been brewing for the last handful of years, since both boxers caught the eye as shooting stars from their early days in the professional ranks.

The Contestants

Frampton had the pedigree from the Irish amateur ranks winning a silver medal as a featherweight in the European Union Amateur Boxing Championships in 2007, which were held in Dublin.

The feat was known in Irish boxing circles but Carl didn't come to the national attention until he made an appearance on the popular Late Late Show chat show in December, 2010. The main story on the night was that

famed Irish boxing legend Barry McGuigan, was giving up his position as the premier boxing analyst on UK television for a foray into boxing management.

That McGuigan had hand-picked Frampton for this journey spoke volumes. On the programme he told the host and the watching audience with great sincerity that he believed Carl was an exceptional talent and not only was he a fighter with great ability but he made mention that he was a "decent young man." He said that he had no doubts that Frampton would be a world champion. That Barry's son Shane would train the bantamweight added to the notion that this was a story worth paying attention to.

At the time Frampton had but a handful of fights but such was his explosiveness and speed that it was hard not to get excited.

That a young Englishman called Scott Quigg was raising eyebrows across the Irish Sea at the same time added to the intrigue and it was not long before

Continued next page



**Carl Frampton
2013**



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both were popping up in the same conversations.

Over the next few years as the two fighters developed their trade and progressed their careers in tandem, you would not hear either name without hearing the other. Panellists and experts on boxing shows would continuously debate which rising star had the brightest light and conjectured who would win a match-up.

With 24 straight wins on his record, Quigg would get a first shot at a World belt when he fought Rendell Munroe for a vacant title in 2013. After a clash of heads in the third round, the contest was called a draw.

Although, Quigg won the rematch and got his title, he was seen by Frampton as a "paper champion" as he had not defeated a champion to earn it. That Quigg ended up drawing his second defence added a little weight to such mischief.

Frampton's standout performance came in 2013 when he out-boxed the well regarded Kiko Martinez. He ended the contest in ninth round after a display in which he displayed his attacking prowess. Time and again he forced the oncoming Martinez onto the backfoot and landed an array of eye-catching shots.

After that fight, many boxing pundits started leaning in favour of Frampton rather than Quigg when asked who the better of the rivals was.



Scott Quigg

Later that same year Kiko Martinez became the IBF World Champion and it seemed that Frampton was missing the bus, but in his third defence the Spaniard travelled to Belfast where Carl fulfilled his dreams and aspirations in front of a full house after 12 rounds. Carl then knocked out American Chris Avalos in five rounds in his first defence.

With both Frampton and Quigg recognised as world champions, it seemed inevitable that a fight between the two was soon to arrive. Yet due to difficulties in contract negotiations between the two camps, the fight never materialised in 2015.

But events on July 7 last year brought the matchup a few steps further down the road.

On the night, Frampton fought for the first time in America where he was expected to win convincingly against Alejandro Gonzalez

Jr in El Paso, Texas. However, a doubled knockdown of the Jackal by the underdog in the first round showed metaphorical chinks in the armour of the Belfast man. Frampton re-gathered himself and won the contest comfortably on points but it was not the entrance State-side he had envisioned or expected.

On the same night back in England, Quigg made a statement of note when he stopped the aforementioned Kiko Martinez in two rounds.

Many of the same pundits who had favoured Frampton in the past were now fingering Quigg to be in the ascendancy.

Afterwards, both camps got together once again and this time the fight was it made.

In the run-up to the fight, both pugilists have worded marks against the other, but where the off-ring drama has really got frayed has been between Frampton and Quigg's promoter Eddie Hearn and trainer Joe Gallagher. There were plenty of insults flying around, which seem to have been taken personally by both sides.

This is a bout where the protagonists and their flag bearers now seem even keener to win.

There are bound to be more barbs traded in the week leading up to the fight but on February 27

expect fireworks.

This is a fight that can't fail to ignite and the winner will surely have earned a shot with the mercenary Cuban Guillermo Rigondeaux later in the year.

Happy Valentine's Day

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Who Do You Know?

I have spent a great part of my professional career helping people to understand the process of finding a job. In some respects, it is

very easy. Yes, of course if your father or favorite uncle owns a major company you could ask him for a job. There is probably a good chance that he will say YES to your request. However, that would be a

rare situation.

More commonly, the job seeker will reach out to third parties i.e., company web-sites, social media sites, search firms or employment agencies or the ever popular job ads in newspapers, magazines and trade journals. Alternatively, some job seekers will develop a list of target companies that appeals to him. But my experience tells me that the job seeker has defaulted to the least demanding approach to finding a job; they are basically asking strangers to help them. However, historically both of these approaches have resulted in many people finding employment.

But over the years, I have developed a real sweet spot for personal contacts. In some respects, they are such an obvious choice. We take the advice and suggestions of personal contacts all the time from doctors, insurance agents, lawyers, dentists, auto repair shops, and a myriad of other desirable service providers. Why not apply the same strategy to the job search? How many personal contacts do you have? Take a moment right

now; either prepare a list of your contacts or at least decide on the number of contacts you have. I can tell you that invariably most of us significantly understate the number of contacts we have.

There seems to be a common theme that is expressed by many people, "I don't have a large number of contacts,"; or "I have lost touch with my classmates from elementary school, high school and college." Shame on you! Contact with those who were teammates has faded. Those that were the closest of your buddies in your earlier jobs have also faded. Members of local neighborhood organizations, bowling leagues, bridge clubs, etc. have drifted away.

It sure seems to me that maintaining some level of contact with people you know is just good insurance against the day when you might want to use them as intelligence sources. The internet has created a real interconnected world, whether Facebook, twitter, etc. that facilitates your ability to keep in touch.

Some day you will be seeking different employment than you have now. College placement offices will tell you that the average graduate can expect to have 8 or 10 jobs during their career. Maybe you simply give up on your job. You realize that you don't want to continue making cold calls to strangers trying to sell your company's widgets. You decide that your current job in the Midwest would be okay if it was in a warmer climate, so you decide to move to California, Florida or the Carolinas.

But in my experience, the single best way to find that new job is through contacts that you already know. Please note, I said contacts, not necessarily family members, distant cousins or the dearest of friends. A contact is defined as someone you know, however casually. Perhaps someone you met at a baseball game, a Bears football game, the opera or the symphony. Maybe this contact is a very important person and an employer of hundreds of others. Or this contact is simply a good guy (or gal) who is willing to assist you because s/he has been helped by someone in the past.

Here's my suggestion, regardless of your age or circumstances,

develop a registry of contacts. Go back through your life's experiences and capture as many people as possible. That childhood friend can be of invaluable help. Think about it, if an old friend called you today and asked for your help, would you provide the help? So why wouldn't that same person provide you with assistance if you needed it?

Once you have prepared the registry of contacts, develop a plan to reach out to these people. Obviously here is where today's social media (think Facebook) can be invaluable. First, you want to flesh out your knowledge of the who-what-where of your contacts, if possible. It will facilitate the initial discussion with the individual. Post the desired data into your registry, which doesn't have to be a complicated system.

Establish some timetable for when you reach out to these contacts. Maybe it is just annually or semiannually. Christmas cards, birthday cards, friendship cards, "wish you were here cards", personal or professional achievements or some electronic messaging of these items. The process of reaching out is far more important than the medium you use.

And you continue expanding the number of contacts on your registry on some systematic basis. Of course, you must be ready to get requests from the people on your registry seeking your help. This is a two way street. But it can be invaluable when you find yourself in need whether while you are in a job search or looking for the best dentist in your community.

Many employment experts believe that the proper use of personal contacts will produce very positive relationships because there is a personal dimension to it. If you plan to be in the work force for years to come, do yourself a favor, develop a registry of contacts. Carpe Diem.

Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them. But you know they're always there. Unknown.
James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm.
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Clutter Buster

Procrastinate No More

by Rita Emmett

Attitude and Behavior Changes

Bad news: Most people who had a New Year's Resolution to get rid of clutter don't even remember that resolution any more.

Good news: There is hope.

Even better news:

Clutter does NOT come from being lazy, messy or disorganized. (Isn't that GREAT news??) It comes from 4 habits.

Do you:

- Save stuff you don't need or use
- Insist on bringing stuff into your life that you don't need or use
- Never assign places for stuff to belong
- Set stuff down planning to put it away later

By the way, note that the first letter of those 4 habits spell SINS. So how can you REPENT FROM THE DEADLY SINS OF CLUTTER?

Just a few attitude changes and some new behaviors and you're on your way.

ATTITUDE:

Examine and think about how those 4 habits fit in your life

BEHAVIOR:

Select one small spot to declutter. Not the whole closet, just a shelf or part of the floor. Not

your whole desk, just a drawer or corner of the desk. Not the whole car, just the front seat or floor.

ATTITUDE:

Ask yourself "Why am I keeping this?". Is it because maybe someday you or somebody might need it? But you KNOW that if you or anyone needs it you'll forget you had it OR if you remembered you had it, you can't find it.

So get rid of it.

BEHAVIOR: If it takes less than a minute, do it now. Put the paper where it belongs. Hang up that shirt. Put the cup in the dishwasher. Taking one minute to put the toothpaste back and hang up the towel won't make you late for work, but will have a profound impact on having a clutter-free bathroom.

ATTITUDE:

Decide to treat yourself to *The Clutter-Busting Handbook* (it's short, inexpensive, fun and easy to read ... and I wrote it) to reinforce all your attitude changes.

BEHAVIOR:

Go to www.RitaEmmett.com or Amazon to order it and get more help with your clutter-busting.

ATTITUDE:

Decide on a person or organization who will love and cherish your discarded stuff as much as you do. That will make it easy to get rid of stuff you don't need

or use --- without breaking your heart or sobbing like a baby poodle.

BEHAVIOR:

Set up a box or plastic bag in a designated area. When anyone decides they can live without something, they put it in there to be donated or sold in a garage sale.

ATTITUDE:

Keep asking yourself "Why do I hang on to this?" Pay attention to your answers. If you keep it because it brings memories, real-life memories are in your mind and heart, NOT in that theater program or the sequined velvet Elvis pillow from Las Vegas.

BEHAVIOR:

Every single day, "process" three pieces of paper or clutter - that means either put it where it belongs, donate, recycle or (and this is the BEST decision of all) toss it.

OK - these are some ideas to get you started. You can adopt one or many of these suggestions, but decide NOW to make at least one change to help you start conquering the clutter in your life.

You will be amazed how terrific, organized and energized you'll feel once your clutter starts to evaporate.

Happy Clutter-Busting.

Rita Emmett

Speaker and Best-selling author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook*, *The Clutter-Busting Handbook and Manage Your Time to Reduce Your Stress*

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of a weekly astronomy show at the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory, and a member and occasional star of my station's old-time live radio acting troupe. I've returned to the stage in community theater, returned to the Navy as a youth instructor with the rank of Lieutenant, even returned to television news with an appearance on the top Milwaukee station discussing the revival of Harrison Ford's first professional acting

job, at the soon to reopen Belfry Theater in my new hometown of Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Thanks to the saving grace of Jesus who heals all hurts and binds all wounds, a God who grants second chances and the many family and friends who sustain me, it really has been a wonderful life. Why don't you come along for the next 10 years and see what God has in store next?

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Ten Years and Counting

Continued from page 14

life, which fortunately has come full circle with a regular job as the senior correspondent for the color bi-monthly paper near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, The Beacon, and a very fulfilling ongoing stint, with my local public radio news and classical station, as news reporter, talk show host, producer

Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



The Book of Kells is one of many Gospel books produced between 650 and 900 CE in Ireland, Scotland, Northern England and in European monasteries with Irish or English origins. These monasteries influenced each other's styles in art and textual organization.

The books contained a combination of the Gospel text in Latin and illuminations of important passages. The illuminations aided evangelizing monks to help non-Latin readers to visually understand the gospel message. Many of the Gospel books were made for use in the churches but occasionally traveled. The pigments made from plants and minerals around Ireland and Britain were all that were needed to make the colors of the illuminations visually stunning to see. Even today, 1200 years later, viewers are still amazed.

The writers of the texts focused on significant experiences in the life of Jesus that scribes illuminated. This emphasized Church doctrine, a practice that continues to the present with paintings, stained glass and other forms of art.

For example, the four evangelists and their Gospels is a theme. This includes their symbols and portraits which precedes the illuminated first word or phrase of each gospel.

There are two elements in the Book that are not themes that we will also examine. In the fourth century Jerome compiled a list of Hebrew names from the Bible originally written in the "old" Latin translated to the newer Church Latin. It was used as a pronunciation guide in the transition from the older Latin.

The other element is a concordance of Gospel passages common to two or more evangelists created by Eusebius of Caesarea, also in the 4th century.

The first theme we are going to examine are a selection of four illuminations of important experiences in Jesus' life, from birth to Resurrection as described by the Evangelists- more next time.



Mary and Jesus (f 7v).

This is the oldest existing picture of Mary and Jesus. The Book of Kells is the only Insular gospel book with this image



Temptation of Jesus (f 202v)



*Arrest of Christ (f 114r).
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Christ enthroned (f 32v)

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Tom Boyle



Pig in the Parlor

"Pig in the Parlor Irish," like "Lace Curtain Irish," are expressions you don't hear very often these days. Most people don't know what the origin of "Pig in the Parlor Irish" is. It goes back to the tenant farmers, even before the "Great Hunger." It denoted low class, more clearly defined as abject poverty!

The pig was the most valuable possession of the tenant farmer, as it was used to pay the yearly rent to the Landlord. If you thought you were "Lace Curtain Irish," you had better guess again.

(An excerpt from a description of his tour in Ireland by Gustave de Beaumont (1830's)

"Imagine four walls of dried mud (which the rain, as it falls, easily restores to its primitive condition) having for its roof a little straw or some sods, for its chimney a hole cut in the roof, or very frequently the door through which alone the smoke finds an issue. A single apartment contains father, mother, children and sometimes

a grandfather and a grandmother; there is no furniture in the wretched hovel; a single bed of straw serves the entire family.

Five or six half-naked children may be seen crouched near a miserable fire, the ashes of which cover a few potatoes, the sole nourishment of the family. In the midst of all lies a dirty pig, the only thriving inhabitant of the place, for he lives in filth. The presence of a pig in an Irish hovel may at first seem an indication of misery; on the contrary, it is a sign of comparative comfort. Indigence is still more extreme in a hovel where no pig is found. . . I have just described the dwelling of the Irish farmer or agricultural laborer."

Parade Queen

Another St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen contest sponsored by local Plumber's Union 130 is in the history books. On Sunday, January 17, 2016 the contestants gathered at Plumber's Hall. 63 talented, well educated young women of Irish descent would appear before the judges to vie for the crown. Did I mention that they were all beautiful?

The judges reported to the lower hall at 11:15 am. Light refreshments were served. The contest rules are reviewed, and at 11:50 a.m. we lined up and the Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band lead us into the Bailey Auditorium.

The room is full of family and friends of the contestants, and queens from years past.

Chairman, Jim Coyne, makes the introductory remarks, the anthems are sung - The Soldiers Song, And the Star Spangled Banner, and the contest begins.

The contestants will appear four times before the judges as the process of elimination takes place. Intermittently

prizes for last years parade are presented. Some of the winners were the Shannon Rovers, St. John's Military Academy, the Irish American Heritage Center and many others.

Musicians from the Irish Musicians Association; Jim Thornton, Tim McGuinness, and Tony Janacek, entertain the crowd, as well as the Mullane Irish Dancers who entertained

while ballots are being counted. Eli's Cheesecake and coffee are provided free for all.

Then we come to the fifth and final round. Fifteen young women return and the twenty one judges will vote for one. The votes are tabulated and five contestants return to the stage knowing they will at least be in the Queen's Court. Three are awarded sashes for the Queen's Court, and now we are down to two. The next sash is for the queen. With Jim Coyne presiding, Erin Mulcahy was crowned 2016 Queen of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

1916-Fado

Events leading up to the 1916 Easter Rising include a long history of suppression of the Irish people.

My step-father, William Francis Kent, grew up in Bruree, Co. Limerick. The townland was Knockfenora. The Kents lived next door to the Coll's, and the home where Eamon de Velera grew up from the age of four.

At the tender age of six, Willie Kent was reading the Irish Independent for Mr. Coll, who

was blind.

Later in life, Bill Kent wrote his autobiography. One story tells us about the siege of Bruree in 1914. Below is an excerpt.

"Then came the Siege of Bruree, when the Black and Tans invaded the village and caught everybody by surprise. I was coming from school when I heard the shots ring out for the first time. There were Republican snipers in the big castle shooting at the Black and Tan as they surrounded the village. They had an 18 pound cannon, and when they started shelling the noise was terrific. I ran for it into a house in the lane, right in the middle of the village. Four other kids came with me. We got under the bed and stayed there until the bombardment was over. Somebody from the IRA came by and said everything was clear. They had driven them off.

When I got home we discovered my brother Ned was missing. There was panic. But, he had stayed at another farmer's house and was home the next day.

The younger people began marching and drilling, getting ready for any eventuality. It was 1914 and of course England got involved in the war and my family got involved as well.

My mother's brother, John, was a railroad engineer for the Great Southern and Western Railroad, a government job - a British job. My Aunt Meg in Limerick had three sons who worked for the railway - the whole family on my mother's side was involved with the railway. The British did not conscript, but the Irish were getting ready for trouble along with England.

John volunteered and went to France. He was killed at the Meuse Argonne in 1915. The British had a subtle way



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of getting Irish men to fight for them at this particular time. If you refused to go and if you worked for British rail, you were liable to be replaced by an Englishman.

They developed a slogan about the freedom of small nations. This was a crock of bull. Ireland was in slavery. The idea was that after they won the war and defeated Germany, everybody would get freedom. Aunt Meg's three sons went off to war too, and they all three came back. Only one was wounded. He lost a finger. They all returned to their jobs, two engineers and a fireman on the railroad.

I remember well. I used to stand by the railway gates at the end of the breen and wave to the soldiers that were going off to war. They were going to Queenstown on their way to France. There were many trainloads of young fellows who were on their way to supposedly fight for the freedom of small nations. In the meantime, in Dublin, a small group of men had gathered and were getting ready to declare Ireland an autonomous republic. This I knew nothing about at that time. It was an underground movement and we didn't see any more men marching and drilling. They had either gone to war to fight with the British or they'd gone underground, perhaps they'd gone to Dublin."

More of William Francis Kent's autobiography coming in March.

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Chris Fogarty



You read here occasionally of the double series of FBI crimes against my wife Mary, Frank O'Neill (RIP), Tony McCormick (RIP) and me. I expose them to summon the attention of a fellow American patriot who is also a law professor, or cop, or a judge, or lawyer, or honest FBI or CIA agent.

It wasn't only FBI crimes. Here-below exemplifies judicial criminal complicity. Hand-Carried May 3, 1003 Stamped Rec'd: Judge George W. Lindberg

United States District Court
(Judge's name, address, etc.)
Re: U.S. Case No. 91CR911

Dear Judge Lindberg:

Whereas; when the FBI could no longer cover up some of their felonious attempts to imprison us by means of their fraudulent case referenced above, Prosecutor Fleissner, in your court on 1/15/93, pleaded that all of their charges against us be abandoned; (to this we defendants, and you, agreed).

And whereas; The FBI's more blatant crimes consisted of Tampering with Evidence in which they excised approximately one hour out of the

middle of their illegally-recorded back-up tape of our meeting and then inserted words onto the tape to cover up said excision;

And whereas; As an officer of the law you can hardly acquiesce to felony crimes of which you have knowledge (Evidence of said crimes were presented to you in the form of, inter alia, transcripts of FBI Agent Buckley's perjuries and proof that the FBI tampered with evidence;

And whereas; The FBI disobeyed your orders to present their original back-up tape to independent sound engineers for analyses; (On 1/13/93 you received our "Motion for Evidentiary Hearing to Determine Whether the FBI's Purported Original Tape Recording of the 11/10/91 FOIF Meeting is Authentic" which revealed, inter alia, that the FBI had feloniously presented a "doctored" copy to them instead.)

We therefore respectfully demand that, if you have not already done so, you now fulfill your sworn duty to uphold the law by placing into the hands of appropriate law enforcement authorities the said evidence of FBI's crimes in your possession. Also; in fear that the FBI criminals will destroy the said original back-up tape we respectfully demand that you arrange that it be taken into safe custody out of their hands.

We also request to be kept informed as to the actions you have taken or are taking in response

to these crimes. We do not believe the approximately twenty lawyers, two judges, and few policemen who have advised us that FBI crimes are never punished because the federal judiciary is utterly corrupt, and consequently to not expect justice nor seek it lest the FBI return and murder us.

Signed; Chris Fogarty and Mary O'Sullivan Fogarty; 900 N. Lake Shore Dr.; #1507, Chicago, IL 60611 Tel. 312/664-7651

Judge Lindberg's response
UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT
219 So. Dearborn,
Chicago, IL 60604
Chambers of George
W. Lindberg
District Judge May
6, 1993
(My name, address)

Dear Mr. Fogarty and

Ms. O'Sullivan:

I received your letter of May 3, 1993. I am returning your letter because I have no jurisdiction over the matters you raise.

The investigative and prosecutorial power under the United States Constitution is vested in the Executive; not the Judicial, branch of government. More specifically, you may wish to direct your request to the Department of Justice in Washington. Sincerely George W. Lindberg, District Judge.

My follow-up letter to Judge Lindberg's letter of evasion (Signed received by Lindberg's Clerk)

Dear Judge Lindberg:

Your letter dated May 6, 1993, totally misrepresents and evades what we demanded of you in our letter dated May 3rd. We did not demand that you investigate or prosecute the said crimes. We did demand that you inform the appropriate authorities so that they can do so. Our said letter reads in part:

"We respectfully demand that, if you have not already done so, you now fulfill your sworn duty to uphold the law, by placing into the hands of appropriate law enforcement authorities the said evidence of FBI's crimes in your possession. Also; in fear that FBI criminals will destroy the said original back-up tape we respectfully demand that you arrange that it be taken into safe custody out of their hands."

We thus demand, again, that you uphold the law; that you cease your acquiescence to the said felonies; that you inform the appropriate authorities.

Please advise.

(Signed by Mary and me.)

(Judge Lindberg never responded to this. He refused to notify authorities of FBI crimes perpetrated in his presence in his courtroom.)

Equally corrupt was USAG Janet Reno. Ditto USAG Ashcroft. After six months Reno informed me that the FBI had investigated and found itself innocent in US Case 91CR911.

Irish-Chicagoans attended the New York dinner to celebrate The Brooklyn Five's lawyers when they prevailed in Federal court. Charged with providing the IRA with weapons for five years, they claimed it was twenty years, with weapons largely supplied by the CIA and FBI. Their acquittal was prior to the Neo-Con take-over of U.S. policy.

Because we violated no laws, MI5/FBI fabricated evidence against us. Irish-Chicago had no celebratory dinner when we prevailed against FBI criminals. Recent evidence indicates that Agent Buckley's crimes against us, his MI5 Omagh massacre on 15Aug98, Judge Lindberg's complicity, and others, were preliminary steps toward vast Neo-Con crimes starting in Iraq on 3/19/2003. We possess evidence, and seek a capable patriot to uphold the Constitution against these FBI crimes, also the Langert triple-murder frame-up.

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



20 Years of Dropkick Murphys

As I was jotting down questions to interview Dropkick Murphys frontman Ken Casey, I knew I wanted to ask something about the song "I'm Shipping Up to Boston."

The song made a memorable appearance in the movie "The Departed." It's played in nearly every sporting arena in the country. It's been listened to nearly 54 million times on YouTube and 43 million times on Spotify. I'm a fan of plenty of other Dropkick Murphys songs, but it seemed like I just had to ask something about their biggest hit.

So when it came to interview Casey by phone recently, I simply told him I didn't have an exact question about the song, but was curious if there was anything he had ever wanted to share about the song that he hadn't before. The approach could have bombed, but it didn't.

"I think it's cool that it's kind of transformed into being in the movie, being in the sports stuff," Casey said. "Of course, when it comes on at an arena ... Like when Jonathan Papelbon used to use it coming out of the Red Sox's bullpen, it kind of bummed me out in a way. As much as it was cool, I'm a huge Red Sox's fan, and the closer would be coming out to end the game, and everyone would be standing up. And I can't clap along or I look like a fucking weirdo jamming out to my own music. I got to have my hands in my pockets, act like it was no big deal. Sometimes, I wish they would play something else, so I could be all fired up with everyone else."

Casey and his band have been firing up crowds for two decades. And in honor of their 20th anniversary, the Drop-

kick Murphys are hitting the road starting in February. They'll be playing at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago on Feb. 19.

While plenty of Irish punk bands have come and gone, it's not hard to figure out how the Dropkick Murphys have managed to keep going strong.

"I guess hard work and staying relevant," Casey said. "I don't feel like we rested on our laurels ever. We are always either on tour or making a new album. I think trying to kind of continue to write a better album than the next one. I don't know if you're always successful at that, but I think some bands just get too caught



up in the cycle and just put out a record just because they have to.

"I think nothing damages a band's career more than just putting out a record that's not their best foot forward. I don't know,

I feel like our last record was one on our best. I know bands always say that, but I mean it."

As I was preparing to write this, I turned on Dropkick Murphys for some inspiration. Of course, I then got caught up in listening to "Rose Tattoo," "State of Massachusetts," "(F)lannigan's Ball," "The Boys Are Back," their versions of Irish



Photo by Kerry Brett

classics and many other songs. Luckily, I wasn't on a tight deadline. For those who haven't heard them, the best way to describe Dropkick Murphys is they're loud and fun; they make

every night. Sometimes it's like how can we fuck this song up and make it ours. Yeah, I think we do an OK job at it."

There's definitely also the punk side to the band. But it's more than just that, too, and Casey loves that about his crew.

"I think Dropkick Murphys is like a weird hodgepodge of all of our influences in music," Casey said. "We're so lucky as a band that we get to be in a band that we can kind of play a fast hardcore song, play an Irish jig,

play a classic rock cover and no one gives a shit. Because we've been doing that from the start. It's not like all of a sudden. 'Why all of a sudden are they playing a classic rock song?' You know what I mean? As long as you start as a band, if you kind of get that wide base, you're fine."

Hitting the 20-year milestone – and, of course, being asked questions about the anniversary – has forced Casey to reflect on how far Dropkick Murphys have come. The group began because of a bar bet in 1996 and will later this year begin recording its eighth studio album.

"I'm proud of where we've come in the sense considering most of us had never seen outside of New England travel-wise," said Casey, who also runs a charity called The Claddagh Fund. "Pretty sheltered guys who hadn't seen too much of the world. To be able to travel and have people who support us in all these different countries and cities and places, yeah, it's awesome."

"I'm not proud we sold X amount of records or whatever. I'm proud of the whole package that the band has been. Fairly positive influence on people and done a lot of work to give back. That's where I'm proud of what we've done in 20 years."

Now, if only his favorite Boston teams would stop playing their music and let him enjoy the game.

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Are you the next South Side Irish Queen or Irish American Heritage Center Queen?

My daughter and I walked out of our house the other day on our way to work and school and she said, "Mom, it smells like spring! It's almost parade time!" She was right. Even though it was a January day in Chicago, it was warm. The snow was melting and the days were already getting longer. I smiled and said, "Yes it is Serafina! It certainly is parade time!"

How lucky are we? The Irish! We have March to look forward to on these sometimes long, cold, winter days. Personally, January and February just fly by for me because I am so busy getting ready for the upcoming Irish festivities. My all-time favorites, the South Side Irish Queen Contest and the Irish American Heritage Center Queen Contest! How fun to see the finest Irish ladies come out to represent their families and their communities. I am so proud of all these girls. I feel they are all my own. They amaze me year after year.

Our wonderful young ladies on the South Side have formed a committee to run the South Side Irish Queen Contest!

Bringing up a new generation of ladies to hold everything dear to our Irish Heritage is just a thrill! This committee is made up of three past South Side Irish Queens, 2013 Queen, Margaret McGann, 2014 Queen, Maeve McSweeney, 2015 Queen, Mary Kate Love and my own daughter Julia who

said she just wants to join in on the fun! They will hold their South Side Irish Queen Contest during the South Side Irish Parade Fundraiser on Saturday, February 27th. Participants need to be at Bourbon Street by 5:00 p.m. for an interview and the 2016 Queen will be announced during the evening.

Now! Let's not forget about the North Side! Allison Kapolnek, the 2015 Irish American Heritage Center Queen will be hosting the selection night to crown



the 2016 Irish American Heritage Center Queen on Thursday, March 3rd. Participants need to be at the Heritage Center by 6:00 p.m. There will be Irish Entertainment and the radio broadcast will be taking place live from the Center! Come on out and enjoy a fun evening and see who will become the 2016 Irish American Heritage Center Queen!

The winners of these two contests will be sponsored by these wonderful organizations to go on to compete in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Selection in May. They will



also be featured during the Downtown and South Side Irish Parades. Please fill out a FREE application to compete in either selection by visiting our website at: www.chicagoroseoftralee.com. I encourage all you young ladies between the ages of 18-27 to put yourself out there. Who knows... you may become the South Side Irish or Irish American Heritage Center Queen and better yet – become the Chicago Rose of Tralee and be off to Tralee, Ireland to represent our fine city in August

Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Frank O'Hooligan learned the "value of enemies" in a most enlightening way, when he was a fifth grader at Little Flower many years ago.

Many of you are familiar with the heroic exploits of Ferocious Frank O'Hooligan, son of Finbar Hooligan from Kilrush, County Clare. The stories of Ferocious Frank have been passed down in Southside Irish families for generations.

But a recent encounter reminded me of the lesson Frank learned in his 79th Street neighborhood oh so long ago.

Young Frankie was a tough tyke but had yet to come into his Druid powers at this age. His father Finbar feared that bestowing the magic on his son too early would foster exploitation of enchantment. Finbar instead chose to enlighten his son with the wisdom of generations of O'Hooligan giants.

Back in the old neighborhood, the O'Hooligans were generally respected but like the Montagues and Capulets, or the Hatfields and McCoys', there had always been bad blood between the O'Hooligans and the Ztupalino family. Back in fifth grade Frankie's mortal enemy was Zeke Ztupalino, a wiry little Italian lad who Frankie could pulverize physically but Zeke was very resourceful in pushing Frankie's buttons.

Zeke would constantly make loud fart noises in class whenever Sister Mary Philomena had her back turned and Frankie would get blamed and dealt a crack, much to Zeke's delight.

The O'Hooligan family was known in the parish as a cop family while most of the Ztupallino family had embraced a life of crime. Zeke's father was the custodian for the school and moonlighted as the Alderman's driver. His mother Sophie was very religious and did the laundry for all the nuns in the convent.

Zeke also had an older sister, Zelda, who had "blossomed early" in high school and hung out behind the bowling alley with sleazy greasers smoking cigs and igniting impure thoughts in Frankie's O'Hooligan's brain.

The Ztupalinos not withstanding, in fifth grade at Little Flower, Frankie O'Hooligan's real nemesis was that nun, Sister Mary Philomena.

Her breath smelled like Auschwitz and she was a begrudger's begrudger, seizing every opportunity to belittle and badger young Frankie O'Hooligan as he entered the cusp of puberty. His homework would be personally examined every morning by this skinny harridan as she grasped his ear with her bony fingers and befouled the air with her putrid gasps of pedagogy.

The nasty nun was also regularly busting the chops of young Zeke Ztupalino as she made disparaging remarks about his family of "garlic chompers". Frankie often complained to his dad about the nun and Finbar wasn't too crazy about her either as she regularly called the house to complain about the kids. Somehow in passing young Frank had told his da how Sister Philomena also regularly tormented Zeke Ztupalino.

As Finbar imbibed from a fresh pint in the kitchen he dropped this pearl of wisdom on his son Frank's ears, "My enemy's enemy is my friend."

With those words in the back of his head, Frankie remarked to Zeke the next day, "Don'tcha just hate that witch Philomena? What would you like to do to her?"

Without missing a beat Zeke confessed to Frankie, "I'd like to put a tarantula in her underwear!"

Frankie said, "I don't know where to get a tarantula...but my old man has this powder from the farm in Ireland that made our dog spend almost the whole day trying to bite off his red thing. We finally had to hose him off behind the house."

Zeke's eyes widened. A plot was hatched, the powder delivered, and applied to the pair of panties with Sister Philomena's name sewn into them in the nuns' clean laundry basket in Ztupalino's basement.

The lads became the most attentive students in the class on Monday as they watched the nun and waited.

Sister had been playing volleyball with the girls at recess when she returned to the classroom looking flushed. Frankie and Zeke studied her face while the kids read aloud from their geography books.

Philomena slowly began to squirm in her seat and a small drop of sweat appeared just below her wimple and danced its way down her skeletal face. A faint smile crossed her lips which leisurely

gave way to befuddlement and finally a look of complete horror as she rose from her chair and started doing a quick time jig. Before you knew it Philomena was on her feet shimmying in front of her desk as the kids burst out laughing. She started moaning and then shrieking and then raced out of the room, running down the hall screaming.

They never saw her again. A substitute teacher arrived the following day and finished the school year and the kids loved her.

Frankie overheard his mother talking to his da in the kitchen. "Didja hear about that poor nun Sister Philomena over at the school? They're sayin' she couldn't handle the children and had a nervous breakdown!"

Finbar remarked, "Ah sure that wan was wrapped too tight altogether anyway, right Frankie?"

Frankie winked at his da, "Sure she woulda made a great dancer!"

Wisdom had been passed on, the value of enemies.

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From the Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins

Irish Citizenship

Do you have a parent or grandparent from Ireland, or a parent that became an Irish Citizen prior to your birth? If so, you may be eligible for Irish citizenship. If one of your parents was born in Ireland, you are already an Irish Citizen. If you are claiming Irish citizenship through your Irish born grandparent or through an Irish parent who has obtained Irish Citizenship prior to your birth you must register to the Foreign Births Registry. The Foreign Births Registry is essentially registering you as an Irish Citizen who was born abroad.

To register with the Foreign Births Registry and apply for Irish Citizenship through derivation you must apply online through your consulate's website (Chicago Consulate FBR link: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/chicago/our-services/citizenship/born-outside-ireland/foreign->

births-registration-guide/). A list of documents is required for the application both for you (the applicant) and your parent or grandparent (from whom you are claiming citizenship). For the full, up-to-date list of required documents, it is best to visit the Irish Consulates website. You may need to request some documentation from Ireland

(for example: your parents or grandparents original birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, etc.). Most of these documents can be accessed and requested through the Irish Department of Social Protection (link: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Apply-for-Certificates.aspx>). Your application will also require two witnessed passport sized photos and a filing fee of \$351 for applicants over 18, and \$181 for applicants under 18.

If you have any questions regarding Irish citizenship feel free to call our office at 773-282-8445.

Ireland Network Ball

The Ireland Network Chicago is hosting its 13th annual ball at the Drake Hotel in Chicago on February 20th at 6:00pm. The ball will consist of a champagne reception, dinner in the gold coast ball room, music by the Becca Kaufman

Orchestra, and finally a silent auction that will benefit both Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and Concern Worldwide. CIIS is extremely grateful to the Ireland Network for choosing our charity as one of the beneficiaries of the silent auction. The support that the Ireland Network gives CIIS is greatly appreciated and contributes a great deal to all of the work that we do at CIIS.

We encourage everyone to attend what will surely be a wonderful night. If you would like to purchase tickets please visit the Ireland Network's website at: <http://theirelandnetwork.com/event-2110374>. We hope to see everyone there!

CIIS Update

CIIS is continuing to host legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are currently being held once a month by appointment only. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with a fully qualified immigration attorney. Our next two legal clinics will be held on Thursday February 11th from 5:30pm-8:30pm and February 22nd from 5:30pm-7:30pm. We host these clinics on the second Thursday of each month. Please call (773) 282-8445 or email mcollins@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment.

50th Annual Clare Association of Chicago Dinner Dance 9 April, 2016

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I am taking a break from my presidential time line for our dear St. Bridget. (Mary of the Gael) She was born 451-525 in Dundalk, Co. Louth. Her feast day is February 1st, (also my dad Tom's birthday and the first day of Spring in Ireland) She is the patron saint of Irish nuns, cattle, midwives and babies. She was raised by Druids. As a child she heard St. Patrick preach. During the Penal Days Patrick and Bridget were the most common names in Ireland. St. Bridget founded a monastery and art museum (metal work and illumination) in Co. Kildare. She has convents and monasteries in her honor all over Ireland. Her extraordinary spirituality and compassion for those distressed were legendary.

There has been some debate as to who her parents were, in my best effort I found her mom to be a woman named Brocca (slave) and her father Dubthach (Leinster chieftain). When Dubthach's wife found out that the slave, Brocca, was pregnant she was sold to a Druid landowner. Brocca's daughter was special at a young age always wanting to help people. When St. Bridget was 10 years old she was sent back to her father's home. Her charity didn't end when she left her mother, she donated her possessions to anyone who asked. She was unable to keep from feeding the poor and healing them. Her father became tired of her charity and brought her to the king of Leinster with the intention of selling her. However, as the king

and Dubthach were talking, St. Bridget gave her dad's jeweled sword to a beggar so he could buy food for his family. When the king heard this he recognized her heart and purity and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "her merit before God is greater than ours". St. Bridget returned to her mother and the Druid who kept her mother as a slave and the Druid observed how St. Bridget gave away all their milk and saw this as a great charitable act of God that he freed Brocca.

St. Bridget's dad wanted her to marry a bard (poet) but she refused. Legend has it that St. Bridget prayed that her beauty to be taken so no one would want to marry her. After she made her vows her beauty was restored.

It's claimed that St. Patrick and St. Bridget were good friends, the mainstays of the Irish people, "they had but one heart and one mind".

St. Bridget died of natural causes, she predicted the day of her death. Her body initially was kept to the right of the altar of Kildare Cathedral with the tomb adored with precious gems but in 878 during the Scandinavian raids her relics were moved to the tomb of St. Patrick and St. Columba in 1185 John de Courcy had her remains relocated in Co. Down Cathedral. Her skull is in the Church of St. John the Baptist in Portugal. The inscription on the tomb reads, "here in these 3 tombs lie the 3 Irish knights who brought the head of St. Bridget, a virgin, native of Ireland, and whose relics are preserved in this chapel.

Some miracles associated with St. Bridget.

One day she was traveling to see a physician for her headaches. She stayed at the house of a couple who had two mute daughters. The daughters were traveling with St. Bridget and her horse got startled causing her to hit her head on a stone. A touch of St. Bridget's blood healed the girls and they started to speak. On Easter Sunday a leper had come to St. Bridget to ask for a cow. She asked if he could wait for awhile, he said, I can't wait and I will go somewhere else. She offered to heal him, he said, no please don't because with my condition I acquire more from people and if I'm healed I won't. After convincing him to wash in blessed water he was cured and vowed to serve her all the days of his life.

The story of St. Bridget's cross is that she was beside her father on his deathbed to calm and console him. As she sat there she picked up rushes from the floor and began weaving them into the distinctive cross pattern. As she explained the meaning of the cross to him he asked to be baptized as a Christian just before he passed away. It is customary on the eve of her feast day to

make and put up a St. Bridget's cross over the front door. It is believed to protect the house from evil and fire.

Food associated with St. Bridget's Day is colcannon (cabbage, potatoes, leeks and parsley) and boxty (potato pancakes).

There is a school named St. Bridget's in Loves Park, IL and a beautiful cathedral in Manhattan, New York.

Prayer is simple it's communication with God. Jesus taught us about the importance of prayer, it's recorded in the Gospels 17 times that Jesus stopped to pray by himself. Whenever, I think I'm not behaving in a charitable way I say a little prayer to St. Bridget to remind me to give back and be thankful.

La Fheile Bride Sona Duit~Happy St. Bridget's Day

Gaelic for the month:
Kildare-Chill dara charity-carthanas
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Seanfhocail for the month:
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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Sticking with Stocks

The stock market has experienced a sell off recently. A lackluster year just ended, and this year has started unfavorably. You may be wondering ... should you really be invested in stocks right now? Yes, you should be. In moments like these, investors should

not panic and overreact to the headlines. Instead, they should take the long view of stock market investing. Impulsive selling now can lead an investor to try and time the market later, and market timing usually leads investors to make mistakes.

Stock market investing is a long-run

proposition. On a bad day, it may seem like the whole market is falling apart - but stock market performance is not measured only in days. Even with their poor showing in 2015, stocks have advanced notably in the last three years.

In the 88 market years from 1928-2015, the S&P had 63 profitable years with its average yearly gain being 21.5%. So across the rough equivalent of a human lifetime, the S&P 500 has advanced on an annual basis 72% of the time. Looking at the 74 possible 15-year intervals of S&P performance occurring during 1928-2015, roughly 60% of these periods have seen the S&P post a compound return of 10% or better. During 1985-99, the index's compound return was a striking 18.3%.

Yes, there have been down years for stocks, and severe ones among them - think of 2008. There have also been great years, and more positive years than negative ones. You have to take the good years with the bad. It is simply part of stock market investing. Those who sell when the market is down often buy back in well after the market recovers. Selling low and buying high is a formula for disappointment. Staying invested through market downturns positions you to buy quality shares when they are cheaper, and when stocks rally, you are

in the market and ready to benefit.

If you are unaware of the volatility of the stock market, you have been misinformed. Stock market volatility is normal and large intra year movements are quite common. You're allocation to stocks should be for the long term, think asset allocation. The stock portion is the growth portion, the 10-15 year + money. The fixed income or bond portion is the preservation and interest earning piece.

A particular headline or economic indicator may jolt the market on a particular day, but you are not invested for one day - you are investing for the long term. We have many positive signs in our economy - solid hiring, appreciable wage growth, steady consumer spending, a strong housing market - and they may lead to better corporate earnings in 2016. So be patient; better days may be ahead for the market.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. Phone: 312-239-1317 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or Financial Planning.

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Herself

By *Katheryn Morley*

Millennial Micks-er

The other day, my mother made a comment to me about how I should create some sort of Irish American group on Facebook in order to "collect Irish American men and women," suggesting I create a dating pool. While I laughed off this idea, it got me thinking of the myriad ways that the times have changed (although, mothers have not). With such advanced technology, it seems that we have only become more solitary. We can go on social media and converse with anyone around the world, but many, young people especially, seem to have lost the ability to socialize in the real world. We can order food online without speaking to anyone on the phone, stream movies at home so that we don't have to go to the theatre, and more and more people are dating online. I've been told by friends that this is the only way to date anymore, that it is no longer strange, and that everyone is doing it. I agree, it does seem like most single people are at least trying online dating, but it still seems awkward to me. Alas, I am apparently a "Millennial" – the term applied to the generation born in the 80's and 90's – and I must adapt. According to the Pew Research Center, though, only a quarter of Millennials are married. Young people are waiting much longer to get married now and often for good reason, they want to finish school and establish a career and they have hefty student loans making their financial situation unstable, but sadly, I think many have simply given up on the sacrament of marriage. This could be because, according to Pew, a third of the Millennial population does not believe in religion.

Gone are the days when you could go to a dance at your parish and mingle with other young Irish Americans, most of whom would be known by some family member or close friend. So, where does that leave the young adults who do believe in Catholic marriage? In the sea of online dating, I suppose, hoping to find someone who shares their views. Out of curiosity, I searched the internet for "Irish American dating," and found almost nothing. I did come across a website called CatholicMatch.com, which I browsed in the name of research. I found there were only two matches for me in the Chicago area. Pretty bleak if you ask me! Of course, you could use any of the other popular dating websites and specify the exact



type of person you are looking for. I did this on Match.com, but again, found that when I specified that I only wanted to view those that stated their faith as Catholic, my search results were significantly smaller. Additionally, many of the profiles said things like Catholic and laughing about it, which is an option that you can place after your religion of choice. A large portion of people had Agnostic as their religion, which I suppose is better than Atheism, but still not very encouraging.

Millennials have been referred to as "Generation Me" because it is said that we need to get what we want. The internet has been a large part of that. I can order something on Amazon.com and have it delivered the same day without having to step foot outside of my house, which is pretty amazing. However, dating will never be that simple. Even if I can keep an application on my phone that is searching for matches for me at all times, I eventually have to speak to these people and meet them. This, after I've read over all their interests and hobbies and viewed their most flattering pictures, of course, and they've done the same to me. And then, after all that, it could happen that I meet them and we have no chemistry whatsoever and we've both wasted our time. Does this make dating more efficient? I don't know. I suppose if you are really good at scoping out profiles and weeding out the ones that won't work in real life, it could be. But how can you really know until you've met someone face to face and interacted with them? I fear that dating in the technology age has become really superficial. Many apps allow you to view only a picture of the potential date and then you swipe left or right to say whether you are interested or not. Looks, of course, are likely always the first thing to attract you to someone, but in an online setting it becomes the focus. And since there are so many people all over the world online dating, there will always be someone new and more attractive to imagine your future with.

I don't mean to bash online dating, that is not my intention. I think these websites can bring people together who wouldn't otherwise have met and can lead to really happy relationships. I have been encouraged to try them and I would encourage others to do the same. However, in my experience online dating was simultaneously overwhelming and underwhelming. Overwhelming in that you are so bombarded with pictures, profiles, messages, and matches that it is hard to decide who might be worth get-

ting to know. And underwhelming in that I wasn't able to find what I was really looking for, at least in the time that I spent perusing. Perhaps with more time and energy I would have discovered a plethora of potentials. Or perhaps, being a Millennial, I feel I should get what I want and won't settle for anything less, especially considering that my generation has put less pressure on themselves to get married, despite how our mothers might disagree. Still, I can't help but feel nostalgic for an era that I was never a part of, in which there were tight-knit communities and people met and courted each other the old-fashioned way. For me, online dating is like streaming a movie at home, it is convenient and easy, but it will never be the same as going to the theatre and seeing it on the big screen.



Paul Byrom at McGonigals in Barrington Feb 20

Paul Byrom is returning to American audiences for a very limited time this February! Byrom says, "I am excited to bring you The Great Irish Songbook! This show is my tip of the hat to all the great Irish songs and songwriters who have come from my small country. It is sure to appeal to all and conjure many emotions!"

Tickets are just \$30 each and include a COMPLIMENTARY Meet & Greet with Paul Byrom. Tickets and details can be found online at <http://paulbyrom.ticketleap.com>.

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(l to r): Jay Doherty, President of the City Club of Chicago; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos and former Governor Pat Quinn.

"Thank you to the City Club of Chicago and sponsors for hosting the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and allowing us the forum to share our important message," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "We have an obligation to serve our residents and taxpayers and tell our story of how we strive each day to protect our water environment and serve as global leaders in improving our planet." President Spyropoulos' speech touched on MWRD's history, beginning with the reversal of the Chicago River, followed by a century of growth and ambitious engineering feats, including the latest MWRD marvel—the Thornton Composite Reservoir—which is the largest of its kind in the world, preventing flooding and pollution in area waterways. The President invited all participants and the public to tour the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, the largest wastewater treatment facility in the world. Please contact 312-751-6633 to schedule a tour.

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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



count for what we did for an entire year can be an arduous task, however, I must admit I actually quite

enjoy it. As we rush around from one challenge to the next we forget to pause for a little reflection on exactly what is we are doing and more importantly, why we are doing it. I find writing the annual report and the data gathering that goes into it, provides a great opportunity for such reflection. While at my desk working on the annual report in the midst of an entire year's worth of files and records, a thought crossed my mind. If on occasion I need an opportunity to think more about the work we do at CIIS, then there's a good chance that the Irish community of Chicago could use a reminder of what it is that we do too! This month I'd like to tell you about some of the larger social service projects we undertook in 2015.

As many of you are aware we host senior groups at the IAHC and Chicago Gaelic Park. At these meetings we gather together the older folks of our community to share in some good conversation and to learn something new together. At the groups we enjoy educational programs, cultural activities, and a chance for some laid back social interaction. We think of the groups as means of keeping connected to our community, our peers, and our heritage. Over the course of 2015 CIIS hosted at total of 38 senior group meetings with a combined attendance rate of 929 (this is the number of visits to our groups rather than the number of individual seniors that attended).

In addition to our senior groups we also work on an individual basis with isolated seniors who are in need of some additional support. We generally work with these people in their homes by providing home visits, case management services, and access to benefits. Our goal is to build relationships with isolated seniors and work collaboratively with them to make positive changes to their situation. Often we work with individual seniors over the course of months or even years. In 2015 we conducted 178 home visits to isolated seniors.

Last year Chicago Irish Immigrant Support headed up a committee of dedicated community members to stage the first ever Darkness into Light Chicago. This event was run in conjunction with Ireland based charity Pieta House which offers support to those affected by suicide

or self-harm. Darkness into Light is a 5k walk that takes begins while it is still dark outside but as participants finish the walk dawn is breaking, representing the journey of those struggling with suicide and depression from the darkness of those feelings into the bright hope of a new day. The walk was a great success both as a well-attended event and as a mean of getting the Irish community talking about the often ignored issues of suicide and self-harm. We can't wait to take what we learned last year and created an even more successful DIL 2016!

CIIS also continues to provide training

for Irish social workers who come to us as to complete the field placements that form a cornerstone of their social work education. While with us the students are afforded a unique opportunity to understand the Irish immigrant experience here in the USA as well as chances to work with our seniors. In 2015 we were fortunate enough to have three Irish social work students intern with us.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our social services programs please call me –

Paul Dowling – on 773 282 8445.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



Hello Everybody,

Sorry I haven't been able to keep in touch of late. I am very much involved in the Mary Boyle case and have been for, it seems like almost a lifetime. We are at a critical point right now, after all these years. There will be a documentary on Mary, which will be shown on UTV. Probably in February and I will let Joe know the exact date, so he can keep you informed through the Facebook and the paper etc. It's sad that our country has so many skeletons in it's cupboard. Hope everyone is keeping well and I send my good wishes for the new year.

Your friend Margo,

Over to you Joe

Thank you Margo,

We wish you success in the Mary Boyle case. It's very sad that this has dragged on and been covered up for so long.

I think I mentioned in a previous month about meeting a young man called Jordan Moge, from Ballymoney, Co Antrim. He was 21 when I met him in Armagh at an awards show last summer. The show had a fantastic line-up including our own Irish performers and some American performers. The show was called Nashville meets Ireland. A great show, and as I sat there listening to Jordan singing, I just said "Wow" to myself. The place went silent and this young mans voice captured every ones attention. I don't like using the expression stealing the show because every artist has something very special to offer. Having said that I was so impressed with Jordan and he just really stood out of the crowd. When I was leaving I saw him sit-

ting outside with his mother and I introduced myself and he said he knew me, (which felt good).

Before I left he said I

have a hook line (term used in song writing for title or idea) It was "We Called It A Day Last Night". We wrote the song over the faceBook messaging back and forth. Since then we have written many songs. I'm delighted to have him on the phone right now, to do an interview.

Joe - Hello Jordan and thank you for taking time out to speak with me. : Jordan - My pleasure Joe. : Joe - For a young man you pick guitar, sing and write as if from your soul. : Jordan - I've been called an old soul many times Ha! Ha!, I just tell them "I was born old". : Joe - Ha! Ha! well it certainly shines through. Who are your favorite Irish and American performers? : Jordan - My hero's over here would be Brian Coll and Big Tom etc. In America Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Vernon Gosdin to name a few. : Joe - Do you plan to visit United States? : Jordan - I'm planning a visit to Nashville later this year. : Joe - Well you will be very welcome in Chicago if you make it this far : Jordan - I would love that and to get to soak up all the atmosphere. : Joe - What is the scene in Ireland like these days? : Jordan - The scene is exploding at the moment with young talent. There seems to be something for everyone. Like dances, concerts and traditional music is still alive and well. : Joe - Thats great, I got a taste of some of it when I was home last summer. People have asked me what is the name of your new album and can they get it over here : Jordan - The album is called "Alone With You". I know Sharpe records have it and they ship overseas and Irish Music UK also have

Continued on next page

This month's senior group meetings

Each month Chicago Irish Immigrant Support hosts senior group meetings at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details on upcoming events. All senior meetings begin at 10am. There is no cost and refreshments will be served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call our office on 773-282-8445.

Wednesday, 3rd February – IAHC 1916: A Way to Remember

This week we are joined by Grace Odumasu of Dublin as we continue our 1916 commemoration programming with an exploration of the 1916 rising; The reasons it happened, the rising itself, and what happened after. This is a creative cultural experience through the medium of theatre, music and art

Wednesday, 10th February – GAELIC PARK - Consulate General of Ireland

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising – a crucial event on the path to Irish freedom. This week we continue our 1916 programming as we are joined by the new Consulate General of Ireland Orla McBreen who will give a talk and take questions on Ireland's commemorative program for this very significant moment in Irish history.

Wednesday, 17th February – IAHC & Wednesday 24th February – Gaelic Park Annual Fraud Update

It's time for our annual fraud update. Every day, scammers are coming up with new ways to try to trick people out of their hard earned money. If we are to avoid becoming the victims of their scams, we must stay well informed. To give us all the updates, we welcome a representative from the State's Attorney's Office who will teach us about the new tricks being used by con artists and how we can better protect ourselves from fraud.

The Year that Was

Although I like think of the begging of a new year as a time to look forward, I found myself spending a great deal of time this January looking back over the year just gone. Each January I write Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's annual social services report for the previous year. Compiling the figures and information necessary to create a comprehensive ac-

it. There is a couple of singles on iTunes also. : Joe - Well Jordan, I really appreciate you talking to me. I wish we could chat longer. We have written so many songs together lately and I love them all. So I will let you pick one for this month. : Jordan - Thank you Joe for the interview and a big shout out to everyone in the U.S. It's hard to choose one song but I think the one we wrote recently about your friend Marty, "Marty's Gone" is my choice.

I was telling Jordan about a guy I got to know who lived under a viaduct just off the ramp for North Ave, Chicago. Just off the Kennedy express way. I would give him a dollar as I passed by heading to my cousins house. I got to know him and his name was Marty. I never got to know his surname. Anyway sometimes I would stop and talk

for a while with him and found him a very interesting person with a very gentle nature. Then I had a problem with my US immigration status and had to leave America. When I returned, I thought of Marty and decided to take a drive down, to see if he was still around. Sadly he was gone and I felt like I had lost someone very dear to me. I told Jordan the story and how this man had affected me. Marty was a veteran and like so many others was shown no respect. Jordan must have been affected by what I told him. So much so, he starting to write a song about it and then we put our heads together and this is our tribute to a forgotten gentleman. Marty. R.I.P.

Until next Month. Be good to one another.

Joe, Margo and Jordan

Marty's Gone

Written by Joe McShane and Jordan Moge

Verse 1

First time I ever saw him, he was sitting all alone,
A homeless man that no one knew, just like a bag of bones,
He was always warm and thankful, though life had left him cold,
So I flipped him a dollar, you'd thought I'd gave him gold.

Verse 2

Thank you sir for stopping, the first words that he spoke,
I told him that a dollar, wasn't gonna leave me broke
So any day I'd take that ramp by the Kennedy express
I'd shoot the breeze with Marty and leave him feeling blessed

Verse 3

After years away I was back to town and Marty came to mind,
So I searched beneath that big old bridge but nowhere could I find,
I asked around about him, but they said they didn't know,
I told them if he came back, the man who called was Joe.

Verse 4

I couldn't help but fear the worst, and a tear rolled from my eye
I trembled at the very thought, that Old Marty went and died,
This man of manners and respect, throughout life's lonely trials,
This man who always welcomed me, with one big shining smile.

Chorus

He was just a bum upon the street, A loser in this life,
But he fought for his country, beneath the stars and stripes,
Is this how men of courage are honored by the state,
No heroes funeral he received, no friends to congregate

Verse 6

These cold Chicago city streets, ain't all they're cracked up to be,
I've seen people turn their heads away, for they don't want to see,
The likes of my friend Marty, on the sorry side of life,
But once he had a happy home, and wife

Bridge (spoken)

I was raised to never judge another persons different ways
Or folks like my friend Marty, the heroes of the day

A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Pope Francis, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and our own shepherd, Archbishop Cupich, have all spoken out about the horrors of violence in our communities and its great threat to human life and human dignity. To be sure, ending neighborhood violence can seem insurmountable, and it may very well take a multi-pronged, sweeping approach with law enforcement and policy changes at the federal, state and local levels.

But as our Catholic leaders remind us, promoting peace and stability in our neighborhoods is not just about big sweeping reforms, it is also about the small changes that can happen each day in individual lives. Pope Francis designated this time as a special Jubilee Year of Mercy because our turbulent world desperately needs the transformative power of mercy. The Holy Father has called on each of us to be instruments of God's mercy, and to bring hope and help to our brothers and sisters who need it most, especially those facing threats to human life and human dignity.

Last fall, Catholic Charities released a report on Violence and Poverty, explaining how too often, experiencing violence goes hand-in-hand with living in poverty (www.catholiccharities.net/publications). While violence is certainly not limited to communities and persons in poverty, there is a very clear and unfortunate correlation between the instability and despair of poverty and the desperation of violence. Violence breeds where there is a lack of basic resources and no hope for the future. Violence is a learned behavior and it can sadly become a way of life in some communities; violent acts nearly always bring about more violence.

At Catholic Charities, our goal is to compassionately and

mercifully bring the resources and the hope that can transform lives and promote healthy communities. Catholic Charities' 164 service sites are located in some of the most troubled areas in Cook and Lake counties. Our programs are designed to target the specific needs of embattled neighborhoods, providing safe and supportive environments for children, families, veterans, refugees, seniors, and individuals with a variety of unmet needs. As we chip away at poverty and despair, we are slowly promoting stability and improving communities...one person, one family at a time.

An example of this is Catholic Charities' new partnership with the Peace Corner in the Austin neighborhood. We are excited that the Peace Corner will now be incorporated under the Catholic Charities umbrella, adding to our presence in the Austin community. The center will bring job training and employment placement, fitness and sports programs, nutrition programs,

and a variety of other services to people in an area that truly needs help. The Peace Corner is possible because of generous donors, and the volunteer support it will receive from St. Martin de Porres Parish and Christ the King High School. The support and involvement of the faithful is absolutely critical to the Peace Corner, as it is to each and every one of the programs Catholic Charities provides for people in need throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. We do our work together with you.

Violence can have a ripple effect: violence begets violence. But Christ's love is an antidote: kindness begets kindness. When the complications of poverty or violence overwhelms, think of Blessed Mother Teresa who showed us to very humbly offer our smile, love, and comfort to one person at a time. As she so eloquently stated "...there are many people who can do big things. But there are few people who will do the small things." So as Archbishop Cupich and the Holy Father have asked us during the Year of Mercy, and especially during this Lenten Season, let's use the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a guide to do the small things that together can have a big impact.

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Mick

Mike Morley



Long Division

Just over 200 years ago on JAN. 8 1815, U.S. General Andy Jackson achieved an astounding victory in the "forgotten" War of 1812. Jackson and some 4000 American volunteers and militia crushed a superior force of 10,000 British Army and Royal Marines, part of a larger Royal Navy fleet manned by 18,000 veterans of the world's most powerful military machine which had just defeated Napoleon, greatest military genius of the time. These troops had left America's new capitol at Washington City (now D.C.) in ashes only four months earlier. So why is 1912 America's "forgotten war"?

The Battle of New Orleans is often dismissed as unimportant because the U.S. and Britain had signed a peace treaty at Ghent, Belgium on December 24, 1814, 15 days before the battle. But that ignores the fact that the treaty was not official until ratified by the U.S. Senate and signed by President Madison. Ratification did not occur until February 16, 1815, more than a month after the battle.

That assault on New Orleans was planned long before British commissioners joined the peace talks in January 1814. British foreign secretary Lord Castlereagh boasted that once the large seaport towns of America were "laid in ashes" and New Orleans captured, the British would command "all the rivers of the Mississippi valley and the Lakes (making) the Americans little better than prisoners in their own country."

Britain had allied with Native American tribes, seeking to create a vast Indian nation across Native lands in Ohio and the Indi-

ana and Michigan Territories, designed to block American expansion west of the Mississippi. A buffer state would rise between a 13-state U.S. and the rest of the continent, including

Canada.

Peace talks were begun in January, 1814, but Britain dragged out negotiations all year. Pursuing its customary "divide and conquer" strategy employed so successfully in Ireland, Britain hoped to capture New Orleans, cut America in two, and block the new nation's access West beyond the Mississippi and South into the Caribbean. A buffer state would rise between a 13-state U.S. and the rest of the continent, including Canada. The east coast would easily be controlled by the British sea power.

The treaty was finally signed at Ghent on Christmas Eve, 12 days after the British fleet arrived east of New Orleans at Lake Borgne. News from Ghent took more than six weeks to reach Washington by ship. Meanwhile, the British North American Army, commanded by Major General Pakenham, advanced on New Orleans. The outcome of the battle would decide whether America could grow into a superpower, or remain a third-rate state. Pakenham had reportedly been promised an earldom and carried in his dispatch case a commission as governor of Louisiana.

New England's prosperous Yankee merchants, suffering from a U.S. imposed embargo against British goods, were against the war. Unemployment was high and the federal government nearly bankrupt. Massachusetts refused to release troops to help President Madison, and except for Governor Gilman of New Hampshire, most other federal requisitions for state militia were denied by the states. Madison, in turn, sent no troops to defend New England from

British and Native attacks. Massachusetts Governor Strong attempted to negotiate a separate peace with Britain, while Nantucket Quakers signed a neutrality agreement. Britain encouraged the secession fever, and every Eastern newspaper but one called for expelling western states from the union. Leaders across New England, mainly Federalists, met in secret session at Hartford, Connecticut, threatening to secede and trash the world's first and only democratic union, in existence barely 30 years.

Deliberately sketchy records were kept of the secret Hartford Convention, and its final draft did not mention secession. Massachusetts sent three commissioners to Washington to present the terms, but by then General Jackson had blasted the bejaesus out



The USA, had the British taken New Orleans

of the most powerful army in the world and sent it packing (along with the Federalist Party) with the help of what both England and New England would agree were the dregs of society- "a motley rabble of saucy boys, Negroes and molattoes, Irish teagues and outlandish jack tarrs"- as founding father John Adams called a similar group of "common" Americans 45 years before, in defense of British soldiers who shot them off the street in the Boston Massacre.

Had Britain and America's Eastern elites been successful, The U.S. might have ended up looking like the map attached, reduced to a third rate nation under Britain's thumb once more. Can anyone seriously believe that had Pakenham taken New Orleans January 8th that Britain would not eagerly have nullified a treaty not yet confirmed by the U.S.? Again the question: why is the war forgotten? Was it overshadowed by the Civil War 50 years later? Was it due to the US wanting to 'make nice' with Britain? Did Eastern elites and press want to bury their shame and the reality that a backwoods brawler saved their quivering skins?

The principal players in Louisiana's life-and-death drama were raised in occupied Ireland. Major General Edward Pakenham was born in Westmeath, and took part in

the brutal suppression of Ireland's 1798 rebellion. Pakenham was the brother-in-law of Dublin-born Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, who, five months after the British rout at New Orleans, ended Napoleon's imperial career at Waterloo.

General John Keane, 1st Baron Keane GCB GCH, born in Belmont, County Offlay, was the second son of Sir John Keane, 1st Baronet, Member of the Parliament of Ireland, later member of the UK parliament when England abolished Ireland's parliament outright after the '98 United Irish rebellion.

Major-General Robert Ross from Rostrevor, County Down, who oversaw the burning of Washington, was killed near Baltimore September 12 by an American sharpshooter.

Having burned Washington in August 1814, the British tried capturing Baltimore on their way down to New Orleans, launching a fierce bombardment on Fort MCHenry. We hail the survival of the fort and its "broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight" in our national anthem. But it took nearly 100 years and an executive order by President Wilson in 1916 to make the anthem official. And yet another 15 years passed before Herbert Hoover in 1931 confirmed the order in law.

Andrew Jackson was born near Lancaster, South Carolina. His parents, and two older brothers, Hugh and Robert, had emigrated from Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. Jackson's father, also Andrew, died shortly before Andrew's birth. His mother hoped he'd become a Presbyterian minister. Andrew had little time for religion and preferred fighting, cursing and hell-raising. At 13 he went off with his brothers to fight the British. His oldest brother Hugh died of heat stroke following a battle, and in 1781 both Andrew and his brother Robert were captured. When Andrew refused to polish the boots of British Major Coffin, he was nearly killed by Coffin, who slashed Jackson across the face with his sword. In prison Andrew and Robert contracted smallpox, from which Robert died shortly after. Mrs. Jackson then died of cholera contracted while nursing American soldiers. An orphan at 14, Andrew had developed a deep, abiding hatred of the British. (TO BE CONTINUED...)

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Comcast: NORTH suburbs: Channel 19 or 35: Tuesday, 6PM WEST suburbs: Channel 19 Tues., 7:30 The 1916/2016 commemorative pin advertised in this issue is being offered to defray the costs of bringing you "Mick" and Irish entertainment and other items via cable TV and internet. 2016 is our 29th year.

The Commemorative 1916/2016 Easter Lily Pin

Easter Lily pins are worn throughout Ireland to honor and commemorate the men and women of 1916 who gave their lives for Irish Freedom. This high quality 100th Anniversary Irish Rising Pin is 16 to 18 carat gold plated, inlaid with oven bonded hard enamel and is available now for only

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Guilty Pleasures

Christine Gallagher Kearney



Being in Belfast over Christmas and New Year made me realize how much I miss things. Friends and family notwithstanding, I found I had been longing for Michael's Mummy's Sunday roast.

Not long after we returned for our holiday visit, Mummy sensed our longing and invited us for dinner without Michael suggesting the idea.

When we arrived at the snug bungalow, she was busy in the steamy kitchen, fussing over the stove. All four burners were lit with pots of vegetables simmering away and gravy warming for the potatoes. My father-in-law was slicing the beef with an electric kitchen knife; his wiener dog Henry sat eagerly at his feet waiting for a stray scrap to fall onto the floor.

Soon everything was ready and Mummy summoned us to the table. We sat cozily together catching up after months apart as we tucked into the lovingly made dinner.

Later, when my father-in-law and I were washing the dishes after dinner – a ritual we've cultivated over the years – we found the carrots and parsnips accidentally abandoned in

a pot on the stove. In all the commotion of having her son and daughter-in-law home for dinner, Mummy had forgotten to put the sweet root vegetables on the table.

The Sunday roast tradition strongly stuck with me. In Chicago, when my own parents still lived in the Windy City, we continued the feast with a Midwest flair. Often that meant my Dad would fire up the grill on the back porch and cook a steak "to perfection" as he likes to do no matter the weather. Mom would make a salad or savory vegetable dish and I would peel apples for an apple pie made from scratch. Michael would soak up all the steak grilling tips from my Dad while sharing a Scotch on the rocks with the next-door neighbor.

One year, after returning home from the holidays where we'd spent a portion of our time in Yorkshire, Michael got it in his head that he wanted home-baked Yorkshire puddings. So I wasn't surprised when Michael asked my Mom, who is an excellent baker, to take on the challenge of coaxing flour, eggs, milk and water into a savory bread not unlike a New England popover. The first few attempts were not as she hoped. The puddings would look amazing in the oven: golden brown and fluffy, but upon leaving the heat they would deflate and go soggy. After fits and starts she refined the recipe and achieved a gorgeous end result.

"You have to resist the urge to open the oven while

they are cooking," she told me. She also advised me to let the batter rest all day.

Now, with no family within hundreds of miles of us, Michael and I keep the ritual alive most winter Sundays. There's something special about setting aside time on a Sunday to prepare a delicious, home-cooked meal. My kitchen fills with the rich aroma of roasting beef, the sweet smell of bright orange carrots and of course, Brussels sprouts and potatoes.

The 'meat and two veg rule' is something the Kearney family lives by, but sometimes we'll break from tradition and have a curry dish or stir-fry. What remains constant is the extra time and attention dedicated to this heart-warming early evening feast.



Cathy's Take on Yorkshire Puddings

(Adapted slightly from Elaine Lemm's Yorkshire Puddings recipe.)

4 large, fresh eggs, measured into bowl, jug or Pyrex
 Equal quantity of milk to your measured eggs
 Equal quantity of all purpose / plain flour to measured eggs
 Pinch of salt
 1/2 tsp. peanut oil per muffin tin section

Measure equal parts eggs, milk and flour. Then beat milk, eggs and salt until mixed (should be light and airy). Slowly add in flour through a sieve. Thoroughly beat mixture again; eliminate any lumps in the batter. Let stand for two hours or more on the kitchen counter.

Heat oven to 450 F. Place 1/2 tsp. peanut oil in each hole of a 12-hole muffin tin. Place tray in oven until peanut oil is smoking then remove from oven. Whisk the batter while adding a bit of water and then place equal measure of the batter in each muffin tin hole. Return tray to oven and bake for 20 minutes. Do not open the oven during the baking process. Switch on your oven light and peer through the glass window to check on the puddings.

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Countryside's Inaugural St. Patrick's Day Parade

The City of Countryside is a wonderful place to raise a family and it's been named the 4th best place to open a business in Illinois. We want to bring both together for the City's first St. Patrick's Day Family Parade on Saturday, March 5, 2016. The City, Countryside Business Association, International Operating Engineers, Local 150 and Kenny's Irish Pub are co-sponsors of this event. The parade route will be one mile ending with a post party at Kenny's Irish Pub including musical entertainment and Irish dancers. See parade route map below.

Please consider participating in the parade by becoming a sponsor, providing a float and/or marching with us. Enclosed for your convenience is the application form and waiver which must be completed and returned no later than February 12, 2016. Below are the sponsorship details:

\$500 Pot O' Gold Sponsor (name on website, banners and shirts and entrance fee)

\$250 Emerald Sponsor (name on banners and entry fee)

\$100 Shamrock (Entry fee for non-profits)

All proceeds will benefit the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Foundation.

Rules for the parade, additional registration forms, and ongoing parade updates can be found on the City's website www.countryside-il.org. Please contact me directly at 708-655-9828 or

parade@countryside-il.org if you have any

Celtic Cross For Sale Proceeds to Benefit Church

Terry Meehan, owner of the Fiddler's Hearth in South Bend Indiana, commissioned a sculptor to duplicate the Celtic cross he made for his beloved Saint Patrick Church in South Bend. Size is 30 1/2" tall; 11 1/2 wide.

It is of solid white Carrara marble that came from the steps of the churches old pulpit that lofted over the altar. Terry was on the Parish Council and was

baptized at Saint Patrick in '49. His grandparents were parishioners and his sister was married at this consecrated Gothic church made by Irish emigrants.

Terry would like to sell this Celtic Cross with all of the proceeds going to benefit Saint Patrick Church in South Bend.

If you would like to contact Terry, email him at safetyconsultant@msn.com.





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Social Scene

There's so much to do this February at the Center, and our social dances are a great way to beat the winter doldrums.

Valentine's Day Dance and Party

Love is in the air in the Fifth Province at our Valentine's Day Dance and Party.

Enjoy live music with The Two Joes (Joe Cullen and Joe McShane) and a cash bar,



while you meet up with old friends or that special someone. The Valentine's Day Dance and Party is Sunday, February 14 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm and tickets are \$10.

Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

The Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance is an annual green tie affair, and is THE official kick-off to the St. Patrick's Day season at the IAHC.

The ninth annual celebration features dancing, live music with Gerry Haughey and Kara Eadie, raffle prizes and dinner catered by Harrington's Deli and Catering. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage, chicken, vegetables and desserts. A cash bar will be available.

The dance is Sunday, March 6 from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40. An early bird special is available through February 15 for those who want to purchase a table of ten. The cost is \$350 and only 10 tables will be available at this first-come, first-served discounted price.

Reservations must be made by February 29 and tickets will not be sold at the door.

To purchase tickets for both dances, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

In the Fifth Province

Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions continue by the fireplace this February. The evenings begin at 6pm with the taping of our radio show, *The Craic with Cooney and Keane*, that airs each Saturday night at 8pm on WSBC 1240AM. Become a part of our live studio audience. At 6:30pm, musicians can learn a tune at our workshop, led by the evening's session leaders.

At 7pm, the music begins and runs until 9pm. Food and drink is available for purchase and the sessions are free. If you are interested in supporting the sessions by becoming a Session Sponsor, contact Kathleen Keane at business@kathleenkeane.com.

Friday Night Fish Fry

Our Friday Night Fish Fry returns to the Fifth Province during Lent. Dinner consists of fried cod, fries, a vegetable and cole slaw. The cost is \$12 for adults and children are \$8. IAHC members receive \$1 off of their meal with a valid membership card. Families can enjoy a meal together and children can watch two movies each week. The Fish Fry runs from February 12-March 25 from 6:30pm to 9pm. Live music begins at 8pm.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Celebrate all things Irish at our annual St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the Center.

On Saturday, March 12, join us for the St. Patrick's Festival from 1pm to midnight. At our St. Patrick's Festival, highlights include live music, dance performances, food and drink for purchase, children's activities and a craft fair, with vendors



Irish language lessons, an art exhibit, genealogy workshops and a book sale.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 10. Children 12 and under are free.

The fun continues in the Fifth Province with the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Thursday, March 17.



selling Irish gifts. Visit the Library, Art Gallery and Museum for programming and exhibits, such as films,

The day features music, dance, food and drink for purchase and face painting for children. The party is from 1pm to midnight and tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free. Mass is at 11am.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting calling the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or by visiting the IAHC Office.

Culture Corner

The Center is bustling with cultural activities this February. Join us for theatre, music and education offerings.

Staged Play Readings

Shapeshifters Theatre continues its Staged Readings in Fifth Province on the first Monday of each month. Wrapping up Sean O'Casey's *Dublin Trilogy* is the *The Plough and the Stars* on March 7. The play describes the evolution of life in a Dublin neighborhood, before and during the Easter Rising. The Fifth Province opens at 6pm for live music with Patrick and Karen Cannady, and the reading begins at 7pm. Tickets for the reading are \$10.

Irish Heritage Singers

As usual, The Irish Heritage Singers have a busy March with more than 6 appearances. The group will present songs commemorating the Irish in World War I, the 1916 Easter Uprising,

choral arrangements by U2 and Phil Coulter and other favorites for their annual St. Patrick's Day concerts. In addition to their concert on March 12 at 1:30pm at our St. Patrick's Festival, highlights are performances at Skokie Theatre on Sunday, March 6 at 3pm and on Friday, March 18 at 7:30pm at the Leela Arts Center in Des Plaines. For more information about the Singers and their March schedule, visit www.irish-american.org.

Celtic Women International

Author and speaker Rita Emmett presents *Mission Impossible: Three Weeks of Touring Ireland with Four Teen-Agers*. Emmett, well-known for her books and motivational talks on procrastination and clutter toured Ireland with four teens. She'll share stories of her adventures and mishaps. The talk is Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30pm.

President's Message

Just when you thought the New Year's celebrations were over, the Fifth Province held its inaugural Thursday Night Irish Music Session on January 7, under the direction of Kathleen Keane. A mighty session it was, featuring more than twenty musicians. We even had a special song bird fly in to lead a few sing-a-longs. It was more like an Irish symphony orchestrated by the finest talent in the Chicago area. More than one hundred



Uprising. 2016 is a special year in our Irish community. Several celebrations and activities area wide will honor the year 1916. The Center will host our remembrance in April. Stay tuned. Hyde Irish Whiskey is coming out with a version of single malt called "1916." I have asked them to have a tasting of it in the Fifth Province in a few months.

My good friend Steve McDonough bent my ear at the Christmas Bazaar. He complained that there were too few things for children to participate in at

members and friends gathered around the roaring fireplace and the circle of violins, guitars, whistles and bodhráns. It was a truly delightful display of culture via the sound of music. We had to turn down the fire because of all the heat generated by the passion of the musicians. The party continues every Thursday night at 6pm, when we tape our new radio show, *The Craic with Cooney & Keane*, hosted by myself and Kathleen Keane. The show airs on Saturday nights at 8pm on WSBC 1240AM, and you can get all the latest news at the Center and in the Irish community. At 6:30pm, we have a tune workshop to prep for the 7pm sessions. Join us for dinner or a pint, or bring your instrument to jump in and hang on.

Congratulations to St. Patrick's Day Parade IAHC Float chairman Michael Neary and his crew, who are responsible for our annual float, which rides in the Downtown and Northwest Side St. Patrick's Day parades. Our float won top honors in the 2015 downtown parade. If you want to proudly march with us, please join us. The parade will honor the 100 year mark of the Easter

the Center. So, I am proposing to start the Center's Kiddie Committee. I plan to have this committee invite the young members, neighbors and their children to color their eggs and meet the Easter Bunny in March. I plan on having a family picnic in the summer on the south lawn. In October, we'll have a family pumpkin carving and costume party. Let's have a coat drive around Thanksgiving, and my favorite; an invite to Santa's Workshop. Each family can bring unwrapped gifts for the children to help Santa wrap them to give to underprivileged children. We can continue the wonderful rule that it is better to give than it is to receive. These, of course, are all just plans in their infant stages. If you want to join this committee, email me at gcooney@irishahc.org. By the way, Steve McDonough, you are on this committee.

Our very tasty and popular Friday Fish Fry starts on February 12 and runs through Good Friday on March 25. Visit our website at www.irish-american.org for more information on this family event and all that takes place here at the Center.

Eugene M. Cooney
President

Annual Appeal Continues

Our Annual Appeal campaign continues this February. We have received many generous donations from our members and friends and will continue this campaign into Spring 2016. Each year, Pat and Peggy Burke pledge to match up to \$25,000 for the Appeal. We thank you for your anticipated generosity and will list donors through March 2016.

CENTER CHAMPION (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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ADVOCATE (100-\$249)
Anthony Barrett
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John M. and Camilla B. (Katie) Clarke
Coleman Conneely
Thomas J. Connolly
Peter D. Connolly
John Curry
Patrick and Patricia Gill, in honor of Geraldine Grant
Mike and Barbara Glynn
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Mike and Mary Pat Murphy
Mary Neary
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BYRNE AND KELLY, International Stars of CELTIC THUNDER IN CONCERT

Driven by vocal harmonies, the duo seamlessly blends traditional Irish and Americana to create a fresh, Celtic folk sound.

Saturday, April 9, 7:30pm, \$35

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

- 2/4 Thursday Night Irish Music Session
2/5 Ceili Mor
2/6 Larry Nugent and Bill O'Donoghue
2/11 Thursday Night Irish Music Session
2/12 the Tooles
2/13 RicoQuinn
2/18 Thursday Night Irish Music Session
2/19 Joe McShane
2/20 The Dooley Brothers
2/25 Thursday Night Irish Music Session
2/26 Gerry Haughey
2/27 John Devlin



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions are at 7pm and Friday and Saturday night music is at 8pm. (Note new starting time)

February Drink Special Guinness Nitro IPA \$5 Pints

Valid for the month of February 2016 only.

February 2016

February 1	<i>Juno and the Paycock</i> Staged Reading	Fifth Province Music 6pm/Reading 7pm
February 3	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304 10am
February 5	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province 8pm
February 6	Tea with Eleanor Roosevelt	Fifth Province 11am
	Shamrock American Club Dance	Sham Am Room 8pm
February 12	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province 6:30pm
February 13	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Fifth Province 8pm
February 14	Emmet Cahill Concert	Fifth Province 1:15pm
	Valentine's Day Dance and Party	Fifth Province 4:30pm
February 19	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province 6:30pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109 8pm
February 26	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province 6:30pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room 8pm
February 28	Genealogy Workshop	Library 1pm
	Great Irish Books Club - <i>Searching for Grace Kelly</i> by Michael Callahan	Library 1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby 4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208 9am-Noon
Tues	Memoir and Creative Writing Workshop	Library 4pm
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111 7:30-9:30pm
Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen 12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Watercolor Painting Class	Room 310 6:45pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208 7-10pm
Thurs	<i>The Craic with Kooney and Keane</i> Radio Show	Fifth Province 6pm
Thurs	Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions	Fifth Province tune workshop 6:30pm session 7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304 7pm
Thurs	Memoir and Creative Writing Workshop	Library 7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111 8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby 10am-8pm

Library Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Michael Boyle, Gene Cooney, Elizabeth Ellis, Michael Gibbons, Catherine Kelly, John Mahal, Natalie Miller, Peggy Murphy, Sheila Murphy

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Can You Spare a Euro for A Poor Old CEO?

I've spoken before in this column about my enormous respect for the work of Hand in Hand, the children's cancer charity that is based in the County Galway village of Oranmore, where I live.

In the two-and-a-half years since I discovered them, I've watched in awe as – completely against the odds – they have struggled to stay in existence whilst offering badly-needed practical assistance to families where a child has been diagnosed with cancer.

At times it has seemed that they are battling on all fronts: there are the day-to-day realities of a staff of two trying to organize assistance in counties throughout Ireland whilst simultaneously arranging fundraisers and events; and of course – thankless task -- trying to attract the attention and help of an uncaring government that shows precisely ZERO interest.

(It takes €250,000 a year to keep Hand in Hand going. The government may not want to hear about such an outrageous sum but it DID have no problem finding €13 MILLION to pledge to Syria. Ah well, our leaders do like to look good on the World Stage, bless them.)

As an occasional volunteer, I decided last year to write (as a private citizen) to Leo Varadkar, our Health Minister, in order to let him know how desperate for help the charity was.

And is. An assistant to Leo eventually wrote back to give me some vague waffle that at some stage his boss would be interested in meeting the CEO.

I guess that I hadn't made myself clear. Or else Leo (or his assistant) had completely missed the point; because if the charity were able to afford one of these overpaid CEOs then it wouldn't have to be going around with the begging bowl in the first place, now would it?

Coincidentally, I first came in contact with Hand in Hand in the same month that the scandal surrounding CEO Angela Kerins and Rehab surfaced. As I've said before, the damage that this appallingly greedy woman and those like her have done in the charity field is immeasurable. People look at ALL charities now – even tiny ones like Hand in Hand -- and wonder just how wisely their kind donation is being spent.

I mean, is it going to ease the suffering of a cancer patient or – oh, I don't know – pay for the petrol in somebody's BMW.

And here we go again this week as the Irish Cancer Society SPECTACULARLY shot itself in the foot – and once more has the person in the street start wondering if it's worth their while to be donating at all.

They announced to an incredulous public that they were withdrawing the fund from which they had been helping with the expenses of cancer patients and their families. Then, even more bizarrely, as they began to feel the anger directed towards them, they did a partial U-turn and reinstated the fund the VERY NEXT DAY – but only for children.

Nearly crying, they were, as they told us that this meant that they would have to find €200,000 this year.

Well, I wouldn't have thought that was beyond the realms of possibility. Let's see: they paid out 7.3 million to their staff in 2014, five of whom were taking home between €70,000 and €85,000 a year whilst another six were happily trousering anything from €85,000 up to €100,000.

As to the head honcho, CEO John McCormack – well, my heart's bleeding for him all right as he tries to make do on €145,000.

Now I know that I'm not clever enough to be a CEO like John; but I would have thought it wouldn't be TOO hard to come up with a

few Euros out of that lot to actually give to the people that the money is supposed to be getting raised for in the first place! I mean, these ARE charity workers, right? If they're not – if they're just another section of Corporate Ireland -- then they should say so and let the charitable public know just where they stand. Because at the moment they are beginning to feel as if they are getting treated like buck-eejits.

If this mini-turnaround was the most half-assed exercise in damage limitation that I've ever seen then it somehow got worse yesterday (15th January) when the bould McCormack magnanimously announced that he had decided to take a cut of €10,000 in his wages.

Too late, John. We're all now looking with great interest at what you and some of your compatriots are wheeling home -- in a very large wheelbarrow. To be honest, I think that someone who put in the incompetent week that you did should be handing in his notice, never mind taking a cut that's hardly likely to impoverish you.

Before the Society announced its embarrassing turnaround, having caused a sleepless night for hundreds of families, I took a walk over to the Hand in Hand office to ask Jennifer Carpenter what she thought of that baffling announcement. (Jennifer has been the mainstay of the charity for the last seven grueling years and takes home €27,000 a year – spot the difference?) She said:

"To be honest, Charley, we see it as yet one more devastating blow to families who are battling childhood cancer -- a group who are ALREADY severely under-represented in the charity sector.

"In fact, we would welcome talks with the society on how we could work with them to improve the level of

service and support offered. We've got all the necessary structures in place; we have the required high standards of governance; and we have the experience to manage such a fund."

And that sums up why I admire Hand in Hand so much. I happen to know that they have never had their backs to the wall as much as they have at the moment; and yet their first thoughts were about the gut-punch this gave to families at such a vulnerable point in their lives.

Here's one pleasant tale to wind up with. At the end of December Jennifer was looking into a particularly bleak 2016. Then, two days before Christmas she got word that the Tollman family, whose Red Carnation group are the owners of County Mayo's gorgeously restored Ashford Castle, had decided to donate €10,000. A wonderful gesture; and proof that Santa really was watching.

"We're obviously delighted with this generous donation", said Jennifer. "Due to funding constraints

we have recently been forced to develop a waiting list for families needing our support services and this figure will go a long way in eliminating that wait."

But the next three months are crucial ones for this charity and I wish them the best of luck in raising the €50,000 they need in order to keep supplying their invaluable services. A lot of families benefit from them. www.handinhand.ie

Before I go I have to say that I'm absolutely delighted at the stunning showing the Irish have this year at the Oscars. I'm a film fan as opposed to someone who gets excited about a bunch of luvvies queuing up for an award; but even I'm feeling pleased for actors Saoirse Ronan and Michael Fassbender, director Benjamin Cleary, producer Ed Guiney and writer Emma Donoghue. Good luck to all who are representing Ireland in February.

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

CALLING ALL BAKERS!



Cheesecake with an Irish Twist 3rd Annual Bake-Off

Sunday, February 28, 2016

2:00PM

O'Briens Restaurant, 1528 N. Wells St., Chicago

Eli's Cheesecake and O'Briens invite bakers to enter the "Cheesecake with an Irish Twist" Bake-off. Eli's currently makes Irish Cream and Irish Mint cheesecakes which are favorites at the St. Patrick Day Parade Queens Contest. Create your own unique cheesecake with an Irish twist and you could win a year's supply of Eli's! Your creation will be sold at Eli's Cafe and at O'Briens, to benefit Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

Cakes will be judged on originality of flavor and appearance. The winning recipe will be produced by Eli's bakery through the month of March, and will be available for sale at Eli's Cheesecake World retail store and served at O'Briens Restaurant, with proceeds from the winning cake sales will benefit Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Winner also receives one year supply of Eli's Cheesecake (one per month). Bakers should bring their entry and recipe to O'Briens on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 2 PM, and plan to stay to present their creations to the judges. Please note: Eli's prides itself on using the finest all natural ingredients. When baking the winning recipe, Eli's will interpret it as closely as possible using Eli's standard of ingredients.

To register: Visit www.elicheesecake.com/IrishBakeOff or call 773-308-7019

ON SALE NOW!

Paddy Moloney's The Chieftains and Special Guests

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 2,
2016
7:30PM**



Six-time Grammy Award winners, The Chieftains, have been highly recognized for reinventing traditional Irish music on a contemporary and International scale. Their ability to transcend musical boundaries to blend tradition with modern music has notably hailed them as one of the most renowned and revered musical groups to this day.

As cultural ambassadors, their performances have been linked with seminal historic events, such as being the first Western musicians to perform on the Great Wall of China, participating in Roger Water's "The Wall" performance in Berlin in 1990, and being the first ensemble to perform a concert in the Capitol Building in Washington DC. In 2010, their experimental collaborations extended to out of this world, when Paddy Moloney's whistle and Matt Molloy's flute travelled with NASA astronaut, Cady Coleman, to the international space station.

Although their early following was purely a folk audience, the range and variation of their music and accompanying musicians quickly captured a much broader audience.

2012 marked the group's 50th anniversary, and to celebrate this momentous occasion, The Chieftains once again invited friends from all musical styles to collaborate on their latest album, *Voice of Ages*. Featuring some of modern music's fastest rising artists (Bon Iver, The Decemberists and Paolo Nutini among them), this album is proof that their music transcends not only stylistic and traditional boundaries, but generational as well.

The Chieftains are never afraid to shock purists and push genre boundaries and the trappings of fame have not altered The Chieftains' love of, and loyalty to, their roots however- they are as comfortable playing spontaneous Irish sessions as they are headlining a concert at Carnegie Hall. After fifty years of making some of the most beautiful music in the world, The Chieftains' music remains as fresh and relevant as when they first began.



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