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Countless Immigrant Eyes are Smiling
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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Two Cheers for Democracy

Some good news at last. The second Lisbon referendum was won decisively by the "Yes" side. A hurdle on the road to national recovery has been successfully cleared. Taoiseach Brian Cowan, mugged last year by the earlier No vote, can now focus on the Economy.

The final vote was two to one in favour, 1,214,268 to 594,606. The yes vote rose by 360,000, the no fell by 268,000. The total vote was up by 195,000, and the turnout, at 58% was higher than in any of the previous votes on Europe (six) since 1972. A vigorous campaign was mounted by the Yes side. Of particular note also was the role of the Chairman of the (neutral) Referendum Commission, Judge Frank Clarke, whose clear and concise contributions on radio did much to dispel fears and misapprehensions among the public.

However, a reality check. It should not be overlooked that a third or so of the electorate remains stubbornly opposed to strengthened links with Europe and that, in numerical terms, this group continues to grow. The figure opposing Lisbon Two was 60,000 more than that opposing Nice Two. Winning them over seems a forlorn hope. "Getting out the vote" will remain, therefore, of major importance to the pro-Europeans.

The experience also shows that Ireland needs another, major, reality check where relations with the European Union are concerned. Ireland is not at the heart of Europe, as is constantly claimed; if we were, our history would have been far different. The EU was

founded on a Franco-German axis and the economic and political weight of the EU remains roughly situated around this core. Ireland is a small country on the periphery, with less than 1% of the EU's population, which has enjoyed very substantial cash and capital transfers from Brussels (i.e., from other member states) over three decades. This money has in the main been put to good use and has been largely instrumental in hauling our living standards up to European levels. This era is now over, with the arrival of newer, poorer states from Central Europe.

Europe nevertheless remains of the utmost importance to Ireland, in terms of market access, the toleration of our business-friendly tax regime and the social fabric and progressive legislation which has flowed from Europe. More than that, Ireland is embedded in the European project, which is an inclusive rather than a "them and us" relationship. Fundamental to this is a collegiate approach to issues, so that vital national interests are not trodden upon (in our case neutrality and investment incentives), and the "national veto" is never invoked. Ireland has benefitted enormously from this European inclusivity which has given us both a voice and an audience. The picture is completed by the succour that our economy has received over the last year, which has seen the European Central Bank keep us afloat financially, as a member of the European family.

This almost unique relationship was jeopardised by the initial no vote on Lisbon and

would have suffered seriously by a repeat. Up to then Ireland was seen as an EU success story and was the recipient of much good will from our European partners. These partners, particularly the ones who picked up the tab, regarded the first vote with incredulity, given the benefits Europe has brought Ireland. Their indulgence and patience would have been sorely tried by another no. What would have been seen as wilful disregard of the nation's self interest would lead to a cooling of affection by our partners. Nothing precipitate would happen right away. The EU would muddle through. But Ireland would have slipped from her "most favoured nation" status to one of an awkward marginalised partner. The yes vote has prevented this, but we will still have to re-establish our credentials and bona fides with a Europe which has greater issues and problems to confront.

Another reality check is required with regard to the economy, where denial persists regarding the extent of Ireland's fiscal crisis. For many this is still somewhat of a phoney war despite the sharp tax hikes and the promise of more to come. The reaction to suggested welfare, health and education cuts has been disbelief, anger and a demand that scapegoats (i.e., someone else) be found to pay. The suggestion of wage cuts in the public sector (where jobs are guaranteed) has provoked fury and threats of strikes. Each special interest group has been vocal in defending its patch. Meanwhile the Government continues to borrow over \$500 million per week. Revelations of lavish expenses claimed by politicians, leading to one high profile resignation, have fuelled public anger and distracted from the reality of the economic crisis.

For some the phoney war is set to hot up. A large and increasing number of house owners are now in negative equity as property

prices continue to fall. Negative equity does not matter in the short run as long as the mortgage is paid, but where jobs are lost repossession looms. This year has seen a trickle; 2010 promises a stream if not a flood as the banks cease to be "nice guys". By then a scheme to bail out the banks—by diverting bad developer-loans—will be up and running. Nothing has been mooted regarding a bail out for home owners in trouble and this issue may well move to political centre stage next year. But first there is the December Budget which will certainly concentrate minds.

There are signs that the economy is indeed bottoming out, with unemployment flattening, some categories of exports booming, and the decline in government tax revenue almost halted. One central bank official recently described the economy as "bubbling along at the bottom". In the property sector this appears to be happening, at reductions of up to 50% from the peak. There are cautious official forecasts of a return to economic growth in 2011. However, even if this happens, recovery is likely to be lengthy and arduous. It will be many years before the jobs lost

are regained. Barring inflation, property prices are unlikely ever to reach the dizzy heights of 2006. Emigration has officially restarted, despite continuing immigration, but the economic situation elsewhere offers no solution to Ireland's jobless.

One solution, though not in the short term, may emerge as a result of an event which took place in Dublin in mid-September. The Global Irish Economic Forum saw a gathering of almost 200 prominent international business and cultural figures of Irish birth or heritage. The Forum was at the invitation of the Irish Government, taking up an idea put forward by the economist David McWilliams, who has argued for some time for more interaction between Ireland and the Irish Diaspora. The idea behind the weekend meeting was to explore how the energies and expertise of those worldwide with an Irish connection might be harnessed fruitfully on Ireland's behalf. A report with follow up recommendations will be made to the Government. There is tremendous affection and good will for Ireland out there among the Diaspora. God knows Ireland need it!

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Goodbye John, Hello Dancing Suns

As you will, I hope, appreciate it's rather hard to write this column while the tears are streaming down my face.

You see, John O'Donoghue, our beloved Ceann Comhairle, has just given his resignation speech live on Irish Television.

Why he should have been permitted to resign, when in a sane country he would have just been given his marching orders and a swift but hefty kick in the ass to help him through the door (and don't bang it on the way out) is anybody's guess.

But we don't do things like that in this country. In Ireland what we do is give corrupt bankers a very handsome golden handshake, a free car and a card that says: "come back and see us when the morons have forgotten the small details."

I have to admit that his speech started out well. He had no dignity of course, and nor would I expect that from him, but he was bitter, a good hater, and obviously had the knives out for those that he perceived as bringing him down.

As a man who holds grudges for a lifetime, I can admire that.

What I didn't admire was when his considerable jowls, fed by years of free junket meals that were served to Freeload Kate Ann and himself in five star hotels, started shaking in righteous indignation at how he had been betrayed. His lip quivered, as if he had spent too many years studying the "hard-done-by" tapes of the fraud Bertie Ahern.

What I equally didn't admire was his wife Kate Ann Freeload in the best position of the Visitor's Gallery of the Dail Chambers, giving daggers to any journalist who had said a bad word about the expenses and privileged lifestyle that these two hypocrites had led at the very bloody hard-pressed taxpayer's expense.

Talk about cherry-picking? He pulled out a couple of beauties to explain that he was above checking who was paying for what; he also claims that he had no clue as to where he was being booked into and at what expense.

"I will accept the verdict of informed judgement, but not the verdict of the disingenuous. [This coming from him!] I will accept the judgement of my peers after their careful reflection on all the facts and fair procedures. I will not allow my life in public service to be sustained by the triumph of the half-truth."

Oh, how noble, your lord, sitting up there on that seat in your wonderful robes, as if you had just stepped off the set of a remake of "Cromwell." Tell we peasants, your eminence, what half of "half truth" are you hiding?

As for the Dail Chambers? Well, I can't remember the last time that I saw the joint so packed out—and you can bet your life that our bunch availed of every expense going, and even some that they had to invent themselves.

There they were sitting, as this

astonishing speech that could be boiled down to five words—"I've been hard done by"—ended, and then the little paws began to clap. I sensed a palpable sense of relief from the gougers that he hadn't decided to name names.

For that was one thing that I agreed with him about. It was unspoken, but he definitely felt that he was being made a scapegoat. You know what? He was. Because there were a hell of a lot more than him with their snouts in the trough.

Hence the relief: he didn't name names. Shame, that.

Of course, there's always one that has to over-egg the bloody pudding, and what a non-surprise that it was the ghastly Beverly Cooper Flynn of Mayo who jumped to her feet in a forlorn but hilarious attempt to give the chancer a standing ovation.

She looked around at the stony faces that were inwardly saying, "For God's sake, we're being watched on TV," and then sat down again.

In the end nothing was explained. There was just the petulant ranting of a spoilt man throwing his rattles out of the pram because he had been caught out.

But to you idiots who did the clapping? You were the ones that wanted him gone. Maybe a bit quieter than it turned out to be, but none the less booted out. And then you applaud.

You're some bunch, all right; and so are we. After all, we voted you in. In other happy news, now that the Irish have sold their souls to Europe and can look forward to being told what to do by Brussels forever more, I was taken by the look of upset on the face of the man who may be in charge of us very shortly, if as expected, he becomes President of Europe.

I am, of course, talking about that fine upstanding Christian Tony Blair.

He showed up unwanted last week (mid-October as I write) at a reception following a service for the dead of the war in Iraq.

He held his hand out to be ceremoniously shaken by the wrong guy, that's for sure.

Peter Brierley shouted at him: "Don't you dare! You have my son's blood on your hands."

Since this is the democratic part of the world, three of Blair's goons were instantly on top of the father of a dead warhero, while removing good Christian Blair from the room, lest he come to harm at the hands of an upset and grieving 59-year-old.

Mr. Brierley, who was understandably upset that his son Shaun should die for nothing, later said: "That man is a war criminal. I can't take being in the same room as him. I can't believe that he has been allowed to come to this reception".

"I sat through that service listening to people preaching to me about tolerance, but I don't think that anyone should be forced to tolerate being in the same room as him. I believe that he has got the blood of my son—and all the other men and women who died in that war—on his hands."

Of course, over here we are seeing an epiphany of sorts. As always happens in times of recession, the Irish see moving statues all over the place.

In the last weeks there have been sightings of a religious nature up and down the country. Here we go again.

In particular, there have been thousand turning up at Knock Shrine where it's been reported that Bonohas appeared [behave—editor]. Sorry, it was Tony Blair [I'm warning you!]. OK, it is apparently the Virgin Mary.

There have been sightings of the sun dancing and changing colour in the sky, and feelings of happiness permeating entire groups of people.

I'm not normally interested in the hallucinations of the mad, but who the heck am I to judge? I guess it's whatever rocks your boat; and since they don't seem to be bothering anyone, and since there are more people turning out than will probably turn out to vote the next time we are ordered to get our story straight for Europe, then what can you say but "live long and prosper!"

After all, I had a pleasant hallucination yesterday where I saw John O'Donoghue resign and Jessica Lange knock on my door wearing nothing but a beguiling smile.

Hold on a minute... the first part of that was actually true.

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Turning Green Opens November 6

Ireland, the land of poets and preachers, saints and scholars. And one angry, xenophobic, masturbating machine—James Powers (Donal Gallery).

After his mother died and his father decided he didn't want him, James and his little brother were shipped to Ireland from America. And that's where we meet James, six years later in 1979, living with his three Irish aunts in absolute disharmony. Rather than try to fit in, James has instead been devising ways to get the hell out, to somehow make it back to America.

In order to fund his dream, James has already quit school and collects for the local bookie, Bill the Bookie (Alessandro Nivola) and his right hand man Bill the Breaker (Timothy Hutton).

While on a short trip to London, James discovers something they don't have in Ireland. Porn.

Ever the opportunist, James—with a little "borrowed" money from his downtrodden friend Tom (Colm Meaney)—makes a little investment in a boxful of dusty old girlie mags. Soon enough, James has enough cash to get both him and his brother back home. But just as he seems on the verge of reaching his goal, James has to decide where home really is—a place or a state of mind.

Turning Green is a dark comedy written and directed by Michael Aimette and John G. Hofmann. The film stars Academy Award winner Timothy Hutton, Alessandro Nivola and Colm Meaney and is the feature film debut of Donal Gallery. Locations include Wicklow, Bray, Rathdrum and Dublin, Ireland as well as New York City.

This film has not been rated by the MPAA. Run time, 85 minutes. www.turninggreen.newfilmsint.com

Bertie Ahern to Open National Tourism Conference

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Brian Simpson MEP, the EU's Head of Transport and Tourism, will join tourism interests from across the island of Ireland at a conference taking place in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, County Clare, from 26-28 November 2009.

The Clare Tourist Council—in conjunction with Clare County

Council—has organised the 21st National Tourism Conference for tourism industry officials and members of Local Authorities, County Enterprise Boards, partnerships, and all public and private bodies involved in the promotion of tourism on the island of Ireland.

Former UUP Councillor Edward

Turner M.B.E; former Chairman of Kildare County Council Rainsford Hendy; and All Ireland Football Championship winner and former Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne district council, Kevin O'Neill will chair the Conference sessions.

The three-day conference will include the presentation of the

Clare Tourist Council Tidy Towns Awards, sponsored by Fitzpatrick's Supervalu Supermarket in Ennistymon, along with excursions by delegates to some of Clare's tourism landmarks including Mullaghmore in North Clare and the East Clare Heritage Centre in the east of the County. The Miami Showband, featuring members of the Catholic and Protestant communities, will perform at the main Conference Banquet.



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



afteranotherafteranother, and working along in the music. Other, far, far less talented musicians and singers are rich. Idea. Let's make Simpson rich. Go buy this album. You'll love it. He'll love it. Compass will love it. He gets rich. Compass gets rich—and you get rich in the best place in the world. Your heart. Win win win. Rating: Four Harps

Cathie Ryan in Janesville

I think I may have just seen the perfect concert. First, begin with the best female singer in Irish music, Cathie Ryan, along with her incredible new band. Mix in the Janesville Wisconsin Performing Arts Center, and the stage was truly set for a brisk October evening's magic. This is an old high school auditorium, lovingly maintained. Here is the deal. Not only is the Performing Arts Center gorgeous, in a 1919 stained-glass magnificent way, but the acoustics. Oh, the acoustics!! A perfect sound, with a sound man, Michael Stalberg, who knows what he is doing perfectly as well as he knows the auditorium. Out walks Cathie, obviously inspired by the beauty and the sound of it all. Best concert we have ever heard her give, and THAT is saying something. Before long, musicians will be offering to play this Center for half-nothing, just to enjoy the experience. As usual, we left Cathie's concert singing her tunes. Unusually, we also left singing the praises of the venue. The Janesville Performing Arts Center is world class, and when you get a world class artist

like Cathie Ryan, well—magic! All objectivity and analysis dropped. Replaced by the memory of a perfect artist, perfectly presented. Hard to know who should be more proud. Cathie or Janesville. Wow!

trad Irish in Chicago, Mary Caraway and Erik Carlson on their iconic, Feast of Irish Folk. WHPK, 88.5 fm. The University of Chicago station. 5-6:30pm. Best music program in Chicago. Also, thank God, you can finally get it live online at whpk.org. Then, at 6:30pm get a drink. Eat. Relax. Flirt with your significant others. Clean the kitchen. Get another drink. Then comes Shay Clarke with his Blarney on the Air from 7-8pm on WDCB. 90.9 fm. www.wdcb.org. Then comes yours truly with the best in real Irish music, with Ireland Tonight. Shay and I split the former two-hour show in half for your in-depth fun.

*Speaking of which, are you yet hip to LiveIreland.com? Based out of Dublin with studios in the Templebar. I serve as the Senior Music Editor for this, the largest Irish music site in the world—by a factor of about 40. It is incredible with trad one channel and Irish rock on another, 24/7/365. Check out the site. www.liveireland.com.

*TTFN! Lots more next month. Christmas gift recommendations and a review of a great new album from Chicago's own Kat Eggleston!



Cathie Ryan

Notes:

*Is the radio show a regular part of your Monday night, yet? No? Why? K. Here's what you do. You turn Monday night into Irish night. Start by listening to those two pillars of

Well, first of all, don't forget, AND BE THERE, for the Brock-McGuire Band concert at Johnny Devens' World Music Company on Thursday night, November 5th, at 8pm, 1808 W. 103rd St. The Brock-McGuire Band is inarguably the best Irish traditional music group in the world. Period. Masters of the form. As you read this, it is late, but call the School at 773-779-7059. Reserve a ticket. A complete and utter steal at only \$20 apiece. This is a rare Chicago appearance by the best there is. It is always a question at a Brock-McGuire concert as to who will have more representatives there—the public, or other trad musicians. In any case, it will be a ball. Don't read this, and, "think about it." Not to be missed. Get up and get there. The School's intimate and lovely concert hall is one of the two best places in Chicago to enjoy and really experience this kind of music. Trust us.

Out of the Ennis/Galway/Limerick triangle in Ireland, Brock-McGuire is playing a brilliant mix of the essence of the magic. The best. This time around, they are bringing All-Ireland fiddle and concertina champion, Niamh ni Charra along. We repeat. They are the best. We count the days.

We love Martin Simpson. This talented Brit is out with his—what is this?—14th album? On Compass, it is entitled, True Stories. There are 13 cuts in all. Wonderful songs—several penned by himself, and there is also a lovely variety of instrumental treats. Simpson is one of the best guitar players in the business, as well as playing a terrific banjo. We love-love-love his songs and interpretations. We know of no one who more perfectly blends his voice with his guitar. Masters like Sean Tyrrell, Laura Smith and Cathie Ryan sing around the guitar, vocally dance with it. Blend it. Use it perfectly. Simpson, on the other hand, is one of those rare artists who well and truly becomes one with his instrument. We always thought Leo Kottke—who in a weird, trad universal Spock mind-melding sort of way Simpson reminds us of—anyway, we always thought Kottke's voice

actually sounds like the 12-string guitar he has so obviously mastered. Simpson, too—only here, he and the six-string melt into each other totally and creatively. Jeez, can this guy sing and play. Also does a nice dobro lick. Mmmmm. Tasty, indeed. He also has some wonderful side cats joining in. Co-produced by the wonderful Andy Seward—you DO know who Andy Seward is, do you not? We always feel that Martin Simpson is better known in the British Isles than in America. We have NO idea why we think that. I mean, there are no "Martin Simpson Awareness" surveys out there, as far as we know. Not the point. He is not well known enough, if YOU have not heard of him. Go get this album and redress that oversight. It is on Compass, and will therefore be available everywhere. Of course,



this is all about subjectivity. Duh. But, guys like this just keep turning out wondrous albums like this, one



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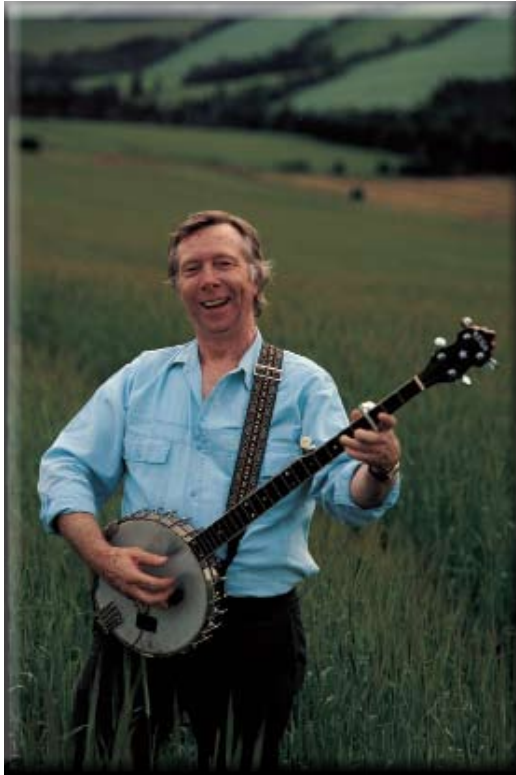


Benefit Concert Honors the Late Irish Musician Tommy Makem

The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund is proud to again team up with the Chicagoland Irish community to present a night of music, honoring the great Irish musician, Tommy Makem.

The concert, called The Tommy Makem Tribute Concert, will be held this fall at the Irish American Heritage Center. The event is a special fundraiser featuring a night of song and music in tribute to the man who brought the love of Irish music to millions. Tommy Makem was an internationally celebrated Irish folk musician, artist, poet and storyteller, best known as a member of The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. He died in 2007 after a long battle with lung cancer.

The concert features performances by The Makem and Spain Brothers, featuring



Tommy Makem

Tommy's own sons, along with several local bands who have been directly influenced by Tommy's music and legend:

The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, The Dooley Brothers and The Sullivan Brothers.

The concert is Saturday, November 21 at 8pm. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035 or visiting www.irish-american.org. Tickets can also be purchased on line at Ticketleap.com at <https://tommymakemtribute.ticketleap.com/>.

All proceeds from The Tommy Makem Tribute Concert go directly to the Tommy and Mary Makem Fund in direct support of Pediatric Brain Tumor Research at Children's Memorial Hospital.

The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund was established by the Makem family after the death of their father in 2007.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



ting up a cantaloupe. From there, I roasted it until soft, seasoned it, and then pureed it with onion, carrot, and celery. With a small dollop of crème fraiche, I served it to grade. My teacher for the day was Iris and she was known to be hard on the student. She tasted it, looked out the window, smacked

There are so many choices today when in the produce section. Instead of reaching for the usual green beans or carrots, try squash. Besides the great nutritional value, it will make your dinner feel elegant and out of the ordinary. And you can thank the American Indian for serving it up, home style.

slice into strips. Add to sauce. Add a small sprinkle of parmesan, stir and then taste. Season with salt and pepper, turn down temp, and cover.

Over a large serving bowl, scrape out squash. It will be hot, so hold with a towel or leave on counter. Scrape out with a large fork and separate the chunks into strands. Pour the sauce of the squash, toss lightly and serve.

Squash: It's What's For Dinner... & More

With the last of the Jack O'Lanterns heading for greener pastures, thoughts of the next seasonal squash begin to swirl through the imagination: the classic pumpkin pie with its assortment of sweet, creamy toppings and generational crust recipes. But does the squash's usefulness end in a spicy triangle on an heirloom plate? I think not! The squash, be it zucchini, pumpkin, acorn, butternut, spaghetti, etc has so many uses that it is a year

'round vegetable whose praises need to be sung and appreciated for its versatility. Historically, it firmly places in the culinary timelines showing early American Indian uses. But once again, let's go back to the classroom and (re)discover the sublime squash.

The squash goes back 8,000 to 10,000 years ago when it was first domesticated. A close relative, the gourd, shows up for many uses such as drinking cups and other culinary uses and even jewelry. As for the softer, more edible cousin, the squash was cultivated to be harvested during the summer and also in mid to late fall, and then stored for winter use. The American Indian had a trio of vegetables dubbed the 'three sisters' that included beans, corn, and squash. These three were carefully planted together so that the vines of the squash would fight weeds, and the beans could wind their way up the corn stalks. Agricultural harmony was established. With this information, it's sure that some version of squash was served for the pilgrim's and Indian's dinner gatherings, Thanksgiving.

Fast forward to today's produce section, or possibly a farmer's market. The selection of squash available is almost overwhelming. Right now, the 'summer' squashes zucchini and yellow are probably products of the south. For the winter types, they have been pulled from the gardens and fields and, most recently, been carved for Halloween. Looking towards the later part of November and into December, the use of the pumpkin may seem limited. But fear not. I have experienced a great moment with the great squash and it does bear repeating.

In my travels of Ireland, I have discovered one thing about their soups. Unless they are 'American' (chunky) style, the soup is almost always pureed. That's how they do it. So when one of my lessons at class was to make curried pumpkin soup, I knew it was to be smooth and creamy, straight from a blender. That was the first time I completely carved a pumpkin, straight down to its stem. It was almost like cut-



her lips and said 'that's good'. She took another spoonful and tried it again. She hesitated, going between a 5.5 and a 6. (In terms of grading, a '6' is restaurant quality. Not sure why.) She nodded, took yet another bite and said, 'yes, I think this could be served at 'The House'. (The House is Ballymaloe country house and restaurant.) I was so excited I hugged her, since getting a 6 from her was hard to do. And I was happy that I could take a vegetable that was seen as a holiday decoration and turn it into a meal.

After that day, I began to experiment with the many varieties of squash and how a person could bring out the best in each one. The acorn squash is perfect for a holiday dinner, each person getting a perfectly roasted half, brushed with olive oil and a bit of salt and pepper. Or, much smaller is the pattypan, which can also be roasted along with other fall veggies and seasoned and served hot. One of my favorites is the spaghetti squash. For anyone who loves pasta but cannot eat it, or wants to avoid the carbs, this squash is for you! The insides, once cooked, come out in strands like slightly crunchy spaghetti. I have the simple recipe below for a great dinner, grilled chicken and roasted red pepper over spaghetti squash. And, for the quintessential American squash, the pumpkin, I have a slightly easier creamy pumpkin bisque that could be served at the beginning of your family holiday dinner.

Grilled Chicken, Mushroom and Roasted Red Pepper over Spaghetti Squash

Serves 4

- 1 spaghetti squash (they don't vary much in size)
 - 10 oz. sliced baby portobella or white mushrooms
 - 1 jar roasted red peppers (it should have 2-4 peppers), sliced in long strips
 - 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - 1 t. dried basil
 - 2 T. olive oil
 - 1 c. heavy cream
 - 1/2 c. white wine
 - Salt and pepper
 - Parmesan
- Cut squash in half and put in pan with 1/2 cup water. Cover and put in microwave for 10 minutes. Check for doneness. Continue at 5 minute intervals until the squash is very soft from the outside, no more than 20 minutes. Cover and hold.
- Season the chicken with salt and pepper. Heat grill pan, Foreman grill, or skillet 'til hot. Add 1 T. olive oil. Cook chicken, then remove from heat, cover and set aside. In a skillet, warm 1 T. oil. Add mushrooms and sauté for 5 minutes. Add garlic and stir, 1 minute. Add peppers and basil, and stir 2 minutes. Add wine and turn up heat. When half has evaporated, add cream. Let simmer. Put chicken on cutting board and

Quick Pumpkin Bisque

Serves 4-6

- 1 can pumpkin puree
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 1 carrot, peeled and cut into rounds
- 2 T. butter
- 1 c. chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 t. rubbed sage
- 1 c. heavy cream
- Salt and pepper
- French bread or ciabatta bread
- Olive oil cooking spray
- 1 T. sour cream
- 1-2 t. milk

Melt 2 T. butter in a dutch oven on med-low heat. Add onion, carrot, celery. Cook gently for 5 minutes until soft and not colored. Add stock and simmer the veggies for 10 minutes. Stir in the pumpkin puree completely and lightly simmer. Do not boil after adding the pumpkin. Add sage and stir. With a hand blender, puree completely. Or put small amt into stand up blender. With lid on, but middle plastic plug removed and a towel over the top, slowly puree. *The heat could cause the soup to 'jump' in the blender, be very careful! Once the soup has been pureed, return to med head and add the cream, salt and pepper.

Preheat broiler. Slice the bread, put on baking sheet and lightly spray the bread. Put under the broiler for a minute or two, just to get a gold-brown. Take out, flip, lightly spray and return to broiler. Remove from heat and set aside.

In small bowl, combine milk and sour cream. Set aside.

Ladle into large bowls and swirl sour cream sauce on top of bisque. Serve hot with a crouton floating on top.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron, Ohio. Julianna can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com and will respond to your questions and com-

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President's Message

Amaráich—from the Gaelic meaning tomorrow—is a theme that you will be hearing more and more around The Irish American Heritage Center. Our Center is the culmination of a dream: a dream shared by immigrants, and the children of immigrants, to build their own place where they would keep their heritage, culture and traditions alive. For twenty-four years, our Center has been making that dream a reality. Next year will mark 25 years for our Center. We've come a long way and now we stand ready to take new steps towards our future and our goal to be the premier Irish cultural organization in the country.

We have tremendous potential and are making strides in achieving our goals. Our volunteers and staff have put forth great efforts this year and we are now seeing the fruits of their labor. Beyond our typical events such as Irish Fest and St. Patrick's Day, the past few months have really highlighted what our Center can become and how it will remain viable and relevant to future generations.

The opening of The Erin Room, our new grand ballroom, was celebrated in fantastic style with a joyous evening of music and laughter. Hundreds came to see the new space. I'd like to personally thank the dozens of musicians who graciously donated their time and put on a truly memorable party. We also owe a special thanks to the Irish Government whose grant made the renovation possible and to Mr. Martin Rouine, the Counsel General of Ireland, who dedicated the space at the opening. We look forward to many more memorable events in The Erin Room.

The Center is closing out the year in grand style. The inaugural iBAM! Irish books, arts and music celebration was held over the Celtic New Year October 30th-November 1st, Shapeshifters Theatre just completed their fall play, Moll, and John Staunton came over from Ireland to provide a great night of music and dancing in the Fifth Province. Still

to come is our Christmas Bazaar, The Tommy Makem Tribute Concert and The Heritage Singers Concert. If you haven't been to the Center in awhile, there are no more excuses.

We have more going on than ever!

All the building blocks are in place to achieve our dreams, but that doesn't mean there isn't work to do. We've thrived on our volunteer efforts to this point and we need people today more than ever. While we still need

people who can swing a hammer, we have a need for so much more. We need web designers, marketing professionals, accountants, bankers, IT professionals, writers, teachers—you name it. There's a need for everyone, so call the office or e-mail us at info@irishahc.org and we'll find a way to put you to work.

Of course not everyone has the time to volunteer, but that doesn't mean you can't help shape the future of our Center. It's no secret things are tough all over—and

finances are an immediate concern for everyone including our Center. We encourage you to show your support of the organization in any way you can. Please renew your membership, or maybe join for the first time.

In addition, we are currently in the process of conducting our annual appeal. For every \$2 we raise, members Pat and Peggy Burke have pledged to match another \$1 up to a total of \$25,000! It is tremendously generous of them—let's make sure we match them every step of the way! You'll find forms for both membership and our annual appeal included in this edition. Anything you can give will help us keep the place alive with music and dance and the sounds of families and children enjoying our Center for years to come.

I look forward to seeing you around and enjoying your Center. We will continue to keep working towards our goals and for Amaráich.

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



Executive Director's Message

I was looking through old pictures the other day with a few volunteers at the Center, and we could not help but marvel at the transformation of this building over the past 24 years. The pictures from 1985, when the building was purchased, especially struck me. Graffiti covered the exterior walls, most windows were knocked out or broken and the hallways and rooms looked as if a tornado had swept through and left nothing but papers, debris and muck in its wake. Slowly but surely during the past quarter century, a unique band of Irish-born and Irish American volunteers has labored to develop a dilapidated, abandoned city school into a thriving Irish cultural hub.

First came the 5th Province Pub, then the Shamrock American Room and the renovation of the auditorium, followed by the library, museum and archives, and then the third floor theater. The most recent addition is probably the

crowning achievement of them all—the Erin Room banquet hall, which we hope will help us expand an already rich offering of cultural programming including Irish language classes, Irish theatre, choir, children's dance, music, Irish studies academies, cultural festivals, poetry readings, traditional music sessions, and more.

Thousands of volunteers and hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours later, a hidden treasure has been created here on the north-west side of Chicago. Next up, funds permitting, will be overhauls to the entranceway, first floor lobby and hallway, the kitchen and the construction of a world-class Irish dance studio (<http://leapingfordream.chipin.com/trinity-dance-room-at-iahc>). Onwards! as we all push toward a promising "tomorrow" at the Center.

I do hope that the Chicago Irish realize how good they have it today, though, with the Center and Gaelic

Park both in the same city. I visited with Gaelic Park's great people recently and was blown away by their facility, very similar to the way my mother was taken aback by the Center when she visited during Irish Fest in July. Gaelic Park's Famine memorial, ball fields, county benches, banquet rooms and bar are all gems tucked away for safe keeping in Oak Forest. Proud Irish from other cities, especially ones with even larger Irish and Irish American populations than Chicago, must gasp when they see such profound resources all under one roof (or in this case, 2 roofs).

For those of you who are not currently IAHC members and as a quick reminder for those of you who are; some of the benefits that you receive with membership as we turn the corner into 2010 (on top of being a part of one of the largest Irish cultural centers in the world) are: special discounts in the Fifth Province, at special events, room rentals and at

partner organizations of the Center. You also have the chance to vote for and run for the Board of Directors. We are always looking for more ways to add value to our membership, though, so feel free to contact me with any feedback. Very similarly, Gaelic Park members get annual voting privileges, an invitation to their annual convention and dinner, a subscription to their quarterly newsletter, 2 free tickets to the Friday night activities at their May Irish Festival and an entry to win a trip to Ireland the weekend of the festival.

Whether your interests are to keep alive the traditions of the "old country," to celebrate the contemporary culture alive in Ireland today, or to just enjoy yourself among fun-loving and high-spirited people—get involved. You will find an opportunity waiting for you to participate in something special.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell
Executive Director,
Irish American
Heritage Center





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Irish Heritage Singers Present Fall Concert



The Irish Heritage Singers will hold their annual concert this fall at the Center.

Slainte and Shalom: Our Blended History

Through Music and Dance is Sunday, November 15th at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for IAHC members, \$20 for general admission and

children 12 and under are free. The concert is a fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center.

This unique concert

Irish and Jewish communities.

The Irish Heritage Singers will be joined by guest performers, Jewish choir, Kol Zimrah,

features Irish and Jewish music, dance and culture, celebrating the blend of the two cultures that co-exist in Ireland. The concert is inspired by the film Shalom Ireland, a documentary about Ireland's remarkable, yet little known Jewish community. The film was shown at the IAHC in 2007 and joined together nearly-sold out crowds of Chicago's

the Jewish Community Singers and the Edgar Gabriel Eclectic Ensemble, performing Klezmer music.

The Irish Heritage Singers, under the direction of Mary Grimes, are the Center's resident choir. The Singers have distinguished themselves throughout the Midwest by performing and expanding the great Irish and Irish American vocal tradition. Their performances have been as distant as Sligo, Ireland and as local as Celtic Fest Chicago and have included performing for two Presidents of Ireland as well as senior citizens in Evanston.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Benefit Concert Honors the Late Irish Musician Tommy Makem

The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund is proud to again team up with the Center to present a night of music, honoring the great Irish musician, Tommy Makem.

The Tommy Makem Tribute Concert will be held this fall at the Center. The night is a special fundraiser featuring a night of song and music in tribute to the man who brought the love of Irish music to millions.

Tommy Makem was an internationally celebrated Irish folk musician, artist, poet and storyteller, best known as a member of The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. He died in

2007 after a long battle with lung cancer.

The concert features performances by The Makem and Spain Brothers, featuring Tommy's own sons, along with several local bands who have been directly influenced by Tommy's music and legend: The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, The Dooley Brothers and The Sullivan Brothers.

The concert is Saturday, November 21 at 8pm. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035 or visiting www.irish-american.org. Tickets can also be purchased on line at Ticketleap.com at <https://tommymakemtribute.ticketleap.com/>.



All proceeds from The Tommy Makem Tribute Concert go directly to the Tommy and Mary Makem Fund in direct support

of Pediatric Brain Tumor Research at Children's Memorial Hospital.

The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund was estab-

lished by the Makem family after the death of their father in 2007.





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Tony Kenny's Christmas Time In Ireland Kicks Off the Holiday Season

The Center is pleased to present the return of the holiday family show, Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland, for one night only this December. This inspirational concert takes the audience on a journey to Ireland at Christmas, where the tradition of family at Christmas is so strong. The concert is Friday, December 11 at 7pm at the Center.

The concert celebrates the Christmas tradition with the finest in Irish song,



and dance, music and laughter. The show stars vocalist Tony Kenny, who, in the world of Irish music, needs little introduction. He was Ireland's 1998 "Entertainer of the Year," and has thrilled audiences around the world with his exceptional talent. Kenny began his musical career as the star of the internationally acclaimed stage musicals, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The concert includes the

lineup of comedian Joe Cuddy, Victoria Kenny and the Dublin City Dancers and Singers. Cuddy earned the title of "Ireland's Funniest Man" during the seven straight seasons he appeared in *Jury's Irish Cabaret*, and over many tours of the United States. Victoria Kenny is the daughter of Tony Kenny and has appeared in *A Christmas Carol* at The Gate Theatre in Dublin and has an impressive portfolio having appeared in all of Ireland's major theatres,

as well as the National Concert Hall. The Dublin City Dancers and Singers, a renowned troupe of Ireland's finest traditional and contemporary Irish dancers and singers, is comprised of dancers straight from Ireland's most prestigious dance shows, including *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*.

Tickets are \$25 and all seats are general admission. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext 10.

November 2009

Nov. 1	iBAM!	Whole Building	11am-9pm
Nov. 4	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
Nov. 5	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Sham. Amer. Rm	10am
Nov. 6	Francis O'Neill Ceili Lessons and Dance	Fifth Province	7:30pm
	Memoir Writing Workshop	Sham. Amer. Rm	7pm
Nov. 6-15	Samhain Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	Sat & Sun 1-4pm
Nov. 7	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham. Amer. Rm	9pm
Nov. 8	Great Irish Books Club Discussion	Library	2pm
Nov. 12	Memoir Writing Workshop	Sham. Amer. Rm	7pm
Nov. 14	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	9pm
Nov. 15	Slainte and Shalom Choir Concert	Auditorium	3pm
Nov. 19	Memoir Writing Workshop	Sham. Amer. Rm	7pm
	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Sham. Amer. Rm	10am
Nov. 21	Tommy Makem Tribute Concert	Auditorium	8pm
	Roscommon Club Social	Room 309	8pm
Nov. 26	Building Closed		
Nov. 29	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
Nov. 28	Galway Fellowship Club Social	Erin Room	8pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tuesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 205	9:30am
Wednesday	Quilting and Needlework	Room 205	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
Thursday	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
Friday	Francis O'Neill Ceili Practice and Dance	Room 111	8pm
Saturday	Irish School	various rooms	9am



Join The Irish American Heritage Center Sunday, December 6, for Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by an Irish Breakfast in the Social Center. Reservations are required.

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

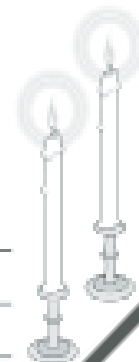
To reserve tickets, send check payable to: The Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets will be reserved for pick up on December 6. Mail check and reservation form to: The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630. Attention: Judy Dunleavy. 773-282-7035.

Christmas Mass

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December 6, 2009

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Deadline is December 1, 2009



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Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

Get into the holiday spirit with the Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale at the Center.

The annual event is Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 9am to 3pm and includes mass, a breakfast, bake sale and visit from Santa Claus.

Mass is celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30am and a traditional Irish breakfast follows. The Irish Heritage Singers will provide the music for the mass.

The cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and reservations are required. All other events are free.

Holiday shoppers can browse the bazaar, where there will be a craft sale from Chicago artisans and an Irish-American quilt will be raffled off. There will be an instant raffle with prizes from each of the day's vendors and local Irish import stores.

The Jolly Holly Bake Shop sells homemade pies, bread, scones, cakes and cookies. Everyone's favorite, Santa Claus visits from 1-3pm and children can have their photos taken with him for free.

To purchase tickets for the breakfast, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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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November 2009

FRI, 11/6 Coll Dances with **Coastal Chicago**
SAT, 11/7 Celtic Drumming
FRI, 11/13 Dublin Brothers
SAT, 11/14 Iron Horse
FRI, 11/20 Joe Mathews
SAT, 11/21 Dances
FRI, 11/27 Seamus O'Keefe & **Arny Moore**
SAT, 11/28 The Dublin Brothers

Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music. Pub food is served from 4pm-10pm.

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Irish American Heritage Center 2009 Annual Appeal

Yes! Count me in as a donor to the 2009 Annual Appeal at the level indicated below*:

- President's Club (\$5,000+)
- Director's Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)
- Center Champion (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- Benefactor (\$ 500-\$ 999)
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*Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!

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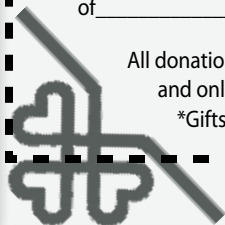
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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Celebrating the Spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas

As you read this column, you are no doubt preparing for Thanksgiving, the official start of the holiday season. Just a few weeks later, we celebrate the Feast of Christmas. Usually, these five or six weeks include preparing the family feasts, shopping for gifts, excited children and probably a fair share of panic: Will everything get done in time?

But, as we all know so well, times are especially tough this year. For many families, this year's celebration of Christmas will be muted. Parents who have been laid off or lost their jobs, families having difficulties making mortgage or rent payments—people who have never needed help before—are coming to Catholic Charities in great numbers.

But I believe that the spirit of charity, called forth in hard times and exercised in generosity and faith, is as strong as ever! And so, two great Catholic Charities traditions of giving are continuing: the Celebration of Giving and our annual Year-End Appeal.

To care for these hurting neigh-

bors of ours in Cook and Lake Counties, Catholic Charities' annual holiday "Celebration of Giving" is collecting donations of new toys, clothing and necessary household items for our clients—children and families—who need our help. Through our "Toy Shower," from December 1 through 13, we want to provide the joy and magic of Christmas for more than 8,000 children—from infants to teens—with three gifts each: "something to cuddle, something to learn from and something to play with."

"Sponsor-a-Family" reaches out to families in need with gifts of new clothes, household items, books or school supplies from November 30-December 10. More than 500 families enjoyed a memorable Christmas last year thanks to the generosity of Catholic Charities donors from all over the region! In fact, in early December, almost a dozen parishes from Chicago's Southwest Side will drop off their "Sponsor-a-Family" bags at Incarnation Parish in Palos Heights. Businesses, organizations and schools are more than

welcome to initiate Toy Shower or Sponsor-a-Family collections.

In spite of these difficult times, the spirit of generosity is alive and well! For the 11th year, the Chicago Firefighters and Paramedics of Union Local 2 will deliver about 4,000 Christmas gifts for children to Catholic Charities in their annual "Celebration of Giving Chicago Fire Fighters Parade" on December 5.

Financial supporters and volunteers are still needed to help with costs and to sort and package gifts. To volunteer or obtain more information, please call Michael McDonnell at Catholic Charities at (312) 226-0650. To contribute or volunteer in Lake County, please call Jim Wogan at (847) 782-4126. For more information and drop-off locations, visit www.catholiccharities.net/celebration.

I am deeply grateful to all who will participate in the Christmas season "Celebration of Giving." Thank you!

As readers may know, in spite of difficult times, Catholic Charities' doors are "always open!" Year-round, we welcome families, seniors, veterans, the homeless and hungry—anyone in need of food, clothing, counseling, home care, housing, or a myriad of other services.

And so, annually, we need to make a "Year-End Appeal," which is included in this issue of "The Catholic New World."

During this Thanksgiving and

Christmas season, we ask you to "Open your hearts!—because our doors are always open!" This past spring and summer, as Catholic Charities and other social service agencies in our state experienced an unprecedented budget crisis, and unemployment reached unprecedented levels, we resolved that our doors would not close. Our services for God's people in need would continue,

because they are more needed than ever before.

Your year-end gift of support helps Catholic Charities provide these urgently needed services to get people through these very difficult times. Your generosity is very deeply appreciated—as you open your hearts to help your neighbors in need. I give thanks for you. May God bless you and your families!

American Ireland Fund Silver Anniversary Dinner

The Board of Directors of The American Ireland Fund and the Anniversary Committee will host the Chicago Silver Anniversary Dinner honoring Honorable Terrence A. Duffy, Executive Chairman, CME Group with special guest Mary Hanafin, T.D., member of the Irish Cabinet; Minister for Social and Family Affairs on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 East Delaware Place. The Black Tie event will start with a 6pm reception and dinner at 7pm. For more information, please call 312-553-2000 or visit www.pjhchicago.com/AIF.

The Mission of The Ireland Funds is to be the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland. www.irifunds.org.

A Chicagoland Road Trip to Galena, IL

All are invited on a road trip to The Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel in Galena, IL on January 22 and January 23, 2010. The weekend getaway is hosted by the Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group. The meetup group is a social club with over 550 members who regularly go out together several times per month in the Chicagoland area to visit pubs and other venues for live Irish Music.

Galena is three hours from Chicago, nestled in the rolling hills of western Illinois. Provided enough people are interested in traveling by motor coach, the group will secure transportation that will pick up at a few convenient locations.

"January will be a great time to unwind after the holiday frenzy and add some fun to an otherwise dreary winter season," says Kathleen O'Connor, organizer of the meetup group. Kathleen promises, "Singalongs and a great craic to be had by all!"

Joining the group will be the weekend's featured entertainers,

Paddy Homan and Jesse Langen. Paddy Homan is an Irish Tenor and Balladeer, and Jesse Langen is an accomplished Irish Musician. Paddy and Jesse will be entertaining both nights at Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub located in the hotel.

Approaching Galena, it becomes very apparent why Jack Coulter and Basil Conroy, two Irish cousins, chose this spot to create and operate the gem that is The Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel. Galena's rolling hills and historic Main Street are reminiscent of the Irish countryside.

For more information about the getaway weekend package, check the Meetup group's site: www.chicagoirishpubmusicmeetup.com, or contact Jan Alderman, travel planner, at 847-274-6700 or jantvplus@aol.com.

Find more information about Paddy, Jesse, and the Irish Cottage at the following websites: www.paddyhoman.com; www.jesselang.com; and www.theirishcottageboutiquehotel.com.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Home is Where The Hearth Is

For one reason or another, I've lived a lot of places. I recently completed what by my count is my 17th move since graduating from Notre Dame 27 years ago.

Like so many in the past year, this move was economic in origin. My income was cut in half by the recession and I needed to cut my outflow by a like amount. In the past I've used word of mouth, newspapers,

apartment guides, and online apartment services.

This time, I discovered the free wonder of Craigslist.com. This super-duper online free classified of everything includes apartment ads for across the country or across the county. In one minute I found the place I ended up moving into. The ad had been placed less than an hour before.

Meant to be? Factor this in: It's above an Irish gift shop that distributes and advertises in this publication, and I had been in the establishment just a few weeks before. Small world.

Over the years I've developed certain likes and dislikes and the new digs fit the bill. I always like to live near a trail that I can walk, hike and run on. Check-I'm a block from an abandoned railway line that has been converted into a wonderful nature trail.

Secondly, I like to be near water. No problem there, the trail and town is alongside the rambling Nippersink River in McHenry County. A bubbling rapids flows right under the old trestle on the trail, framed by lovely purple and white wildflowers.

Third, I want to be able to hear a train whistle outside my window at night. About one-thirty in the morning a country freight line fits that bill.

Then there's the aspect of something new. I've always wanted to live over a business in a quaint downtown since my days growing up in Lake Forest. Both as a teen and adult, I would walk through Market Square there and wonder about the little apartments above the shops and stores. That lifestyle no longer exists, as the apartments there have all been converted into pricey law and architect offices.

Which brings me, through the auspices of Craigslist, to Richmond,

Illinois, the self-described "Village of Yesteryear." Richmond is the last stopping off point on U.S. Route 12 on the way into Wisconsin and

treat is out the front.

That's what I describe as my New York City movie studio. Two days of the week, it's a quiet view I have to



Lake Geneva. The town of 1100 residents includes a turn of the century downtown that looks between a cross of an Old West town and a tony neighborhood in New York or Chicago.

I tell folks my two bedroom place above Celtic Home and Hearth is a bit like living in Jimmy Stewart's apartment in the movie Rear Window. My rear window is mildly interesting, I can see Doyle's Irish Pub (another IAN distribution site) out the back. My side windows overlook a brick alley wall covered with gorgeous green ivy. The real

myself. The rest of the week it is a hustling and bustling tourist town of knickknacks and fine dining. Live jazz floats up nightly from the martini bar across a street, the pungent smell of garlic and lilting sounds of Italian singers drift from the upscale restaurant two doors down.

Irish music plays constantly in the shop below me, but barely audible thanks to the sturdiness of my 1890's building construction and the consideration of my landlords who own the shop. Watching the comings and goings of tourists and diners and hearing the mix of music makes for an interesting urban experience. And yet just three blocks away the downtown gives way to picturesque Victorians that then open up to barns and silos and mile upon mile of rolling glacial countryside.

One of the wonderful things that God seems to do in my life is bring back something I miss from the past. I never thought I would ever again see the incredible night sky that I would see living in Alaska.

And yet within walking distance of my little town I look up and see the same amazing array of stars and milky phenomenon devoid of any interference from city lights.

An added bonus is now I'm about an hour away from my closest big brother and a half hour closer to my father and sister in Wisconsin.

Walking under the ring of church bells, waving and saying hello to merchants, the car dealer and post-mistress, dropping in on the handmade candy shop and antique dealers, one thing is very clear to me.

Life isn't always about how much money you have. It's knowing how rich you are with all that is around you.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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Novel Peace Prize

They got into the "glug" in Norway. Even President Obama thinks it's a stretch. U.S. Foreign policy has been opposed to nuclear proliferation for decades. Why is President Obama suddenly the poster child? Former President Jimmy Carter said, "Obama deserves it as much as anyone that has ever gotten it for his achievement already." So much for the peanut gallery! This begs the question, what has he done? The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised the President's cooperative approach to global issues, a clear rebuke of the Bush Administration's aversion to international organizations and treaties. So is this a swipe at George Bush? Mission accomplished! Bring it one! I hope Reverend Wrong doesn't get the dough.

Angus Finucane

Rev. Angus Finucane, founder of Concern Worldwide, passed away at 8:30am Dublin time on Tuesday, Oct. 6th. Dolores Connolly sent me the news. I met Fr. Finucane on a number of occasions. He was a rugged looking man, a Holy Ghost father, who along with his brother Jack, also a Holy Ghost Father, were caught up in the Civil War between Biafra and Nigeria in 1968. That's when the mission to feed the hungry and care for the sick began. Few are called, few are chosen! Angus is surely safely home. God bless!

If You're Irish

It would appear as though everybody is hanging on tightly to their purse strings. Now, more than ever, Irish organizations need your support. Get involved! Take out a membership, support the events. Don't be a part-time Irishman, get off the couch and turn off the boob-tube (unless Notre Dame or Boston College are playing). Get yourself out to Gaelic Park or the Irish American Heritage Center and have some real craic!

Olympics Dashed

Chicago was voted out on the first round. Why? Was the International Olympic Committee at odds with the U.S. Olympic Committee. Was the Chicago delegation up to snuff? Did the "O" factor work? What did Oprah bring to the party? She's not exactly the athletic type. Rio is fraught with crime and so is Chicago. Was the effort worth it all?

Now there's talk of a casino on the site of the old Michael Reese Hospital. Mayor Daley says, "No!" Politicians seem to think that more gambling will let them continue to spend recklessly. Guess again.

Mayor Daley mentioned Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe, two great Olympians. I heard Jesse Owens speak at an all-school assembly when I was in high school. He was a very inspirational speaker. But why didn't Mayor Daley mention Annette Rogers Kelly, who won gold in 1932 and 1936, a Chicagoan who is in the Northwestern University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame, and whose mother and father were both born in Ireland.

Stroger-Farrakhan

A coalition of 300 black ministers are to support Todd Stroger to prevent 3 other black candidates from splitting the vote, and stop the white candidate, Terry O'Brien, from winning.

Stroger said this isn't racial!

Don't forget that we are now in a "post-racist" society. Horse poop! If ever there was a good reason to vote Republican, this is it! Too bad for Terry O'Brien—he's a man of integrity.

Wouldn't you love to hear the sermons these ministers will deliver in the months to come? How can they support a candidate with a 10% approval rating, if it's not in their own self interest? What happens when he loses—will the south side explode?

Louis Farrakhan was careful not to endorse Obama after Obama rejected and denounced his support. Todd Stroger has embraced his support... Man the lifeboats, women and children first, row north to Wisconsin. Late breaking news, Cook County Hospital Commission is recommending Oak Forest and Provident Hospital stop taking in-patients. Will Todd Stroger continue to make his speeches form Provident Hospital? Vote early and vote often!

Veterans Day

Our military men are still scattered around the world protecting our country. Once again this year, I was the guest of Jim Sloan at the MCLEF Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago.

The Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation Dinner has raised over \$40 million for the families of U.S. Marines, Navy Corpsmen, Navy Seals, and Federal officers who have given their lives in our nation's defense. In special circumstances, the Foundation also offers assistance to service families facing unique hardships, including medical treatment and tutoring for disabled children. Every child who has lost a parent is given the opportunity to receive a quality education. The esprit de corps was palpable in the room.

General James T. Conway, the 34th Commandant of the USMC, spoke about the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you listen to the politicians versus the military, there is one common denominator when it comes to Afghanistan, there is no sustainable central government there. Most of the country is tribal and we must either withdraw or put more troops on the ground. Politically or militarily, neither of these options offers an acceptable solution.

The highlight of the evening was the speech by Mrs. Heather Golczynski, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Marcus Golczynski, USMC, was killed in Iraq. With her young son at her side, she spoke with great passion about her Marine. She epitomizes the strength of character, poise, and dignity of all who have sacrificed a loved one on the field of battle. Semper fidelis!

"if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep..."

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Mick

Mike Morley



Bliss in Ballina

While looking through the Irish papers recently, I ran across some mouth-watering classic pastry dishes from Ballina Mayo, guaranteed to make your Thanksgiving feast a truly elegant affair. Here's just a few of the creations offered by Ballina baker Michael Foley: Penny plum cake, queen cake, anglesey cake, barm brack, saffron brack, plum pudding, chancellor's pudding, orange, lemon almond and custard puddings, raspberry puffs, cheese cakes, parliament gingerbread, wellington biscuits, Victoria biscuits, and Italian gingerbread. Also on the menu are rhubarb, apple, cherry, currant, and gooseberry pies; mutton, lamb and beefsteak pies, mince pies and shrewsberries for your dining pleasure. Top off your feast with ginger nuts, coffee, and sweets of all kinds. Foley will even provide after-dinner cigars.

All these scrump-tilli-icious items to grace your holiday table, "And Many Others Too Numerous to Mention" can be found at Michael Foley's Confectionary and Italian Warehouse on Knox St, in Ballina Mayo- "All orders punctually attended to."

Do you suppose Mr. Foley is affected by the current "hard times" in post "celtic tiger" Ireland? I can assure you with confidence that he is not.

In the News section we read: "An inquest was held at Ardnaree on

yesterday, before Meredith Thompson, Esq. Coroner for county Sligo, on the body of a man named Thomas Munnally of Cloonislane. ...it appeared that the deceased and his family, consisting of a wife and eight children, have been in extreme destitution for several weeks; they had pawned their entire clothing, and all other available articles, for the purpose of purchasing food. On last Friday morning the deceased proceeded to join a working party under the drainage, when, after working for a short period, he dropped down from exhaustion in consequence of want of food, and shortly after expired. The jury unanimously found the following verdict- 'Death from starvation.'"

Truth is, Foley's ad, along with Mr. Munnally's shocking death, were both featured in the Ballina Chronicle of May 2nd 1849! The brutal starvation of Ireland had then been in progress three awful years. (Incidentally Michael Foley is also one of 3 carpenters listed in Slater's directory of Ballina. One wonders whether the busy baker was also moonlighting in the booming coffin trade.)

Reading that paper one might imagine the printer had somehow badly mixed together stories submitted from two entirely different countries—countries as different as the earth and moon... one flowing with riches, commodities and the

warmth of social interaction; the other barren, toxic, uninhabitable.

The previous July the Telegraph reported the doings of Sir Roger Palmer, owner of no less than 90,000 acres in Mayo: "At Islandeady (between Castlebar and Westport) his 'crowbar invincibles', pulled down several houses, and drove forth the unfortunate inmates to sleep in the adjoining fields. On Thursday we witnessed the wretched creatures endeavouring to root out the timber of the houses, with the intention of constructing some sort of sheds to screen their children from the heavy rain falling at the time. The pitiless pelting storm has continued ever since, and if they have survived its severity, they must be more than human beings."

Surely among the evicted were families with names common to North Mayo: Gallagher, Durkan, McHale, Barrett, McNulty, Brennan, Henry, Doyle, Harkin, Dogherty, Foy, Kelly, Loftus, Gaughan, and Lavelle.

On his extensive holdings around Castlebar and Ballinrobe another notorious and ruthless English landlord, George Charles Bingham, 3rd Earl of Lucan, was also evicting his tenants en masse:

Historian Cecil Blanche Woodham-Smith (Fitzgerald)—The Reason Why:

"To the Earl of Lucan famine horrors were so many convincing demonstrations of the urgent necessity of clearing the land. The land could not support the people, could never support the people; so the people must go. He did not consider it was his responsibility, any more than the English Government considered it was their responsibility, to arrange how the people should go and where. He was getting nothing from his estates... A large part of the population of Ireland must disappear. Ten thousand people were ejected from the neighbourhood of Ballinrobe, and 15,000 acres cleared and put in charge of Scotsmen."

Several populous villages in the neighbourhood of Castlebar completely disappeared, farms being established on the sites. Behind Castlebar House the Earl of Lucan established a large dairy farm. ...in the town of Castlebar itself—whole streets were demolished and the stones from the walls used to build barns and boundary walls... 'crowbar brigades' (would) pull down cabins over the heads of people who refused to leave them. The Bishop of Meath saw a cabin being pulled down over the heads of people dying of cholera: a winnowing sheet was placed over their bodies as they lay

on the ground, and the cabin was demolished over their heads. He administered the Sacrament for the dying in the open air, and since it was during the equinoctial gales, in torrents of rain.

A 'machine of ropes and pulleys' was devised for the destruction of more solid houses. ...at one crack of the whip and pull of the horses the roof was brought in. It was found that two of these machines enabled a sheriff to evict as many families in a day as could be got through by a crowbar brigade of fifty men. Six thousand evictions might involve more than 40,000 people, as the average Irish family consisted of seven persons.

Sick and aged, little children, and women with child were alike thrust forth into the cold snows of winter... the few remaining tenants were forbidden to receive the outcasts... The majority rendered penniless by the years of famine, wandered aimlessly about the roads and bogs till they found refuge in the workhouse—or the grave.

"The Castlebar Union workhouse had been built to hold 600-700 persons, but had never contained more than 140... Very many died, and since there were no coffins, their bodies were left to rot in the dead house. But there was food, however revolting, however meagre; and the Union was besieged. On October 26th, 1846, the Earl of Lucan, Chairman of the Board of Guardians, had declared the workhouse bankrupt, and, in spite of vehement protests from the Poor Law Commissioner, ordered the Castlebar Union to be entirely closed down. Starving mothers dragged their children to the Union doors and besought that they at least should be taken in. Whole families made their painful way from the wild lands and collapsed moaning in the courtyard when they were refused."

Irish family names of South Mayo: Walsh, Burke, Gibbons, Prendergast, Joyce, Murray, Gallagher, Lydon, Heneghan, Murphy, O'Malley, Kelly, Moran, Duffy, O'Connor, Waldron, Farragher.

Lord Lucan

PERFECTLY "LEGAL:" "It appeared that a new system of clearing land was being adopted in Mayo and that the processes now before the courts were novel in Ireland. There had previously been a right of levying a distress on goods and chattels for rent, but this year in Mayo there were no goods and chattels left, so the person of the debtor was to be attached—that is, he was to be imprisoned. The husband and father was to be removed, and the

wife and children were to be left to fend for themselves."

It was a variation of Britain's clearing and plantation policies carried out by Lord Mountjoy following Kinsale and the "Flight of Earls;" and later by Cromwell. But since slavery in the British Empire had ceased just 40 years earlier, so the Irish families could no longer be sold overseas for a profit. They were simply left to die.

The Ballina paper also carried regular news of: "THE MILITARY FORCES IN IRELAND." As of May 9, 1849, there were "Ten regiments of cavalry, twenty-six of Infantry, and nine depots of infantry regiments are now stationed in Ireland, making in round numbers a total of about 31,000 men of ranks."

45 regiments. Were they distributing relief, building shelters, manning field hospitals? Rev. Dr McEvoy, parish priest of Kells, wrote in The Nation, 25 October 1845: "With starvation at our doors, grimly staring us, vessels laden with our sole hopes of existence, our provisions, are hourly wafted from our every port. From one milling establishment I have last night seen not less than fifty dray loads of meal moving onto Drogheda, thence to go to feed the foreigner, leaving starvation and death the sure and certain fate of the toil and sweat that raised this food."

Woodham-Smith described such a convoy of food being moved to Waterford for shipment to England: "The barges leave Clonmel once a week for this place, with the export supplies under convoy which, last Tuesday, consisted of two guns, 50 cavalry and 80 infantry escorting them on the banks of the Suir as far as Carrick."

I find it astounding how any rational person, no less one of Irish descent, would fix on "the potato" to explain why millions of Gaelic-speaking Irish Catholic men, and women, their boys and girls and infants, were abandoned to die the horrible slow death of starvation; while others, English and Protestant, were sustained with little inconvenience to their lifestyles—other than having on occasion to actually encounter the desperation, death and dying going on all around them; or read about it in their weekly paper over tea. And it's sad to read breezy commentary about "The Potato Famine" in this newspaper.

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For online version with additional information, go to: <http://irishamericannews.com/index.php/opinion/mick>.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform Takes Step Forward

Immigration reform is once again back on the agenda in Washington. That said, with Congress still wrestling with health care reform, we won't see any real action until the New Year. The elements outlined below by Congressman Gutierrez are a very positive development. These principles have to be seen as the basis for a fair and humane solution to our broken immigration system. Senator Schumer is working on a similar basis with Senator Graham in the Senate. Let's hope and pray that our elected officials get it right this time.

At a rally on the west lawn of the United States Capitol October 13th, U.S. Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) addressed a crowd of thousands who demanded change to our nation's broken immigration system. Rep. Gutierrez' address responded to a recent call from the immigration advocacy community to introduce comprehensive immigration reform in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Gutierrez has been actively talking to advocacy and civil rights groups, faith-based groups, labor groups, and his colleagues on the Hill to identify the most essential components of such a comprehensive bill. Today he outlined some of

those core principles.

In a statement, Rep. Gutierrez said:

"We simply cannot wait any longer for a bill that keeps our families together, protects our workers and allows a pathway to legalization for those who have earned it. It is time we had a workable plan making its way through Congress that recognizes the vast contributions of immigrants to this country and that honors the American Dream. I am preparing such a plan, and will introduce it in the near future. It will include the following core principles:"

Pathway to legalization for undocumented workers:

"Immigration reform will not work unless it takes a practical approach to dealing with the 12 million undocumented immigrants living, working, and raising families in the United States. We need a bill that says if you come here to hurt our communities, we will not support you. But if you are here to work hard—if you are here to make a better life for your family—you will have the opportunity to earn your citizenship."

"Our immigrants are hardworking, and they are up to the challenge. Give them the opportunity to earn their citizenship, and they will go

through the background checks; they will pay their fair share of taxes; and they will learn English. It's not an easy process, but it is a fair process."

Professional and effective border enforcement:

"We need professional and effective border enforcement. That means 21st century enforcement strategies that both make our nation's physical and economic security stronger and stay true to our nation's values. We need to require the federal government to make a real, working partnership with border communities and other stakeholders when designing and executing border enforcement policies."

Smart and humane interior enforcement:

"Inside the country, my plan will promote fair immigration proceedings, humane treatment of immigration detainees, and policies that respect the tenets of community policing."

Protecting workers:

"Immigration reform will not work without a strong commitment to America's labor force. Without it, too many employers will continue to pervert the system. We must expand the labor rights of workers and punish those dishonest employers who continue to exploit immigrants in order to undermine their honest competitors."

Verification systems:

"We must fix the current employment eligibility verification system, not only to protect Americans who are denied the right to work because of errors in the government's data-

bases, but also to prevent employers who would exploit the system and undermine workers' rights. A vastly improved verification system is fundamental to reducing illegal immigration."

Family unity as a cornerstone of our immigration system:

"Family is the bedrock of our society, and immigration reform must support strong, united families and treat all immigrant families fairly and equally. Right now, our broken immigration system keeps too many American families apart for years and even decades, when they have done everything legally. We need a system predicated on family values by developing laws that better value families—a system that keeps families strong and, most importantly, keeps husbands and wives, parents and children together."

Future flows of workers:

"Our country attracts the best and brightest and the hardest workers from around the globe. That is a source of strength. But our current employment-based immigration laws are often at odds with the needs of our labor market and our economy. Many of our guest worker programs are badly broken, and they undermine workers' rights. At the same time, our visa quotas are determined by politics, not by labor and economic need. My plan will create an employment-based visa system that is fair to workers and employers. It will ensure full labor rights for all workers, and it will create a commission to align visa numbers with actual labor market demands and economic needs, not political winds."

AgJOBS:

"Agriculture plays a fundamental role in our nation's economy and in securing our nation's food supply. Comprehensive immigration reform must provide an agreement between labor and agribusiness that allows farm workers to access legal protections and immigration status while enabling employers to ensure a legal workforce and stabilize their businesses."

DREAM Act:

"We all want a country that is better educated, better motivated and better prepared for the future. My plan will strengthen the DREAM Act, making it quicker and easier for students who grew up in America and know no other home to fully participate in our society. Immigrants brought here as children should not be punished with fines or other means; rather, they should be fully integrated into our society as the Americans they truly are—and as quickly as possible."

Promoting immigrant integration:

"For years, state and local governments have taken the lead in helping new immigrants become new Americans. Recent arrivals face many challenges when navigating this process, yet the federal government has done little to help. I plan to recommit federal resources to promoting and assisting immigrant integration. It is about staying true to our nation's success story of welcoming newcomers and helping them become part of the fabric of America."

"If we are to truly fix any of these critical issues, we must address all of them."

New Pair of Shoes

Author Unknown

When I got sober my sponsor told me that I had to be willing to change everything about my life—everything. So, I wore blue jeans and switched to slacks. I wore western shirts and switched to T-shirts. But the one thing I just couldn't give up was my cowboy boots.

I went to my sponsor and said, "Surely I won't get drunk over a silly pair of cowboy boots. I'm willing to change a lot of things, and if needed I could even give up those boots, but it seems so silly."

My sponsor said, "I don't know how silly it is, or if you'll get drunk over those cowboy boots, but I can tell that you are not 'entirely' willing, though."

"Okay, okay," I said. "I'll prove it to you. I'll give up the boots for 30 days just to demonstrate my willingness to God."

So, I bought a pair of tennis shoes, and after 30 days of not wearing my cowboy boots, wearing tennis shoes instead, the strangest thing happened—my feet stopped hurting.

That's how it was getting sober and giving up the high life. I never stopped to think that the boots were causing my feet to hurt, or the booze was causing my life to hurt. I got willing to give up the stuff, one day at a time, for 30 days, then 60 days, then 90 days... and my life stopped hurting.

And every day I do something different, some change in some small way. Maybe I just put my socks on different, or drive to work a new way. Every day, I try to do Little Things in a Big Way so that when Big Things happen, I can handle them in a Little Way.

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



Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, recently presented the Distinguished Service Award to Chicago Police Officers Robert Ontiveros, Brian Gaffney and Christopher Davis, who responded to a "Battery in Progress" call on S. Ridgeland and, after giving chase, with shots fired, apprehended the suspects and removed a dangerous felon from the streets. Pictured from left are William Dougherty, 1st VP, FOP; Officers Christopher Davis; Brian Gaffney; Robert Ontiveros, and Mark Donahue, President, FOP.



Spóirt

Mary Margaret O'Leary



Anyone who is familiar with the charming downtown of Long Grove, IL has surely been to Paddy's on the Square. Paddy's is an Irish boutique owned and operated for the last twenty-five years by Dundalk, County Louth native, Paddy Barry. Celtic music plays cheerfully as you approach on the uneven brick pathway that leads you inside the two-story emporium. Carrying a plethora of authentic Irish goods, you can find a library full of books, children and adult clothing selections, knits, tweeds, music, artwork, trinkets, and many other items representing Irish culture. Visitors can even use the Historical Research Society database to trace back their family history and Coat of Arms. Just a short walk down the street is The Irish Boutique also owned by Barry, which carries Waterford crystal, Belleek china, pottery, jewelry, and food among other things. Between Paddy's two shops in Long Grove and the latest addition in Crystal Lake, IL Paddy's truly has it all.

Paddy, who arrived in the states in 1968, initially had no plans of staying for more than six months. "I thought I'm over thirty, and I haven't seen the United States. Let's have a look around." As fate would have it Paddy ended up in Chicago, met his late wife Linda, had three children and never moved back to Ireland. Although Paddy makes it back to Ireland at least once a year, his most recent visit to Donegal in July was a little different. Paddy and his former Cloich Cheannfhaola, Gaelic football teammates, were being honored at a gala for their achievements as the 1959 Donegal Junior Football Champions. Paddy, who grew up enamored by the sport of Gaelic football, recalls his family having the only football in his village. Like clockwork, every Sunday after church, neighbors would flock to Paddy's house to revel in their favorite pastime. Years later, while working at the Electricity Supply Board, lunch breaks were used as a time for Paddy to get in better shape for upcoming football events. Many sleepless nights occurred after Paddy's shiftwork, because if there was a knock at your door early in the morning it was time to practice. But all the hard labor paid off for Paddy and his former teammates in the end.

The men traveled from New York, Chicago, Dublin, Monaghan, Sligo, and Letterkenny for the event. Of the twenty-

five original players, nineteen were present for the event (three of the players have passed on). The evening started out with a Mass celebrated by Father Shaun O'Gallchoir followed by a grand dinner at nearby hotel Ostan Loch Altan. The celebrations which lasted well into the early hours of the morning, marked exactly fifty years since the team's victory. Awards were given out, speeches were made, and many stories were shared as the former teammates reminisced about times past and present.

Paddy points out that Gaelic football in Ireland was quite important. "People took it very seriously. It really brought the communities together—it was something people could really rally around." One account is of Paddy's teammate Eddie Doohan, who was studying at St. Patrick's in Dublin at the time and got word on Saturday that there would be a game on Sunday.

"In those days you were not allowed to leave so Eddie went to the Dean and said my father had a heart attack." And to make it seem more believable he stayed home for an entire week, "that's how seriously we took our games."

The importance of Gaelic football is connected to its historical significance. When Irish culture was being threatened, under British rule, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was created in an attempt to revive Irish culture. The GAA's official guide includes a mandate to "actively support Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song and other aspects of Irish culture." The interest in Gaelic football to this



Cloich Cheannfhaola 1959:

Front (L-R): Eugene McCabe, Paddy Kelly, Packie Doohan, Eddie Doohan (capt), Paddy Galvin, Paddy Barry, Rory McMonagle, Paul Kelly, Ownie Collum.

Back (L-R): Paddy Carr, Peter McGinley, Hugh McBride, John Keyes, Paddy O'Grady, Joe Gallagher, Mick McGinley, Brian McGinley, Eugene Greene, Tony Gallagher, Donal McGinley, Louis Kelly, Paddy Boyle, Tony Kelly.



Cloich Cheannfhaola 2009

day remains very high among the Irish and elsewhere. Today, there are over 2,500 Gaelic football clubs. Along with hurling, football is the largest spectator sport in Ireland. The appeal of Gaelic football is also spreading internationally, and continues to grow in popularity. As for Paddy Barry, he simply grew up loving the game—and played every chance he could. Memories of neighbors playing on Sunday afternoons, early morning practices, and of course the victory in 1959 will forever be embedded in Paddy's heart.

Paddy's On The Square, 228 Robert Parker Coffin Rd. Long Grove, IL 60047. (847) 634-0339.

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The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance and Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) are joining hands to keep the art of Irish dance alive in Chicago. With a common goal to create a dedicated dance space in the IAHC, they are teaming up to raise funds for a new studio, making a dream come true.

In a given week, approximately 300 Trinity dancers use rooms at the IAHC for their weekly classes. In providing dedicated space, both organizations demonstrate their commitment to the art form and each other, working to elevate the presence of Irish dance in Chicago and keeping cultural ties strong.

Funds will be raised over the next several months in stages; first to provide non-slip flooring for an existing room, then to build out a fully functional dance studio that is ideal for Irish dancers. Fundraising plans are underway that include a combination of public and private events and sponsorships. Private donations are also being accepted through leapingfordream.chipin.com/trinity-dance-room-at-iahc. To find out how you can help, contact Tim McDonnell at 773-282-7035 ext. 14 or the Trinity office at 773-529-4822.

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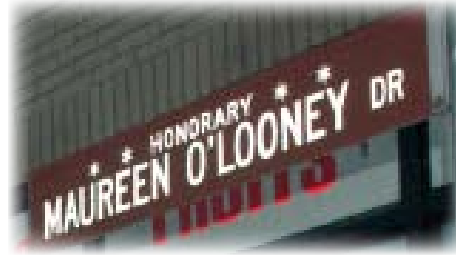
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Ireland's First Lady of Chicago

By Maureen Callahan

If you're looking for Chicago's Irish matriarch, look up. There's a little brown sign indicating the Honorary Maureen O'Looney Way, the street on which her store, Shamrock Imports, stands. Give a hard knock on the door of the first storefront on Laramie south of Belmont. And if no one hears you, "give it a good old Irish kick," as the sign indicates. But don't walk so far inside that you miss the wall of notoriety. With personal photographs of every Irishman to hold office in current time, it is truly a political hall of fame. And posed with each of them is Chicago's Irish first lady. "That one was taken right outside Martin McGuinness's house. He invited me to go fishing with him that day," she remembers. From Gerry Adams to President Mary Robinson, Mayor Daley to President Clinton, they hold a place of honor alongside her "Irish Person of the Year" award, photos of Gaelic football leagues and various other noteworthy recognitions.

For generations, Maureen's shop, Shamrock Imports, has served as the needle on many an Irish immigrant's compass. She has assisted, either with housing job placement, or urban advice, over 300 immigrants from all 32 of Ireland's counties. From Ulster to Waterford, her store has served as Chicago's gateway



for generations of Irish newcomers. "One time there was a group of half a dozen girls who came in the shop together with traveling backpacks. I put the kettle on straight away, of course. They were shocked to see you could get a cup of tea in America! They had nowhere to go, so I took them home with me." She and her generous husband Clem, would "keep them with us until they were sorted out. For years, I had dozens of people in

"My father showed me to look on all people the same way, from a president to a tinker."

Chicago looking for help with babysitting, CTA jobs and the like, so placing them wasn't usually a problem."

Born Kathleen Anne Staunton in the

tiny town of Bohola, County Mayo, "one of my aunties started calling me Maureen when I was little." The name stuck. "I'm from the same small town as Bill O'Dwyer, who went on to become the Mayor of New York, so you see, sometimes good things come from small places," she laughs. I learned a lot from my family and neighbors growing up. My father and I used to walk up to where the tinkers (similar to gypsies) would gather in the bogs behind our house and bring them something to add to their stew. I can still see the big black cauldron on the fire. We were usually asked to stay and have some, and we always did. That's how my parents taught me to see people. I've had dinner

as a guest of President and Mrs. Clinton themselves in the Rose Garden of the White House," she smiles. "My father showed me to look on all people the same way, from a president to a tinker."

Maureen came to Chicago in 1953 for three weeks to visit an aunt. One day I decided to go to Midway airport to see what an airplane looked like, since I had sailed from Ireland by boat. I somehow wandered into the United Airlines office and was offered a job in the accounting department. I told them I would only be visiting here for another two weeks. The president of the airline called me the next day and asked me to reconsider. Fifty-six years later, and I'm still here!"

Mayo's loss was absolutely Chicago's gain. Maureen has been active in so many Irish organizations in and around the city that "it's tough to keep track of all of them." Most of us would tire at the schedule she still keeps. Initially involved with the organization of Gaelic football leagues, she also played at hurling. Once an active step dancer, now a judge at feisianna "I love to be involved with the dancing. Especially the little ones getting started." A founding member of both Gaelic Park on the south side and The Irish American Heritage Center on the north side, she still serves on the advisory board of both. And those are just the main ones. "No other city in this country has finer organizations to assist and honor the Irish the way Chicago does."

Almost any benefit for any cause, from medical bills to sudden deaths of family

members, finds Maureen as part organizer. When the Ulster Troubles came to the



forefront of Ireland's concern, she helped found a chapter of the The American Congress for Irish Freedom and hosted civil rights activists while visiting Chicago. The number of fundraisers is "somewhere around 185. People forget that if we all do a little something, it's amazing what the end result can be." Helping others is the only life Maureen has ever known.

While wrapping up our interview, the phone rang. On the other end was Tim McDonnell, Irish American Heritage Center Board Member, who had just an hour earlier announced his intention to



Maureen O'Looney (L) meets the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese (R)

fill the Director's position job opening of the center. "I'm thrilled," Maureen called into the phone, "anything you need, I'm right here by your side, no matter what. You know that, don't you?"

I think anyone whose life is lucky enough to be touched by her knows that...

Maureen Callahan is a freelance Chicago writer and columnist for The Irish American News. misscallahan@hotmail.com.

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CIIS Honors Maureen O'Looney

To add to the ever expanding and ever worthy list of Maureen's community involvement is her legacy with Chicago's Irish immigrant community. Maureen was a co-founder in 1998 of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support—a 501c3 not for profit—established by the Irish Bishops and Cardinal George as a center designed to cater to the social and pastoral needs of Ireland's new arrivals to our shores.

What began as a group of committed volunteers and one chaplain sent over from Ireland burgeoned into a thriving center which is now at the heart of Chicago's Irish community. CIIS still provides solace and spiritual comfort to Irish immigrants under the pastoral care of Fr Michael Leonard—a Clare native—but it provides much more.

The center offers immigration services which have been free of charge and confidential since its inception, allowing many people, who could otherwise not have afforded the thousands of dollars in legal fees, the opportunity to adjust their status. The center processes all manner of family based petitions and also helps green card holders become US citizens.

However, for every person that CIIS is able to help with immigration

matter there are many more for whom legal status in the USA is still a dream. The estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish in the USA—approximately 5000 of whom are believed to reside in the Chicago area—can only hope for immigration reform. Along with the Archdiocese of Chicago's 'Justice for Immigrants Campaign,' CIIS has been to the fore in advocating comprehensive immigration reform. The center firmly believes in the Gospel message reiterated by Cardinal George that as a people of faith we must welcome the stranger in our midst. The Holy Family themselves were migrants during the time of their flight in to Egypt to escape Herod's forces and our Christian faith calls upon us to recognize the dignity of each man, woman and child, regardless of their legal status.

The work of the center extends far and beyond the fight for immigration reform as CIIS serves all sections of the Irish community. The center boasts a thriving seniors outreach program which is running very successfully in to its third year. The outreach involves weekly meetings in the Irish American Heritage Center and at Gaelic Park. The group meets every other Thursday in each location respectively—namely twice a month in each. The exciting



schedule includes guest speakers, authors, historians, doctors, elder law attorneys and bus trips galore. You can find out more about upcoming events on the calendar of events section at www.ci-is.com

The Irish government as part of its moral obligation to stay connected to the Irish diaspora fully supports CIIS's seniors program, allotting it funds as a way to give back to the emigrants who

left Ireland in the 1950's and 60's. The Irish nation owes a debt of gratitude to those emigrants who kept Ireland's economy afloat during the 'lean years.'

Maureen was a member of this great generation and CIIS is proud to help give back to her and her peers. The center has also pioneered an innovative new program to help build the bridge between the younger and older generations, between modern Ireland and the Ireland that many emigrants

left behind decades ago.

CIIS teamed with Wellspring Personal Care—a private homecare agency in the West Loop—to offer Irish university social work students the opportunity to come to the US on field placement and work with the center's older adult program. The Irish government recognized the value of this initiative and provided CIIS a grant to help pay the students stipend

that would bring them here from Ireland. So far Chicago has welcomed students from universities such as NUIG (Galway), QUB (Belfast), UCC (Cork) and Trinity (Dublin).

The social work students learn a great deal while here and form strong bonds with the seniors that they serve, as well as provide tangible assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It was not long before CIIS recognized that Chicago needed a full time social worker to deal with the many long term cases that were coming up. Case loads have been growing and calls steadily increasing, so much so that CIIS is delighted to announce that it will welcome a full time social worker on staff in the coming months. Maureen's legacy with CIIS seems set with a center whose services change to meet an ever changing community.

In honor of Maureen's years of service to our community and our center, CIIS is dedicating its second annual Gala Dinner Dance on December 12th at Gaelic Park to her. All are welcome to attend and all are invited to come and share in an evening of celebration. Contact CIIS on 312 534 8445 for more details and watch for exciting new programs and services offered by your very own Irish Immigrant Center.

Is the West calling you? You owe it to yourself to answer.

“ The West was calling and we set sail for home, the end of one adventure and the start of another. Now we live by the sea and enjoy a real work/life balance. With high speed broadband, America is only a click away. Ireland's Western Region has given us the chance to have our own business and the life we always wanted. ”

Alex and Daria Blackwell, Oyster Hatcheries, Clew Bay Co Mayo.

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Ireland's Western Region, Why It's Hard to Stay Away for Too Long!

In the second of our three articles on Ireland's Western Region, Joanne Grehan talks to one couple who have made the West their home again having lived and worked in the United States.

Twenty years ago Alex Blackwell left County Mayo for a six month research project in the United States. Just last year, in 2008, he and his wife, Daria, moved back. So how did a six month project

which we encountered six gales, had scores of whales singing to us, dolphins checking in on us daily, and arrived in the West of Ireland—for the first time without having flown there," he explains.



Alex and Daria Blackwell

become a 20 year stint rounding off with a nostalgic sailing trip back home across the Atlantic in their own sailing boat?

"Somehow, six months turned into a change of career, meeting and marrying my American-born wife, Daria, and a new life in New Jersey. We both had very successful careers in marketing, advertising and printing but we always knew deep down that we wanted a little bit more," Alex explains.

That little bit more was to be the establishment of one of the first oyster hatcheries in the County Mayo area from where Alex and Daria now successfully run their business combining oyster-rearing and writing.

"We chose the West for many reasons, key among which were the majestic beauty of Clew Bay, the relative openness of the land, and the genuine nature of the people. Life is so much more real here," says Alex.

He says that he has returned to where his heart had always stayed. Originally when he left he was determined not to become the emigrant he had always tried to convince others against. "But sometimes life takes different twists and turns and it was to be 20 years before I got to set sail back across the Atlantic aboard our boat 'Aleria.' That trip was a life-transforming adventure, during

From their new home on Clew Bay, Alex and Daria say that life in the West of Ireland is certainly different than in New Jersey. "The loudest sounds are often the birds in the trees and cattle, sheep and horses in the fields. The air and water are clean and there is loads of sea life including seals sunning on the rocks, mackerel running through the inlets, and tasty shellfish just waiting to be picked at low tide," says Daria. "All in all, it's pretty idyllic and we are so happy with our move."

"We have a long view from the top of our property across the islands of Clew Bay where we go for picnics in the summer. We could never have afforded to live right on the sea where we lived in America. And our new home town, Westport—Ireland's multiple-year Tidy Town winner—has so much to offer."

"As well as oyster rearing, we have a huge interest in writing and sailing, so we are avidly working

on articles for sailing publications and developing ideas for our next books. The West is the perfect place to inspire creativity," says Alex.

Friendships with local sailors at Mayo Sailing Club were soon rekindled, and, since moving back, sailing trips have included Clew Bay, Killary Harbour, Inishbofin, Clifden, Roundstone, the Aran Islands and Galway, which hosted the Volvo Ocean Race, a round the world yacht race, in June 2009.

Alex says, "There is so much coastline to explore and amazing unspoilt places to visit in the West including Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fiord, the many islands dotting the shores, and of course Galway, a cultural centre and boating Mecca. The West is also home to some fantastic surfing with world-class breaks, thrilling swells and unspoiled beaches."

There is no doubt that Alex and Daria's story is a wonderful tale, but it isn't unique. In fact it's not too dissimilar to the many stories encountered by the Western Development Commission and its LookWest.ie initiative, launched in 2004 as an information point for people thinking of moving to the West of Ireland. Now, with over 145,000 visitors so far in 2009, the website is a modern, vibrant online resource for people thinking of a move to live, work or do business in the West.



A Sea-Stack in Belderrig

If Alex and Daria's story has inspired an idea in your mind, have a look at www.LookWest.ie for information to help your dream come true.

When She Danced at TimeLine Theatre



Promotional photo by Ryan Robinson

TimeLine Theatre Company continues its 13th season with Martin Sherman's *When She Danced*, running November 7 through December 20, 2009, at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago.

Travel to Paris in 1923 to eavesdrop on the bohemian life of international star Isadora Duncan—renowned as the “mother of modern dance”—in this evocative and incredibly funny portrait. With a multi-lingual script of great heart and appeal, Sherman mixes the high comedy of a colorful cast of characters with a poignant view of how art can move and inspire us. Through the eyes of those in Duncan's life we glimpse her greatness and how she touched so many lives when she danced.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call the TimeLine Theatre Box Office at 773.281.8463 x24 or buy online via timelinetheatre.com.



Days to Come at The Artistic Home Mainstage

The Artistic Home's new season kicks off with the rarely produced *Days to Come* by Lillian Hellman, running through Nov. 29th at The Artistic Home Theatre, Mainstage, 3914 N. Clark St. in Chicago.

A rarely seen work from one of America's premier female playwrights, *Days to Come* tells the story of a privileged Midwestern family who must wrestle with the opposing forces of organized labor and union busters when employees at their small factory go on strike—threatening their fortune, their friendships, and possibly their very existence. Exploring the intersection between the political and the personal, *Days to Come* examines the struggle for self-determination and the potential fallout that ensues when the disempowered begin to question traditional notions of class and gender.

For tickets, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.theartistichome.org.

Gaelic Park Players' Craddock's Well

The Gaelic Park Players will present *Craddock's Well* by Michael Carey, from Nov. 6th-22nd at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. in Oak Forest.

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 led as a young child and then a young man with hopes and dreams that he thought could never survive in a small Irish town.

Performances are Fridays, 8pm, Nov. 6th, 13th & 20th; Saturdays, 8pm, Nov. 7th, 14th & 21st; and Sundays, 3pm, Nov. 8th, 15th & 22nd. Tickets are \$12 for Theater Performance only; Opening Night-Buy 1 Get 1 Free!; \$25.00 for Dinner & Theater (Sundays Only). Reservations are a must for Dinner & Theater. Tickets are non-refundable.

708-687-9323. www.gaelic-parkplayers.org.

A Christmas Carol at Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace

The popular holiday tradition that entertains families each year is back this Christmas season at Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace. *A Christmas Carol* opens November 18 and runs through December 21 at 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, 60181. Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace offers families the special opportunity to have breakfast or dinner with Santa Claus on select performance dates, featuring a festive buffet style menu, complete with holiday favorites—a wonderful way to introduce children to the arts.

A Christmas Carol tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the miserly old man, who receives a Christmas Eve visit from the ghost of his partner, Jacob Marley, warning him to mend his selfish ways. During the night three spirits appear before Scrooge, showing him visions of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future, finally revealing the possible results of his unloving, uncaring life. He promises to change as he's not the man he was. This all time favorite play with music is a holiday treat for the whole family.

(630) 530-0111 or TicketMaster at (312) 599-1212. www.drurylaneoakbrook.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

Treasure Island Run Extended

Lifeline Theatre has extended its world premiere adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* through November 15, 2009, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago.

A treasure map discovered in a dead pirate's sea-chest leads young Jim Hawkins on an expedition across the ocean to recover a fortune in

plundered gold.

Fair winds and favorable seas soon give way to mutiny, greed and the evil machinations of a one-legged scoundrel named Long John Silver. Join Jim on an unforgettable adventure as he fights for his life—and the lives of his friends—in this legendary tale of piracy and heroism. 773-761-4477.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Now I know why we are in the Great Recession of 2009. I know why we are all broke these days.

I know why I feel cursed.

I blame myself. It hit me like a lightning bolt this morning. All of this bad karma is a result of the way I treated Marty McFitztrick last summer.

Sorry folks, blame me.

Marty McFitztrick entered my world about nine months ago during the 6:30am mass at St. Luke's.

We've got a comfortable little group of regulars there, and over the years I've made some great friends praying together and punching our spiritual time clock. It's a great way to start the day.

But one day this guy showed up, sat in the back, and began shouting the responses at the priest. You wouldn't think this is a problem until you've had "AND ALSO WITH YOU" screamed into your ears at about a hundred decibels.

I started referring to him as "The Echo" because he was always a beat or two behind the rest of the congregation, but he made up for it by shouting everything out at the top of his lungs, including the "Our Father," which Marty made sound like a conductor screaming out the stops at Grand Central Station.

At first he would just show up sporadically and everybody figured, what the hell, we'll get through it. But then he started showing

up every single day. After mass one day, one of the guys, (who doubles as an altar boy even though he's in his fifties), tried to speak to him about it. He tried to tell Marty, in a friendly way, that his shouting might be disturbing the rest of us.

Marty said, "F---off!" in no uncertain terms as he hustled out of his pew, dipped his hand in the baptismal font and trotted out the doors of the vestibule. Several other attempts by parishioners with friendly advice were met with similar vitriol.

I'd stand on the steps of the church after mass and discuss the problem of "the Echo" with other old-timers who were as annoyed by Marty as I was. All except Don Gancer who said, "Well, what would Jesus do?"

"Jesus would kick his feckin' ass, that's what He would do!" I said as Don chuckled and walked to his car.

My pal Dave told me that Marty was a neighborhood guy who periodically stopped taking his meds, resulting in his aberrant behavior. We stood on the steps and watched him drive away in his car as he gave all of us the evil eye.

"That sonovabitch is playing games with us."

Finally one day, Father Leroy was trying to give his sermon and Marty started clearing his throat in a very loud and threatening manner. "That's it!" I thought to myself, "He knows exactly what he's doing. His 'act' is not an involuntary tic at all, but a deliberate attempt to intimidate all of us."

I walked to the back of the church and pulled out my cell phone and called the cops.

Sure enough, right before Communion, a seven-foot tall River Forest cop walks in and looks around the church. All eyes leave the altar and focus on Marty just as he begins screaming "OH LORD I AM NOT WORTHY!"

Huge cop taps him on the shoulder and beckons him to come outside. Marty beefed all the way out the door. But he was no longer shouting I noticed. That faker. It's all an act.

Next morning he shows up and glides into his pew at the Offertory. MAY THE LORD ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE AT YOUR HANDS, FOR OUR GOOD AND THE GOOD OF...

I was out the door and dialing the cops again.

This time I waited for them outside but they showed up too late. Mass gets out and Marty trots to his car, and then a young guy runs out of church and grabs him. "Sir, can I talk to you for a second?"

Marty yanks away with a stream of profanities and jumps in his car flippin' the bird to all of us as he screeches away.

Then the squad pulls up and says, "Okay, which one of you will identify him and sign a complaint?"

I will.

Cop puts me in the front seat of the prowler and we cruise a couple blocks to where another squad has pulled over "The Echo." Marty is standing by his car and the cops are jawboning him about the liturgy.

Cop sez to me, "Is that him?"

That's him.

He takes me back to the station and says, "Okay, just have a seat and I'll get the paperwork ready."

What are they going to do with him?

"They'll bring him back here, throw him in a cell, and he'll have to wait to get bailed out. He'll have to show up in court in a few weeks."

I sat alone in the holding area. The clock on the wall ticked away. I should be gettin' my ass to work... if I had a job.

I caught a glimpse of myself in the glass, not the guy I wanted to see. Not the guy I wanted to be. I suddenly felt like the biggest jerk that ever walked. I went to open the door to the room and it was locked. Door to the street was locked too. I shouted and pounded on the door.

I changed my mind. I don't want to do this.

"Are ya' sure?"

Yeah, I'm not putting a guy in jail for being different. Hell, I should be in prison myself for that.

Cop said they would release Marty with a warning.

But he never returned to St. Luke. I had visions of Marty showing up at 6:30 mass with a machine gun and taking us all out as he screamed "AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END, AMEN."

I'm sorry Marty. I should have just switched to another mass. I'm asking your forgiveness. Please bring back the economy... stop the war... clear up my rash... and lift your curse. Please forgive me Marty McFitztrick. Don Gancer was right all along.

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ing crowds, and the hard work and dedication of her Board of Directors in producing this stellar event. We talked about the

Festifying A.M.

For some people Irish Fest Milwaukee almost marks the end of the season, but for the seasoned Celtic Road Warriors the Milwaukee Mega Fest is right in the middle. We have p.m. and a.m., pre-Milwaukee and after-Milwaukee, the Festivals roll on.

A.M. includes, for me, Lancaster, PA, Peoria, IL, Kansas City, MO, Pittsburgh, PA, Muskegon, MI, Wildwood, NJ, and Weston, MO, and still to go, West Monroe, LA, Phoenix, AZ, Tucson, AZ, and Baltimore, MD.

Despite the tough economy and some even tougher weather, it was surely the entertainment on offer that made the difference at most venues this year. The big acts brought the big crowds.

Muskegon

The Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon pulled out all the stops for their 10th Anniversary this year and reaped the rewards. With a revamped festival site, cathedral tents, and a stellar line up, they made the leap from "garden party" to the big league. It was fabulous and I will never forget Friday at 5PM when the gates opened and thousands poured into the beautiful park by Lake Michigan. I'll bet Chris Zahrt and her band of volunteers are still smiling. Solus, Slide, Seamus Kennedy, Old Blind Dogs, The Makem and Spain Brothers, Blackthorn, Switchback, Kennedy's Kitchen, Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band, Laurence Nugent and Danny Burns, Natalie McMaster and many more. It was a great mix and worked so well. The scheduling was smart and everybody was happy. The Ward Irish Music Archives were there with their "Come Back to Erin—Irish Travel Posters of the 20th Century," a very popular exhibit and a great addition to any festival. I had seen it in KC.

I went down to the Festival site very early on Sunday morning, just myself, a few seagulls and Chris Zahrt; the tireless organizer of Michigan's Irish Music Festival. Chris and I chatted about the record break-

music and the mountains of corned beef needed to feed the multitudes, but she takes it all in her stride and was very relaxed and justifiably proud of her army of 550 volunteers.

The main reason I went down early on Sunday is that I had heard Switchback's Marty McCormack had written the music for the Gaelic Mass, and I was not going to miss it... nor was I disappointed. Marty and Brian were joined by Mairtin deCogain, and the Mass music was exceptional. I just loved that mandolin. ... Praise the Lord!

Fair Play to Chris, Diane, and all involved for turning this frog into a Prince... It's a lot of hard work that really paid off.

Marty McCormack described it as "The Friendly Irish Festival." True for yah Marty.

Kansas City

Kansas City's Irish Festival was also a great affair. I just loved it from the opening band on Friday—The Youngers, till the closing band on Sunday—The Elders. This was another example of the perfect mix of entertainment as Cowtown hosted another extraordinary downtown event. Pogey, Slide, Scythian, Munnely, The Makem and Spain Brothers, The Hothouse Flowers, Cara, Vishton, and tons more, seriously great entertainment. The bookend bands, The Youngers and The Elders, had one thing in common, young Kian Byrne's band played on Friday and his Dad, Ian Byrne's band, The Elders, closed the show on Sunday. Like Father, like Son. The Elders are always best at home in KC. And as one wit put it, "It was like a three days warm up for the main act—The Elders." No argument from me, they totally stole the show.

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh kicked ass in their new dig's with Gaelic Storm, Slide, Scythian, Solus, Pogey and Ceann, another magical mix of superior headliners. I loved Pittsburgh's Ceann, they were the big surprise for me and I hope to see

them spread their wings a bit more next year. Nan and Maura always host a great event.

Wildwood

Wildwood, NJ was, well I think "wild" is the right word, as The Elders rocked the Jersey Shore. Wildwood is always a blast.

Weston

Weston, MO was cold, I mean really cold. But high energy from Ellis Island, 7 Nations, Searson, The Wild Colonial Bhoys and The Mickey Finns kept the show on the road. Brilliant, blistering set from The Screaming Orphans had them invited back for next year. Yeah! They were asked back for 2010 on stage, and they shook hands on it. Unheard of. The hometown boys, The Elders, brought the weekend to a close with another great set. These guys are just so incredibly talented. And I nearly forgot Flannigan's Right Hook, brilliant. Bob Reeder was everywhere and local legend Connie Dover played a beautiful set on Sunday morning. I missed Two Tap Trio who played indoors, but I was told that they too gave a good account of themselves. Pete Maher's annual Wellie Race on Sunday morning was great fun as usual, and again congratulations to Sean O'Malley on another great festival.

Barleyjuice played Bethlehem, and I missed it, but I'm told they were brilliant. "Hey, I told ya so." They are going to be at a major Midwest fest next year I'm told, and of course, I will be seeing them at the Maryland Irish Festival in Baltimore this month. So it's now time to head south, festifying in Louisiana and Arizona, and I'm sure I will have lots of stories for you next month.

Don't forget to join me on Monday nights for Blarney on the Air at 7pm Central on 90.9FM or on your computer from anywhere at wpcb.org. If I don't see you at the festival, I'll see you on the wireless.

Spare a thought for my good buddy and fellow vendor Jack Baker. Jack is recovering from surgery after falling in the line of duty at the Weston Irish Music Festival, God Help us all, but he tore his bicep and is in plaster, it will take months to recover and it's his good drinking arm... get better soon, Jack.

Next month: An interview with Paulie B. from Bridgid's Cross.

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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki

Fall Is Fun

It has been such a busy month! I have been working so hard learning my dance team. I know the whole dance! Now don't be too sad, but I didn't qualify for solos at oireachtas. I do get to dance at Oireachtas



with my team and a traditional dance, which I'm very excited about. I'm getting fitted for my team dress. There is also going to be a clinic to learn how

to put my wig and makeup on correctly. I also ordered a soccer jersey with my school's logo on the front and my name on the back. I'm soooo excited I think I will explode! It is still over a month away. Besides that, school is going well, and it feels like fall already (or winter). I recently went to the Iowa feis. As soon as I got to Dubuque, I went on the incline and then went to Loras College (my mom's college). I went to the water park at the hotel. I did so much there. I had a blast! I didn't place in any of my dances at the feis, but I got to meet Brenna Briggs who is the author of the Liffy Rivers series. She was very nice. She signed my books and gave me a charm. Rod Vick was also there. I've met him at other feises. He is the author of the Kaylee O'Shay series. I can't wait for the last book in the series. Both series are very good books to read for anyone interested in Irish dance. I also went to the book launch of Steps In Time: the History of Irish Dance In Chicago by Kathleen Flanagan. Her presentation was very entertaining. I am looking forward to going to IBAM at the Heritage Center to meet the different authors. Aside from dancing, I'm an avid reader.

Seanachai's Mojo Mickybo

Seanachai Theatre Company returns to the exceptional storytelling style of Owen McCafferty, who was born in 1961 in Belfast, with the midwest premiere of Mojo Mickybo at The Artistic Home, 3914 N. Clark in Chicago, from October 29th to December 6th, 2009.

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Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presented an award of excellence recently to Deidre McNulty, in honor of being crowned the 2009 Chicago Rose of Tralee; she represented Chicago in Ireland's Rose of Tralee Selections this past August.

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



resume. Give them permission to tear it apart. Take their criticism in the most positive light possible. Make the recommended changes

Prepare for Your Next Job Interview Now!

Picture this—you pick up the phone and find yourself speaking to a recruiter who specializes in your field. She is very excited about discussing an exceptional job opportunity with you. She sees you as a potential candidate. What can you do to prepare for such a call? You never know when you might get a call about a prospective job. Once the current economy turns around, there is going to be a lot of job movement. Many people feel that their employers have taken advantage of them during the last 12-18 months; they will be ready to leave if a good opportunity is presented to them. We can expect a great increase in “musical chairs” when the current recession is clearly seen as being over.

Develop a Marketing-Oriented Resume

Let's say you have been out of school 12-15 years and you don't have a current resume. Take the time to specify your achievements within a regular resume format. Ideally, a visit to a bookstore or public library will produce a book that describes the whole resume writing process. Study it thoroughly. Or research the effective way to write a “hot” resume on the internet.

Many human resource professionals suggest you provide a career summary at the top of the resume. Ideally, this summary highlights characteristics and skills that are not immediately obvious or integral to your particular jobs. Remember the resume is your sales brochure.

Review each phase of your professional employment and highlight the responsibilities, and more importantly, the achievements of each position. Take the time to do this carefully. Use as many action verbs as you reasonably can. Quantify specific savings, reductions in cost or head count, etc. Include a very brief description of each employer; many readers may not know much about your former employers.

Consider the other elements of your background. How should you state your educational background? Be sure to give yourself as much credit as you can. You will also want to state other things, like professional and civic involvement. Have two or three close colleagues critique your

if you agree. Make sure there are no typos.

You may commonly email your resume to potential employers and personal contacts. But you may want to have “hard” copies available to hand to people when you visit with them. Have these hard copies run off on high quality bond paper. A well-crafted resume says a lot about who you are.

Prepare for the Interviewer's Questions

Read some of the dozens of books available on the interviewing process. These references will detail the expected questions. There are very few surprise questions in most interviews. Occasionally, some interviewer might ask you what animal you would be if you were an animal. But typically interviewers are going to focus on how you will fit the job opening.

You need to develop a short presentation that highlights your major successes. Why should this company or any other hire you? You should be able to detail your strengths and weaknesses. What type of position are you looking for? What are your salary requirements or expectations?

Even if a recruiter has approached you, interviewers will want to know why you are willing to leave your present employer. You have to be discrete when you respond. Don't be critical of your current employer. Nobody likes that.

Why does this particular position being discussed appeal to you? If you haven't thought about what it is you are looking for, you are going to be hard pressed to succinctly answer that question. Even though the company may have come looking for you, that part of the dynamic will change during the interview. If you want the job, it will become incumbent on you to be persuasive as to why the company should hire you. Companies simply don't like to hire reluctant candidates.

Prepare Your Questions

Your questions should focus on two major elements—the company and the position itself. Is the company's position growing in the marketplace? How is the company doing in this terrible economy? Has their leadership team positioned the company well? How does the position you are applying for fit into that future? What is the company's commitment to developing its people?

What convinced the interviewer to join the company? Is the company committed to excellence? How has the company and the sources of its earnings changed over the last five years? Is the company a hot prospect for a takeover? Does the company promote from within? Are employees encouraged to contribute their ideas? Ask for specific examples.

What does the job look like? What is the level of responsibility? Will the job challenge you? How quickly might you anticipate moving on to the next level? Will this job look good on your resume? Will it improve your technical and interpersonal skills?

Role Playing Before The Interview

Think of any tough assignment you ever had—wouldn't your performance have been better if you had a chance to practice? Use the above questions as a starting point and ask a couple of colleagues to conduct a role play interview with you. Formulate answers to the most probable questions. Audio tape the interview and then listen carefully to the tape for areas of possible improvement. You can get comfortable with the questions you will most likely be asked.

Expect the Unexpected

Preparing yourself to leave your current job may free up your creative juices and provide you with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your “true” abilities to your current employer. Be sure to remind your employer of the significant contributions you have made to the organization. For as long as I can remember, the motto of the Boy Scouts (and Girl Scouts) of America has been, “Be Prepared.” Great wisdom in their succinct motto. Carpe diem.

This column is the third of six columns that

will be addressed to some aspect of the job search process. Best of luck to those of you who are currently searching for your next job.

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



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Horoscope

Theresa Castro

ARIES: You were crossed by a powerful full moon last month in the first week of October 2009. Now, the full moon of November 2009 will bring that initial influence to a higher level. Whatever you started then, could, and most probably will, be a force that could profoundly change your life on some level. Hopefully this change will be a most fulfilling one! Don't look back, the future is now!

TAURUS: You experienced a series of great aspects last month! Now the influence is a bit prolonged. This is good for you! Hopefully you were graced by concrete events that you deserve. If not you are still in luck! The seasonal movements of the planets are moving to enhance your sign for a second month in a row! Just relax and let these influences flow to reap the goodness coming your way! O yeah!

GEMINI: You can take a hint from your close neighbors, Aries, and Taurus. The seasonal rotation of the near planets Sun, Mercury, and Venus are coming into a favorable angle to your sign. This is the time to strike while the iron is hot. Do not squander the moment. The planets are always in a state of flux! Remember that you are the deciding factor in your life's fortunes. Using time and the planets to your advantage are the key to greatness!

CANCER: Hold tight while the planets aspect your home base of operations. You may be in the throes of change in the foundation of your life. This however is a vital part of living an must be experienced in order to grow. You

could also be disappointed in some practical areas of your life regarding finances or emotional issues. Don't sweat the small stuff! Hang tough!

LEO: You are no stranger to drama in your life! You might admit that you are also the cause of some of the drama that occurs! The planets are not conspiring against you, it is just the way in which you deal with the challenges that come your way. Creative living depends on your participation! Make the best of every situation and the unexpected will create opportunities to assist your efforts.

VIRGO: You have been fortunate of late! Some beneficent influence has entered your life and taken wing in your heart! Your life feels suddenly all new! This is because Saturn, the wet blanket of the zodiac, just exited your sign! It is also that Venus, Jupiter, and Neptune, the planets of love and dreams are influencing your sign now! How sweet it is!!

LIBRA: Saturn is coming your way! For the next couple of years you will find out what you are made of, compliments of our Saturn. In this month of November 2009, Sun, Venus, and Mercury are gathering to bring you some sweetness to buffer events. The best times are coming to you if you are patient and resilient.

SCORPIO: November is your month to shine! There are some planets that are coming into your sign that will boost your morale! If you have recently begun a personal project that you are excited about you could see

some exhilarating results! You deserve it all so get ready for an adventure. Hopefully you have some special people in your life to share your success with!

SAGITTARIUS: You are in a reclusive mode this month of November 2009. You are planning your next move on your pet projects and are well on the way to success. Sometimes, a bit of quiet deliberation is what is needed to see things through!

CAPRICORN: You must wait a little longer to reap some of the benefits you so richly deserve. The planets travel in regular intervals that will sooner or later come to your attention for assimilation. You can utilize the potential energy of these influences to further your aims.

AQUARIUS: All of the planets are either directly in your sign or aspecting your sign favorably. This could not be any better! You have a bit of responsibility though. You are required to cooperate with these beneficent influences because there is no substitute for hard work. The window of opportunity may open, but you need to go through it to get to the next level.

PISCES: You are getting ready for a better season for the month of November. For starters, Saturn is leaving the opposition of your sign which will open some doors that have been previously closed. Then you will be presented with a few more opportunities to choose from to further your pet projects. Don't blow it.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



My road season of selling CDs at Irish and Scottish Music Festivals is finally over, ending on the second weekend of October with that lovely little festival in Weston, Missouri. I'm ready for a rest. Weston had all the usual this year, lovely town, great festival, superb food, great beer brewed right there at the Weston Brewing company, and a whole flock of friendly people. In addition to all that, they had a great lineup of performers. The Elders closed the show on Sunday afternoon with their usual high energy performance that had the crowd standing and dancing. Those guys are so much fun to watch and listen to on stage. The Screaming Orphans appeared there this year for the first time and made such a hit that they were already asked back, on stage, halfway thru their second set. They were hot, performing some of the best music I've ever heard them perform; they just keep getting better and better.

Speaking of hot sister bands, Searson was there too this year, and they've released two new CDs this year. Their first is called A Different Kind of Light and is their best CD yet that features their new lineup. Their Dad, Mike, has retired from touring and performing and is staying home, keeping the home fires burning and taking care of all the business there. I, for one, miss his smiling face. He was always quick with a joke or a bit of gossip. I am glad for him that he now gets to do what he wants. His three girls, Colleen on fiddle, Erin on piano, and Heather on bass continue to rock on and provide some of the most passionate playing to come South from the Great White North. Which brings us to their second release, Ignite, featuring eight new compositions that will absolutely scorch your CD player. I should mention the other two members of the group, who are Andrew Krause on guitar, and Jordon Zadorozny on percussion. They're no slouches either. This band has always been a pleasure to listen to and watch.

More fine music was provided at Weston by one of the most talented duos I've ever listened to, Mick Doyle and David Marsh who perform as "Ellis Island." These guys play more instruments than you can count, and make it look so easy. They also sing, and very well. I've only seen them at Weston, and I wish some of the festivals in the Chicago area would pick them up—they're good and they deserve the exposure. Not to mention that we deserve the good sounds they produce. Until you get a chance to see them in person, you can check out their CDs. They have two, the first being Crossing the Pond and their more recent release The Whole Shebang. On their new CD there are two cuts I find myself playing over and over, "Galway Girl" and "Men of Erin." These songs are worth the price of admission and the rest is gravy.

While I'm talking about talented duos, I have to mention what is rapidly becoming one of my favorite CDs this year, A Song for Ireland by the Baileys. The Baileys are Michael Banahan and Anthony McDermott, two experienced, talented, traditional musicians who have created, in this CD, a classic. It contains 20 popular songs that we all know and have heard many times, but never played and sung this well. I've recommended this to many folks looking for a traditional CD that they can use to learn traditional songs and everyone has loved it. It's seldom that you get this much music performed this consistently well. Some of the tunes, you ask... here's a few, Colcannon, Homes of Donegal, Rocky Road to Dublin, A Song for Ireland, The Ould Triangle, Dirty Old Town. See what I mean, classic songs done in a classic way. If you love the songs, and there are 20 of them, you'll love the way the Baileys do them. I hope these guys got another CD on the way, but for the moment I'll just keep playing this one.

Time for some Bagpipes

Kansas City Saint Andrews was the pipe band performing at Weston this year and it certainly was a pleasure to listen to an excellent band like them. Despite the cold weather, it never got above 44 degrees, KC St A did a tremendous job.

It's been a pretty slow year for bagpipe recordings but we got a couple beauties at the moment that really need to be heard. In solo piping circles, Bill Livingstone is a name well known. This year he put out a stunning new CD titled Northern Man. Produced by Bill along with Doug Stronach, this CD features 11 cuts of some of the best music you'll hear this year. So far the reaction from pipers and non-pipers alike is that this one's a keeper.

Finally, this is the time of the year when the World Pipe Band Championships come out on a set of three CDs and two DVDs.

Thanks to the internet, most everyone has already seen, heard them and probably, judging from the sales, made a copy for themselves. There is a persistent rumor that due to the rampant copying this will be the last world's that will be recorded, officially. If that's the case we're going out on a high note. Simon Fraser University Pipe Band (SFU to those in the know) won this year with as perfect a set as I've heard in a long time. A bunch of North American bands made it on to the Qualifying Heat CD.

For those of us not in a band, who love the pipes and want to hear simply the best pipe bands there are, here you go. Add to your enjoyment with the DVD where you not only get to hear the best but see them as well. The recordings are all of the highest quality, but you won't hear a single version of Amazing Grace, a plus for some of us. These are, simply put, the best pipe bands in the world and bands we don't often get to see and hear. Get 'em while you can.

Back home here in Chicago, the City of Chicago Pipe Band is now teaching at the Irish American Heritage Center on Mondays from 7-9pm. Kids from 8 to 18 looking to learn bagpipe or snare drum should contact Pipe Major Pat Lynch at cocpipeband@gmail.com to schedule lesson times. Lessons are free, but you have to provide your own practice chanter or drum sticks. Here's a great opportunity for kids in the area to learn.

For folks in the Western suburbs, Mike Dietz is now giving pipe lessons in our shop, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, in Villa Park on Wednesday evenings. You can call us at 630-834-8108 for info.

Finally, please plan to join us at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, December 6th, for the Christmas Bazaar—save the date. It's always a fun time.

You can always call at the shop, 630-834-8108 or email me at pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainté

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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.

New, Tougher Consumer Product Safety Commission Rules A Step In The Right Direction – But, May Not Be Enough To Protect Children From Dangerous Toys And Cribs

With Christmas just around the corner, it is encouraging to see that The Consumer Product Safety Commission has made important changes to rules affecting safety of items intended for use by children. The CPSC is the independent government agency responsible for making and enforcing rules designed to

keep consumer products, including toys, safe.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act took effect in August of this year. The CPSIA was designed to address concerns about products, including toys and items intended for use by children under 12. The CPSC's intent is to restrict the level

of lead in children's products, but also to make it easier to identify who manufactured an item, when and where. This makes enforcement of rules easier.

Lead is used in many common items including paint, thread, plastics, dyes used to color fabric and leather, ink, children's jewelry and toy figures, among others. Lead makes paints' colors more vivid and durable and is inexpensive. However, lead is known to be dangerous, especially to children. Even small amounts of lead can cause permanent, irreversible brain and nervous system damage leading to behavioral, learning and memory problems, hearing loss and other nervous system disorders. The consumer cannot easily detect lead in products because it is odorless and tasteless. Products containing lead are not required to bear labels or markings warning users.

The CPSIA reduces the allowable lead content for children's items by half, from 600 parts per million (ppm) to 300. Paints and coatings' allowable lead content is reduced from 600 ppm to 90. These new standards apply to items manufactured AFTER August 14, 2009. Items manufactured before that date are subject to the less stringent standards.

Sadly, violations of the standards imposed by the CPSC are all too common. This year, Mattel and its division Fisher Price agreed to pay a \$2,300,000 civil

penalty for importing and selling 2 million Barbie, GeoTrax, and other toys containing excessive amounts of lead between 2006 and 2007. In October 2009, Target Corp. agreed to pay \$600,000 in fines for knowingly importing and selling children's toys made with coatings contaminated with lead. One of the offending items was clearly marked "100% natural bamboo." In 2007, millions of popular Thomas & Friends wooden railroad toys were recalled due to use of paint containing lead.

The problem is exacerbated by the lack of knowledge afforded consumers in selecting and buying toys. There is no labeling or warning requirement to advise consumers about lead content. Moreover, since many toys are not marked to indicate who manufactured, distributed and sold them, locating an offending manufacturer or distributor to enforce the standards or impose fines has been difficult. The CPSIA specifically addresses this problem by requiring children's items to be labeled with basic information about the identity of the manufacturer. These requirements are now in effect and apply to children's items manufactured after the effective date.

The CPSIA was written to require testing and certification requirements for all manufacturers and importers of children's products, including children's jewelry, pacifiers, paint and

other surface coatings, small parts and full size cribs. These items are required to be tested by certified laboratories not owned by the manufacturer and certified to comply with the standards. This year, a one-year delay was granted, until February, 2010 as to laboratory testing certification, but manufacturers must still comply with standards. The CPSC plans to meet in February to consider changes manufacturers and distributors suggest to the certification requirements.

Selecting toys and products for children is fun, but must be done with a focus on safety. Purchasing age-appropriate toys using labels as a guide will eliminate some potential problems. All toys should be examined by an adult to eliminate loose parts, sharp edges and flaking or peeling paint before use by any child and periodically. The CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov is regularly updated to inform consumers about the latest recalls and safety issues as regard children's items such as toys, but also cribs, play yards, books and jewelry that can pose a hidden hazard.

The CPSC website is a good resource for parents to browse when selecting toys and children's products. The site provides an index of products, including children's toys, furniture, strollers, cribs and household items that have been recalled for various reasons.

David P. Huber

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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Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presented a letter of congratulations to Maureen O'Looney, producer of the American Irish Radio Network, for its 22nd anniversary of the radio show.

Tommy Nevin's Opens New Location in Frankfort

A new Tommy Nevin's Pub has opened in Frankfort, taking over the former Galway Tribes Restaurant at 9860 Lincolnway Lane, (just off LaGrange Ave).

Though not a chain, Tommy Nevin's has two other locations in Evanston and Naperville, as well as sister establishments, Muldoon's in Wheaton and The Kerry Piper in Willowbrook.

The Frankfort pub has an Irish ambience, but is not a carbon copy of their other establishments. The motto is still, "There are no strangers here, only friends that have not yet met."

(815)464-1000. www.tommynevins.com.



Pat Hennessy



Chicago GAA Teams Draw Blank at Boston

Chicago GAA teams, hurling and football, drew blanks over the long Labor Day weekend losing in all contests and not bringing home any national titles, something that has not happened before. Usually the Windy City teams, men and women, bring back five or six titles. But not to worry, great teams in Ireland hurling and football have similar records.

Kilkenny for instance, now All-Ireland champions in caman craft for four years in a row, back in the 1940's only won one title in a decade. Kerry/ now champions/ and the home of great footballers/ also have had their lean periods. So it's not a sign of being inferior but it should give our teams more incentive to train better before the "Big Ones."

The legendary Harry Bolands, filling in at the last moment for Limerick Chicago senior hurling champions, gave champions Wexford from Boston a great game, only finishing a few points behind. This was a Herculean task, and only a great team could measure up. Chicago gaeldom are delighted to see the club re-activated, and wish Con Moore and his club the best of luck in the coming year.

For all the other players from the respective clubs, I would say from experience that the standard of play has risen in all grades, and that's great news for the games, but it means good training is the order of the day from here on, and of that our teams are very capable. Wait till next year. Thanks to Eamon Kelly, the hard working Public Relations Officer for the North American Board, for providing the information.

The Quinn

Benefit—Worthy Cause

Preparations for what promises to be a very successful fundraiser for a very worthy cause, the Maggie Quinn family, is going well—but much more remains to be done, according to a hard working committee led by two well known Kerry gael, Mike Kenny and Con Toomey. The big event will be held at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 174th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois on Sunday evening, November 8th starting at 7pm.

Maggie Quinn, a popular nurse in Oak Lawn, developed some serious infections over the past eight years, which have now damaged the heart and bone of the spine. This problem

required three surgeries of the spine with the removal of seven vertebrae, some bone graft and extensive fusion with, of course, several hospitalizations, blood transfusions, medical procedures and physical therapy, with daily IV and oral antibiotics, and required medical care. Her future regarding medical care remains uncertain, as well as if she will ever be insurable again.

Maggie's husband Brian is a son of the well-known Tipperary gael in Chicago, Seamus Brian, and is an engineer with Local 399. They have three children, Emily 16, Bridie 14, and Jack 8. This is very deserving cause, and the whole-hearted support of the Chicago-Irish community and others will be greatly appreciated. When one of our own is down, this is when we rally best. For more information please call Stephen, 708-349-8198 or Kathleen Delaney, 708-226-1163 or Mike Kenny, chairman, 708-594-2765.

Death of Well Known

Kerry Gael in Chicago

The sudden death of well-known Kerry gael, John Martin Kenny, here recently cast a huge cloud of sadness on the entire Chicago gaeldom and beyond. He was a proud native of Ballyheigue, and a fond brother of legendary Mike Kenny, also of GAA fame, and an outstanding humanitarian, heading many big benefits for many worthy causes.

He had been sick recently, but had apparently recovered and was up and around and coming along nicely. His sudden passing was a tremendous shock to his beloved family and his countless friends.

John Martin was an active Director of Chicago Gaelic Park, led by outstanding president John Griffin and other Directors. Their brilliant work over a period of years resulted in Gaelic Park being named "The finest GAA center outside of Croke Park in Dublin," by the president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who visited here a few years ago. He was also a hard working member of Local 399 Stationary Engineers, where his expertise was well known and respected. He was also an active member of the fine Chicago Kerry Association.

He was a fine hurler with the famed Harry Boland team of some years ago, and gave some skillful and stylish displays, helping to win the first Divisional championship for his team in 1966. In the committee rooms, he was equally brilliant in helping his club and the promotion of the old caman game.

John Martin was the beloved husband of Sheila (nee Travers), loving father of Sean, (Katie) Dermot, (Amy) and Aileen Kenny; dearest brother of Michael (Nancy), Kathleen (Jim McCormack), Theresa (Robert Ellis), Helen (the late Paul O'Mahoney); dear son of the late John and Lena Kenny. To all those and others of the large Kenny family, we join with Chicago GAA and beyond, and his countless friends in the U.S.

and Ireland, in offering our deepest sympathy and condolences to his beloved wife Sheila and the Kenny family in Chicago and Ballyheigue and, indeed, the countless U.S. friends. Ar dheis De go raibhn an aim. Two sisters of John Martin, Mrs. Mary Dempsey and Mrs. Helen O'Mahony, traveled from Ireland for the wake and funeral.

The overflow attendance at his wake, his funeral mass at Sacred Heart church, and his burial at Good Shepard Cemetery, testified to the huge popularity of John Martin. He will be missed by countless friends, in the U.S. and Ireland. "Lives of all great men remind us we too can be sublime and in passing leave our footprints on the sand of time."

Harvest Day at

Gaelic Park a Huge Success

The annual Harvest Day festivities held at Chicago Gaelic Park recently were another huge success. Crowds of people with children flocked into the Park from early morning, and enjoyed the many shows of a Harvest Day in Ireland, with some fine displays of Juvenile hurling and football. It was a fun day and everyone was in a good mood, except the Cork folk, who were regretting their county's defeat by Kerry televised live from Croke Park in Dublin. Hard working Eamon Malone with Harry Costello's (the man for all seasons) wit, and the charming Marian Ryan, Manageress, had everything in order and the Craic (fun) was mighty.

We had some Hennessy family from New York, the Hollands, as visitors and they were amazed at all the activity and beautiful Gaelic Park, saying "We have nothing to compare with Chicago Gaelic Park, and all the activity that's scheduled during the week. It's a credit to Chicago Gaels." They were working on the "Hennessy Family Tree" with our fine Chicago representative, John and Mary Lou Duda. It's something that others should get involved in. It's a lot of fun going back over the years and locating your family.

A Celtic Holiday Concert

Get ready to revel in the Christmas spirit as award-winning singer-songwriter Gavin Coyle presents his annual benefit for the People's Resource Center (PRC) on Saturday, December 12, 8pm at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage. A Celtic Holiday features Gavin performing his unique, soulful interpretations of traditional carols from the United States and his homeland, Ireland. His music will transport you to a simpler time of family, love and laughter.

Tickets are \$25 and available at the McAninch Arts Center box office at Fawell and Park Boulevards in Glen Ellyn, online at www.atthemac.org or by calling 630-942-4000. Immerse yourself in the tidings of the season while helping the PRC help those in need.

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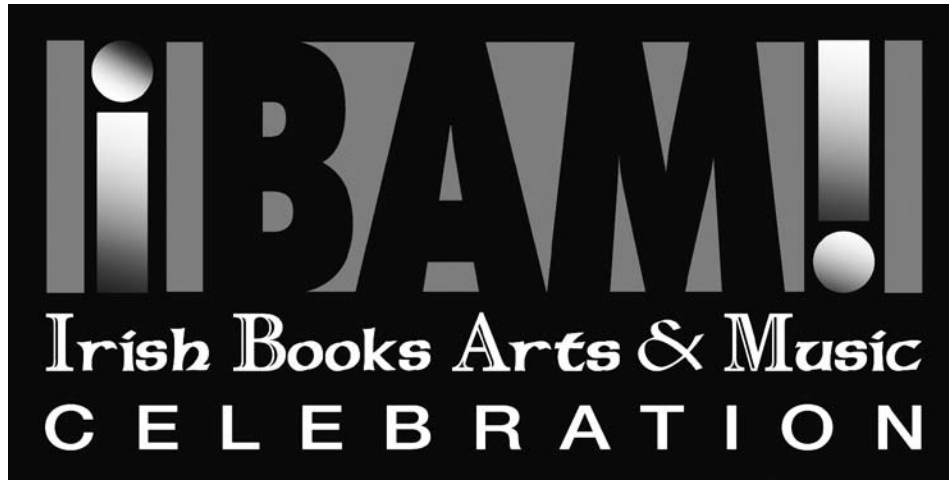
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Gala Awards Dinner, October 30, 2009



Guests from Ireland, author Anna McPartlin, and her husband, Donal.



Alderman Ed Burke, iBAM! Person of the Year, Illinois Supreme Court Justice, Anne Burke, and Alphie McCourt enjoy the evening.

Malachy McCourt and Alphie McCourt accepting the iBAM! award for Literature on behalf of their late brother, Frank McCourt.



Cliff Carlson with brown bread ontest winners. First place went to Margaret Reid, (r). Tied for second were Noreen Brennan, and Bridie Meyers.



Ed Cox, iBAM! award recipient for Visual Arts in recognition of all the beautiful Celtic artwork he has painted throughout the Irish American Heritage Center over the last 20 years. Irish Consul General, Mr. Martin Rouine presented the award.





A young iBAM! attendee putting his mark on a canvas that artist Philip Gray turned into a spectacular painting which he later donated to the Center. Look for the finished artwork online at www.iannews.com.

Co-producer of the iBAM! weekend, Cathy Curry, enjoys a chat with Derek Landy, author of the hugely popular Skulduggery children's book series.



Mr. Martin Rouine, Malachy McCourt and Mary Pat Kelly.

Kevin Henry and his lovely wife, Pauline. Kevin accepted the iBAM! Cultural Award for his lifelong commitment to the playing and preserving of Irish music.

McNulty Irish Daners entertain the crowd.

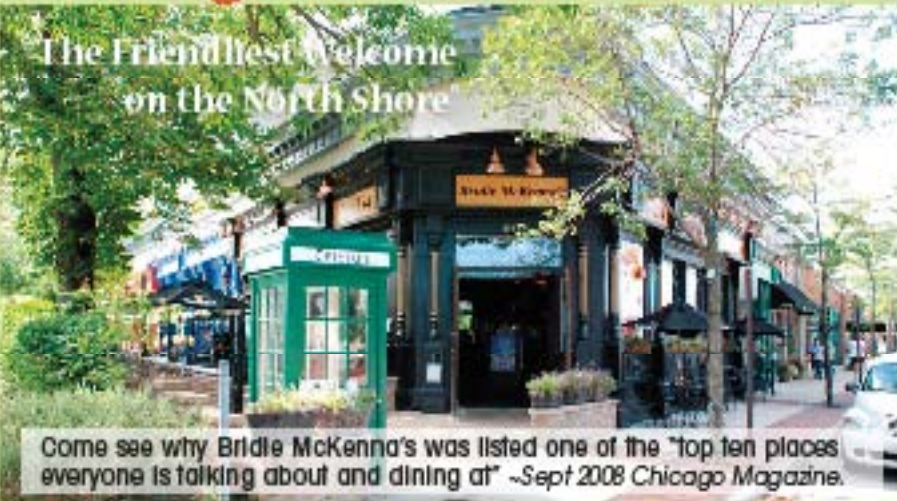
Marcia Devine, and iBAM! emcee, Mike Flannery put their mark on the canvas that was later painted by Irish artist, Philip Gray. The extremely valuable painting will be auctioned off sometime next year with proceeds benefiting the Irish American Heritage Center.

The McDonnell Clan celebrate their Irish heritage. Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Center, Tim McDonnell, (c) with (l to r) Brian, Jim, Amber, and Ann enjoying the iBAM! Cultural Awards Dinner.



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• all you can eat fish & chips all day • \$3 well drinks
• \$2.50 domestic bottles • \$4 Carlsberg & Boddingtons
- 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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In November at Chicago Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park Honors County Bench Creators at 1First Celtic Supper

Gaelic Park will begin a new season of their popular Sunday Celtic Suppers that return 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.

At the November 1st Celtic Supper there will be a special presentation of the individuals who designed and created each of the 10 benches representing Irish counties of Antrim, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Mayo, Tipperary, and Wexford. Every county in Ireland has its own colors and coat of arms and its own claim to greatness, many of which are illustrated on the various county benches. The beautifully made benches are a credit to all the craftsmen involved, and are also very popular with Gaelic Park visitors for photographs. The benches will be highlighted at the 2010 Irish Fest.

Musical Luncheon

The monthly Musical Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, November 4th, 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.

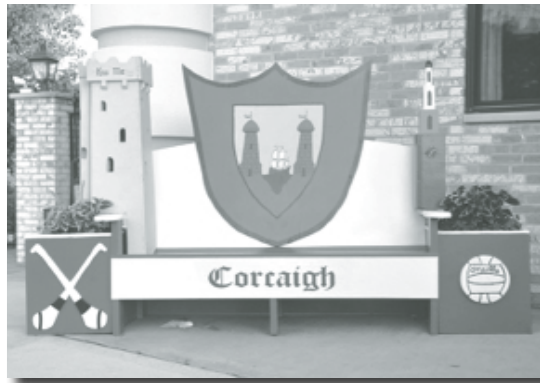
Mass and Breakfast

This month's Monthly Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 8th 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

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig Pub, 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 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.

The Carraig Pub holds Pub Trivia every Tuesday starting at 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: Week Back on Friday, November 6th; Joe McShane on Saturday, November

13th; Mulligan Stew on Saturday, November 14th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, November 20th; Jerry Eadie on Saturday, November 21st; and Jason Jackson-John Dillon on Friday, November 27th.

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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Gaelic Park will host a Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov., 26, 2009. A delicious all-you-can-eat buffet dinner

will be offered, along with entertainment.

The dinner is complete with all the traditional trimmings including choice of soup, a salad bar, vegetable, potatoes and dessert. Dinner will be served from 3-6pm with dancing until 8pm.

Reservations are required. Admission is \$21 for adults and \$11 for children ages 4 to 11.

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

A Christmas Carol, The Musical at Marriott Lincolnshire



The Marriott Theatre for Young Audiences will present A Christmas Carol, The Musical, an endearing combination of a treasured tale with soaring music by Disney musical genius, Alan Menken (The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin), from November 13th through January 2nd at the Marriott Theater, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, IL.

Based on Charles Dickens' beloved novel, A Christmas Carol, The Musical is set in London in the 1800s. On Christmas Eve, a miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge is confronted by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. The ghosts reveal the possible results of his selfish, uncaring life. Throughout the inspiring story, Scrooge promises to change and become a new man. Featuring a soaring score with breathtaking new music, A Christmas Carol, The Musical is full of holiday cheer for all ages.

847-634-0200. www.MarriottTheatre.com.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



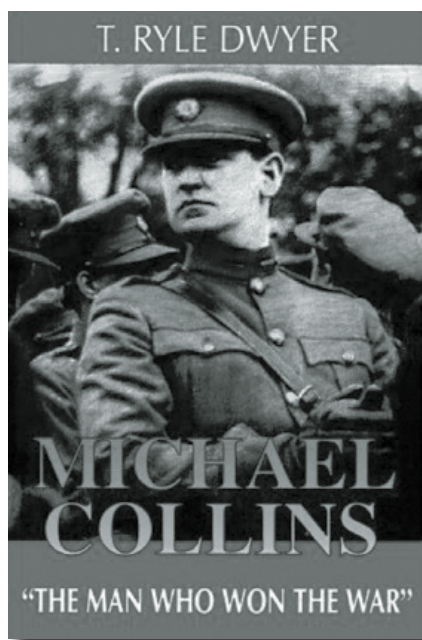
laughing boy." So strong was this characteristic that a young Brendan Behan later wrote a "Lament for the

Michael Collins: The Man Who Won The War

Michael Collins led the Irish forces in the War for Independence. That struggle began in 1916, and Ireland endured it until its end in 1921.

A colleague said of Collins: "he was the man whose matchless energy, whose indomitable will, carried Ireland through the crisis."

"Michael Collins was the man who fought the Black and Tan Terror... until England was forced to offer terms."



Who was this man, Michael Collins? What were his personality qualities, that so many strong willed people accepted his leadership?

T. Ryle Dwyer tries to answer these questions in *Michael Collins: The Man Who Won The War*. So authoritative and illuminating is this book that it has never been out of print since it was first published in 1990.

Now Dwyer has revised it, using "newly available material from the Bureau of Military History, particularly witness statements from many people who were actively involved in the war."

This review is a collection of observations of the personality and character of Michael Collins.

- In an essay written when he was 19 years old, he praised quickness of thought as a major character goal. Then goes on to say "Fretting never does any good, but often much harm, as no amount of grumbling and peevish ill humour can change our lot..."

- In the same essay he points out: "If we look into the pages of history we find that nearly all great leaders were funny hearted men. The hopefulness of Columbus cheered on his men and the genial kindness of Washington contributed largely to his success." Dwyer says: "Some would later remember Collins as 'the

Laughing Boy"

- "While it was believed that Collins moved about in disguise, highly armed and well protected, he usually went alone, unarmed, on a bicycle and without any disguise."

- Dwyer writes: "Wanted men frequently developed a habit... Before leaving a building they sneak furtive glance to make sure there are no police around, whereas Collins had contempt for such practices. He just bounded out of doors in a carefree, confident manner, without betraying the slightest indication he was trying to evade anybody."

"I do not allow myself to feel I am on the run. That is my safeguard."

- Dwyer says: "Collins was a demanding taskmaster, always pushing and shoving to get things done. He pushed everyone, especially himself."

- Flying column commander, Tom Barry, said: "Whenever anybody wanted anything done they were told to see Mick. He was very good-hearted and generous, but he was also a man you could easily dislike. He was very domineering."

- Dwyer says "certainly [Collins] could be serious and intent, but generally he had a breezy, affable manner. He went out of his way to be friendly with British troops or police."

- Another Dwyer observation: "When stopped or searched himself, he would be cordial with the troops or Auxiliaries, would smile at them. They... welcomed his friendliness in the hostile atmosphere permeating Ireland."

- The last observation is by General Richard Mulcahy, Chief of Staff of the IRA: "A vast amount of stuff could be assembled associating his smiling buoyancy, his capacity for bearing tension, clearness of mind, perfectly controlled calm, and a devil-may-careishness. His clarity of mind and his whole manner and demeanor, together with his power of concentration... gave him a great power over men."

Michael Collins: The Man Who Won The War by T. Ryle Dwyer. Mercier Press and DuFour Editions; Dublin, 2009. \$19.95.

Synge: A Celebration

The influence of J.M. Synge is fresh and powerful today.

Irish playwright, John Millington Synge, lived from 1871 to 1909. He died young at 38 years of age. But he had a strong and lasting influence on Irish theatre.

His two most impressive plays are *Riders to the Sea* and *Playboy of the Western World*.

Synge used the speech rhythm, sentence structure, and often the very words used by the Gaelic speaking people in the Aran Islands.

I have seen several of his plays. And a major theme in them is deflating hypocrisy and greed. The *Tinker's Wedding* is a good example of this.

The despised tinkers outsmart a pompous, arrogant, greedy priest. It must have offended

the establishment because this play, written in 1908, wasn't produced until 1977!

Synge: A Celebration was edited in 2006 by Colm Toibin. The assembled essays are written by people famous in Irish theatre. They discuss many aspects of Synge's influence.

The press release describes this influence: "he seems the most exciting theatrical voice from that brilliant period in Irish writing—he seems unpredictable, fresh, and unorthodox."

Synge: A Celebration edited by Colm Toibin. Casyfort Press and DuFour Editions; Chester Springs, PA; 2006. 181 pages; \$34.95.

50 Things You Didn't Know About 1916

We know the basic story: 1250 Irishmen struck for freedom on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916.

Most of the officers of the British garrison had left Dublin to enjoy the horse races at the Curragh. The British were caught by surprise "but, after a short hesitation, the machinery of empire swung into action and troops were quickly on their way..." to suppress the insurrection.

The 1,250 Irish soldiers held out for a week against 16,000 British troops and 1,000 armed police. That's right—17 to 1!

The Irish soldiers endured a constant artillery barrage from land and sea. The British used incendiary shells to create a firestorm in downtown Dublin, and armored trucks, machine guns, barges from gunboats, etc. But the Irishmen, motivated by intense idealism and patriotism, held out for weeks!

This book is about "minor" aspects of this 1916 Rebellion. Of the many surprising stories, here are a few:

- 1500 Mauser rifles were purchased in Germany and landed at Howth. "Having landed the arms, the Irish volunteers started back to Dublin... but were intercepted by the [police] and about 10 soldiers. A small group of Irish soldiers kept the authorities talking while the rest disappeared with the weapons." (How typically Irish!)

- Snipers can have devastating effect on their enemy—not just by killing... but... more so by undermining morale.

- An Irish sniper "noticed an increase in the accuracy of enemy sniping... saw a woman leaning out of a window in a house opposite his post... thinking that it was queer that she should have a hat on... I made up my mind... I fired at her. She sagged half way out of the window. The hat fell off her and I saw what I took to be a woman was a man..."

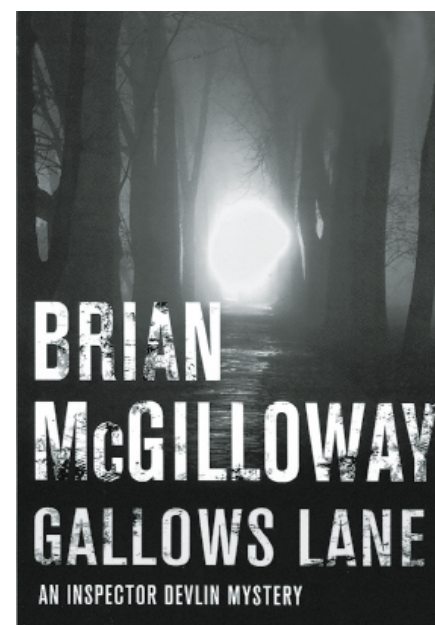
- Vladimir Lenin praised the Easter Rising as "a blow delivered against British imperialist rule" and a "heroic revolt of the most... enlightened... classes in an oppressed nation..."

- Even after the surrender, some "individual snipers... preferred to meet death where they were and held on grimly to their positions."

This book is filled with stories about incredibly brave people in extraordinary times.

50 Things You Didn't Know About 1916 by Mick O'Farrell, Mercier Press and DuFour Editions; Blackrock, Co. Dublin, 2009. 160 pages; \$12.95.

Gallows Lane: An Inspector Devlin Mystery



Brian McGilloway's crime novels have burst, like exploding rockets, onto the Irish crime fiction scene.

Gallows Lane is a colorful and powerful mystery novel, and is the second in the Inspector Devlin Mystery series.

Gallows Lane is set in Donegal, in the area close to Northern Ireland, where his previous novel, *Borderlands*, was set. McGilloway knows the area well because he lives there.

McGilloway is only thirty-four years old, and lives in Derry with his wife and three sons. He teaches English in a college there.

His crime fiction novels are police procedurals with strongly believable characters and scenes.

Those characters also lead us to think about the nature of evil. Why is it present in the world? Why do some people commit evil acts? Why do they often seem to enjoy doing evil?

The characters in the novels lead us to think about another puzzle in life: Why do some of the most undeserving people prosper and succeed?

The book is full of suspense, and often creates the feeling of impending doom. This quote is an example of this.

As Inspector Devlin is driving to a town to follow a clue as to the murderer, he thinks: "I questioned once more what I was about to do. The town light flickered in the middle distance, the far-away church spire puncturing the red-tipped clouds that hung over the horizon."

Devlin, and his police colleagues, solve the murders. And when the last murderer is caught—(a self-ordained chaplain from prison!) the Reverend asks Devlin:

"Are you a believer, Inspector?"

"I have to be, Reverend. I have to believe that what I do, somehow, makes things better."

"Fighting on the side of the angels," he said, laughing without humour."

The prose in *Gallows Lane* is angelic, but with the power of a bolt of lightning.

Gallows Lane: An Inspector Devlin Mystery by Brian McGilloway. A Thomas Dunne Book; New York; 2009. 324 pages; \$23.99. www.minotaurbooks.com.

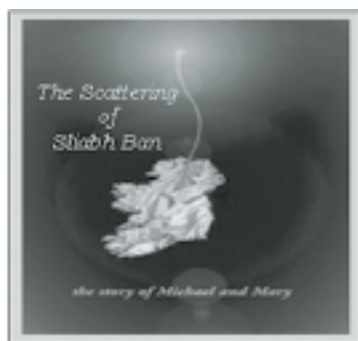
The Scattering of Sliabh Ban

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.

Final Chapter

In the summer of 2005, the Monaghan family returned again to Ireland. Renovating two County Wexford cottages they had purchased seven years earlier on their first visit to Ireland, the family would alternate between America and Ireland. The work on the countryside cottages required regular trips into Wexford and the DIY stores on the north side of town. After settling into the routine, Patrick started driving into town four or five nights a week to get some exercise at the local gym. Several months into the routine he befriended a local man who trained quite regularly in the same gym. Paul Roberts, who had won the Ireland's Strongest Man competition several times, and a recent runner-up in Great Britain's contest, and a few of the lads would work out with Patrick, usually closing the place down and often being reminded of the time. Mr. Monaghan would eventually share the story of how a Yank came to live in Ireland, and Paul, his partner Marian, and their son Matthew would become family friends.

It was after one of these late night training marathons that Paul said to Patrick, "Eh, Patrick. I'm just after talking to me aunt Breda. And she is just after talking to her cousin in America,



continued. "And I told her, that I was just after trainin' with a Yank by the same name!"

Patrick stopped Paul right there and asked how he could have been going to the gym for nearly a year, knowing all about the famine connection and the landlord murder, and never once mentioned that his uncle, Seamus Monaghan was from that SAME SMALL TOWN in County Roscommon!

"Actually," Paul said, "the thought just never occurred to me..."

Seamus Monaghan, the last surviving member of the famine era family that had once ruled as chieftains from the slopes of Sliabh Ban, was now farming in County Sligo.

So in a cascade of serendipity, with a taste of irony, just as the lives of Michael and Mary, that crisscrossed time and again, the Monaghan's of America would be tracked down by the Monaghan's of Ireland, by an Irish Monaghan

would stand next to the pit where the cows were feeding and point to the massive weights used to hold a strain on the fence. He could lean over, and with the grip of just one hand, he could lift them straight away, right off the ground. Even now with all these years of strongman trainin', I'm not sure I could carry out the task today even."

And in the summer of 2006, with his family in tow, Patrick along with Paul, Marian, and Matthew all rendezvoused at the farm of Seamus and Breda Monaghan in Tobercurry, County Sligo. Staying a few minutes down the road at Teresa Kelly's Pine Grove bed and breakfast on Ballina road, the Monaghan's from America would become acquainted with the Monaghan's of Ireland, even before they were formally introduced. It would happen that Teresa was Breda's good friend and was willing to share her memories of the family.

While researching the story of Michael and Mary, Patrick had discovered that John Monaghan had gone missing in early 1847 and his wife, the "Widow Monaghan" was "relieved with meal, gratuitously", which meant that the landlord, unknowingly, was feeding the family. This happened quite often in those days. The head of the house would "die mysteriously" so that his family might receive free food. In fact, many if not most, of them would head off to Scotland or even England to look for work. During the stay at Seamus' farm, the American Monaghan's were stunned to learn that Seamus was still looking for John.

Seamus knew too, of the family line that went back to the time of St. Patrick. The O'Manachain's that ruled from Sliabh Ban, and the time of Cromwell that took most of the land and delivered it into the hands of an absentee landlord. "Michael might very well have been the last on the mountain." Seamus said.

Seamus and Breda have two sons and one daughter. One son works a farm just down the road from Seamus and is a teacher as well. The other, like many Irish before him, went away to America and eventually to Australia to find work, having finished a Ph. D. at the university

in Galway. Their daughter is married and lives in Ireland.

But it is Breda that holds the family together. Running a large dairy farm with many mouths to feed, bills to pay, and a large house to be kept, she has definitely carried her share of the load.

So, 150 years after being ripped from the land they had lived on for nearly fifteen hundred years, the Monaghan's of Sliabh Ban were reunited. It was as if they had never left.

And back in Providence, Rhode Island, nearly 4 years after the worst of the famine in Ireland, Michael and Mary would meet at the church of St. Peter and Paul on Weybosset Street. They would move west to a place called Wisconsin where land was being advertised for a dollar an acre. They married, had 4 children and lived another 50 years.

The records recovered from the archives in Chilton, Wisconsin, would show that Michael and Mary, along with their children, John, Mary, Margaret, and Eliza, had sheep, cows, chickens, and even a few horses. They grew corn, wheat, and cabbage.

They never once planted another crop of potatoes.

A final note

In 2002, Patrick Monaghan finished a screenplay entitled, the Scattering, which is based on

this story. The screenplay, after a glowing appraisal by one of Hollywood's premier talent agencies, drew a phone call from a film veteran Don Murray. Don wanted to make the film and advised Mr. Monaghan that Richard Harris, a lifelong friend of Don's, would be a perfect fit for Father McDermott, the hard headed clergyman that looked out after the best interests of his flock. When Harris died suddenly in October of 2002, the film was put on the back shelf.

Readers and friends, the story of how the Irish came to be in America has never been told on film, perhaps because there never was a way to tell it. The haunting love story of Michael and Mary epitomizes the horrors and calamity of the famine. But, unlike most other Irish tales, it has an uplifting, inspirational ending. And the story is based on actual events.

Please help us get this film made. We need help getting the screenplay into the hands of a veteran film producer or director; and to do this we need the services of a well respected agent. If you know anyone with those kinds of contacts please urge them to contact us at the BlackthornScribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com. Thank you for sharing your time with us.

Frank T. Burns; J O'Connell; Patrick Monaghan



Seamus and Breda

who is just after reading a famine novel that was written about her family, by a Yank named Patrick Erin Monaghan!" Patrick was gobsmacked (as they say in Ireland) and he just stood in silence as Paul

currently living in California, whose nephew was training in Bobby O'Neill's Wexford gym.

"You should meet Seamus!" Paul told Patrick. "He is the strongest man I have ever known. He

Michael Collins, "The Big Fella,"

Original Painting by Chicagoan, Thomas Joyce

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



led the occupation of O'Connell Street to relieve pressure on his Four Courts comrades. Under intense fire, he ordered his men to surrender but refused to do so himself. He was shot in the leg from which he reportedly bled to death. He died on July 7, 1922.

BRUGHA'S VISION proves to have been the most judicious of his Dublin colleagues. While the great James Connolly pursued workplace justice, unconcerned whether monarchy or a republic would ensue, and while Pádraic Pearse pursued his religious nation ideal, the other greats pursued one or more parts of Brugha's vision. Had Brugha prevailed Ireland would not have been partitioned and the last ninety years and counting of death and injustice against the Occupied Irish would have been avoided. Events have vindicated Brugha and the anti-treaty forces.

TERRENCE MacSWINEY is another of Ireland's immortals. His formative years were similar to Brugha's. He was a trained accountant, a playwright, actor, pamphleteer, and newspaper

publisher (wikipedia). He helped found the Cork brigade of the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and was the president of the Cork Branch of Sinn Fein. In April, 1916 as second in command of the Rising in Cork and Kerry he obeyed Gen. Eoin MacNeill's order to stand down his forces. Following the Rising he was arrested and interned in England until 1917. In the 1918 general election he won the mid-Cork seat in the first Dail Eireann. Upon Britain's murder of Cork's Lord Mayor Tomas MacCurtain in 1920, MacSwiney was appointed his successor. Weeks later British forces took him prisoner, court-martialed him and sentenced him to London's Brixton prison. He immediately hunger-struck against his illegal incarceration and gained world attention for his cause; with public protests

in many nations. America threatened to boycott British goods and four South American nations requested the Pope to intervene. His captors attempted to force-feed him. (It was by force-feeding that they killed Thomas Ashe.) MacSwiney died on October 25, 1920 after 74 days on hunger-strike. In nearby Southwark cathedral 30,000 people filed past his coffin. MacSwiney was the inspiration for many, including Indian resisters against British rule. His brother and sister became members of the Dail where they both opposed the Treaty and the partition of Ireland. MacSwiney's only child Maire, a tot when he died, grew up to marry Ruairi, son of Cathal Brugha and they begat Cathal, grandson of both Terrence MacSwiney and Cathal Brugha.

GOOD NEWS comes from reader and erstwhile co-worker Larry Jennings (ex-Charlestown, Co. Sligo). It turns out that his niece Catherine Jennings is married to the current Cathal Brugha, a Dublin professor. Maire MacSwiney Brugha, going strong at 92, recently wrote her autobiography. Titled MAIRE MacSWINEY BRUGHA, History's Daughter, it's available at www.obrien.ie/Book604.cfm. There's more: Larry's beautiful daughter-in-law, Jennifer, with a voice of equal beauty has made a great CD of songs including one she composed about Maire MacS Brugha. The Jennifer Jennings band will be performing it, "History's Daughter," and other songs from her CD All the Pieces at The Abbey on Saturday, January 9, at 8pm. See her website at www.thejenniferjenningsband.com.

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT a success? It surrenders some 600,000 Occupied Irish to permanent British control. Ditto, some thousands of square miles of offshore hydrocarbon wealth. Also see www.friendsofcolinduffy.com and www.michaelmckevitt.com. For background see www.terrorismireland.org.

RAYMOND McCORD is a Belfast Protestant whose son, Raymond, was beaten to death in 1997 by an Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) (anti-Irish) gang in a quarry near Belfast. Soon thereafter, Mr. McCord discovered that the police are shielding his son's murderers because they are Special Branch collaborators. Ever since, McCord Sr. has been exposing Special Branch collusion with his son's killers; the

first working-class Loyalist to do so. Throughout, he has received countless UVF death threats. Mr. McCord's campaign was finally vindicated in January, 2007 when Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan identified UVF leader Mark Haddock and his gang as protected against prosecution for involvement in up to 16 murders (of Irish Catholics) due to their working as Special Branch agents. As I write this McCord is scheduled to be the main witness at a US Congressional hearing on police/murderer collusion in Occupied Ireland. McCord's family wants a full, independent, public inquiry into his son's murder, a probesimilar to that demanded by the Finucane family for murdered Belfast Irish Atty. Pat Finucane. The hearing, before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, was chaired by Massachusetts Rep. Bill Delahunt in Room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building on October 22nd at 10am.

CAPITALISM urgently needs protection against its loudest "defenders." Sean Hannity et al on Fox, CNBC's whizzes, much of CNN, and Rush Limbaugh unwittingly smear capitalism by labeling history's greatest financial crime "free market forces" despite having wrecked our economy. The creation and selling of Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) and Credit Default Swaps (CDSs) were crimes. To create CDOs the perpetrators: 1) Induced appraisers to inflate property values; 2) Gave mortgages to buyers unable to sustain them; 3) Collected fraudulent "fees" from the "buyers" at sales closings; 4) Sliced and diced those mortgages and comingled those pieces with thousands of pieces of other mortgages, thus making them untraceable; 5) Conspired with ratings agencies to rate these CDOs "AAA;" then, 6) Sold these fraudulent "AAA" instruments to retirement funds and others worldwide. The perps then; a) created and sold fraudulent policies (SDSs) ostensibly to insure CDO-holders against loss, while b) failing to maintain the collateral required to back such insurance policies.

OBAMA'S TIME runs out. His failure to uphold the US constitution against these crimes and Bush's Supreme Crime is making himself complicit.

fogartyc@att.net or 312-664-7651.

THE GREATEST of the immortals who, after nearly eight centuries, achieved Ireland's partial freedom in the War of Independence was, arguably, Cathal Brugha (1874-1922). Brugha's bio (wikipedia) in brief: In 1899 he joined the Gaelic League in Birr, Co. Offaly where he met Kathleen Kingston. They married and had six children. Cathal saw the injustice of British rule in Ireland and joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood. In 1913 he became a lieutenant in the Irish Volunteers and in 1914 led the group who received the arms smuggled into Ireland at Howth. During the Easter, 1916 Rising he was second-in-command at the South Dublin Union where he was severely injured by a hand grenade and multiple bullet wounds. He became chief-of-staff of the IRA

until 1919, and was elected Sinn Fein MP for Co. Waterford in the 1918 general election. In 1919 he and the other Sinn Fein MPs refused to recognize British jurisdiction and reestablished Irish self-government, the first modern Dail Eireann. He presided over its first meeting. In January, 1922 he voted against the Anglo-Irish treaty and its partition of Ireland. He did all possible to maintain IRA unity in the face of Britain's arming and munitioning of the IRA's pro-treaty faction. When his anti-treaty colleagues occupied Dublin's Four Courts building he urged them to abandon that tactic. In early July, 1922 the pro-treaty forces, led by Michael Collins and supplied and directed by the British gov't, started the Civil War by shelling anti-treaty forces in the Four Courts. Brugha

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