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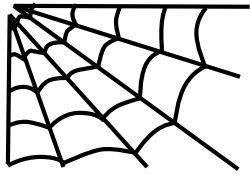


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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Getting The Toothpaste Back In The Tube

Last month the Government received a mauling in the European Parliament elections and in the national local elections. The main opposition party, Fine Gael, passed out Fianna Fail for the first time, not just in the opinion polls but in terms of actual election results. A variety of left wing candidates were also successful. It was too bad for the victors that the election results meant next to nothing in terms of national political power.

It is hardly surprising that an electorate still seeking scapegoats took it out on the government. From never having it so good, the pendulum has now swung the other way, with a vengeance. However, and particularly regarding the surge in support for left wing candidates, it is difficult to avoid concluding that a sense of denial about economic reality continues to pervade much of Irish public opinion. It is all very well to castigate the government for economic mismanagement in years past. But that will not get the country out of the current economic hole. There is no magic bullet. There is an abiding reality to be faced and that is that very unpalatable measures cannot be avoided. Moreover, those who shout loudest about no cuts in government expenditure, particularly in the welfare area, have short memories. It remains to be seen whether the election results were more than a mid term protest.

Save in one respect Ireland is not unique. Other European countries also have their current economic travails, particularly some of the newer member states and that was reflected in the results for the European Parliament elsewhere. Generally, and predictably, the bigger the national economic difficulties the worse the result for the government concerned. In Britain, Ireland's most important trading partner, the Labour government was punished savagely. Britain, remember, has banks and bankers every much as venal as those in Ireland and has committed to borrowing even more prodigiously than Ireland. It has also joined the USA in adopting a policy of printing money, the end result of which is uncertain.

I have just returned from Spain, which presents an interesting economic case-study with some striking similarities with Ireland. Both countries have seen a lengthy building-

based economic boom end with precipitate speed, accompanied by a sharp rise in unemployment (Spain's, at 19%, is far higher than Ireland's). Both have woes with developers, and are suffering the worst economic contraction in 50 years. In Spain's case also, the huge tourist industry (60 million visitors annually) has been suffering the double whammy of the European-wide recession and the appreciation in the value of the Euro. The (socialist) Spanish government predictably also took a beating in the European elections.

Where Spain and Britain differ from Ireland is that their tax revenues have not collapsed. They have been reduced, true, as the recession has made itself felt, but they have not gone into meltdown. There is money in the pot, or credit to be used, to help stimulate economic activity. In Spain 280,000 extra jobs have been created by an \$11 billion government stimulus package for public spending by town and city halls this year. Britain had enough in the tank to attempt to lower taxes as an economic stimulus in its last budget.

Contrast Spain with Ireland. Irish government revenues have collapsed. The government is currently borrowing roughly \$100 million per day just to keep going. A series of emergency budgets, incorporating levies (i.e. extra taxes) have been introduced in an attempt to stabilise government finances. These now appear to be having an effect, though the jury is still out. Economic activity seems to be picking up, but at a jarringly lower level. Jobs continue to disappear, with all that that entails in terms of individual hardship and family misery. Crucially, the building sector remains at a standstill. Crucially also banking activity, where not stalled, is functioning only at a low level. Credit for small businesses remains at a premium or simply not available. And the government has already signaled harsh budgets to come for at least the next two years, with higher taxes, new taxes and severe cuts in spending in order to carry on the task of getting the public finances under control.

The Celtic Tiger years were good years. There was unparalleled prosperity in the community as a whole. More jobs meant more tax revenues. The government had large tax sur-

pluses, and used them! Existing government debt was greatly reduced. An ambitious programme of infrastructural development, particularly on roads, was started. Spending on health and education and to combat social exclusion increased dramatically. There were significant real increases in payments to the elderly, the unemployed, single parents. Children's allowances were hiked to unheard of levels; a family with four children receives \$1000 per month from the state. Our social welfare payments climbed to become among the best in Europe. The Irish minimum wage is the second highest in Europe. An old or unemployed Irish person receives payments more than double those in Britain.

Prompted by Europe, numerous new government regulatory agencies were established. An ambitious expansion in existing programmes was instituted, increasing the numbers on the public payroll considerably. More nurses, more teachers, more police. These and other popular measures required extra staff, which costs! Annual expenditure on Development Cooperation increased from around \$500 million to \$1 billion over a five year period and was targeted to go higher, making Ireland the world's sixth most generous donor to the world's poor. A Pension Fund was established, to provide for the com-

ing rainy day when current revenues could not cope (up to now the percentage of elderly in Ireland has been uniquely low as a consequence of emigration). And, to encourage saving, the government spent some billions topping up a national regular savings scheme by 25%.

All this spending was done to cheering and applause from a public which revelled in the new found prosperity. Woe betide the few who counselled caution. Equally popular was the fateful, and fatal, accompanying policy of slashing direct taxes, which saw the basic rate cut from 30 to 20% in a decade, and increased exemptions from tax, which saw 38% of those working paying no tax at all. The cuts were made possible by buoyant tax revenues from the almost million new jobs created and the surging receipts from stamp

duty and capital gains - the taxes on property sales. Without the tax cuts, the property collapse and the recession might have been manageable. As the property taxes melted away, the reduced tax base was cruelly exposed, which is where we are now.

Remedying matters will be like trying to put toothpaste back in the tube. Restoring taxes to the levels of 2000 will be deeply unpopular. But it will not be sufficient. Expenditure also will have to be cut, and cut dramatically, and that will mean real pain. For starters the government has signalled cancellation of the Christmas bonus welfare payment. It is meanwhile channeling billions from the Pension Fund to prop up a deeply unpopular bank. Either issue could be its Waterloo. Should it fall, the future looks bleak. There will be no more denial should the IMF arrive.

American Ireland Fund Cruise

The American Ireland Fund Chicago Young Leaders will host an evening boat cruise aboard the Ft. Dearborn on Thursday July 9, 2009, from 6:30-8:30pm.

There will be beer/wine, a dinner buffet, and narrated tour with highlights about the Chicago Irish.

Tickets are \$65 per person. Checks can be made payable to The American Ireland Fund and sent to The American Ireland Fund,

205 W. Wacker Dr. Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60606. Credit cards call 312.419.9304. RSVP to Roseann LeFevour at rfinneganlefevour@irlfunds.org.

The Fort Dearborn boat is located at 465 N. McClurg Court (just south of Illinois Street and McClurg) on Navy Pier. Walk east on the River East Art Center's promenade to the Fort Dearborn boat. Please arrive no later than 6:10pm.

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Chicago Gaelic News

Pat Hennessy



Death of Great Kerry Gael in Chicago

U.S. Gaeldom, particularly Chicago and the Midwest, was saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Pat O'Connor, well known gael from "Heavens Reflects Killarney." Pat was a household name here, not only for his skills on the football field, but also for his organizational skills during the 1950's, when the Chicago GAA board was attempting to get reactivated after and absence of over 20 years (caused by the Recession, World War II and restrictive U.S. Immigration Laws.)

Coming to Chicago in the midst of such hard work, the popular Pat was a Godsend, not only in his own club, St. Pat's, with the late Pat McDonagh, (whose his charming wife Mary, who was the first woman even elected to a GAA Board in the U.S and perhaps in Ireland.) The famed club fielded some giants of the big ball; Jimmy Lyons, Frank O'Callaghan, Sean Hastings, the Kilroy brothers (Joe and Jimmy) and others. This powerful club became one of the best and scheduled against another great, St. Brendan's, who also fielded some powerful players from the Kingdom; Jim Barton, the late Sean Curran, Jimmy Wade, the Brennan brothers (John and Frankie) and others. Chicago began to produce some thrilling encounters at Shewbridge and all over the city. And with the hurlers, the famed Harry Bolands, Austin Stacks, Limerick, and others, the GAA was up and running again in the Windy City, thanks to alot of great gael, including Pat O'Connor.

Pat's sudden death as a result of an apparent stroke shocked all of us. He died at his Chicago north side home surrounded by his beloved wife Barbara, and most of his fine family. He was 82 years old. His five children include Alderman Patrick, who is the powerful floor-leader for Mayor Richard M. Daley, and has helped pass every one

of the Irish Resolutions presented to the Council over the years.

He was a brilliant worker for the City of Chicago during his term as Assistant Commissioner for Streets and Sanitation, and prior to that, as Director of the Bureau of Equipment in the Administration of Mayor Jane Byrne. He finished a brilliant career with the well-known Ed Burke in the 14th ward, and here again, he displayed his political skills and was very popular.

Some little known facts that in his unassuming manner he scarcely ever mentioned—he was a champion boxer in his native Kerry and also wore the famed Kerry sweater for the "Kingdom" in 1947, in a great victory.

Personally, I am going to miss the popular Kerry man for the many good laughs we shared over the years, and also for his herculean work with others on the north side of the city during the fledgling years of Chicago GAA. A sound foundation was laid and passed along to other generations resulting in the "dream," a "green patch of our own," becoming a reality, and purchasing and building the magnificent Chicago Gaelic Park, all 50 acres of it, on the southwest side of the city with the tremendous help of Chicago gaeldom, men and women, including Liam O'Brien, Pat O'Connor, John Crean, Mike Kenny, Johnny Lynch and others putting it all together in the mid-eighties. This was a huge effort, and earned the unique praise of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who said a few years ago during a visit, "Chicago Gaelic Park is the finest GAA Center that I have ever seen, outside of Croke Park in Dublin."

His crowded wake, burial mass, and interment was a testament to the huge popularity of this great Kerry gael. We join with his many friends at home and in exile in expressing our deepest sympathy to Barbara, his beloved wife, and family. Ar dheis De go raibhn a ainm.

Another Successful Gaelic Park Festival

For a change, good weather prevailed during the course of this year's Gaelic Park Festival, and that, with an all-star show, brought out almost record crowds for the annual Memorial Day festival. Juvenile hurling and football was also on tap, and the form displayed on Sunday of the old Irish traditional Caman game proved it is alive and well in the Windy City. As a matter of fact, it is being suggested that if Chicago is chosen as the host city for the 2016 Olympic Games, some of our Juveniles, if not all of them, will be on the U.S. team, provided the game is accepted as an Olympic game. The International Olympic Committee will name the host city October 2nd at Copenhagen. Keep your fingers crossed that Chicago is the city.

Ireland's traditional song, dance and music was really on display this weekend, and the large crowds enjoyed all of it. Young Dubliners, Makem and Spain Brothers, Bohola, Frank McCaffrey, The Emerald Underground, and others rated second to none in presenting the sweet music of Ireland. Attractions this year also included the carnival, the art stage, Chicago Feis, story telling, especially, "Wake Me When it's Over," a look at the Irish American funeral traditions, and many more stages.

Our congratulations are extended again to Frank Bradley, Pres. John Griffin, Harry Costello (the man for all seasons) and all the other workers who did a tremendous job. It was a pleasure walking from stage to stage. And again, our thanks and congratulations to Marian Ryan, Manageress, for the wonderful job that she really does, not only over the weekend, but day after day. Beannact De ar an oibre, Marian, agus gur a mile mait agat.

Hurling and Gaelic Football Season in Full Swing at Gaelic Park

July and August are the two important months of Gaelic hurling and Gaelic football season at Gaelic Park, and with the juveniles, men and

women displaying their skills and stamina this year, this should be a memorable season.

Hurling and football are the two big national games of Ireland, and men and women are engaged in the two of them. Particularly when Irish emigrants are virtually excluded from our country, our juveniles and ladies are taking up the slack and doing a tremendous job. Hurling is being mentioned as an Olympic game, and if Chicago is the host city for the Games in 2016, the U.S. may have to depend on these fine young hurlers coming along. That should provide a great incentive for young Irish Americans and their skilled trainers to start using some old caman (hurley) as often as possible. As they say, "practice makes perfect," and in order to play this "fast and most skillful game in the world," one needs all the stamina and skill that he or she can acquire. Beannact De ar an oibre (God bless the good work.)

Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th St. in Oak Forest, IL, West of Cicero at 147th and East of Harlem. The games start at 2pm. But call the colleens at the front office, 708-687-9323 before you set out. Bring all the family, plenty of room for a family picnic, swings, etc. See you at the games, God willing.

Blessed Brother Rice International Heritage Center in Waterford

Those of you who travel to Ireland this year should see The Edmund Rice Heritage Center at Mount Sion in the city of Waterford. Mount Sion is holy ground. It was there the Blessed Edmund Rice began his "mission" of helping the poor. Two hundred years later, the Irish Christian Brothers (C.B.S.) continue his mission educating the young on every continent. I am honored to be a graduate of such a wonderful group of men, who back in the 1930's in the Kilkenny City, 4 miles from Edmund's birthplace, Callan Co. Kilkenny, taught us everything we wanted to know as true Irishmen, with a true love for the old caman (hurling) wherever we settled down.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- GAA Playoff Draw. . .pg 8
- Boyle's On Mend.pg 9
- Irish Pub and
- Restaurant Guide... pg 15
- Tilted Kilt Opens..... pg 17
- IAHC Festival.....pg 21
- Family Day..... pg 24

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



It was with no small amount of trepidation that we headed up to Oshkosh, Wisconsin on the last weekend in May to sell our CDs at the 1st Oshkosh Irish Fest. We've vended at a lot of "first time" events that turned out to be "last time" events. You hope that it will go well, but there are so many mistakes that can be made, and so few organizations that get it right the first time. So I was pretty nervous getting there.

First thing I found as I entered town was signs everywhere advertising the festival and pointing the way to the site. It made it easy to get there. Arriving at the site, I found a beautiful permanent stage with professional sound system and, joy of joys, real bathrooms in permanent buildings that were clean and well maintained. Looking further I found Larry Phillips laying out the vendor sites, perfectly situated with nice wide aisles between tents so that you could sell off all four sides.

You couldn't ask for a nicer guy than Larry, for a first time vendor coordinator, he had the job down pat. The poor man must have put a 100 miles on his shoes that weekend. He always seemed to be there when we needed him and that's a nice thing.

Then, Friday afternoon, the music started and continued all weekend, absolutely brilliant!

The headliner was Gaelic Storm; they closed Saturday night followed by a lovely fireworks display. Let's face it Gaelic Storm does about the best stage show on the Celtic music circuit. I've seen them dozens of times and I never get tired of them. They're fresh and full of beans every time. They have fun and make sure that the audience has fun too. Pat Murphy is a wizard. He continually works in new bits, new lines and new arrangements so that the show is always entertaining. His fellow band members work just as hard to make their contributions special too.

I have never seen this band sleepwalk thru a show. I don't know how they manage this energy level. They're the best.

At Oshkosh though there were other great bands performing. Fuchsia Band preceded Gaelic Storm and delivered one of the finest sets I've ever seen them do. Rising Gael gave a great performance. Leahy's Luck was a real crowd pleaser.

The special surprise of the weekend was a band that had never performed before, Kathleen Keane's new band Tantrum. They were stunning, absolutely blew me away. I can't wait for their first CD, which is in the works.

I realize I'm leaving out a lot about the Oshkosh Irish Fest. I haven't mentioned the cultural tent, the toast contest (Kathleen Keane won), how smoothly the stage operated, at least it looked that way from my vantage point. I usually don't like to report on what happened but this time I want to make sure and communicate my overall satisfaction with the First Oshkosh Irish Fest. These guys did a great job. It shows that you can throw a great festival if you plan, prepare and execute it properly. I, for one, am planning on being in Oshkosh next year for the 2nd Annual Oshkosh Irish Fest and as soon as I get info on

it, I'll let you know. Just to mention, Oshkosh is only 2.5 hours north of Chicago.

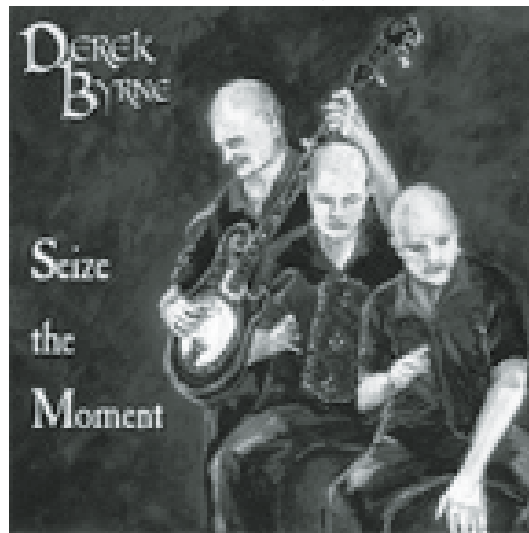
New Releases

Two of the performers at Oshkosh brought me their new recordings and both deserve a good look and a listen. Rising Gael has been performing for several years now and I've watched their progress closely. Based in the

confident and precise. They will be performing at Milwaukee Irish Fest, so give them a listen and see them live if you get the chance. For a very young band they possess a powerful stage presence.

Derek Byrne was another performer who brought me his CDs at Oshkosh and, I have to admit, I have enjoyed his CD more than his live performance. I was busy at the

time and wasn't able to give him my full attention when he was on stage, but I sure have enjoyed his new CD, *Seize the Moment*. It features Derek and his song writing talents and his banjo. Here's two of my personal weaknesses on one CD, good song writing and good banjo. Derek puts all his heart and soul in his music and after giving his CD the attention it deserves, you'll agree. It's an intensely personal CD that shares his innermost feelings. You won't be disappointed in this one.



I can't remember a month

when Greentrax Recordings, Scotland's best label, hasn't had a new CD worthy of note and this month is no exception. Just released is their latest compilation CD called *People and Songs of the Sea*. This album truly reflects the rich cultural heritage of Scotland's fishing history and in the 21 tracks there are contributions from some of Celtic music's finest artists. I have seen some fine sea song collections but this is by far the best I've seen. You just expect the best from Greentrax and they never disappoint.

Irish American Heritage Center

Don't forget, whatever you do, come to the festival at the Center on July 10th, 11th and 12th. Best lineup of talent they've ever put together. We'll be there, come by and say hi. Scottish or Irish

I've had some readers take me to task for not identifying CDs as either Scottish or Irish, and I admit I tend to not pigeonhole music by such broad categories. As a kid we sang Harry Lauder tunes and Irish songs. Uncle John would sing songs of the fight for liberty in Ireland, and the Jacobite wars in Scotland, and we tended to see the things that brought us together rather than the differences. So I'll try and better identify where music comes from, but remember, you can always get a hold of me at the store, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or email pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainté.



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NACB 2009 Championship Playoff Draws

By Eamonn Kelly, PRO – North American County Board

With the 2009 championships underway in most of the major cities, the North American County Board of the GAA held its annual pre-playoff meeting recently at Boston's Irish Cultural Center, the venue for this years finals. The main focus of the meeting was for the National Board to meet the local host playoff committee to review the plans already in place for the 2009 playoffs and make the draws for the tournament.

Besides the North American County Board officers, all divisional boards around the country were represented at the meeting with the exception of the Southeast division. Based on team affiliations from the various divisions at least 20 cities, some with several teams, are expected to be represented at the finals. Consequently, it is anticipated that over a thousand people from out-of-town will be in Boston to attend the games over the Labor Day weekend, September 4th thru the 5th. Given the huge suc-

cess of youth programs around the country it is expected that under

age teams from some of these cities will participate in the NACB Youth championships. Following the success of the inaugural All-American born men's football championship at last years playoffs the competition will be on this years schedule. Also added to



the schedule for the first time will be an All-American born hurling championship. Similar to last year's playoffs in Boston, 18 championships are on the agenda. While a record 66 games were played at the 2008 playoffs, it is expected that over 70 games will be played at this years event, presenting another serious facilities challenge to the host playoff committee in Boston, which did a remarkable job last year.

Before the playoffs draws were made, there was a long discussion on the rule forbidding sanction players from Ireland participating in the men's junior C football championship. Up

to recently this rule only applied to junior C teams in the 4 major cities, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Several delegates from the smaller cities argued that they would need a limited number of sanction players to compete at the junior C level. As a compromise it was decided to split the junior C championship into 2 divisions, one with sanction players and the other with no sanction players.

As in previous years, to avoid teams getting a bye to the finals where only three cities were involved in competitions the hosting Northeast division volunteered to enter second teams (divisional championship runner-up) where possible to fill the void in these competitions.

Typically, the winners of each divisional championship will represent their division in the playoffs but there will be cases where two teams from the same division will be entered in the same grade. In some cases, the defeated divisional finalists will represent their divisions in a lower grade in the playoffs. Since there are teams from several cities competing for divisional championships in various grades it may not be known until mid-August what clubs or cities will be participating in the playoffs in any a particular grade. Consequently, divisions rather than cities or club names will be identified in this initial draw.

Following are the divisions and the cities that were entered into the 2009 NACB Playoff draw:

NORTHEAST: Boston metropolitan area, Hartford CN, Concord NH
CENTRAL: Chicago metropolitan area, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Minnesota Twin Cities, St. Louis,
WESTERN: San Francisco metropolitan area.
PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia metropolitan area, Allentown
MIDWEST: Akron, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Rochester.

SOUTH EAST: Atlanta, Charlotte

SOUTH WEST: Austin, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego,

NORTH WEST: Portland, Washington - Seattle, Spokane, Utah.

MIDATLANIC: Washington DC, Baltimore, Alexandria, VA

Following is the draw for the 2009 NACB playoffs:
 Senior Hurling:
 Semi-finals

Boston 1 Vs San Francisco

Chicago Vs Boston 2
 Junior A Hurling:
 Quarter-final

San Francisco Vs Milwaukee
 Semi-finals

San Francisco or Milwaukee Vs Chicago
 Boston Vs Philadelphia

Junior B Hurling:
 Semi-finals

Twin Cities Vs Seattle
 Washington DC Vs Denver

Junior C Hurling:
 Preliminary Rounds

Portland Vs Philadelphia Shamrocks
 Seattle Vs Denver

Milwaukee Vs San Francisco
 Chicago Cusacks Vs Akron
 Allentown Vs Barly House NH

All-American Hurling
 Quarter-final

Central Vs Northwest
 Semi-final

Cent or Northwest Vs Philadelphia
 Western Vs Northeast

Men's Senior Football:
 Semi-finals

Boston Vs Philadelphia
 Chicago Vs San Francisco

Men's Intermediate Football
 Semi-finals

Philadelphia Vs Chicago
 Boston Vs San Francisco

Men's Junior A Football
 Quarter-final

Charlotte Vs Chicago
 Semi-finals

Charlotte or Chicago Vs San Francisco
 Boston Vs Philadelphia

Men's Junior B Football
 Quarter-finals

Philadelphia Vs Southwest 2
 Boston Vs Midwest 1

Central 1 Vs Midwest 2
 Central 2 Vs Southwest 1

Men's Junior C Football (with sanctions)
 Semi-finals

Mid-Atlantic Vs Denver
 San Diego Vs Texas



Men's Junior C Football (with no sanctions)
 Semi-finals

Central Vs Philadelphia
 Northeast Vs Midwest

Men's Junior D Football
 Quarter-finals

Midwest Vs Mason Dixon
 Southeast Vs Southwest

Semi-finals
 Baltimore Vs Central

Midwest or Mason Dixon Vs SE or SW
 All-American Football

Quarter-finals
 Seattle Vs Mid-Atlantic

Southwest Vs San Francisco
 Semi-finals

Chicago Vs Philadelphia
 Seattle or Mid-Atlantic Vs Southwest or San Francisco

Over 40's Men's Football
 Final

East Vs West
 Ladies Senior Football

Final
 Boston Vs San Francisco

Ladies Intermediate Football
 Semi-finals

San Francisco Vs Washington DC
 Chicago Vs Boston

Ladies Junior A Football
 Quarter-final

Atlanta Vs San Francisco
 Atlanta or San Francisco Vs Seattle

Philadelphia Vs Chicago
 Ladies Junior B Football:

Preliminary Rounds
 Midwest 1 Vs Charlotte

Atlanta Vs Mid-Atlantic
 Denver Vs Midwest 2

Philadelphia Vs San Diego
 Seattle Vs Orange County CA



cess of youth programs around the country it is expected that under

Ireland participating in the men's junior C football championship. Up

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 Semi-finals
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 Junior Camogie
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 Chicago Vs Milwaukee
 Washington DC Vs loser of Chicago/Milwaukee game

Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

OUCH!!

A bilateral knee arthroplasty, in other words, a double knee replacement... April 29th, at the Skokie Northshore University Hospital, BTK underwent the knife. Dr. Wayne Goldstein did the honors. May 1st, I was moved to Alden Rehab in Des Plaines, where the work began—physical therapy twice a day, and occupational therapy once a day. The staff at the rehab was great—Kevin Baraca was my physical therapist. The exercises get easier as the swelling and the trauma from surgery fade away. I was surprised at how many others have had this surgery: Tony McLaughlin, Barney Farrelly, and Henry McGill, to name a few.

Same Sex Marriage

The folks in Iowa must be smoking something besides corn silk. Sorry, I'm not that liberal. The Chicago Sun Times went over the top by publishing a photo of two voluptuous lesbians kissing on the lips on the cover after getting married in Dubuque, Iowa. Shades of yellow journalism...

I wonder what Mother Vincent Hennessy, the Presentation nun who immigrated to Dubuque in 1874, would think of that photo? Mother Vincent Hennessy went on to found 35 more convents in Iowa. If same sex marriage comes to Illinois, I think Todd Stroger should levy a County tax on it and preside over the ceremonies.

Liberal Agenda

It was announced that President Obama intends to give US gov't employees health insurance coverage for their same sex partners. No civil union required? President Obama is paying back his constituency for their support.

Notre Dame

Commencement Revisited

If the abortion issue that overshadowed President Obama's commencement address was so controversial, why then was he invited?

He's the leader of the free world, fair enough? Did he go to Notre Dame to convince everyone that abortion is morally acceptable? No! Did he talk of the benefits of stem cell research? No!

Well, in my book, the President hit one out of the park, alleviating everyone's fears. Why all of the angst—can we no longer listen to someone else's point of view? Alternatives to abortion are just what the doctor ordered.

Todd Stroger

Why can't he pay his income taxes? The IRS has a lien on his property and yet he is the president of the Cook County Board. If you can't manage your personal affairs, how can you expect to run Cook County government?



Every time there is a challenge over the sales tax increase, he quickly makes an appearance at Provident Hospital to solidify his black base. It's

all about social welfare; it's the entitlement game. Gimme... Gimme... I want more, as long as someone else pays for it. Repeal the sales tax.

And by the bye, the last several times I've driven past some of the forest preserve parks in my area, I noted they have stopped cutting the grass, which now stands a couple of feet high. No money for gas, Todd?

The Phoenix Irish Center

I finally got to see the Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix, AZ, where my best friend, Jim Mulroy passed in January of 2006.

On Saturday, April 18th, my first cousin, Dermot Cooney from Co. Westmeath, and I flew to Phoenix as Dermot has an abiding interest in Native Americans. We stayed with my old friend and neighbor, Ron Martire and his significant other Marilyn, at their home in Mesa, AZ. We visited Superstition Mountain, but we didn't find the gold. There's plenty of cactus, coyotes, roadrunners, jackrabbits, and even an occasional panther, prowling around at night. The Gila River Indians have a major gambling casino in the desert. I walked away

winning \$1.09.

On Tuesday, April 21st, we made our way over to the Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix. We walked into the great hall, where we met Sean Prior, one of the trustees, who also acts as a docent. We chatted about Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park and discussed different fundraising activities and the merits and benefits of the same. While in the hall, I stood on the same spot where my friend Jim passed away in front of the fireplace. Seansaid that was the only death they ever had at the Center. We visited their cultural area where they have a copy of the Book of Kells. They are in the process of raising money for a library. I had a chat with Mary Moriarity, their Operations Manager and Pat McCrosson, entertainer and musician, who runs the gift shop. Pat's looking for gigs—you can call him at 602-371-0127. If you are ever in Phoenix, be sure to visit the Center.

Irish Sex Scandal

So what's new? They have released a report about institutional sex abuse in Ireland in many of the orphanages and schools. Looks like the Christian Brothers are getting a black eye this time. Oh yes, the Bishops were covering it up!

IAHC

Major renovations are underway at the Center. The social center is being transformed into a first class banquet facility. The grant money

from the Irish government moved this project to the front burner.

Mike Boyle and Ambrose Kelly have kept this project moving which should be ready before the end of the summer, complete with air conditioning! You will be pleasantly surprised.

Niall Gibbons Named CEO of Tourism Ireland

Hugh Friel, Chairman of Tourism Ireland, recently announced the appointment of Niall Gibbons as the organisation's new Chief Executive, with immediate effect.

Niall takes over from Paul O'Toole who has taken up the post of Director General of FÁS.

Niall has been the Director of Corporate Services and Company Secretary of Tourism Ireland since 2002. He played a key role in the formation of the organisation and its subsequent development over the past seven years.

Prior to his appointment to Tourism Ireland he held senior roles in the private and public sector. He is a business graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.



FRIDAY, JULY 17TH, 2009



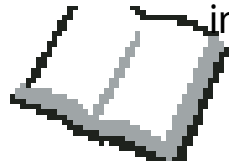
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Irish Books and Plays
in Review



Frank West



The Burnings 1920

By Pearse Lawlor

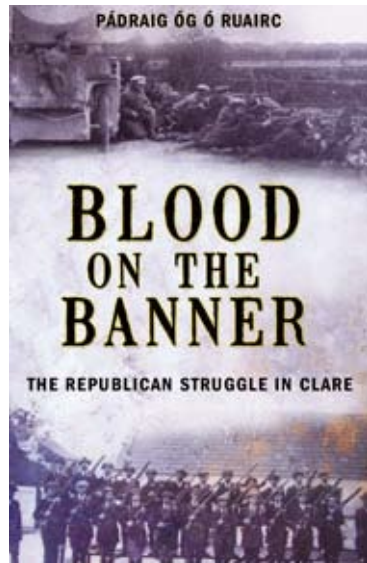
Mercier Press and Dufour Editions/610-458-5005: Chester Springs, PA, 2009. 224 pages, \$19.95.

The time is 1920, during the Irish Revolution, and Catholic Irish had been burned out of their homes and businesses, not just in Belfast, but in smaller towns like Banbridge, Dromore and Lisburn.

The persons who set fires were protected by the British Army and Britian's police force, the Royal Irish Constabulary. The author shows the example of that police force's District Inspector Swanzy.

Six of the men who had set the fires in Lisburn had been arrested. They had done 7,000 pounds in dam-

age, not counting the human suffering they had



caused. But Inspector Swanzy recommended to the court that they only receive a 10 pound recognizance fund and two years probation!

A fellow police officer said that during the ten years he had served in Lisburn, "there had never been any conflict between the police and any section of the community..."

Michael Collins had the IRA track down Swanzy and shoot him.

The IRA (and later the provos) were the only force to try and protect the nationalist Irish in the North.

Blood on the Banner:
The Republican
Struggle in Clare

By Padrig OGoRuairc
Mercier Press and Dufour Editions/610-458-5005: Chester Springs, PA, 2009. 351 pages, \$31.95.

This is the story of the War for Independence in County Clare. Volunteer IRA companies were established in many parts of Clare to be ready when war against the British came.

Here is an outstanding story of the War for Independence. In 1920, the Clare brigade was told by the IRA headquarters in Dublin, "that British intelligence was about to mount a campaign of assassination against republican Clare..."

A police commissioner and the "Cairo Gang" (notorious British killers) were to travel by train from Dublin to Limerick. The local IRA unit was ordered "to hold up their train at Killronan station and assassinate the British agents..."

On the way to the station, the IRA unit ran into a British patrol, and the British killers could not be intercepted and destroyed.

However, they were not to survive for long, because when they returned to Dublin, Michael Collins realized they would try to kill him. So he decided to strike first.

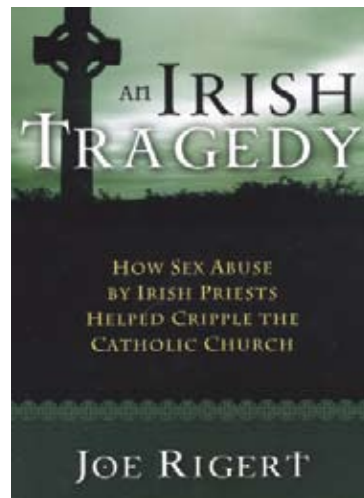
An event famous in Irish his-

tory was soon to happen. On Sunday, November 21, 1920, his squad was in position outside the doors of the British agents. When his men heard the church bells ring at 9am, they were to crash in and shoot them.

This operation was known afterward as Bloody Sunday. Eleven British agents and two of the brutal auxiliaries were killed.

The book says these killings "devastated the British intelligence service in Ireland."

For centuries the British relied on informers to defeat every struggle for Irish freedom. Now Michael Collins had destroyed the British intelligence gathering system. And he had struck fear and terror into the remaining agents because they realized they could be next on his list.



An Irish Tragedy

By Joe Rigert
Crossland Press/www.crosslandfoundation.org: Baltimore, 2008. 179 pages, \$15.

Eamon De Valera did not protect the children. The first responsibility of a government is to protect its citizens. The De Valera government did not do this. Even though he was considered to be the "chief" of his people, he did not protect the children in the state funded institutions like industrial schools and reformatories.

De Valera's Fianna Fail party came to power in 1932, and except for a few

short periods, remains in power.

De Valera was a close friend of John Charles McQuaid, the future archbishop of Dublin. They were fellow teachers at Blackrock College and were even hunting companions. This friendship lasted from the 1930's to the early 1970's. Mr. Quaid was archbishop of Dublin from 1940 to 1972, De Valera remained president of Ireland to 1973. (I've seen videos from the early 1960's showing Ireland's prime minister, Sean Lemass, kneeling and kissing McQuaid's ring).

De Valera oversaw the writing of the Irish constitution in 1937. And even though it was a secular document for a democracy, it gave a special position to the Catholic Church in Irish society. That strong church influence on the Irish government resulted in little oversight of the church-run industrial schools, reformatories and the notorious Magdalen Laundries. The children in those institutions were not protected by the government.

As I wrote this review, a nine year investigation into the child abuse that took place in those institutions was released in Dublin.

These terrible places were run by the Catholic Church from the 1930's to the 1990's. Incredible sexual, physical and emotional abuse by church men and women is described by 1,000 witnesses and detailed in the report's 2,600 pages.

Church authorities covered up. And government officials (described in the report as "deferential and submissive") either didn't know or didn't care what was going to happen in a church-run facility.

Huge amounts of money were involved. The children were unpaid slaves. Where did that money go? Who got it?

An Irish Tragedy was written by Joe Rigert, former investigative reporter for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. The book describes this sorry and sad story while asking many questions. It treats the victims with kindness and compassion.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Mike Houlihan from the Southside of Chicago!"

The words had barely left my mouth when I was greeted with a crescendo of booing. A sinister wave of bad vibes washed across the front of the stage and curled around my throat. I got through my toast and naively thought I had won

and me. The only reason I made the cut was because Jack Baker was one of the judges and the fix was in. So now it's up to the audience to decide by the old applause meter.

The emcee was Joe King, President of the Milwaukee Irish Fest. As he held his hand over my head the crowd again erupted with boos and yes, actual hissing. I felt the hate like a black dagger in my heart.

How do you respond to something like that?

I did what any good Southsider would and I flipped the finger to this multitude of cheese heads and shouted out a lone obscenity. I then turned my back to them and pointed to my rump and shouted again for them to "kiss my ass."

The emcee then screamed at me, "You suck!"

Yeah, it was a real Jerry Springer moment.

Folks asked me later, "Don't you know they hate people from Chicago?"

I do now.

I understand now that culture in Wisconsin is measured by how many "Larry the Cable Guy" movies you've memorized. I recall how Wisconsin native Ed Gein used to have people over for dinner, literally. Yeah have

a few beers with old Ed and the next thing you know he's made lampshades out of your keester. Now that's hospitality!

There are a few mysteries I'd like the folks in Wisconsin to clarify. What's with the cheese and porno shops all over the interstate? Guy is driving to Wisconsin and his pal says, "Hey, while you're there pick me up a half pound of Colby, some night crawlers and the August issue of Juggs."

I've been told that many Sapphic romances start at the University of Wisconsin when gal pals are out partying. "Hold my hair back Hanna, I've had twelve brews and I'm gonna hurl!"

And what's the deal with everybody in Wisconsin wearing t-shirts with "clever" sayings imprinted on them? Wouldn't it be easier for the state to just order about two million XXXXXXXL t shirts that say, "I'm with stupid!"

But, I've got no beef with Wisconsin. Go ahead and call us FIPS. That stands for Friendly Illinois People, right?

Come on Chicago, let's all head north for Milwaukee Irish Fest next month. Joe King, we're coming! So tell everybody to start combing out their mullets because there's gonna be a "FIPS" invasion of the state that cuts the cheese.

Cead Mille Failte it was not. I was invited to the Oshkosh Irish Fest to offer some culture with my book, Hooliganism. The individuals I met there were very nice to me but the Wisconsin Irish en masse almost lynched me.

Of course I blame it on the drink. I arrived on a Friday night and wasn't scheduled to appear till Saturday so I roamed around the festival fairgrounds and hung out with my pals and fellow IAN columnists Shay Clarke and Jack Baker. It was a lovely night on the river and the next thing I know I was sitting at the booth of The Rampant Lion guzzling Guinness, laughing without a care in the world. The regular group of itinerant Irish fest folk then moved to the bar at the Hilton and I joined them cuz my bed was only an elevator ride away.

The pounding in my head woke me up Saturday. I dragged my bloated body through the shower and down to breakfast where I encountered musician Jimmy Moore. He laughed at my throbbing eyeballs and I knew it was going to be a long day in the "Culture tent."

As I took my seat a hefty mother approached with her effeminate little boy who screeched, "Are we going to see leprechaun today?" Thanks kid, for triggering my dry heaves.

The only consolation in the tent was my table partner Clodagh McGuinness who was teaching Gaelic. Sweet Clodagh smuggled a six pack of Guinness under the table and when I declined her offer of a cold one she was incredulous, "What's wrong with you?"

Then festival organizer Jeff reminded me I was scheduled to deliver a toast from the stage that night. I was one of ten finalists in the Guinness toast contest, along with a handful of Oshkoshers and raven haired beauty, singer, and musician Kathleen Keane. My goose was pretty well cooked going up against her, but I figured I'd give it a shot.

In retrospect I'd have been better off had they shot ME. I was called to go first and I gazed out at the crowd of 5,000 revelers and trotted out the old bravado. "Hi everybody, I'm



them over.

Kathleen was up next. Of course she is very pretty and she schooled me right away because she "knew her audience." In her toast she managed to rhyme "kibosh" with "Oshkosh" and then chugged her Guinness to thunderous cheers. Pretty cute.

The judges picked the final three: some local yokel, Kathleen Keane,

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July Events at Gaelic Park

Musical Luncheon

Gaelic Park's monthly Musical Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 beginning at noon. A great way to break up the week with an afternoon of great food, dancing and music by Joe Cullen. Tickets are \$13 and cover all entertainment. Reservations are required.

GAA Games

The Gaelic Athletic Association hosts the Gaelic games of football

and hurling each weekend at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Gaelic football is a fantastic sport, resembling some elements of basketball, rugby and soccer with the rules of the game intentionally designed to keep the game moving quickly. The first record of Gaelic Football comes from the Statute of Galway in 1527.

Played by the ancient Irish rules, hurling is the fastest field game in the world with very skilled players, a "hurley" stick made of ashwood, and

very hard ball called a "siothar" (pronounced slitar). The object of Hurling is for players to put the siothar between the opponents' goalpost either over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar into a guarded goal, for three points. Body checks, side-to-side shouldering and shirt pulling are common as well as slashing at the siothar. No protective padding is worn and helmets are optional.

Admission to the games is \$6. Refreshments such as sausages and chips, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs hamburgers and ice cream are available at all games for a small price. Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for times and games.

The Carraig Pub

Thursdays beginning at 7:30pm, visit the Carraig for a traditional Irish music session given by Sean Cleland, Pat Finnegan, the students of the Irish Music School and their friends and families. All ages are welcome to attend and to join in.

Friday nights beginning at 9:30pm and Saturdays beginning at 10pm, the Carraig hosts the best local musicians with no cover charge. This month's entertainment includes: Joe McShane on Friday, July 3rd; Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, July 10th; The Ploughboys on Saturday, July 11th; John Dillon on Friday, July 17th; Jerry Eadie on Saturday, July 18th; Katie & Randie on Friday, July 24th; Bob Hartwell on Saturday, July 25th; and Rico Quinn on Friday, July 31st.

Carraig Pub manager, Tadgh O'Reilly, has many exciting pub excursions planned for the summer. On July 12, join Tadgh at Standard Bank Stadium in Crestwood to watch the Windy City Thunderbolts take on the Traverse City Beach Bums. On Monday, July 20th, come on a pub trip to see the Chicago White Sox play the Tampa Bay Rays. On Saturday, July 25th, join the Pub for another day of fun with a 9-mile bike ride starting out from the Carraig Pub.

Call Tadgh at (708) 687-9323 for info or for reservations. (708) 687-9323. www.chicagogaelicpark.org,



Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



Maurice Lennon: Back In The USA

Virtuoso fiddle player and trad icon Maurice Lennon is back in Chicagoland for an extended period. Maurice won the Senior All Ireland Fiddle Championship at age 17 and went on to co-found 80's trad supergroup Slocktons Wing. He has recorded and produced a plethora of albums over the years including the amazing Brian Boru, The High King of Tara, a beautifully themed album inspired by Morgan Llewellyn's book, The Lion of Ireland.

Maurice has shared the stage with Sinatra, Liza Minelli, and even Michael Jackson and has worked with Ronnie Drew, Bill Whelan, Johnny McEvoy, Sean Keane, Shawn Davey, and Donal Lunny. His composition "If ever you were mine" has been recorded by Cherish the Ladies and Natalie McMaster and I hope that he records it himself sometime soon.

Maurice has survived cancer and as debilitating as his recovery was he continued to work, writing music and songs and is now planning his first ever solo album. "Playing music is my first love," says Maurice and even though he was asked to record a solo album 25 years ago, he is just getting around to it now. Maurice has been a busy lad. While here in Chicago, Maurice intends to continue his work recording, producing and playing with as many diverse musicians as he can.

Interested parties can contact Maurice at mauricelennon@hotmail.com, the rest of you can check out his complete website at mauricelennon.com

Great to have you back pal and we all look forward to seeing you perform soon

Festivals

Festivals have been lackluster so far this season, wet and windy, cold and dreary with occasionally sunny spells, then along came Oshkosh, a first time festival that restored my enthusiasm and faith in the Irish Festival process. The sun came out and so did the crowds for Gaelic Storm, The Dublin City Ramblers, Athás, Leahy's Luck and the debut gig of Kathleen Keanes' new band, Tantrum. What a rare treat for the thousands of revelers and a credit to all involved,

Brigids Cross, New Barleycorn and the Killdares put on a great show at Cuyahoga Falls in Ohio and further afield Barleyjuice and Raining Hearts attracted the Pennsylvania faithful to the Irish Festival in York, PA, despite the stormy weather.

OOPS! Nearly forgot to mention the amazing set from Derek Byrne at Oshkosh, he was brilliant in his "dare to be different" style.

Can't wait to see Gaelic Storm in action again at the IAHC on July 12th and the following week at Clearwater Theater in West Dundee on July 17th., Tickets available from Clearwater box office at 847-836-8820. I just can't get enough of Gaelic Storm, they consistently pull the biggest crowds with their talent and showmanship.

Great reports from the Fort Collins Irish Festival in Colorado recently. I hope to get a full report on that event from Barry Stapleton soon. Barry was there with an exhibit from the Ward Music Archives, and we hope to see him with their new exhibit on the festival circuit soon!

See you at the fest.
Slán.

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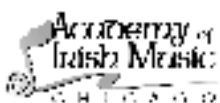
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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



are albums like this that come in and consume us. Obsess us. Move us. We listen again and again. Then again. And, with the very, very best of them—like this one—the more we listen, the more we understand. Well, look, it is hard to claim that we “understand” anything about these courageous peoples’ lives. We sit here in suburban Chicago in front of a computer, listen and are moved. In some small way, perhaps, we can all open a part of us and admire a people of strength, intelligence and such courage. If we succeed in that opening, we are better people for it. That is when music moves from entertainment to something far more. A tiny, tiny bit of mutual understanding and a greater respect.

So, now we have a new goal. Before we go wherever it is we all finally go, we want to make it to the coasts of Scotland. From the Hebrides and Oban to Cove. We want to stand where those women of Cove stood in a storm in 1881 and

looked to the sea. And waited. And prayed. Perhaps, if we stand there long enough, we can move a little closer still to those people. That understanding and journey will have started with this album.

It isn’t often we get to write something like this. And, it is even

more seldom we get to hear something like this. Greentrax’s People and Songs of the Sea will be the compass. Shona McMillan and Greentrax head man Ian Green are the Captains of the ship. May we all arrive safely.

Rating: Four Harps

Tradition in Review July, 2009

Scottish label supreme, Greentrax scores yet again with a brilliant piece of work. Entitled, People and Songs of the Sea, and make no mistake. This is a gorgeous album of people and songs of the Scottish sea. Every now and then comes an album where the liner notes and accompanying descriptions of the music are worth the price all by themselves. So it is here. Bottom line and inarguable-- this is a brilliant album of tunes and songs. But there is also a deeply moving education to be had here as to the courage and resilience of the men and women of the Scottish fishing industry. Partly a compendium album, drawn from great artists such as The Cast (who, by the way, won best Instrumental Composition of the Year just last year from this paper), the iconic Archie Fisher, The Corries, Davy Steele and the Fisher Folk Choir singing a fabulous rendition of Will Your Anchor Hold—knowing that, you can get an idea that this is a remarkable creation.

The entire project began following a conversation between the album’s creator/major domo, Shona McMillan and her mother. After a lovely and deep conversation regarding her mother’s life in the Scots fishing community, the idea formed in Shona’s heart and mind to produce an album like this. Shona also sings her lovely versions of Fisherrow and Come All You Fisher Lassies for the project. This IS living history. Many of the artists on the album are of the very communities and tragedy/ joys/incredibly hard and dangerous work/long hours and dreams that come from the very soul of the coast itself.

True singing histories of tragic disasters. Lovely, gorgeous tunes of the women waiting on shore. The storms. The poverty. The terror. The wealth of family and community. The courage—all here. All perfectly done.

We return again and again to these liner notes. Not glossy compliments to artists on the recording. Not this time. Each song and tune is explained in detail, heightening the impact of this extraordinary music. Don’t ask us our favorite from the 21 wonderful songs and tunes. (Well, we ARE always partial to The Cast—

their hauntingly lovely song, The Cove, was created for the village of Cove’s 2009 Memorial to the 125th Anniversary of a tragic day of fishing and a greedy storm that saw 11 men of the community lose their lives in one tragic afternoon. There were 25 men who went out, and this song deals with the incredible feelings of one of the men who survived. Why me? Why them? Why? The images would remain for the rest of their lives.

We get about 500 albums sent to us each year from artists looking for a review. Part of the reason it is so hard to get to them all is that there

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Careers



James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Have you selected your guiding lights?

As I reflected on my last several columns, I found myself wondering how a person selects their "guiding lights." You hear people talk about "rules" to live by. One or more of these columns spoke to a number of our readers; I have received more responses to these columns than almost any others that I have written.



Cherryl Thomas, (c) President of Ardmore Associates, LLC and Fred d'Escoto, (r) President of d'Escoto, Inc. chaired The March of Dimes Construction and Transportation Awards Luncheon, created in 1995 to honor leaders from the Greater Chicago area's construction and transportation industries for their professional and civic contributions to our community. They presented Terrence O'Brien, (left) Commissioner and President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, with the Award.

I heard a priest say recently that the biblical Jews had 613 rules or requirements to guide them. I can hardly fathom keeping 613 admonishments in my mind at any one time. Perhaps alternatively one can reduce the list of rules to ten (commandments), but even there many of us do not follow them. The Lord himself spoke of two golden rules (1) "Love your God with all your might" and (2) "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Some people feel that these rules apply to our personal lives, but not our business lives.

This column is written by a hard nosed businessman with many years of business experience, not by a clergyman. Having said that, don't you find that some/many of those rules that we learned as children have direct application to our business lives? Who wants to work with a dishonest boss or fellow employee? Watch the Sopranos reruns and see how Tony Soprano angrily reacts to an "employee" of his who is skimming from him. The irony is to listen to this thug talk about how this thief has dishonored the family.

Confusion in our society seems to be running rampant. To counter that disturbing trend, I recommend that we all find some guiding lights/principles to help us with our day to day business and personal decisions. I would most earnestly recommend four of the eight traits included in my May column: honesty, courage, respect and responsibility. Have no doubt close adherence to these four traits is not always viewed positively. If you find that to be the case in your organization, you may need to leave to preserve your integrity.

Honesty is absolutely key. Can you imagine working with or for a person whose word you cannot trust? It means that you cannot trust what they say or write (in memos, emails or text messages). How can you do business with

such a person? Clearly, this person does not respect the notion of honor. Their conduct reflects a distinct lack of integrity. But executives, managers and supervisors have got to ask themselves, do they support, indeed encourage, dishonest conduct? Think about how people manipulate budgets because some higher up wants to show a bottom line profit. So they succumb to the pressure. Often times, people make it a point to reward those who bring them good news and punish/demean those who bring bad, albeit true, news to them. How many public employees "sold" their integrity when they provided "tainted" water in Crestwood, IL? What would prompt them to do that? I really don't know anyone who heads to work and says to themselves, well, I guess I will sell my soul again today. But then again, my loving wife says I am very naïve.

Having grown up in a blue collar section of Chicago's South Side, I instinctively think that courage means physical courage. Can you stand up to the bullies? But as I have grown older, I realize that courage is a far broader concept than simply slugging it out with the bad guys. It means having the backbone to tell your supervisor, "No", when he or she asks you to do something unethical. It means having the nerve to stand for something. The old saying, stand for something or fall for anything, speaks a great truth. Courage also means having the guts to speak your mind even if it's an unpopular position. I encourage any person in a position of responsibility to understand that dissent is not disloyalty, in fact, often it is just the opposite; it may be an act of genuine concern.

When was the last time you congratulated one of your employee for their courage in challenging one of your corporate tenets? Never emasculate

your employees; it is self defeating. Respect speaks to showing simple dignity to the most humble as well as to the most exalted of us. We sometimes forget that the janitor or the receptionist has family responsibilities as significant to them as those that concern the current occupant of the executive suite. Do you treat your employees and co-workers with the respect due to them simply because they are fellow human beings? We have all seen people who dismiss others once they realize that this individual is not "important". The boss who takes a few minutes to speak to one of his/her employees at the mall buys a lot of support, particularly if the employee has the kids with him. It tells the kids that Dad or Mom is appreciated by their employer. When the boss flips the burgers at a departmental gathering or brings donuts to the meeting it's genuinely appreciated.

We hear a great deal about responsibility and accountability these days. Simply acknowledging a mistake does not speak to responsibility; one has to recognize the need to correct the misdeed and see that it does not happen again. Instead, our society seems to ignore the realities of responsibility. The dreadful comment, "ain't my job" seems to permeate our society. Jewel Food Stores employed a concept for many years called The Second Assistant. Its premise was that the boss should be the assistant to the subordinate. If the boss complained that his/her employee was not performing up to snuff, the next level of management would insist that the "boss" face up to his responsibility of developing the subordinate. It was understood that the subordinate's improvement was the duty of his/her immediate superior. The subordinate needs a coach not a critic. How do you conduct yourself?

A synopsis of the many comments we received from readers: There are absolute truths in the world.—If you have to wait for the law to take action you're already behind the curve.—Hunger for Success and Knowledge.—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.—Develop ability to think out of the box.—Assess the transferability of your skills.—Enhance your adaptability in today's world of mergers and acquisitions.—Leaders should encourage; they should be cheerleaders.—There are two ways to do things: do them right or do them over!

Personal note: If you have an opportunity to hire a military veteran, do so. It would be a great way to celebrate the Fourth of July. James F. Fitzgerald is president of James F. Fitzgerald and Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net.

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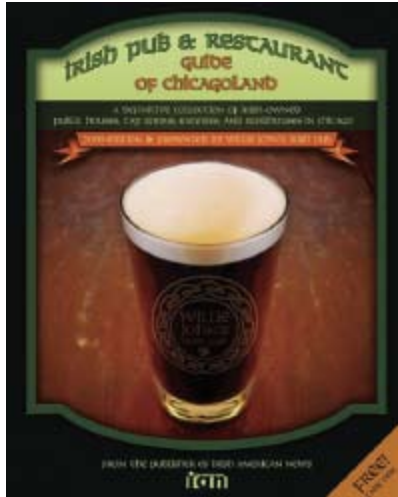
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Irish pubs are the most sought after destinations in the world because they are a "Cut Above" all others. And Irish fare has come a long way in the last 15 years, with Irish restaurateurs offering the best fish and chips, Irish stews, lamb stews, boxty, Guinness pie's etc anywhere in the world.

The social aspect of gathering with friends, enjoying their camaraderie, engaging in lively conversation, and being served by people who make you feel at home, makes the best Irish pubs special places in the minds of people around the world. Most Irish-Americans and anyone who has been inside an Irish pub seek out Celtic establishments whenever they travel.

County Clare Native Honoured in Canada

A former Ennistymon, County Clare native was honoured earlier this year as Irish Person of the Year by Toronto's Irish community.

Eamonn O'Loghlin, 57, was feted by the Irish-Canadian community in Canada's larg-



Kitty Freeley, Chair of the Irish Person of the Year Committee, and Eamonn O'Loghlin. est city on Sunday, March 8th, with Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Declan Kelly, in attendance. Full story at www.iannews.com.

Earlier this year I took a trip from Galway to Dublin and stopped in the town of Athlone; where the River Shannon splits County Westmeath and County Roscommon. After touring the city and taking in the sites, I stopped for

a pint at an old favorite, Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland and one of the oldest in all of Europe — dating back to 900AD. I listened as guests talked about the generations of travelers who had passed thru Sean's Bar for a quick rest or a pint to keep them going along their journey. It made me think of the bars and restaurants in Chicago that share a similar history. There aren't any places in Chicagoland that claim to have served patrons

for more than a hundred years or so, but, with so many established pubs and restaurants to choose from, how could anyone possibly choose just one or two?

"The Guide," will be a definitive Collection of Irish-owned restaurants, public houses, tap rooms, eateries, and roadhouses in Chicago, and the nearby tri-state area. You will never be wanting for a good pint or a good conversation again!

We are gathering all the information you need to know about any of these locations. Whether they hold sessions, and when they are, if they feature live entertainment. Do they have a fireplace, an outdoor patio, party rooms, snugs, a DJ? Can you catch Celtic sports on TV? Do they have darts, softball or other leagues?

We are also featuring as many local musicians as we can find who specialize in celtic music.

Don't despair if you can't get your hands on a printed version. The entire publication will be online for two years at any of these web addresses and more, complete with maps to each location!

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



Thousands upon thousands of people will be seeking a day of rest following their weekend of food, drink, music and more at this year's

World's Largest Block Party at Old St. Pat's Church on July 10th and 11th.

Father Tom Hurley won't be so lucky.

Sunday happens to be his "big" day at work.

One of the advantages though, of being the pastor at Old St. Pat's Church during the World's Largest Block Party, is you're in charge of the schedule. And accordingly, someone else will be doing the 7am Mass, and Father Hurley will be presiding over the latest one at 5pm on that Sunday.

"You feel it," Hurley said. "It's a long weekend. I'll be here from start to finish."

This year's block party, which marks the 25th annual, promises to tire out everyone once again. Gavin DeGraw and Collective Soul headline Friday night. On Saturday, it's Ben Folds. Plus, there will be

an abundance of local musicians, plenty of food and drink to consume and, of course, there is always the chance someone will meet his/her soul mate. Eighty couples first met at the block party and went on to get married, according to Old St. Pat's Director of Communications, Karla Thomas.

"We're always trying to do it better every year, particularly with the entertainment," Hurley said. "It's a lot harder now. Twenty-five years ago, there weren't street fairs and festivals in Chicago and Lollapalooza and Pitchfork. We can't rest on our laurels. It's a lot of hard work. It's not just one or two months; it's all year."

Hurley attended his first World's Largest Block Party when he was 25. "I came here and misbehaved," laughed Hurley. He never imagined then he'd one day be the pastor at that same church.

Hurley grew up on the South Side of Chicago right across the street from St. Cajetan, which would influence his future calling. He was ordained in 1993 and has spent time at Most Holy Redeemer in Evergreen Park, back at St. Cajetan and

at the St. Joseph College Seminary at Loyola University. He became an associate pastor for Old St. Pat's Church in 2003, and became the pastor in 2007.

Old St. Pat's isn't much like the church he lived next door to growing up.

"This isn't a neighborhood parish," said Hurley, 42. "They don't live down the street. They live in 200 zip codes around Chicago... People create this. People create the energy of Old St. Pat's... They energize you as a priest. It energizes your preaching and presiding."

A lot of them also happen to be Cubs fans.

"I have to be more understanding, be more balanced, collegial," said Hurley, a diehard Sox fan "Maybe more tolerant is the word."

Although Cubs fans, many of those same parishioners are vital to the World Largest Block Party's success. All together, there are 1,200 volunteers who help out over the

two days. These are not only unpaid volunteers; they actually pay to be volunteers.

"They pay \$20," Hurley said. "They volunteer one night and come back and enjoy another night... Some people have been doing it for 25 years."

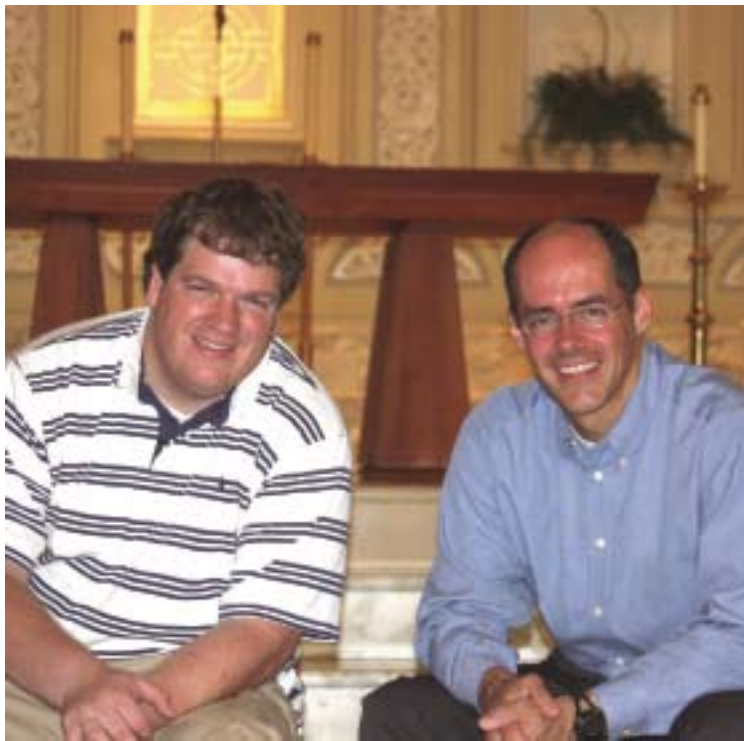
Aside from the fun, there is a more meaningful purpose behind the party. Proceeds go back to the church and the Center for Social Concerns, which houses four outreach programs (The Cara Program, Horizons for Youth, Career Transitions Center of Chicago and Global Alliance for Africa). The block party also is encouraging people to bring non-perishable goods that will be donated to needy food pantries.

For more information on the block party, purchasing tickets, music times and more, check out www.worldlargestblockparty.com.

* Share a comment or column suggestion with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

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Their Service Level is Higher than the Hemlines New Tilted Kilt franchise opens in Chicago

With sexy servers, classic Celtic décor, traditional pub food and sports all under one roof, the new Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery in Chicago is sure to create a local sensation.

The Tilted Kilt, a sports bar that pays homage to the old public houses of America, England, Scotland and Ireland, has opened its



At Tilted Kilt, the entire experience follows the theme of a theatrical production. Servers are called "cast members," wearing mini-kilts made of the Tilted Kilt's own registered tartan plaid, a starched camp shirt, sporran, stockings and flashings. When a new restaurant is hiring, the "directors" (store managers) hold a "casting call" where servers audition to be part of the "show." They are trained to be the "star" and the act starts the minute a guest walks through the door.

"We put a huge emphasis on recruiting warm personalities and training staff to make connections with every guest," Sotos said. "From start to finish, our guests keep coming back because they feel part of the production."

The menu is a mix of traditional pub food like fish & chips and shepherds pie, but also features char-broiled 10 oz hand pressed hamburgers, as well as creations like drunken clams, meatloaf and Irish nachos dishes. Beers from around the world are available, and as the famed Tilted Kilt slogan goes, "A Cold Beer Never Looked So Good."

It's not just the cast members that look good at Tilted Kilt. The architectural features at every location remind guests they are in a classy establishment. Dark mahogany wood fills the bar and the etched glass doors and wainscoting add to the charm. Combined with pool

newest franchise location at 17 N. Wabash, 2nd floor in Chicago.

"Initially, guests are drawn in for the girls. But what keeps them coming back is the great food, the selection of drinks and the unbeatable atmosphere," said Tom Sotos, executive director of the Tilted Kilt location in Chicago. "This is a modern sports pub that carries out the traditions of old-world pubs, one burger and one beer at a time."

tables, dart boards and 42 large plasma TVs, Tilted Kilt is the best place to watch sports and hang out with friends. Humorous and slightly bawdy limericks are even seen throughout the pub, creating an atmosphere that is fun and entertaining.

For female guest enjoyment, Tilted Kilt also recruits "cast members" as male bartenders who wear the Tilted Kilt uniform. All female cast members are trained to interact with

2009 Chicago Rose of Tralee Crowned

Deirdre McNulty was recently crowned the 2009 Chicago Rose of Tralee. Deirdre was selected to represent Chicago in Ireland's Rose of Tralee Selection in August. She will fly to Ireland to join young women of Irish descent from countries around the world, including Great Britain, Europe, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand. Deirdre will be an ambassador for Chicago, connecting the global Irish community in a celebration of their rich culture and sharing the heritage of



Deirdre is highly regarded for her commitment to sharing a love of Irish culture through her work as a volunteer at Old St. Patrick's Church as well as a member of their Concert Choir. She is a soloist for Irish weddings and funerals and in the band Mulligan Stew. This has always been a childhood dream come true for Deirdre as her mother, Terese McNulty was crowned the Chicago Rose in 1973. How exciting for both of these wonderful

ladies to be returning to Tralee, Ireland for the 50th Anniversary. The Chicago Rose of Tralee is currently accepting applications for 2010 Rose candidates, Rosepetals and Rosebuds. For information call 773-239-3927 or email at info@chicagoroseoftralee.com.



women who enter the establishment – before looking at the men.

About Tilted Kilt

Tilted Kilt is different than other sports bars because of its theme that combines Celtic décor, humorous limericks and sexy cast members with great food, drinks and fun. The original restaurant concept was developed in the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas in 2003. The company projects that 50 restaurants will be operating by 2009. www.tiltedkilt.com.

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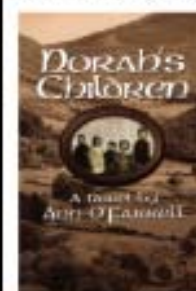
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Ann O'Farrell Irish author, Ann O'Farrell, will speak about Ireland and her Irish historical novels *Norah's Children* and *Michael*.

O'Farrell's stories are described as "a rich portrait of rural Ireland in the 20s and 30s, with sharply observed characters and an absorbing storyline." (Kirkus Discoveries). "A story full of lilting phrases, poignant scenes with an explosive finale that stops readers cold." (Mary McWay Seaman, *The Celtic Connection*, Denver 3/09) The books follow the lives of five children who suffer very different fates following the untimely death of their mother. The novels are based, in part, on a true story.



David Quinn Irish-American author, David Quinn, will discuss his book *It May Be Forever* based on his great great uncle David Quinn's extraordinary life

After two years of research conducted in Ireland, England, and the United States, David Quinn wrote a historical novel, *It May Be Forever*, based on Michael Quinn's extraordinary life's journey from Ireland's Great Famine, to being a child laborer in an English textile mill, a Fenian rebel, and a soldier in America. A story of adventure and redemption in the wild west.

Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

Going Against The Grain

When I first started to learn to cook, I had to figure out measurements, flavors, and how not to burn the cookies. Later, when I was studying how to cook, I began to decipher the nutritional and medical aspects of food. The very first time I was introduced the celiac way of life was at Ballymaloe. But my most memorable moment was a conversation on the train. From that time on, I've been studying food and the nuances and alterations that can be made for any diet in order to really enjoy life and not just live with a diet condition.

The first day of class, Darina discussed kitchen rules and guidelines, covering such etiquette as yelling "behind you!" when crossing someone's path or not leaving sharpened knives in a soapy sink. Then she talked about our medical issues with food. She asked about celiacs. Two ladies raised their hands. Darina nodded and began to

explain what it was. Coeliac disease (European spelling) is an 'allergy' to wheat gluten. The allergy is how the GI tract deals with wheat gluten. Basically, the body's allergy makes the tiny, fingerlike ridges shrink in the GI. When that happens, none of the wheat's nutrients are absorbed which can lead to other minor and major health issues. The gluten part is the protein that the system reacts to, creating the response. Darina continued saying that the allergy designation may make people think it is not that important, since some people's allergies are simpler. She concluded by saying that this allergy could affect their health in many ways, so be very aware of the different dishes that the students make. One of the ladies who originally raised her hand was my roommate, and since I was a little intimidated by her AND that she was Canadian, I didn't want to pry.

I was interested in this medical-



diet path, yet it still didn't click what it actually meant to the person. That happened on the train from Dublin to Cork over the bank holiday. I had just finished a weekend with my friends in Dublin and lined up for the train to head back to school. While I had my nose deep in a new cooking magazine, an older lady turned around and started asking about Jamie Oliver, whose picture

was front and center of this magazine. I looked up and saw she really wanted to talk and I asked her who her favorite celeb chef was. She took the invitation. She was wonderful, telling me about her husband who had died five years before and here eight grandkids, and that she traveled to Dublin from Cork every few months, just to get out. Her favorite chef was of course, Darina Allen, and that her kids gave her a gift of a coeliac cooking course at Ballymaloe. She had been coeliac for about

fifteen years. She said only recently had the food products began to change and chefs and restaurants were recognizing the need for updates. She talked about the coeliac class she took at Ballymaloe, the recipes she received during class and that she still makes them, to the delight of a granddaughter. When I asked about the granddaughter, she said that coeliac is in the genes, actually originating in the Celtic/British Isles population. I was impressed with this woman. She traveled, she enjoyed her family and friends. She learned about her disease, became aware of limitations, and through cooking classes she enjoyed preparing new dishes from top chefs. And she could help her granddaughter understand the disease while not feeling left out of everyday fun and activities.

Now, eight years out, I cannot remember her name though I think about her when I find the coeliac alternative to a recipe. I remember her excitement when I told her I was a student at Ballymaloe and learning about coeliac recipes. We were having tea on the train and as I reached for a bis-

cuit, she pulled out her homemade red currant scones and offered me a taste. Anything homemade is good, but these were made with love. It was life to her and I was forever grateful for the lesson.

The following recipe can be prepared with either gluten free flour or wheat flour and enjoyed during the summer picnics. Gluten free flour can be found in larger grocery

and nuts, if desired. Spray 15x10 jelly roll pan with non stick spray and spread batter on top. Bake for 18-24 minutes. Cool in pan and cut into bars.

For a no-worry, fresh and healthy potato salad for your outdoor picnics try this recipe.

Lemon Herb Potato Salad
Serves 8

2 1 / 2 lbs. Yukon or other waxy



chains, health food stores, through the internet, at celiac meetings... or find a recipe and make your own. For cookbooks, check the internet. Darina Allen and Rosemary Kearney wrote Healthy Gluten-Free Eating: The Ultimate Wheat-free Recipe Book, a cookbook published in Ireland that contains scone and pizza dough recipes. Brilliant!

Cookies and baked goods are the first to be missed for a celiac. The following recipe was demo'ed by The Nearly Normal Kitchen at a celiac medical conference and they are amazing. All that's missing is the big glass of milk!

Chocolate Chip Pan Cookies
Makes 4 dozen bars

2 1 / 4 cups gluten free flour (I used Nearly Normal Kitchen flour mix)
1 t. baking soda (gluten free)
1 t. salt
2 sticks butter, softened
3 / 4 c granulated sugar
3 / 4 packed brown sugar
1 t. pure vanilla
2 large eggs
1 12 oz. pkg chocolate chips
1 c. chopped nuts, optional
Preheat oven to 375F.

Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl and whisk. In large bowl, cream together butter, both sugars and vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat until smooth. Add flour mix in one cup increments and beat well. Stir in chips

potato, scrubbed and cut into chunks

1 / 3 c. olive oil
1 / 4 c. fresh lemon juice
Zest from one lemon
1 t. Dijon mustard (gluten free)
1 / 4 c. chopped fresh parsley
1 / 4 c. chopped fresh dill or chives
1 / 2 c. chopped red onion
1/2 t. Salt & 1/4 t. black pepper

Put potatoes in large saucepan, covering with water. Boil for 15-20 minutes until largest potato is pierced easily. While potatoes cook, combine the rest of the ingredients in small glass bowl and whisk. Drain potatoes and put into large glass bowl. While potatoes are hot, pour dressing over and toss, coating the potatoes. Cool slightly, cover and place in fridge for a few hours or overnight. Before serving, check seasoning and lemon (if it needs more).

For recipes, cookbooks, and info go to www.nearlynormalkitchen.com, www.celiac.com or www.celiac.org.

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, Ohio. Julianna can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com.

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Wisconsin Physician Helps Ireland Begin Cystic Fibrosis Testing for Newborns

No one knows for sure why the nation of Ireland leads the world in rates of cystic fibrosis (CF). But this year, the "Emerald Isle" will begin screening all newborns for CF, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Phil Farrell, former dean of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

Farrell has advocated for newborn testing for years and has made several trips to Ireland to push the cause ahead.

"I'm delighted that the Republic of Ireland is moving ahead," said Dr. Farrell, who was in Ireland the week of June 15 to finalize planning and to give a talk at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children near Dublin.

Farrell, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics and population health sciences, is an expert in CF, a genetic disorder that ultimately damages the lungs and digestive system by producing very thick mucus.

"It goes back to about 1978, I was working at both a neonatal intensive care unit and a CF center in Madison and I observed how frequently the children referred to my clinic had delayed diagnosis," said Farrell. "I became convinced that it was impossible to diagnosis CF at an early age without a newborn screening test."

Farrell learned about the immunoreactive trypsinogen (IRT) test in the early 1980s and launched a research program to discover the benefits of such a test. The IRT tests the blood for a particular enzyme produced by the pancreas. A small drop of blood, usually taken from the foot of a baby, is all that is required. If the baby tests positive, then the child is tested for the mutated gene and will likely be given a sweat test.

"If you wait until there are signs and symptoms of the disease, it may be too late," said Farrell. "Many (children with CF) have malnutrition



(L-R) Paul Higgins, Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland; Counsellor Dennehy Cork; Godfrey Fletcher, CEO of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Ireland, and Dr. Philip Farrell of UW SMPH, at the National Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Cork, Ireland.

CF is unusually common in Ireland; approximately one in 1,500 Irish people will develop the disease, in comparison with about one in 4,000 in the United States, according to Farrell. The reason for the increased incidence of CF in Ireland is not known, but Farrell believes that it may be caused by environmental factors which either cause the CFTR gene to mutate or increase its frequency.

CF can lead to premature death, but with newborn screening and other technologies the average life expectancy of a CF patient is now more than 37 years, according to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Farrell, a driving force behind newborn screening in the United States and Ireland, became interested in CF while working as a neonatologist and pediatric pulmonologist.

and irreversible lung disease, but through early detection these can be prevented."

Symptoms of CF normally begin within two months of birth. CF newborn screening allows parents and doctors to catch the disease within a month of birth before real damage has occurred.

"Early detection allows us to prevent malnutrition and provide genetic counseling for parents," Farrell said.

CF newborn screening in Ireland and the U.S. is moving along. The U.S. will have CF newborn screening in every state by the end of 2009.

The plans in Ireland have been well received by doctors and government officials and should be in place during 2009. A meeting of the CF newborn-screening steering committee was held June 18 in Dublin and Farrell was there. Many appreciate

his efforts, both in Ireland and in the United States.

"We would not be screening for CF in all states without Dr. Farrell's leadership," said Dr. Preston Campbell,

executive vice president for medical affairs at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "The same is true for Ireland,

where Dr. Farrell is not only moving CF newborn screening forward, but ensuring that it is done in the best possible way."

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Catholic Charities is celebrating a unique "birthday!" With its July 2009 issue, Keenager News, the free monthly newspaper devoted to the interests of seniors over 60 years of age, turns 40 years old! While Keenager probably seems like a "youngster" to its readers, this anniversary is a significant milestone in the history of Catholic Charities!

From the beginning, its purpose was to encourage, inform and entertain senior citizens in Cook and

Lake Counties as part of Catholic Charities' mission to serve and enrich the lives of older adults. Catholic Charities believed that seniors could benefit from a free newspaper designed specifically for them that provided tax, medical and benefits updates, reflections on current issues affecting seniors, humor, recipes, reminiscences, inspirational stories and columnists, and challenging word puzzles. And for 40 years, Keenager News has fulfilled its mission

of informing and promoting the well-being of hundreds of thousands of older adults.

When Keenager News began in 1969, the country was in the midst of the Vietnam War. Today, we are in the midst of a digital revolution and a turbulent economy. But what has remained constant—and always will, is Catholic Charities' dedication to the safety, well-being and dignity of each person, especially each senior who receives our services.

During his "Jubilee of the Elderly" homily in 2000, Pope John Paul II, himself a "senior," told the seniors whom he was addressing that: "Precisely as so-called "senior citizens," you have a specific contribution to make to the development of a genuine "culture of life ... witnessing that every moment of our existence is a gift of God, and every season of human life has special treasures to put at the disposal of all."

Pope John Paul encouraged everyone to openly express their faith in Christ daily, "especially in works of charity and solidarity with those who are in need." He also thanked the Lord for all "who witness to this active faith in daily service to the elderly," and "for all elderly people who, to the best of their ability, still continue to do their utmost for others."

Catholic Charities has had the privilege of assisting older adults

in numerous programs since our founding in 1917. In fact, "Senior Social and Health Services" is the largest of Catholic Charities' five major divisions. It exists to promote the dignity and worth of each and every older adult by offering a wide range of programs and services that maintain the independence of seniors in their own homes; and to provide alternative living situations for seniors who need assistance.

● Older adults who are active and independent enjoy numerous activity centers and hot, noon-time meals served in pleasant group settings in Cook and Lake Counties; as well as social, recreational and educational activities that nurture health and friendships.

● Catholic Charities offers help at home to homebound seniors struggling to stay in their own homes and communities as long as possible. Case management, caregivers, homemakers and home-delivered meals or private home care promote healthy aging.

● Adult Day Services are welcoming, pleasant places that provide a structured program for disabled adults and frail senior citizens.

In addition, Catholic Charities' Senior Housing division and Senior Services provide different kinds of Catholic Charities housing when seniors need to downsize for financial or health reasons:

residential housing, supportive living, or licensed nursing home care.

● Catholic Charities Senior Housing division operates 17 residential apartment buildings in the city and numerous suburbs, providing independent living for 1,300 low-income seniors.

● Senior Services provides supportive living at the Bishop Conway Residence in Chicago.

● Catholic Charities Holy Family Villa in Palos Park is a licensed nursing home.

At all times, our goals are to respect each senior's human dignity, personal choice, and to improve their quality of life.

Seniors are the largest group of people whom we serve. It is indeed a privilege to serve these brothers and sisters of ours. As Wendy Seifert, Catholic Charities Senior Services Division Manager, stated recently: "Serving seniors is at the heart of what we do. We do it so we make a difference in the lives of older adults. Each older adult's situation is unique and it's our responsibility to meet them at that uniqueness; and to promote their aging in place and their dignity—because each one of us is a child of God. Whether the person feels that way about themselves or not, we at Catholic Charities approach it that way!"

I can think of no better way to agree with Wendy and to celebrate the "culture of life," than to say: "To all Keenagers, Happy 40th Anniversary!" Thank you, and God bless you and your families! (312) 655-7012.

To learn more about Catholic Charities Keenager News, or to subscribe on behalf of a relative or friend, call (312) 655-7425. For information re: Senior Services or Senior Housing, visit www.catholiccharities.net/seniors. To donate to Catholic Charities, please call (312) 655-7012.



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24th Irish American Heritage Festival to Rock IAHC Festival is July 10, 11 and 12, 2009.

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago.



Dyed in the Wool

The festival features three days of music on 5 stages, featuring Gaelic Storm, The Tossers, Searson, Screaming Orphans, Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, The Makem and Spain Brothers, the Sandcarvers, The Chancey Brothers, The Mickey Finns, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band,

Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, The Matt Stedman Band, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, Joe McShane and The Silver Bridge Band, Kennedy's Kitchen, The Paddy Homan Band, the Academy of Irish Music, The Irish Music School of Chicago, Dyed in the Wool, Misericordia Heartbreakers, Anish, Cu Roi, Fast Eddie and Billy O'Donoghue, Fitz and The Celts, the Irish Heritage Singers, Shapeshifters Theatre, the Katie Sullivan Band, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, Finbarr Fagan's Band, The Mul-lane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, The Mulhern School of Irish Dance, the Bagpipes & Drums of the Emerald Society CPD, Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine, the Dooley Brothers, the Joe Shannon Ceili Band, Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance, Mike Houilhan, Catherine O'Connell and Friends, Milwaukee Irish Arts, the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Gaelic Park Players and more!

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

Fest activities and contests include The Hooley Hook-up, a Matchmaking event with live music, matchmaking and dancing, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Shamrock Stars Singing Contest. The children's contest consists of two divisions:

SHAMROCKS - Teens between the ages of 13 and 18

CLOVERS - Children under age of 12



Searson

New Adult Singing Contest

A newly added adult category this year! The Contest has been extended to include the adult audience. This means everyone has a chance to become a star! The adult singing competition will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 8pm. Contestants will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Spots are limited



Screaming Orphans

so get there early or register on-line at www.irishfestchicago.com.

Contestants will compete for prizes along with the opportunity to perform on the main festival stage on Sunday afternoon, July 12. Contestants will be graded by a panel of judges and audience reaction. The same rules apply: contestants are limited to solo vocalists only and performers must sing at minimum, one verse and chorus of an Irish song.

To purchase advance sale tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or purchase online at www.irishfestchicago.com.

Tickets: \$14 per day; \$8 in advance until the end of day on July 9; seniors \$7, and children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult.

Hours: Fri., 6-midnight; Sat., noon-midnight; Sun., noon-11 p.m.

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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



school. It was really fun! We dance to contemporary songs along with traditional Irish songs. I danced to Old Blue Jeans by Hannah Montana. I loved it and we wore jeans and I didn't have to wear my wig. It's exciting to dance on such a big stage with a large audience. It's always a great time. After the dance, my mom, dad, sister, and I went on the big ferris wheel then to Billy Goats

School has ended and summer has started. I danced at the Navy Pier Skyline Stage. It was a performance for my dance

for cheeseburgers. They have the best pickles!

I've been working on keeping my arms straight during my dances. I dance around the house holding a small towel behind my back. Hopefully it will help! I've gone to two feises since last month. The first one was the Chicago Feis at Gaelic Park. It rained really hard right in the middle of the dances. The dances were stopped for a short period of time while the dancers in our tent stood up on stage to stay dry. Good thing the tents covered the stages. All the parents were fussing with umbrellas trying to keep the dancers dry. We ended up dancing one step of each of the remaining dances to end it quicker. I ended up getting a second place and a third place. The third is in one of the dances I need to qualify for Oireachtas. The rain finally ended when the feis was almost over, of course. We had a lot of fun at this feis because Irish fest was going on at the same time. After I danced I went on carnival rides with my brother and sister. We played carnival games and won a lot of stuffed animals. The second feis was in Indianapolis. My mom and I drove to that one. We stayed at a hotel in a real working train station. We didn't stay in a train car but it was right outside our room. I ended up with a second place. The feis ran pretty quickly. I was done dancing around 1:00. I was really excited because I got new hard shoes. I can't wait to use them at my next feis, which

is sponsored by Mullane-Healy-O'Brien next week.

I'm very excited about 4th of July. My grandma says when it's 4th of July, summer is over but I think it's just getting started! I hope everyone has a happy and safe 4th of July!

Three Trinity Dancers Win Honors

Three dancers from Chicago's famed Trinity Academy of Irish Dance placed in the top 15 at the World Irish Dancing Championships, held last April in Philadelphia, PA. Jillian Oury of Downers Grove, placed 3rd out of 118 competitors; Peter Dziak of Villa Park placed 3rd out of 53 competitors; and Cara Horan of the Big Oaks neighborhood of NW Chicago, placed 15th out of 153 competitors. This is the first time the World Championships were held in the U.S.. This year's competition was the largest to date, totaling 6,000 dancers, 400 schools and 5 continents.

19-year old Oury is the current Mid-America champion, in addition to her long history of success at other regional, national and international competitions. Oury was also the 2007 All Ireland champion, receiving a perfect score of 100 from all five judges. Oury is in her freshman year at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Dziak is a current Mid-America champion in team dancing and received 2nd place in solo dancing at the 2008 Mid-America Irish Dance Championships. This 5th grade student began dancing at age 4 so that he could participate in the same activity as his older siblings. Since then, he has placed 1st in regional competition in two consecutive years and 5th place at the 2009 All-Irelands. Peter plays Little League Baseball in the Bronco division, participates in AYSO soccer and is on the summer swim team, the Villa Park Mariners.

A current Mid-America champion in team dancing as well as the bronze medal holder in solo dancing, Horan is a three-time All Ireland medal holder, and has placed in the top ten in three previous years at the North American Irish Dance Championships. Dancing over seven years, Horan attends St. Monica Academy, participating in track, volleyball, basketball and the sky dance team. Horan is the junior newspaper editor and is involved in forensics.

New students are invited to participate in Trinity's Taste of Trinity program this summer, where boys and girls ages four through 12 can discover the basics of Irish dance, learning the proper techniques of movement set to the rhythm of Irish music. Sessions are offered in July at seven Illinois locations; Arlington Heights, Downers Grove, NW Chicago, Elmhurst, Naperville, St. Charles and Western Springs. No previous dance experience is necessary. Registration for Taste of Trinity is now open; space is limited. Cost per session is \$95 for six classes which includes a Trinity t-shirt. Call Cynthia at 773-529-4822 or e-mail cynthia.oblein@trinitydance.com for information. Call 773-529-4822 or visit www.trinityirishdancers.com.

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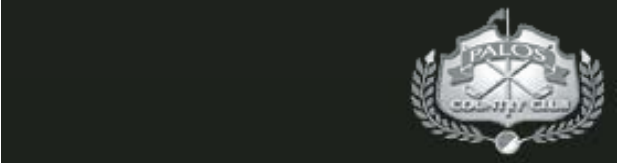
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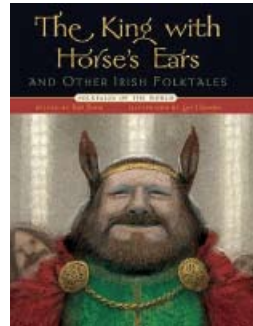


Natalie Howard (Trinity Academy Director and Co-owner) and Jillian Oury, photo by Pam Oury, Peter Dziak, photo by Joan Dziak

Batt Burns Upholds Tradition of Seanachie With Show at Ark 8-4

Batt Burns, (pictured) one of the last of the great Irish traditional storytellers, or seanachies, will be performing at The Ark, in Ann Arbor on August 4th.

Raised by his grandfather, Batt heard first hand the stories of his grandfather and other neighborhood characters and brings alive the stories, the characters and the lessons, with great humor, drama and excitement.



See this unique and vanishing tradition, live at The Ark. Batt has headlined storytelling festivals, the Kennedy Center and more, preserving and presenting the seanachie tradition. Be transported the auld Ireland, in the tradition of the Irish seanachie.

Batt's new book, *The King with Horses Ears & Other Irish Folktales* is also now available at all Barnes & Noble Bookstores. 316 S. Main St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104. theark.org.

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Tune in to our August issue for a feature story on The Stag's Head, a new Irish country pub that will be opening in Willow Springs in the very near future. Martin Cosgrove bought the famous property which is located just across the street from the Willowbrook Ballroom. The area is famous for ghostly visits from Resurrection Mary!

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United Ireland Forum and Picnic

On Saturday August 1st, 2009, Clan Na Gail will host a public Irish American Picnic at 7824 Madison Street, Forest Park, to promote Irish Unity. We call on all Irish, Irish Americans and friends of Ireland to join us for this Family day event. We plan to roast a full 200Lb Pig at the park to be served with an abundance of good food and drink for all who

attend. There will be a bean bag tournament and a friendly Gaelic football championship. We will also have organized games for the kids or you can simply relax in the sun or enjoy the shade of the many beautiful trees at the park. There will be guest speakers from Ireland along with a few local speakers to discuss the Republican strategy for a peaceful



Vincent Casey, (r) greets Gerry Adams in Ireland at a recent conference.

pathway to a united Ireland
 Last Saturday in New York the leadership of Sinn Fein brought together all of the Irish American political groups and organizations to start the first of a series of "Public Conversations" to be held in the United States to discuss Irish Unity and how we as Irish Americans and friends of Ireland can help. In his opening address Gerry Adams asked "What kind of United Ireland do we want?" And secondly, for the diaspora, particularly here in the USA, the question is not so much how do we get there as it is how can the USA help the people of Ireland get there. How do you help? How can you be active and effective?"

Terry O'Sullivan leader of the powerful United laborers Union of North America cut right to the core of what activism must be about when he pledged his support and that of his union to spread the word; use its resources; and exploit its political clout to help advance the argument for a united Ireland.

The New York event, which attracted over 800 guests was also attended by several senior New York politicians. US Senator Schumer and Congressman Elliot Engel both pledged their support to the campaign.

Back in the day when the Spanish landed on the western coast of Mayo and joined a brave band of Irishmen from the west, they pushed through the British occupied garrison town of Castlebar and routed the formidable and well armed British garrison, chasing them all the way to Sligo and beyond. That night the Irish, along with their Spanish friends, feasted on English pigs they captured from their enemy. As they feasted, they talked of freedom and unity among the Irish. Let's remember these men and all the men and women that have fought the same fight throughout the centuries since then. On Saturday August 1st 2009 at 4pm at 7824 Madison Street in Forest Park, IL 60130, we too can feast on the the fatted Pig as we remember the past and discuss the present and the future plans to reunite Ireland and finally put an end to British rule.

Clan Na Gail, as the leading Irish Republican organization in Chicago, invites you to come and join us and show your support for a free and peaceful United Ireland.

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"Everyone, Republican or otherwise has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small, no one is too old or too young to do something."

Bobby Sands (1954-1981), on hunger strike in 1981



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A Life Devoted to the Theatre

By Frank West

Martha Lavey is the artistic director of the Steppenwolf Theatre. She will perform in the play *Up*. The actors in that play are now in rehearsal, and I thank her for her making time for this interview.

The theme of this season's plays at Steppenwolf is imagination. Recent plays in that series are Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, and Shakespeare's *Tempest*.

The main character in *Up* "built a flying machine that reached the clouds." He attempts to recapture the feeling he had of complete freedom. The play also shows how his family dreams "to escape the boundaries of everyday by harnessing the power of the imagination."

The Steppenwolf ensemble is rich with talent and acting experience. Martha Lavey was asked to join it

Martha: "These are especially



stressful times. Theatre is needed now, more than ever, to help people understand what things are important in life, and to deal with the

things that are pressuring them."

Frank: "How have these economic times influenced theatres?"

Martha: "Arts organizations and corporations apportion their resources differently now."

Frank: "What is the future for theatre in the current economy?"

Martha: "Theatre reflects a basic human need. It began long ago, as stories being told around camp fires. Young actors are intent on mastering the ability of telling stories on the stage."

Frank: "What would you like to accomplish in the future in your profession?"

Martha: "I want to continue working at Steppenwolf with the excellent artists I meet there. They are deeply concerned with life, and passionate about acting's ability to tell the human story."

Theater can be magnetic and make us look at ourselves and at reality. Martha Lavey loves theater and is devoted to its powerful future.



in 1993.

In 1995, she became the artistic director, and has since also appeared in many plays at Steppenwolf and at other Chicagoland theaters.

Lavey has won awards and is a person of many accomplishments. But I feel that the greatest of these is her earning a PhD in Performance Studies at Northwestern University!

Martha was born in Lawrence, Kansas, but has lived in many places in the United States while growing up, like Washington, DC, and Detroit.

Her Irish American dad encouraged her interest in the theatre. And she fondly recalls, that as a child, she loved to stage plays in the basement of her home.

Frank West: "Why is theatre so important to people?"

Martha Lavey: "Theatre represents a deep impulse. It is part of a community's needs."

She cited the example of *The Seafarer* by Irish playwright, Conor McPherson. It was presented in January at Steppenwolf. The playwright lives and works in a suburb of Dublin. The play tells a pertinent story of powers that are beyond our control. A group of Irishmen, preparing for Christmas, are visited by the devil. How do we react? How do we feel?

Frank: "Up is about the power of imagination. Please talk about this."

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Helen Mirren Stars in Phèdre

Steppenwolf Theatre will present the exclusive Chicago screening of the National Theatre of London's performance of *Phèdre*, starring Helen Mirren, on Monday, July 13 at 7:30pm in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. The filmed version of this classic play will also include a behind-the-scenes feature at the National Theatre.

Consumed by an uncontrollable passion for her young stepson and believing Theseus, her absent husband, to be dead, *Phèdre* confesses

her darkest desires and enters the world of nightmare. When Theseus returns alive and well, *Phèdre*, fearing exposure, accuses her stepson of rape. The result is carnage.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the box office, 1650 N. Halsted St., (312) 335-1650, or online at www.steppenwolf.org.

Phèdre is the pilot production of NT LIVE, a new initiative by UK's National Theatre to broadcast performances of plays on cinema screens around the world. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/ntlive.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Irish Sailors New and Old in New York

USS IWO JIMA, At Sea—It's the week before Memorial Day Weekend and a United States Navy ship full of thousands of sailors and marines makes it way up the east coast from Virginia with a final destination of Manhattan to greet the public for Fleet Week 2009.

Named for perhaps the most famous Marine battle of World War II, the USS Iwo Jima is one of the Navy's newest amphibious assault ships, a baby aircraft carrier if you will that would dwarf the flattops of yesteryear in both size and technology. With the capability to launch high speed air cushion landing craft from its well deck astern and Harrier jump jets and Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft from its flight deck, the Iwo Jima was completed in 2001 to get Marines to the fight, wherever in the world that may be.

For the publicity tour the hangar deck be-

operations are left behind with a representative sample of them in the air above the Atlantic getting ready to land and be open for public display in the Big Apple.

Mixed in with the collection of service members and VIPs are sailors whose normal job has nothing to do with the operation of a ship or the transportation of marines. Sailors like Seaman Apprentice Marcus Wilson, who will help direct traffic and see to the safety of citizens when the big vessel docks in the Big Apple. At 20 Wilson is aware of both his Irish heritage and his unique opportunity to see the world. "I'm Irish on my mother's side, my Mom was born in Ohio and my Grandmother Boyle was born in Ireland," says Wilson, whose travels have already included visits to Spain and Israel as he learns the ropes as a Master at Arms, a seaborne police presence that in his case often involves detached duty as part of the

low the flight operations is more cavernous than usual as the dozens of helicopters, jets and tilt-rotors that would normally be poised for combat op-

sea service's Mobile Security Force.

These days that could mean a quick assignment to provide a deterrent to pirate attacks against merchant ships off Somalia or being on guard against terrorists transiting the Strait of Gibraltar, as Wilson recently did with weapon at the ready. Like many new sailors the native of Cincinnati hails from the Midwest, far from



the oceans. "Back home St. Patrick's Day is pretty huge actually for me and my family!" Out here the endless waves that surge beneath the ship as Wilson glances out the bow aircraft elevator platform are as limitless as the stars above the sky at night, and the career path the

Irish American from Ohio sees for himself. "I want to make a lifelong career of law enforcement. I see myself joining an organization like the Drug Enforcement Administration after my time in the Navy."

Up on the bridge as a Marine helicopter lands aboard the Iwo Jima approaching Long Island Sound, Garry Murphy of Florida reflects on his time as a young man in the Navy.

On board as part of a contingent from Fort Lauderdale escorting the new captain of the USS New York, Murphy served during Vietnam in the late 60's on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, now a military museum floating on the Hudson River in New York City. When the new New York, a troop transport ship, joins the fleet this Fall she will cut through the sea with bow steel made from remnants of the World Trade Center. Murphy helps run a similar public celebration of the Navy in Florida every year.

"The Navy right now is really cut thin fulfilling all its responsibilities. It's important for the public to see what these men and women are doing and give them support they otherwise might not have."

In the days following the September 11th attacks the Iwo Jima was the first ship opened to the public in Manhattan, which felt the first strikes of terrorist warfare all too well. Now the city welcomes her and her seaborne citizens back with open arms as a flotilla of U.S. and foreign ships spend a week in the city. The protectors have come to be hosted by the protected. It's a moving time for sailors old and new.

There will be no celebrations for young sailor Wilson, who upholds legal rules including the drinking age of 21 he has not yet reached. When the time comes, though, he will be as certain of his celebration of adulthood as he is of a future in law enforcement that has taken him from the shores of the Ohio River to the seas of the Mediterranean.

"How will I celebrate turning 21?" asks a mischievous Wilson with a grin as wide as the hangar bay. "With a beer of course... and of course it will be a Guinness!"

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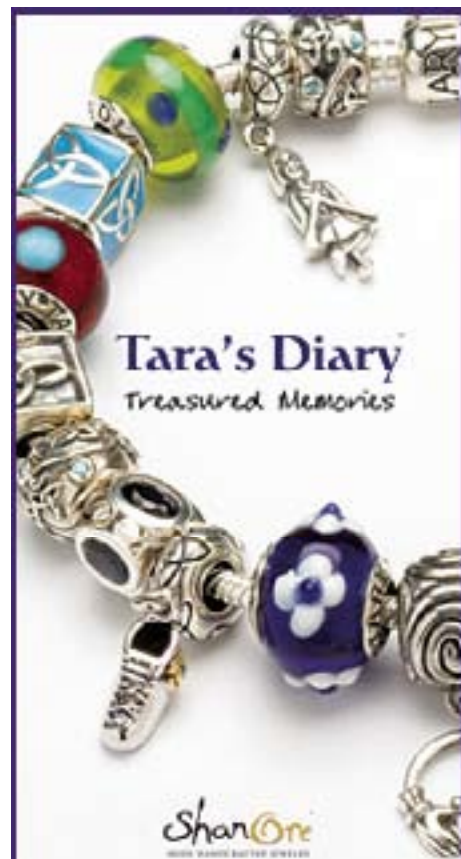
*Dr. Hogg is a former Instructor at the University of Illinois
Dental School and Lecturer in Dental Sleep Medicine.
He was also featured on Fox TV's American Health Front.*

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Road to Tradition:

Reflections after a

Seisiún at the Poitín Stil by Marieke E. Van Der Maelen

Late night at the Poitín Stil. It's June. And Kathleen Keane loosens the tension in her bow strings. Twist, twist, twist. Pause. One last look around the pub. Final hugs good-bye. Oidhe mhaith. Goodnight. Safe home. Likewise. Old and new friends alike depart into the growing darkness. In the corner by a window small children, na páistí as some say in Irish, doze lightly on their fathers' shoulders.

Funny, that, I think as I too relax in a chair next to the open window where just a few minutes earlier the kids had peered their sweet faces through the open pane in earnest, their little hands reaching toward the musicians, so eager to be a part of the seisiún. Begging for another tune every time the music ended. Informing Kathleen of how much they care. She touches each of them on the cheek. Tells them how glad she is to hear that. But the next request needs to be on a five dollar bill, she adds with a wry smile, leaning her head out the window. A pause as the kids think this over, wide eyed, then go running off in search of a dollar. I close my eyes. Funny, that, I think again, but ages ago a musician said the same to me and my friends as we implored him to give us another tune. The dum dum polka! Put the English on It! Cúinla! Silver Spear! A beat. A shrug. All requests must be written on a twenty dollar bill. I also accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

This is how I remember the seisiúns when I was young. And that's why I love this seisiún so much, evoking some of my happiest childhood memories. It's the sense of community and good-natured spirit of everyone present. Let's start with a set of tunes. Could you narrow it down a bit? Silence. Uh, play the ones that start in the key of D. I am transported back in time at the Poitín. The pubs act as a stronghold of Irish culture, a place where people learn by participation. As a child I learned the sean-nós, or old style of dancing at the seisiúns. Feet close to the floor. Heels never higher than a cassette tape. Emphasis on individual expression. I learned the tunes because I played them with my feet.

It's all about the nyah, the spirit and essence of the music, the older dancers would say. And the music and dance go hand in hand. Don't forget that. That's how it should be, though many of the younger dancers have forgotten that as they put more and more emphasis on the wigs and solo costumes. They no longer come to the pubs to dance.

I learned many tricks of the trade at the

ing motion in time to the beat. It was never a performance. It was the custom to exhibit a sort of "shyness." And this is why I sometimes dance with my back to the audience.

There are multiple layers to a seisiún. Rince, ceol, ól, agus craic. Dance, music, drink, and good times to name but a few. And there was always a place for children at the seisiúns. My dear friend Bill once told me, "This isn't a bar, or a tavern. It's a pub, which means it's a good family environment and wonderful place to meet friends." And he'd offer me a slice of birthday cake. It's my ninetieth birthday, he'd whisper. But I thought you turned ninety last week. And the week before... I distinctly remember birthday cake every week since I began going to that seisiún. Ach sin scéal eile, but that's another story, Bill would wink mischievously from behind his thick black glasses and lick frosting from his fork.

What did you think? I open my eyes. Kathleen is stuffing her flipflops into her bag. The chair dance. What'd you think? I think we did great. Ah yes. I forgot to mention the chair dance. We both grin and slip off our dance shoes. Along with lively sing-alongs and an air on the tinwhistle, which is classic Keane, it is now custom to end every Poitín Stil seisiún with... the chair dance. And if you're wondering what that is, well you will just have to come to the Stil to find out.

Go maith liom, Kathleen. Well done. Another brilliant good time for Chicago!

Marieke Van Der Maelen is a champion Irish dancer and founder of Deorad, an Irish dance and music troupe.
Poitín Stil, 1502 W Jarvis Ave., Chicago.



Marieke dancing with the children at the Poitín Stil in Rogers Park, IL.

seisiúns. You're not supposed to wear metal tips in sean-nós competitions, but the old pros would soak their leather soles and walk around in the gravel outside. I was instructed on how to properly throw my leg over a broom in the traditional Connemara Broom dance. I was shown how to play the wooden block and bodhrán by sitting on the laps of the musicians and having them guide my hands along with them as they played. Depending on where the seisiún was, Irish was spoken. At quieter times, a cúinne, or singer would sing an amhrán, or song in Irish. Sometimes the cúinne would take you by the hand as he sang and move your hand in a row-

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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.

Part Eight

In 1845, on the very week of the first signs of a failing potato crop, Major Denis Mahon arrived in Strokestown to take control of his 30,000 acre estate. First bequeathed to his ancestors nearly 200 years earlier during the time of Cromwell for 'actions taken in the name of the king,' the estate had been mismanaged, ignored really, by the Chancery court for the dozen or so years since its current lord had been carried off to an insane asylum. The Chancery, which had been started by the English Lord Chancellor Neville in 1232, would be replaced after the famine by the Encumbered Estates Acts, due to its inability to handle the massive indebtedness.

For all of those years under its control, no rents were ever collected, which made no difference to the absentee parliament; they routinely accumulated back taxes due from landlords and issued liens against the estates. So when Major Mahon finally arrived at his prized estate, for which he had endured half a dozen years in a legal battle over who had the legal rights to inherit, he found a decrepit, impoverished company whose only source of income had developed a strong mindset that rents were no longer due.

The locals, many of whom had never strayed far beyond the lane upon which they lived, must have thought Mahon was the devil himself and had brought the foul, gut wrenching smells of thousands of rotting acres with him. The people knew what the next few years had in store for them, having endured a crop failure twelve years earlier, and another ten years before that. The landlord, however, hadn't a clue.

The feast of Lughnasadh (loo'na-sah) had been well underway when the landlord arrived, masking the anxiety of the town's elders. They always grew nervous at this time of year. The younger citizens, impervious to the impending disaster, would have been a lively group at these events. The farmers from the surrounding townlands would bring in their own handiwork for display or sale. And, because these events were always well attended, people from as far away

as the coast would arrive with carts of laver and kelp that were used in the making of soap. The bog farmers would bring their best turf for sale while gypsies and traveling musicians would play for a ha-penny. The arrival of the year's first potatoes was great reason to celebrate.

Michael Monaghan, about 19 years old at the time, would have been one of the lads who looked forward to the festivals. He lived on the crest of Sliabh Ban (schleeve bawn) with two brothers and his parents in a townland called Kilmacnaneny. The gradual slopes of the 'white mountain' offered an incredible view of the village, but at the expense of the walk up and down the hill just to fetch the water. Michael's father, John, was a village elder. His family had been on the land since it was first inhabited by the O'Manachain's nearly 1200 years earlier. But to the best of his recollection, it was probably just 'a long time ago.'

On the other end of the small village was the townland of Kildologue, (kil-doll'-ug). Mary Lyons and her younger sister Margaret lived



here. Mary was fourteen or fifteen years old at this time, which seems young, but was the average age at which girls were married. They would have been too young to remember the last failure, so their excitement at the thought of the fall festival would have been undiminished.

The festival would come and go, however, and soon the magnitude of the failure would invade their daily activities. Normally, at this time of year, the tenant farmers would stop working in the landlord's fields and tend to their own conacre of potatoes. A hole would be dug in direct view of their cottage's only window, filled with straw and then layered with potatoes and straw until it was filled, "pratties in the pit" they said. This process would keep the potatoes from rotting for nine, or ten months. But when they finally did start to turn, and they always did,

Michael, Mary, and their like, would survive on the exchange of their pig. The well looked after pig, often sleeping in the house with the family, would be traded for corn meal. "Meal months," they called them. There would be nothing but boiled corn meal and an occasional corn bread loaf for the entire summer.

The arrival of winter, and the darker feast of Samhain (soy-un) "summer's end" and no potatoes meant that the local gombeen man (pawn broker or loan shark) would be running a brisk business. The gombeens were famous for taking advantage of the poor farmer's ignorance when it came to money matters. They could take a valuable asset from the farmers, often a prized coin of the realm, exchange rights to a limited amount of corn meal, and then charge interest over the next several years that was many times the value of the coin.

The spring of 1846 meant that there would be few potato cuttings left for seed. The farmers always set aside enough to plant in the spring, but this year they had little to show for their efforts.

Those that remembered the previous failures were better prepared to endure the hungry winter, so they planted what they had.

The landlord had a spring 'hiring fair' for all of the young girls of the village. Mary would have spent time in the queue waiting her turn to be interviewed by the housekeeper. The new lady of the house didn't much like the sight of the un-shod and often neglectfully dirty Irish peasants, so she ordered a tunnel built that stretched from one side of the back garden to the out buildings, so that while she was entertaining, she wouldn't have to endure the sight of the hired help.

If Mary were lucky, she would land a job in the kitchen, where food was plentiful, and it was not unheard of that small amounts of inventory would go quietly missing. The kitchen was administered by the lady of the manor from a balcony that was accessible only from the second floor. This allowed her to make frequent checks on the cooks and the scullery maids without actually having to go among them.

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 Blackthorn-Scribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



"some very serious social issues."

However, the archbishop said the agenda for that day concerned the improvement of immigration laws.

"We have a mutual

interest in that important work—and I respect the congressman's sincerity and energy in trying to do something about it," he said.

"The Catholic commitment to the dignity of the immigrant comes from exactly the same roots as our commitment to the dignity of the unborn child," since being pro-life also means making laws and social policies that will care for "those people already born that no one else will defend."

"In the United States today, we employ a permanent underclass of human beings who build our roads, pick our fruit, clean our hotel rooms, and landscape our lawns," Archbishop Chaput remarked.

Stating that most immigrants are law-abiding and "simply want a better life for their families," he noted that many have children who are American citizens or have been in America for most of their lives.

These people live in a "legal limbo," he stated.

"They're vital to our economy, but they have few legal protections, and thousands of families have been separated by arrests and deportations," he reported.

"We need to remember that how we treat the weak, the infirm, the elderly, the unborn child and the foreigner reflects on our own humanity. We become what we do, for good or for evil."

Archbishop Chaput insisted that the Catholic Church respects the law, including immigration law, and also respects those who enforce it.

"We do not encourage or help anyone to break the law. We believe Americans have a right to solvent public institutions, secure borders and orderly regulation of immigration."

However, he said Catholics cannot ignore those in need and cannot be silent about laws that "don't work" and also create "impossible contradictions and suffering."

Characterizing the present immigration system as one that adequately serves no one, he urged reform that will address economic and security needs while regularizing "the many decent undocumented immigrants."

"We become what we do, for good or for evil. If we act and speak like bigots, that's what we

become. If we act with justice, intelligence, common sense and mercy, then we become something quite different. We become the people and the nation God intended us to be."

He said he hoped those present at today's forum would all take part in immigration reform.

"The future of our country depends on it," he concluded.

The June 13 forum is part of a national outreach tour called "Familias Unidas." The tour will visit 22 major cities across the United States and is intended to advance a better understanding of the harm caused to individuals and families by the present immigration system.

IT TAKES COURAGE

Poet Unknown

It takes strength to be firm,
It takes courage to be gentle.
It takes strength to conquer,
It takes courage to surrender.
It takes strength to be certain,
It takes courage to have doubt.
It takes strength to fit in,
It takes courage to stand out.
It takes strength to feel a friend's pain,
It takes courage to feel your own pain.
It takes strength to endure abuse,
It takes courage to stop it.
It takes strength to stand alone,
It takes courage to lean on another.
It takes strength to love,
It takes courage to be loved.
It takes strength to survive,
It takes courage to live.

As always, should you have any questions, comments etc? Please feel free to contact me at 312-534-8445 or slabhanoir@yahoo.com

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



A SALUTE to Chicago's law-abiding cop! For years while we carry anti-Iraq-war banners and placards Chicago cops shout obscenities, threaten violence, hand-cuff us, rough us up, incarcerate us, and always no-show in court. Now the criminals stop when we mention his name. He is police Deputy Chief James Keating, a true American patriot.

RULE BY MURDER continues in Occupied Ireland. In Coleraine, Co. Derry, between 40 and 50 Loyalists wielding pick handles, bottles and hammers and abetted by Brit police, recently invaded a nationalist area where Irish flags flew. They removed the flags and randomly attacked; murdering Kevin McDaid (49), and wounding Mrs. McDaid and Damian Fleming (46). Fleming is hospitalized; critical.

"IN THE OLD DAYS, a curfew bell used to ring through Coleraine nightly at 9pm. The bell tolled for the town's Catholics, instructing them to return across the river Bann to their ghetto in Killowen. By the time the practice ended in 1954, the tolling had been relegated from instruction to tradition, but still held a huge symbolic significance. The town council's decision to discontinue the practice was informed by budgetary considerations, rather than by any attempt at conciliation." —Michael Clifford, Sunday Tribune, 31 May '09.

SOME ATTACKERS have been charged with murder but justice is doubtful due to Britain's continuing cover up of all of its main atrocities; Bloody Sunday, the Dublin/Monaghan car bombs, the McGurk's bar bombing, the Omagh massacre, etc.

SECTARIAN GRAFITTI plagues Occupied Irish. Brits slurring Catholics as "Taigs" recently daubed KAT (Kill All Taigs), ATAT (all Taigs Are Targets) and FGAAU (for God and Ulster) on the walls of St. Patrick's College, Bearnageeha, No. Belfast.

COLIN DUFFY. Fr. Des Wilson, the saintly Belfast priest, sends us a detailed pamphlet written by the Duffy family about Colin. "For two decades Colin Duffy has been the target of a campaign of unrelenting persecution and victimization by State forces within the Six Counties. That campaign has encompassed the full spectrum of harassment experienced by Six County nationalists, from petty stop-and-search harassment to arbitrary arrest and detention, from verbal and physical abuse to collusion and the use of murder. This information leaflet sets

out the views of Colin's family and details the British State's campaign of persecution against him." The series of crimes perpetrated by Britain's colonial gov't against Duffy are nightmarishly similar to old Soviet ones recorded by Solzhenitsyn. For copies contact fogartyc@att.netor 312 664 7651.

THIS IS SUCCESS? The Good Friday Agreement's results ought to shame the Irish gov't and any Irish-Americans duped into supporting it. Its results: 1) Articles 2 and 3 of Ireland's Constitution are amended, relinquishing Ireland's claim to its Six Counties;* 2) hundreds of square miles of Ireland's valuable off-shore oil and gas deposits are now British; 3) British perpetrators of the vast majority of murders since 1968 keep their weapons while the Irish are stripped of theirs; 4) the Occupied Irish remain occupied with no chance of justice; 5) after 21 years of covering up for the MI5/FBI/SAS/RUC gang involved in the Omagh atrocity, a corrupt British civil court has now framed Irish republicans for it; ** 6) Irish patriots once interned by the Brits are, like Pol Brennan, *** persecuted even here in the US republic, while the Brit jailers who used to torture them got high-paying jobs as interrogators in our international GULAG; and 7) Occupied Ireland's betrayers (Adams & Co) are now celebrities.

*Never before in history, absent catastrophic defeat, has any nation other than Ireland surrendered 20% of its territory. The IRA had fought the British army to a stand-still.

**David Rupert (a life-long criminal according to a NY State police affidavit) was paid by both MI5 and Chicago's FBI while involved in a rehearsal of Omagh. Immediately after the blast MI5 summoned him to London HQ, ordering him to avoid Ireland's gardai. That MI5/FBI gang are quite the frame-up artists. While testi-lying in Dublin against Michael McKeivitt (Bobby Sands' brother-in-law), Rupert related how FBI agent Buckley once left him to go and investigate Atlanta's Olympics bombing. There Buckley et al framed Security Guard Richard Jewell for it before Buckley rejoined Rupert and MI5 in Ireland. It took years but Jewell finally got justice, was freed and received \$millions in compensation. Earlier, Buckley, for his MI5 handlers, got the news media to blame a triple murder of the Langert family in Winnetka, IL on the IRA (while covering for David Biro whose weapon was FBI agent

Lewis'). Buckley framed me for that atrocity but Biro saved me by blabbing through his cover into Life Without Parole in Pontiac prison. I'd never even heard of anyone involved prior to the news of the atrocity. Soon thereafter, Buckley incarcerated my wife, two others and me on completely different false charges. After fifteen months of pre-trial litigation US Judge George Lindberg vindicated us upon proof that the FBI's evidentiary audiotape was massively "doctored." Were we poor, we'd have gone straight from jail to trial to prison for life. Underpinning all of MI5/FBI's crimes and frame-ups is the false claim of "terrorism." For the undisputed data on terrorism see my terrorismireland.org which shows that of the 173 child-murders in the Anglo-Irish conflict since 1969, Brit forces murdered 153 and Irish forces, 20. Rupert is a protected criminal; protected by the gov'ts for whom he perpetrates additional crimes, mostly in the form of perjury. He is also a four-time bankrupt. Each filing includes clear evidence of felony crime, all unprosecuted. His FBI accomplices got the IRS to settle its \$million claim against Rupert's income (the fruit of an embezzlement) for an unheard-of \$25,000. The MI5/FBI frame-ups known to me are: five unsuccessful (my wife, Frank O'Neill, and Tony McCormick, once each, and me twice) and six successful (Richard Jewell,

Liam Campbell, Seamus Daly, and Colm Murphy, once each, and Michael McKeivitt twice). So far, Jewell (R.I.P.) was their only successful frame-up to be later reversed and compensated. Some complain about US justice, but all the above-named framed by MI5/FBI in US courts were vindicated. Their methods (evidence fabrication, perjury, etc.) that failed in US courts, succeeded in courts on both sides of Ireland's partition. One main difference is that no Federal court would allow anyone with Rupert's record to be a witness.

***Pol Brennan, an Irish patriot and Long Kesh escapee, had led a productive life for 25 years in California, providing for his US-born wife and daughter until seventeen months ago when he was incarcerated in Texas on a mickey mouse charge. They want to deport him and break up his family. Let's all re-phone our two US senators and our Congressman. Brennan's support group asks: "For those who get a favorable response from an elected official's office, please note the representative's name, the staff member's name and phone/fax number and send it to information@polbrennan.com so we can forward them to Brennan's attorney for reference and follow-up! Thank you."

A MEMBER of the RUC investigating team and another Special Branch officer refused to co-operate with an

inquiry concerning the 1998 Omagh bombing, a committee of Westminster MPs has heard from the inquiry chief, Sir Peter Gibson.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See my irishholocaust.org. fogartyc@att.netor 312 664 7651

Free Michael Mulcahy Recital

Trombonist Michael Mulcahy will perform a free recital at Regenstein Recital Hall, 60 Arts Circle Dr., in Evanston, Monday, July 20, at 6pm,

A member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his appointment by Sir George Solti in 1989, Mulcahy has appeared as soloist and teacher in the U.S., Canada, Russia, Japan, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe, including solo appearances with the CSO, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the Hilversum Radio Symphony, and the Melbourne Symphony. An active member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, active member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, he has collaborated with such artists as Pierre Boulez, Joseph Silverstein, Christoph Eschenbach, William Bolcolm, and Yo-Yo Ma. Mulcahy is principal trombone of Chicago's Music of the Baroque and the Grand Teton Music Festival. 847-467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org.

Horoscope



Theresa Castro



ARIES: You are in the middle of the eclipse season that is occurring this month of July. You will not be short of opportunities to make some real changes in your professional life. Your career sector is heavily emphasized.



TAURUS: Your finances are the highlight of this month and quite possibly for some time to come. You and your significant other will need to reorganize your cash flow to accommodate some recent changes.



GEMINI: Venus is giving you a boost this month while the potent eclipses travel in your sectors relating to personal assets. You will need to be vigilant regarding financial matters. This trend will continue for a while.



CANCER: You are in the spotlight this month and perhaps for the year as a powerful set of eclipses travel through your sign. The emphasis is on you and your life and some changes that have recently or soon will occur.



LEO: It is likely that a change has occurred in our very personal life and now you are recovering from it. The worst may be over and now you can start to build a better future. The eclipses of July 2009 can help you do just that.



VIRGO: The eclipses of July 2009 will not hit you as hard as others in the past. This time a gentler and kinder eclipse season will boost your life in the areas of publishing and



communication. You are due for a nice change. LIBRA: You are at a crossroads in your life within your very personal relationships. Do not be afraid to follow your heart even though you'll possibly have to let go of the past. Stagnating with the same old situation will do no one any good.



SCORPIO: You are beginning to enter a whole new world with regard to your personal life and need only to be given the green light to proceed. The eclipses of July 2009 will do just that. Go and follow your dreams.



SAGITTARIUS: Financial affairs will come to the foreground this month as the eclipses activate these areas for you. Do yourself a favor and be extra cautious with your money and spending.



CAPRICORN: The eclipses of July 2009 are focusing right on you. You are making sweeping changes in your very personal life up to and including marriage, divorce. Severing or forming long-standing emotional ties figure prominently.



AQUARIUS: The planetary weather of July 2009 comes at a powerful time for you when a rare triple conjunction of three outer planets are in your sign. You will have the chance of a lifetime to choose a goal and follow it through to the end!



PISCES: July 2009 has special charm for you. You will enjoy this summer despite financial concerns or minor hiccups within the family circle. The simple things in life will carry much more satisfaction for you than grand schemes.

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