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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Irish Neutrality

Ireland is not a member of NATO, nor is membership likely. Yet few things can be calculated to raise blood pressure (and voices) more at the dinner table or over some drinks than the subject of Irish neutrality. In the campaign on the Lisbon referendum just ending, the issue has again loomed large. No one can seriously get worked up over the proposed changes in qualified majority voting, or the alleged threat of legalised abortion, or even over the prospect of a future ukase from Brussels on our company taxation rate. But mention European Defence and the spectres conjured up include conscription into a European army, involvement in foreign wars, and the loss of our international "nice guy" image. In vain have the "Yes" side pointed out that Lisbon threatens none of this. Debates on neutrality generate much heat without corresponding light!

The intellectual justification for Irish neutrality can be summarised briefly. Our history of centuries-long subjugation to English rule involved us, involuntarily, in British military and colonial ventures worldwide. Independence finally gave us an opportunity to gain distance and determine our own policy. Most famously we asserted our neutrality during World War Two (described in Ireland as "The Emergency"). We were fortunate in that we were not attacked or invaded, like the Netherlands or the Baltic States. Ireland's geographical location and island status were vital factors in maintaining our neutrality, as was the fact that we were not in the way of the major belligerents or their war plans.

Whatever moral doubts we had about not fighting the Nazis could be assuaged by the presence, on the allied side, of the equally monstrous tyranny of Stalin's regime. The response of De Valera to Churchill's intemperate

outburst over Irish neutrality in 1945 is recalled with pride (his signing the book of condolences for Hitler's death generates embarrassed silence). Post 1945, staying out of NATO was justified, at first semantically, by the issue of Partition, and later, after Stalin's death, by an expressed wish to stay outside the military alliances of the Cold War. With the collapse of the Soviet Union the case for joining a military alliance further diminished.

To avoid charges of isolationism, Ireland could point instead to a long standing support for collective security; starting with her involvement with the League of Nations and proceeding through to the United Nations. Ireland's high-profile involvement in UN Peacekeeping operations—a source of national pride—could be cited. Irish soldiers have died in such operations from the Congo in 1960 onwards—the first Irish troops to die overseas for Ireland and in the cause of the UN. Ireland was seen as one of a small number of reliable UN members which could always be counted upon to step up to the plate when troops were needed. And being militarily neutral was felt to increase Ireland's acceptability for involvement in sensitive UN peacekeeping operations.

Military neutrality enjoys wide popular support, at least according to opinion polls. This is perfectly understandable. No one likes or wants war. Avoiding the horrors of World War Two was a plus. Our UN peacekeeping record another plus. Not having a colonial past or the moral ambiguities of involvement in questionable military ventures are other positives, qualifying Ireland for a potential "honest broker" role. All in all, neutrality sits well with public self-perception of Ireland as non-aggressive, anti-colonialist, progressive, and supportive of assisting the Third World. Brownie points are awarded (subjectively) for

the moral superiority associated with being neutral.

Neutrality has again become a live issue as the world has proved to be less secure in the post Cold War era. There have been moves within the European Union (which contains three other non-NATO countries) to develop a common defence and security policy. These moves were given impetus and some degree of urgency by the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, where meddling by the EC as it then was, was accompanied by total impotence militarily when faced with the forces unleashed, and where peace was achieved eventually only through US intervention. The high watermark of these moves, as set out in the Lisbon Treaty, proposes mutual assistance (of whatever form) where a member state is attacked, and a vague commitment to improve national military capability.

These moves have galvanised Ireland's neutrality lobby, which sees them, despite Government denials, as the first steps on a slippery slope. This against a background of daily television reports from Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed the Iraq fiasco has focussed attention also on the use of Shannon Airport by the US military as a troop stopover. The government has held firm against demands that

this use be ended as it contravenes "Irish neutrality."

Any attempt at debate on neutrality rapidly turns into a dialogue of the deaf. The suggestion that Ireland should do its bit to cooperate, in the context of membership of a Union which has served Ireland well, has had a mixed reception. Ditto with the argument that, if we are seriously neutral we should develop our defence capabilities like other neutrals (Sweden, Finland, Switzerland) so that we could give our neutrality a practical status. Indeed this argument is neatly sidestepped by a variant of the "nice guy" theme—who would want to attack Ireland, so why spend money on defence?

Ireland's get out of jail card, action by and through the UN, has lost much of its lustre in the face of the manifest failures of the UN in Bosnia and Rwanda in the 1990's. Whether sufficient force could have been marshalled by the UN in time to prevent the genocide in Rwanda is debateable. What is a fact is that the Srebrenica massacre took place within a so-called "UN Safe Haven" which proved anything but. While the UN "is all we have," as a leading Irish left wing politician put it to me, its shortcomings have become more

apparent with the end of the Cold War paralysis.

The fact that a veto-wielding Permanent Member of the Security Council can thwart international action when its interests or those of a client state are at risk has become more evident in recent years. So also the difficulty of organising effective action against a regime practicing internal repression. "Collective action" and sanctions are difficult to enforce, and often the regime remains untouched, while the ordinary populace suffers (consider the sanctions against Iraq after the first Gulf War). We have become sadder, if not wiser, at world events this decade.

The nature of the debate within the EU on defence, and the mixed enthusiasm for involvement in NATO's mission in Afghanistan among those EU states involved, means that it is likely to be some time before EU policy in this area has developed. Ireland's military neutrality, in all practical senses, is not under threat. Only an attack could change this. One is reminded of the story that in 1940 Queen Juliana telephoned Churchill to tell him that Holland (neutral during the First World War) was under attack from Germany and asked what he was going to do about it. What indeed!

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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



Kennedy Death—Irish Loss

The recent death of Senator Ted Kennedy removed from the world scene not only "The Lion of the U.S. Senate," but also a champion of the poor, downtrodden, hungry and forgotten people all over the globe. He was never at a loss for a cause, be it Irish or otherwise, or wherever those unfortunate people have to eke out an existence. Ted Kennedy knew them all, and they looked to him as their champion, and wherever he could, he never failed to act on their behalf.

The Kennedy family were fighting Ireland's cause, even when they were representing the U.S., in Britain and down through the years after, as they grew up and became politicians. It was Ted Kennedy who helped get amnesty visas for Irish undocumented, who were roaming the streets of our country back in the 80's. And it was the same Teddy who brought George Mitchell to the attention of President Bill Clinton and Hillary. Mitchell spearheaded a Good Friday settlement getting Ian Paisley and his crew, with Mitchell and Adams, to hammer out that settlement to

at least bring peace to the region, if nothing else. Of course, much more remains to be done if a true freedom and reunification is to be achieved for Ireland.

In 1980, when Teddy decided to run for the Presidency, we had the honor of being able to campaign for him. We were detailed on one occasion to escort Ethel Kennedy (Bobby's wife) to lecture at some south side Catholic schools, including St. Rita's, located at 79th and S. Western Ave. in those days, and at Brother Edmund Rice School, at 100th and S. Pulaski Ave. Mrs. Kennedy did a beautiful job that day and answered the students just like a real politician. At St. Rita's the clerk who welcomed us at the front door had Irish soda bread and a cup of tea ready for Mrs. Kennedy, and she really appreciated it. At Br. Rice, a Bro. Bill Hennessy greeted us at the door and was also welcome ready. Here again Mrs. Kennedy had to answer many questions, but came through in fine style.

We have forgotten the name of the lady clerk at St. Rita's that day, but we think it was Mrs. Murphy. If she ever gets to read this column, I hope she forgives us for not remembering. But it's such a long time ago, and at 89 years old, perhaps I can be forgiven this time. We received many thanks from the Kennedy family and shall always feel so lucky to have been

given that assignment that memorable day. Senator Ted Kennedy sent us a nice letter of congratulations on our 85th birthday, for which we were very honored.

Senator Ted Kennedy's burial brings the famous three brother together again on the sloping site in Arlington National Cemetery, as the Eternal Flame burns for the great President John F. Kennedy. In his eulogy President Barack Obama said, "We do not weep for him today because of the prestige attached to his

Quinn Fundraiser Very Deserving Cause

The Maggie Quinn Fundraiser planned for Chicago Gaelic Park on Sunday, November 8, is one of the most deserving benefits Chicago Irish Americans have been asked to support in a long time. She is the wife of Brian, and they have three children. But, with the well known Mike Kenny and Con Toomey heading the committee, it promises to be one of the most successful.



Emily, Bridie, Maggie, Brian, and Jack Quinn

name or his office, We weep because we loved this kind of tender hero who persevered through pain and tragedy, not for the sake of ambition or vanity, not for wealth or power, but only for the people of the country he loved." And if we may add, another country that he loved, Ireland.

Although the other brother Joe is not with them at Arlington, he died a hero's death as an air pilot in World War II. He is hopefully sitting with them at the right hand of God, discussing what might have been had they all been allowed to live. "But the way of God is wiser than the things a man may do." Let us pray for the repose of their souls, and forever feel proud to have known them—four magnificent Irish Americans. Ar dheis De go raibhn ainm.

Maggie Quinn has developed multiple medical and surgical problems over the past eight years, and has now developed a serious infection which damaged the heart and bone of the spine. This problem alone has required surgeries on her spine, which required removal of seven vertebrae, bone grafts, and extensive fusion. She has had countless hospitalizations, blood transfusions, medical procedures and physical therapy. She continues to require daily IV and oral antibiotics, regular medical care, and more physical therapy. Her future, regarding medical care, remains uncertain at this time, and also whether or not she can ever be insured again.

Maggie and Brian have three children, Emily-16, Bridie-14, and Jack-8

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years. Maggie is a nurse in Oak Lawn and Brian is an Engineer with Local 399. Needless to add, any assistance that you can offer will be greatly appreciated. For more information, call Stephen, 708-349-8198, or Kathleen Delaney, 708-226-1163, or Chairman Mike Kenny, 708-594-2765.

**Thank You
Mike Kenny
and Harry Costello**

A little more than an hour after live coverage of the All-Ireland Hurling Final ended at Chicago Gaelic Park on Sunday last, the renowned Mike Kenny, great Kerry gael, appeared at our door in Merrillville, IN, almost fifty miles away, bearing a disc of the thrilling game that he and Harry Costello (Man for All Seasons) had made for us to see. He was a sight for sore eyes, especially to me, who had just come home from the hospital after surgery on the leg by the great Dr. Nicholas C. Retson, M.D. Thanks to the good doctor and God I am doing fine, and hope to be up and around in a few days. Not bad for an old geezer.

After a brief chat with the well known Kerryman, we watched the battle for supremacy at Croke Park in Dublin between old rivals. It was slippery, but both teams served up a terrific game, with the results in doubt until the final minutes.

Tipperary dominated going into the final quarter, but were never able to mount a convincing lead because of a tremendous half back line in which Tommy Walsh, man of the match, dominated. With less than seven minutes to go, the Tipp lads led by a few points, but then confusion reigned as one of the their players was sent off for hitting his opponent with the hurley. Thank God it was not serious, but nevertheless in my opinion, it doomed Tipperary, who panicked and conceded a penalty, which "King" Henry Sheflin, the stylist scored a goal. A few minutes later, Kilkenny brought in their regular full forward, who had been dropped from the start, and Martin Comford did what he always does, scored another goal for the champions, which proved to be decisive with them winning their fourth crown in four years, Kilkenny 2-22, Tipperary 0-23.

In another great minor game, a strong Galway team held off Kilkenny to win another thriller 2-15 to 2-11. Our congratulations to the four teams and all concerned. And my sincere thanks to good friends like Mike Kenny who delivered the disk and stayed to chat. It was a wonderful treat and helped to spark up my spirits. Also thanks to Harry Costello, who did the necessary at Gaelic Park. Gur a mile mait agat, a cairdre.

CIIS Fall Meetings for Seniors

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support has kicked off their fall schedule of meetings for seniors at Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center. The group meets two Thursdays per month in each location from 10am-noon and promises an exciting line up of guest speakers, live music, and bus trips.

Join in a fun morning with good

company. Food and refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

10/1 (N.side) – An IDA (Industrial Development Agency of Ireland) rep will offer fascinating insights into the Irish economy and recent developments in Ireland.

10/8 (S.side) – CVS pharmacists will host a 'pack your bags' event to discuss your medications. Consulta-

tions are one on one.

10/15 (N.side) – Celtic Spirituality workshop by Fr Michael Leonard

10/22 (S.side) – Meditation workshop with life coach Tom Hilgardner

11/5 (N.side) – Armchair Yoga with Nancy Bernard

11/12 (S.side) – Elder law presentation by attorney Joe Monahan

11/19 (N.side) – Social hour brunch with live traditional music.

11/26 (S.side) – (Thanksgiving

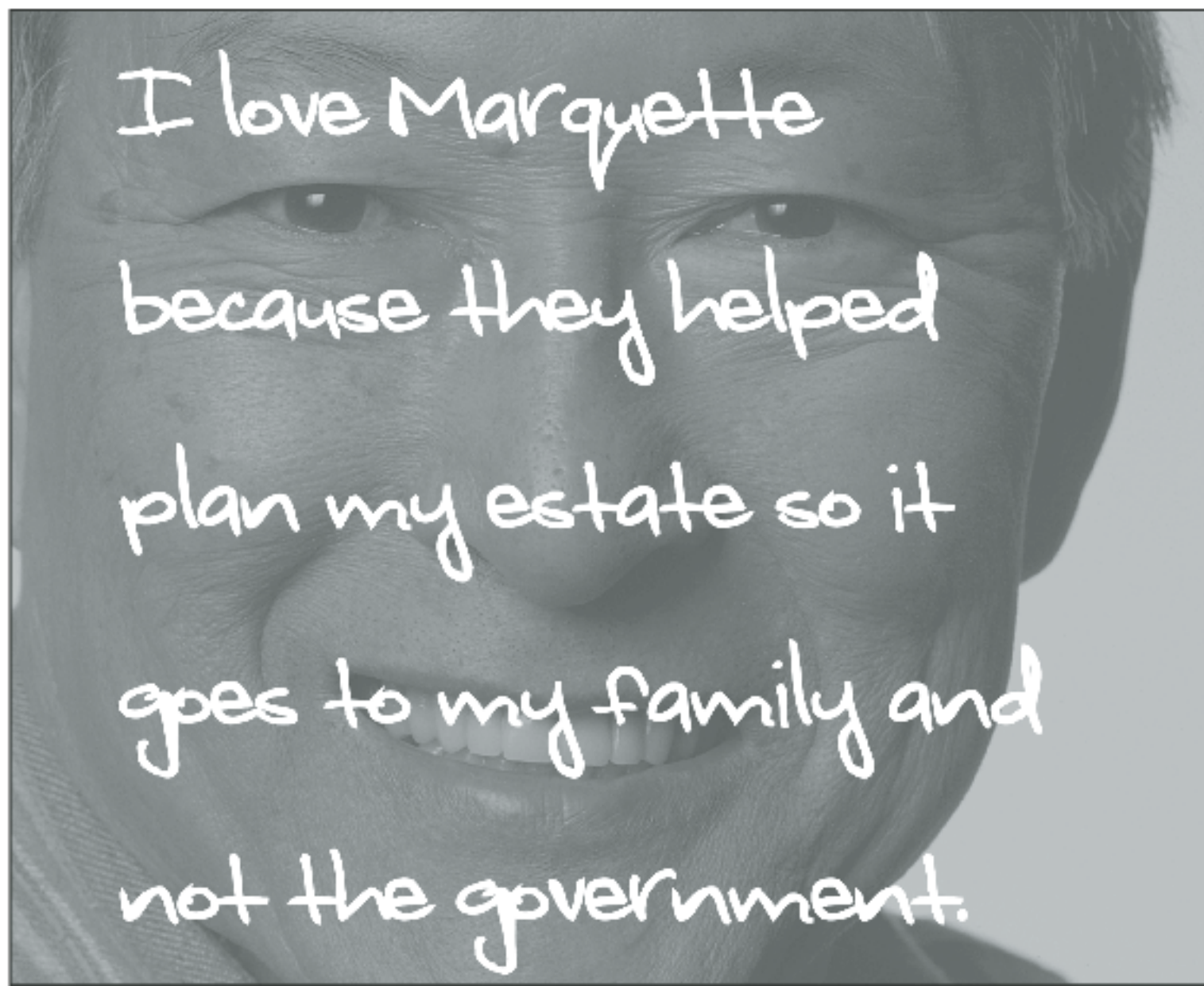
no meeting)

12/3 (N.side) – Book of Kells Presentation by Frank Crowley

12/17 (N. and S.side) – Traditional Christmas pot luck party with live music. This event will be held in Gaelic Park. A bus will bring north sides directly from the IAHC.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Children That We Could Do Without—And Some That We Will Miss

I have a question for each and every one of you this morning. It concerns children.

What exactly are they for? Can someone just explain that to me? Please?

What are they good for except to annoy you into Hades, where you long to be after a minute with them?

Blissfully, I don't have any of the little rug rats, but when I try to enjoy a movie or a meal or even just a walk in the park the mites are everywhere. It is almost like an infestation.

Forget about swine flu, forget

about eradicating cancer, let's start with spoiled and pampered little brats!

They are generally assisted in their anti-social behaviour of screaming, shouting and being as a rule obnoxious, by adults who should have been sterilised at birth.

Because they as sure as hell shouldn't have been allowed to breed.

We have our own spoiled brats here in Ireland: one is called John O'Donoghue. He has told us to keep our selves

out of his business for the last 50 days now because we taxpayers want to know why he was allowed to spend so much of our money.

Yesterday, like the spoiled and pampered brat that he is, he gave the most mealy-mouthed explanation that I have ever heard in my life.

Let's leave out the documenting of his freeload. If you haven't read of them before this then you don't read the papers and you definitely don't read my columns.

For myself, if I have to go through the details again or I'll start to scream. And maybe I won't ever stop until they cart me off and triple my medication.

Yet even this morning, after his "explanation" as to how he ripped the country off, we find that he has been hiring a political advisor at €90,000 a year.

Look, I'm at the stage now where I don't care who prints me and who doesn't print me.

Some things, like O'Donoghue's freeload are just fundamentally wrong.

And they need to be talked about.

On another note, I have to

commiserate with the families of the three great characters who died in the last 48 hours.

I am as in much shock as everyone else is here at the death of the Irish 27-year-old super middleweight boxer Darren Sutherland, who won the bronze medal at the Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

Last night Dominic O'Rourke of the Amateur Boxing Association said: "I'm trying to get my head around it. I'm totally shocked, it is a total tragedy and I feel for his family. It is a tremendous loss. Words cannot describe it, it is hard to believe."

Needless to say, the whole country is as stunned as Mr. O'Rourke.

Boxing pundit Mick Dowling said: "He was the kind of fighter that every coach in the world wanted to see walking into their gym. He was an absolute natural and had the world at his feet."

Patrick Swayze also left this dimension yesterday and he was always one guy for whom I had a soft spot. I guess he'll be remembered for Dirty Dancing and Ghost, but for me it will always be as the anarchic surf

riding bank robber in Point Break.

His fight against what his body was doing to him was nothing less than heroic.

I don't think that even he would have claimed that he was a great actor, but his stint as the sleazy paedophile in Donnie Darko will probably be remembered, if only for its sliminess, long after everything else that he did is forgotten.

And last, but by no means least, is the first celebrity chef, Keith Floyd.

He was a great friend to Ireland, fitted in perfectly and having met him on more than one occasion, I can assure you that his wit and humour will be missed by many people here.

Of course there's always one more guy to give us his "wit"—a lot of people here think that if you replaced the "w" with a "t" you would have more of a measure of him.

I am, of course, thinking of Bono's cringe-making speech a couple of days ago in Chicago when he said that he was "an Irish man in Chicago."

Needless to say, he couldn't leave it there, but had to waffle on about the Irish being the wind and the rain and the makers of the landscape.

You may have liked it over there. All that we did on this side of the pond was cringe.


And I still don't like children.

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NACB 50th Anniversary Celebration 11-13

The Chicago Central Division of the North American County Board is hosting a Gala Banquet honoring the 50th Anniversary of the North American County Board, the 100th Anniversary of Gaelic Games in Chicago and the 125th Anniversary of the 125th Anniversary of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The big event is being held on Friday, November 13, 2009, at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. The cost is \$60 per person which includes a gourmet dinner, open bar and entertainment.

This special function, which is being staged in conjunction with the 2009 NACB convention in Chicago, is expected to attract a capacity attendance. Those delegates and others planning to attend should contact Lizzie O'Connor via e-mail at eirecamogie13@yahoo.com or (773) 429-1538.

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An initiative of the Western Development Commission

Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

(Fish and) Chips Ahoy!

There are two life long searches that many an-Irishman walk until they find their version of the greatest: the perfect pour of Guinness and the best fish and chip (french fry) shop around. My best pint was across the Liffey in Dublin at the Croppy Acre pub. And for the fish and chip shop, or 'chipper', I would say Beshoff's in Howth, just north of Dublin. But that's just my humble opinion. Talk to anyone in Ireland about their favorite chipper and their eyes glaze over, a small smile forms, and they

shout the name over their shoulder as they walk in the direction of their yearning. For some the opinion forms from a particularly long day and they stumble on a shop serving that double-breaded manna. For others, it's after an evening at the pub and the malt vinegar-salt fried food smell turns to a craving that turns into a life long devotion to the corner shop. After all the favoritism and competition, it's still about a good piece of fish, crispy fried potatoes, and the right touch with seasonings and cooking. But before we go to the kitchen, let's talk history.

Deep frying fish in fat can be traced back several centuries where the food was cooked in a large pot or cauldron of fat. In the middle of the 1800's when fish trawling, or fishing by dragging nets in the sea, became more popular for

commercial fishing, an idea of having fried fish and potato 'take-away' started in London. Jewish shopowner Joseph Malin created the first fish and chips shop and soon the idea was exported to Ireland. In 1913, Leo Burdock set up permanent residence at a location in Dublin called Christchurch and has been pulling in loyal customers ever since. Several years later in the early-mid 1900's, large Italian groups settled in Ireland and began to set up their fish and chip

counter will (sometimes) patiently ask and then madly shake and pour the condiments onto the fresh fried fish, vinegar slowly dripping from the bottom of the neatly wrapped paper cone. It is truly glorious.

When I think about the Irish fish and chips and how indigenous that combo seems, I go back to a movie scene that, in and of itself may be simple and obvious, but in the grand scheme tells a larger story. In "Angela's Ashes", a teenage McCourt

Condiments are usually salt and vinegar, but tartar sauce and curry ketchup can also be found. If chips are not wanted, a request for a bag of crisps (American potato chips) can be made. The order is then wrapped in white or brown paper and packed away for the trip home, since few chippers have seating.

Take-away from the Irish fish and chip shop is done out of convenience after a day at work. Or as a quick stop on the way out to a picnic. Or still, after a night with friends at the pub. Everyone has their favorites that beckon them to walk a mile out of the way, just for the preferred taste, crispy fish crust, or perfect chips. Anyone you ask in Ireland will be happy to direct you to their favorite place and will walk along with you to the shop, just so you get there.

I have found my favorite fish and chips here in the States and will drive 20 miles to have it every couple months. When I can't get out and I really crave a good fried fish, I make a batter I have from Ballymaloe and hand cut the potatoes. It takes practice to get the oil right, but it is so good.

Fish and Chips

8 pieces of thick whitefish (cod is the best)

1-1/2 c. self rising flour

1/4 t. salt

1 c. bottle beer (I use Harp lager)

1/2 c. cold water

8-10 Idaho potatoes, Unpeeled and scrubbed.

1 T. each, salt and pepper

Sieve dry ingredients into large bowl. Whisk in wet ingredients. Let stand for 10 minutes. Heat large, heavy pot for oil, or use deep fryer. Let heat to 350°F. Turn on oven to warm, 300°F.

Cut potatoes into desired size pieces (the larger they are, the longer it will take to cook). Put into ready oil (the chip will float if the oil is hot enough). Cook until golden. Remove and sprinkle with salt and pepper mix. Place in warm oven, uncovered. Make plenty. These are good, and the oil tastes a bit like fish if you try to make more fries after the fish.

Rinse and pat dry the fish. Put 1/2 c. self rising flour on a plate and dredge the fish through lightly. Dip into batter, letting excess drip off for a second. Fry, one at a time until golden and floating. Remove and put in oven.

Experiment with the consistency of the batter or temperature of the oil if the fish gets too dark, too light or the batter is too crispy or thick. It is a great starting point, but it can be adjusted to your liking

Serve with malt vinegar, tartar sauce, lemon and enjoy!



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shops with names like Borzai's, Marcarri's, and Cafolla's. As the original shops prospered, the owners would send for family members to run the shops and the owners would look to expand to new locations. The new immigrants and their entrepreneurial ways did not deter the locals from setting up their shops. Each shop would try to make their fish and chips the best and the most talked about. Changing the type of oil (using highly flavored animal fat), using 'fresh from the dock' fish, adding malt vinegar to the still sizzling fried food, or any other gimmick was an attempt to pull in customers. Eventually, these novelties became standard and today if the customer does not express their desire for salt and vinegar, the person at the

is in a relative's house and someone comes home after work with an old fish-and-chip-grease-stained newspaper. McCourt was hungry and could smell the fish on the paper. He grabs it, and though the only thing he could find in the paper was newsprint and old grease, he desperately licked at it, trying to get some nourishment out of it. That, to me, tells volumes of what the chipper meant: wrapped in old newspaper was Ireland's sustenance, fish and potato.

Today, a local chipper is about feeding and sustaining a loyal (fast food) following. They will use a variety of fish to please the customer. Cod, haddock, plaice, lemon sole, and monkfish are on many menus, along with the occasional hamburger.

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President's Message October 2009

Céad Mile Fáilte. Welcome to our first edition of the Heritage Line in the Irish American News. Our organization is extremely excited about this opportunity to communicate to our membership and the Irish community at large through this publication. The Irish American News is a tremendous resource to the Irish community in Chicago and the primary source for keeping up with all things Irish in our area. The Irish American Heritage Center prides itself on being the premier location for Irish programming in Chicago. We believe this partnership will create even more opportunities for both organizations to serve our constituencies better.

There is an exciting buzz around our Center these days. We have been working on a number of new initiatives and improvements that will ensure the success of our organization for years to come. In addition to this partnership, we have any number of things to be proud of around the Center these days:

- Our new Grand Ballroom will open on October 4—Utilizing a generous donation from the Irish government, we have transformed

the old Social Center (a former gymnasium) to a state-of-the-art, spacious and beautiful ballroom. The job was completed recently through the efforts of our volunteers and contractors and the results are stunning.

- iBAM Festival October 31 and November 1- the first annual Irish Books, Arts, and Music Festival will be held at the Center at the end of this month. There is a plethora of information about the event in this edition. It promises to be an amazing weekend and the positive vibe and build-up for this idea keeps growing and growing.

- Improved Programming—we have reconstituted our Cultural Committee and are embarking on a number of new cultural programs and have a stronger than ever commitment to promoting our heritage through music, dance, arts and literature. More and more programs like iBAM (both large and small) are on the horizon and through this publication you will be able to keep up to date on upcoming programs,

concerts, events and exhibits.

- Our new Executive Director -The Irish American Heritage Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Tim McDonnell as Executive Director. Tim is a great



addition to the Center. His professional reputation is outstanding and his entire career to this point has been one of over-achievement and success after success. He has an enormous appetite for all things Irish and has fully embraced everything the Center represents. In his short time with the organization, it is already apparent that Tim will give his all to ensure the Center realizes its full potential.

Our Board of Directors is very pleased with the progress the organization is making in all of these areas. As a new chapter unfolds in the history of the Center, our Board is committed to ensuring the long-term success of this organization and strengthening our position in the Irish community. Our goals are to establish a home for the Irish community and to become

the venue of choice for all Irish programming in Chicago while producing our own award winning programs that speak to all audiences and generations of Irish and Irish Americans.

We believe our organization is uniquely positioned to achieve these goals and to further the dream of the Center that was created, fostered, and passed down by our founding generation. While this group did the yeoman's work of creating our beautiful Center, there are still more opportunities for everyone to embrace and get involved with the Center. We can't achieve our goals without your support. The Irish American Heritage Center belongs to everyone and we look forward to working with the next generations and welcoming everyone home.

If you haven't been to the Center lately, please come out and visit soon. We are always ready and willing to welcome new members and volunteers. We have a lot of exciting things going on!

Robert McNamara
President, Board of Directors,
Irish American Heritage Center

Executive Director's Message

Working at the Heritage Center across the past six months has been a very special experience for me. I showed up expecting a temporary lay-over in advance of graduate school and have emerged instead with a tremendous source of passion in my life. I find myself addicted to the people of the Center and to what they represent in Irish America.

There is so much substance in this institution. I find myself in awe of the old-timers who prove day-after-day their commitment to a vision of their 'fifth province' here in Chicago and the devoted volunteers of all ages that always show up in support of IAHC events/activities. And it is quite easy to represent an organization with so many cultural assets

that enrich the Chicago Irish community—the library, museum, art gallery, archives, and children's school—as well as a never-ceasing schedule of concerts, plays, festivals, presentations

and countless other activities that promote a true sense of Irishness for all those in this area who wish to preserve, participate in, and educate themselves on that part of their own identity.

Twenty five years of hard-work later, Irish Chicago is fortunate to boast such a proud bastion—yet the Center has only begun to explore its true potential and to extend its reach across the diaspora.

Stay tuned for much more detail as we continue writing plans that will create an even more dynamic exchange for our members here at the Center. In the meantime, we ask you to stand together Chicago Irish—and celebrate with us the finest traditions of Erin. We are always proud and pleased to welcome you to our home here on Knox Avenue, where we cherish a particular flavor for the authentic in presenting a complete cultural experience that is difficult to find under one roof elsewhere in the Irish world. For those of you

who stop by occasionally, we challenge you to explore a bit deeper and discover more about the soul of the most spirited culture on earth. For those of you who have yet to feel the warmth of the Center and its people, we ask you to come but once—for an adventure that will return you to the songs and stories of days gone by and the Irishness that is borne into each of you.

A few quick reminders on what is available and where to get started:

Irish Library, museum, and archives—for those who would like to learn more about Irish culture, history, politics, music, literature, and sport. Come spend an hour on the second floor!

Traditional Irish pub—open on Fridays and Saturdays, with traditional fare, Irish servers and charm, and live music. Come have a meal with the family!

Academies for the Kids—the Center is home to the Trinity Irish Dancers and other dance schools, the Academy of Irish Music, the City of

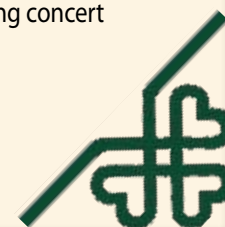
Chicago Bagpipe Band Academy, and our Children's School for Irish Studies. Get the next generation involved and excited about their heritage!

Spaces for weddings, as well as other family and social gatherings—beautiful but affordable spaces to rent for all of your most meaningful gatherings. We would love to play host to you and yours!

Special Events—come be a part of our annual events, such as our iBAM Irish cultural expo in October, Christmas Bazaar in December, St. Patrick's Day Festival in March, Earth Day Festival in April, and Irish Fest in July.

Concert hall—for Irish rock and traditional performers who are proud of their trade and can draw a crowd... and for lovers of Irish music or just good sounds. Keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming concert schedule!

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell
Executive
Director





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iBAM! Chicago Celebration at the Irish American Heritage Center Over the Celtic New Year!

Book, Art, and Music Celebration October 31, November 1, 2009

Malachy McCourt, Anna McPartlin, Derek Landy, Eugene McEldowney, Philip Gray, Michael Patrick MacDonald and Black 47 are just some of the names appearing at iBAM!, an Irish book, art and music celebration held over Halloween weekend; October 30, 31 and November 1 at the Center. This cultural celebration is a fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center and its Library.

Sponsored by Irish American News, the Irish American Heritage Center and theirishbookclub.com, iBAM! features book signings, panel discussions, art exhibits, lectures, theatre performances, live music and Irish dance, by Irish and Irish-themed authors, artists and musicians. Utilizing every floor of the IAHC, both days feature a dazzling array of cultural talent for children and adults alike. Highlights include a multi-media presentation on the life of Bram Stoker, the Irish writer who gave the world Dracula; and specifically for children, a Halloween show on Saturday afternoon, a costume parade and face painting.

iBAM! opens at 11am each day and runs until 9pm. The cost to attend iBAM! is \$5. Children 12 and under are free.

On Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1, the festivities kick-off at 11am with a full Irish Breakfast, catered by

Winston's. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and reservations are required.

Food and drink will be served all day and a relaxing place to enjoy a cup of tea or a refreshing pint while reading your new purchases will be available.



Malachy McCourt

iBAM! kicks off the weekend with a special, black-tie optional, dinner in the IAHC's beautiful new Grand Ballroom on Friday, October 30. The entertainment is headed by the inimitable Malachy McCourt and includes live music and the first ever iBAM! Cultural Arts award ceremony where five individuals will be honored for their outstanding contributions to Irish American culture. The dinner is from 6-11pm and the cost is \$100. Reservations are required.

The current line-up includes Philip Gray, Clodagh McKenna, Malachy and Alphie McCourt, author and playwright Larry Kirwan (also of Black 47), Black 47, the

Kreelers, Bohola, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Aislinn Gagliardi, Reilly, The Academy of Irish Music, Mary Pat Kelly, Sharon Bossard, John Throne, Kevin O'Donnell, Heather Vallance, Bohola, Cathal Liam, James Swan, Claude Costecalde, Anne Hasset, John O'Brien, Patricia Falvey, Kathleen Flanagan, Sandra McCone, Ken Doyle, The Jeff Ward Band, Arthur Cola, Michael Carroll, Joe Cullen, The Dooley Brothers, Paddy Homan, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, Vicki Quade, Tim McMahon, Patti Lacy, Catherine Chambers, Jack O'Keefe, Elizabeth Miller, Anna McPartlin, the Prop Thtr, Joe Cullen, The Dooley Brothers, Paddy Homan, Baal Tinne, Dyed in the Wool, The Murphy Roche Music Club, Derek Landy, Eugene McEldowney, Jack

celebrate All Hallows Eve with New York City Irish rock band Black 47 in concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for members of the IAHC).

Sunday evening, Maura O'Connell, Grammy-nominated, Irish born folk singer, will perform at 7pm, tickets are \$20 (\$15 for members of the IAHC).

Special offer for iBAM! attendees: for every \$50 in books or art purchased,

attendees will receive a free ticket to one of the concerts of their choice, while supplies last!

For more information or to purchase tickets to select performances, visit www.irish-american.org or www.ibamchicago.com.

All concert tickets can be purchased at the door, by calling 282-7035 ext 10 or visiting www.ibamchicago.com.



Grand Ballroom Opening Is A Celebration Of Irish Heritage

On October 4, 2009 the IAHC is pleased to present the Grand Opening of its newly renovated Grand Ballroom, formerly called the Social Center. The day is a celebration of Irish Heritage through mass, music and dance and celebrates the accomplishments of the Irish of Chicago and all over the world. It also recognizes a new chapter in the story of the Irish American Heritage Center.

The celebration runs from 1:30-9pm and includes a mass, flag raising ceremony, a

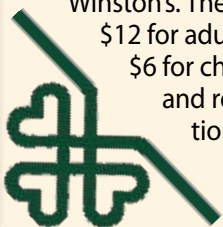
champagne toast and entertainment with Paddy Homan and the Given Note, Joe McShane, Ted Healy and Johnny Gleeson, Joe Cullen, Dyed in the Wool, Seamus O'Kane, the Murphy Roche Music School, John Williams the Irish Heritage Singers, Kathy Cowan, the Irish Music School of Chicago, Jimmy Moore, Maurice Lennon and more! There will be light food provided and a cash bar will be available.

The event is free and open to the public.



Maura O'Connell

O'Keefe, Tim McMahon, Catherine Chambers, Joan Naper, Patrick Monaghan, Elizabeth Miller, Vicki Quade, Mike Houlihan, Michael Carroll and more! iBAM! Features Music Concerts On Saturday, October 31,





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Tim McDonnell Named Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Center

WE NEED YOU!

The Irish American Heritage Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Tim McDonnell as Executive

Director. here, he has developed partnerships with organizations like the Chicago Fire, Costco and Mutt Lynch Winery and

has brought the Center events like the Dublin City Ramblers in concert and Yelp.com's annual Summerfest. Tim is a first generation Irish American with a great passion for Irish history, music and traditions. During his time at the Center, he has also developed a great passion for the "old-timers" here who have put their heart and soul into working on the facility to make it their Irish home in Chicago and for the next generation of volunteers who carry the banner for their heritage.

Previously, McDonnell held various sales, marketing and consulting roles at The Corporate Executive Board and The Nielsen Company. McDonnell holds a BA in English from Wake Forest University and lives in the Chicago Loop with his wife, Amber. In accepting the position at the Heritage Center, he has decided to forgo his intentions of pursuing a master's degree and PhD in Irish Studies at NYU this Fall, where he had been awarded a graduate fellowship.

McDonnell's diverse background and experience in Marketing, Development, Consulting, Sales and Irish Studies make him an asset to the Executive Director position.

Bob McNamara, President of the Center welcomes the appointment of McDonnell as Executive Director. "Tim McDonnell is a tremendous asset for our Center. On top of his experience and an amazing professional reputation, he brings an unquestionable passion for all things Irish along with a boundless energy for everything the Center represents. In his short time with the Center, Tim has already made a positive impression across various segments of the Irish community. Our Board of Directors is excited to welcome Tim and work with him in leading our Center to the forefront of the Irish community in Chicago and beyond."

In order to continue cultural programming at the IAHC, the Cultural Committee seeks equipment donations. Some of the items that are needed are:

- ◆ A laptop that runs PowerPoint presentations
- ◆ A large portable screen, approximately 7 ft x 6 ft
- ◆ A portable amplifier and speaker system
- ◆ An electric screen and LCD projector
- ◆ A lectern with built-in sound system

Equipment should be new or in good working condition. Monetary donations towards the purchase of each item are also gratefully accepted.

A plaque will be displayed either on or adjacent to, the equipment with donor's name on it and donors will be recognized in the next edition of the Heritage Line.

Items donated to the IAHC may be eligible for a tax deduction. For more information contact Frank Gleeson through the office at 773-282-7035.



Director.

Tim joined the IAHC in March to support the Center through development and marketing work. During his time

has brought the Center events like the Dublin City Ramblers in concert and Yelp.com's annual Summerfest.

Tim is a first genera-

Samhain/Day of the Dead: Artists' Ofrendas

The IAHC and Windy City Arts present the annual art exhibit of the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (sow-en) and the Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations this fall in its Art Gallery. Artist Frank Crowley is the curator of the exhibit.

Samhain/Day of the Dead: Artists' Ofrendas is a group show that celebrates the festivals of the Celtic Samhain and

Mexican Day of the Dead. Both festivals participate in the birth, death and resurrection cycle.

Samhain was a Celtic festival in northern Europe that took place after the harvest and the beginning of winter. It has developed into what we call today Halloween.

During the Day of the Dead festival, families make visits to cemeteries. They bring food, flowers, pictures and candles for an ofrenda, or offering, to celebrate

the memory of the deceased. These ofrendas are also set up in their homes.

This year, artists will create an ofrenda, in the style of the Mexican Day of the Dead, dedicated to a favorite Irish author, visual artist or musician. The IAHC ofrendas will concentrate on the artistic work of the selected Irish artist.

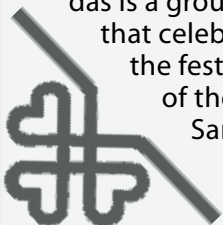
Samhain/Day of the Dead: Artists' Ofrendas runs from Friday, October 23 through Sunday, November 15. Gallery

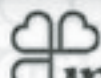


hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm or by appointment. There

will be an opening reception from 6 to 9pm on October 23.

Artists participating in the iBAM Festival October 31 and November 1 will also participate in the exhibit. Special gallery hours during iBAM! are Saturday, October 31 from 1pm-8pm and Sunday, November 1 from 1 to 6pm. During iBAM, there is a \$5 entrance fee. All other gallery dates and hours are free.





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John Staunton and Eddie Byrne in October



Irish country music sensation John Staunton, from Westport, Co. Mayo, with Eddie Byrne will perform at the Center in October.

On Saturday, Oct. 17,

they will perform in the Fifth Province.

Admission is \$10. Groups welcome.

For more info, call Bernie Heveran at 773-501-9457.



Shapeshifters Theatre Presents John B. Keane's "Moll" This Fall

Shapeshifters Theatre opens its 2009-1010 theatre season with a production of Moll, a comedy by Irish author John B. Keane. Robert Ayres directs.

Moll is perhaps the funniest of Keane's plays and is a hilarious look at life in a parochial house in 1960's rural Ireland. Keane lampoons the natural perceptions of parish order and leaves us in no doubt as to who is running the local affairs.

The story follows the fortunes of Moll, a dominant priest's housekeeper who is a dedicated but somewhat intimidating woman. Moll has an agenda

of her own and wastes no time in putting her plans into action as she attempts to enhance both her own and parish finances.

Moll opens on October 2 and runs through October 25. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays, 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for IAHC members and \$15 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling the Center office.

Shapeshifters, the Irish American Heritage Center's resident theatre company since 1987, continues to build on the tradition of Irish Theatre and expanding the presentation of established and new works.

Music at The Fifth Province Lounge

You'll find the very best in live Irish music every Friday and Saturday night at the Fifth Province at the Irish American Heri-

tage Center. All shows begin after 9pm. There's no cover charge and plenty of free parking. Pub food is available.



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Fifth Province**
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UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT *All shows start after 9 p.m.*

October 2009

FRI, 10/2 *Celtic Dancing with Eastern Chicago*

SAT, 10/3 *Deceit*

FRI, 10/9 *Mar Sweeney Band*

SAT, 10/10 *Deceit*

FRI, 10/16 *Joe Cohen and Kathleen Keane*

SAT, 10/17 *John Staunton, Ireland's #1 cover*

FRI, 10/23 *Berry Fagan's Band*

SAT, 10/24 *The Doolan Brothers*

FRI, 10/30 *Seamus O'Hara and Jimmy Moore*

SAT, 10/31 *Halloween Party: Dressed to the Nines!*

Drop by for the top live Irish music and enjoy the night. Pub food is served from 4pm-10pm.

**No Cover
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Frank Gleeson	Peggy Murphy
Mary Griffin	Sheila Murphy
Paddy Homan	Kathy Werning
Tim McDonnell	

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make the Center happen. To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit www.irish-american.org, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

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THE HERITAGE LINE





Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



It must be finely honed. The Irish and The Jews joins the best in the business like The Brock-McGuire Band, Liz Carroll and Munnelly in being completely and truly trad, and completely new at the same time. Sound impossible? Of course, it does! This can't be written about. It must be heard. So, go get it! This album will be around forever, as it should be. It is fun, gorgeous and moving—all at the same time.

Wow! Mick! You ARE the boyo!

Rating: Four Harps for this sure to be award winner.

Check elsewhere in the paper for the following, Read, get up

and be there! Support the music, or we won't have it! Magical stuff coming in:

There are two eagerly awaited Irish music concerts approaching. The aficionado should mark the dates, well!

First up are Matt and Shannon Heaton returning to Space, the wonderful new concert venue in Evanston. The talented duo from Boston will be joined in a special appearance by Chicago's Liz Carroll and fellow Bostonian, Lissa Schneckenburger. Liz and Lissa will be playing fiddle, of course, with Shannon on flute and vocals, all supported by Matt on guitar and vocals. A great night. Wednesday evening, October 14, at 8pm. The venue is at 1245 Chicago Ave. in Evanston. Phone

number is (847) 492-8860. Ticket pricing is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$22.50 for special table seating. Big night for the trad fan. The website is www.

Irish music. The legendary, Paul Brock and Manus McGuire on button box and fiddle, respectively, are joined by All-Ireland fiddle and concertina player, Niamh Ni Charra, and the best all-round pianist in Ireland, Denis Carey. The essence of the McNally's Irish Arts Series is going to be close up, intimate experiences in the very best of Irish culture—and no one better to begin it all than Brock-McGuire. Appearing as the first act in the McNally's Irish Arts Series, the group will be in the private second floor venue, at 8pm. Tickets will be \$20 and available at the door for open seating. Seats will be available only for the first 100 guests. Early arrivals are encouraged. More announcements will be made later regarding this major Series celebrating the Irish arts, but it may be hard to top this opening night with the all-star band. World class.
www.mcnallysirishpub.com.
Pub phone: 630-513-6300.



Well, this is just perfect. Mick Moloney is out with his brand new album on Compass. Entitled, If It Wasn't For The Irish and the Jews, it is a continuation of the albums in which Mick is the acknowledged best—turn of the 20th century Irish-American, Tin Pan Alley music. The previous album, McNally's Row of Flats, was a hit, and won every award available in Irish music, including a couple from this venue!

As usual, with a Moloney album, the liner notes are worth the

price alone. There is such an education to be had here. No one has done more than Mick and The Ward Archives of Irish Music in Milwaukee to preserve this critical part of both American and Irish culture and music. It is truly Irish-American in the broadest context. And, oh, the history! Blanche Ring? Nora Bayes? William Jerome? Jean Schwartz?

George M. Cohan? All here all fab all the time. Don't know who they are? You should. You will. The album title also gives us a real insight into one of the most important musical dynamics of the era, with the numerous collaborations between the Irish and the Jews. This magical time was enhanced by great music created by the conjunction of two cultures so full of music, history and creativity. There are detailed notes on each of the 14 songs, and a marvelous overview of the music from Mick. He is joined by so many wonderful musicians playing the original melodies and arrangements. Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks are perfect at providing the brass and other instruments so necessary in creating a ragtime elegance and sound. Perfect. Several well-known Irish musicians also join in. Collaboration. Just like back in the day.

The bar keeps getting raised higher and higher in the music, almost monthly. David Mun-

nelly's brand new Tight Squeeze joins The Irish and The Jews in showing what can now be done with the music. No longer is it enough to simply record the 307th version of Pigeon at the Gate or Bucks of Orranmore. If you want to play ball at THIS level you need your "A Game," and a fresh approach. What is that approach? Well, albums like The Irish and The Jews take a ton of prep time—no showing up at the studio, one practice, and away we go. There is another current,



supposedly major album that tried this from a collection of really good Irish musicians, and it bombed. Awful. But, here's what we know. It must be traditionally grounded. Deeply. It has to be fresh. It must have superior musicianship and arrangements.

and be there! Support the music, or we won't have it! Magical stuff coming in:

There are two eagerly awaited Irish music concerts approaching. The aficionado should mark the dates, well!

First up are Matt and Shannon Heaton returning to Space, the wonderful new concert venue in Evanston. The talented duo from Boston will be joined in a special appearance by Chicago's Liz Carroll and fellow Bostonian, Lissa Schneckenburger. Liz and Lissa will be playing fiddle, of course, with Shannon on flute and vocals, all supported by Matt on guitar and vocals. A great night. Wednesday evening, October 14, at 8pm. The venue is at 1245 Chicago Ave. in Evanston. Phone

number is (847) 492-8860. Ticket pricing is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$22.50 for special table seating. Big night for the trad fan. The website is www.



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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



United in Charity

"We see in the face of the poor, the face of God." This belief has imbued Catholic Charities' service to the poor since we were founded in April 1917. And this has also been the spirit and mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since its founding in Chicago in 1857 to serve the poor. In fact, members of the Society from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago inspired the foundation of Catholic Charities when they met with Archbishop George Mundelein of Chicago 92 years ago to request a centralized effort to assist the overwhelming number of poor people in their parishes.

Called "Vincentians" in honor of their patron saint, the parish-based,

volunteer lay Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam, a lawyer, husband and father in France in 1833, has spread throughout the world to 135 countries. Today, Vincentians—volunteers all!—in 140 parishes in Cook and Lake counties are going to work, caring for their families, and in their free time, quietly and confidentially making themselves available in friendship and service to their neighbors in need.

As a college student in Paris, Frederic Ozanam had opened his heart in service to the desperately poor people who were stricken by hunger, cold and sickness. Based on his love for God, friendship for

his neighbor, a strong sense of social justice, and the desire to serve people in deep need, Frederic and his young friends dedicated themselves to helping their neighbors who were surrounded by misery and injustice. Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, (now beatified), encouraged the young men to not only bring bread to these families, but especially, "the bread of friendship."

The Vincentian spirit of charity thrives. Last year in the Archdiocese of Chicago, 2,200 active members of the Society served over 58,000 persons in need, of all faiths, who called or visited a local parish seeking assistance. Vincentians help their neighbors in a personal and confidential manner—visiting the homes of families and individuals suffering from unemployment, illness, financial or medical crisis. Strengthened by prayer, Vincentians go on these journeys of charity two by two—as did the early followers of Christ. They listen carefully, as-

sess the family's needs in a spirit of respect and compassion, and quickly respond with assistance that is made possible by the charitable donations of parishes, individuals and the self-sacrifice of the Vincentians. When individuals and families are in need of more serious professional or long-term services, the Vincentians refer them to suitable professional agencies such as Catholic Charities.

Recently, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Archdiocese of Chicago welcomed new leaders when Michael P. Harrington of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Wilmette was elected President, and Frieda Bertello of the St. Damian Parish Conference in Oak Forest was appointed Executive Director. Their installation on September 20 was followed in rapid succession by several Vincentian fundraisers: the annual "Friends of the Poor" Walk to celebrate the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul on September 26; Tag Days, and on October 11, a Night at the Races at Balmoral Park.

Vincentian members generously volunteer to feed the hungry at Catholic Charities' six evening suppers in Des Plaines, Summit, Midlothian, Hazelcrest, and our St. Vincent Center in downtown Chicago. To volunteer or donate food, call Michael McDonnell at (312) 655-7322.

Continuing the compassionate outreach of Vincent, Rosalie and Frederic, the Society, in conjunction with the DePaul University Mission and Values Department, is currently inviting students to join them in direct service to people in need in their neighborhoods.

As Vincent said often: "When there is no love, others will die of the cold." The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a tremendous force of charity, hope and direct service for hundreds of thousands of people each year. If you are interested in learning more, donating or joining the Vincentians in their works of charity, please call (312) 655-7181; or visit: www.svpchicago.org.

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October at Chicago Gaelic Park

Monthly Musical Luncheon

The monthly Musical Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 beginning at noon. The Musical Luncheon is a fun and economical way to enjoy an afternoon with friends. A delicious sit down lunch complete with soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, potato, dessert, tea and coffee is provided along with dancing and music by Sean O'Donnell. Tickets are \$13 and include both lunch and entertainment.

Reservations are required so please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve seats or for more information.

Monthly Mass & Breakfast

Chicago Gaelic Park will hold their Monthly Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, October 11th with Mass beginning at 10am. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast including bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more will be served following the Mass. Breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under.

The Carraig Pub for Sports, Games, Music, & Food

The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park is the place for a great night out with music and mouth-watering food. The Carraig serves favorites such as corned beef sandwiches, shepherd's

pie, fish & chips, ribs, chicken and many other delicious Irish and American entrees and appetizers.

The Carraig Pub is among a selection of Irish pubs included in the Irish Session tour, sponsored by Magner's Irish Cider. Carraig Pub manager, Tadgh O'Reilly welcomes the special Magner's Irish Music Session to the Carraig Pub on Friday October 23, starting at 9pm. The session will feature the best-known traditional Irish musicians as well as audience participation and best of all, there is no cover charge.

The Carraig is also a great place for sports with all Bears games and Monday night football games shown on all of the pub's TVs. A complimentary half-time buffet is served during all Monday night football games.

Carraig Pub Trivia resumes on Tuesday October 13, starting at the new time of 7:30pm. Pub Trivia is a great way to win prizes by showing off your knowledge of facts and useless information.

Music is another favorite at the Carraig with free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers. This month's entertainment schedule is: Friday, October 2, Route 66; Saturday, October 3, Tim Curran; Friday, October 9, Myles McVeigh; Saturday, October 10, Bob Hartwell

Friday, October 16, Bernie Glim & Country Roads; Saturday, October 17, Katie Byrne; Friday, October

23, Traditional Irish Music Session; Saturday, October 24, Clarence Goodwin; Friday, October 30, Raymond Gavigan; Saturday, October 31, Tim Curran.

Thursday evenings come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Celtic Suppers

A new season of Gaelic Park's popular Sunday Celtic Suppers returns after the summer hiatus on November 1, 2009. The Sunday Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for large group meetings and family celebrations. For the cost of \$16 for adults, \$9 for kids ages 4-12 and free for kids under 3, music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided. The buffet dinner is open from 4-7pm with music and dancing from 5-9pm.

Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more information or to reserve tickets.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 987-9323 for more information and also visit Gaelic Park's website at www.chicagogaelicpark.org for a full calendar of upcoming events, special performances, information on Gaelic Park's cultural activities, and much more.

Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



usual. Was this done to capture the black vote? Does Governor Quinn vacillate too much?

Raising taxes is political suicide, but he seems willing to go there. Was video poker his only "hole" card? It's not the idle rich who will be playing video poker in the bars, but the working stiff who can't afford to lose his money. I would suggest they take a hard look at the waste in state government before doing anything else.

IAHC Grand Ballroom

It's fabulous and open for business. So if you're planning a family affair, wedding, reunion, or a funeral lunch, do it first class. I salute the volunteers who made this all possible.

Bishop Mallon

Jim Mallon will play the Bishop in John B. Keane's Moll at the Heritage Center, running from October 2-25.

Jim is a veteran of the stage, and has appeared in many productions. He hails from Co. Antrim and is a regular volunteer at the Center. Break a leg, Jimmy!

iBAM! Dinner

Join in the fun on Friday, Oct. 30th, in the Grand Ballroom at the IAHC. We will celebrate the literary tradition of the Irish people, their art, and their music. This gala dinner will start with cocktails at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. Malachy McCourt is the guest speaker, who should regale us with many interesting vignettes of the McCourt family. Dinner tickets are \$100; sponsor tables are available at \$1,250 and \$1,500. Proceeds will benefit the Irish American Heritage Center.

Out of Ireland

This television show can now be seen at 5:30pm on Sundays on WYCC-TV Channel 20.

The San Patricios

One of the little known stories of the Irish who came to America in the 1840s is that of the San Patricio Battalion, largely composed of Irishmen who fought on the Mexican side in the U.S.-Mexico War of 1846-48. They went to Mexico and died, some gloriously in combat,

ily, and the "lion" of the U.S. Senate, who had the ability to reach across the aisle and reach across the divide. God Bless, Ted. He's safely home.

Deborah Sims

Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims changed her position and voted to keep the sales tax increase. As a result, the County Board failed to overturn the sales tax increase. She felt the money was needed to provide medical services in her community. Subsequently she received a number of phone messages, some of which contained racial epithets. In response, she made an appearance, surrounded by black ministers, much the same way Todd Stroger did in the past. I don't understand the presence of the ministers. Is this an affirmation that she is a good woman, a testament to her character? I don't see Catholic politicians surrounding themselves with priests or bishops, but that is understandable. Whatever became of the separation of church and state?

Todd Stroger

The Cook County Democratic Committee decided not to endorse Todd Stroger for reelection. Are they beginning to realize that their constituency is fed up and thoroughly disgusted with the financial mess we are faced with? Tax and send politicians are not wanted! People are tired of nepotism and cronyism! Interestingly enough, they didn't endorse anybody else for County board President.

I keep thinking about Patrick Pearse's... "Beware. Beware of the thing that is coming. Beware of the risen people."

Todd Stroger's approval rating has fallen to 10%. Only 24 out of 80 Democratic committee members endorsed him, most of them hold high-paying county jobs or have relatives who hold county jobs.

Patrick Pearse said at the grave side of Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa... "Remember that a government big enough to give you everything that you want, is also big enough to take away everything that you have."

Governor Quinn

Governor Quinn's approval rating is only 36%. It would seem that he kowtowed to the black caucus by not removing the two black trustees at the University of Illinois who stonewalled him. It smacks of politics as



San Patricio horse and rider.
Photo by Chris Tuscan.

others ignominiously on the gallows. Under a green banner of silk inscribed with the Mexican coat of arms, San Patrick and "Erin Go Bragh," they participated in all the

major battles of the war and were cited for bravery by General Lopez de Santa Anna, the Mexican commander and later president.

Joining with Irish and German residents in Mexico City they formed an artillery battalion and named it after the patron saint of Ireland. At the penultimate battle of the war, the St. Patrick's Battalion fought with bayonets after their ammunition was exhausted, and they were overwhelmed by federal forces. Despite their brave resistance, however, 85 of the Irish battalion were captured and sentenced to bizarre tortures and deaths, resulting in what is considered even today as the "largest hanging affair in North America."

Now, 172 years after the war, the Irishmen are still remembered in a moving ceremony each September in a park in San Angel just outside of Mexico City. There, hundreds of students and thousands of Mexican citizens join the Irish Ambassador and the Mexican president, to honor "the Irish martyrs who gave their lives for Mexico" in an impressive ceremony that includes military bands and the solemn laying of a wreath at the bronze plaque which commemorates their deaths.

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Ted Kennedy

Patriarch of the Kennedy clan! I get a lump in my throat every time I hear Ted Kennedy's eulogy for his brother Robert F. Kennedy, with his voice breaking. I always felt close to the Kennedy's, although the only ones I ever met were in Dunganstown, Co Wexford, in 1969. I was with my aunt, Sister M. Therese (Presentation Convent) from Mooncoin, and my sister Jeanne. We had been at the Kennedy Arboretum at New Ross as Sister Therese loved flowers. When we got to the Kennedy homestead, the original house, which was smaller than a two-car garage, had been turned into a souvenir shop. I bought a shillelagh there, which still sits on a shelf in my living room.

Mrs. Ryan invited us into their home because we were in the company of a nun. Once inside, we saw a large oil painting of JFK that he had given to the family. The painting hung on the wall close to the hearth. My sister Jeanne sat in the chair next to the hearth, where JFK sat while on his visit. Mrs. Ryan let us take pictures, and even took some for us. It was an unexpected treat.

My sister Jeanne told Mrs. Ryan how she met JFK when he was in Chicago campaigning for President. She was the assistant catering manager for Henrici's Restaurant at the O'Hare Inn on Mannheim Rd., just north of Higgins. She handled the food service for JFK's entourage. Just before he left town, JFK sent for her so he could thank her personally for the excellent service.

When JFK first arrived in town, Jim Mulroy and I went out to O'Hare to meet his plane on the military side of the field. After deplaning, he got into a convertible, and as they pulled away, we ran after the car. Jim got close enough to shake his hand, but the Secret Service kept me from reaching him.

We lost JFK and RFK—those were the saddest days—we were all heartsick. Jim Mulroy met Ted Kennedy in Vietnam and said in a letter, Ted looked like a teenager.

Now we have lost Ted Kennedy, who in the grand scheme of things accomplished more in securing civil rights and human rights than anyone ever imagined. He had his foibles, but then, don't we all? To see the family at his funeral was quite remarkable. He was truly the patriarch of the fam-



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



From Irish Summer to Indian Summer

Wow, that was a quick summer! It seems every year, barely before I can inform my Dad whether the corn is knee high by the Fourth of July, I am making a list of interesting things to see and do so I won't feel the season passed without me making the most of it.

As usual, The Summer List contains a lot of things I didn't get to do, a few I never thought of and one or two I'll never get to do again. All in all

the blessing were many and the fun quotient high.

May

Summer starts early in the Navy, and for me that meant a week of escort duty in summer whites aboard the USS IWO JIMA, an amphibious assault ship carrying its crew of sailors and marines from Norfolk, VA, my old t.v. news stomping

grounds, to New York City, scene of many press briefings and media tours in my days as a public relations executive. My charges were about 75 teenaged naval sea cadets, including one young man from Palos Park who I introduced to time-honored liberty in the Big Apple.

Our brief 8 hours ashore included subway rides, Times Square, the Staten Island Ferry past the Statue of Liberty, a madcap taxi ride through Central Park and a reflective sit in a pew stained by a resting firefighter's ash-covered clothing during the rescues of the 9/11 attack. That was the fitting end to a visit that began with the ship's company coming to attention and rendering honors to Ground Zero as we sailed past a gaping hole where two towers and 3,000 people once stood.

June

"Holy Smokes!" my Dad exclaimed as the two of us negotiated the wonders of the Green Bay Botanical Garden. James Henry McClure, who turns 92 this month, is still graced with the resemblance to Gregory Peck, the vocabulary of Henry Jones, Jr. (Indiana Jones), and the green thumb of every homeowner and gardener on the planet.

I'm not sure which Dad was examining closer, the wide variety of summer flowers, or the equally colorful grouping of female volunteers tending to plants and watering gardens. He had the retirees blushing and the

college coeds giggling. I wanted to fund the day trip for Dad-O myself so we stopped by the bank with a jug full of pocket change before the gardens and lunch at St. Brendan's Irish Inn,



Joe Cullen, Photo by Cathy Curry

where the stew is a lot like the McClure family recipe. I was amazed how much change I collected in the winter. "Eighty Seven Dollars and Forty Three Cents," my dear father guessed when I prodded him.

I held up the teller's receipt for \$87.52. As usual Dad looked at the amount, looked up at the surprise on my face, looked out at the paper mills outside downtown Green Bay, and looked back at my still gaping face... paused five seconds and remarked, "Well, I'm not exactly the old dimwit you kids worry about yet, am I?" A slight smirk

graced the corner of his deadpan humor as we headed off to lunch.

July

"Wait a minute, what do you think of this pose?" asked Irish American singer/musician Kathleen Keane as she tossed back a long mane of dark hair over a bare shoulder while looking back at me during a photo shoot for my August column profiling her Chicago return and sold-out summer headline concert.

It was the kind of beautiful day in Chicago where the beach and the waves and the sea grasses make you wonder if you aren't in California or in Nantucket. Kathleen's talent with fiddle or flute is remarkable, but the part-time model and former IAN cover girl also manages to add a certain orchestra of beauty when she combines a shoreline with a sun dress.

August

I was minding my own business and not minding having another pretty Irish lass on the North Shore with me when none other than Mickey Rooney plopped down next to my red-haired date the night of the Tony Bennett concert at Ravinia. We were having gourmet burgers on a bench when apparently the feisty 90 year old was drawn to either the open bench or my date's red curls.

When I got up to see about getting him a security escort he asked my date if we were married. What is it with Irish men in their 90's making time with women? Boy, I can't wait 'til I'm Ninety!

September

Summer ain't over 'til the freckled lady sings. This month I saw Kathleen Keane close out the Irish Fest in Long Grove with Joe Cullen, whose jokes are as piercing as his wonderful ballads. And I finally got my first exposure to Tantrum, Kathleen's new "trad/pop" band, at a late summer Gaelic Fest appearance in Grant Park.

I always try to wear something green when I go to an Irish fest. In this final event I had no choice but to wear green camouflage as I had come straight from an Indiana rifle range and just barely made Tantrum's Chicago appearance. My next appearance in a Navy uniform will include a Sharpshooter's ribbon.

An interesting Summer. It began on a ship recalling a fictional Chicago Irishman named Mike Forney who wore a kelly green scarf and a green top hat as a navy helicopter rescue pilot. —Mickey Rooney's character in The Bridges at Toko-Ri.

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



go on tour. It was amazing. It was from him just messing around on YouTube."

For those with internet connections and their own music lying around don't get any crazy ideas from this. I'm willing to go out on a limb and guarantee that placing your music on YouTube won't get you on the Colbert Report as well.

It did work for Hannigan, though, and it did cultivate a fan base for her in the States.

"That's been great," she said. "A lot of people who didn't know us were on our message boards."

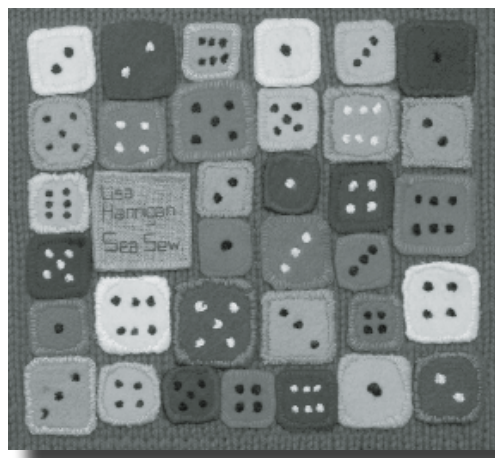
Her fame went to another level with her nomination of the Mercury Prize. It was something she didn't expect.

"I was really blown away," Hannigan said. "I knew they were coming up. It didn't occur to me we would be nominated. My manager came in before a gig to tell me myself, and I thought something horrendous happened because she was shaking like a leaf. She looked very disturbed. Luckily, it was a lovely thing."

On Sept. 8, Hannigan and the

other nominees performed at Mercury Prize award show. Later, Speech DeBelle was awarded the prize.

Hannigan's schedule will pick up again shortly as she starts touring



with David Gray in late October. Her new tour will include a stop in Chicago at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University on Oct. 29.

She did have a message for anyone reading this.

"I'm looking forward to being there," she said. "If you're around anyone, please come by."

* For more information about Lisa, go to www.lisahannigan.ie.

Share a comment or suggestions with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

Lisa Hannigan is enjoying a rare day off in her Dublin home when she answers the phone on a recent morning here/afternoon there.

"I have a week off," she says. "I'm really looking forward to it. I like to spend time by myself writing and thinking of my feelings. I absolutely love being on tour. I love being busy, but it's not conducive to writing loads of songs."

If anyone deserves some time off, it is singer/songwriter Lisa Hannigan. In the past year, she released her debut album—Sea Sew—appeared on the Colbert Report, had a song featured on Grey's Anatomy, toured with Jason Mraz and the Swell Season, was nominated for the Mercury Prize, which is awarded to the best album in the United Kingdom or Ireland, and did an interview with me. ...Kidding, of course, of the noteworthiness of my interview. Now if I was Mike Houlihan, that could be worth something.

(By the way, I'm legally obligated to tell you to buy his book.)

So while Hannigan was kicking back on a rare day off, she was kind enough to give me a few minutes to talk about her past year.

"It's been good crazy," she explained of it.

Of course, I was curious about the Colbert Report. It's not often Stephen Colbert has a musician on, and when he does, it's usually some major star.

"It was really extraordinary," said Hannigan, who used to play with Damien Rice. "I had been a fan of



his, I had read his book and seen him on the Daily Show. He had seen a thumbnail of me on YouTube and watched me in a packed pub in Dingle signing a tune. He was watching and he called people who know stuff and asked, 'Who are these people?' I was just about to

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform Minus Kennedy

Where is immigration reform now that we have lost Kennedy? A number of people have asked me this question in the past couple of weeks. My answer is to make a number of points:

- Firstly, we will see no Immigration bills pass congress this year. Much as all advocates for comprehensive immigration reform would like to see action this year it will not happen. The chief reason for this is congress is very much consumed right now with the health reform debate. Also, assuming that they manage to pass a health bill before

Thanksgiving there is the subject of Cap & Trade to be dealt with before the end of this year.

- Secondly, Kennedy's loss to the immigration debate is great indeed. We have however a good substitute in Senator Chuck Schumer (D)

New York. Schumer is the new Chair of the sub-committee dealing with immigration for the Senate Judiciary committee. Schumer's team is working on an immigration bill and we hope to see this complete before Christmas. I believe that Schumer has the ability to get the job done.

- Thirdly, the movement for immi-

gration reform hasn't gone away. If anything has happened since the last push in 2007 it is that the pro-reform lobby has become more organized and have done a much better job in getting their message across.

- Fourthly, I'm convinced that the democrats simply have to deliver on the promises of '08. Remember 67% of Hispanic voters supported Obama in the general election. Another reason is that the immigration issue, despite being red meat for some conservatives, has mostly been an electoral bust for the right. In 20 of 22 competitive House and Senate races last November, the candidates favoring greater immigration reform—generally Democrats—defeated their harder-line opponents, according to an analysis by, a pro-reform group America's Voice

- Fifthly, if Republicans hope to reverse what could be a generational loss of Hispanic voters to the Democrats, they won't get there by oppos-

ing whatever immigration reform legislation emerges in Congress. Moderates, at least, will have to reach out to Hispanics, and immigration reform is the perfect policy to begin that course.

On the question of immigrants and health care there has been much debate about whether the healthcare reforms proposed would be made available to the undocumented population. I have checked this out with contacts from both sides of the aisle and these are folks who work in D.C. and have actually read the proposals! Their answer to me is there is no legislation proposed that would give any health benefits to "illegals" living in the U.S.

So much and all as we will miss Ted Kennedy's powerful presence in the U.S. Senate, I also believe that this is a perfect opportunity for other leaders to step up to the plate and do the right thing for immigrants and for this great country ours.

Appearances

Appearances are everything to some—nothing to others...

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the president's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge. She frowned. "We want to see the president", the man said softly. "He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped. "We'll wait," the lady replied.

For hours, the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't. And the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted to do. "Maybe if they just see you for a

few minutes, they'll leave," she told him. And he signed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, but he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office. The president, stern-faced with dignity, strutted toward the couple.

The lady told him, "We had a son that attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. And my husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus". The president wasn't touched—he was shocked. "Madam," he said gruffly, "We can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery".

"Oh, no," the lady explained quickly, "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard.

The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical plant at Harvard".

For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. He could get rid of them now.

And the lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a University? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded. The President's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment. And Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California where they established the University that bears their name, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me at 312 534 8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com,



Nowadays, people can buy movies from iTunes and watch them on their iPod. It's really cool. Of course, it's not as much fun as watching them on the big screen. I've seen loads of movies and television shows from the U.K. and Ireland. I've even seen a movie from Ireland on the big screen, and that was The Wind That Shakes the Barley. That was an amazing movie, a little too gory for me, but it was so awesome.

Cillian Murphy (Batman Begins) and Pádraic Delaney star in The Wind That Shakes the Barley as brothers in a fight for their country's freedom. The movie is set in Ireland in the early 20's. Where Damien (Murphy) and Teddy (Delaney) live, many of the men band together and rise up against the British behind Damien and Teddy. The group of men get thrown into prison a few times, but they stick together through it all, remembering what they're fighting for. One super cool fact about the movie is that Máirtín de Cógáin from the Fuchsia Band played a character in the movie named Sean. He sings a few songs in the movie, and it makes the movie even cooler. Since this movie is a bit gory, it's definitely something that I would watch with my parents or my brother.

Another really awesome movie is Waking Ned Devine. It's an older movie, but the story is universal. Ned Devine was in his chair when he found out that he had won the lottery, and when he died from shock, his best friends, Michael and Jackie, find him and they think that Ned would want them to have the money that Ned had won. To claim the ticket, Michael and Jackie embark on this crazy scheme to convince not only the people at the lottery, but also the people of their village. This scheme not only includes lying, but it also includes a special naked surprise on a motorbike! Its great fun watching this movie, and it is definitely something that I would watch with my friends or my family.

Now to break away from the movie madness for a bit, it's the Gaelic Storm: Live in Chicago DVD. In 2006, Gaelic Storm performed at The House of Blues in Downtown Chicago, and they not only filmed the concert, but they also filmed some interviews with the band members. For the DVD, the lineup of members is a bit different; Ellery Klein and Steve Wehmeyer were still with the band when this was filmed. One of the special features is artist biographies. I love watching this DVD with my best bud, Andrea,

because we both love the band and the songs. When we can't get to a concert, instead of watching a movie we've seen a million times, we'll put in this DVD and jam out to the familiar tunes we love.

Some of my favorite shows are E.R., Gossip Girl, Gordon Ramsay's F Word, and Monarch of the Glen. Most of the shows I watch are on TV channels that we receive over here in the US. Monarch of the Glen isn't on of those. I watched through the seasons with my family on DVDs from our public library. The show follows a young man who in the pilot, finds out that he's the laird of his family's estate. Of course, it's in some financial trouble, and Archie has to take care of it all. Through seven seasons, many things occur. Death, birth, marriage, break-ups, and everything in between, can never hurt the giant family inside this show. On October 23, 2005, Monarch of the Glen was aired for the last time on British television. It's an amazing show in my opinion, and it's something that I would watch with my family and my best friend, she loves it.

Music is a giant part of my life, but I still like TV. I love American music but Scottish and Irish music. I love American TV and British TV. I hope you can see what I'm trying to say, I love the media. TV shows have lots of different music in them and you can learn different music from them. So next time you watch your favorite show, not only keep your eyes on it, but also take a good listen, you might find something else you like.



Mayor of Clare Councillor Tony Mulcahy (center) pictured with Michael Madigan, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives (left), and Senator John Cullerton, President of the Illinois Senate, during a visit to Aras an Contae An Chláir, Ennis, Co Clare, by a political delegation from Illinois on Monday, 14 September 2009. Image by Sean McInerney.

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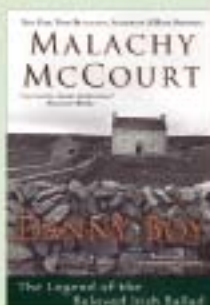
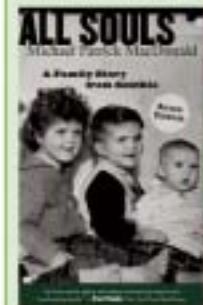
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**Two By Pinter,
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Piven Theatre Workshop kicks off its 2009-10 season with Two by Pinter:

The Lover and The Collection. The productions will run October 10 – November 15, 2009 at Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes Street in Evanston, IL.

Is it a game, or isn't it? Flirting between sexual fantasy and danger, acts of betrayal are turned upside down in these two short plays by Harold Pinter. Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus Joyce Piven returns to the Piven stage to direct these two tales of sexual intrigue.

(847) 866-8049 or www.piventheatre.org.

World Premiere of Mouse in a Jar

Red Tape Theatre opens its sixth season on October 5th with the world premiere of *Mouse in a Jar*, which was written by local playwright Martyna Majok and directed by Red Tape ensemble member Daria Davis.

In a dark and dingy basement apartment, Ma and her daughters Zosia and Daga live in terror of 9pm when the nightmarish brute HIM thunders home each night drunk and ready to fight. After the beloved eldest Zosia disappears, stranding her sister and her mother in violent chaos, Daga vows to win Ma's love and approval and free her. Determined to succeed where her sister failed, Daga puts herself on a collision course with a mother who refuses to be saved.

Mouse in a Jar runs October 5 through October 31, 2009 at Red Tape Theatre, which is located at 621 W. Belmont in Chicago. www.redtapetheatre.org. Discounted student tickets also are available.



Mouse in a Jar Ensemble members Daria Davis, director (bottom left), Cynthia Carney, stage manager (top center), Kyle Land, lighting designer (bottom right). *Mouse in a Jar*, by Martyna Majok runs October 5-31, 2009 at Red Tape Theatre at 621 W. Belmont. Photo by Artistic Director James Palmer.





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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Paddy. They live in a place called Chicagoland and they're White Sox fans so they've learned to be patient.

You'll also meet a guy named "Houli" and you can call him grandpa."

Charlotte giggled, "Will he like that?"

"He didn't like it when the waitress at Hooter's called him that, but coming from you, he will love it!"

And so on August 4th, Charlotte arrived on earth in Chicagoland.

She's a knockout; with the most beautiful baby blue eyes this side of heaven.

I haven't been this gaga over a girl since Little Lulu.

It's also very cool to have three generations living together in our house.

Like everybody else these days, we had been weathering the storm of tapioca that's washed across America in the form of the 2009 Great Recession. I'm on a first name basis with bill collectors; even the one's who call from India. "My name is "Chip", calling from Citibank for Mister Hooligoof."

But the arrival of Charlotte to our house has replaced all that anxiety and fear with her ebullient personality. We're all astonished at the miracle of this angel. Charlotte is a no-nonsense baby. She's the boss and she knows it.

We all sit down to dinner and

she sits in her bouncy chair with us. Everybody talks to her and Charlotte yawns and regards us with her baby blues, "Please, you are boring me!"

She will surpass Charlotte Rampling in looks, Charlotte Bronte in

books, and even Charlotte, North Carolina in magnificence. In my book, she's the greatest Charlotte of them all.

So thank you God for this little angel. She arrived just in the nick of time.

The cherubs were hanging out in heaven one day earlier this summer and God called the prettiest one over and said, "Charlotte, I'm sending you down to earth."

She said, "Oh... my... God! You must be joking, they're all nuts down there!"

God chuckled as he picked a pistachio from his beard and flicked it against the pearly gates. Charlotte's retort had just reminded Him that the cherubs are the smartest angels of them all, known for their knowledge.

God said, "Well I agree the human race can be quite eccentric, especially on Earth, and particularly in the USA."

He leaned back on his throne as the cherub hovered by his side, her wings fluttering. God tickled her cheek and said, "But Charlotte, they need you down there right now. There's a particular family of Hooligans who could use your help. I want them to meet you and get reacquainted with miracles."

Charlotte said, "How long will I bedown there with these Hooligans, God?"

"Not long, a hundred years or so. Just leave your wings in your locker and you can pick 'em up when you return."

A hundred years didn't sound long to Charlotte since time flies in heaven where everybody is having



Charlotte Houlihan

fun. She gave Our Lord a peck on the cheek and fluttered towards her cloud before stopping.

"Tell me a little bit more about these Hooligans, God."

God said, "You will love them, they love to laugh. Your mom will be Haleigh and your dad is called

Maureen Kelly for MWRD Commissioner

Maureen Kelly recently announced her candidacy for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

"My number one priority is protecting our most precious resource, Lake Michigan," said Kelly. "I will seek the most advanced ways to collect waste water from municipalities and improve the process in which it is treated and more importantly return clean water to local waterways while eliminating the problem of sewage backup into basements."

As the Executive Director of Community and Government Relations at St. Xavier University, Kelly's work with municipalities and civic groups provides her with a unique perspective on the importance of good gov't and efficient use of tax dollars.

Prior to joining SXU, Kelly served as a Special Ass't to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. Previous to her service with Durbin, she was an aide to Tom Dart while he was a State Representative. Kelly is currently the Chairman Elect of the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce; serves on the Women's Leader Council of Mercy Home For



Tom Dart (L) and Maureen Kelly

Boys and Girls, is a member of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago; member of the Beverly Area Planning Association and a member of St. Barnabas parish. Kelly and her family have also been involved with the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade for over 15 years

As the proud mother of 5 children, Kelly is passionate on conservation efforts and seeking the most efficient means to implement common sense practices at the district. Maureen is a life long resident of Chicago's south-west side and is married to Jack Kelly.

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House on Mango Street

Steppenwolf for Young Adults launches its 2009-2010 season with *The House on Mango Street* by Tanya Saracho, based on the novel by Sandra Cisneros. The production runs Oct. 13–Nov. 1, 2009 in the Steppenwolf Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago.

Based on the celebrated novel by Chicago writer Sandra Cisneros, and infused with lively original music, *The House on Mango Street* recounts a young girl's colorful memories of growing up in one of Chicago's culturally diverse neighborhoods. Esperanza Cordero dreams of life far away from her tiny home on rundown Mango Street in this unforgettable coming-of-age story about the universal experiences that shape who we are and what we believe.



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Ivanov at Viaduct Theater

SINNERMAN is an ensemble of 12 artists who support and challenge each other. At Steppenwolf, the group did an exercise to the Nina Simone song *Sinnerman*, and were inspired by the singer's music, passion and strength, and by the beautiful moment shared, to choose their name. The Ensemble presents Anton Chekhov's *Ivanov*, in a contemporary American language adaptation by Sheldon Patinkin, featuring eight ensemble members in a passion-filled production of this classic story that swings wildly from comedy to tragedy.



In a community obsessed with gossip and greed, the brilliant *Ivanov* has fallen out of love with his wife and his friends and bankrupted his land, only to be dangerously attracted to the beautiful young daughter of his creditor.

Chekhov's most accessible play asks the burning question "How do you live without hope?"

Ivanov runs Oct. 1–Nov. 7 at the

Viaduct Theater, 3111 N. Western Ave. in Chicago. 773-296-6024 or www.viaducttheatre.com.

**Gaelic Park Players
 Present Craddock's Well**

The Gaelic Park Players will present their Fall production of *Craddock's Well* by Michael Carey. The show will run Fridays, 8pm, Nov. 6th, 13th & 20th; Saturdays, 8pm, Nov. 7th, 14th & 21st; and Sundays, 3pm, Nov. 8th, 15th & 22nd at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St., in Oak Forest, IL.

Brendan Finnerty returns home to Ireland for his father's funeral. It's been a long time since he has seen his home, the small town of Cloonmore, having left for America many years before. As he recounts his childhood, we are witness to the life he lead as a young child and then a young man with hopes and dreams that he thought could never survive in a small Irish town.

Tickets go on sale October 1st, 2009; \$12 Theater Performance only; \$25.00 Dinner & Theater (Sundays Only); Opening Night is Buy 1 Get 1 Free.

Tickets are non-refundable. Reservations are a must for Dinner & Theater. For further information call 708.532.0526 or visit: www.gaelicparkplayers.org.

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Ireland's Western Region—Where Enterprise and Quality of Life Go Hand in Hand

Ask any business owner in the West of Ireland why they chose the West and many will say it's the perfect balance of commerce and creativity. So what are the attractions of locating a business there? Joanne Grehan investigates.

Read the brochures for any region in the world and they will usually talk about the flexible workforce, the great education, the research and innovation and attractive financial incentives and supports. But as Joanne Grehan of Ireland's Western Development Commission explains, the West of Ireland really ticks all the boxes for anyone setting up a business.

"From William and Jack B. Yeats to playwright Brian Friel and novelist John McGahern, we have a strong legacy of creativity—it's deeply rooted in our culture. But it's not just the arts, media production and computer gaming, the West now has world class clusters in the medical devices, ICT and audio-visual sectors."

When asked why these businesses picked the west, Joanne says there are lots of very tangible reasons. "We know from talking to successful businesses that the business supports, access to markets and skilled staff are some of the key attractions. Businesses tell us about very high staff retention rates—people enjoy the quality of life and the clean environment so they tend to stay with their employer for longer than if they were living in a large city."

Joanne also says that entrepreneurs are not on their own when setting up a business in the west; there are excellent supports including cost effective workspace, grant aid and training support. Ireland's low Corporation Tax rate (12.5%) is also very attractive and there are extra incentives for businesses in the West such as higher levels of state assistance for new businesses and relocations or expansions.

The region's strong emphasis on education means it can boast over 85,000 people who hold a degree or higher educational qualification. A higher proportion of second level students go on to further education than the national average resulting in a young, vibrant and highly educated workforce—a huge draw for business.

Máire Ní Thuathail, CEO of Eo Teilifís which operates from An Spidéal in County Galway says, "The pool of talented and suitably qualified people in the region is the critical suc-

cess factor for the audio-visual industry."

So what other types of business operate in the West of Ireland? Joanne says, "We have everything from small businesses to large corporations—a mix across all major sectors. Life sciences are a particular strength with over 7,000 people employed in the Medical Devices and Technologies industry. Leading life sciences companies including Medtronic, Boston Scientific, Baxter Healthcare, Allergan Pharmaceuticals, Tyco Healthcare and Abbott Laboratories successfully operate here, as well as a growing number of smaller Irish owned enterprises, part of a cluster of life-science companies including Aerogen Ireland and Crospon."

She goes on to explain that the region is also closely linked to the global ICT market with Galway and Shannon hosting some of the largest sectoral multinationals including Hewlett Packard, IBM and Cisco Systems. She says that a welcome spin off is the large number of small Irish owned companies, many of which have been established by former employees of multinationals.

Broadband telecommunications means that international services companies can base there and operate efficiently at a global level in activities such as supply chain management, eLearning and call centers.

One such example is Lionbridge Technologies operating in Ballina, County Mayo with 90 employees from over 15 countries working at its Information Technology solution center. Paul McBride its VP & GM says, "In our decade of doing business here, we have seen a significant transformation of the region's infrastructure. The company has grown both locally and internationally, and our Ballina center now manages a team of 5,000 people in over 80 countries



Joanne Grehan

globally, delivering services to over 3,000 customers. This growth attracts the best and brightest candidates for our Finance, HR, Operations, Quality, Linguistics, Sales, Analytics, Management and Information Technology teams. We look forward to the future with confidence and to further decades of growth in the West."

The region's software industry includes leading global software companies such as SAP, Oracle, RSA Security, Enterasys Networks and

Pramerica as well as leading edge Irish companies like Cora Systems, FMC-Tech and Cora Tine Teo. Small software companies are scattered across the West, with their locations often determined by the owner's lifestyle choice.

"Our own organisation, the Western Development Commission, operates the WDC Investment Fund to provide risk capital to start-up or expanding businesses. We supply ordinary share capital, preference share capital, and loans, and make the investments on a commercial basis."

When asked to sum it all up Joanne says, "People live here because they genuinely want to. It's a wonderful place to raise families, the cost of living is lower, property prices are reasonable and the quality of life is unsurpassed. A good standard of healthcare is readily available and parents can be sure of securing school and childcare places. I'm from the West myself but I had moved away to Dublin for a few years and came back again two years ago. It's been a great move for me and I can highly recommend it to anyone in the US who might be wondering if they should make the move. Go for it—they won't regret it!"

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Liam Neeson Teams with Bono for New Film



U2 frontman Bono will produce The Virgin of Las Vegas, in which Neeson stars as an ageing Irish singer during the 70's cover bands craze.

Showbands were an Irish pop culture craze from the early, pre-television rock'n'roll era, when covers bands attracted large followings. Neeson's character is an ageing singer boozing it up in Las Vegas until he "...finds his life turned on its head following the arrival of a mysterious stranger." —Variety. Bono is a producer on the film, scripted by Barry Devlin, a member of the Irish band, Horslips.

Using Ireland's extensive ballroom circuit, bands like the Clipper Carlton, the Dixies and the Royal played to packed houses throughout Ireland in the 50's and 60's. Even after the arrival of TV, hundreds of bands continued to tour.



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Mistakes Were Made at A Red Orchid Theatre

A Red Orchid Theatre opens its 2009-10 Season with the World Premiere of Mistakes Were Made. The production will run through October 31, 2009 at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 North Wells St.

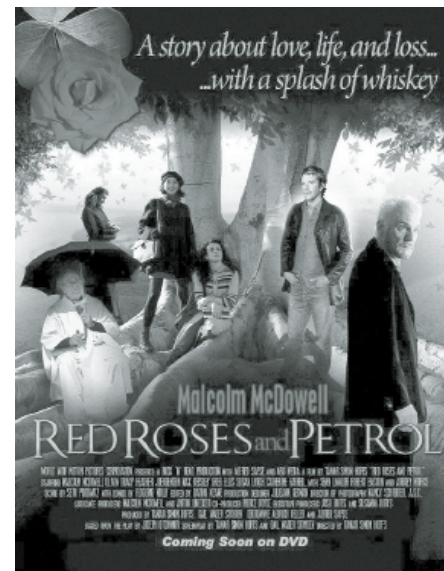
Legendary producer Felix Artifex gets in way over his fast-talking head when he takes on Mistakes Were Made, the first World Premiere of his long and chequered career. Felix's project is a gargantuan epic of the French Revolution, which he thinks is going to be his ticket to professional and personal redemption. Mistakes Were Made is a compact gem of philosophy and funny-business from Craig Wright, the Emmy-nominated writer of Six Feet Under and the award-winning playwright of Lady, Grace, and The Pavilion.

(312) 943-8722; www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

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Red Roses and Petrol Soundtrack and DVD Release



Based on the Irish play by acclaimed writer Joseph O'Connor and directed by Tamar Simon Hoffs, the darkly comedic drama offers a tour-de-force showcase for McDowell as Enda Doyle, a university librarian, poet, and rascal who is the flawed patriarch of a dysfunctional family struggling to come to terms with his death and with one another. Unfolding amidst a haze of cigarette smoke and uneaten food as Enda's family gathers in Dublin for his wake, Red Roses and Petrol explores the emotional dynamics of familial relationships with sharp humor and surprising turns.

Red Roses and Petrol has garnered awards from the Avignon Film Festival, the Boston Irish Film Festival, the Newport Beach Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival.

The film's memorable soundtrack features music from the platinum-selling Irish American band Flogging Molly and Susanna Hoffs of The Bangles. Selected music from the film, including bonus tracks by the Rainmakers, Joe Puerta of Ambrosia, and the Elders, is also being released on Tuesday, October 13, by Warrior Records and will be available on CD, iTunes and other outlets.

The film, which runs 97 minutes, is rated R for language, including some sexual references. www.redrosesandpetrol.com

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Have You Learned These Lessons?

A dear friend, Dr. Thomas E. Murray, served as the Executive Director of the Career Transitions Center of Chicago for five years. He developed some beliefs about the job search process during his tenure as Director. You may recall that some of Tom's "Lessons Learned" were featured in past columns. I am convinced that his eight lessons, stated below, are as pertinent today as they were when he originally developed them.

1. Everybody can get a job. Even if you are "old," disabled, have a chronic health problem, etc., you can find employment. But no one said it would be easy. Having a positive attitude is imperative in your job search. You must present yourself as a vibrant and energetic person who is capable of doing something of value for your potential employer. It is vital that you are persuasive that your competence is appropriate to the level of the position you are seeking. It is incumbent on you to demonstrate this competence to the interviewer.

You need to convince the interviewer that you are seriously interested in the position by following up with him: write, call, and send appropriate correspondence. If the company interviews six or seven quality candidates, how can they determine who best fits the requirements of the job? Certainly sincere and enthusiastic follow-up by the interviewee will be a positive factor in the decision making process. Doesn't everyone want to hire a person who really wants the job, not just a person who has the skills to do the job?

2. Project a sense of direction. Do you know where your life is going? Interviewees must manifest definite goals; failure to do so could easily be a deal breaker. You certainly don't want to suggest that you are a confused, directionless person. Help the interviewer see that your clear and worthwhile goals are unique and could be helpful to the organization.

Let the interviewer know you have values, beliefs, and interests. You have a rich life beyond this job. You are an exciting, vibrant human being who may have interests far different than the interviewer's. If you talk about things with

excitement and gusto it likely says to the other person that you could bring those traits to their organization. It also says that you are a person willing to learn. How about you? Can you convince an interviewer that you are somebody who has some intellectual firepower?

3. Give the impression of competence. Recognize the need to inspire confidence in the interviewer as to your ability to perform the job's tasks. You don't need to convince them that you could do ANY job, just that you have the requisite experience to do THIS particular job. Help the interviewer see that you have unique competencies; they might come from experiences in your youth, from a stint in the military or prior employment. You must be prepared to discuss and explain your substantial accomplishments.

4. Everyone can look good. Use your appearance to communicate exactly what you wish to express. Proper grooming is essential. Make sure your appearance is appropriate for the job. You wouldn't wear a suit for an interview as a construction worker, nor would a person interviewing for a senior executive position wear his or her favorite jeans and tee shirt. Do your clothes fit properly? Review your planned outfit to make sure it fits properly; if it doesn't, get it altered.

All the nice clothes and good grooming won't do any good if you don't present yourself with proper bearing and carriage. If you watch runway models, you'll see them strut down the runway, presenting themselves as "all together." Watch how people in important jobs present themselves even in informal gatherings. Their very presence says that they expect people to listen to what they have to say.

Show that you have energy. If you don't have any energy, you are simply not going to be taken seriously. If you have ever interviewed a lethargic candidate, you probably cut the interview short. "Older" candidates need to be particularly aware of how they are projecting themselves; who wants to hire a person who is simply dragging himself into the interview?

People who present themselves effectively

are simply far more likely to get hired. A very significant element of presentation is your smile. It's absolutely critical that you smile in an interview situation. People who are hired are typically hired because the interviewer liked them. Many of us don't feel comfortable with others who don't smile. Show the interviewer you have a sense of humor or a softer side.

5. The person who gets the job is not necessarily the most qualified person, but is the person who has presented herself the most effectively. Don't you normally expect the most competent, knowledgeable person to win the prize? Unfortunately, that is not the way the world works. It is imperative that you demonstrate to the interviewer(s) what an accomplished person you are. If you treat anyone in their organization disrespectfully, you will make a poor impression. Tact, courtesy, and respect will go a long way towards making a good impression in an interview. Haven't you found that you know the most likely questions you will be asked, based on prior interviews? You should develop comfortable responses. Ask a buddy, who is willing to be quite critical, to rehearse the questions and answers with you. Why should the employer hire you? What in your background makes you the best candidate? And remember, the quality of any written materials, including your resume and follow up correspondence, completes the "package".

6. Finding a job is a full-time job. You need to network with people who will introduce you to others. The majority of job seekers find jobs through personal contacts. Seeing people is the name of the game; everything else is simply preparation.

7. Action is absolutely essential to success in the process. Dr. Murray says that many job seekers confuse "getting ready" activities with real achievement. They spend "months" polishing their resumes. They also spend an inordinate amount of time compiling their list of personal contacts. They are always "gonna" do something, but it never seems to get completed.

8. The only way we know if we have the ideal job is by trial and error. But you can help facilitate the process by doing some preliminary analysis before you start interviewing. Are you more interested in a large company or a small company? If you are more comfortable in a small environment, should you even interview with huge corporations? If you are interested in a particular geographic area, concentrate your efforts in that area. Do you know yourself? Would you prefer to work with people? Things?

Do you want a highly-structured organization that tends to follow the old command-and-control model where the boss issues the orders and everybody else falls in line? Or do you want a more collegial environment? You should determine these things, so you don't get seduced by a shrinking pocketbook which prompts you to take a job that isn't actually right for you.

Be careful to remember that success means something different to each of us. We should not continue to live our sad stories and make excuses for not doing anything and simply accept failure. We need to accept responsibility for our lives. The world does not owe us a job. You must seize the opportunities presented to you.

This column is the second of six columns that will be addressed to some aspect of the job search process. Best of luck to those of you who are searching for your next job.

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

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Finally it's autumn, time for fresh apples, cooler days, crisp nights, fires in the fireplace, Halloween and this year, for the first time ever, IBAM!!! The 1st Irish Books, Art and Music Festival being held this year at the IAHC on Samhain, the Celtic New Year. How appropriate. The time that ancient people believed that the old year died and a new one was born. This year a new festival is born that will celebrate the literary and artistic aspects of our culture as never before. You'll find all the information elsewhere in this paper, so I won't repeat that here. I only want to tell all of you that this festival is one you won't want to miss. I'm looking forward to IBAM and I'll be there, to be sure.

House Concerts

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience live music is at house concerts. These are concerts held, literally, in people's houses and yes they can be tiny affairs, sometimes no more than a dozen or so folks scattered around the parlour while your musician bashes out a tune close enough to tickle. No amplification, no need for it and plenty of up close and personal time with performers you've only seen from afar. Not all performers can handle it, but those that can provide a stirring experience where you will become one with the music. A note of appreciation for those folks who open their homes

to share their love of the music with others. These people are real heroes in my book. They don't do it for the money and there's damn little glory involved, but these lovely folks provide us with a return to the music's original venue, sitting around the fire side listening to a bard, and keeping alive the traditions of our musical heritage.

I was privileged recently to attend a house concert where one of my all-time favorite singer/songwriters was performing, Brian McNeill. Like most people who love Celtic music, I have my top ten CDs that I'd have to bring with if exiled to a desert island. Brian McNeill is special to me in that no fewer than two of his recordings are included in that short list. Those two CDs are The Busker, a showcase of Brian's fiddle virtuosity and one of the most lovely love songs ever penned, "The Devil's Only Daughter," and The Back o' the North Wind, Brian's tribute to Scots that immigrated to the US. This CD is just golden with classic after classic that you've heard others perform, but Brian does them best. His song for his Uncle Jim, "The Best O' The Barley," is my favorite and worth the price of admission. These are two CDs that should be in everyone's collection and, luckily, they're still in print and relatively easy to obtain.

Back to the house concert where Brian had us singing along, and laughing, and even shedding a couple of tears. The night was topped off when Brian played a couple songs from his newest CD The Baltic tae Byzantium, Tales of the Scots in Europe. He ended the night with the song he wrote to tell his Dad's story, "Bring The Lassie Home," I won't tell you the whole story, I couldn't do it justice, but pick up the CD, pour yourself a couple fingers of your favorite, read the liner notes and prepare to listen to a real gem. This one easily joins its two brothers on my top ten list. Finally, do yourself a favor, and look for Brian McNeill when he's playing near you, he's the real deal. His music will touch you where you

live and you'll walk away a changed person—for the better.



More New Releases

It has been an astounding year for new music. I think maybe hard times helps to generate good music. Good music helps get us through hard times, so maybe there's a silver lining to this dark economic cloud.

The first new CD I want to tell you about comes from a long standing favorite band, Battlefield Band. Matter of fact, Brian McNeill, remember him, was one of the founding members of Battlefield Band and responsible for some of their greatest music, but I digress. Battlefield Band's newest is called Zama Zama and contains the usual amount of stunning piping, courtesy of Mike Katz, inspired fiddling thanks to Alasdair White, guitar work by Sean O'Donnell and founding member Alan Reid, penning tunes and singing same, not to mention keyboards. As with most Battlefield Band CDs there's a theme to this recording. It started out as a collection of tunes about gold, and expanded to include far more musical commentary on our economic state, how we got there, and where do we go from here. I simplify but I double dog dare anyone to pin down a Battlefield Band recording in 25 words or less. Even the band themselves, despite lengthy liner notes, has to recommend a website to do further research so you'll get the real meanings and messages included in this recording. This is not just another pretty face of a CD. This is a research project, homework for adults that you'll find yourself drawn into. You may agree with the sentiments expressed in this recording, or you may disagree, but I guarantee you won't be bored.

Moving on to the second new CD, I have to first thank my good friend and customer Noah Smulkis for turning me on to this recording. He came trucking into the store one night with a CD that he said I had to hear. I was immediately interested because I know Noah's taste in music and he's no lightweight. We listened and were treated to an instrumental recording with some of the most innovative, rivet-

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ing treatments of trad music I've ever heard. Great stuff, I thought, wonder where they're from. Imagine my surprise when I checked the CD to find that the band was from Denmark! "Kasir" as the band is called, has only one CD, so far, called Reel Irish. The three fellas in the band look to be about 12 or 13, but I'm sure that's just my old fogey eyes (everyone looks young these days). Oisín Walsh plays a mean bodhrán, Rune Cygan Barslund rocks on accordion and whistles, and Aske Fuglsang Ruhe plays dynamic guitar and mandolin. I've sold several of their CDs so far and have gotten an enthusiastic response from my customers as I had myself. The band hasn't toured here yet and I'm hoping someone brings them over soon because I want to see them in person. You can hear sound bites at www.kasir.dk.

We talked about the band "Cara" from Germany last month, "Salsa Celtica" Scotland's hottest Salsa band is currently touring and now "Kasir" from Denmark. You can certainly see the international appeal of Celtic music.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Samhain and I hope to see you all at the Heritage Center on Halloween weekend for the IBAM. Slainté.

You can find me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, polishing my CDs, 47 S. Villa Avenue in Villa Park or call at 630-834-8108 or email me at pipingitin@comcast.net.



John Staunton with Eddie Byrne in Town

Irish country music sensation John Staunton, from Westport, Co. Mayo, with Eddie Byrne will perform a few shows in October in Chicago. On Friday, October 16, 2009, they will be at the Thatch Pub, 5707 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago, and on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009, at the Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. in Chicago.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 at 7:30pm, they will perform at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Ave. in Chicago. Admission is \$10 and proceeds will go toward renovating the kitchen at the IAHC. Groups welcome, For more information, call Bernie Heveran at 773.501.9457.

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Horoscope



ARIES: These days you are in the spotlight when the full moon of Oct. 2009 shines the spotlight on you. Better be good because there is no hiding from this one. The area of concern for you will be your public image and the way you are perceived by others. Make sure your toupee is on straight!



TAURUS: Your ruler, planet Venus, is casting a flirtatious glance towards Jupiter, Chiron, and Neptune. You will be virtually irresistible to others this month. You may have the problem of too many choices in the romance dept!



GEMINI: You could give or receive some surprising news this month of Oct. 2009. Or you could declare your position in some area that totally befuddles the opposition! Whatever the disclosure it will be swift and sudden!



CANCER: You will be very direct this month. Your ruler, the Moon, is closing in on a decisive angle to planet Mars, which is hanging out in your sign. You'll be no pushover. You steamroller you! You go girl (or boy.)



LEO: In Oct. 2009 you will be facing a lot of wind from some very assertive and demanding people. You will be able to stand up to this however. Your ruler, the Sun, is in the sign of balance and fair play, Libra. This should be a good hair month for you!



VIRGO: Some brave soul is totally smitten with you and will demonstrate this fact in no uncertain terms. It is as if the love fairy dumped a whole bottle of passion potion on you! What! Are you blind? Why yes, love is always this way!



LIBRA: Your fence sitting has caused you to lose some valuable opportunities. Excessive deliberations on your part have emptied the hour glass and another contender has run off with your prize. How slick and fickle life can be.



SCORPIO: You will fight to the death for what you believe in. This is one of those months when you will bravely stand your ground. If the sign Cancer figures strongly in your profile you will be invincible. You are scaring everybody with your laser like stare!



SAGITTARIUS: The love bug will bite you this month! Hope it doesn't leave a welt! Planet Venus has singled you out for some attention. We hope you're in a position to take advantage of this sweet opportunity.



CAPRICORN: You are about to make a big change. At the end of Oct. 2009 your ruler, planet Saturn, will leave the sign of Virgo, and proceed on to the sign of Libra. This will be a slow process that lasts until the end of October 2012! Get ready for something new concerning your home life.



AQUARIUS: You are on the romantic hot seat! Sneaky Cupid will paste a big fat target on your back when you are unaware! Look out! Prepare for the ride as best you can. Venus, Jupiter, Chiron, and Neptune are conspiring to snare you!



PISCES: You have a lot in common with your lucky neighbor, Aquarius! Your primary ruler, planet Neptune is doing a cosmic tango with Venus. This will bring lots of goodies your way during Oct. 2009! Don't overdo the sweets.

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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-978-0100). The firm concentrates in the representation of seriously injured victims of all types of accidents.

Things To Remember If You're In An Auto Accident

Most people don't expect to be involved in a car collision. Unfortunately, no matter how hard you do your best to drive responsibly and defensively, car collisions are a fact of life. Here are some tips if one happens to you:

(1) Safety is paramount, stop, pull off the road if possible, and warn oncoming traffic, if necessary. If someone is injured, call for help and

assist them if you can. Avoid moving anyone with severe injury or with any injury to neck or back, if possible. If you see any smoke or fire, get away from the vehicle. Do not attempt to put it out or retrieve belongings. If the vehicle cannot be moved, all passengers should stay seat belted in the vehicle with hazard lights on until help arrives. Leave the vehicle only if it is safe to do so, and move

off to the side of the road in case your car is struck by another vehicle. Never stand with your back to traffic, between or behind vehicles.

(2) Always exchange identification information and insurance information. Get the other driver's name, address, telephone number, insurance company and policy number and the name of the vehicle owner. Agreeing to working out auto-damage repairs with just a handshake can be problematic. Often there are hidden damages that make an accurate assessment of the costs of repair difficult. If the accident involves the right-of-way at an intersection, or other accident patterns involving a question of fault, it may be important to get the names, addresses and telephone numbers of other drivers or witnesses. If possible, take photographs of the vehicles and drivers at the scene of the collision. Most cell phones now contain cameras, otherwise, a disposable or digital camera is adequate.

(3) If there is personal injury or property damage, you must notify the police either at the scene or at a local police station. It is also advisable to report the accident because in some situations, injuries are not readily apparent and only manifest themselves days or even weeks later. Without a police report, it is one driver's word against the other.

(4) If you are involved in an accident, resulting in injury or death, or property damage in excess of

\$500.00, you must also file within ten days of the accident a written report of the accident with the State of Illinois.

(5) If you suffer personal injury, it is better from both a medical and legal viewpoint to seek help immediately. The full extent of injuries may not be known at the onset. If there is a medical problem, patients are generally criticized for failing to seek medical care the day of the accident or within one or two days.

(6) Anything a driver says at the accident scene can be used against that person later on. An oral admission of fault by a party to a lawsuit made at the time of an accident will be admissible against the party at trial and is strong evidence against that party. If there is some uncertainty about fault, you should remain silent on the issue. Also, do not try to guess or speculate about what happened during an accident. Furthermore, you should limit your discussion at the scene of the accident to the police. Finally, it is important to take photographs of the auto damage, if not done at the scene, before the car is repaired or totaled.

(7) Generally, it is wise to notify your insurance company of the accident even if it is not your fault, by calling your agent. Policies have medical expense coverage that will help pay medical expenses, even out-of-pocket deductibles in addition to any health insurance benefits

available. Also, other insurance coverages in the policy may apply, such as uninsured (where the other driver had no insurance) or underinsured (where the other driver is insured but his policy limits are less than yours) coverage. You may not know at first what coverages may come into play because of an accident, but your insurer may be able to deny coverage if it was not promptly notified of an accident.

(8) If your vehicle is damaged to the extent that it needs to be towed, make sure you remove anything of value from the vehicle to prevent loss, weather damage or theft.

(9) If you suffer injuries, especially serious ones, it is wise to consult an attorney. If you attempt to resolve any injury claim on your own, you will be dealing with an experienced adjuster whose job it is to negotiate a settlement favorable to the insurance company. Furthermore, the insurance company is under no obligation to explain to you the applicable law or its responsibility under the law. Because the insurance company has hundreds of lawyers at its disposal, generally it is difficult to reach a fair settlement by going it alone.

(10) Finally, don't panic. Be calm and polite. Escalating the situation is not helpful. If the other driver is upset or belligerent or tries to engage you in an argument, move away and wait for the police to arrive.

By: Kevin T. Veugeler

WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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Celtic Thunder Captures US Hearts Again



In September, the group hailed by the New York Times as "a Fab Five peddling Celtic stylings," performed throughout the day at QVC's "Rose of Tralee" Irish celebration and as a result sold a record breaking 10,000 copies of a special collection, Celtic Thunder: Act Two CD and The Show DVD, both of which were released on Decca Records in 2008. The phenomenon that is Celtic Thunder has achieved

sales approaching 500,000 copies of their combined releases to date, and remain in the Top 10 of Billboard's Top World Albums a year after their #1 debut.

On Oct. 2nd this incredibly talented Irish and Scottish group will stage a brand new production for Public Television entitled Celtic Thunder Storm at the International Center in Toronto. The DVD from this show is scheduled for

broadcast on the Public Television network in March 2010, alongside a new CD release of Storm.

On Thursday, October 8th, in Long Island, New York, Celtic Thunder will kick off the "Take Me Home Fall 2009 Tour," an extensive trek across North America in support of their new Decca Records album. Take Me Home was recorded live at Toronto's Casino Rama and features

the group's signature takes on hit songs.

Local tour dates below. For more information, including tour updates, log onto www.celtict Thunder.com. Celtic Thunder Local Tour Dates

- 10/28 Peoria Civic Ctr., Peoria, IL
- 10/29 State Thtr., Minn., MN
- 10/30 Rosemont Thtr., Chicago, IL
- 11/01 Fox Theater, Detroit, MI
- 11/02 Morris PAC, South Bend, IN.

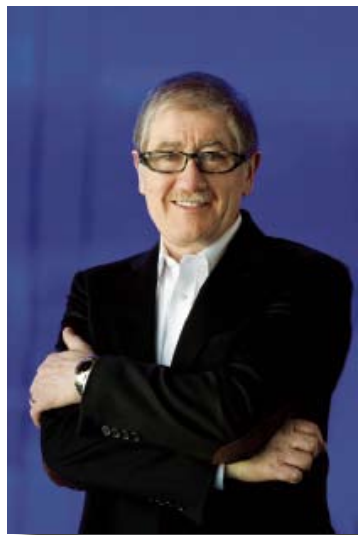
Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Faith Healer: Visions of Reality or Version of Reality

For this article, I was privileged to discuss Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* with Joe Dowling. He is artistic director of Minneapolis's Guthrie Theatre, where it will be produced. Dowling, former artistic director of Ireland's national theater, the Abbey, has had an extraordinary influence



Joe Dowling

on theater in the United States, and in Ireland.

Dowling is appearing in *Faith Healer*, as well as directing it. It will be an outstanding performance because the last time (1994) he acted as the faith healer, his performance was praised as setting a very high standard for interpretation and performance.

As a young man he became interested in acting, and enrolled in UCD to study and to perfect his new profession. He became an acclaimed actor, eventually being asked to join the Abbey Theatre. And in 1978, he became its artistic director. With the Abbey's high standard for acting, this was a huge accomplishment.

When visiting the Guthrie Theatre, he came to like its artistic freedom, and in 1995 became its artistic director.

Dowling enjoys a long relation with the great Irish playwright, Brian Friel. This is because of Joe's sensitive and evocative treatment of Friel's words. Friel's plays tell deceptively simple stories, but are full of complex nuances.

Two years ago I saw Friel's *The Home Place* at the Guthrie. It, too, was directed by Joe Dowling. It was

a great theater experience.

Friel's *Faith Healer* is a discussion of what is fact and what is illusion, or does illusion become fact if it is strongly believed?

The faith healer is Frank Hardy. He makes his living going to small towns in Scotland, and Wales, renting seedy halls in them, and attempting to cure people's physical illnesses. Sometimes, incredibly, he succeeds. A supernatural gift? Psychosomatic illness? Delusions, or strong inner, almost religious, belief?

Joe Dowling had the very difficult and sensitive task to try to clarify those possibilities.

Also, the faith healer, Frank Hardy, has a crisis of faith in himself when he feels he is 'masquerading,' or being a 'con man' and a 'mountebank.' Frank is both right and wrong.

Witnesses to an event can each see things very differently. We see what we want to see. Ask any police detective about this.

About this, Friel seems to be saying: our memories are ambivalent—fact becomes fiction and fiction becomes fact.

Frank West: "Joe, will you speak about this, please?"

Joe Dowling: "One of the things important to people is to review our memory, so that we can reflect those things that support our self story."

FW: "I've seen several of Friel's plays, and carefully read the script of *Faith Healer*. I am astonished at how he is able to draw you into a play. You become totally involved. I clearly remember scenes from plays of his that I saw years ago. Will you talk about this, Joe?"

JD: "I am amazed how well Friel tells stories. I am also astonished by the vibrant and emotive language he uses to tell those stories. His beautiful and powerful use of words constantly impresses me."

Joe Dowling directs and acts in Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*. And if that is not enough extraordinary work, at the same time, he is also directing Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Both plays run concurrently at the Guthrie.

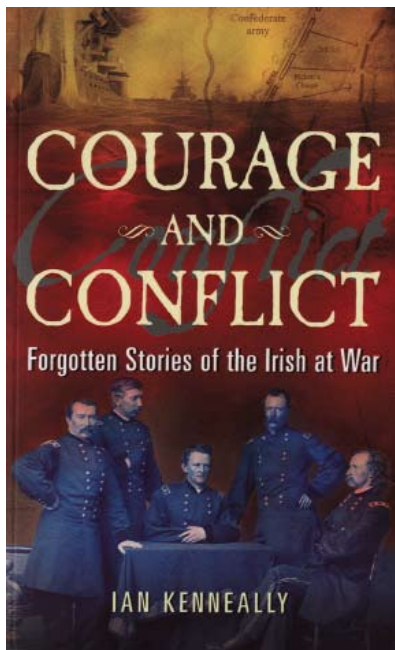
The Importance of Being Earnest runs to November 8. And *Faith Healer* runs from October 17 through December 6.

Why not plan a few days of great theatre at the Guthrie? Minneapolis

is only about 50 minutes by jet from Chicago.

The Guthrie Theater is located at 818 South 2nd Street on the shore of the Mississippi River, in all its fall splendor.

The toll free box office number is 1-877-44STAGE, or online at www.guthrietheater.org.



Courage and Conflict

The Irish are such peaceful, gentle, humane people. Yet paradoxically, they have always made great soldiers.

This book is composed of nine sections. Five sections are about Irishmen who served in the United States, and three are about Irish soldiers who served in the armies of other countries. It is telling that only one of the book's nine sections is about Irishmen fighting for their own country.

The Irish were not able to fight for their own country until the early 1900's. And then they fought even more bravely and efficiently. Led by Michael Collins, they outsmarted and defeated the largest, most successful army on Earth: the British army.

The story of John Barry, founder of the American Navy, begins in the mid-1700's. When still a boy, his family was evicted from their farm in Wexford. The landlord probably smirked, glad to be rid of them.

Young Barry became a seaman. And because of his highly successful seamanship, Congress appointed him to begin an American navy to help in the fight for independence. He was given command of the first ship. And his daring seamanship led to the capture of several British ships.

However, Barry realized the new navy could do little against the huge

British fleet. So he devised what we would call guerilla tactics.

In one encounter, he led seven row boats across Philadelphia's harbor and captured a British warship and two supply ships! Actions like this kept the British fleet on constant edge, and soon their supply ships had to travel in convoys!

Fast forward to modern history, the book's section eight: the story of Michael Collins, British spies and Bloody Sunday, November 21, 1920.

The Irish Republican Army was small and poorly armed compared to the huge British army. Its leader, Michael Collins, determined to make up for this by being bold and devising urban guerilla tactics = small, but determined forces could tie down a much larger army.

As the war for Ireland's independence (1916-1921) dragged on, Britain brought into Ireland more and more "intelligence" officers to find and kill Collins. Unlimited bribe money for informers was always available.

Collins realized that sooner or later they would find an informer who would betray him. So he decided to strike first.

When Dublin's church bells rang at nine o'clock (few of the IRA soldiers could afford watches) on Sunday morning, November 21, 1920, his men struck. They crashed into the rooms of the British officers, and began firing.

Fourteen of them were killed. Panic spread—they could only feel safe now in Dublin Castle.

Within seven months, there would be a truce, and peace negotiations would begin.

This wonderful book tells of Irish brains, bravery, and boldness. *Courage and Conflict: Forgotten Stories of the Irish at War* by Ian Kenneally. The Collins Press/www.collinspress.ie; Wilton, Cork, 2009. 374 pages; \$25.95.

Bruen's Sanctuary

Ken Bruen has published twenty-two novels! Most of them are absorbing mystery and adventure novels. I have read and reviewed many of them here.

Sanctuary is the seventh novel in Bruen's "Zach Taylor" series. It is set in Galway city. I have read each of them and look forward to reading the next one.

Zach Taylor is a fictional crime solver. But the writing is so realistic that to me he is a real person.

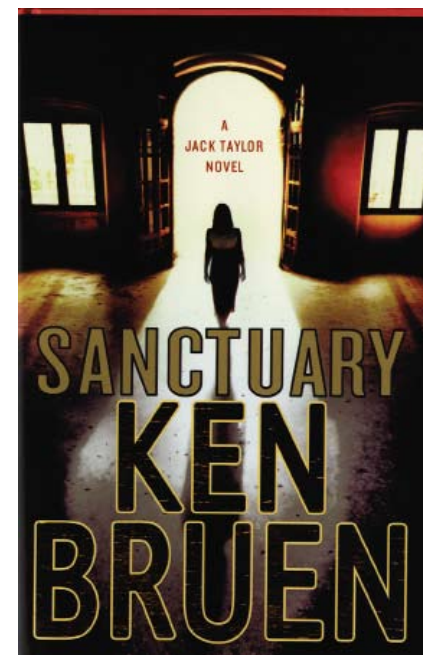
Taylor was kicked out of the Guards (Ireland's national police) for abuse of alcohol and other drugs. He constantly fights against depression, but maybe because of this, he is a keen observer of people.

In *Sanctuary*, he tracks down a former nun, who has become a murderer. She is filled with rage, and is killing people she blames for her problems.

The murderer uses the name Benedictus (remember *Benediction* on Wednesday night and Sunday afternoon?)

As Zach Taylor tries to find her, we see the seedy sides of modern Ireland.

The characters are vibrant, the



scenes realistic, the humor dark. Ken Bruen is an excellent writer.

Sanctuary by Ken Bruen. Minotaur Books/www.minotaurbooks.com; New York, 2008, 204 pages; \$24.95.

The Last Right Boy and West Kerry

To those of you who put on plays, these are worth reading.

Jim Lucason presents two new plays: *The Last Right Boy* and *West Kerry*. Both plays show the influence of J.M. Synge. The sentence structure and the sounds, or music of the words, are reminiscent of Synge's plays.

Jim Lucason is a young Irish playwright who wrote these plays at Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The Last Right Boy and *West Kerry* by Jim Lucason. Beag Moinear Press, distributed here by One Co LLC./860-564-4839; Oneco, CT, 2008. 136 pages; \$4.00.

Galway Tribes Sold to Tommy Nevin's

Great news! Tommy Nevin's Pub was slated to purchase The Galway Tribes in Frankfort, IL on September 30th. The southwest suburban restaurant's recent closing was a great loss to the area.

Nevin's plans are for an opening in early November. IAN Editor Cliff Carlson is especially pleased that such a beautiful venue will remain available to the public. Stay tuned for more news on this.



Seanachai's Mojo Mickybo

After last season's highly successful *Scenes From The Big Picture* (Equity Wing Joseph Jefferson Nomination - Best Ensemble), Seanachai returns

to the exceptional storytelling style of Owen McCafferty. The colorful argot of urchins Mojo and Mickybo speaks of a gritty urban landscape, transformed by the exuberant artistry of the boys' imaginations.

Like their heroes Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid, it's wee lads Mojo and Mickybo against the world in this bittersweet tale of innocence lost. Two actors play 17 characters in Owen McCafferty's rollicking and poignant thrill ride through 1970 Belfast.

Seanachai Theatre Company's Mojo Mickybo will perform at The Artistic Home, 3914 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60613, from October 29th to December 6th, 2009, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. Opening night is October 31st, half price previews are October 29th and 30th. There will be no show November 26th and there will be an added show on Monday November 23rd at 8pm. Tickets are \$26 and can be obtained at www.seanachai.org or by calling (773) 878-3727. For further information, visit www.seanachai.org.

The Wiggles! Tour Is Coming To South Bend




The most beloved family entertainment band in the world, The Wiggles, are setting out on their wildest adventure to date. The fab four from down under are back with a brand new live show! This spectacular musical extravaganza will showcase old favorites as well as their hit "Monkey Man" featuring Australian

pop sensation Kylie Minogue from "The Wiggles Go Bananas" album. Tickets for South Bend, IN are on sale now and the Morris Performing Arts Center box office (www.morriscenter.org) or by calling 574-235-9190. Prices range from \$10 - \$40 (additional facility fees and service charges may apply).

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- Tuesday - Trivia with new Quizmaster Dave 8pm
- \$2.50 domestic bottles • 1/2 price bottles of wine
- \$4 Stella Artois & Magners • \$4 burgers & fries
- Wednesday - Live Irish session 8pm • \$3 hot wings • \$4 Guinness • 1/2 price cosmo's
- \$3.50 Chang Beer
- Thursday - 1/2 price margaritas
- \$3 well drinks • \$3 Sam Adams Seasonal
- \$2.50 domestic bottles • \$4 burger & fries
- Friday - all you can eat fish and chips all day
- \$3.50 Chang Beer
- Sunday - • \$3 well drinks • \$2.50 domestic bottles \$4 bloody marys

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Spóirt

Mary Margaret O'Leary

m.oleary@irishamericannews.com



Last June, Northwestern University Athletics department announced that acclaimed basketball coach, Joe McKeown, would be taking over as head coach for the Wildcats' women's basketball team.

McKeown, who surpassed the 500 win mark in 2008 and has a winning percentage of .745, previously served as head coach for New Mexico State, and most recently George Washington. He is recognized as being one of the top and most successful coaches in college

basketball today. In McKeown's three seasons with New Mexico State, he brought the team to two NCAA tournaments and in his nineteen years with George Washington, the Colonials reached post-season play eighteen times, including four times advancing to the Sweet Sixteen, and in 1997, reaching the Elite Eight. McKeown sets the record earning the Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year award five times, and he is also two-time National Coach of the Year nominee.

With his impressive coaching records put aside, McKeown himself is a very humble and grateful person. McKeown grew up in St. Matthew's Parish in the Mayfair neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia. McKeown's grandmother, whose maiden name was O'Donnell was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, lived close by. "She lived in an apartment near our row house. She spoke with a brogue—it was entertaining. It was an Irish Catholic neighborhood, there were bars on every corner... everyone kind of knew each other." After graduating from Father Judge High School in Holmesburg, Philadelphia, McKeown had already established a profound appreciation for basketball. "Growing up in Philadelphia, basketball was really important. There's a lot of great college basketball, pro coaches, NBA coaches, that have come out of Philadelphia. I always wanted to coach basketball. When you're young if you didn't go to the NBA, you wanted to be a coach and obviously, I wasn't going to the NBA." Although McKeown didn't go to the NBA, he did play basketball collegiately at Mercer College in Trenton, New Jersey, before transferring to Kent State, where he served as the co-captain during his senior year.

After college, McKeown landed his first assistant job coaching at his alma mater, Kent State, before taking an assistant coaching position at the University of Oklahoma in 1983. From that point on, McKeown set out on a path which would lead him to where he is today. Now, thirty years later, McKeown is still coaching the sport he grew up admiring, and is determined to make a difference. He has earned respect and recognition for his efforts and effectiveness as a coach. When asked about how he feels about surpassing the 500 win mark, McKeown laughs. "We don't really deal with numbers. I don't think if I never win 600 or 700 games that would ever bother me."

As for the future of the Northwestern women's basketball team, McKeown admits that the team should be better this year than last, but his main concern still lies in establishing a foundation. "It's more about trying to get this program off the ground where we can compete at the top of the Big Ten, and establish a great program nationwide, where people want to come and play here. More so than win twenty games and get to NCAA tournament—its more long term. I want to build a program that's consistent year after year." McKeown has already started to implement a set of standards for his players, laying the groundwork

for a successful future. "Once you have the commitment as a basketball player, and discipline you're supposed to have off the court as a student athlete, I think everything else kind of falls into place," said McKeown.

Wildcats' Senior, guard Jenny Eckhart, is confident that the team will have more success this year, "We are constantly improving and making strides towards becoming a solid, competitive Big 10 basketball team. We have a great freshman class coming in this year, and additional recruiting classes will certainly bring more talent and commitment to establishing a top program. We players are much more comfortable in the new system. I think that coach is a very family-orientated, generous man. He is a very good coach and

people and understanding athletes and motivation. I owe a lot to him in a lot of different ways—he mentored me through some difficult times. He coached the greatest Irish team of all time—the Boston Celtics!

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: Growing up in Philadelphia you're always a fan of your teams. I used to be a beer vendor at Veterans Stadium—we sold a lot of beer back then. Phillies, Eagles, and 76ers—those are teams I'll always follow.

Q: Growing up, did your family have any Irish traditions?

A: Yes, mostly because of my grandmother. First off, I hate corned beef and cabbage, but everyone in our neighborhood was Irish; we would have big dinners all the time and people were always coming

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he has a lot to offer his players as a coach and a person."

While The McKeown family, Joe, wife Laura, and their three children Megan, Joey, and Ally, continue to settle into their new home in the Chicagoland area, the Northwestern girls' basketball team will continue to grow under its new direction and settle into the changes being made within their Northwestern basketball family.

Four Questions with Coach McKeown:

Q: Is there any person who has helped you get to where you are today?

A: A lot of people. I think that the one person who has helped me a lot at becoming a better coach has been Red Auerbach—who is the legendary Boston Celtics' coach. He lived in Washington and went to GW so he was around and I had access to him. I spent a lot of time with him, played racquetball, he had this lunch every Tuesday, and it was an honor for me to be invited. He really helped me in dealing with

over. I remember funerals were like big parties. That was the biggest tradition, when my grandfather died, we lived in a little row house and there had to be two-hundred people coming through our house. It was like a big party with music and everything—it didn't seem like somebody died.

Q: Do you have any superstitions or rituals on game day?

A: Game day in Washington, every day after we had what we called shoot around, I would always walk from our campus through Georgetown all the way through to the Key Bridge and back. That was my ritual, and I'd stop along the way and ate at the same places and I'd do that every day for 19 years—every home game.

No word yet on which route Coach McKeown will choose for his pre-game stroll, but the path for the Northwestern women's basketball team is headed in the right direction.

For a complete list of the Wildcats' Women's 2009-2010 basketball schedule please visit: nusports.com.

2009 NACB Playoffs

By Eamonn Kelly, PRO-NACB

The 2009 North American County Board GAA playing season came to a close in great style as thousands of football, hurling and camogie fans from around the country packed Boston's Irish Cultural Center in south suburban Canton over the Labor Day weekend for the national championships playoffs. It was a most successful weekend for the city of Boston both on and off the field. Seven national titles were captured by host clubs. A major achievement was the winning of three of the four senior NACB championships by Boston teams. History was created with the Wexford hurlers and St. Christopher's footballers capturing their first national championships. Eire Og regained the senior camogie championship they last held in 2005. In addition, Boston teams collected trophies in junior "A" hurling, junior "A" football and junior "C" football.

Played in perfect weather conditions, the 67 games tournament was a tremendous success thanks to an excellently coordinated program jointly organized by the Boston Northeast Divisional Board and the NACB. Clubs from 25 cities across the country participated in the playoffs that consisted of 19 championships up for contention.

In addition to Boston, six other cities shared the winning circle. San Francisco teams had a very successful weekend, taking titles in junior "C" hurling, Intermediate men's and ladies football, and ladies senior football. Washington DC from the Mid-Atlantic division won championships in junior "B" hurling, junior "C" football and junior camogie. The following cities captured one title: San Diego, junior "B" football, Charlotte, ladies junior "B" football; Philadelphia, ladies junior "A" football. Mason Dixon, a Mid-Atlantic division team comprising of players from the states of Maryland and Virginia made history by winning the junior "D" football championship for the first time.

The second year of the all-American men's football championship was another success. Three cities, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco participated with all games attracting good attendances.

Hurling

As in previous years, the playoffs produced some great games and close encounters but also some poor and one-sided affairs. It was a great weekend for the Boston Wexford hurlers who won their first NACB championship and in the process got amends for their Northeast divisional

final defeat by Tipperary by turning the tides on Tipp in the national final. Wexford, who qualified for the playoffs as defeated divisional finalists beat the Chicago Harry Boland's by 6 points in the semi-final. In a thrilling second senior hurling semi-final, Tipperary defeated San Francisco's Na Fianna by a single point.

Boston's Fr. Tom Burkes won their fourth junior hurling NACB championship with a 3 point win over San Francisco's Naomh Padraig in a thrilling junior "A" final.

Five teams, Indianapolis, Twin Cities, Washington DC, Seattle and Denver competed in the junior "B" hurling championship with Washington regaining the title they last won in 2006 by defeating Seattle by 5 points in a most competitive final. The enormous growth of hurling around the country was no more evident than in the junior "C" championship with a record 11 teams competing. Indianapolis, last years and runners-up, Chicago Cusack, were considered the main contenders for this years title. However, it was Philadelphia's Allentown and San Francisco Celtic who emerged as the two top teams, with the Rovers taking the championship in their first appearance in the playoffs.

Men's Football

In senior football, Boston St. Christopher's emerged as the surprise package of this year's championships. They defied all the odds defeating current NACB champions, McAnespies in the Boston final. They continued to win in the playoffs with a 6 point defeat of Philadelphia Kevin Barry's in the semi-final. They concluded a wonderful year with a marvelous display in the final, easily defeating Chicago Parnells to capture the club's first nat'l championship. Most competitive game in this senior football championship was that between the Parnells and 2005 winners, San Francisco Ulster, with Chicago rallying in the late stages to win by 2 points.

San Francisco Son's of Boru experienced little trouble in taking their first Intermediate football championship having easy victories over Boston Armagh/Notre Dame and Philadelphia Young Irelanders..

Boston McAnespies junior "A" football team made amends for their failed senior squad with impressive displays taking the club's first NACB junior championship. They had their greatest challenge from 2008 junior "B" winners, Charlotte. They had just 5 points to spare over the Southwest side in a great semi-final and easily defeated a weak Chicago Wolfe Tones team in a one-sided final.

While the junior "B" championship wasn't as competitive as last year when two games went into overtime, there were several close contests. After fine displays, narrow defeats were suffered by 2 Midwest teams, Cleveland St. Charlath's and Detroit Wolfe Tones. San Diego Setanta proved to be the best team defeating Detroit Wolfe Tones in the final to win their third junior "B" title.

The junior "C" championship, was divided into two divisions this year, one allowing sanction players and the other with no sanction players. The change resulted in close and extremely competitive contests. Austin, who took their first national title last year in winning the junior "D" championship put up a great challenge to Washington DC, going down by just 7 points in the "C" division (with sanctions) final. In a marvelous non-sanction final Boston defeated Philadelphia by the score 2-12 to 3-7.

This years junior "D" championship was the most competitive since the competition started in 2004. In the five game contest no more than four points separated the teams in four of those games. In an excellent final between two local rivals Mason Dixon defeated Baltimore, 2-11 to 1-10 to win their first NACB championship.

Ladies Football

In ladies senior football former champions San Francisco Fog City Harps are back on the winning track. With two impressive performances the Gaels regained the trophy they last won in 2006. Their biggest challenge this year came from new club, Mairead Farrell of Philadelphia, who came within a goal of the Gaels in a marvelous semifinal. In a one-sided final the San Francisco team had an easy win over Boston Tir na Nog.

The intermediate championship fell below expectations. Similar to 2008, just two teams competed for the cup this year in a one sided final with San Francisco Saoirse easily defeating Boston Tir na Nog.

Teams from Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle and San Francisco competed for the junior "A" trophy. Philadelphia Notre Dame made amends for last year's heartbreaking one point loss to Washington by beating defeating Fog City Harps from San Francisco in this years final to win the club's first junior "A" title. In a thrilling junior "A" shield final Seattle defeated San Diego by three points.

As in previous years the ladies junior "B" football championship with teams from seven cities competing, produced a mix of poor and

highly entertaining games. Charlotte emerged the deserving winner with impressive displays. They defeated Denver by 9 points in the final to capture their first NACB ladies football title. In the junior "B" shield competition Detroit St. Anne's defeated a Orange County/Seattle combined squad.

Camogie

In a very entertaining senior camogie final Boston Eire Og regained the trophy they last held in 2005 with a 7 point victory over the Shamrock team from San Francisco. Washing DC took the junior "A" championship with a victory over Milwaukee. Chicago St. Mary's defeated a combined American born team in a junior "B" cup game.

The weekend activities came to an end with a reception on Sunday night at the Irish Cultural Center. Guest speaker from Ireland was Jimmy O'Gorman, Chairman of the Munster Council. Besides praising the Irish Cultural Center facilities, he congratulated the Boston Northeast divisional board and its playoff committee along with the North American Board officers for their contribution to the success of a wonderful weekend. New Overseas Committee chairman and former GAA President, Joe McDonagh, also spoke at the function. Also in attendance from Ireland were Pat Quill, Ladies Football President; Peter Quill Ladies Football Treasurer; Morgan Conroy, Camogie Vice President and the following referees: Ger Hoey, Syl Doyle, Tony Lennon, Keith Tighe and Cathal Egan.

2009 NACB

Playoff Final Scores

Senior Hurling:

Boston Wexford 3-13 Boston Tipperary 2-8

Junior A Hurling:

Boston Fr. Tom's 0-11 San Fran Naomh Padraig 1-5

Junior B Hurling:

Washington DC 2-13 Seattle 2-8

Junior C Hurling:

San Fran Rovers 5-12 Philadelphia Allentown 1-8

Men's Senior Football:

Boston St. Christophers 4-15 Chicago Parnells 0-7

Men's Intermediate Football

San Francisco Boru's 5-11 Philadelphia Young Irelander's 1-6

Men's Junior A Football

Boston McAnespies 4-16 Chicago Wolfe Tones 0-8

Men's Junior B Football

San Diego Setanta 1-16 Detroit Wolfe Tones 1-5

Men's Junior C Football (sanctions)

Washington DC 3-13 Austin 1-12

Men's Junior C Football (no sanctions)

Boston 2-12 Philadelphia 3-7

Men's Junior D Football

Mason Dixon 2-11 Baltimore 1-10

Ladies Senior Football

San Fran Fog City Harps 2-14 Boston Tir na Nog 0-7

Ladies Intermediate Football

San Francisco Saoirse 2-17 Boston Tir na Nog 1-4

Ladies Junior A Football

Philadelphia Notre Dame 3-13 San Francisco Fog City Harps 3-5

Ladies Junior A Shield

San Diego 3-4 Seattle 3-1

Ladies Junior B Football

Charlotte 2-11 Denver 2-5

Ladies Junior B Shield

Boston Tr na Nog 4-9 San Francisco Shamrocks 4-2

Junior Camogie

Washington DC 3-2 Milwaukee 0-2

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Steppenwolf's Behind The Curtain Fundraiser

Ever wonder what it takes to make an ensemble member fly? Or make a surprise entrance through a trapdoor? Find out when Steppenwolf Theatre Company opens the doors of its Scene Shop for the first time ever at Behind The Curtain on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at 7pm. Guests at this inaugural fundraising event will experience a unique, behind-the-scenes look at Steppenwolf's backstage production "secrets."

Behind The Curtain will include appetizers, cocktails, a silent auction and raffle plus the opportunity to meet behind-the-scenes professionals and designers.

The Behind The Curtain silent auction will feature many items including:

- Two house seats to Steppenwolf's production of Superior Donuts on Broadway including roundtrip airfare to New York.

- Two tickets to opening night of the national tour of Steppenwolf's August: Osage County at Chicago's Cadillac Place Theatre. The evening includes dinner with scenic designer Todd Rosenthal and technical director Russell Poole at Sepia.

Tickets for Behind The Curtain cost \$250 per person and are currently available by calling Steppenwolf's Special Events Department at (312) 654-5632 or specialevents@steppenwolf.org.

The Guggenheim Grotto Returns to U.S. for Fall Tour

With two successful U.S. national tours already in the can for 2009, The Guggenheim Grotto is returning stateside this October for a fall tour supporting They Might Be Giants.

The Dublin-based alt-pop duo released its sophomore recording, Happy The Man, in January 2009 on new model indie label United For Opportunity, and is already working on new material to test out on audiences during the shows this fall.

Over two years since the critically acclaimed debut ...Waltzing Alone hit U.S. shores, The Guggenheim Grotto released Happy The Man as an iTunes exclusive in October 2008, and the album quickly rose to No. 1 on the iTunes Folk Chart

Happy The Man boasts The Guggenheim Grotto's signature mix of timeless pop, soaring melodies and emotionally intelligent lyrics, but presents a greater maturity and a higher sense of self-consciousness from the duo. Kevin May and Mick Lynch spent a year exploring a range of new sounds and inspirations—working in sampling and electronic techniques along with new philosophies about life and humanity. The end product is decidedly upbeat as compared to the mellow musings of the band's more folk debut, ...Waltzing Alone (UFO), and it sees TGG embrace its classic pop side in a more

contemporary way.

The Guggenheim Grotto will perform the following dates with They Might Be Giants, locally:

October 8 – Detroit, MI – St. Andrew's Hall

October 10 – Chicago, IL – Vic Theatre

October 13 – Indianapolis, IN – The Vogue

October 15 – Cleveland, OH – Beachland Ballroom

More to be confirmed. www.guggenheimgrotto.com.



Two Major Irish Traditional Music Acts Coming!

By Bill Margeson

There are two eagerly awaited Irish music concerts approaching. The aficionado should mark the dates, well!

First up are Matt and Shannon Heaton returning to Space, the wonderful new concert venue in Evanston. The talented duo from Boston will be joined in a special appearance by Chicago's Liz Carroll and fellow Bostonian, Lissa Schneckenburger. Liz and Lissa will be playing fiddle, of course, with Shannon on flute and vocals, all supported by Matt on guitar and vocals. A great night. Wednesday evening, October 14, at 8pm. The venue is at 1245 Chicago Ave. in Evanston; (847) 492-8860. Ticket pricing is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$22.50 for special table seating. Big night for the trad fan. The website is www.ewanston.space.com.

The Brock-McGuire Band will also be appearing in an intimate concert on Thursday night, November 5th at McNally's Pub in St. Charles.

This band is the best instrumental group in Irish music. Based out of Clare, Galway, and Limerick, there are no awards the group has not won in Irish music. The legendary, Paul Brock and Manus McGuire on button box and fiddle, respectively, are joined by All-Ireland fiddle and concertina player, Niamh Ni Charra, and the best all-round pianist in Ireland, Denis Carey. The essence of the McNally's Irish Arts Series is going to be close up, intimate experiences in the very best of Irish culture—and no one better to begin it all than Brock-McGuire. Appearing as the first act in the McNally's Irish Arts Series, the group will be in the private venue, at 8pm. Tickets are \$20, available at the door for open seating. Seats will be available only for the first 100 guests.. More announcements will be made later regarding this major Series celebrating the Irish arts, but it may be hard to top this opening night with this all-star band. World class. www.mcnallysirishpub.com; Pub: 630-513-6300.

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The Scattering of Sliabh Ban

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

Part 11

The *Virginus*, an aging freighter that normally carried timber from eastern America to the continent, had indeed made the return trip to Grosse Ile. Carrying the five hundred tenant farmers from the bogs of Roscommon, the ship was not without its own brand of misery. Not three days out to sea, the first signs of typhus brought a panic among the passengers quarantined to their noxious hold as well as the crew above. Mary Lyons and what ever remained of her family and friends would not only endure the ravages of the disease, but a crossing that would normally take 30 days; and was hence provisioned for that long; would be nearly 65 days at sea. The dead and dying in the hold were tied with a rope and pulled from the rotting pit by the crew. Eventually, even the crew started to succumb to the fever and the remaining strong among the Irish were forced to haul their dead up the ladder and toss them over the side, staying long enough to watch them slowly betaken by the sea. Even the ship's captain would meet his end this way.

The living would remain on board the *Virginus* upon its arrival at Grosse Ile. As space was made available at the poorly equipped and understaffed quarantine station, those that could be moved were taken to the wooden sheds that were used as infirmaries. Those that lived through the contagion would eventually be taken into the St. Lawrence to Quebec City and then finally upstream by ferry to Montreal. The conditions in Montreal were not much better than those they had on the ship. This would be the first time any of the Irish had experienced a real winter. Even the seaway would freeze.

Some of the Irish would stay in Montreal or 'English America' as the Irish called it. Some would continue the move westward. And some would cross the frozen seaway, and with the aid of the Sisters of Charity, make their way to Hartford, Connecticut. After a lengthy stay in Montreal hospices recuperating from the ordeals of the famine, the typhus, and the frigid Canadian winters, in the spring of 1850, Mary Lyons would be among those that chose



to move south.

Michael arrived in New York in the spring of 1848 aboard the *Clarence*. In the days before Ellis Island, the Irish, mostly indigents, were forced to pay a bond to secure immigration or they were shuffled off to Tapscott's Poorhouse and made to work off their stay. Eventually, Michael would find work along the wharves and the now famous Five Points area of the city.

For a *culchie* from the west of Ireland, the city would have had its attractions at first, but eventually many of the newcomers would leave the city looking for more familiar pastures. The assassination of Major Denis Mahon was the first of a dozen or more and the headlines would follow the fleeing Irish.

Michael stayed in New York for less than a year before heading north towards Boston and ending up for a short stay just south of Pomfret, Connecticut. And even though Mary's departure from Ireland was a full six months before Michael's, he would pass through Hartford about a year before Mary would find her way south with the Sisters of Charity. Even more ironic is the fact that Michael would still be employed in Pomfret as Mary made her way with the Irish caravans from Hartford, past Pomfret, on their way to Providence. So their paths would cross twice. He would still be thinking that the *Virginus* had gone down at sea taking nearly 500 members of his village. She would be wondering just how many of her friends had been jailed, lashed, and hanged for the now infamous murder of their landlord...

In the spring of 1999, the Monaghan family returned to America. The Incredible Story of the landlord consumed them to the point that the following winter, Mr. Monaghan committed to write a

story about the famine, the Irish, and about the compelling story of Michael and Mary. He locked himself away in a cabin in the Wisconsin woods and began the research. He acquired ten years of the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal', from 1840 to 1850 that someone had fortuitously saved to microfilm. He purchased books by the dozens involving all aspects of Irish life, including two by an American Missionary, Aseneth Nicholson, who traveled the Irish country-side twice during the famine years. Her diary would provide the best images of the Irish nature. A book by James Hack Tuke, who traveled the west of Ireland, would

explain the impact of 200 years of penal laws on the rural tenant farmers. For the next three years Patrick would write and research the history which, while being responsible for so many of us here today, is completely obliterated from our collective conscience. By the spring of 2000, the Monaghan family had written, published, printed and distributed, 'because they never do', a history lesson wrapped in the story of Michael and Mary. The title recognizing that many children would leave the western Irish bogs promising their mother that they would return, knowing all the time that they never would, because they never do. This fact was driven home by the discovery that Ireland is the only country today whose population is less than it was in 1700. Over the centuries, the Irish had been driven, starved, and hunted off their lands.

Michael Monaghan and Mary Lyons were only two of the unfortunate. For the next 4 years, Patrick, his wife Joan, and their children would spread the story of the famine. The two boys, Patrick and Michael, would hand out copies of the novel in churches in exchange for donations to World Vision, a program that feeds the hungry of the world. Patrick and Joan would make presentations to libraries, genealogical societies, and Irish Fairs across the country. All in an

hundred and fifty years after the effects of the famine had ripped them apart.

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



Five Points

attempt to remind the world of the effect that apathy and neglect can have, and to promote the story of how one small country was nearly scraped from the face of the earth.

In the final chapter of the Scattering of Sliabh Ban you will bear witness to the incredible ending to this fantastic voyage of discovery, when a coincidental reading of the novel reunites a family one

few targeted producers/directors and must have the representation of a seasoned agent. If you know anyone with those kinds of contacts please urge them to contact us. We can be reached thru the BlackthornScribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



Confederate decorations in all the main rooms.

Sebrell believes there is a rich tourism dividend in uncovering this lost history: already, he has invitations to lead guided tours of groups from Virginia and Carolina, and Liverpool is planning a Confederate history trail in 2011 to mark the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the war. How nice: a mansion/museum shrine to slavery, to rally racists now threatening secession! Why not a bigots' package tour including a side-trip to Occupied Ireland to participate in their cousins' Orange marches?

TEDDY KENNEDY R.I.P. Thanks to all-around saint and reader Marion McPhail for forwarding 56 pages of East Coast newspaper responses to Kennedy's passing. Front-page photos confirmed Niagaras of words; nearly all laudatory. Inspiring; how Teddy championed the marginalized, poor, and persecuted (excepting the unborn) for the past few decades. Scores of examples were cited. But never mentioned was the British knighthood Sir Teddy recently received for his services to the Crown. Nor did British newspaper mention it as it places Teddy among fellow recipients such as Romania's criminal dictator Ceausescu executed by his long-suffering people in 1989. The Times was the sole exception. Its Ireland Correspondent men-

tioned the knighthood in an article headed; "Ireland's Friend who eventually faced the hard truths of a long and bitter conflict," falsely suggesting that the GFA ended the violence. That lie is readily refuted by the actual record. The murders peaked in 1973 and had dropped to very small numbers a decade before the sell-out. Understandable, that Teddy was praised by anti-Irish bigot Ian Paisley and the DUP's Jeffrey Donaldson. Surprising; that Ireland's pols parrot Britain's anti-Irish propaganda; but the mind reels to see Ireland's Taoiseach Cowen praising Teddy's role in the surrender to Britain of some 15% of Ireland's territory and people (and rich sea-floor resources). Though British newspapers print letters accusing Teddy of supporting the IRA, the opposite is true. After Bloody Sunday in 1973, stung by US and international outrage, and unwilling to cease such crimes, British spooks successfully targeted our "Four Horsemen;" NY Gov. Carey, Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, and Sens. Kennedy and Moynihan, all advocates of justice for the Occupied Irish. By year end 1973 all were evidently subverted; as none of the four ever again voted with Irish-America, and Teddy promoted MI5's plan to make the Six Counties British permanently. Thus, the Sir Teddy "honor."

NOV. 3RD, Irish Holocaust Commemoration Day is observed worldwide increasingly for the past decade. On that date in 1845 Lord Heytesbury, Britain's Viceroy in Dublin rejected a delegation of Irishmen pleading with him to stop the Food Removal because people were beginning to starve. Before dismissing them Heytesbury read from his prepared statement that ignored the Food Removal and focused exclusively upon potatoes and blight. Thus, on that Nov. 3 Heytesbury officially initiated two historic crimes; 1) Ireland's Holocaust, the murder of 5.25 million innocents by 75 British army reg'ts, and 2) cover-up of that genocide by referencing only potatoes. He falsely indicated that failure-prone potatoes were Ireland's only crop, thus the people were "falling into a trap of their own making," ergo, cause of starvation: "Terminal Irish Stupidity." It's a measure of Ireland's current degraded politics that, faced with growing international awareness of Ireland's Holocaust, last May its pols started a competing annual "famine commemoration day" to keep the "famine" lie alive. It's not easy to replace "famine" that we

were taught in school, but the Food Removal changes everything. Britain deliberately stripped Ireland of its food, potatoes notwithstanding. Thus "Famine" not only conceals that genocide, but constitutes False Witness against our own murdered relatives.

THE MILITIAS. Britain's carbine-toting "Irish" constabulary (12,600 men) led the removal. When encountering difficulty, they summoned the militias. Only when combined police/militia forces couldn't cope was additional reinforcement summoned from the nearest British army garrison. The militias were a formidable force assembled for Ireland's English landlords. Some 95% of Ireland's land was "owned" by English (mostly England-domiciled) landlords, but international revulsion toward the Holocaust and, later, the 1870s/1880s Land Wars forced Britain to begin removing its landlords from Ireland in the 1890s. My irishholocaust.org shows which Brit reg't starved which Irish district but it doesn't include militia details. During the 1847 depths of Food Removal there were 37 local militias in Ireland totaling 21,059 officers and men. Each county had one, but Cork had three, and Limerick, Mayo and Dublin had two each. Essentially all officers' and NCOs' names were non-gaelic. Privates' names aren't recorded. The chief Irish-domiciled English landlords headed militias. Their Englishness overwhelms. County Down's 453-strong "Royal South Downshire Reg't was headed by "The Marquis of Downshire residing in Hillsborough." C.M. Vandeleur headed Clare's 453-strong militia that stripped Co Clare's foods and infamously evicted the Irish from (his?) Vandeleur estate around Kilrush. Donegal's 755-man militia was headed by The Earl of Leitrim, K.P. residing at Killadoon, Celbridge, Kildare. Cork South's 597-strong militia was headed by Lord Riverdale residing at Lisnagar Demense, Rathcormac; superseded in 1850 by Viscount Doneraile. Cork City's (604) was headed by Lord Viscount Bernard, Castlebernard, Bandon. Mayo South's 529-man militia was commanded by Lord Sligo. Essentially all militia commanders bore similar English "Lord," "Viscount," "Baronet," or other titles. Genocidists all. Eternal gratitude to Michael Davitt's Land Leaguers.

IDENTIFY RECENT TERRORISTS; See my www.terroris-mireland.org. Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651.

VIRTUE REWARDED. "The enemy aggressor is always pursuing a course of larceny, murder, rapine and barbarism. We are always moving forward with high mission, a destiny imposed by the Deity to regenerate our victims while incidentally capturing their markets, to civilize savage and senile and paranoid peoples while blundering accidentally into their oil wells."—John Flynn, 1944 (www.ich.com)

OUR "GOOD" WAR. Afghan Victims' Families Tell Their Stories Following NATO Airstrike: "I took some flesh home and called it my son." By Ghaith Abdul-Ahad in Kunduz (ich.com). "The villagers were fighting over the corpses. People were saying this is my brother, this is my cousin, and no one could identify anyone."

RECENTLY FOUND in London's Kensal Green cemetery was the grave of a major US Civil War partisan, on the Pro-Slavery side (as was the Crown). A broken headstone marks the grave of Charles Prioleau, a cotton merchant born in Charlotte, So. Carolina, who lived in Liverpool during that war.

A reader forwarded a cemetery photo along with a report stating: Prioleau's war efforts began as an attempt to save his (slavery-based) business when the cotton trade—crucial to the Confederate cause and Lancashire mill owners—collapsed. Prioleau sent supplies, weapons, and ammunition to those states, including buying, equipping and crewing warships. Through agents, he acquired three of the civil war's most notorious privateers: the CSS Alabama and the CSS Florida, built on Merseyside, and the CSS Shenandoah, built on Tyneside. The first ship in particular, with a mainly English crew, caused such havoc that the £3.3m the British eventually paid the US government was known as "the Alabama claim". After the war, Sebrell says Prioleau simply vanished. His company, Fraser, Trenholm and Co, went bankrupt, almost certainly to pre-empt compensation claims. The headstone doesn't match the millionaire style of Prioleau's surviving home in Liverpool, now owned by the university. The house features portraits of Prioleau and his wife, Mary, and elaborate

Michael Llondra New CD and Tour

Michael Llondra is partnering with Concern Worldwide once more to release a new Christmas CD and DVD to benefit projects on the island of La Gonave in Haiti in developing systems to improve access to water. The November release entitled Beyond the Star will feature 11 tracks of Holiday classics performed by the lead voice of Riverdance on Broadway and Concern Worldwide Ambassador. Michael's personal haunting and ethereal style makes for a beautiful Christmas CD.

The CD also features bonus track of a live recording of Michael with the Wexford Male Voice Choir singing "Little Donkey" when he was ten years old. The Beyond the

Star holiday gift set features the Christmas CD and a DVD



documentary of Michael's last trip to Haiti. A \$2 contribution from every CD sold will go the Concern Worldwide's water projects in Haiti which will help to improve access to clean water, a basic human need.

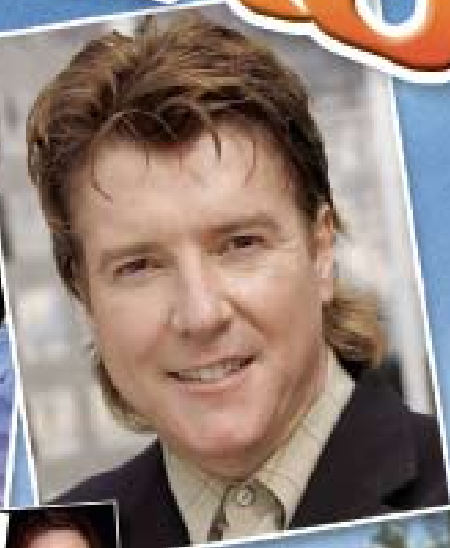
Michael's goal with Beyond the Star is not only to raise money for Concern, but also to increase awareness of the poverty and issues that faces the people of La Gonave everyday. Pre-order an autographed album/DVD for an October 14 delivery at a reduced price of \$15 by going to <http://michaellondra.com/music.htm>.

The album has an Oct. 26 release date on Amazon, itunes, cdbaby and many more internet retail sites. For more information on Concern Worldwide go to www.concernusa.org.

Locally, Michael Llondra will be in Eagle River, WI, on November 3, 2009.

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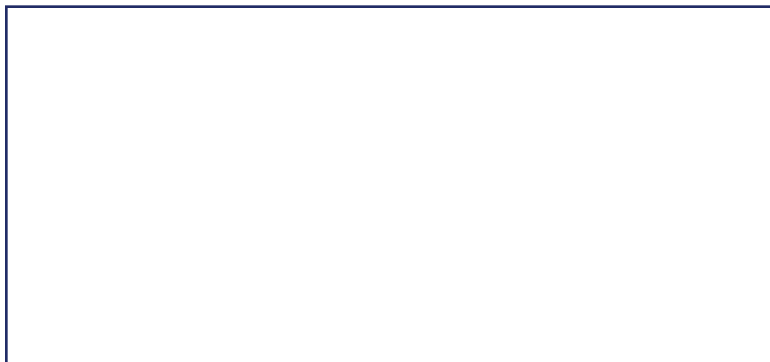
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