

Helping Boys Town Chicago with the Father Flanagan Spirit Awards



Honorary Chairman Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart
with Co-Chairmen Tim Egan and Father Bruce Wellem

The Irish Book Club

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Irish American Heritage Center

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Gaelic Park

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St. Patrick's Day Events at The Kerry Piper

Fri, March 13: The Narrowbacks

Sat, March 14: TENT FESTIVAL,

6,000 Sq Ft Heated Tent,

Valet Parking, Live Bands,

Traditional Irish Comfort Food, Pub Grub

PUB

12-3pm Gavin Coyle

3:15pm McNulty Irish Dancers

4-7pm Cirrus Falcon

7:15pm Chicalba Bagpipng

8-12pm Gavin Coyle

TENT

Noon Trinity Irish Dancers

1pm Lavin Cassidy Irish Dancers

2-5pm The Ploughboys

5:15pm Trinity Irish Dancers

6-9pm St. James Gate,

9:15pm The Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society, Chicago Police

10pm-Close

The Larkin & Moran Brothers



Monday

11 am - 1 am

Tuesday thru Thursday

11 am - 1 am

Friday and Saturday

11 am - 2 am

Sunday

Noon - 10 pm



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www.kerrypiper.com

St. Patrick's Day Events at The Kerry Piper



Sun, March 15:

The Kerry Piper's

1st Annual St. Baldrick's Fundraiser



Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer

Shave, Donate, or Volunteer.

Event features Silent Auction,

Live Entertainment,

Chicalba Bagpipng, Bean Bag

Tournament, and much more!

The St. Baldrick's Foundation

raises awareness and funds for

childhood cancer research.

Tuesday, March 17:

2-6pm St. James Gate

6:30pm Lavin Cassidy Irish Dancers

8pm-Close Patrick's Rowdy Irishmen

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Friday - Saturday: 11 am - 1 am

Sunday - noon - 12 am



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Sunday - 11 am - Midnight

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Sunday and Monday - 4:30 pm - 10 pm

Tuesday thru Thursday - 4:30 pm - 11 pm

Friday and Saturday - 4:30 pm - midnight

LATE NIGHT MENU:

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Friday and Saturday - 11 pm - 2 am

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Chicago Rose of Tralee Southside Contestant Night

On Saturday, March 7th, the Chicago Rose of Tralee Center will visit several of the Pubs up and down the southside's Western Ave. to crown a Rose Contestant at each venue. Young ladies in the area between the ages of 21 and 27 are encouraged to sign up at their favorite Pub/Bar to compete to be crowned "their" Rose Representative and join in on the Chicago Rose of Tralee fun. They will be sponsored by McNally's, O'Rourke's Office, Dinger's Sports Bar and Keegan's Pub and their sponsorship will give them the opportunity to participate in the Chicago Rose Ball, being held on June 13th at Ridge Country Club, and march in this year's Southside Irish Parade.

The Chicago Rose of Tralee hosts activities throughout the year ranging from Roses walking in the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk, to hosting an Irish Market in the Beverly community. Although the Chicago Rose of Tralee has an extensive charter of activities, it is best known for selecting the Chicago Rose. They will conduct an extensive search through-

out the Chicagoland area for young women of Irish descent between the ages of 18-27, who are exemplary role models, exceptional at school and work, active in extra-curricular activities and committed to volunteering in the community to be candidates for the 2009 Rose.

The Chicago Rose of Tralee will announce the winner of the 2009 Chicago Rose Search on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the Annual Rose Ball at Ridge Country Club. The Chicago Rose will have the honor of representing Chicago in Ireland's Rose of Tralee International Festival, win an all-expense paid trip to Ireland this August for a two-night televised event, joining young women of Irish descent from countries around the world, including Great Britain, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand. She will



serve as ambassador for Chicago, connecting the global Irish community in a celebration of their rich culture.

So, don't forget to get out and pick up your registration for the Southside Irish Western Ave. Contestant Night. All entry forms are due by March 5th. Bring your friends and family to cheer you on March 7th!

Selection Times are as follows:
Keegan's Pub - 10618 S. Western - 7:30 p.m.

Dinger's Sports Bar - 10638 S. Western - 8:00 p.m.

O'Rourke's Office - 11064 S. Western - 8:30 p.m.

McNally's - 11136 S. Western - 9:00 p.m.

For more information please contact the Chicago Rose of Tralee Center, Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo 773-239-3927 or write us at info@chicagoroseoftralee.com. Visit our website at www.chicagoroseoftralee.com.

Liz Carroll and John Doyle to Play for President

Liz and John are performing at the annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon in Washington, D.C., which is hosted by the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, for her guest of honor, President Barack Obama.

This is a D.C. tradition that began in the Reagan era when Tip O'Neill, the Democratic Speaker, hosted the luncheon for President Reagan, as a way to ease the partisanship political tension between them by celebrating their common culture.

Since then, each speaker has hosted the luncheon for the current president. At each luncheon, an Irish music act of



note has performed. This year, it's Liz and John!

In addition to the president, the new Taoiseach of Ireland, Brian Cowen, will be attending. Previous entertainers at the event include The Commitments, The Chieftains, and Ronan Tynan.

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Stormont – The House on the Hill

By Shay Clarke

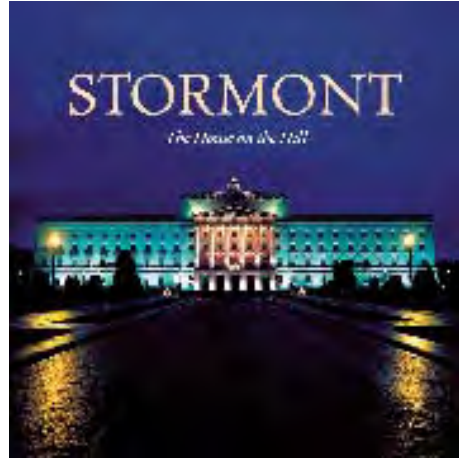
Back in the gloomy days of the “Troubles” in Ireland, I always felt a chill as I passed Stormont on my journey North. This beautiful building and those within, spewed policies that were an anathema to my sensibilities, yet the building itself was a beautiful sight to behold.

Today, in more enlightened times, the shroud of darkness, mystery and fear have been lifted and a new era of peace and concord gives us hope for the future of Ulster, our Fourth Green Field.

Stormont – The House on the Hill is a beautifully photographed coffee table book by Jack Gallagher and tells the story of Stormont from its inception by then Prime Minister, Sir James Craig in 1921, through all of its historical events to the present day.

Stormont has been Britain’s seat of power in Ulster since 1932 and has witnessed all of the changes social, demographic and political since then. All of these are dealt with in this highly enlightening book. The bombing of Belfast during WWII, the decline of the shipyards and the linen industries, the historic visits of Queen Elizabeth II and the Republic of Ireland’s Taoiseach Sean Lemass among many others.

The book offers a comprehensive look at how the Northern Ireland Assembly works



and details ministerial duties and objectives in a very readable way without political spin. I found its content highly educational and as I turned the pages I also felt the change in attitude and a serious undertaking by politicians on behalf of their “long beleaguered” constituents. Stormont now looks out on a different land, a land where people look forward rather than backward and are working toward a common vision of what the future should be—peaceful, inclusive, prosperous and above all, fair.

The photographs are sumptuous, especially the interiors, so much so that next time I visit that “sweet little town of Belfast,” I will ignore

the old demons and visit this splendid edifice that is Stormont, perhaps for a concert, as nowadays Stormont rocks to the music of Elton John, Sting and The Eagles. Luciano Pavarotti has played there and so have Michael Flatley, Led Zeppelin and Johnny Cash.

Stormont now hosts a variety of sporting events including Special Olympics and World Rally Championships. There is no doubt that the winds of change have blown through this magnificent building and that they have ushered

in new ideas and a new way forward.

Stormont – The House on the Hill is dedicated to all those who have lived through difficult times to enjoy the first decade of a new millennium in which the prospect of peace has become a reality. I really enjoyed this book and I heartily recommend it.

Published by Booklink as part of a series called Scenic Ireland, Stormont – The House on the Hill is available on theirishbookclub.com website.



2009 St. Pat's Day Parade Queen Julie Popp with her dad John (third from left and behind her right shoulder,) and the 511 Haz Mat Squad, Chicago Fire Department

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

with 3 Days of Live Music, Dance and Family Fun

Kick off the celebration with
Irish Dance Chicago
Friday, March 13th, 7pm
 A dance concert presenting the talents of local dance schools, including Sprigged Danba Irish Dancers, the Trinity Irish Dancers, the O'Hara School of Irish Dance, the Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, the World Academy of Irish Dancing, Mulhern School of Irish Dance and The Academy of Irish Music.



Not partied out yet? Wrap up the holiday with the
St. Patrick's Day Celebration
in the Fifth Precinct
Tuesday, March 17th,
Noon-Midnight
 Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. Entertainment includes the Chancey Brothers, Barry Fagan's Band, the Matt Steadman Band and more!



Come back for more fun with the annual
St. Patrick's Day Festival
Saturday, March 14th, 1pm-Midnight
 Featuring a full day of festivities, following the downtown parade. This large-scale annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. Live entertainment includes the Shannon Rovers, Tim O'Shea and Stephen Carroll, the Dooley Brothers, David Dunne and Blackwater, the Irish Heritage Singers and more! Vendors will be on hand to sell Irish gifts, beaded goods, books and jewelry.



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\$20

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Gaelic Football and Hurling, Dare to Play



come to attend. Girl's only games will be featured along with an "Under 6 Blitz" for the tots. Admission is free and prior registration recommended but not necessary. All players will receive a free t-shirt from the Chicago Youth Development Committee. The Gaelic Park location will offer excellent fields and facilities with a food buffet available during the tournament.

All retired players are encouraged to attend with their children and grandchildren, introducing them to the great tradition of Irish sports.

The Chicago Youth Development Committee is dedicated to the growth of Irish sports and culture throughout the Chicago land area. Tom Sheehy, the Games Development Administrator, is working hard on behalf of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Chicago to work with communities and increase interest and participation in Irish youth sports.

For general information on Irish football and hurling, visit <http://www.youthgaa.com/games.html>.

For information on the Spring Tournament at Gaelic Park, please contact Tom Sheehy of the Chicago Youth Development Committee at 773-329-6263 or via email: t_sheehy99@hotmail.com.

The Chicago Youth Development Committee (CYDC) will hold a Spring Irish Football Tournament highlighting Irish youth sports on Sunday, March 29th from 10:30am until dusk at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street in Oak Lawn.

The tournament is a youth oriented sports event featuring short, age appropriate games designed to develop skills and interest in Irish

football and hurling. This day long event will introduce new players to the games and improve the skills of returning players. Experienced coaches will run mini-camps throughout the day to welcome new players make them comfortable with the sport. The day will also feature skills drills to allow experienced players an opportunity to perfect their techniques.

All youth under age 18 are wel-

Irish Mass and More at St. Fabian's

St. Fabian's, 83rd & Oketo in Bridgeview (2 blocks west of Harlem) will be hosting their Ninth Annual Irish Mass on March 10th, with ministers, musicians, and congregation drawn from around the city. Music will be provided by Kim Tenney and Dennis J. Newman of LifeSong along with cantors Ann Klochan, Jim Poynton and other musicians from St. Fabian's; plus the gifted flutist, Archdiocesan Music Director Anna Belle O'Shea; and local bagpiper (& Music Director of the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums), Bruce Quintos.

The evening begins with Irish preludes at 7pm, with the Mass itself at 7:30pm. Refreshments will follow at 8:45pm in the parish hall, with entertainment provided by the marvelous Weber Irish Dancers, along with raffle and prizes (among them, tickets to Chicago professional sports).

All profits from the evening will go to benefit the new Ronald McDonald House of Oak Lawn, where families of hospitalized children find a welcome and a place to stay.

St. Fabian's invites all who love Irish music to come and celebrate A Candle in the Window: The Irish Way of Welcome.

Loyola University's CCIH Panel Discussion

Was Eugene O'Neill a 'Catholic' Writer? (and, by the way, what is a 'Catholic' writer?)

On Thursday, March 26, 2009, Loyola University Chicago's Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage will be hosting a panel discussion on Eugene O'Neill and Catholicism. The panel discussion, entitled Was Eugene O'Neill a 'Catholic' Writer?, will take place from 3:30-4:45pm on the fourth floor of the Klarchek Information Commons on Loyola's Lake Shore Campus. Featured panelists include



Mark Bosco, S.J. (Assistant Professor, Departments of English and Theology, Loyola University Chicago), Peter Gilmour (Emeritus Faculty, Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago), and

Michael Sparough, S.J. (Director, Charis Ministries, Chicago, IL).

An RSVP is required for this event. Those interested in attending can e-mail catheritage@luc.edu or call 773.508.3820 for reservations.

Old St. Patrick's Church presents the Thirteenth Annual

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7:30 P.M.

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Tickets range from \$25 - \$55 and are available through the Symphony Center Box Office, 220 S. Michigan Ave., by calling 312.294.3000 or www.cso.org

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Nuggets
from the
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Cliff Carlson



IAN Launches New Irish Book Site

Just as an Irish pub is "A cut above" other pubs, The Irish Book Club wants to be "A cut

above" anything you might find in a book site on the web. To do so they are striving to make this site your one-stop source for everything Irish in literature, all the while shopping from the comfort of your own home.

The goal is to bring all the great facets of Irish literature to Irish, Irish-Americans, and the world by featuring the latest in Irish authors and books that have anything to do with the Irish experience.

Many of the books have been signed by the authors.

In the months to come the site, www.theirishbookclub.com, will be adding hundreds of books, and will feature information about authors, reviews, audio and video of author readings, book clubs, events, and even offer whole chapters on books in which you might be interested.



For those of you who can't wait for your book(s) to come in the mail, four Chicagoland Irish Shops have agreed to carry many of the books in stock that are available on the website. Paddy's On The Square in Long Grove, 847-634-0339, Donegal Imports in Chicago, 773-792-2377, The Irish Shop in Oak Park, 708-445-1149, and A Touch of Ireland in Oaklawn, 708-237-3473.

All Irish authors are encouraged to contact the IBC for inclusion or information. Who will be the next great Irish author? Make that discovery here!

The site has "gone live" and welcomes you to browse and purchase books in the shop in a secure environment. Should you encounter any problems or have questions for a live person, you may contact us at 708-445-0700 or email info@theirishbookclub.com

Channel 11 Documentary Irish Chicago

WTTW Channel 11 has produced a documentary entitled Irish Chicago, hosted and narrated by Aidan Quinn.

Irish Chicago celebrates the history of the Irish community and reflects on contributions made by the community. This program provides a rich history to show the role the Irish played in building Chicago. Irish Chicago interviews include John Devitt Gaelic Park board member, Megan Williamson artist, Tim O'Malley comedian/actor/singer/writer, Tom Tunney alderman and restaurateur,



John Cullerton Illinois Senator and more.

Aidan Quinn, award winning actor and son of Irish immigrant parents, was raised in Chicago. He has starred in such films as Michael Collins, Evelyn, Legends of the Fall, and most recently on television programs Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and Canterbury's Law.

To preview a clip of this program, visit www.wttw.com/irishchicago. This program aired on WTTW channel 11 on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30pm and will be repeated Monday, March 16 at 8pm.

Thunder Returns for Spring 2009 Tour



World renowned male vocal group Celtic Thunder, first heard by American audiences on last year's smash public television special and subsequent CD, DVD and tour, is bringing their stunning live stage show back to North America by popular demand. Celtic Thunder will

launch their 30-date tour of the U.S. and Canada on March 21st in Syracuse, NY at the Landmark Theatre.

In 2009, Celtic Thunder is officially on TV, on CD, on DVD and on tour. The group features five Celtic male vocalists from Ireland and Scotland, ranging in age from 16 to 40: Paul Byrom, George Donaldson, Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly and Damian McGinty. From rousing ensemble numbers to solos showcasing each members' vocal style and personality, Celtic Thunder performs powerful ballads, popular hits, and heartwarming songs of love and loss from across the Celtic music spectrum—Irish, Scottish, traditional and contemporary.

Celtic Thunder creator/producer Sharon Browne teamed up with legendary Irish composer and musical director Phil Coulter (Elvis Presley's "My Boy," Sandie Shaw's "Puppet on a String," the now-classic Irish ballad "The Town I Loved So Well") to craft an eclectic set list of music including traditional songs, pop classics by the Eagles and the Moody Blues, and Coulter originals such as the Irish Rugby Football Union anthem. Celtic Thunder also features a full band including piano, string quartet and bagpipes, as well as expert choreography, dramatic lighting and other visual effects that enhance the musical production.

Their lone Midwest appearance to date will be at the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan on April 24th. www.celtictunder.com.

Céad Míle Fáilte

Avenues to Independence

invites you to join them at the **12th Annual Irish Fest**

Sunday, March 22, 2009
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Rolling Meadows

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 - Non-stop Irish music & dance
 - Pot O' Gold Raffle
- and the Shamrock Silent Auction, which features a week's stay at Ballinacorney Castle in Galway, Ireland.
(For a sneak peak at home visit the Avenues website at www.avenues-to-independence.org)

All proceeds benefit Avenues to Independence, a not-for-profit organization supporting adults with developmental disabilities by providing homes, work opportunities and employment training.

Cost is \$60 per adult, \$20 for children under 12.

For reservations contact
Peg O'Herron at 847.292.8878 or
Ann Marie Ehrlich at 847.292.0870 ext. 108

or register on line at
www.avenuestoindependence.org
click on Irish Fest



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Britain's Nationalist Rumbblings

by Eamonn Gormley

The Scottish National Party (SNP) has grown from zero to a third of the vote in Scotland since 1935. Since 1929, the Welsh nationalist party, Plaid Cymru, has grown from zero to a fifth of the vote in Wales. Nationalism within Britain is on the march.

Notwithstanding the current global slump, the success of the Celtic Tiger economy and Irish cultural juggernaut has proved that a small Celtic nation can punch above its weight and has arguably inspired the Scots and Welsh to try to make a similar break for freedom, assured that they don't need the English to prop them up. The stable borders of the prosperous EU have eliminated mutual suspicion and the need for the military alliances of the 1910s that questioned the viability of small nations.

The very existence of devolved assemblies in Scotland and Wales is a testament to how far nationalism has come in Britain, and the Celtic nations are not the only ones feeling restless. Opinion polls in England in 2006 showed that English independence is an idea that has the support of a third to a half of the population, with two thirds in favor of a dedicated English parliament.

English MPs express resentment

at Scottish MPs getting to vote on matters that affect England and Wales while English MPs cannot do likewise for matters affecting Scotland because those powers have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood.

Irish nationalists may be tempted to look at these developments and see the tantalizing prospect of a disintegrating United Kingdom that can only serve to help their cause. But can it?

If the UK does break up, will northern Unionists have an epiphany that they no longer have a united 'Britain' to unite with, and be forced to rediscover their Irish identity?

Reality is likely to be different.

The history of the unionist relationship with their power brokers in London is a curious one. The British establishment has power divided between parliament, the cabinet, and the monarchy, the latter enjoying the least amount of power and relying heavily on favorable public opinion for its survival.

Northern unionists pledge their allegiance to the monarchy, the weakest link in the chain, but treat every other element of the British establishment with utter disdain. Unionists have never trusted any British government. Like the Eskimos with two dozen words for ice, the unionists have developed a vocabulary riddled with refer-

ences to traitors and sell-outs. Like the evangelicals predicting the imminent end of the world, they go through life predicting the impending end of the union with a mixture of paranoia, resignation, and fear. They are convinced that their political masters in London are plotting to get rid of them.

Every Secretary of State for Northern Ireland sent over to administer direct rule during the troubles was lambasted, the unionist leadership called for the resignation of every single one at some point. Such 'viceroys' have been labeled remote, out of touch, flying in during the week to a place they know nothing about. Who can forget the venom spewed by Ian Paisley on Tom 'Cat' King, as he dubbed him, who supposedly didn't know where 'Ulster' was until he was assigned to it, and wouldn't know how to spell Portglenone?

Get a unionist talking about direct rule, and he'll start to sound like an Irish nationalist.

Does this mean they are closet nationalists who simply need to wake up? Not a bit of it. It may be true that they don't have anything in common with those scheming traitors across the water, but that doesn't mean they automatically feel any affinity with their nationalist neighbors either.

The unionist mentality is not built on kinship with Britain, but on fear of what will happen to them in a state

dominated by Irish Catholics. This 'union' that they seek to defend is simply the best of a bad lot of options they have that will keep them safe from the hordes of Jesuit / Christian Brother / Ninja storm troopers that they fear will spill into the north to convert their children to Catholicism as soon as the border disappears. It is a rickety life raft that keeps them from disappearing into a Gaelic sea, and they don't have the confidence to try to swim.

The job of Irish nationalists is not to beat them off the raft by force, but to teach them to swim. They have to be taught that there is nothing to fear from Gaelic culture, that the Irish language and Gaelic games are for everyone.

Will devolution in the UK weaken the union? Decisions made close to the people has already resulted in a better deal for Scotland and Wales, which are no longer governed as an afterthought. Now they have a chance to push initiatives that benefit their respective countries without worrying about building support among disinterested English MPs with other agendas. This will result in better investment in Scotland and Wales, resulting in better prosperity, and demonstrating to the people the benefits of greater independence from London, and steadily building the appeal of complete separation. The United Kingdom's days could be numbered.

Northwest Side Irish St. Pat's Day Parade

On Sunday, March 8, 2009, Northwest Side Irish will be hosting its 6th Annual Friends and Family St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will take place at 11am and will kick off from 6633 W. Raven Street.

This year's Parade Grand Marshal is John McDonough, President of the Chicago Blackhawks, who has brought another great tradition back to the families that so wholeheartedly appreciate the sport and the venue. Mr. McDonough is also the recipient of one of the 2009 Humanitarian of the Year Awards.

Also being recognized is Cheryl Johnson, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Vice President and Director of the Human Rights Commission, as a 2009 Humanitarian of the Year. Vice President Johnson has made groundbreaking efforts to support so many of the human rights issues that Teamsters members are faced with. In Chicago, Ms. Johnson supports the Teamsters Helmets to Hardhats Program, a program that supports returning veterans with gainful career opportunities and extended resources.

www.northwestsideirish.org

Benefit is Set for 3-Year-Old with Leukemia

By Chuck Salvatore

A benefit will be held to help a former Burbank family pay bills for their 3-year-old girl, who has leukemia.

On Aug. 19, Samantha McCarthy, was diagnosed with leukemia about a month after her third birthday. She was scheduled to start preschool just days before the doctor visit.

Samantha's mother, Linda Joy, said the problems started in the summer when her daughter began feeling tired. She said Samantha was very pale, but that she thought it was due to the long summer. Samantha then got better for a few weeks.

Joy said her daughter loves going to church with her mother and dancing in the aisles. That is when Joy knew something was wrong. She

no longer possessed the energy of a typical 3-year-old.

Joy took her daughter to Palos Hospital to have her blood checked. The diagnosis was leukemia. Samantha was rushed to Children's Memorial Hospital.

For the next six months, Samantha went through heavy chemotherapy. Joy described the therapy that is designed to kill every cell in her body and let her body start over and grow new cells.

"Her cancer cells fell below two percent in the first 10-days," said Joy.

For the next three years, Samantha will have to have spinal fluids drawn from her lower back, to make sure the cancer isn't growing. Now, four-and-a-half months later, Samantha is in remission.

She still faces two sessions of chemotherapy monthly until March. She will need two more years of chemotherapy as of October of 2008.

A benefit will be held on March 6th at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park from 7pm-midnight. Tickets of 5 or more are \$20.00 each. Price includes dinner, desserts, beer, wine, pop. Two live bands, "No Direction" and "Funhouse" will perform throughout the evening. Tickets at the door - \$30.00.

All major credit cards accepted... Call Tom 708-819-0533 for tickets and information. www.myspace.com/samanthasdreambenefit.

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Hooliganism by Mike Houlihan

Reviewed by Frank West

This book seems to have been purposely written for our times. If I didn't know the first entry was written in 1990, and the last, last June, I'd think they were newly written in response to our current economic gloom. Why is this? These articles are funny, serious, and often heart aching, at the same time. There is not a pompous word, a weasel word, or a self-pitying word in the book. The articles are filled with human warmth.

Hooliganism isn't a typical book that is read from the first page to the last. This book can be delved into at any point in its 216 pages. Each article is complete in itself.

When you need a good laugh—read one of Mike Houlihan's articles. He has the rare ability to see life's absurdities—and he gets us to laugh with him at them.

Some of those absurdities are almost existential. You've observed that the pious old lady in the pew ahead of you has a severe cold. You also saw her sneeze in her had—twice! What



are you going to do when the sign of peace is given? Are you going to shake hands, and possibly get sick too, or be rude and don't shake it? Also, why do these puzzling and fateful human dilemmas happen? Mike gets us to laugh at them, but he is, and we are, aware of their seriousness.

Why does one man become a hopeless alcoholic, while his brother (same genes, same family environment) becomes a respected member of the commu-

nity? There is no rational answer. All we can do is laugh at this, or become depressed. The Irish way is to be acutely aware, and then to laugh. Do you want to become depressed? I don't. And Mike doesn't want us to either.

Houlihan grew up on Chicago's south side. I lived a similar Irish Catholic experience, only on the north side. My old neighborhood disappeared in the blink of an eye. This happened in the mid 1950's, when I was beginning high school. So, I personally relate to some of the stories, and to many of the characters. Somehow, Houlihan is able to make them seem—not nostalgic, but contemporary.

I profoundly and personally thank him for the articles about Father McDermott.

Here was a real priest, a true priest who helped people. He could have sat in a rectory office and never gotten his hands dirty. But he chose to work in the real, sometimes harsh, world—with the drunks on skid row. He saw them as suffering human beings, and felt it his duty to bring hope to them. I met some of these people whose lives he turned around.

I had a long conversation with Fr. McDermott, when I reviewed his book *The Liquid Cross*. I interviewed

him at the Haymarket Center.

The people on skid row were deeply ashamed of themselves. This was because alcoholism, then was considered to be a moral failing and a failure of will. Fr. Mac was one of the first to realize it was a disease, and had no moral connection.

McDermott secured funding to convert an old factory on the near west side, into the Haymarket Center. It provided both a detox center and health center, with decent living conditions.

Fr. McDermott was in my uncle's ordination class in 1938. He devoted himself to the people on skid row. My uncle served the west side Irish community in the area around Madison and Kildare, Madison and Pulaski (nee Crawford,) and Jackson and Kildare in St. Mel Parish. When the Second World War began, he volunteered to serve with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Pacific Theater.


The personal relationship between these two priest-classmates was not ended by my uncle's death. Years later, at 95 years of age, the tall, white-haired Fr. McDermott came to my father's wake to comfort my mother, his classmate's sister.

Thanks, Mike, for bringing back these wonderful memories

of a genuinely saintly man.

You'll love this book. *Hooliganism* by Mike Houlihan. Dog Ear Publishing, Indianapolis, IN, 2008. 216 pages; \$25.00. www.dogearpublishing.net.

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Chicago Gaelic News

Pat Hennessy



Chicago Parades Honor St. Patrick

Saturday, March 14th, Balbo and Columbus, Noon.

Sunday, March 15th, 103rd & S. Western Ave., Noon.

Two large and colorful parades will honor St. Patrick, Ireland's Apostle, starting with the well-known Chicago Official tribute at Noon from Balbo and Columbus, near lovely Lake Michigan, and then on Sunday on the great south side of the city, starting also at noon, from 103rd and South Western Ave.

We all know by now that the great man was not Irish born. He was born in Brittany of noble parents, kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold to Irish farmers to mind sheep on the hills of Ireland. Of course, Patrick missed his parents and the Irish people, knowing that, befriended him and arranged for his escape back home. But, he so loved the Irish that he became a priest and having re-

ceived the Pope's consent, returned to Ireland, this time as a Missionary.

In union with other priests and workers he traveled around the country converting the Irish, building schools and churches. It is written that on one occasion as he was preaching about the Trinity, three persons in one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, his audience was having difficulty understanding the concept. So St. Patrick reached down and picked up a shamrock, and explained the three leaves with one stem. And so we are told that is the reason why we Irish wear the shamrock proudly on the feast day of St. Patrick.

The parades in most big Irish cities are long established and like those in the U.S., England and various other countries, are colorful and very popular. Even in England, in such big cities as London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Hull and others, large crowds gather

to march and cheer on the participants. The GAA is very strong in most English cities and for the most part, help to organize them.

Here in Chicago it all began in 1953, shortly after the reactivation of the GAA in 1950. U.S. Immigration had opened up after an absence of almost 20 years, result of a severe recession, Second World War, and of course restrictive U.S. immigration laws. Our city got its share of the "New Seed." I would say we got the cream of the crop: Mike Kenny, Sean Hasting, John Brennan, Galway Mike Kenny, Jim McCormack and others, put the GAA on the map and down through the years men like Liam O'Brien, John Crean, Joe Ahern, John Lynch, Joe Begley and others, made the "dream become a reality" in opening up Chicago Gaelic Park.

They were also great leaders like Fire Capt. Sullivan, Police Capt. Hennessy, Jack Allen and others, instrumental in getting the first St. Patrick's Day parade on the street in 1954. On the north side men and women like Tommy Ryan, Dan Lydon, Maureen O'Looney and others staged their own parade from St. Mel's. And so began the magnificent parades of today with the great help of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley. As we march proudly in both parades, let us be mindful of the herculean efforts of

those men and women who have put it all together over the years.

"Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our Isle

on us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile.

And now thou art high in the Mansion above

on Erin's green valleys look down with your love."

Gaelic Park Irish Queen Contest

The very popular Chicago Gaelic Park Queen contest was held March 1st in conjunction with the usual Celtic Supper at Gaelic Park. As usual, the winner presides with her court over the large St. Patrick Day celebrations, which will include both parades and will receive valuable prizes. Her court will also receive prizes and will be honored in all the functions.

Entertainment for the big afternoon and evening will be provided by Joe Cullen from 4-9pm. For more information call the charming colleens at the front office, 708-687-9323.

Bro. Edmund Rice Hurling Saint

Three great Christian Brothers, Brother John Wright, Victoria, Australia; Brother Gregory Smith, Promoter of the Cause of Canonization; and our own very popular the late Brother Houlihan, Chicago, wrote fine, researched books on Blessed

Bro. Edmund Rice, and the three of them mentioned the fact that Bro. Rice, now being considered for sainthood "loved hurling" and not only played the great game on the famous Fair Green in Callan, Co. Kilkenny, but also made hurleys (Camans) for poor children so that they also could play Ireland's national game.

This happened during the infamous Penal Laws period in Ireland, 1759, a time when the British government actually preached, "the law does not assume an Irish Catholic to exist except for the purpose of punishment." The Irish could not own their own land but were required to pay rent to lease it. King William of England was determined to take vengeance on all those who had opposed him, and indeed, he did, with the objective being that Irish men and women did not exist except to be England's slaves.

But, the Rice home was a Nationalist one and young Edmund grew up as a Nationalist, and played hurling and encouraged other young lads to also take up a hurley stick and play Ireland's game. This they did, and they also learned to pray, as Mrs. Rice not only encouraged them, but also fed and clothed some of them.

The rest of the story is well known, as Edmund, who eventually inherited the home and the land, suffered a

Continued on next page

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Paddy's on the Square Celebrates Irish Heritage

Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove has a number of toe-tapping activities to shake out the winter blahs and celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the Irish heritage. Visitors to Paddy's are invited to enjoy the haunting melodies and captivating rhythms of Irish music:

- McNulty Irish Dancers – Sunday, March 7 from 2 to 3 pm
- Anam Mor Irish Dancers – Saturday, March 14 from 2 to 3 pm
- McNulty Irish Dancers – Sunday, March 15 from 2 to 3 pm

Paddy's has everything Irish to kick off a fabulous St. Patrick's Day celebration. With one of the largest collections of traditional Irish music and books in America, Paddy's on the Square attracts visitors and collectors from all over the world through-

Hit Music Show Celtic Crossroads

Celtic Crossroads has traveled across the Atlantic Ocean, and is unleashing its sensational talent on the American market, and will appear March 10, at 7.30pm at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee.

One of Ireland's most well respected composers and conductor, Frank McNamara, originator of the Irish Tenors, has said that the live show is: "Without a doubt, the most exciting music show to come out of Ireland in 20 years". www.CelticCrossroads.ie

Chicago Gaelic News - Cont'd.
terrible setback when his young wife with child was killed horseback riding. And after making arrangements with his family to take charge of his child, he sold his entire property and bought the first school for the many Waterford children who had no other place to go. Edmund and three other men set about starting the school, and in time, purchased a larger one, Mount Sion in Waterford. This was the start of the Irish Christian and Presentation Brothers. Today they operate in over 30 countries throughout the world.

Brother Edmund was canonized as Blessed by Pope John Paul in August 1996. Hopefully, when he is sainted soon, he will be named "The Hurling Saint."

Prayer to Blessed Edmund for a Favour

O God you inspired Blessed Edmund Rice in a life of consecrated service of the poor and all in need of a truly Christian Education. Grant through his intercession of the petition I now make, (insert petition). I ask this through our Lord. Amen.

out the year. They are also known for their authentic Irish clothing, Aran knits and warm Irish welcome.

Just down the street near Long Grove's signature covered bridge, the Irish Boutique has specialized in fine Irish crystal and china, including Waterford and Belleek, claddagh rings, wedding bands and Irish foods for more than 30

years. They are also the proud recipients of the 2007 Long Grove Shop of the Year, based on shopper satisfaction.

For more information about Paddy's on the Square and The Irish Boutique, phone 847-634-0339 or 847-634-3540.

Long Grove has transformed a crossroads of historic homes and

shops into a charming and upscale shopping and dining destination. Explore nearly 70 unique shops, boutiques, galleries, cafes and restaurants. Stroll the cobblestone paths, enjoy the flowering gardens and find an exciting new mix of contemporary gifts and styles, music and fine arts.

For more information and directions, check the web at www.LongGroveOnline.com or phone the Visitor's Center at 847-634-0888.

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Superb Fine art prints by internationally published Irish artist Roisin O'Shea featuring the 32 counties in Ireland now available through Maggie Shea at www.celticshamrock.com, the sole authorised distributor of Roisin O'Shea prints in the United States and on-line. See Roisin O'Shea original paintings for sale through her gallery 'Manifesto' in Waterford City Ireland. www.manifesto.ie

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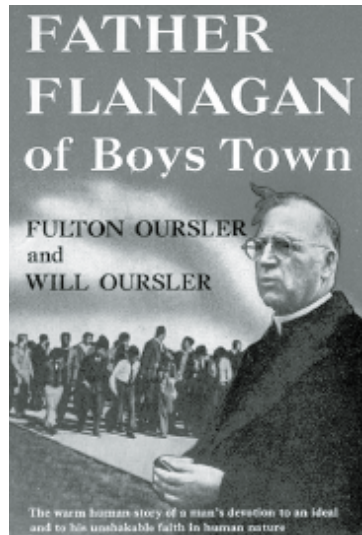
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cover story



Original book cover about Boys Town's Father Flanagan

Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award 2009

When the going gets tough... the tough throw a fundraising party!

And there's nobody tougher to send out his personal invitation than Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, the Honorary Chairman of the Chicago Irish Brotherhood's first ever Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award to benefit Boys Town of Chicago.

On Saturday April 25th Sheriff Dart, who made international headlines recently by standing up to immoral evictions in our own Cook County, joins together with Chicago Police Commander Hector Rodriguez to honor Fr. Edward Flanagan, the man who created Boys Town.

"You've seen the movie, now be part of the legacy," is our catch phrase for the event and we hope our friends in every part of Chicagoland area

lend a hand to help this struggling and important program.

"Boys Town," starring the legendary Spencer Tracy and the iconic Mickey Rooney, made its motion picture premier on September 7, 1938 and it shined a spotlight on the truly magnificent work Fr. Flanagan had already done "saving boys from becoming misfits and recruits to the army of crime."

Today, Girls & Boys Town stands as a shining example of a life lived in the service of others near Omaha, Nebraska. A National Historic Landmark District, Girls & Boys Town "Village" resides on 900 acres that includes 71 homes and 60 buildings that serve as the campus. And it's at capacity.

Fr. Flanagan's mission of saving children and healing families came to Chicago in 2007 as a Boys Town satellite program operated by Fr. Bruce Wellems, pastor of Holy Cross-Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and the Back of the Yards/New City community.

Fr. Bruce is one of the good guys who work tirelessly as an advocate for the disadvantaged and troubled youth in Chicago. He's an everyday hero few people ever hear about.

Boys Town of Chicago (www.boystownofchicago.org) was originally funded by the Chicago Arch-

diocese, City of Chicago and State of Illinois. The funding was just to get the bricks and mortar together. Now, Boys Town of Chicago needs financial assistance to help girls and boys avoid a life of gangs, violence and drugs.

Sheriff Dart, Commander Rodriguez, Chicago Irish Brotherhood and its Chairman Tim Egan, the Irish American News and RedNoFive have teamed up to make sure this event has the greatest impact possible in the lives of the challenged children in Chicago's Back of the Yard's neighborhood.

Please join the effort as a sponsor or a guest. Tickets are \$100 per person and include live entertainment, light fare food arrangement, a generous drink package and an evening of promised fun. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$1,000 to \$250 and include event tickets and recognition.

More information is available by calling Tim Egan at 708.606.6700 or emailing CIB_CEO@yahoo.com. You can also visit the C.I.B. website at www.theCIB.org or the Irish American News website at www.irishamericannews.com.

It's up to the fortunate to make a difference. So please be a part of Fr. Flanagan's legacy.

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Advertise in the April Irish American News Special Section dedicated to the 2009 Father Flanagan Spirit Award, and the first honoree, Mr Billy Lawless.

Call Shay Clarke, 847-452-7764, or Bill Houlihan at 312-431-8700, or Irish American News at 708-445-0700 by March 15th. Special rates available with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Chicago Boys Town.

February Quiet Man Cover provided by Gordon France
March Cover Photo provided by Sheryl Bury Michals

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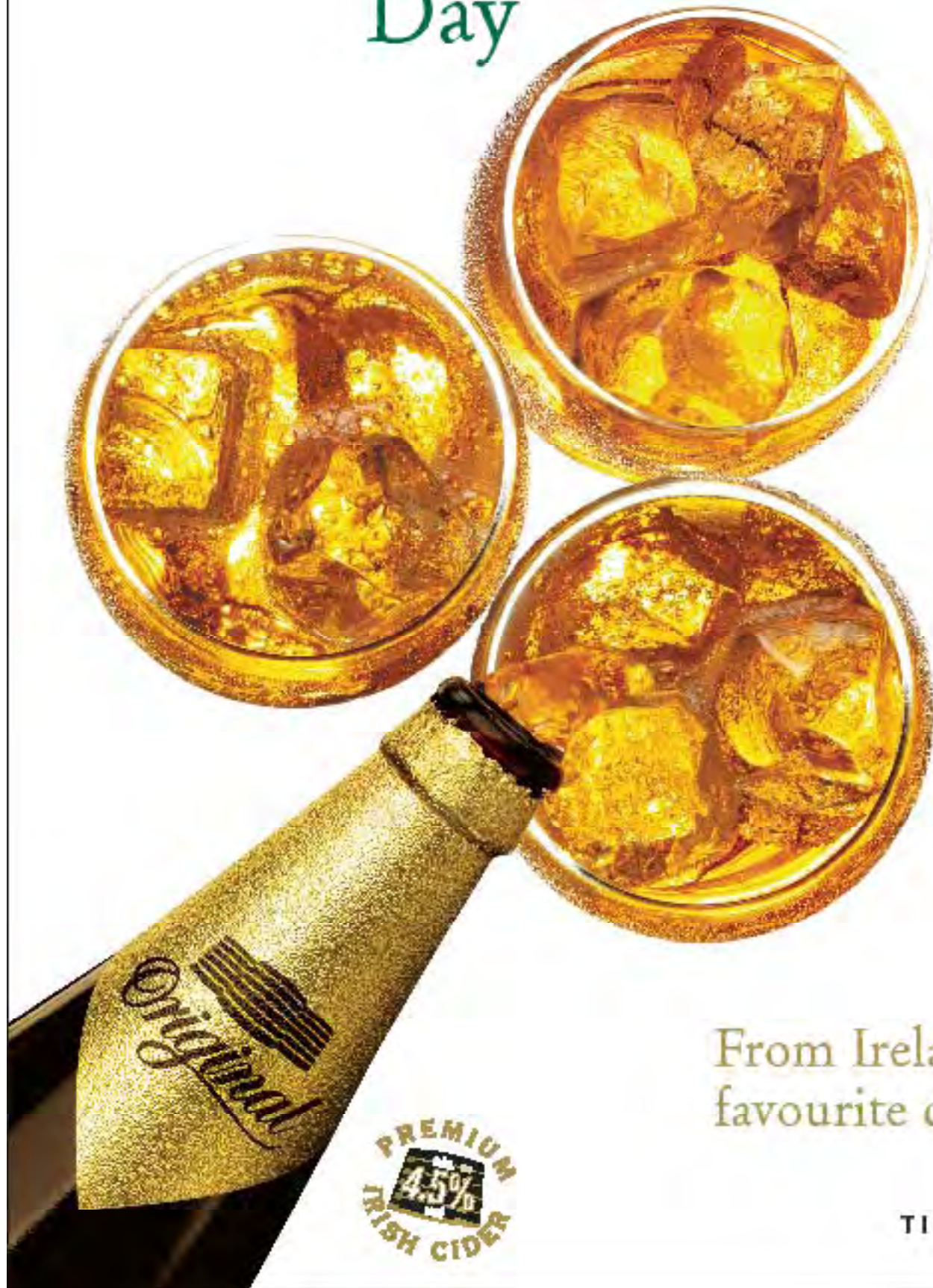
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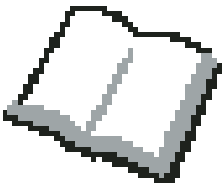


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Irish Books and Plays
in Review



Frank West



The Story of Our People

What a book! What beautiful language! This is the story of our people.

Galway Bay, by Mary Pat Kelly, is the extraordinary book that tells the story of the way our ancestors lived in Ireland, and why they were forced to immigrate to other lands.

The book's author, Mary Pat Kelly, uses beautiful, vivid language. She uses

this to create characters that seem to be real, living people. We come to feel as they do. We empathize with them.

A widely published author says, almost enviously, of this skill of Mary Pat's: she "combines the two traditional Irish gifts—the gift of hypnotic storytelling and the gift of poetic language." This "enables us to see the Irish and Irish American

experience in a way we would never have imagined."

The storyline is a historical one—early 1800's: fairly peaceful life, cruel landlords; coming of the Great Famine (1845-1850), desperate suffering in Ireland, promises and platitudes from priests and politicians—but no real help for the starving; emigration to America and other lands for those lucky to be still alive; Civil War in United States, Fenian invasion of Canada, arriving in New Orleans and traveling on the Mississippi River to Chicago, achieving the American dream of social and economic success, etc.

There are so many enormous epic-sized stories here, and Kelly's storytelling skills so great, that the book might have been more effective if it had been divided into two or three books.

I had become so attached to the characters in Galway Bay, that when the Great Famine came—I admit, I couldn't read about what was going to happen to those people. I have read many books about this period, and I knew what was going to happen.

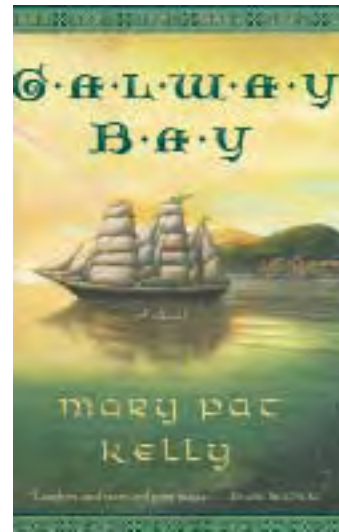
Out of a population in pre-Famine Ireland of about eight million people, a million starved to death (what a gruesome way to die!), and two million fled to other lands.

Lucky to be alive, the Kelly family arrives in Chicago, and the author has a character say: "Gone, gone, gone. A whole world lost to me and to millions more, the living as well as the dead. I'm

here in Bridgeport, but I'm there, too... Irish and American, here and there."

Mar Pat Kelly uses Irish history and the story of her family, to show us that we are American, but also uniquely Irish too.

Oliver Cromwell left vivid memories in Ireland: "Cromwell. The devil let loose among us to butcher our bodies and devour our souls. He massacred women and children and called it God's work. Numbers beyond count-



by The Famine. I don't think contemporary Irish American people understand just how horrific this thing was. How the deck was stacked against them on every level."

• Only hard American corn was distributed to the starving people, if they could buy it. A local British official was "eager to let us know how much trouble the British government had gone to on our account... In America they have steel mills to grind it up... He opened the top of the sack and took out a handful of the course meal. He handed it to me, hard as the hobs of hell."

'Peel's brimstone.'
"The meal would be finer and easier to cook if the corn were ground twice, but the government decided that wasn't necessary... Mr. Trevelyan—the man in the Treasury who's in charge—says it wouldn't do to make charity too agreeable."

• A landlord instructs his agent during the Famine: "Clear my land of these swarming good-for-nothings. Wipe it clean. Wide fields and vast pastures to raise cattle and sheep. I've been soft and the land has suffered, but deliverance is at hand... This evil people will be chastened..."


• Mike Houlihan notes in his review: "... an economics professor at Oxford at the time, wrote that the Famine 'would not kill more than one million people, and that would scarcely be enough to do any good.'"

• St. Patrick's Parades are marches of life and defiance. When I march


ing perished. The rest were driven west, no Irishman or woman allowed east of the River Shannon on pain of death. Thirty thousand were sold into slavery in the West Indies."

• In his review of Galway Bay Mike Houlihan says: "She wrote the book because I kept being haunted

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up Columbus, Ohio, I'll remember Mary Pat Kelly's ancestor saying, "We wouldn't die, and that annoyed them."

Galway Bay by Mary Pat Kelly. Grand Central Publishing, New York, 2009. 567 pages; \$26.99. www.HachettebooksgroupUSA.com

Golden Future for Irish Theater

Irish theater is especially fortunate in having many extraordinary playwrights working NOW. The enormous output of these playwrights (not to mention the many outstanding musicians, composers, writers of prose, and poets) is especially large because it comes from a fairly small population. The population of the Republic of Ireland is between five and a half and six million people. This is approximately equal to that of the Chicago metropolitan area.

What explains this prolific output? There are many possible explanations. But probably the most potent one is the respect in traditional Irish society for the power of words and the nuances of those words. What prompts playwrights to write? The creative process of writing begins with great insight, and that is followed by lots and lots of hard work.

A good example of a phenomenal Irish playwright is Conor McPherson. He is 37 years old. Two of his plays (Dublin Carol and Seafarer) were just produced by Steppenwolf Theatre.

I found them to be stunning theater experiences. The Chicago Tribune praised him as the best playwright since Beckett. The New York Times praised his play, Seafarer, as "a near perfect play."

Martin McDonagh is another powerful playwright. He is 38 years old. His play, Pillowman, was produced here two years ago by Steppenwolf Theatre. His movie, In Bruges, played for weeks last spring at Piper's Alley. His play, Skull in Connemara, will be produced this spring at Northlight Theatre.

Irish playwrights working NOW include Conor McPherson, Martin McDonagh, Brian Friel, Sebastian Barry, Marina Carr, Tom Murphy and Frank McGuinness. With such playwrights, the future of Irish theatre is golden. Not only is the glass of optimism full, but it is filled with the golden nectar of the gods!

Quinlan is Vivid "Joseph" in Musical

Max Quinlan is a young, enthusiastic actor who has achieved great success in just ten years. He is an Irish American and quite aware of his Irish heritage.

His first appearance in a major musical was only ten years ago, when he was a teenager. He first appeared as a minor actor in Ragtime. With talent and a lot of hard work, his career has since taken off. And now he stars as Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Andrew Lloyd Webber composed that enduring and optimistic musical. It is being produced at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire from now through May 25th.

FRANK WEST: "Seeing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a happy and joyous experience. This positive attitude is especially important in these times. Please talk to this."

MAX QUINLAN: "Theater has the power to take people out of their regular lives. It is a great antidote to the troubled economic times. Musical theater, like Joseph, is a part of our culture and is mostly positive and optimistic."

FW: "Where did you grow up?"

MQ: "I grew up in Buffalo Grove, then moved to Deerfield where I attended Stevenson High School. That school has an excellent "fine arts" program that gave me great opportunity to developing talent."

FW: "Did growing up as an Irish American influence your outlook on life?"

MQ: "I first became aware of my Irish heritage when I appeared in Ragtime. That musical is about injustices to other ethnic groups, and how they overcame them. But I realized it applied to the Irish as well, and that



prompted me to become aware of being an Irish American. Our cultural background certainly influences how we see ourselves and others."

FW: "What encouraged you to become an actor?"

MQ: "I was born into a musical family. Growing up, music and theater were all around me. My mother was a singer, my father was a set designer."

FW: "Why is theater important to people?"

MQ: "Theater is basically telling stories. People

want and need this. So many stories are so worthy of being told that it is an honor, and an actor's duty to tell them accurately and truthfully."

For an optimistic and uplifting show, see this enthusiastic and energetic young man in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. It is being presented at the Lincolnshire Marriott Theatre, 847-634-0200.

"A wonderful script...the characters are strong and interesting...the tale is well told. Delightful!"
-Maureen O'Hara

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Flora MacDonald Gammon Receives Prestigious Award

Flora MacDonald Gammon was named "Exceptional Celtic Woman of 2008" October 10th at the eleventh Conference of Celtic Women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Gammon, 62, of Waynesville, NC was the sixth woman so honored, following such luminaries as Morgan Llywelyn of Ireland, Ann Trevenen Jenkin of Cornwall, Margaret Bennett of Scotland, Elinor Bennett of Wales and Dolores Keane of Ireland.

Gammon, a noted vocalist and historian of Scottish traditional music, teaches children throughout North and South Carolina in the Artist-in-School program as well as Elderhostel sessions for adults. She was instrumental in relocating the Scottish Tartans Museum from Highlands, NC to Franklin, NC. She serves on the board of the North Carolina International Folk Festival, Folkmoot USA, and is the director of music for the annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Morgan Llywelyn, award-winning author of Dublin, Ireland and the first recipient of the award in 1999 said "Flora Gammon exemplifies the Scottish heart and soul in America, passing on her heritage to the generations in Appalachia and especially to Celtic women worldwide." "She is the first American woman to be so honored by the Celtic Women conferences", noted Marjorie Logie Warren, Glasgow native and owner of Thistle



Flora MacDonald Gammon with her husband John Dall

Studio tartan designers.

"Flora MacDonald Gammon has been a stalwart friend and supporter of the conferences of Celtic women since their inception in 1998; she has served as singer, mistress of ceremonies and lecturer of the Scots emigration to America" stated Jean Bills, founder of Celtic Women International and Conference of Celtic Women in Milwaukee.

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Karan Casey Performs in S.P.A.C.E.

Karen Casey, with help from Kathleen Keane, will perform at the new S.P.A.C.E. in Evanston, 1245 Chicago Ave. on March 18th at 8 pm. One of the most influential and most imitated voices in folk music, Karan is a natural innovator. More than a decade ago American audiences were introduced to Casey fronting the Irish "supergroup" Solas. Following their groundbreaking early releases Casey struck out on her own. New ventures during 2008 included The Valleyly Brother's Big Band, Karan and Seamus Egan's new project involving Aoife O'Donovan and Lau, and Niall Valleyly's "Turas na dTaoiseach/Flight of the Earl's" event, which was premiered in Belfast's Grand Opera House and later performed in Louvain, Belgium.

Karen's backup, Kathleen Keane is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer, champion step dancer and actress, is one of the finest exponents of the Irish community in Chicago.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 the day of, and \$26 reserved table seating. 847.492.8860. info@evanston.space.com

The S.P.A.C.E (Society for the Preservation of Art & Culture in Evanston) provides a flexible creative



canvas for the community. Serving as an ideal venue for music, dance, visual arts, theater, and literary arts, the versatile 3,000 square foot area offers exceptional sight lines and sound. The rustic urban décor is highlighted by the wood floor, made from the original timbers of an East Coast barn, as well as vaulted ceilings and exposed brick walls. With collapsible tables and chairs and portable staging and technologically advanced video and audio recording equipment, the S.P.A.C.E is versatile as well as styl-

ish. By combining flexibility with functionality, it's a venue that could easily be used for hosting a business meeting by day and showcasing an up-and-coming band by night.

First Ever Irish Sessions in Rogers Park

Kathleen Keane, and The Poitin Stil, 1502 W Jarvis, Chicago, will host a new Irish session which will be held the second Sunday of every month from 6 pm. to 8 pm., beginning March 8th. Along with Kathleen, Billy Knox will be sitting in on these once monthly sessions. Billy is best known as the lead guitarist for the popular European and North American touring band, Sprigs which he heads up with Boston violinist, Brendan Bulger (aka Count Bulger).

Fareed Haque (Garaj Mahal) has described Billy's playing as "very intricate" and legendary French multi-instrumentalist Julien Biget (Ensemble de Gabriel Yacoub) has

observed Billy's accompaniment as follows: "...sui generis, my most preferred traditional guitar style and the only one I can immediately identify".

Billy Knox is the the exclusive North American endorser for master luthier, Risto Ivanovski. In addition to his guitar playing, he plays the club melodeon using "Knox' Lucky Club System" a proprietary hybrid button/quasi-piano tone layout he invented to improve upon the limitations of the

familiar British chromatic systems. Like Jim Conway of Sprigs, he is also

an avid throat singer focusing mainly on the Khomei and Sygyt styles. Billy was awarded the coveted State of Illinois Ethnic Arts Council Grant and will be prominently heard on Seamus Connolly's much anticipated and massive anthology of Irish music.

To really

kick this first Rogers Park Session off with a huge opening crowd, The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group will gather their music fans at The Stil to catch this historic session. Kathleen O'Connor, Meetup organizer has done an outstanding job of gathering several hundred people at a time to meet up and listen to music and each other. To learn more about her group go to www.celticmusic.meetup.com/113

The Irish Pub Music Meetup Group is a social group made up of Chicagoland Irish Pub Music Fans who get together twice a month. You don't have to be Irish, (and many aren't) to enjoy live Irish Music in different Chicagoland Irish Pub locations. They also meet up for outdoor Irish Festivals and Irish Music Concerts.

The group boasts over 300 members and are growing at a rapid rate. There is no fee to become a member. The average meetup events typically host 30 people while larger multi meetup events have hosted over 600 people. Membership spans all age generations, all nationalities, and includes married couples and singles. The IPMMG believe that life is best discussed over a pint! On that note, the Poitin Stil will be offering \$4.00 Imperial Pints of Guinness during the sessions!



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Hosted by actor and former Chicagoan Aidan Quinn, Irish Chicago is a remarkable eighty-minute documentary that celebrates the rich history of Chicago's powerful Irish community. From the days of Chicago's founding in the 1830s, the city has been the final stop for people journeying from all over the world looking for a land of opportunity. Irish Chicago tells the story of Irish immigrants who worked in factories, became leaders in politics, as well as those who made significant contributions to the city's growing cultural life.



Through the use of historical footage, archival photos and stories from a core group of contemporary Chicagoans, Irish Chicago presents a springboard back into Chicago's rich history to show the role the Irish

played in building this great city. The program celebrates the Irish reputation for close-knit communities and families, devotion to faith, a gift for storytelling, a shrewd eye for political and social realities,



a love of music and dancing, as well as an incredible range of experience in civic life.

Join us as we celebrate our beloved city, its history and its people.

To view a clip or obtain more information about Irish Chicago, visit:
www.wttw.com/irishchicago



Irish Chicago is made possible through the generous support of The William F. O'Connor Foundation, in Memory of Billy O'Connor; Walsh Construction; and Robert & Joan Clifford. (as of February 3, 2009)

Additional support is provided by O'Briens Restaurant and Bar. (as of January 29, 2009)

Irish Chicago is an original production of WTTW Chicago. Dan Andries, Producer. Sara Medlin, Associate Producer. VJ McAleer, Executive Producer.



Host and narrator Aidan Quinn, the son of Irish parents, was raised in Chicago. The award-winning actor trained at the Flea Theatre Workshop in Evanston and began his career on the Chicago stage. Quinn's performance credits include an impressive list of theatre, film and television productions. In New York, he starred on Broadway in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Off Broadway* in *Sam Shepard's Fool for Love* and in *The Exonerated and Salome* directed by Estelle Parsons with Al Pacino. Aidan received Emmy nominations for his perform and in the ground-breaking AIDS television drama, *An Early Frost* and most recently for his work in HBO's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. He has starred in over 35 feature films, among them *Desperately Seeking Susan*, *Steakout*, *Benny and Joan*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Looking for Richard* and *The Assignment*. In 2005, Quinn was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award for *Goodwill* and recently co-starred with Meryl Streep in the independent feature *Devil Wears Prada*. He continues to star in films that allow him to return to his Irish roots, such as *Michael Collins* and *Enya*. His most recent television credits include *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Castle's Love*.

Watch Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30pm
and Monday, March 16 at 8:00pm
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Anne Burke dedication, and even a group photo in the winner's circle. Packages can also include betting vouchers, parking and prizes, fun and easy how-to-bet lessons, and audio video presentations.

Get started raising money now by calling Ann Bourke at 708-446-8342.

Beverly Arts Center 5th Annual Family Fest

The Beverly Arts Center (BAC), 2407 W. 111th St. in Chicago, will host the 5th Annual South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Family Fest, Sun., Mar. 15, 11am to 5pm.

"The Parade celebrates family and tradition," said BAC Executive Director Mike Nix. "We offer families a place to bring their 'wee folks' to celebrate Irish culture while enjoying Chicago's best parade." The BAC's Family Fest provides a warm, friendly place from which to watch the South

Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall



The 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has announced that Dick Devine will serve as Grand Marshall of the parade this year. Dick Devine served as Cook County State's Attorney for 12 years before returning to private practice this year. He is now a white collar criminal defense attorney at the Chicago firm of Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson LLC. He heads the firm's white-collar criminal defense and commercial litigation practice. Devine is a proud Irish-American whose ancestors hail from County Cavan. He lives in Rogers Park with his wife of 42 years, Charlene.

Side Irish Parade, as well as live entertainment, food and family activities.

From its vantage point at 111th and Western, the BAC offers a terrific view of the pipers, bands, clans and floats as they march down Western toward 115th Street.

Inside, families will enjoy music, and face painting, movies and crafts for kids. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission to the Family Fest is \$5 per person age or \$15 per family.

For information call 773-445-3838 or visit www.beverlyartcenter.org.



A youngster at last year's Beverly Arts Center Parade Day Family Fest is mesmerized by the Irish Dancers. This year's fest will be held during the South Side Irish Parade on Sun., Mar. 15.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Forest Park



One of largest St. Patrick's Parades in the western suburbs, the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Parade will kick off on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 1pm, all along Madison Street from Van Buren to Harlem in downtown Forest Park.

Organized by the Forest Park Chamber of Commerce & Development, the parade features the award-winning Proviso East Marching Band, Medinah Shriner entries, bagpipers, area police and fire vehicles, antique cars, floats, Irish dancers, Derby Lite and more. Parade-goers are invited to visit local restaurants and pubs following the parade to enjoy bagpipers, great food and plenty of fun... and shopping Madison Street's unique boutiques, galleries, specialty shops and antique stores.

Forest Park Mayor, Anthony T. Calderone has been involved in the parade the entire time. "We see an opportunity to bring the community together, and to open up our community to people that travel from many miles away to enjoy the parade and festivities afterwards. Geraldine Healy will emcee at the reviewing stand next to Doc Ryan's," said the Mayor.

"The bagpipers in the parade break up into smaller groups when the parade is over and entertain folks up and down Madison Street in the restaurants and bars for the fun of it! Tipping is okay," laughed Mayor Calderone.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



As St. Patrick's Day approaches it's time for our annual appeal. Many of you have given in the past and may God Bless you for that. But 'lil Mikey is a hungry Hooligan and his needs just seem to expand each year, just like his waistline.

Our annual St. Patrick's Day appeal has helped 'lil Mikey in past years with financing for his used Cadillac, his bar tabs all over town, and helped defray some of the costs of his hemorrhoid surgery.

And over the last few years 'lil Mikey has cut many of the expenses that he thought might be perceived as frivolous; like cigarettes, deodorant, and his membership in a private club like the Union League Club, where he was blackballed because of his heterosexuality.

This St. Patrick's Day 'lil Mikey is facing an economic collapse like everybody else and to top it off he's going to Ireland in March to shoot a film with his wife and twins sons all on the payroll. This is 'lil Mikey's first trip "home" and he's already been warned by his old pal Mike

Monaghan in Galway regarding his wardrobe, "Don't show up here wearin' a green fookin' sweater and a tweed hat!"

So 'lil Mikey is going to have to purchase new sweaters, which actually isn't so bad since all his green sweaters seem to have permanent puke stains on the front of them.

Bouncing from Dublin to Galway to Clare for the Ennis Book Festival could get expensive for 'lil Mikey because his boss at the Irish American News grabs all the freebies for himself and 'lil Mikey has to pay his own way. Your gift can insure that Chicago brings some economic help to the land of our ancestors and 'lil Mikey won't bounce any checks in the land of Kathleen ni' Houlihan.

'Lil Mikey will return to his beloved Chicago just in time for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. He'll be hanging around Kitty O'Shea's and pints aren't cheap there by any means. He's going to need your help!

He's going to be scampering

around with the Plumbers for the 54th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown and 'lil Mikey will be filming that as well. Your donations can help put the whiskey in 'lil Mikey's flask to warm his mighty belly as the biting wind comes off the lake that day.

On Sunday the Ides of March, 'lil Mikey and his sons will be filming the Southside Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade. You can help provide peace of mind to 'lil Mikey if he has bail money in his pocket that day and enough left over for some hair of the dog that morning.

Please help 'lil Mikey again this year and take him into your heart. No donation is too large, but please spend at least 25 bucks to purchase the book "Hooliganism". Or you can buy the 15th Anniversary DVD of GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND! And on March 24th Vanguard Cinema is releasing the DVD of Mike Houlihan's indie feature film Tapioca, so you can buy that as well! All these goodies are available online at www.mikehoulihan.com and please remember that 100% of your donation will go directly to the annual 'Lil Mikey Appeal.

We'll also be selling books and DVDs at The Beverly Woods on Western Ave. at 115th Street, right

after the Southside Parade. Stop by and ask 'lil Mikey to show you the scars from his surgery.

Thanks for your continued generosity to the needs of 'lil Mikey.

Cagney's Opening in March

Cagney's Restaurant & Sports Lounge, the newest addition to Lincoln Park, is the first venture in Chicago for Dave Casey, Philip Quilter, and Christopher Collins, who have established themselves with several other nightlife venues in New York City. They have enlisted the expertise of two Chicago Irish locals, Gerry Boy McCormack and Gary Kierens, who have helped to bring this new exciting venue, Cagney's Restaurant & Sports Lounge. Creating a place for locals, ex-pats, and tourists alike who are looking to have a bit of craic (Gaelic word for "fun"), Cagney's will provide the ultimate experience. Opening day is set for Monday, March 2nd, 2009.

Adorned with dark woodwork, exposed brick, and interior provided by the high-end fixtures and furnishings company Studio Mix in New York, the space reflects a modern Irish tavern. A state-of-the-art sound sys-

tem will provide a platform for DJ's Thursday through Saturday nights to rock the crowd whether it be house music, top 40, country, 80's hits, or whatever the crowd may please.

With thirty-two 42-inch HD flat screens and a considerable sports package the emphasis will be on giving people a place to cheer on their favorite teams, while enjoying a delicious bistro menu with a genuine sense of Irish hospitality. A family-friendly brunch will be offered on weekends.

The multi-level Cagney's also offers the downstairs Lounge for private events that can be catered for up to 300 people, and a fireplace provides a warm and intimate experience.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Instrumental Album of the Year - Moving On - Denis Carey

A great, great album from a fantastic musician. Denis Carey is from Tipperary and is the piano player with the Brock-McGuire Band. An amazing piano player, accordionist and musician, Carey has gathered up many of his musical friends and put out a stunner. It all features his compositions, and it is magic. Want to hear where important Irish music really is today? Get this album. A masterpiece from a master.

Male Vocalist of the Year - Matt Keane - Out in the Field

We have loved Matt Keane's voice for decades. His first album, we believe, was the little known masterpiece, Music of the Valley. The Keanes are all magic. Dolores was the best trad singer in the world. We also love Matt's brother, Sean. But, Matt. Matt! Years ago, we called him The Voice of the West when reviewing Valley. Was then, still is. Galway is the home of this master of the form. He also released a wonderful album this year with his daughter, Orlaith entitled, Pictures in Time. The family's heritage of greatness in music is in safe hands with Orlaith, also. But, this is all about Matt. He is Irish music, in so many ways. For us, he is the greatest of the Keanes, and that is saying something. This humble man is a walking treasure. A very easy pick this year.

Vocal/Instrumental Album of the Year - bohola - Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders

Chicago's own hometown world champions. This album never puts a foot wrong, and really showcases the two lads' magic at its best. Jimmy and Pat are such a vibrant, critical part of Chicago's preeminent position as the best city in the world for Irish music lovers. Their almost insane concert schedule proves the world agrees. These are two master musicians in their day and in their prime—and this album shows all that and more. Pat's vocals get better and better and better—and no one can now touch Jimmy on that magical accordion of his. These guys, right now, are alpha and omega. We love 'em!! Wow!

Female Vocalist of the Year - Rita Connolly and Eilis Kennedy - Beal Tuinne

There are just no words. Eilis has been named as Female Vocalist of the Year previously in The Livies. This Dingle singer is so wonderful. Rita Connolly is a force that made other Shaun Davey projects such as Granuaile so memorable, along with the music itself. These two teaming up on the same album give us all the chance to hear Ireland singing. It cannot be done better. They are a blessing. Listen to this cut, and get the album. Just see if we exaggerate. We are obsessed by this album, and still listen to all or part of it every day. There is perfection on earth after all, and it is this album and these two singers.

Newcomers of the Year - Rattle the Boards - Benny McCarthy on accordion, Pat Egan on fiddle and banjo, John T. Egan on vocals, John Nugent on guitar and vocals and Donnchadh Goughon bodhran have stormed onto the scene this year with one of the biggest selling and most loved debut albums in memory. The key? It is fun. It is a ball! Terrific tunes and songs, all imbued with a real sense of the joy that Irish music is. "Mason's Apron" is our favorite tune, and "Patrick Was a Gentleman" our fav song. These guys get it. No self-involved navel-gazing here about "the meaning of the tradition," and all that crap. No pretentious egos. Just a sense of the fun of it all. We love these guys and cannot wait to see them in person!

Female Musician of the Year - Shannon Heaton - Lovers' Well

A great singer, but Shannon's flute playing on Lovers' Well is so stunning she had to receive this Award. She is beautifully accompanied by husband Matt on a variety of instruments in an album that celebrates both love itself and Irish music. Fair enough. We love Shannon—and we love her musicianship. Her technical ability is matched only by her taste and grasp of the music. What an amazing woman. What an amazing album. Amazing. Did we say amazing?

Male Musician of the Year - Chris Newman - Heartstring Sessions

Chris Newman may well be the best trad/acoustic/folk/Argentinian tango/mazurka player in the world. Or, put another way, he is the music's best guitarist. He and fellow musician, Maire ni Chathasaigh on harp have defined and refined their positions in the music to the point where they have become iconic. Team the world's best Celtic harpist with the best guitar player, and you have it all. It is criminal that Chris has not won an individual Top TIR before, but that is now redressed. He has been one of the very, very best for years—and remains so. Chris, you are the deal, and so say us all!

Instrumental Cut of the Year - Dave Sheridan - Sheridan's Guest House

Sheridan's Guest House is an incredible, almost all-instrumental album from an incredible flute player. The singing is marginal and unnecessary to the genius going on in this. This is the year for flute players, isn't it? The cut is "Mulhaire/Kiss The Maid Behind The Barrels." So fab, so brill, this is what Irish music is supposed to sound like. We just keep playing it and playing it.

Vocal Album of the Year - Maranna McCloskey - At Last

This Derry singer establishes herself as the best of all, and straight out of the chutes on this winner. An alto of exquisite warmth and grasp of the tradition. You just can't sing traditional music better than this. She is one of those singers who stops you in mid-step, as you turn to hear her better. We have sat and sat and sat in front of the sound system listening to At Last. The voice is a gift from God. But, the understanding, the grasp, the intuition are hers. Like Laura Smith, no one else sounds like this. Maranna McCloskey owns the future. We are sitting here writing this as we hear her singing, "The Home I Left Behind." I'm going to do what we all should do. Stop what we are doing and listen to Maranna. Like her voice, she is a gift. We will all truly hold this singer and this album dear in the future.

Composer of the Year - Shaun Davey - Beal Tuinne

Shaun Davey is, indisputably, Ireland's greatest composer. His career in symphonies, movie scores and television composition is far too vast to even introduce here. He is Irish music. Shaun embodies the country's best in the soul of his heart, the power of his musical insight, and the sureness of his hand as he writes it all down. We think Beal Tuinne is his most intimate, and greatest, work. His library is for the ages, but none more so than Beal Tuinne. "Masterpiece" hardly covers it. But, it will have to do for now, as there is no word for him and his body of work. Thank you, Shaun.

Top TIR Awards 2009

We are told our pal, Shay Clarke, is again cutely trying to duplicate TOP TIR Awards' success across the page with his salute to everything he loves that bears no resemblance to Irish music. Well, we'll keep trying to educate HIM in his silliness, as we inform YOU about this year's winners as the best of the best in Irish music. Is this the 21st year for these Awards? 24th? We have no idea—nor do we care. To all these winners, play on! Envelopes please...

Album of the Year - Beal Tuinne - Beal Tuinne

We wrote a lengthy article on this album and its history for a recent issue of Irish Music Magazine. We also reviewed it here in the paper. Rest assured we could, theoretically, make only one Award this year, and entitle it The Everything Award. That is all we would need to do for Beal Tuinne. Another masterpiece from Shaun Davey. If you do not have this

album, you have nothing in regard to the music. A miracle and a gift from all involved. Easiest pick ever.

Vocal Cut of the Year - Laura Smith - My Bonny

We have never, ever heard a song like this. About 10 years ago, Laura recorded her version of this classic for The Chieftains in their Fire in the Kitchen album. Laura Smith is a genius. A songwriter of such taste and intelligence. A singer, perhaps unequalled. No one—no one—sounds like her. She is spectacularly gifted, and we are all the beneficiaries. Just listen to this cut. Unique. Gorgeous. She wrote the two new verses, of course. The rumor is that she is at work on a new, Celtic, trad-oriented album. We have never looked forward to an album more. We are honestly at a loss as to what to say. Words can't do it, and don't do it. Just listen. Stunning. She is, quite simply, the best.

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



The ROSAS Awards

Without fanfare it's time again for the ROSAS awards for exceptional albums we have enjoyed in the past year, and it was another bumper year for releases. As usual, my radio partner and fellow columnist Bill Margeson will be posting his awards for the very best in Trad, The TIR Awards, but I will deal in "Songs and Stories." So if your taste runs to traditional Irish folk, the contemporary, the ballad singers and yes, the Celtic rockers, then please check out these albums, the cream of the crop, six of the best, my albums of the year.

Irish Album of the Year
What's the Rumpus? - Gaelic Storm
Without a doubt their best album so far, Gaelic Storm continue to do what they do best: entertain. What's the Rumpus? has it all and plenty of it. As usual, they have the uncanny ability of injecting a very live feel to a studio album.

Many influences come together on this great album, and as I have said before, there is not a single bad note on it. Mix together blistering instrumentals, clever arrangements, bawdy ballads, silly love songs and some Murphy mayhem and you get What's the Rumpus?—my Irish album of the year. Congratulations Patrick, Steve, Jessie, Ryan and Pete!

Scottish Album of the Year
Out All Night - Findlay Napier and the Bar Room Mountaineers

The Celtic Classic Festival in Bethlehem, PA, was almost rained

out last year, and God help me, but I don't remember who put this album in my hand and asked me to listen to it. But to whomever it was, I am eternally grateful.

Apart from a couple of fine traditional arrangements, it is the songwriting and voice of Findlay Napier that makes this album special. Some may call it contemporary, but it is a beautiful amalgam of Scottish soul, funk and folk. Findlay's voice is as warm and comfortable as a well-worn leather jacket.

Out All Night is an awesome album. Findlay Napier - lead vocals and guitar. Gillian Frame - fiddle, viola and vocals. Douglas Millar - keyboards and vocals. Paul Jennings - cajón, percussion and vocals. Celtic Rock Album of the Year
Bonnie Prince Barley - Barleyjuice

Toe tapping, hand clapping, whiskey drinking, crowd pleasing, high stepping music that makes the blood flow a little faster. This album takes no more than seconds to drag you in, wring you out and send you directly to their website to see where they are appearing next. Here you'll find great tunes, smart lyrics and a few instant classics from these great songwriters and musicians. Kyf Brewer, Keith Swanson, Billy Dominick, Jimmy Car-bomb, Eric Worthington and Gregor Schroder do their fans proud with this album of unrepentant Celtic rock.

Female Vocal Album of the Year
Cross My Palm - Aine Furey
This is the best female vocalist I

have heard in ages, and no surprise, as she comes from one of Ireland's most musical families, The Furey's. Aine's father Finbar, was once the heart of the Furey Brothers, now with a very successful solo career and Martin, her brother, is with the fabulous High Kings. But the famous Furey voice has never sounded as light, airy and beautiful as this. Aine Furey is simply sensational and she has terrific musical support on this gem of an album. Maurice Lennon, James Blennerhassett, Robin Hurt, Nollaig Casey and Gerry O'Briain are among those lending expert support. I can even hear her daddy Finbar on a track. Contemporary to traditional—it's all in there. Take it from me—Aine Furey will be around for a long time. Great stuff. Wow. This is music from the heart that soothes the soul.

Male Vocal Album of the Year
Rocky Road - Damien Dempsey

A no brainer, this one is the best offering by miles. Damo brings new life to old songs. What a voice, what passion, there is nobody else even close. Luke Kelly born again. Damien Dempsey leaves behind, just for this album, his wonderful contemporary song writing to indulge his fans with this incredible selection of traditional ballads. Damo's voice has earned him admiration from all and respect from his peers, with his vocal riffs and lifting voice, born in the Sean Nós tradition, his album is a classic. Best Irish Album by a New Band
Soldier's Songs: The Irish Abroad and Soldiering - Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band

When we heard that Máirtín de



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Cógáin had teamed up with Jimmy Crowley we expected magic, and now it has arrived in the form of this magnificent, historically significant album. It's nothing short of brilliant, from these two great Corkmen calling themselves Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band.

Soldier's Songs: The Irish Abroad and Soldiering is a self-explanatory theme album, and it was worth waiting for as every song, note and word are perfectly crafted as the lads take us on a journey, from the Congo, to the Spanish Civil War and everywhere else that Irishmen fought and died.

These guys know their stuff, and they share these stories with us in flawless fashion. Thanks lads... and did I mention the voices? Fab!

So there you have it, six of the

best new albums arriving that we will bring to your attention in the months to follow. New albums from Liz Carroll and John Doyle, Kennedy's Kitchen, John Spillane and Tony Kenny. Check out our radio show, Blarney on the Air each Monday night on wdcb.org or on the radio at 90.9 FM from 7-9 pm Central time. Our site www.blarneyontheair.com has archived shows and you are welcome to check them out.

Most of these albums are available at Rampant Lion in Villa Park or Paddy's on the Square in Long Grove or wherever good music is sold.

Enjoy St. Patrick's Day and support your local Irish events and concerts.

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Steven -

Pls come up with a promo that'd make a great NYC getaway. Yes there's theater and museums, but given our locations and all the bargains out there, let's key in on shopping. Don't spare any frills... wouldn't be us!

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Once Upon a Time in Ireland...

...there was a kind of decency that has been lost.

Now we have a country where the Tanaiste Mary Coughlan and the Defence Minister (defending what? His backside?) Willie O'Dea and his ludicrous moustache can fly off to Texas to meet the Dell boss Michael Dell and they charge the country €164,000 for the privilege of these

two junket-hunters doing it.

They could have flown commercial for less than a thousand each but that wouldn't be good enough for these two, despite the fact that workers here are being asked more and more to cut their wages.

Maybe I should apologise: O'Dea's little important looking moustache would just HAVE to fly in the Government of Lunacy's Gulfstream IV jet. But for heaven's sake, couldn't you have given the poor old taxpayer value for money and taken Finance Minister Brian Lenihan's wig with you?

Or even better, just taken him and dropped him quietly into the ocean, preferably somewhere in the mid-Atlantic or even better the Bermuda Triangle where he didn't have a hope of swimming for rescue but would give we poor suckers here a bit of light relief?

Jeez, it might be doing him a favour: he might end up in some

parallel universe where bankers, developers and the speculators who got us into this mess were banged up in a cell with a really cheesed-off guy called Bubba.

Still, I'm sure that the announcement that 1,900 jobs had just been sent down the Swanee gave a lot of laughs to O'Dea's fellow dudes in Limerick. That must have lightened their Christmas spirits, allright.

I'm sure that I would have found it hilarious to be out of a job at the same time I was trying to tear the beard off Santa Clause.

At least we get the priorities right here: when in doubt, let's reward the bankers, developers and speculators who did so much for us by... oh, let me think. Screwing up the country?

No... that would make too much sense to go after these characters. Here's a better idea: go after the people who earn as little as €15,000 a year and gouge more money out of them and take an extra 3% from these wasters.

Those lazy bitches, the nurses? We all know that they just sit around all day doing nothing so let's take another three grand off their earnings.

Do you know something, Fianna Fail, you have gone beyond sarcasm.

You are a bunch of swinish suit and tie Johns who have been in power for far too long. You are shameless, so I'm wasting my time in telling you that you are hurting decent, hard working people while at the same time you reward with big pensions and golden handshakes those croneys of yours who will never do time for the fraud and deceit that they are guilty of.

You allow people like Sean FitzPatrick of the Anglo Irish Bank to swan around without a care in the world while owing €87 million. Oh, and by the way, have you forgotten that he destroyed a number of shareholders along his twisted road? No, you would rather jail a mother of six who owed under a thousand on her credit card.

Easy targets are great, aren't they, you spineless bunch of sodbusters?

Along with your partners in the Green Party, you simply HAVE no shame anymore.

And talking of that bunch, you must have thought that you had died and gone to heaven when you got them into bed with you.

John Gormley, their leader must be just about the most sanctimonious, smug, solipsistic creep I have ever come across, and believe me I've met quite few.

Here's a guy who has changed his policies on everything just because he's in what he sees as power now. But let's be honest here: what that truly means is that he has been told to lie down and have his stomach tickled and then play dead.

I despise him. And, I suspect, so do you Fianna Failures.

We live in a country where an ignorant piece of flotsam who is called Brian Goggin who—despite his bank, the Bank of Ireland being bailed out—can go on radio to whine and cry like a little baby that his year's income will come to just under €2 million because of his ineptitude.

What are we paying the Fraud Squad for anyway? To go after window cleaners who might have the temerity to take a few quid in the

hand instead of these deceitful, full of themselves fat cat crooks? I don't think that was the original intention.

(Yes, I know editor, these are my opinions so sue me, not the paper.)

If you ever needed proof that there is no such thing as God then look no further than that these creatures are still poncing about while Hugh Leonard has died.

I have felt for years that he was Ireland's greatest living playwright, but it's only now that he has so sadly passed away that all the woodlice are coming out from under their stones to tell us what we already knew. Journalists that disparaged him are now talking of his contribution to the Arts, something I find hilarious as the same ones looked down on him for having the common touch and for theatres to be filled when one of his plays were on.

Yes, he was a grumpy old character many times over and yes, he didn't suffer fools gladly, but he lived a life and left a legacy in his writing that will not soon be forgotten. Indeed, my favourite was the painfully honest and yet very funny A Life.

Others, like the author Joseph O'Connor, who wrote about him so movingly and brilliantly yesterday preferred his outstanding piece, Da.

But like Mr. O'Connor, what I will remember is his gentle answer to a fan letter (yeah, that's right) that I wrote to him when starting out in this game. I talked of my love for Sam Peckinpah's writing and films; my love of Ken Russell for the same reasons and of H.P. Lovecraft.

He put all of them down in a quiet manner that, at the same time, didn't make me lose my enthusiasm for them. And he encouraged me, and I will never forget him for that.

He may have been an old curmudgeon but I have feeling that was only on the surface.

He disappointed me in beginning to lose his atheism towards the end, but wherever you are now, Mr. Leonard, I hope you have been giving them hell.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Friends are such a blessing, especially those friends who drag you out on a dismal evening when you're feeling sorry for yourself and all you want to do is sit home and whine. It was such an evening for me a couple of weeks ago, when my buddy Wayne Hoban called to let me know that the Dooley Brothers were playing at the Irish American Heritage Center. Since I hadn't seen either the Dooleys or Wayne in far too long, I drove on down to the center, grumbling all the way. Let me tell you it didn't take long, or too many pints, and I was singing along to all the old tunes, feeling comfortable and right at home in the Fifth Province, the pub at the Center. It was so good to watch & hear the Dooley Brothers as they drug out and dusted off all the old tunes that, I admit, I love. There's just nothing like settling in with the friendly folk that inhabit that place to pull all the thorns that winter in Chicago can drive into your bum daily. Thank God, too, for buddies like Wayne, who remember to call when you really need a therapeutic evening. By the way, the Dooley Brothers will be one of the bands playing at

the Center for the big St. Patrick's party on Saturday, 14 March!

Minnesota Scottish Fair

2009 promises to be a challenging year, and for a lot of us, vacations are going to be shortened or eliminated altogether. If you want to take a short vacation and see one of the nicest Scottish festivals around, go to Farmington, MN, on May 9th, and see the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games. Held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds, just a wee bit north of Northfield, MN, (Great Northfield raid, Jesse James and his gang, lots of history, a beautiful town & St. Olaf College). This games has it all—food, fun, great piping, beer and, this year, Seven Nations. Check their website for more info at www.mnscottishfair.org and, yes, we'll be there, wouldn't miss it. It takes about 7.5 hours to drive there, unless you stop in Red Wing, MN, a town definitely worth seeing.

Milwaukee Highland Games

Lots of good news to report about

the Milwaukee Games that will go on as usual on the first Saturday in June—June 6th to be exact. First of all, they're moving! The committee has found a great new location at Hart Park in Wauwatosa, WI (almost Milwaukee). There will be lots more room, so you'll see more vendors, more food, more parking, and a lot of surprises that the folks who run the games are working on as I type. This festival has always been a fun one for me, and it shows every sign of continuing that way. Maps, schedules, and late breaking news will be carried on the website at www.milwaukeehighlandgames.org. This one is closer to the Chicago area, takes us only a little less than 1.5 hours to drive there—even less if Gayle's driving.

Springfield Highland Games

After taking a year off, so the Illinois State Fairgrounds could fix the wiring, the Springfield Highland Games is back on schedule for Saturday, May 16th again at the State Fairgrounds. And why not? At least the wiring is new. All goofing aside, this festival features one of the finest pipe band competitions in the Midwest. They also have a very spirited highland dance competition. A nice feature that many people have taken advantage of in the past, is the close proximity of the Lincoln sites in nearby New Salem and Springfield. You

can attend the festival on Saturday, see the Lincoln sites on Sunday, and still be home by Sunday night. Another myth here is that Springfield has no decent places to eat. Well, that's wrong! We've found interesting restaurants every year. You can get more info at the website of the Saint Andrew Society of Central Illinois (www.sascipd.com). A highlight of this fest is getting to see the Central Illinois Saint Andrew's Pipe Band, under the direction of Pipe Major Tom Ogilvy, strut their stuff. A great bunch of people, who know how to have a good time.

Oakbrook Highland Games

I nearly stroked out this winter when I heard a disturbing rumor that the Illinois Saint Andrew Society Highland Games were cancelled. Luckily, the rumor, like most, was false, and the largest highland games and Scottish festival in the Midwest is still on for the third weekend in June, the 19th & 20th. This games has become the largest Scottish festival with the largest gathering of pipe bands in the area. If you're looking for great pipe band and solo competition—this is the place to go. The festival starts on Friday evening with a huge ceilidh and a stage full of top name talent. The vendors and food stands are open and, of course, adult beverages will be available. The party runs late on Friday, so bring a designated driver. Saturday the fun starts early with solo piping competi-

tion and dance competition, on opposite ends of the grounds so as not to drive each other mad. Pipe band competition, athletic competition, a parade of clans, massed pipe bands and a host of other events will fill up the day. Last year, there was even an encampment of the 12th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War reenactor group, that portrays the unit known during the Civil War as "the 1st Scotch Brigade." All in all, this is the show not to miss. You can find out more by checking their website at www.chicago-scots.org.

Bad News/Good News

We got an email last month about a great area pipe teacher, Bill Smillie. Seems Bill had slipped on some ice and had a painful fall. A trip to the emergency room disclosed that Bill has a case of spinal stenosis in his neck unrelated to the fall. This is a fairly serious condition that can cause paralysis if untreated. Well, they slapped Bill into Northwestern Memorial in a timely manner for treatment, and it seems to have been successful. We heard later from Bill Peterson, Bill's grandson, that Bill is home and recovering nicely. He also mentioned that Bill would be wearing a neck brace for a while, but he'll be fine. Hope everyone has a happy and safe Saint Patrick's Day. Stop by and say Hi at the store or email your thoughts, greetings and general musings to pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainte!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

from

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Gaelic Park March Events

Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park hosts weekly Celtic Suppers, every Sunday, with food, music and dancing from 4-9pm. They are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and perfect for family celebrations for all occasions. For just \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided.

This month's entertainment includes: Joe Cullen-3/1; Sean O'Donnell-3/8; Gerard Haughey-3/22; and The Griffins-3/29.

Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and children under 3 are free. Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve your tickets.

Mass & Breakfast

Gaelic Park will hold a special South Side Irish Celebration Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 15th, 2009 with Mass beginning at 9am. The morning begins with a special presentation of the symbols of Ireland by local school children. The Gaelic Park choir will perform inspirational Irish hymns during Mass and a delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, served after Mass. The cost for breakfast is \$8.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. (708)687-9323. www.chicogaelicpark.org.

St. Patrick's Day at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park will host many activities on Tuesday, March 17th, in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

The St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, for which tickets are \$20 purchased in advance, will be held at Noon with a delicious lunch served and lots of music by Joe Cullen until 3pm and a show by the Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing.

In the Tara Room, The Griffins will perform at 3pm and Gerard Haughey at 7pm. There will also be a hot food buffet from 4:30pm.

The Ploughboys will also perform in the Tara Room, beginning at 6:30pm. The Ploughboys have been performing for over seventeen years. Their act includes performances of old Irish rebel songs, ballads and more. The Ploughboys are Irish enthusiasts and enjoy classical as well as contemporary approaches to music making. With the

sounds of the fiddle, bluegrass banjo, bodhran, bass guitar, piano accordion and the distinct sounds of a mandolin, The Ploughboys will rouse the crowd with their music.

In the Tara Room, there will be kid's entertainment beginning at 5pm.

Gaelic Park is also hosting former Opryland singer, Deirdre Reilly and Her Band, for a special St. Patrick's Day dinner and show, on Tuesday, March 17th.

Deirdre is known for her kind, charming style, powerful voice and vibrant stage presence. She carefully selects her music as well as those in her band to give great performances each and every time. The doors open at 6:30pm in the Emerald Room. A delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 7pm. The show will

Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with music and great, mouth-watering food. The Carraig serves favorites such as corned beef sandwiches, shepherd's pie, fish & chips, ribs, chicken and many other entrees and appetizers.

Music is also big at the Carraig with free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers. This month's entertainment includes: Rico Quinn, 3/6; Bernie Glim & Country Roads, 3/13; Pat Guinee, 3/14; Johnny & Coax, 3/27; and Longnecks, 3/28. Entertainment for 3/7, 3/20 and 3/21 will be announced at a later date.

South Side Irish Sunday, March 15th, come to the Carraig Pub for live music by John Dillon at 1:30pm and

Ireland On Parade

Gaelic Park along with Martin Fahy, will host the 42nd Annual Ireland on Parade celebration featuring Irish music, song, set dancing, step dancing, ceili dancing and story telling for five nights Friday, March 6th, and Friday, March 10th through March 13th.

Doors open at 5:30pm and each night free entertainment in the Emerald Room begins at 6pm with fast paced Irish step dancing performances by 2 to 3 Irish dance schools. Each evening concludes with ceili dancing, set dancing, line dancing and waltzing to the music of Sean O'Donnell. There is no admission charge for Ireland on Parade.

There will also be a hot food buffet in the Tara Room beginning at 5:30pm. Shepherd's Pie, Fish & chips, Irish sausage, chicken sandwiches and corned beef sandwiches will be available.

Following is a schedule of the Irish step dancing school performances: Friday, March 6th; the Jerry O'Loughlin School of Dancing, the Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing, and the Black-

be at approximately 9pm. Tickets are \$40 and reservations are required.

Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve tickets.

The Carraig Pub Hosts St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park will host a St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser on Saturday, March 14th, 2009. All donations go to childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's volunteers are sponsored by donations from friends and family and shave their heads in solidarity for children with cancer. The head shaving will begin at 4pm at the Carraig.

St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer driven fundraising event to fight childhood cancer. More information on the foundation can be found on their website at www.stbaldricks.org.

Jerry Eadie at 6:30pm.

On Saint Patrick's Day the Carraig Irish Pub will be open for lunch at 11am and will have corned beef dinners, Shepherd's Pie, Irish sausage, fish and chips and corned beef sandwiches. The Carraig will have live music beginning at 3:30pm by the Griffins and music by Gerard Haughey at 7pm. There is no cover charge.

The Carraig hosts a Pub Quiz every Tuesday night beginning at 7:30pm. There will not be a quiz on March 17th. On Thursday evenings, come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

bird Academy of Irish Dancing.

Tuesday, March 10th; the Shaylinn McNamara School of Irish Dancing, and the Mullane, Healy & O'Brien School of Irish Dancing.

Wednesday, March 11th; the Weber School of Irish Dancing, the World Academy of Irish Dancing, and the Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing.

Thursday, March 12th; the Mulhearn School of Irish Dancing, the Irish Music School of Gaelic Park, and the Foy School of Irish Dancing.

Friday, March 13th; the Sullivan School of Irish Dancing and the Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing.

Monthly

Musical Luncheon

Chicago Gaelic Park will host their monthly Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music by Joe Cullen, dancing, and a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

The Atlantic Bar & Grill

Join the Fun Every Day of the Week!

Wed, 3/11, 8pm *Four Your Own Pint and Keep the Glass*

Thu, 3/12, 8pm *Best Legs in Kilts Contest*

Fri, 3/13, 8pm *Irish Soda Bread Competition*

Sat, 3/14 *Open at 8am for Full Irish Breakfast*

Celebrate All Day Long with Pipers, Irish Dancers, and Live Music with "Up Ye Boys"

Sun, 3/15, 8pm *Breakfast Buffet & Bus to Southside Irish Parade (Inquire at the Bar)*

Thurs, 3/17 *St. Patrick's Day Come for Full Irish Breakfast Celebrate All Day Long with Pipers, Irish Dancers, and Live Music with "Up Ye Boys"*

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The Atlantic Bar & Grill

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South Side Irish Sunday

On South Side Irish Sunday, March 15th, come to Gaelic Park for a day full of events for the whole family beginning with the Monthly Mass and Breakfast at 9am. The Mass is preceded by a touching presentation of the symbols of Ireland by local children and includes hymns performed by the Gaelic Park Choir. The Mass is followed by a delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, sausage, soda bread, and black pudding. The cost is \$8.

Doors will re-open at 1:30pm with four stages of continuous entertainment for the entire family. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Entertaining in the Emerald Room is the popular, lively local group, The Larkin & Moran Brothers at 1:30pm; Arranmore brings its contemporary folk music with an Irish flair at 5:15pm; and The Dennehy School of Irish Dance displays its wonderful step dancers at 8pm. The festivities in the Tara Room include Mulligan Stew at 1:30pm and Week Back at 6pm. A delicious hot food buffet will also be available starting at 2pm. Popular Irish dishes such as Shepherd's Pie, Corned Beef Dinners, Fish & Chips and various sandwiches will be available for purchase.

In the Carraig Pub, local sensations John Dillon will perform at 1:30pm and Jerry Eadie at 6:30pm.

The Celtic Room hosts children's entertainment beginning at 2pm with the Dublin Deceptions Magic Show, A Bit "o" the Magic at 3:30pm, and the Shamrock Shenanigans Magic Show at 5pm.

All in all, a great atmosphere for the entire family to celebrate South Side Irish Sunday no matter what the weather.

Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

.../lethekettle@irishamericannews.com



The Irish Spirit

What is it about the Irish spirit that is so ingrained, it never breeds out? Whether native born or generations removed, the Irish bonds are unbroken, whether or not you ever spent a night in your ancestral home. I'll never forget the first night I spent at Ballinglanna, Causeway, County Kerry. The year was 1969.

We had been traveling all night, and the Aer Lingus stretch DC8 had stopped in Montreal before continuing on to Shannon. Upon landing, my Uncle Pat and his wife Maggie, along with my Aunt Margaret (Bob) White, were there to meet us at Shannon Airport. After we collected our baggage, I discovered that we were all traveling in a Volkswagen bug! Five adults and all the luggage in that car. We headed for the farm with a couple of detours along the way. The first stop was a pub in Foynes, where I learned about protocol in the pub. Don't ever try to pay for the pint if somebody else is standing you to it. And, never leave your money on the bar. Our next stop took us to the home of John Michael Boyle in Newcastle West. His home was known as the White House because he kept it so freshly whitewashed. We were invited in for tea and sandwiches, and it went on like that for the rest of the day.

By the time we got to the Boyle farm I was running on adrenalin. It was getting late in the evening. My sister Jeanne was staying down the road in White's House in the lap of luxury, including a bathroom!

It was quite a day. I had met my father's brothers, Patrick, Tom, Terry, and Jack. My aunts, Margaret and Moll, not to mention all the cousins and neighbors. I felt at home.

Finally it was time for bed. The guest room was ready, and full of religious pictures and statues. The infant child of Prague, the Virgin Mary, the Sacred Heart, rosary beads, Padre

Pio, and blessings for all eventualities. There must have been six blankets on the bed, and two hot water bottles placed lovingly, one by my feet and one by my back, by aunt Maggie. I slept like the Sacred Stones of Ireland. I was rudely awakened early in the morning when the cows thundered into the yard heading for the milking parlor. I thought the whole house was coming down around my ears!

After a big breakfast of fried eggs, rashers, hot tea and soda bread I started to get the feeling that I always knew this place. The ring fort on Bob Murphy's farm, Kerry Head, the mouth of the Shannon, Ardfert Cathedral, Tralee, Dingle—and I was home for the first time in my life.

Olympic Dope

Michael Phelps shattered the illusion for millions of youngsters. No more Rice Krispies for breakfast. Just humble pie. Take a big bite Mike. Take a hike Mike. The kids are saying, "I don't want to be like Mike."

Junior Senator

Did Geppetto have two sons? We know about Pinocchio. Remember how Pinocchio's nose grew longer when he lied? Could it be Pinocchio had a brother named Rolando, who may have fibbed to an impeachment committee? Or was he experiencing the onset of dementia and just couldn't remember? It looks as though Monstro the Whale is looking for another meal. Please pass the Parmesan. And where does Rod the puppet master fit into all of this?

Tommy Gibbons

Tommy Gibbons was a very popular man in the Irish community. He supported a great many Irish causes. Tommy's family was originally from Tourmakady, Co. Mayo. His grandfather Tommy, started a funeral home in

Chicago, which was originally known as Gibbons & O'Keefe, and the family has been in the business ever since. Funeral directors spend their lives helping others in their time of sorrow when they have lost a loved one or a family member. The Irish have lost another one of their own. Our condolences to the Gibbons family.

Archbishop of Dublin

Flea markets are full of surprises. I found a letter written by William J. Walsh, the Archbishop of Dublin, dated February 1, 1909. The letter was

Makem and Spain Brothers CD & DVD

Home Away From Home: Live From the Mother Lode Theatre in Butte, Montana is the new Makem and Spain Brothers DVD, released in early August in Butte. A CD of the same concert is also available.

The Makem and Spain Brothers are at their best onstage where their talent and enthusiasm draw in fans who have never experienced the joy of folk music. A host of various instruments and five male vocals, using precise three-part harmonies blend perfectly for what many have described as a wall of sound.

The Makem Brothers, Shane, Conor and Rory, were born in Drogheda, County Louth, about an hour north of Dublin. They continue the lineage of one of Irish

music's dynasties, begun by their grandmother Sarah Makem, who was sought after by song collectors

sent to the editors of the Dublin newspapers asking them not to publicize a case in the probate, and matrimonial court in the interest of morality, as the divorce case was based on adultery. The papers published the story, and now 100 years later the story has been resurrected by Patsy McGarry, religion reporter for the Irish Times. The story is titled "The Sex Scandal The Archbishop Failed to Censor." The article appeared in the Saturday edition of the Irish Times, February 7, 2009.

This all came about when I con-

tacted the Irish Times, and sent them a copy of the Archbishop's letter.

Donald McGuire

The 78-year-old defrocked Jesuit priest has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for crossing state lines to have sex with a minor. Praise the Lord, and Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

I hope to see you at the parade, out on the town, or at the Irish American Heritage Center. Celebrate with dignity.

for her store of traditional Irish songs. Their father was the late Tommy Makem, the modern day Bard of Armagh.

The Spain Brothers, too, learned Irish songs at their father's knee. Mickey's rich, baritone voice and Liam's mastery of stringed instruments quickly found a home when the Makem met the Spains and the brothers realized the power of their combined talents.

There are instrumental bands bringing Irish music down uncharted roads, moving it forward and keeping it living. But there is only one band that is driving Irish folk songs into the 21st century internationally. That band is the Makem and Spain Brothers.

www.makem.com.



music's dynasties, begun by their grandmother Sarah Makem, who was sought after by song collectors

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- 3/7 TBA
- 3/13 Bernie Gilm & Country Roads
- 3/14 Pat Guinness
- 3/17 The Griffin 3:30pm;
Gerard Haughey 7pm. No cover.
- 3/20 TBA
- 3/21 TBA
- 3/27 Johnny & Coar
- 3/28 Longnecks

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Get Your Green on for O'Brien's St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Dust off your tweed cap and bring out your Shillelaghs... Its that time of year again- its time to join O'Briens Restaurant and Bar in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day Chicago Irish Style!

Indulge in our traditional Irish Lunch Buffets, available Saturday and Tuesday. Our buffet will feature corned beef and cabbage, Shepard's Pie, Lamb Stew, Irish Soda Bread and traditional brown

bread. Come and meet the 20089 St. Patrick's Day Queen and her 2009 Court. Reminisce with former Queens of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Tuesday March 17th. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinners are available nightly and Irish Breakfast Plate specials are available on the weekends. Our newest menu item is our Corned Beef Egg Rolls, serviced with a horseradish cream sauce. These are great way to start your meal off

right! Don't forget to save room for dessert... we serve a delicious Bailey's Irish Mousse Cheesecake!

When it comes to longevity, American Idol has nothing on our "Oh Danny Boy Singing Contest"! Warm your pipes with an artfully poured Pint of Guinness before you sing in our 17th Annual Oh Danny Boy Singing contest! Our Master of Ceremonies this is Gerre McPartlin. They will be on to

confer with our panel of distinguished Irish judges. The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band will open this event for us with a rendition of Oh Danny Boy by a solo bagpiper. There is no cost to participate in the contest and advanced sign-up is not required either. Prospective contestants are, however, strongly encouraged to arrive by 4:30pm on Tuesday to ensure their place. Prizes will be awarded to three lucky winners and all can enjoy a great time!

O'Briens has traditional Irish Music on two stages all weekend long including The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Dyed in the Wool, The Sprigs and many more! Bring your family and friends to enjoy Those Funny Little People and traditional Irish Step Dancing as well.

Try our luck in our 13th Annual Pot O'Green Raffle, to benefit Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Prizes include roundtrip American Airlines airfare for two from Chicago to Dublin, \$1,000.00 or \$500.00. Chances to win and support a great cause. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Tickets can be purchased at the restaurant or on-line.

Watch for the O'Brien Clan and our very own Leprechaun as we march in the city's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 14th.

For more information and to make your reservations call us at 312.787.3131 or log on to www.obriensrestaurant.com Cead Mile Falite!

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Extended Hours begin March 1st: M-F 10-7:30, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4. Parade Day 9-12. Open St. Pat's 10-5:30.

Happy St. Pat's from the staff at South Side Irish Imports!

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Wedding Destination Ashford Castle Turning 70

Ashford Castle, one of Ireland's most beloved resort hotels, will celebrate its 70th birthday on May 22nd with packages, menus and amenities for a grand celebration throughout 2009.

Kicking off the festivities is a new Ashford 70 package that includes a complimentary third night when guests book two nights for €700 (approximately \$893), subject to availability from now through December 22, 2009. Breakfast for two each morning and an upgrade to a Deluxe room are also included, not to mention unlimited warm Irish welcomes and views of the estate's lake and river that are worth the trip alone.

For some extra fun, guests born in 1939 when Ashford Castle opened, two guests with a combined age of 70 or couples celebrating a 70th wedding anniversary will receive a welcome bottle of champagne to toast the special occasion.

The sprawling Ashford Castle, located in the beautiful west country of Ireland near Galway City, dates back to 1228 when monks

set an evolving building process in motion. Ashford Castle later became a summer home of the Guinness family until it opened as a hotel just before the start of World War II. Ever since, guests have delighted in rooms tucked away in turrets, two restaurants and a range of country sports including falconry, horseback riding, golf and clay pigeon shooting.

The castle is a perfect wedding destination, made famous by the wedding of Pierce Brosnan and Keely Shaye Smith in 2001.

According to Monica Feeney, Conference and Banqueting Coordinator, "Wedding parties can take over the entire castle and plan a bespoke wedding tailored to their visions." Ms. Feeney meets with the bride and groom early on in the process, creates a customized wedding proposal and works with them to craft an event reflective of their personalities.

A bespoke wedding at Ashford Castle also features many value-added amenities includ-

with etched symbols and lettering.

Unity candle sets, which include the candles themselves as well as the candleholders, are of Celtic and Claddagh design, and available in several different styles of pewter, silver and gold tone.

ASE carries hankies, blessing items, and stainless steel/pewter flasks for groomsman gifts.

The shop even has the traditional costume of kilt, available for rental, a fabulous alternative to the tuxedo.

To announce and/or record any Celtic-theme special occasion, An Siopa Eire also provides Celtic-style invitations, cards, books and stationary.

An Siopa Eire is managed by LaDonna Devine and is located at 112 3rd Street, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Phone: 608-356-5578 or 866-267-4672. Web: www.ansiopaeire.com.

ASE is located in downtown Baraboo, which is located 40 miles north of Madison and 15 miles south of Wisconsin Dells, off interstate 90/94 on the east, or Hwy 12 to the west.

We Cater Weddings

"Unforgettable Edibles is Chicagoland's premier full service catering and special event planners. Elegance is our theme when it comes to coordinating that special day. Weddings catered by UnforgettableEdibles include not only

complimentary flower centerpieces for the tables, place cards, a professional makeup artist for the bride and access to all of the hotel's table linens, china and crystal.

A dollar exchange rate, better than it has been for years, makes 2009 an auspicious start to Ashford Castle's next seven decades and a perfect time to visit Ireland. Other Ashford 70 celebrations will unfold as the year progresses.

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An Siopa Eire

An Siopa Eire offers an extensive collection of traditional Irish accessories and wares, fitting for weddings and other Irish special occasion settings.

They specifically offer an extensive collection of wedding jewelry, including Irish-made diamond engagement rings and wedding band sets.

They also have a broad and varied collection of gift pieces to browse through to design unique gift packages for bridal parties. We even offer tiaras!

With regards to Irish goods and wares that might help create a traditional Irish wedding/reception atmosphere and/or serve as bride and groom wedding gifts, these might include: various varieties of crystal or pewter stemware. Items include traditional toasting goblets made from crystal, champagne style flutes, as well as a version of goblet made from a single piece of wood. This wooden goblet is uniquely designed with unbroken rings around the stem, symbolizing the bridal bond, and can be personalized

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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



Partner



This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us. The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Getting Justice is Sometimes a Fight to the Very End

We recently resolved a case that began in February 2002, and exhausted every possible avenue of defense. Our client, the plaintiff, a then 32-year-old immigrant from Ireland, was seriously injured when a commercial bus rear-ended his vehicle. Despite a serious impact, he refused medical treatment at the scene and didn't seek any medical treatment until the next day. Because he did not seek immediate medical treatment, the defense questioned the extent of his injuries. Subsequent medical treatment indi-

cated that as a result of the collision plaintiff suffered mild brain damage resulting in involuntary muscle contractions.

Some injuries like mild brain injuries and back injuries don't manifest themselves right away. When they don't, these types of claims are often vigorously defended.

Stages of the Case Before Trial

The complaint was filed in August 2002, and the case took the usual course of written dis-

covery—where parties exchange interrogatories (written questions) and requests to produce documents, all of which must be timely answered. Then there is oral discovery—taking parties' and witnesses' depositions (oral questions) under oath.

By the time discovery is done, statistics show that about 95% of cases are settled. When cases don't settle, they go to trial and in the case of serious injuries, usually a jury trial. Here, because no meaningful offer was made to our injured client before trial, the case went on to a jury trial.

At any time during the litigation, offers can be made to settle the case. This is often done right before trial. Offers can also be made and cases resolved during trial. That didn't happen here. Seven doctors testified during the course of the trial. One of the key issues at trial was whether there was brain damage and, if so, the extent of it. The trial court approved the limited use of a Spect Scan which can show a decrease in blood flow in certain areas of the brain and can be consistent with damage to that area. The admissibility into evidence of the Spect Scan was an issue at trial and later on appeal. After a two week trial, the case went to the jury.

The jury deliberated for approximately 3 hours and came back with a very significant verdict for the plaintiff.

Post Trial Motions

After a jury verdict, the losing party is given an opportunity to request relief from the trial judge. This is done through post trial motions. Here, after parties wrote briefs in support or against the verdict, they submitted them to the court, along with oral arguments at a hearing. The court reviewed the arguments and decided to deny the post-trial motions, thereby upholding the jury verdict.

Appellate Court

Rather than paying the verdict at this juncture, the defendant exercised its right to appeal to the Appellate Court. After another round of brief-writing and oral arguments at an appellate hearing, a three justice panel of the Appellate Court unanimously found in favor of the plaintiff. After this ruling against it, defendant filed two more petitions. One was to have the Appellate Court reconsider its ruling. The other was a Petition for a Certificate of Importance to aid in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Illinois. Both petitions were denied.

Supreme Court of Illinois

With a few exceptions, there is no automatic right of appeal to the Supreme Court, so if a party wants to be heard by that Court, a Petition for Leave to Appeal must be filed. After exhausting remedies in the Appellate Court, rather than paying the judgment, the defendant did file a Petition for Leave to Appeal in the Supreme Court. On Thanksgiving Eve of 2008, the Supreme Court denied the Petition. Normally that is the end of the line for appeals. But here defendant persisted and filed another Motion in the Supreme Court to Reconsider the denial of the Leave to Appeal. In January of this year, that last motion was denied. So now, after waiting almost three years since his jury verdict at trial and almost seven years since the accident, the injured client and his family will recover the amount of the entire verdict.

There was some benefit to all the wait. Judgments in Illinois earn interest at 9% per annum on the amount of the verdict. So, in addition to being paid the entire verdict, Plaintiff will recover over \$1.5 million in interest earned since the verdict. In the end, our client's persistence and that of our firm paid off very well. By Martin J. Healy, Jr. and Matthew J. Healy

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



In fact, as recent as a month ago, a man was stabbed in a fight in England and asked his doctor what he should drink. The doctor replied "...make sure it's a Guinness..." It's because of its iron content that pregnant women were also prescribed a pint once a day. The antioxidants in the drink, similar to some found in fruit and vegetables, are known to prevent artery clogging. And the calories are limited to 198 kcals which is actually lower than the same volume of skim milk. With the alcohol content at 4.1% as compared to the average American beer at 4.5%, enjoying a pint with dinner won't leave one with a sore head in the morning. Breaking down your favorite pint into chemistry and numbers does not make it unappealing. On the contrary, any time you head to the pub for a pint, know you are doing your heart, blood, and friends a great service!

At home, cooking with Guinness helps to display its versatility of qualities of rich and yet mellow when combined with different ingredients. The acid in the stout produces a tangy, almost bitter chocolaty marinade for beef and mutton. When used in baking like the Guinness chocolate cake, the chemistry of the Co2 mixes

with the leavening and creates a rich, delectable yet tender dessert.

The best savory pairing is beef and Guinness. There are many different ways to combine these ingredients, as in a stew or use the stout, mixed with rosemary and garlic to marinate. In every Irish cookbook, there is at least one beef and Guinness recipe. Most have different herbs, possibly an added fruit juice or rind, and the secret ingredient. Even though I say mine is rather simple, it does take a while for the gorgeous flavors to meld, the orange juice sweetening the Guinness, the rosemary adding a distinctive flavor and garlic that compliments anything. For my secret ingredient, people are surprised when they find it, but it adds sweet and creamy notes. (Come to the party to find out what it is!)

There are many versions of stout cakes, from chocolate to the more dense fruit cake. I made the fruit cake a year ago for Christmas. I liked it because it was not heavy or overwhelming. The Guinness gave it a rich flavor that was well complimented by the dried fruits. As for a chocolate Guinness cake, I will be making one for St. Patrick's Day!

I have made the Guinness beef stew for years. In fact, I make it every year for the St. Patrick's Day Hibernian party. It's cooking at 7am while I finish making the Reuben sandwiches for noon lunch. For the following recipe, I wanted to upscale the beef and Guinness, making it dinner ready for company. By adding a side of traditional colcannon and of course, pints of Guinness, the St. Patrick's Day feast is complete.

Have a safe and brilliant St. Patrick's Day!

Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron. During "The Green Season" at the Brown St. Hibernian Club, she prepares her favorite Irish dishes, to the delight of many. Julianna can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com.

The Taming of the Brew

The legend and history of Guinness stout beer goes back to 1759 when Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000 year lease for St. James Gate brewery in Dublin. Guinness had learned the art of brewing from his father who brewed for the land workers of the Archbishop of Cashel. Once in Dublin, Guinness took the disused St. James Gate and in 10 years turned it into a brewery that rivaled English suppliers.

The humble beginnings to this internationally recognized icon of Irish culture brought fame and fortune to generations of the Guinness family. And it was the rich stout with the light, creamy foam head that changed life forever for the rest of the world. While the men folk sat in the pubs, sipped their pints and talked about work and the farm, the women were

at home creating new recipes with this black gold.

My first pint (one always remembers their first taste) was when I worked and lived in Dublin very near St. James Gate on the River Liffey. My friends took me across the street from our apartment to The Croppy Acre Pub (historical namesake near Collins barracks) and I had the best Guinness ever brewed. Smooth, no bitterness at all, slight chocolate and just chilled. That level of excellence is a challenge to find elsewhere, because Guinness does not travel well. Yet a fresh pour from any great Irish establishment toasted to your friends is good enough.

Speaking of Guinness and good for you, there are scientific facts about the great pint that many didn't know or believe it of lore. For many years, doctors overlooked the alcohol aspect of the stout in favor of the iron content.

Guinness-marinated London Broil with Rosemary and Garlic



Serves 4
2-1/2 lbs. London broil (or similar cut)
2 bottles Guinness
3 cloves garlic, crushed
2 sprigs rosemary
1 T olive oil
1 t Ground pepper
2 t salt
1 t oil

Combine Guinness, garlic, rosemary, oil, and pepper (no salt) in large bowl or resealable plastic bag. Let marinate for at least 6 hours. When ready, remove and put marinade in small saucepan, turning heat on med-low. Do not boil. Heat grill skillet or cast iron pan. Preheat oven to 325. Sprinkle 1 t. salt each side of meat. Put 1 t oil in pan. Sear meat in

hot pan, making grill marks. Spoon a little of the marinade over meat and put into oven for 10 minutes, or to desired temp (140°F is medium). Remove when done, let rest for 10 minutes, and slice on slant against grain (from short end).

Mushroom Guinness Gravy

10 oz. crimini or baby Portobello mushrooms, sliced
1 T olive oil
1 T flour
Marinade
Salt and pepper

Heat oil in pan. When pan is hot, add mushrooms and sauté until just turning golden. Sprinkle flour over mushrooms and stir. Slowly add marinade and stir making gravy. Taste for seasoning and spoon over meat. My colcannon recipe evolves. I did not have whole milk, so I used a bit of cream cheese.

Rustic Colcannon

1/2 head cabbage, coarsely chopped
1 med. onion, chopped
1-1/2 lbs potatoes, skins on and cut into cubes
2 T olive oil
Salt and pepper

1/2 pkg cream cheese or neufchatel
1/2 c milk, warmed
2 T parsley or chives

Steam potatoes until soft. In large pot, sauté onions in oil. Add cabbage, salt and pepper and 1/4 c. water. Stir and cover until soft, but still has a slight crunch. Add potatoes into cabbage and mash with hand masher. Add milk and cheese. Add parsley and salt and pepper to taste.

Join the Akron Ancient Order of Hibernians for their Green Season celebrations. March 14th, Akron's St Patrick's Parade Day, the hurling team is sponsoring a traditional Irish breakfast at the Hibernian Hall, 2000 Brown St., Akron from 7:30am-10:30am. At noon that same day, we will have our post-parade party at the Knights of Columbus, 2055 Glenmount Ave. On St. Patrick's Day, start the day with 9am mass at the Brown St. hall and then back to the K of C for an all day party with lunch at noon. Food will be served each day, til we've had our fill.

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(Celtic Rock Band from Florida) \$5 cover

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Fitz and the Celts**
(Celtic Rock)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Elevation**
(U2 Tribute) \$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Wild Colonial Bhoys**
(Celtic Rock Band from Minnesota)
\$5 cover

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Matt Stedman Band**
(Celtic Violin)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **The McCabes**
(Celtic Rock Band from New York)
\$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Sandcarvers**
(Celtic Rock Band from Milwaukee, WI)
\$5 cover

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Family Celebration of St. Patrick's Day

- 4:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 5:00pm **Irish Music Sessions**

MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 7:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- 8:00am **Eggs & Kegs** Irish Buffet
- 10:00am **Dave Johnston** (Irish Bagpiper)
- 11:00am **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 12:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 3:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 3:30pm **Anish** (Celtic Rock)
- 7:30pm **Dave Johnston** (Irish Bagpiper)
- 7:45pm **The Ballydoyle Knights,**
a Toast to Ireland and
Presentation of the Queen
of St. Patrick's Day
- 8:00pm **The Wolfe Tones'**
Derek Warfield
(Celtic Band from Ireland)
- 10:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 2:00am **Close**

\$10 cover per person after 2:00pm. No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 5:00pm **Girls Night Out**
- 9:00pm **Red Pop Fury** (Rock)

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- 7:00pm **Drew Davis Band**
(Country) \$5 cover

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 9:00pm **Mother Grove**
(Celtic Rock Band from Indiana)
\$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00pm **Prodigals**
(Celtic Band from New York) \$5 cover

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FOR U2'S NEW ALBUM "NO
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THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **The Wolfe Tones'**
Derek Warfield
(Celtic Band from Ireland) \$5 cover

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **Wild Colonial Bhoys**
(Celtic Rock band from Minnesota)
\$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **Elevation**
(U2 Tribute) \$5 cover

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **Fitz and Celts**
(Celtic Rock)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **Anish** (Celtic) \$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 7:30pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 9:00pm **The McCabes**
(Celtic Band from New York) \$5 cover

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- Family Celebration of St Patrick's Day
- 4:00pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
 - 5:00pm **Irish Music Sessions**

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- 8:00am **Eggs & Kegs** Irish Buffet
- 10:00am **Irish Bagpiper**
- 11:00am **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 12:00pm **Kevin Flynn and the
Avondale Ramblers** (Celtic Rock)
- 3:00pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 3:30pm **Sandcarvers** (Celtic Rock
Band from Milwaukee, WI)
- 7:30pm **Irish Bagpiper**
- 7:45pm **The Ballydoyle Knights, a
Toast to Ireland and Presentation
of the Queen of St. Patrick's Day**
- 8:00pm **Kevin Flynn and the
Avondale Ramblers** (Celtic Rock)
- 10:00pm **McNulty Irish Dancers**
- 2:00am **Close**

\$10 cover per person after 2:00pm. No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:00pm **Drew Davis Band**
(Country) \$5 cover

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 9:00pm **Prodigals**
(Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00pm **Mother Grove**
(Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

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The Chieftains and Friends Return for the Celtic Connection 2009 Tour



The Chieftains, having served as the benchmark for Irish traditional music for the past four decades, have returned to the U.S. this February through March for their annual winter tour. February 2009 marks 35 years of touring in North America for the group, having made their U.S. debut in 1972 and their first tour in 1974.

The Chieftains original members include founder and frontman Paddy Moloney (Uilleann pipes, tin whistle), Matt Molloy (flute), Sean Keane (fiddle) and Kevin Conneff (bodhran, vocals). For this year's tour, Chieftains fans will no doubt miss Sean Keane who will be spending time with his family and will be unable to join the group on these dates. Other performers to join Paddy, Matt, and Kevin in 2009 include the notable Irish harpist Triona Marshall, and the young Canadian ac-

robatic dancing team of brothers' Jon and Nathan Pilatzke, along with traditional Irish dancer Cara Butler. Also on board are Nashville's own Jeff White, whose vocals are featured on The Chieftains Live From Dublin album, as well as Deanie Richardson, one of country and bluegrass music's most revered fiddle players who has toured and recorded with country superstars Vince Gill and Patty Loveless.

For the Celtic Connection 2009 Tour, The Chieftains have invited back renowned Scottish vocalist Alyth McCormack, a singer/actress who has performed worldwide to rave reviews and will be accompanied throughout the tour by pianist and singer Brian McAlpine, and Jonny Hardie (guitar and fiddle).

Says Chieftains Leader Paddy Moloney: "Beyond the Celtic-Scot-

tish connection that we focused on last year, we plan on giving everyone a taste of the overall influence Celtic music has had internationally. In particular, we'll be previewing our upcoming project related to the Celtic-Mexican connection."

In 2009, The Chieftains will be wrapping up a new album focused on this Celtic-Mexican connection, featuring a track with famed singer Linda Ronstadt among other guests. For the

2009 tour, The Chieftains will perform selections that span their latest and greatest hits, many of which are found on their 2006 release The Essential Chieftains, as well as preview selections from this new album.

The Chieftains and guests will be performing locally on 3/7 in Dayton, OH at the Dayton Masonic Center and on 3/8 in Chicago, IL at the Symphony Center.

www.thechieftains.com

Scythian to Open for Great Big Sea



Scythian, a hot Irish band out of Washington D.C., will open for Great Big Sea at the House of Blues in Chicago on March 6th and 7th, beginning at 6:30pm.

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7:00pm Show By Jerry O'Loughlin School of Irish Dancing
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8:00pm Show By Blackbird School of Irish Dancing

Tuesday, March 10th

7:00pm Show By Shaylyn McNamara School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Show By Mullane, Healy, O'Brien School of Irish Dance

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00pm Show By Webber School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Show By World Academy of Irish Dancing
8:00pm Show By Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing

Thursday, March 12th

7:00pm Show By Mulhern School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Show By The Irish Music School of Chicago
8:00pm Show By Foy School of Irish Dancing

Friday, March 13th

7:00pm Show By Sullivan School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Show By Ann Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing

Sunday, March 15th



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The Shamrock Tsunami

This time two years ago I was a Euro-Millionaire. Not a multi-millionaire, but, for someone who started out with nothing, it was an achievement. And, in Ireland there were thousands like me, ordinary people whose net worth was in excess of one million euro. It was, of course, all based on the prevailing price levels of property in Ireland. A fairly modest house, with a small plot, which would sell in a Chicago suburb for half a million dollars at most, was retailing in Dublin and other Irish cities for at least twice that. In the swankier suburbs houses were sold for much more.

The rest of the economy was in synch. The stock market had never been higher, there were jobs in abundance and 10% of the work force were "New Irish" - immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe, who had come to Ireland to work. Ireland was riding high, with, on paper, on of the highest per capita incomes in the world. The Celtic Tiger was roaring.

We believed the rhetoric, our hubris knew no bounds. Like Icarus we flew higher and higher. The unique and temporary set of circumstances which had combined to create our prosperity was regarded as something immutable and that prosperity itself as our manifest destiny. Life was good. Irish people, on an unprecedented scale, were enjoying North American standards of living, with rising social benefits to boot. Our infrastructure, long the butt of visitors' jokes, was being modernised. The population had reached levels not seen for over a century and the demographics were promising, with the youngest population and the fewest old people in Western Europe.

True there were excesses. Those with money were not afraid to show it. In 2006 Ireland, apparently, had the highest per capita private ownership of helicopters in the world (who makes these calculations?); "EVERYONE owns a helicopter", one multi-millionaire businessman remarked to me. Even among those who didn't, purchases of Mercedes, Beamers and high-end SUVs were sufficiently common to make it appear the roads were choked with them. But the prosperity had trickled down, and spread out. Altogether, in the three years 2005-2007, 671,000 fresh automo-

biles were registered, one for every five people in the country aged fifteen and up. The purchase of holiday homes and investment properties in Ireland and in locations like Bulgaria, Turkey and elsewhere became commonplace, not just for the wealthy but for many others, cashing in on the equity in their houses.

But that was then and this is now. "All changed, changed utterly!" I am still probably a dollar millionaire - just - chiefly because of the decline of the dollar against the euro and also assuming I could find someone willing to buy my house. House prices are down by 25%, at a very conservative estimate, and continuing to fall. \$100,000 randomly invested in Irish shares two years ago would now be worth around \$25,000, with bank shares having fallen even more spectacularly. Unemployment has soared by 80% in the last year to a record level of 327,861. The optimists hope for a figure of 400,000 by year's end; the pessimists fear half a million or more. Many of the Eastern Europeans have returned home. The Celtic Tiger has collapsed, and the Irish economy is imploding. Dismay is giving way to panic as yesterday's bad news is overtaken by today's even worse developments.

The slide began with the building industry. At first it was classic economics: oversupply, unsold units, price cuts and then job cuts. The stock market faltered, then began to fall. Questions were raised about the health of the banks, particularly after the sub-prime crisis hit the US. More jobs went, at first domestic and then, as the crisis gathered pace, some of the large multinationals on which we prided ourselves began to "rationalise", to downsize their Irish operations and to relocate in lower cost locations. Dell, the fulcrum for much of the economy around Limerick, is to move its manufacturing operation to Poland. The knock-on effects on its local suppliers have already begun. Other companies are expected to follow suit or to scale back.

An Irish icon, Waterford Glass, ceased operations at the end of January. Currency movements have priced our exports out of our largest market, Britain. Our competitiveness has been eroded,

with labour and energy costs in particular too high. Negative equity and simple inability to pay mortgages through lost jobs has begun to stalk the middle classes. The Celtic Tiger has been swept away by the Shamrock Tsunami!

How bad is it? How bad will it get? Yes there is a recession in the USA and elsewhere, which is going to require careful (and lucky) management to prevent it developing into something worse. But in Ireland the perception - at least as important as the reality - is that ours is worse. For if the USA has caught a cold, Ireland has caught pneumonia. A joke circulating in Dublin - indignantly rejected by the Government - is that the only differences between Ireland and Iceland (in the grip of an economic meltdown) are one letter and six months. The talk now is not of the recession of the 1980s but of the calamitous 1950s, when hope appeared to disappear and when many families, including my own, left the country.

There is very little room for manoeuvre. Tax revenues have collapsed. Government spending was expanded considerably in the Tiger years, financed largely by revenues from the building boom. This year the Government will have to borrow 20% of what it spends. This is unsustainable and a start has to be made by raising taxes or cutting spending or both. The problem is that the public is in denial about the extent of what needs to be done. There is a mood of public frustration and scapegoats are sought, whether the bankers, the public sector or the higher paid. Given that 38% of the workforce pay no income tax and that the top 20% pay 75% of all income tax, the scope for squeezing the rich seems limited on that front.

A levy is to be imposed on public sector workers, whose employment is guaranteed. This appears only the first step. Property taxes, hitherto a political no - no, and a strict means-testing of some benefits appears next, together with hikes in direct taxes, sooner rather than later. The problem is that, even if these prove sufficient to balance the books, there will be nothing with which to stimulate the economy. A lengthy period of adjustment and starkly lower living standards looms with nothing guaranteed.

There is no consensus on a solution. The government has tried unsuccessfully to achieve one, involving the main interest groups. More bad news in the coming months may concentrate minds or at least provoke an informed debate. The traditional safety valve of emigration seems not an option and the whole means and pace of recovery, when our comparative advantages have gone, is problematic. There is brave talk that, when the world economy begins an upturn, Ireland will be well poised and

equipped to avail of it. Hopefully this will prove the case, but it is likely to be an Ireland much changed from the giddy heights of the recent past.. Sean Farrell is a former Irish Counsel General in Chicago serving 17 states. His career spanned over 30 years. He is now retired, living in Ireland, and will be writing a regular column for Irish American News.

Thomas Gibbons Passes

Tom Gibbons died on January 31, 2009.

Below is his obituary. If you go to this link you will see the many fine things people said about Tom on his online guestbook courtesy of the Chicago Sun-Times. <http://www.legacy.com/ChicagoSunTimes/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=123650679>



Thomas A. Gibbons, age 66, longtime Chicago and Funeral Director; beloved husband of Margaret "Rita" nee Hickey; loving father of Colleen, Thomas A. Jr. "Tucker" (Marya), Michael (Kerry, CPD) and Patrick; proud Papa of Thomas A. III, Daniel, Evan, Maren and William; dear brother of Anne Rita "Ritzie" (the late Harry) See, Catherine "Tykee" (Francis "Packey", DDS) Green and Margaret Robinson; cherished son of the late Thomas and Anne, nee Keeley; fond son-in-law of Michael and the late Johanna Hickey; brother-in-law of Michael Hickey, Kay (the late Bill) Clifford, Josephine (Richard) Walenda, Billy (Peggy) Hickey and Breda (Eamon) Conaghan; fond uncle of many; dear friend of all who knew him; In lieu of flowers donations to Saint Patrick Fathers, 1347 West Granville, Chicago, IL 60660, would be appreciated.

Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

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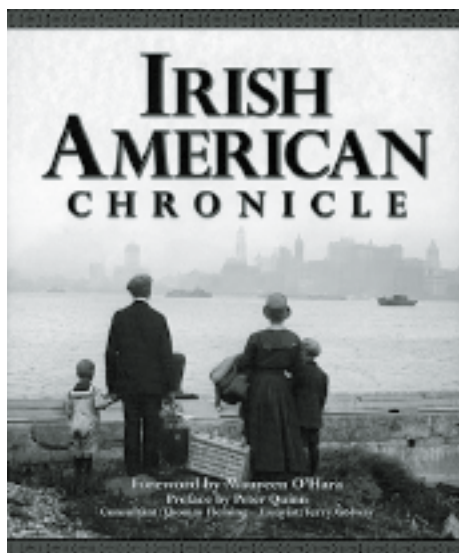
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Irish American Chronicle

With only hope and faith to sustain them, the Irish came to America en masse during the Great Famine of the 1840s. They banded together, overcame poverty and prejudice, and became one of America's greatest success stories. The Irish constructed roads, railways, churches, and schools. Their children became teachers and firefighters, artists and politicians. Some, such as John F. Kennedy, rose to the highest office in the land.

In words and pictures, this book chronicles the complete Irish American experience—from the "Rebel Girl" to Ronald Reagan, from Tammany Hall to Notre Dame football, from the Fenian invasion of Canada to "Riverdance" and Angela's Ashes. Experience all the drama of this epic story in this unique and extraordinary volume, *Irish American Chronicle*.

Irish American Chronicle by Terry Golway, Foreword by Maureen O'Hara, Preface by



Peter Quinn. Publications International, Ltd., Lincolnwood, IL, 2009. 448pp; \$19.98. www.barnesandnoble.com.

Forever Green March 6th

Back for the 34th year, the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago's annual Forever Green party will be held on March 6th in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. in Chicago, 5-10pm. Tickets are now on sale for the festive scene at Navy Pier, which is sure to sway folks into the St. Patrick's Day spirit in advance of Chicago area parades.

Forever Green raises money and awareness for the Maeve McNicholas Memorial Foundation, which fights pediatric brain tumors, and AAction Autism, which supports international humanitarian efforts confronting autism.

Besides contributing to two Chicago area charities, Forever Green will also feature live performances from several local talents, including the Larkin and Moran Brothers, Weber Band, Shannon Rovers and Irish dancers.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$40, or at the door for \$45 (www.youngirish.com). VIP tickets will also be available for \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Must be 21 or older, but you don't have to be Irish!

NYPD takes on Chicago PD in the Emerald Society Cup

On March 13, 2009 the Chicago Police will play the NYPD in two charity soccer matches at St. Xavier University Stadium (3700 W. 103rd St. Chicago) to benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. The first match kicks off at 4:45pm and will feature the women of NYPD versus Chicago Police women. This is will be the inaugural match for the Chicago women. Then at 6:30pm the men will take the pitch with NYPD being the defending North American Police Champions that were held in Seattle this past fall. Both teams feature collegiate and professional experienced players. This will be the 3rd meeting for these two teams in the past 3 years with a 1-1 record between them.

Gates open at 4:30pm with a \$5 donation to benefit the Chicago Police Memorial. For more information check www.cpdssoccer.com.

New Dance CD Released

by Shay Clarke

Kick Into the Beat

by Ellery Klein and Ryan Lacey

What I know about Irish Dancing you could write on the back of a postage stamp, but what I do know is that it takes many hours of lessons and even more



hours of practice to make the magic of Irish Dancing look easy. Gaelic Storm's Ryan Lacey and Ellery Klein have just released their second album of modern Irish Dance music, *Kick into the Beat*, and it is simply stunning. Ryan's brilliant percussion and Ellery's flaming fiddle makes it very easy for dancers to follow the steps as they take us through slip jigs, treble jigs, hornpipes and reels. I asked dancers about the new album at a recent Feis and all agreed that this CD is a must have for dancers at any stage. "Ryan's like a metronome," one dance teacher told me. "More and better," said another. It makes a great gift for any Irish dancer I was told.

Dancers love it, dance teachers love it, what more can I say?

Kick into the Beat is from Rum and Raisin Records and is available wherever Irish music is sold and on iTunes.

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Check out our Celtic "CD of the Month Club" as well as recent releases from Solas, Liz Carroll & John Doyle, The Green Fields of America, Beoga, Billy McCormiskey, Moving Hearts, Lax, Karan Casey, Capercaillie, Breatnach, Catriona McKay, and Absolutely Irish.

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Wear "Shamrocks For Kids

Right now, Chicagoans can support a solution for kids in crisis by taking part in Mercy Home For Boys and Girls, Shamrocks for Kids. This year the event is presented by Jewel-Osco.

Shamrocks for Kids is an annual awareness and fundraising campaign created to help give hope to abused, neglected, and troubled young people.

Through the efforts of this campaign, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls seeks to change the lives of these troubled young people, for the better.

Celebration/donation collection sites and dates include the following during March 2009:

Saturday, March 7: Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade (Forest Park, IL, 1:00 p.m.); Sunday, March 8; Northwest Side Parade (Norwood Park, Chicago, Noon); Saturday, March 14: Chicago Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade (Columbus Dr., Noon); Sunday, March 15: South Side Irish Parade (S. Western Ave., Noon). Donors can also obtain shamrocks at O'Brien's Restaurant in Old Town from February 17 through St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Mercy Home is still seeking volunteers to join the cause and help troubled youth. Being a Shamrocks for Kids 'Tag Days' volunteer is a great way to help out during these troubled economic times. Interested volunteers should call 312-738-9245, or visit www.mercyhome.org.

From March 1-31, shoppers at local Jewel-Osco stores can help when they purchase select Kellogg's Special K products, Edy's Ice Cream, Kimberly-Clark Kleenex, Huggies products and Wrigley's Orbit 14-count products. Ten cents from each item purchase will go directly to Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

Finally, there is the Shamrocks for Kids Family Vacation Sweepstakes to Ireland option. The trip includes a round-trip for four, courtesy of American Airlines, and the Cork County Tourism Board. Complete sweepstake rules are found at www.mercyhome.org.

Mercy Home also invites the public to celebrate the St. Patrick's holiday and the 14th annual Shamrocks for Kids Post Parade Celebration at the Chicago Hilton. The family-friendly party takes place after the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14. Guests will enjoy live Irish music and dance, traditional Irish food, Goose Island Fine Ales, and special Leprechaun Lunches for the youth. General adult admission is \$50, teenagers are \$25 and children under 12 are admitted free. Proceeds from the event support Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. For more information call 312-738-8331. Mercy Home for Boys & Girls has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. Our residential, aftercare, and mentoring programs provide safety and opportunity for more than 400 kids every year. Please visit www.mercyhome.org to learn more.



← Alex McGrath, Donegal Imports, CBS News anchor, Anne State, and Tom Boyle, columnist for Irish American News,

2009 Manhattan Irish Fest

On March 6 and 7, the Manhattan Irish Fest will be held, featuring Black 47 on Friday Night. Other entertainment includes The Ploughboys, Ice Wagon Flu, Finbar McCarthy, The Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, The Hatfield Sisters, dancers and more.

A Memorial to Fr. Kevin Shanley will be exhibited in the Cultural Area.

Manhattan is located approximately 50

miles Southwest of Chicago. It is conveniently situated between three major interstate highways, I-80, I-57, and I-55.

The Grand Marshalls this year are Tim & Mary McGrath and Mike & Mary McHugh, 1995 Founders of Irish Fest.

Admission to the all festival activities, as well as the festival grounds, requires each visitor to have purchased an admission button, \$7, available through 3/5/09 at the following

Tony Kenny's Celtic Nights

St. Patrick's Performing Arts Centre, March 29
Tony Kenny has thrilled audiences around the world with his exceptional talent. Tony has received dozens of awards for his stage and television performances, and high praise for his work at the world famous Jury's Irish Cabaret in Dublin.

Besides his highly acclaimed starring roles in Jesus Christ Superstar and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, other career highlights include the receipt of the Performing Artists Trust Society Annual Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Performing Arts.

Tony has achieved phenomenal success as a recording artist; his numerous recordings have been hits on both sides of the Atlantic, with seven gold discs and two platinum discs throughout his career.



Included in this delightful ensemble is the unparalleled Irish wit, Joe Cuddy. Blessed with a charismatic charm and pure talent, Joe has performed all over the world. His humor is pure Ireland and his performances are pure entertainment! Tony's talented daughter, Victoria, has been singing and dancing since the tender age of three and joins her parents in the

cast of the show. Victoria duets with her father in wonderful renditions of popular music. Sarah Rogers also joins the cast with her beautiful violin.

The Celtic Nights Dancers, comprised of dancers from Ireland's most prestigious dance companies, led and choreographed by principal dancer Edna Dunne and directed by Ireland's award-winning choreographer, producer, and director Joan Kenny, rounds out the show.

Tony Kenny's Celtic Nights brings laughter, tears, and thunderous applause every time. For tickets call 847-844-9380 \$25.00

South Side Irish Parade

The 2009 South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2009. It steps off from 104th & Western at Noon sharp.

The South Side Irish Parade will be honoring the Muscular Dystrophy Association - Chicago Region as their 2009 SSIP Grand Marshal.

In addition to MDA, they will also be honoring the St. Baldrick's Fox Chicago Schools Challenge as the 2009 SSIP Special Honoree. Headed up by South Siders Patrick & Katie Elwood, the St. Baldrick's Fox Chicago Schools Challenge endeavors to raise funds for childhood cancer research through organizing head-shaving fundraising events at area schools. 773-393-8687. southsideirishparade@yahoo.com.

vendors: Berkots Super Food Fritz's Pub Homestar Bank (Manhattan Branch), Bit o' Blarney Pub Gallagher's Pub, Manhattan Village Hall, First Manhattan Bank (Main Bank) Hannigan Insurance Agency and Whitmore Ace Hardware. Button may also be purchased on the day of the event for \$10 at the Festival grounds. Children under 7 are free, when accompanied by adults purchasing buttons. www.manhattanirishfest.com.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, Prersident and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



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Senior Housing

After family, housing probably ranks "Number 1" in our list of priorities. Our home is our castle, as the saying goes.

But there comes a time when our family relationships, our health and our finances change. We grow older, our children grow up, we lose a loved one, we retire; and often, we find it's time to "downsize," and we move.

And sometimes, for a great number of reasons, our financial situation or our savings do not keep up with our needs. In the present precarious economy, with rising costs, seniors on fixed incomes may be finding that their retirement funds can no longer support the cost of their housing: they need to find a safe, affordable, pleasant place to live.

For seniors in this situation, Catholic Charities Senior Housing may be the solution.

Since 1917, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has been dedicated to caring for seniors. Last year, Catholic Charities provided affordable, attractive and dignified housing for independent living for more than 1,300 seniors in our 17 beautiful senior residences in Chicago and five suburbs. Designed for married or single seniors, each

one-bedroom apartment has a living room, bedroom, full bath, and kitchen. Two of the residences consist of studio apartments.

Catholic Charities is very proud of our senior residences. Our own personnel manage and maintain each building, and we have been honored for our award-winning designs.

But most importantly, our residents are happy there. They come and go as they please, but they have a great many options for friendship and activities even in the cold weather, when everyone is largely homebound. While there are no requirements for participation in activities organized by the residents, there are always opportunities for socializing in the café or around the fireplace.

Each building has its own Advisory Council of residents, its own newsletter created by residents, a services coordinator who connects the seniors to additional services as they are needed, and an on-site property manager. A much-appreciated feature is the 24-hour security that screens all visitors, restricting unwanted contact by outside vendors and visitors. Mailboxes and laundry rooms are conveniently located within each building and adjacent parking is available.

Elaine Layden, Catholic Charities Director of Property Management, believes that our residences present a solution to the rising cost of living for seniors on fixed incomes. Because residents will pay no more than 30% of their gross income in rent, they will avoid a great deal of financial stress. But there are greater benefits—because everyone will feel at home. "It's a family place," Elaine says. "And it's such a good experience for someone who lives alone." Or as one satisfied resident put it: "Why would I go anywhere else?"

As Catholic Charities continues its compassionate services to seniors, we encourage seniors to consider their options for safe, dignified, affordable living. There are vacancies now in various locations. For seniors in need of assisted living, our Bishop Conway Residence in Chicago is accepting applications. Two of our residences do not require senior status—younger people may apply.

For seniors who anticipate a change in their living arrangements, we suggest placing your name on our waiting lists as soon as possible. Waiting lists are constantly updated. To obtain a list of Catholic Charities residences, or to be placed on our mailing list, please call (312) 655-7440.

- Applications for our new St. Francis of Assisi Residence in Palos Park will be sent out on April 1. Openings are available. (312) 655-7440.

- Catholic Charities also offers affordable housing to veterans and to persons with disabilities. The Pope John Paul II Residence in Chicago for persons with disabilities accepts residents who are 18 years or older and their families if one family member 18 or over has a permanent physical disability.

- Catholic Charities Holy Family Villa in Palos Park is a fully-licensed nursing home and rehabilitation facility certified for Medicare and Medicaid. (630) 257-2291

- Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence in Chicago provides assisted, supportive living for persons who can no longer live independently and need regular assistance with personal care, meal preparation and cleaning. (773) 252-8578.

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The Scattering of Sliabh Ban

In a 12 part series, this narrative examines some of the more obscure events in Irish history and the effect they had on the families of a small mountain in County Roscommon. It will also reveal the incredible chain of events that led to the discovery of these people as the winds of change delivered a blight upon their main source of food.



Cowboys seemed to have the Packers number in those days and even with what would become a successful Super Bowl run, on Monday, November 18th, they lost to the Cowboys, 21-6. It would be another two weeks before Monaghan and his family would open the envelope that had found its way into their home because of an accidental meeting in Chilton, Wisconsin. And even then, the gravity of the discovery would elude them all until the articles were read a second and even a third time.

Part Four

In the fall of 1996, in Dallas Texas, Patrick Monaghan and his family were expecting family friends from Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Huppert's had made a habit of following their Packers to Dallas and attending the game (which the Pack always found ways to lose) with the Monaghan's. On this particular trip, they happened to stop for lunch at a small town just south of Green Bay. A talkative old gentleman seated next to them asked what brought them into town. The Huppert's explained that they were on their way to Dallas to visit the Monaghan family and take in a game. The man raised his eyebrows and explained to the Huppert's that he was an amateur historian and that he had just come across that name while researching in the library. The man excused himself from the table and went to retrieve some documents. He returned after a brief absence with newspaper clippings from 1905.

The Huppert's took the newspaper articles with them to Texas. The

What the amateur historian had found were the obituaries of Michael and Mary Monaghan. They had both passed away in the early days of the 1900's but it wasn't their deaths that demanded attention. Michael Monaghan and Mary Lyons were both from the same small town in County Roscommon. According to the obituaries, Michael was a young man in his early 20's while Mary was still a teenager of 15 years. And oddly, even though their departures from Ireland occurred at different times, they somehow managed to meet in Providence, Rhode Island, five years later.



Like most of us, the Monaghan's knew they had an Irish connection. And, like most of us, caught up in the daily process of surviving, they hadn't really given it much thought. Until that moment. Suddenly, not only did they know where their ancestors had come from, but also, and maybe more dramatically, that they were from the same small town, and



they were just kids themselves, when they left Ireland.

It was now December 15, 1996 and the Christmas Holidays were about to descend on the country. And it was on this date that Monaghan announced to his wife, Joan, and their three children, that they shouldn't buy any presents for Christmas this year. He told them they were going to Ireland and that they were leaving in two weeks. The family was elated. A trip like this and on such short notice was NOT a common occurrence. They asked how long they'd be staying. Monaghan replied.

"Pack your things, we aren't coming back."

The family was stunned. How could this be? And why? But believe it, or not, on New Years Eve, 1996, the family was on their way to Dublin. They had no place to stay; no schooling for the children; and didn't know a single soul in the entire country.

And on January 1st, 1997 they landed on a snow covered Dublin for what can only be described as an adventure of a lifetime.

The incredible story they uncovered would change them forever.

To be continued.

A quick note: In 2002, after stumbling upon the novel 'because they never do,' the story of Michael and Mary, a small group of Chicago's Southside Irish convened the first meeting of The Scattering Project. The sole purpose was to get the story of Ireland's famine years made into a film. There has never been a film dedicated to this pivotal event in Irish-American history; perhaps because there was no good way to have it told. This series is a plea for your help. The team is attempting to get our screenplay, 'The Scattering,' into the hands of a few targeted producers/directors and must have the representation of a seasoned agent. If you know anyone with those kinds of contacts please urge them to contact us. We can be reached thru the BlackthornScribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com

Frank T. Burns
WJ O'Connell
Patrick Monaghan

1st Annual Southside Irish Chicago Rose of Tralee Pub Contestant Night Saturday, March 7, 2009

This is the first year we are inviting our local young Irish Ladies to participate in the Chicago Rose of Tralee PUB CONTESTANT night.

Just fill out the form below and drop it off at one of the listed Pubs participating in this year's Southside Irish Chicago Rose of Tralee Contestant Night!

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Winners will:

- March in the Southside Irish Parade
- Participate in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Ball, June 13, 2009 at Ridge Country Club

The Ball in June is when "The Rose" will be chosen to represent Chicago in Ireland!

Also, please visit our "2008 Rose" Shaylin McNamara's website for Irish Dancing Registration beginning now!
www.mcnamaraireishdancers.com

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O'Rourke's Office - 11064 S. Western - Selection at 8:30 p.m.
McNally's - 11136 S. Western - Selection at 9:00 p.m.

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Mick

Mike Morley



government or in any profession. Not satisfied with that level of complete exclusion from society, the British government imposed a

Fleeting Fame - Part One

In November here we talked about prejudice and the legacy of American heroes—in particular the place in American history accorded to Commodore John Barry vs. John Paul Jones. We continue with the topic.

Jack Barry was born and raised under a regime bent on eliminating his religion and keeping his race in poverty. When he was born in 1745 at Ballysampsion, Co. Wexford, Irish Catholics were by law forbidden to worship, to educate their children, to own or inherit property of any worth, to vote, or to hold a position in the

tax—the tithe—which decreed that by law an additional ten percent be deducted from the already meager wages of Irish Catholics to support established Protestant churches and clergy. Above all, to insure their subjects remained servile, it was made a most serious crime to allow any Irish Catholic, however trustworthy, to possess or have access to a weapon.

English speaking society has advanced since then, but vestiges remain in Ireland and other British colonies. For instance: to this day the British Government will not, perhaps cannot admit responsibility for the murder of 14 civil rights marchers on Bloody Sunday in Derry more than 36 years ago. And one could argue that, although Catholics here are allowed to educate their children outside the government system, a vestige of tithing is reflected in the fact that Catholics must pay for a secular public education to some 2.5 million American children. But that's fodder for a future essay.

Both Barry and John Paul (he added 'Jones' later) started life fairly poor. Barry was born in a thatched Wexford cottage in 1745. Evicted by their British landlord, the family moved to Ross-lare, where Jack sought the freedom of the sea, laboring on a fishing skiff for his uncle Nicholas.

The family immigrated to Philadelphia in 1760. John Paul, though low on the social ladder was, as a Protestant, within the system from his birth in 1747 in Kirkcudbright on the estate of William Craik at Arbigland, Scotland. His father was Craik's gardener, John Paul senior. His mother, Jean McDuff, worked as a housekeeper at Arbigland. It was locally rumored the boy may have been Craik's bastard son.

Both future heroes were plying the sea by the age of thirteen. But though following similar career paths, their temperaments led them to far different life choices. Barry left this earth with a full military burial, honored by his adopted country, but was later forgotten. Jones died in disgrace, shunned by his countrymen, only to be lifted more than a century later to the glory that eluded him in life.

In 1760 Paul shipped out of Whitehaven aboard the merchant brig Friendship. In 1764 he signed on as third mate on the King George, a "black birder" engaged in the slave trade between Africa and the Caribbean. He later joined another slave ship, Two Friends, as first mate.

Barry's first captaincy came in 1766 aboard the merchant schooner, Barbados, sailing out of his home port of Philadelphia. The next year Paul drew out his wages in Kingston, Jamaica, sailing back to Scotland on the John. On that trip, both the captain and first mate died of a fever contracted in Jamaica. John Paul brought the ship safely home, and the appreciative owners made him captain.

Paul adopted the manner of a young gentleman, with an eye for the ladies. But on his second voyage, a darker side manifested itself—a towering ego combined with a violent temper. It led to lifelong problems. In Tobago, Trinidad, he had a man from his home port in Scotland, a seaman by the name of Mungo Maxwell, flogged and expelled from the ship.

According to Jones' biographer, Gerald W. Johnson, "Prudence counseled every captain never to start trouble in Tobago." It was a tough port, even by West Indies standards. The tropical heat caused tempers to flare easily. Whatever offense Paul believed the man had given, the ship was in port, and could not have been in peril. Johnson concludes that Paul had "not learned the difference between right and ruthlessness." The sailor filed a complaint with the British Admiralty court at Tobago.

At his trial, Paul expressed his "sorrow for having corrected the complainant." The court decided he was within his rights as captain and dismissed the case. Maxwell then shipped out on a local packet ship, but died at sea a few days later.

Paul returned to Scotland, expecting a grand welcome, but was instead arrested by the local sheriff and accused of having caused Maxwell's death. News of the flogging and death had preceded him, and the man's father, Robert Maxwell of Clonyard, had filed charges with the Vice Admiralty.

Released on bail, Paul had to wait 6 months for his trial. Meanwhile he was sponsored by James Smith, likely related to a partner in a law firm, Hughes and Smith, and accepted into the Masonic Lodge of St. Bernard at Edentown, November 27, 1770.

At Paul's trial the judge surrogate from To-

bago testified that he had dismissed the charges against Paul as "frivolous." His defense then called the captain of the packet Barcelona who testified that Maxwell died after 4-5 days on board his ship, not from the flogging, but from "a fever and lowness of spirits".

Paul was cleared, but long afterward brooded over the trial and his home town. He was especially bitter that William Craik took sides with Robert Maxwell against him.

In 1772 Paul was made captain of the merchant ship Betsy, sailing to the West Indies from London. But within a year he again had trouble with his crew in Tobago. This time John Paul killed a seaman with his sword. He later claimed the man was three times his size and demanding pay and stealing liquor from the ship's stores. He said the man came at him and more or less impaled himself on his upraised sword. The dead man was a local, one of some 300 white men living and working in the port, and the Admiralty Court was not in session. Paul feared he would not get a friendly hearing in the local court. Leaving his savings, he fled the island, and turned up in Fredricksburg, Virginia some 20 months later, rumored to have supported himself by piracy in the interim. John Paul by now had adopted the alias "John Jones," or "John Paul Jones."

Through the Masons, Jones struck up friendships with important Virginians, particularly Dr. John K. Read, Mason Grand Master in the Fredricksburg Lodge, and nephew of Benjamin Franklin's wife. In 1775 he traveled to Philadelphia and offered his services to the Continental Congress. Barry returned to Philadelphia at the same time and was put in charge of outfitting the first ships for the American Navy. Barry's ship Black Prince was purchased by the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress and renamed the Alfred.

On December 7, Barry was given the first commission issued by the Marine Committee: captain of the first Continental armed cruiser, Lexington, after the first battle of the Revolution. That same day, John Paul Jones signed on as Lieutenant on the Alfred. Jones later made known his low opinion of both his commanders, Esek Hopkins and Captain Dudley Saltonstall.

In his first battle at sea on April 17, 1776, off the Virginia coast, Barry became the first Continental Navy captain to seize a British ship in combat. He sailed back to Philadelphia with his prize, the HMS Edward.

Thereafter, both Barry and Jones displayed bravery and skill in the face of the enemy, capturing many prizes to aid the American war effort.

But as Jones' biographer Samuel Eliot Morison wrote, his worst enemy was ultimately his own "colossal egotism." It led to a lifetime of seesaws between angry confrontations and daring military actions.

To be continued next month...
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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



drive back to Chicago that my dad accompanied me on.

The assistant at the jewelry store said they had a watch repairman that specialized in old watches, and said he might be able to fix it. In the two weeks it would take to repair, I decided to find the original style watchband for it or get something near it. I consulted with a World War II aficionado I knew in Geneva, Illinois who always had fascinating insights on any of my father's military artifacts. I described the simple Elgin wristwatch to him and he said "come back next week and bring \$25 and I'll have your wristband for you."

I was amazed and sure enough it was an original, still in factory packaging olive-drab khaki wrist strap. The Elgin Company had long since left Elgin, Illinois, but army-issue accessories were still to be found.

I had a similar story as I returned to the jewelry store, and the jeweler put the band on the now repaired and working watch. Truth be told, I would be happy to wear it even if the hands were frozen in time. I was amazed that a 66 year old watch could be fixed. "Oh, Elgin made millions of them back then," the jeweler said. "The parts are all standardized and easily found."

Properly mated with its original watchband, it is a thing of simple beauty. The olive band holds a plain face with tan colored numbers that keeps perfect time, better than any modern watches I've owned. No quartz battery, just a hand winding

mechanism.

Through my expert, I found out that such watches weren't routinely issued to GIs in World War II, only to artillerymen and radio operators in the Army Signal Corps, which my father was a member of.

Dad doesn't remember the exact details of the watch but chuckled when he saw it. "Yep, that's it!" I asked him why radio operators in particular. "As I got a dispatch in, I would log time the message was

received and file it for whomever it was bound for."

It's fun now to look down at my wrist and see the reliably ticking timepiece marking the seconds as it once did for my dad in both the Pacific Ocean and on Lake Michigan. I'm proud that my father wore it in Tokyo Bay on the surrender of Japan.

I'm prouder still that he wore it. It's not worth much, but it's worth everything to me.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com

Time Out of Mind

The sun was setting in Grand Beach, Michigan back in 1968 at the midpoint of our annual family vacation there, at a rented cottage a block or so in from Lake Michigan. My dad and I were pulling our little fiberglass Sailfish sailboat up onto the shore.

The water was warm and my mood was, at least for a seven year old, reflective. "Tell me about your watch, Daddy. Where did you get it?"

My own meanderings about time were very limited at that point, although I was always fascinated when Dad

would show me how to make a sundial in the sand using a stick of driftwood and some smooth rounded pebbles culled from the shoreline. I had no timepiece of my own but recently had seen a rerun of To Kill A Mockingbird and was touched by the line where Gregory Peck, as Atticus Finch, mentions that he really has nothing of value to give his son but his watch.

"Well I wore this back in World War II," my father said when I asked about his watch. "It's not very fancy but it tells the time." I fingered the shiny black leather strap as Dad undid my life preserver and threw it back in the cockpit of the boat. "This seems new," I remarked.

"The original watchband rotted away so I replaced it at the drug store."

"What was the original one like?" I asked. "Oh I don't know, whatever the Army had handy... khaki I suppose." I looked at the water beading off the "waterproof" face and thought having my dad's watch

would be about the coolest thing in the world. "Can I have your watch someday?" "Sure if you want, it's not worth much."

I reached up and held his hand and we walked the long steep stairs



up the hill, wondering when I'd get the watch and what the world would be like then.

Forty years later, I was on my way to a downtown Northbrook jewelry store my father often frequented when family watches needed a new battery or repair. My dad had recently moved to a senior living community center in Wisconsin and was faring well, his old army watch was not.

Not long after we discussed it, it had stopped working, and he stowed it in an upper drawer of his dresser, where it remained with me seeing it from time to time, and remembering that I had asked him for it. A watch that had journeyed from Australia up through the Pacific all the way to Japan, sat silent for decades before I retrieved it and took it up to Alaska with me in 2005 when I moved there. I meant to fix it there, but never got around to it until last year. It stayed in my center storage compartment, even braving a fourteen below Alaskan winter, before a 4,000 mile

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at The Irish Shop, 100 N. Oak Park Ave, and caps off three weeks of celebrations honoring Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron Saint.

The Competition is open to all non professional cooks, and bakers, and any style of soda bread can be entered. Entries will be judged, on appearance, taste, and texture. A \$100.00 gift certificate will be awarded for first place, a \$50.00 gift certificate for second place, and a \$25.00 gift certificate for third place, donated by The Irish Shop. The winning recipe will be printed in The Irish American New as well as in The

Irish Shop's Newsletter.

"A family's Irish soda bread recipe is a well treasured secret handed down from generation to generation" says Irish Shop owner Jim August. Entry forms are available at The Irish Shop or by e-mail at theirishshop@

gmail.com . All entries must be submitted by 2:30 pm on March 21, 2009 at The Irish Shop, 100 N Oak Park Ave, Oak Park IL. Entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.

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A Day in the Life of a Feis Girl

I am 10 years old. I am an Irish step dancer. I dance with Mullane Healy O'Brien Dance Academy. I started dancing when I was 5. I danced at my park district for the first 2 years. When I was 7, I started dancing with Mullane. A feis (say it like "fesh") is a competition for Irish step dancing. Each dancer dances within their age group and at his or her level. The levels are first feis, beginner 1, advanced beginner, novice, prizewinner, preliminary championship, and open championship. My first feis was at my

school feis, which doesn't count towards your official stats. It is only dancers at your school competing. My school feis are fun! There is a party and special awards given out. My official feis was when I was 8 years old. I now dance at prizewinner level. A normal feis day starts out like this: My family and I, or sometimes just my mom and I, drive to the place where the feis is held. Sometimes we stay in a hotel if the feis is too far to drive to in the morning. We check in and I get my competitor number, which I have

to wear during my dances so judges can distinguish each dancer. On the back of the number is a listing of the dances you are performing for that day. We find seats at the stage where I am dancing. Then I put on my wig, put on my socks, shoes, and sock glue (to keep my socks from falling down). I wear a tank and bloomers under my tracksuit so I can easily slip into my solo dress (my dress is so stiff but really pretty). You wear your school dress or simple skirt and blouse in the beginner and advanced beginner levels. You are not allowed to wear a solo dress until you dance at the Novice level or above. After I am ready I wait until it is my turn to dance. There is a list of dances posted at each stage. When your dance is listed next, all the dancers in that dance have to check in at the stage and sit next to the stage, ready to go on. There is a lot of waiting involved. Usually I bring a book, my I-pod, and Nintendo DS to keep me occupied. When it's my turn I go up, point my toe, and with a big smile I begin my dance. I am usually nervous before a dance but once I'm on stage all my fears go away. After my dance I bow to the judge. Once I'm off stage I sit and wait for my next dance. When there is a long wait, I will walk around and look at the vendors. The vendors are usually either Irish, Irish dancer things, t-shirts that have the feis logo and on the back there are names of the dancers that are



at the feis from your Irish dance school. Sometimes there are vendors with Irish dance books. Then back to dancing. There is a big board that lists all the results of each of the dances. Each dance is scored individually. Sometimes we check after each dance depending how quick the dances are going and how fast they are posting the results. Each feis is different. Some are quicker than others. If I placed in a dance I pick up my medal or ribbon. My mom and dad let me get my medals engraved so I will remember what each one was. The dances I do are reel, slip jig, treble jig, hornpipe, traditional set, and sometimes I do light jig and treble reel. The treble reel is cool. It is always the last dance of the day. We go in a big circle, clap our hands and stamp our feet. Some people do silly stuff. The judge tallies the scores right away and the winners are awarded trophies. After my last dance I take off all my stuff and pack up. We drive back home and think about what a great day I just had!



The Sligo Association of Chicago has marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Chicago for the past 7 years. The "YEATS COUNTY" float has won a prize for its entry in three out of the past four years. Two of the awards are "The Stephen M. Bailey Award" for Outstanding Multi-Unit Entry for 2007, and the top honor of "The Mayor Richard J. Daley Award" grand prize for overall excellence in 2008. This year's entry promises to live up to all its accolades as The Sligo Association intends to include a live donkey pulling a cart full of turf. The "YEATS COUNTY" float includes an authentic Irish cottage with real chimney smoke, a traditional fireplace and mantle with granny knitting beside the boiling kettle, step dancers interpreting the Molly McGuire Coal Miners and many other representations of the great County of Sligo. This year we welcome Cathaoirleach Councillor Jude Devins all the way from Ballytivan, County Sligo.

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Careers



James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do These Eight Competencies Speak To You?

I welcome comments, observations or criticisms of my columns. A dear friend of mine, Dr. Thomas E. Murray, has responded by sharing his thoughts about what competencies and behaviors he has seen in successful people over his years as an educator, consultant, executive and advisor.

1. Develop a mindset for success—a positive attitude is paramount. So often people are defeated before the task/game/job search has begun. You

will frequently hear people talk about the terrible, dreadful economy. There is no sense looking for a job at this time. Such comments commonly come from individuals who have not really worked at the process of finding a job. They will tell anyone willing to listen that the job market “sucks” so why bother? Can you imagine an athlete winning a game if s/he started the game with that attitude? We have all heard athletes talking about how they are going to

turn the season around even though their performance (and attitude) stinks. The end result, failure, is predictable whether the sour individual is a business person, teacher, athlete, or insurance sales representative.

There are classic stories about teachers believing that they have been assigned a class of high intellects, who are really of average intelligence or below. So the teachers treat the “losers” like “winners”. The students responded to the positive attitude the teachers showered on them and turned into much higher achievers.

If you are in a bad environment, many psychologists will say that your success or failure in handling your task will be determined by how you choose to look at the situation. The famous Viennese psychiatrist, Alfred Adler, said that each of us is in charge, not of our world, but of ourselves—and that puts us in charge of what we do in and with this world of ours. As we used to say in OCS, “Sir, Candidate Fitzgerald, no excuse, sir”.

2. Acquire the necessary education. This one really hits my hot button. Many students acquire their high school diploma or college degree and conclude they have had enough education to last them a lifetime. What utter nonsense! Can you think of a job that you ever had where a little more education or training wouldn't have been of value? Sometimes in more menial jobs a little more knowledge might not be appreciated by your boss or your colleagues, but that doesn't mean it doesn't have value. Any job can be improved upon!

Education has become so accessible. There are probably 75 to 100 colleges and universities in the Chicago metro area. Community colleges seem to be everywhere.

3. Keep learning throughout

life—the world is always changing, so keep growing.

Can you think of any job, skilled or professional, that hasn't changed dramatically in your lifetime? Would you go to a surgeon for significant surgery after/hetoldyouthattheydon'tneed or use any of those “new” ideas?

Think of anyone whose opinion you respect. I am willing to wager that person has been learning something new on a regular basis.

4. Develop desired skills to a masters level—become really good at something. Most people instinctively seek excellence. Can you imagine taking your car for repair to a mediocre mechanic? Virtually everyone wants to deal with a person who is competent in their skill or trade. And frankly, many of us like to brag that our “guy” is really outstanding. I have recommended my primary care doctor, cardiologist, dentist and eye doctors to several good friends. But I don't think most of us will recommend someone who is simply an average player. According to author Brian Tracy, the difference in effort between the average salesperson and the outstanding salesperson is about 4% more effort.

5. Seek the good in everyone—it will be reflected back to you. In my experience, about 95% or higher of the people I deal with are good people. Granted, anyone can have a bad day; it might be because of some health problem. It might be because there is some real crisis with one of their family members. But once you surface the good in that person, it will enhance your life. It will help reaffirm your belief in the goodness of people. It will provide you with the opportunity to interact with a quality person.

6. Learn how to be honest and critical without diminishing the other person. There is a real trick to

this one. One approach is to separate the “sin” from the “sinner”. If you can recognize that the offending individual is simply doing something bad or inappropriate, you have come a long way. Most of us can forgive a person for an indiscretion. If you can approach a difficult situation honestly, without angst, often times the person will listen. But if you attack the other person, s/he will immediately begin to defend themselves and the “fight” is on. One very successful CEO was able to terminate several directors and have them remain friends because he never diminished their worth.

7. Find your passion in work and in life—when it lessens, find another passion. Too many of us settle too easily. We don't strive to determine our passion. We simply work our way through the day and don't concern ourselves with anything more. When the passion diminishes, I pray that you and I have the courage to move on. But I often find that people have gotten too complacent to leave their job or their profession, even though the fire is gone. Know your job cycle. One executive says that his job cycle is about 6 years. When he starts a job, he creates and develops new programs. Normally after about six years, he decides to move on because he has stopped creating and begins to worry about maintaining his position.

8. Live life fully, don't hold back or wait for retirement to live—you never know what day will be your last. We have all heard the stories.

Once we retire we are going to travel, go back to school, visit the Northwest, take a cruise or go on an extended vacation. Unfortunately, the story frequently ends saying that one of the parties didn't make it. There were health issues. There were financial setbacks. There were family difficulties. Any number of issues can surface that will side track your ability to live life fully. Many people go through life blaming parents, teachers, spouses, supervisors, etc for their lives. These blaming behaviors offer excuses for never taking control of our own lives. We need to acknowledge that life is a “do it yourself” project. Each of us is responsible for our own life.

As you look at these eight ideas from Dr. Murray, which ones speak to you? Should you consider one of these eight competencies as your target for improvement in this New Year? Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net

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(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

to

All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



FROM THE MEMBERS OF



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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

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at St. Michael's College, Listowel (the same school attended by better known Co. Kerry author John B. Keane) he opted for a career in the British Civil Service. He was sent to Scotland as Assistant Revenue Officer in the Customs and Excise Service in 1901, and spent most of his next 20 years there. He started to write seriously in the Land of the Thistle—often incorporating stories and legends he had heard as a boy back in Kerry. Like any budding author, he sent off stories for publication and experience rejection. But in 1908, he had success. He married, and two of his stories were published.

In 1922, after southern Ireland gained its independence and The Irish Free State was established, Walsh transferred to the excise service back in Dublin. The Irish Civil War was then raging, and Walsh was concerned for the safety of his family. They remained in Scotland until the war ended and it was safe for them to join him the following year. The Key Above the Door was written during those months of separation, although it was not published until two years later. It appeared first in Chambers Journal as a serial between December 1925 and May 1926, and then

March, in many years, is Irish theater month in Chicago with several Irish plays being staged. But in 2009, that is not the case. As far as I can see, the only plays with an Irish connection this year are The Quiet Man Tales at The Chicago Theatre Downstairs and And Neither Have I Wings to Fly at Citadel Theatre, Lake Forest. The former, The Quiet Man Tales, is not simply a reenactment of the 1952 movie featuring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. It is a totally new work based more broadly on Green Rushes, a collection of stories by the Co. Kerry born author Maurice Walsh. The stories have been adapted for the stage by Chicagoans Frank Mahon and Melissa Pacelli and the play is directed by Susan Felder.

As Irish authors go, Maurice Walsh is not well known, either in Ireland or the US. Though, he has a solid core of admirers including this columnist. His book The Key Above the Door was a particular favorite

of mine when I was a lad in Ireland more than 50 years ago. I stumbled across the book by accident. It was not on the recommended reading lists issued by the priests at the various private schools I attended. I did not know why, since I loved the book's lyrical language and romantic theme. Later, I surmised that the erudite priests, while they might have liked Walsh's work privately, did not wish to endorse it publicly lest that send "a wrong message" to impressionable young men. Walsh was seen as too much of an Irish nationalist, and too earthy for some upper crust tastes at the time. One of his main characters, Hugh Forbes, was depicted as an active fighter against the British in the Irish War of Independence.

Biography

Maurice Walsh was born on a farm in Ballydonoghue near Listowel in 1879. He never liked farming, and after a secondary education



Northwestern University. It was first staged at the Seanchai Theatre in 1995. Set in an unnamed seacoast town near Dublin, the play is a story of the Donnelly family situated in the misty and suspended-in-time 1950s. At the play's outset, we meet Eveline and Kathleen and their Da Peter, just two days after their mother's funeral,

and a week before Kathleen's marriage to wimpy Leo Doyle. The sudden arrival of a touring actor, feckless Freddy Malone, who drinks his whisky straight from the bottle, throws the Donnelly household into a tizzy. Kathleen starts to wonder if Leo is really the right man for her, and Eveline finds herself falling under the spell of Charlie Doyle, Leo's drifter brother. The engaging play then see-saws back and forth and ends with a surprise.

The production, which opened Feb. 25 and runs through March 15, has been produced by Elayne LeTraunik and directed by Scott Phelps. The cast includes Natalie Beck, Tom Beck, Michael Bullaro, Erik Clancy, Catherine Gillespie, Rachel Martindale, and Scott Stratton. Citadel Theater is located in the Gorton Center next to the train station in downtown Lake Forest. It has ample free parking and is easy to access. Details about the theater and production can be found at <http://www.citadeltheatre.org>.

in book form (published by W & R Chambers Ltd) in July 1926.

US Success

Walsh retired from government service in 1933, and in that year he sold a story to The Saturday Evening Post in the US. That piece was The Quiet Man, which later became the movie. Walsh continued to write, and in all penned more than 20 books and collections of short stories. He died on February 18, 1964 in Dublin and was buried in the Esker cemetery at Lucan. Ireland's President Eamon deValera attended his funeral Mass. The Chicago Theatre Downstairs, where The Quiet Man Tales will be staged, is located at 175 N. State Street. Previews are scheduled to start March 6 and the play will open Sunday, March 22 at 3pm.

Citadel Theatre

And Neither Have I Wings To Fly is also by a Chicagoland author, the award-winning playwright Ann Noble. She wrote the play in the 1990s, shortly after graduating from

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-Ian Cooper, former MP and Civil Rights Activist

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Exciting Production of O'Neill at Goodman

Eugene O'Neill's play, *Desire Under the Elms*, is being produced at the Goodman Theatre. And what a production it is!

O'Neill wrote plays that are strongly emotional and which keenly observe the deep psychological motives of humans. He was profoundly aware of the reality and power of the human subconscious.

tradition), and a feeling of impending fate that can't be changed.

O'Neill repeatedly mentions stones in the play. They are a powerful image. Huge stones dominate the stage—great piles of stones—huge stones are even suspended over the stage, held above the actors by great, thick ropes. The stones show the helplessness of humans to escape fate.



major part of the Goodman's O'Neill festival: A Global Exploration: Eugene O'Neill in the 21st Century.

Robert Falls directs Brian Dennehy in that play. The collaboration of these Irish Americans has resulted in many memorable, even transcendent, productions. I first saw the dramatic result of their work in 1996. The Goodman produced O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet*, and to this day, I vividly remember scenes of that play.

When *Desire* was first produced in 1935, a critic said that O'Neill wants us to see that "life is vivid and restless and exciting and terrible," and that there are unseen, but very potent forces that influence us.

In the play, when the son admires the beautiful morning sky, the crude and cruel father says: "Ye're feeling right chipper hain't ye? Whar'd you steal that likker?"

The son replies: "Tain't likker. Jest life."

O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms*, shows us many facets of life. Don't miss this marvelous production.

Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn in Chicago. 312.443.3800 or www.goodmantheatre.org.



The play was written in 1924 and is set in New England. However, there are several themes that are also parts of the traditional culture of Ireland.

Some of these themes and references are: stones in fields, stone walls around fields, the almost primal desire for possession of land, repressed and suppressed sexuality (here repressed by the Puritan religious

The great American playwright, Eugene O'Neill, lived from 1888 to 1953. He wrote plays that are masterpieces of drama, and for them he won a Nobel Prize for Literature and four Pulitzer Prizes. Among the plays he wrote, are the great *Long Days Journey into Night*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Iceman Cometh* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.

Desire Under the Elms is the

Defending The Caveman Playing at Theatre at the Center

Defending the Caveman, written by Rob Becker and starring Munster native Kevin Burke, plays Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana, from Wednesday, April 1 through Sunday, April 5 as a special event during their 2009 season. Burke, on break from his hit, sold-out run of *Defending the Caveman* at the

Excilibur Casino in Las Vegas, will be performing this engagement specifically for his hometown audience before returning to Las Vegas.

Defending the Caveman, a hilariously insightful play about the ways men and women relate, is an international hit with productions in 30

countries. With hilarious insights on contemporary feminism, masculine sensitivity and the erogenous zone, *Defending the Caveman* addresses the common themes in relationships that go straight to the funny bone.

219.836.3255 or www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com.



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Seanachai Chicago Premiere of Our Father



Scene from "Our Father," from "Scenes From The Big Picture." Photo by John W. Sisson, Jr.

Seanachai Entertainment will present the Chicago Premier of *Our Father*, by M.G. Stephens, Mondays at 8pm, from March 16th to April 13th at the Atlantic Bar & Grill, 5062 N. Lincoln Avenue in Chicago (2 blocks south of Foster, between Carmen & Winnemac.)

What could be better on a wintry Monday night than sitting in an Irish bar downing a few pints? How about sitting at a wake in an Irish bar downing a few pints?

Seanachai takes its tradition of Irish storytelling back to its roots—with this evocative tale, performed in

the back of a pub. "The old dingle-berry's dead," and through the fumes of beer and whiskey appear Fats, Bones, Beaky, Mumbles, Psycho, and Oscar. The gloves are off and everyone has a story to share. So pull up a chair and a jar and inhale the atmosphere as booze, insults, poetry and comedy fly in equal measure, and the portrait of "Our father: narrow-minded, wide-girthed, drunk as a stone" emerges with brutal force and acerbic flavor.

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Upcoming IAHC Events

Annual Library Lectures

The Irish Heritage Library Lectures have been a staple of cultural programming for 24 years and the 2009 lectures are no exception.

The two-part series begins with Hooligan's Homily on Sunday, March 1 at 2pm with a performance with writer and performer, Mike Houlihan. He will promote his new book, Hooliganism and perform excerpts from the book, which will be for sale.

Houlihan is Chicago's own "triple threat" writer, producer and performer whose talents have earned him the respect and confidence of the Chicago community. He is a former columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and writes a column for the Irish American News. For six years he entertained audiences as the author and star of his one man comic memoir of Irish Chicago, GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND.

The second guest will be Jack O'Keefe who will lecture on aspects of the Irish famine and discuss his book, Brother Sleeper Agent: The Plot to Kill F.D.R. The book is the story of the life of a young Irish immigrant trained to

avenge the deaths of his parents killed by English gunmen. O'Keefe earned a Ph.D. in Literature, and attended the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop.



The second lecture on Sunday, March 8 at 2pm, is called Galway Bay Stories, with author Mary Pat Kelly. Kelly is the author of the book, Galway Bay. Inspired by the story of her great-great-grandmother, filmmaker and former Saturday Night Live producer Kelly recounts the triumphs and tragedies facing the Irish émigrés escaping the Great Starvation for the frontier town of Chicago. She will be joined by Chicago's Celtic Diva, singer, Catherine O'Connell, who will perform songs from County Galway.

Tickets for each lecture are \$8 and a reception follows each event. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035.

Celebrate Three Great Days this St. Patrick's Day at the IAHC

The Irish American Heritage Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March at the IAHC.

What makes these celebrations different than the many that Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof. Patrons wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay late, beating the bar crowds and cold weather.

On Friday, March 13, 2009, the IAHC kicks off the holiday with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish dance concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free. Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish dancers, all on one stage. The line up will be: Spriorad Damhsa Irish Dancers, the Trinity Irish Dancers, the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, the Mullane Healy O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, the World Academy of Irish Dancing, Mulhern School of Irish Dance and special musical guests and the Academy of Irish Music.

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, the IAHC holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented an-



nual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Vendors will be on hand to sell Irish gifts, baked goods, books and jewelry.

Performers include The Irish Heritage Singers, Tim O'Shea and Stephen Carroll, direct from Ireland, the Dooley Brothers, the Shannon Rovers, David Dunne and Blackwater, Anish, Mulligan Stew and more. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if purchased until the end of the day on March 13. Children 12 and under are free.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009 the IAHC will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Center's Fifth Province Lounge. The day-long event runs from noon until midnight.

Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. Live entertainment includes Tim O'Shea and Stephen Carroll, direct from Ireland, The Chancey Brothers, Barry Fagan's Band and the Matt Stedman Band. The cost is \$10 and children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased only at the door only. For more information, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Quiz Night Returns

Quiz Night returns this winter at the Center. The monthly quiz is a fun way to test your trivia knowledge. There is a different quizmaster each month, so the styles of quiz vary. The cost is \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. There will be prizes each week for the top three winners. Food and drink is available in the Fifth Province. Quiz Night is March 20, April 17 and May 15 at 8pm.

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The Elders Rock

The IAHC will welcome The Elders in concert for one night only this April.

Since forming in 1998, The Elders have brought their musical mix of powerful vocals, amped-up roots rock, blazing instrumentals and first-rate songwriting to festivals, pubs and theaters across the United States and Ireland.

The band creates original music that transcends the stereotypical notion of Celtic music and delivers it with passion and fire. The concert is Friday, April 24 at 8pm at the IAHC and tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. www.irish-american.org.



Irish Earth Day Festival

The IAHC will go greener than ever with its first ever Earth Day Festival this April.

This free event is open to the Chicagoland community and will showcase companies and non-profits promoting sustainable living. Vendors will display Earth-friendly products, conservation, recycling, sustainable agriculture and alternative energy.



There will be children's activities, live music and food for purchase.

The Irish Earth Day Festival is at the IAHC on Saturday, April 18, from 10am-4pm and is free. Celebrate Earth Day with Chicago's original green community!

Friday Night Fish Fry

The IAHC continues its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this spring through Friday, April 10, 2009 from 6:30-9pm in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music follows at 9pm.

Every Day is St. Patrick's Day at O'Hagan's!!



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Friday, March 13th - Music with our In-House D.J. 10pm-2am

Saturday, March 14th - 6 Nations Rugby Live: Italy Vs Wales 9am | Scotland Vs Ireland 12 Noon. Music with Joe Mc Shane 3pm-6pm Bagpipes with Luke Cunningham 8pm "Duraceol" 9pm-12:30am

Sunday, March 15th - 6 Nations Rugby Live: England Vs France @ 10am

We have a bus scheduled to depart O' Hagan's @ 10:30am \$30 per person, to include Irish breakfast, bus to & from parade & beer on the bus. Call to reserve a seat now.

Monday, March 16th - Live Music with "Duraceol" 8pm-12am

Tuesday, March 17th Saint Patrick's Day Bagpipes with Luke Cunningham 6pm Live Music with "Duraceol" 9pm-12:30am

Saturday, March 21st - 6 Nations Rugby Live: Italy Vs France @ 8:15am | England Vs Scotland @ 10:30am Wales Vs Ireland @ 12:30pm

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Kelly to Host "Sportsaholic" on Fox

Chicago's William Kelly, the host of the Emmy award-winning Upscale Chicago, now in its third successful year on FOX's Saturday night line-up, is now set to launch a brand new sports TV series. The reality TV-style sports show, "Sportsaholic," will premiere on Comcast Sportsnet, DISH, and Direct TV every Thursday and Sunday night at 12:30 late night beginning April 2, 2009. Sportsaholic is a tribute to super sports fans and everyday athletes everywhere and will feature segments on Irish sports, Irish bars, and Irish music and culture. For more information and show updates, visit www.upscaletv.com.



Stand Up for Kieran Conway



Kieran Conway

With his endless wit and musical talent, Kieran Conway has entertained in the Chicagoland area tirelessly for over 25 years. Kieran has also given much of his time and energy to raise money for various causes, one very close to his heart being the Mulliganeers, an organization dedicated to giving critically ill children and their families a second chance. His nephew Ciaran was the first beneficiary of a Mulliganer event after a horrendous car crash 14 years ago. For the past 13 years, Kieran

helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for such children by playing auctioneer and being the headline entertainer at the annual St. Patrick's event.

Kieran, born in Kilkenny and a former rugby player, captained London Irish Colts in the early 70s, and went on to play for Gloucester Rugby Club in England. His brother Pdraig, who played alongside Kieran at London Irish and also at Gloucester, is the father of Ciaran and lives in Palos Hills. Their father Paddy grew up and attended school with Pat Hennessy who welcomed the Conways to Chicago in the mid Eighties.

On July 15th, 2008, Kieran was diagnosed with Stage II Esophageal Cancer. He has undergone radical surgery and is now beginning an uphill battle of chemotherapy and radiation. Now, when Kieran is unable to help even himself, the community is 'Standing Up' to help Kieran. In order to help relieve the financial

Celebrating St. Pat's with Old St. Pat's Old St. Pat's Parade Kick-Off Celebration

Old St. Patrick's Church will host the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade kick-off celebration beginning with Bishop Timothy Lyne celebrating the Civic Mass at 9am on Saturday, March 14. This traditional Mass includes Celtic music performed by Irish musicians, the Old St. Patrick's Concert Choir and cantors. Guests will enjoy performances by both The Sheila Tully Irish Stepdancers and the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Additionally, they will host Breakfast Buffets in the church hall and the Frances Xavier Warde School cafeteria. The Foundations Youth Ministry, all dignitaries and interested guests will head off to the St. Patrick's Day Parade immediately following the buffets.

Church doors will open at 7am for limited balcony seating. Please arrive early because the church fills up quickly.

In addition to the Civic celebration, a community celebration will be held on Sunday, March 15 at 12:45pm and feature Celtic musicians, the Old St. Patrick's choir and cantors, The Sheila Tully Irish Stepdancers and The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. A complimentary Irish continental breakfast will follow. Tours of Old St. Patrick's Celtic revival art and stained glass windows will be offered after Mass.

Old St. Patrick's Church is located in the west loop at the corner of Des Plaines (200S) and Adams (700W). The church and church hall is wheelchair accessible. 312.648.1021.

Siamsa Na Ngael

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30pm, Old St. Patrick's Church will host the 13th annual Siamsa na nGael entitled Stories of Hope at the Symphony Center, 220 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Tickets, \$25-\$55, can be purchased through the Symphony Center Box office at 312.294.3000 or www.cso.org.

This program is a magnificent celebration of the finest in Celtic song, dance and story—a unique event that specifically honors the feast of St. Patrick and highlights world-class Celtic entertainment. Guests will enjoy performances

stress and to ease the overwhelming medical bills, friends and family are hosting an appreciation night called 'Stand Up for Kieran' on April 18th, 2009 at Chicago Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, IL.

For a full description of updates and how to donate, attend or purchase tickets. www.standup4kieranconway.com

If you cannot attend but would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to:

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Film "Waiting For Dublin"

A Screwball Comedy Starring Andrew Keegan As WWII Flyboy

Just in time for Saint Patrick's Day, "WAITING FOR DUBLIN," a screwball comedy starring Andrew Keegan with Irish stars Hugh O'Connor, Frank Kelley and David Wilmot, will make its way to US theatres. Belgium-based Corsan and Cinema Libre Studio will partner on the theatrical release which begins March 13, 2009 in New York, Chicago and Boston.

Directed by Roger Tucker, "WAITING FOR DUBLIN" features Andrew Keegan, who starred in: "10 Things I Hate About You" with Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles; "The Broken Hearts Club: A Romantic Comedy" starring Zach Braff, and the modern-day adaptation of Shakespeare's Othello, "O," with Mekhi Phifer, Josh Hartnett and Stiles. Keegan gained attention early in his career for his television roles on "Party of Five" and "7th Heaven." His current film, "Fast Glass," is in post-production and he has been cast in "The Riot," an action-thriller set to shoot in Seattle, Washington.

In a Chicago nightclub on New Year's Eve in 1944, fighter pilot Lt. Mike Clarke (Keegan) meets a stranger, Vito Massucci (Karl Shiels), who bets him that he can't become a war ace by shooting down at least five enemy aircraft. Upon sobering up and shipping out, Mike realizes that the bet was made in actuality for \$10,000 and, that Vito's uncle - who witnessed the contract - was none other than the notorious Al Capone. After entering the battle and tallying up some "kills," Mike must make an emergency landing in a small Irish village with his co-pilot, Twickers (Hugh O'Connor). Short of making good on the bet

with Vito, Mike must either find another enemy aircraft to shoot down amongst the neutral and peaceful villagers or suffer the wrath of Vito and Uncle Al.

O'Connor is a veteran film and television actor and played opposite Liam Neeson in "Lamb," with other film credits including: "My Left Foot," "The Three Musketeers," "The Young Poisoner's Handbook," "A Film with Me In It," "Wild Decembers," and "The Man Inside." Jade Yourell plays Keegan's love interest, "Maggie." Yourell is an Irish-born actress who spent her early career in the theatre where she studied with Ann Kavanaugh's Young Peoples Theatre in the local town of Galway -- where parts of the film were shot. DUBLIN is Yourell's first feature film.



The film also features robust performances by beloved character actors, Frank Kelly and David Wilmot. Kelly has been acting since 1968 and has played in more than 17 movies including: "The Italian Job" (1969), "Aristocrats" (1999) and "Rat" (2000). David Wilmot is a well-trained actor with a long, impressive list of credits that include: "The Devil's Own" (1997) starring opposite Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt; "The Field," "The Treaty," "Gentleman Caller," "I Went Down," "Home for Christmas," "Intermission" and "Laws of Attraction." In 2006, Wilmot won the Theatre

World Award and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Padraic in "The Lieutenant of Inishmore." His most recent film is 2008's "Dorothy Mills." www.waitingfordublinmovie.com.

Horoscope



Theresa Castro



ARIES: This is the time to tie up loose ends in your life before your birthday. Venus in your sign is helping you along with finances or your general attractiveness due to disciplined good living (or not.)



TAURUS: The monthly planetary weather of March 2009 is mostly supportive of your efforts in the area of your choice. Watch your finances and your health for best results. If you are looking for employment, things look good.



GEMINI: There is a planetary pile up in your ninth sector of higher ideals. Some may travel, others will get extra education, while some of you could suddenly get religion in some way. Lots of things are going on for your sign this month.



CANCER: The planets of March 2009 are looking pretty good for you. Some folks have dumped a lot of extra work on you and your work load is bursting at the seams. Try to delegate and get some help.



LEO: You are doing the springtime jig. After the long hard winter we have been through you are ready to party. Go on vacation and let your hair down. If you are unemployed you may get good news soon about work.



VIRGO: Saturn has been in your sign since 2007 and will not leave until this fall. You may have learned a thing or two that will add to your maturity and sense of self. If you have had a rough two years, take heart, you will emerge all the better for it.



LIBRA: You are being supported by a gang of helpful planets in your sector of children. If there are young people in your life then you will be busy this month. If you don't have children of your own something in your creative sphere will be activated.



SCORPIO: Your home base is under reconstruction. This can be a literal move or reorganization of your home. You may be living in construction as well. Your outlook may also be changing as rigid and possible stubborn thinking gives way to more flexible and creative solutions.



SAGITTARIUS: Saturn has been dogging you for a couple of years. Know that this will not last for much longer. After March 10th, things should be looking up. For the unemployed among you things will improve.



CAPRICORN: You are being supported by the planets congregating in your second sector of finances. You have much to be grateful for with your new found financial freedom. The possibility of a new job or something new in your life is cause for excitement.



AQUARIUS: Your house is crowded! Jupiter and the gang are literally in your face bringing you luck, love, and dare we say money? Enjoy this time in your life and do promise to share your good fortune!



PISCES: The month of March 2009 will turn the wheel in your direction as your birthday month is here. Happy birthday, dear Pisces, and share with the world all of your good thoughts and intentions.

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James M. Sweeney Elected President of Operating Engineers 150

James M. Sweeney was recently elected President-Business Manager of the Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO. Local 150 represents 23,000 heavy equipment operators and other workers in the construction, material production, steel mill service, and other industries in northwest Indiana, northern Illinois, and eastern Iowa. Local 150 members are primarily engaged in highway and building construction in the greater Chicago area.

As President-Business Manager, Sweeney is chief executive officer of the Union. He is ultimately responsible for the management of over 100 business agents, organizers, and support staff, strategic planning for the Union, and oversight of its budget. Sweeney presides over the Union's membership meetings, and serves as Chairman of its Executive Board. He is also Chairman of the Midwest Operating Engineers Fringe Benefits Funds which provide fringe benefits to Local 150 members including health insurance, vacation savings, and a \$3 billion pension fund. Jim also chairs the Apprenticeship Fund Board of Trustees, which administers a training program at its state-of-the-art facility in Wilmington, Illinois. Sweeney also serves on the Executive Boards of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council, and the Illinois Operating Engineers' State Council.

James M. Sweeney is a second-generation Operating Engi-



Ed McElroy, host of the Comcast Channel 19, "Community in Focus" TV Show recently interviewed James M. Sweeney, President and Business Manager of International Union of Operating Engineers, Local #150. Pictured from the left is James Sweeney and Ed McElroy.

neer. Jim's father, Martin Sweeney, was a crane operator since 1955 as was his uncle, John "Red" Carroll. Sweeney himself has been a member since 1978, working for contractors on sewer and water, slag paving, and deep tunnel projects.

In 1987, then-Local 150 President-Business Manager Bill Dugan, appointed Jim the first Local 150 full-time organizer, and Jim played an integral role in the tremendous growth of the Local and its fight against non-union opposition. Jim continued to orchestrate some of Local 150's most successful organizing campaigns even after he became an assistant to the President-Business Manager. He is the architect of the industry-wide campaign to organize the aerial lift, heavy equipment rental and repair shops dubbed "Operation Wrench," which

Willowbrook on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 11am in a 6,000 square foot heated tent, 7900 Joliet Road. In addition to the shaving of the heads, they are holding a silent auction, bean bag tournament, and other fun festivities.

In other St Baldrick's events, Patrick Hogan is raising money to shave his head at the Trinity Pub, 5943 N Northwest Hwy in Chicago on March 13. And, Fado Irish Pub, 100 W Grand Ave., Chicago will host a St. Baldrick's event on Friday, March 13, from noon to 5pm.

has become a model for the American Labor Movement. Jim helped negotiate dozens of initial contracts, including seniority provisions; progressive discipline; strong, legitimate picket line language; and accretion clauses making it easier to organize an expanding industry. As assistant to the President-Business Manager, Jim proved to be a shrewd negotiator and an exceptional organizer.

Jim lives near Midway Airport with his wife, Marilyn, and their three sons, Joseph, Kevin, and James.

Shaving Heads for St. Baldrick's Kerry Piper Trinity Pub, and Fado Host Events

The St. Baldrick's Foundation raises awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. Because these youngsters typically undergo treatment that causes their hair to fall out, volunteers are recruited to have their heads shaved in public as a bold act of solidarity.

The Kerry Piper's St. Baldrick's Fundraiser will be held in

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The High Road



By Brian Burke



What is St. Patrick's Day?

In honor of Saint Patrick and our upcoming holiday, I'd rather write about Saint Patrick's Day than consumer protection laws. Saint Patrick's Day only comes once per year.

As a matter of fact, I've been freed from the burden of writing about consumer protection laws and, from now on, will be writing on various topics of immediate

relevancetoourhumbleandproud Irish-American readers.

Why do we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day? Saint Patrick is celebrated because he converted our pagan ancestors to Christianity—the worship of the one true God by following the commands of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Lord's death and resurrection, the Jewish leaders bribed the soldiers guarding the tomb,

covered up the story, persecuted "followers of the way" (early Jewish believers), and made up vicious lies about the Lord—that he was a "sorcerer" and the bastard of a Roman soldier.

Their murder and vicious lies about the life of the Lord would have ended the story. Unless, of course, he rose from the dead, appeared to the apostles and many others, and continues to be alive in the lives of believers through the power of the Holy Spirit, which he promised to send after he returned to God, His Father.

Today, you hear people try to deny the Lord even lived. But the Jewish religious leaders even as late as the third century were not denying the life of the Lord but attributed his miracles to sorcery and denied his divinity, and worse.

Think of the story of Michael Jordan. Would everyone know the story of Michael Jordan, or even care, if they had not seen him for themselves in action on television? What if we only had still photos? Or, if no cameras, would it have been enough to only read about him? When would the fervor, if there ever was any without multi-media, begin to fade away? Would he still be remembered or regarded two thousand years later? Would his life still impact people, if we had not seen him ourselves do the things he did?

Imagine now then that "Michael Jordan" did much more than jump and shoot, and everyone thought he was special, sent from God even, but he was taking away attention from many of the people's so-called leaders. The leaders then plot and then crucify him as a criminal and make up lies about him after his death to defeat the legend. The leaders then persecute and imprison his followers. The leaders then send Saul of Tarsus, eager to please God and imprison these followers of a supposed heretic, but Saul comes back to

Jerusalem calling himself Paul and preaching the way to the followers he had been persecuting. And Paul (f/k/a Saul) never saw "Michael Jordan" perform because there was no television, no photos, no newspapers. And "Michael Jordan" is supposed to be dead at this time.

What did Saul see, if not a television clip, a still photo, or a written account of this man called "Michael Jordan"? Why does Saul no longer believe the lies he had been told by the esteemed leaders about this now "dead" man? Why is Saul no longer eager to please the esteemed leaders and, instead, is now in league with the powerless followers of "Michael Jordan" who are still being persecuted? Why is he calling himself Paul?

I am not comparing Michael Jordan to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am trying to make you see that there's no possible way that an ordinary man crucified as a criminal by the leaders of his day and falsely accused of "crimes"—at a time when there was no television and the only written word was on scrolls weaved from animal skin and written in natural dye or animal blood and only found in the palace or the temple or the local synagogue—would be remembered 2000 years later and worshipped by some.

Do you think that Rod Blagojevich will be worshipped 2000 years from now? Or even remembered? Or even talked about? Even when the world saw him and heard him plead his case on television, saw him and read about him in newspapers or on the internet? He too is being accused of crimes by political "leaders" of his day.

I am not comparing Rod Blagojevich to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am trying to make you see that there's no possible way an ordinary man "falsely" accused of crimes—at a time when there is television and newspapers and internet so that everyone now knows

his story—would be remembered 2000 years later and worshipped by some.

Why do I say worshipped "by some"? Because most people will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day purporting to celebrate the life of Patrick, but instead celebrating themselves. If Patrick were alive, he would tell us not to celebrate his life but to celebrate the life of the one he taught us about, the Lord Jesus Christ. And if Paul were here, he would tell us "Do not be drunk with wine [or beer and whiskey], that's debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18. If you celebrate the life of Patrick but not the life of the one Patrick lived for and lived to teach us about, the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, then Patrick's life was a failure and his mission unaccomplished. And if you celebrate Patrick's memory through pagan revelry, his mission was unaccomplished. And if his mission was unaccomplished, he is not a "saint" (whatever that is).

We Get Letters

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in America in colonial times before (as early as 1690), during and after the American Revolution. A few of the celebrations were:

In Boston, 1737, "Several Gentlemen, Merchants and others of the Irish Nation residing in Boston" met and founded The Charitable Irish Society.

In Philadelphia, about 1775, and in New York, 1776, The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick were organized.

In 1776, after forcing the British to evacuate Boston, George Washington issued the order "Brigadier of the Day, General Sullivan, By His Excellency's Command" and "Parole, Boston, Countersign, St. Patrick."

In 1780, from his Morristown headquarters, Washington congratulated the Irish Parliament on their attempt "to restore to a brave and generous people their ancient Rights and Freedom, and by their operation to promote the Cause of America..."

In 1780, Col. Francis Johnson of the Pennsylvania Line of Washington's Army said, "... While the troops are celebrating the bravery of St. Patrick..., he hopes they will not forget their worthy friends in the Kingdom of Ireland, who, with the greatest unanimity, have stepped forward in opposition to the tyrant Great Britain, and who, like us, are determined to die or be free."

Robert E. West
Irish American Unity Conference
Author and Historian

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Beoga's Back in Wisconsin!

If you caught Beoga's August 2007 concert at St. Patrick's Church (Loreto Ridge), you know to mark your calendar for its upcoming concert. Enough said. If you missed this five piece band from County Antrim, Ireland in 2007, well, the luck of the Irish is with you. Beoga returns to St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, March 15 at 3pm for an afternoon of high-spirited Celtic music. The band's return to St. Patrick's is sponsored in part by Culture Ireland, the Irish government agency tasked with the international promotion of the best in Ireland's culture and arts.

Beoga (Gaelic for "lively" and pronounced "bee-oh-gah") draws on the twin dueling accordions of Damian McKee and Sean Og Graham to establish its musical trademark. Add four time All-Ireland bodhran champion Eamon Murray (2007 concert goes will recall his phenomenal solo performance), Liam Bradley on keyboard, and Niamh Dunne on fiddle and lead vocals, and watch the creativity fly.

Firmly rooted in Irish traditional music, Beoga keeps its ears open to other genres. The result is traditional with a sense of fun and adventure. How many bands draw influence from The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Emmylou Harris, Clifford T. Ward, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and Steely Dan? There are no limits here and Beoga makes it all work—wonderfully well.

Known for its wit and mischievous arrangements, the band's CDs are aptly named: A Lovely Madness (2004), Mischief (2007), and its latest, The Incident (2009). This last CD title is certainly an intriguing one, but we're not likely to learn the story behind it. It seems that Beoga's wit comes with discretion. Track 7, which shares the CD's title, includes two tunes composed by band member Sean Og Graham. One tune ("Three Seats Magoo") refers to an unfortunate mishap that befell Beoga member Damian McKee during a concert in Spain. As for the other tune ("The Incident"), the band simply says, "And the final reel... sorry, we're not allowed to mention 'The Incident.'" No matter. Who needs a story when you've got the energy, drive and musicianship of a Beoga performance? Don't miss it!

St. Patrick's Catholic Club. Celtic currently competes in the Wisconsin Adult Soccer Association's (WASA) Men's First Division. They are also a sponsor of the Milwaukee Hurling Club, sponsoring the scoreboard and the Shamrock Club Griffins.

Other activities include: Monthly membership meetings with entertaining programs (public welcome); Irish Studies Scholarship for college students of any age to help monetarily with any Irish or Ireland related studies; Annual Summer Picnic and Golf Outing; St. Patrick's Day celebration in March; Emerald Reflections, monthly newsletter featuring articles on Irish history, current events, and the "Irish Community Calendar"; Annual fund raisers for various organizations in the community; and Easter Rising and Halfway to St Patrick's Day Masses.

Chapters

Milwaukee; Lafayette County; Dane County; New Dublin; Northeast Wisconsin and Green Bay; Fox Cities; South Central; and LaCrosse.

The Shamrock Club welcomes all people with an interest in Irish heritage as members. In Milwaukee, an individual membership is \$20 annually; family membership is only \$25.

<http://shamrockclubwis.com>

Church, Loreto Ridge, WI, is located at S8280 Hwy. G, where Hwy. G and Hwy. GG intersect (approximately 8 miles north of Plain or 6 miles south of Loganville). Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at The Flower Shop and Village Gifts in Spring Green, Plain Kwik Stop/Shell Gas Station in Plain, and Dietz Cabinet Designs and Furniture Restoration in Reedsburg. Advance tickets may also be purchased with a credit card by calling Dietz Cabinet Designs at 608-524-4899. Tickets purchased with a credit card incur an additional \$1.00 processing fee.



3rd Annual Hooley Saturday, March 28 Baraboo, Wisconsin

'Twill be the "wearin' of the green" once more as downtown Baraboo, Wisconsin opens its warm heart to all at the Third Annual Hooley, on Saturday March 28, 2009.

Hooley is an Irish term for a community-wide celebration.

The Baraboo, Wisconsin based Hooley will feature special events all day in downtown Baraboo shops. Special events, on this celebratory day, include a Limerick Contest, judged by the local Mayor, at the Village Booksmith, as well as corned beef specials at the Garden Party.

As the day winds down and the sun starts to set, at about 5:30 p.m., the community is invited to Baraboo Arts Banquet Hall for a bowl of traditional Irish

stew and few other favorite dishes.

The cash bar will offer a variety of beverages, including one traditional adult Irish drink: Smithwick's Ale.

This Hooley evening of music, dancing, and storytelling will feature various musicians, including the Celtic group "Rigel". Irish dancers will prance "their stuff" and even teach some of the enthusiastic audience a few basic Cielí moves!

The evening event costs \$8 per person but welcomes kids under the age of ten at NO charge at all!

Downtown Baraboo is located 40 miles north of Madison and 15 miles south of Wisconsin Dells, off interstate 90/94 on the east, or Hwy 12 to the west

Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes And Drums

The Club's award-winning Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums has marched in many world-class events, including the Dublin Millennium Parade in 1988. The Color Guard marches in many parades throughout Wisconsin and, of course, leads the procession down Wisconsin Avenue in the Shamrock Club's very own St. Patrick's Parade in Milwaukee. They also have a dual purpose serving as an Honor Guard for many ceremonies, masses, and funerals.

Wisconsin Irish Pride

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin has been Wisconsin's largest Irish American organization for over forty years. It was formed in 1960 by people interested in promoting their Irish heritage. Since that time, the club has grown into one of the largest ethnic organizations in the state, with chapters spread throughout Wisconsin.

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



"CONGRESSMEMBERS should wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers so we can identify their corporate sponsors."—Anon

OBAMA'S "CHANGE" is n't here yet. It turns out that he doesn't share the rest of mankind's abhorrence to Bush's torture policy. Note his lethargy in closing Guantánamo—not immediately, but within a year. He also says he will keep Bush's secret "black" sites operating and will continue conditioning to them; but not to Guantánamo. Thus, Guantánamo, a symbol of Bush's criminality, will end, but not US torture itself. Obama is a torturer. He hasn't admitted it; he just obstructs the prosecution of torturers—which makes him an accomplice. We, too, are accomplices unless we notify the White House (202 456-1111)

that we want the US Constitution upheld—including against the policy of torture and all of the Bush gang's other crimes. Obama is proving to be morally and ethically flexible; weak but not necessarily evil, so we must do our part in "gov't by the people" to stiffen his spine.

WHO SHOULD PAY? Jordan Paust of the University of Houston Law Center calls giving Justice Department lawyers to alleged international war criminals "an outrage and constitute an embarrassing embrace of international criminal conduct that the international community has demanded must result in absolutely no form of impunity." Paust says that alleged criminals should bear the costs of their own defense, and notes lengthy precedence for this. At "a 1781 Resolution of the Continental Congress, the Founders expected that 'the author of... injuries [that are "offenses against the law of nations"] should compensate the damage out of his private fortune."

TAKE HEART; ACT! If enough of us contact our two US senators and our US congressman and phone the

White House, we will become the indispensable "gov't by the people" and might save Obama from himself.

ABUNDANCE continues! The chasm between America's rich and poor is the widest in history, and sub-prime fraudsters have burst the Wall Street/bank/real estate bubble, but stores are overflowing with goods. We still consume not just our own production, but much of Asia's. That "free lunch" will soon end. American workers must re-take control of national policy; away from our gov't's corporate bribers including the suits still looting America's savings and pensions.

BASIC PATRIOTISM. "If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms—never—never—never" - William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (1708&78) on Affairs in America 1777 (ICH). Are Iraqis different? Palestinians? Irish? Why have we allowed our news media to blame IRA volunteers for Britain's murders during the 1969-1994 phase of the Anglo-Irish conflict? How, despite the homicide records, did the Irish get labeled "terrorists"? Why does the Irish gov't side with Six Counties' British occupiers instead of with its own Irish patriots? Only traitors like Gerry Adams & Co lay down their arms and collaborate with foreign occupiers. How many Americans would?

IRA POWs in Maghaberry prison declare: "We, the republican POWs in Maghaberry prison camp for our beliefs and actions, denounce British attempts to criminalise those on the Republican wing in Roe House landings 3 & 4. The Stormont Agreement ended political status for political prisoners, including segregation. Segregation was reintroduced in 2003/4 after a number of POWs resumed the dirty protest. Currently, the old policy of criminalization is in full swing at the behest of the N.I.O. and their Provo puppets aided by former members of the Provisional Movement now turned criminal. Those who claim to be republicans yet engage in crimes such as "tiger kidnappings" for financial gain will not be tolerated on our wing. The concerns of republican prisoners on Roe 3 and 4 are serious and must be treated as such by the prison authorities and by those offering mediation including Catholic clergymen, the "Independent Monitoring Board" and the Prisoners' Ombudsman. We republican POWs cannot be broken or criminalised, and any such attempt will be met with resistance."

MICHAEL McKEVITT remains wrongfully imprisoned in Portlaoise. He was framed by the self-same MI5/FBI gang that covered for David Biro, the murderer of the Langert family in Winnetka, while framing me for it. Biro's murder weapon was FBI agent Lewis's. When Biro blabbed himself into Life without Parole in Downstate Pontiac, MI5/FBI fabricated other pretexts and incarcerated four of us and tried unsuccessfully to have us sentenced for the rest of our lives. These MI5/FBI frame-up attempts—all based on their own perjuries and evidence fabrications—failed. Above the law, MI5 soon assigned them to Ireland where, fronted by the same FBI agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley who framed us twice, they helped to organize the Omagh bombing to be blamed, like the Langert murders, on the IRA. That MI5/FBI murder of 29, successfully blamed so far (by innuendo only) on the IRA, resulted in the loss of Ireland's Six Counties to Britain. Yet another example of Buckley's ability to frame innocents arose during McKeivitt's trial in Dublin. Buckley's side-kick and life-long criminal David Rupert testified that Buckley left him alone with MI5 in Ireland to fly to Atlanta to investigate the Olympic bombing. You know how that ended; with Buckley et al framing Richard Jewell who had saved many lives by noticing and isolating the knapsack bomb. It took years, but Jewell received a few \$millions in compensation. All of these crimes by Buckley and his MI5 handlers remain

untouchable. Meanwhile McKeivitt, their main victim other than Omagh's dead and grieving; remains in prison like Richard Jewell once did, awaiting justice.

IRELAND'S HOLOCAUST: why is it so dangerous to acknowledge that it occurred, while European questioners of dubious Shoah "facts" are arrested? Why enforce Shoah dogma while covering up Ireland's 1845-1850 Food Removal? Why are the Irish, including Irish-Americans, so willing to adopt Brit propaganda and bear false witness to the murder of 5.25 million of their own by grossly understating the death toll and attributing it to "famine" (terminal stupidity)? Each Nov 3 increasing numbers of Irish commemorate British Lord Heytesbury's Nov 3, 1845 official start of two tragic events; 1) the Irish Holocaust, and 2) his cover-up of that crime by calling it "famine." The schools all taught us "famine"—but no longer. The truth is spreading despite the Irish gov't's attempts to perpetuate the old "famine" lie. As more people observe Nov 3, Ireland's Fianna Fail party is calling for a "famine" commemoration date, in spring. The people of Ireland were starved to death by 75 British regiments who removed to the ports at gunpoint Ireland's production of livestock, grains, poultry, dairy products, fruits etc. For more comprehensive data see www.irishholocaust.org. Learn which Brit reg't starved your relatives. Then discuss with friends. Are the Irish permanently destined to carry the label of "stupid" due to the success of the "famine" Lie ("the Irish created a death-trap for themselves by planting only one, failure-prone, crop"? If the starvation narrative omits the Food Removal, logic leads only to the "stupid Irish" potato scenario. Then examine Gaelic Park's "famine memorial." Does it impugn the dead and perpetuate the "stupid Irish" label? Or does it truthfully describe the Food Removal? Contact 312/664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net.

We Get Letters

Dear editor,
As calls grow among Fianna Fáil back benchers for a clear out and replacement of all the bankers and financiers who got Ireland into this mess—I have a concern.
Can any Irish person be trusted? We appear to be inherently corrupt—part of our post-colonial heritage. Yours etc.
Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin
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Jack Derrig Named Grand Marshall of Detroit Saint Patrick's Day Parade

By Neil Mullally, Michigan Correspondent

Jack Derrig has been named the Grand Marshall of Detroit's 51st annual St. Patrick's Day parade to be held on Sunday, March 15. Jack, 78, was born in County Mayo and immigrated to the U.S. at age 19. He soon was serving in Uncle Sam's Army in Korea.

While in the Army he was trained as a baker, a profession he had not foreseen before then. Becoming a baker was not his preference, but he did as ordered and learned the skills that would serve him well in civilian life later.

After completing his Army ser-

vice, Jack eventually co-founded the business called "The Irish Baker," located in Livonia, Michigan, an adjacent suburb of Detroit. Based upon generations-old traditional recipes from his family in Ireland, The Irish Baker produces soda bread (called soda cake in Ireland), scones, shortbread and other Irish baked goods for groceries and specialty shops in southeast Michigan. No direct selling to the public takes place, but they may sell as a vendor at festivals and other special events. Jack has been involved in Irish activities in the Detroit area for many years.

The theme of this year's parade is "The Irish Were Green Before It Was

Cool!" Parade Day will start with a pre-parade 10:30am Mass at St. Patrick's Parish in Detroit.

Parade participants will assemble at 1pm at 6th St. and Michigan Ave., at Irish Plaza in Corktown, which is the oldest ethnic neighborhood in Detroit, named after 19th century Irish immigrants from Cork.

The two hour parade will start at 2pm, and will follow a route West on Michigan Avenue past the old Detroit Tiger Stadium, and then pass by the official reviewing stand. The parade will disperse at 14th St.

From across the region the parade will include marching units, pipe &

drum bands, novelty groups, and dignitaries.

The parade is sponsored by the United Irish Societies of Detroit, which has been doing this now for more than fifty years. It is a huge endeavor, and the volunteers who make it all happen merit our deepest appreciation and highest praise. But the Detroit Irish behind the parade can use some more financial help, especially in these hardest of times for the Detroit auto industry. Michigan's and Detroit's economy has been decimated, with the highest unemployment in the nation. An easy way to help out is to be listed

as a sponsor or take out an ad in the parade's program called the Parade Times, which is the main fundraiser for the parade. There are opportunities there at every price level, starting at just \$5! And you can get the form and all the information you need conveniently online at <http://www.detroitstpatrikparade.com/pdfs/ParadeTimesorderform.pdf>.

How great it would be to see readers of IAN from around the country show their support!

Congratulations to Grand Marshall Jack Derrig, and may this year's Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade be a grand success!

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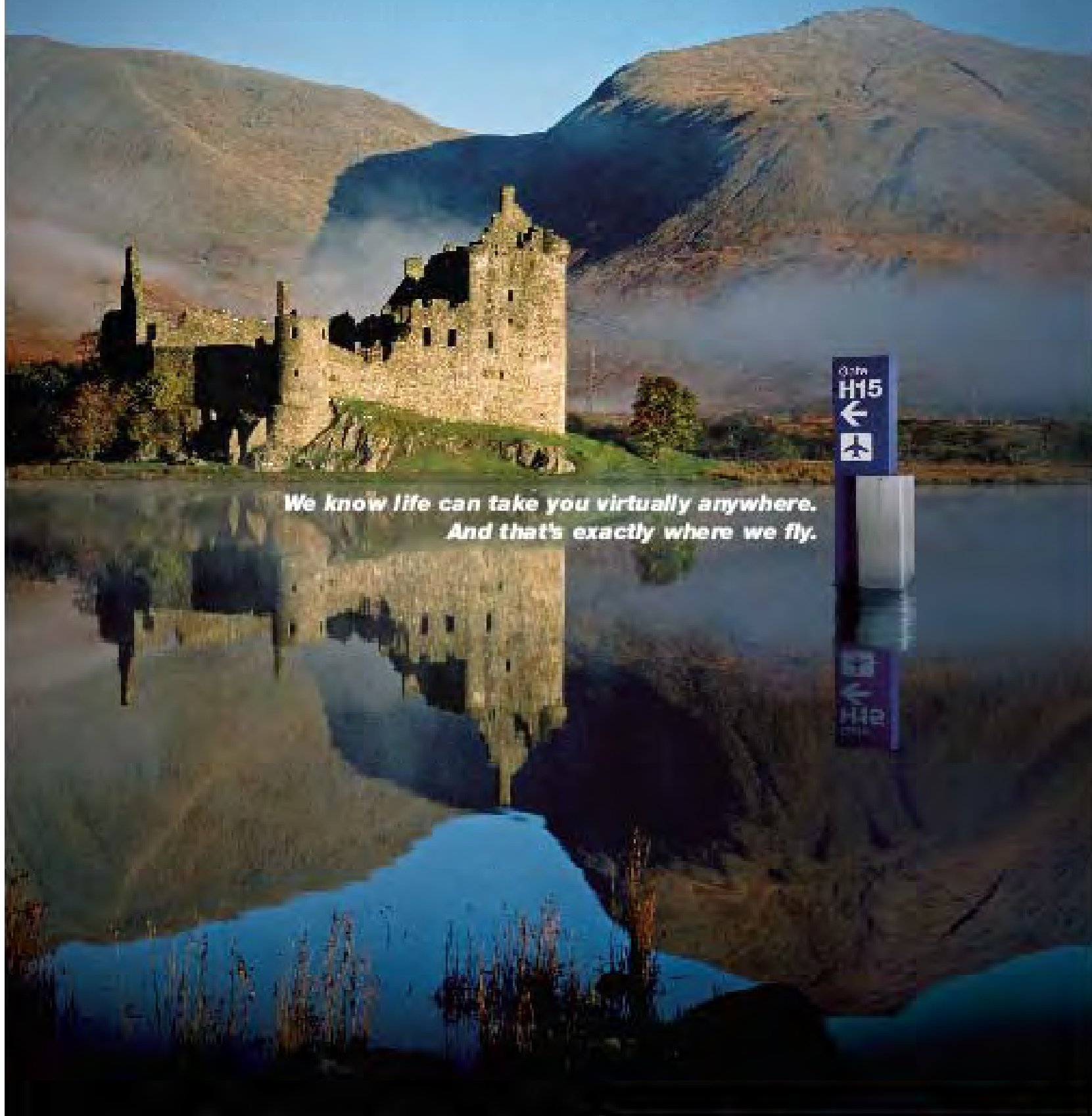
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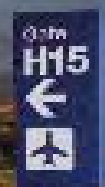
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3 Irish Films at European Union Film Festival in Chicago

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All screenings are at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute, Chicago's Premier Movie Theater, located at 164 N. State St. Tickets to each screening are \$9/general admission, \$7/students, and \$5/Film Center members. All tickets may be purchased at the Film Center Box Office. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets (NEW) are available through Ticketmaster, 312-575-8000, www.ticketmaster.com, and at all Ticketmaster outlets. The Film Center and its Box Office are open 5-9pm, M-F; 2-9pm, Sat; and 2-6pm, Sun.

For more information about the Film Center, call 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9am-5pm, M-F), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

Eden

2008, Declan Reck, 84 min. With Eileen Walsh, Aidan Kelly
Saturday, March 21, 7:45pm & Wednesday, March 25, 6pm
A raucous, gossipy, booze-infused Irish town serves as the battleground to a marriage on the rocks. Sex is the monster that soon lays waste to the emotional landscape when telephone lineman Billy, in the grip of a mid-life crisis, and his neglected wife Breda fail to acknowledge its looming shadow in the standoff leading up to their tenth anniversary. Soul-baring performances by Kelly and Walsh give the moving finale a kick that won't soon be forgotten. In English. Preview courtesy of Liberation Entertainment.

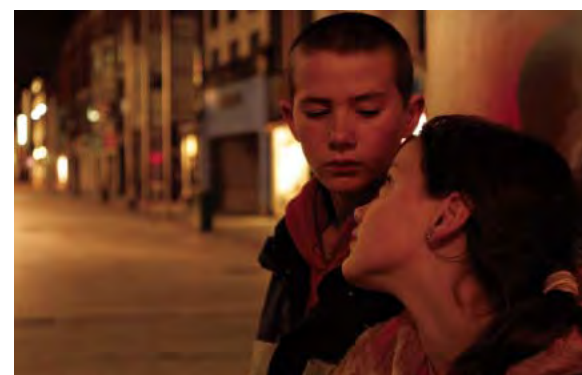
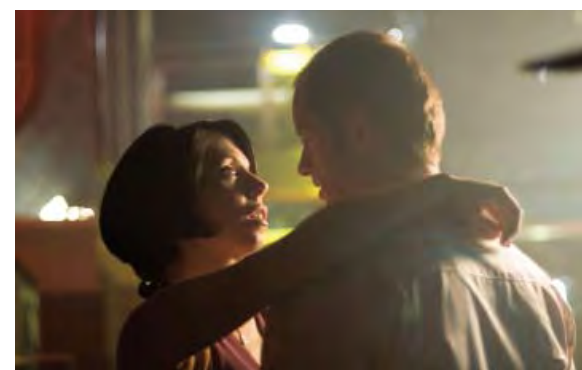


Kisses

2008, Lance Daly, Sweden, 72 min. With Kelly O'Neill, Shane Curry
Sunday, March 8, 7:30pm
Monday, March 9, 6pm
This Irish urban fairytale is made of strong stuff, grounding its magic-realist impressions of Dublin at night, as seen through the eyes of two kids, in the grit and danger of the wrong side of town. Dylan, beaten by his father, and neighbor girl Kylie, secretly abused by her uncle, run away together and hitchhike to Dublin on a river dredger for a one-night coming-of-age odyssey that is both hopeful and heart-rending. Bob Dylan dominates the soundtrack and occupies a very special place in the story. Voted best Irish film at the 2008 Galway Film Festival. In English. Widescreen print courtesy of Fastnet Films.

How About You

2007, Anthony Byrne, 100 min. With Vanessa Redgrave, Brenda Fricker
Sunday, March 29, 3:15pm & Monday, March 30, 6pm
Adapted from the short story The Hardcore by Irish novelist Maeve Binchy, this comedy gives its veteran stars Redgrave, Fricker, Melda Staunton, and Joss Ackland a chance to cut loose in over-the-top roles. Four prickly curmudgeons, old hippies all, settle in to savor an ill-humored Christmas in their shabby retirement home until a naive young nurse (Hayley Atwell of The Duchess and Brideshead Revisited) makes the mistake of trying to cheer them up. In English. Preview courtesy of Strand Releasing.



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