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## From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



### Ireland And The Irish Diaspora

Ireland is waiting for the Budget, possibly the most important and harshest in the history of the state. It has to address a situation which is unsustainable, where revenue from taxes only covers two thirds of government spending. The country has been running on empty since September. It is sobering to reflect that, since I wrote in the September issue, the government has been obliged to borrow six thousand five hundred million dollars just to keep going, an amount which increases by three million plus every hour.

The debate on what to do, who should pay, and how, and where Ireland is going as a society has intensified in recent months, as denial has begun to give way to a reluctant acceptance of reality. Arguably this debate will lead to a better and more mature understanding at all levels of who and what we are, and, after the Lisbon vote, what our position is in the world of today. One aspect of this could include some redefinition of the relationship between Ireland and the greater Irish nation overseas.

I touched last time on the Global Irish Economic Forum held in Dublin in mid-September. This brought together a sizeable number of the great, the good, and the successful from among the Irish diaspora, the name currently in vogue to describe collectively those of Irish descent living outside Ireland. The forum tossed around ideas and initiatives which might assist Ireland in her current situation. The deliberations of the forum make interesting reading and can be accessed through the Department of Foreign Affairs website. Follow-up will be interesting.

The forum was organised by the Irish government but owed some inspiration at least to promptings from the Irish economist David McWilliams, who, as I have written earlier,

has argued for some time for a new relationship between Ireland and the overseas Irish family. McWilliams has pointed to Israel and the Jewish diaspora as an example which Ireland might usefully take on board. His basic point, advanced before Ireland fell down its present hole, is that there is huge untapped potential for a fruitful interaction between the two, something that Ireland should not ignore.

The forum can be seen as a significant step in the process of drawing Ireland and the Irish family closer together, at a time when Ireland can do with help from any quarter. It comes several years after the report in 2002 of a special task force on policy towards emigrants entitled "Ireland and the Irish Abroad." The document, though full of the rhetoric of the Celtic Tiger years, merits reading. It has proved a fruitful basis for subsequent government action, including substantial increases in financial assistance to groups assisting disadvantaged Irish outside Ireland.

The report was drawn up when money was no object, and was pitched primarily at the perceived need then, at last to do something for Irish emigrants requiring a helping hand, particularly those of the 1950s wave of emigration to Britain. It also addresses the wider issue of Irish communities and those of Irish descent worldwide. It acknowledges that there are a number of different Irish communities in the world, all with specific needs and aspirations, and that, in devising an official policy towards emigrants, one size definitely does not fit all. However, and unavoidably, given its remit, it draws a distinction between Irish citizens and those of Irish descent, with the bulk of its content and recommendations

focused on recent emigrants from Ireland with special reference to the vulnerable and those in need of assistance and recognition.

The report falls far short of meeting the high watermark of the suggestions made by McWilliams but it is important, nevertheless. While not fully embracing the "mother ship" concept, it has established a benchmark for future official relations between the Motherland and the greater Irish nation and made a number of useful observations and recommendations. In citing Article 2 of the Irish Constitution, with its reference to the Irish nation cherishing its "special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad," and in its follow-up references, arguably it has begun the process of fleshing out just how to support those wishing to express and share the Irish dimension of their identity. Fully to do justice to this topic would require a separate report.

I would like to touch briefly on some of the issues broached in the report and which crop up whenever the subject of Ireland and the Irish abroad comes up. A central issue is that of citizenship and recognition. There is no halfway house where Irish citizenship is concerned. Every Irish citizen has the same rights, with the proviso that, in terms of voting and taxation, rules of residence apply. The Irish constitution provides quite generous access to citizenship, even if in recent years some of the

provisions have been tightened. However, there is a clear cut-off point at grandparent level, which, while making practical sense, excludes crudely most of the great family of Irish Americans, whose Irish origins stretch back further.

The unique nature of Irish emigration, proportionately far larger historically than any other, leaves little scope for future expansion of access to citizenship through descent. For consideration, in my opinion, is whether or not some form of statutory recognition of Irish origin could be introduced, which would confer recognition and some advantages to those qualifying, but would fall short of actual citizenship. It could perhaps be hung upon the reference in the Constitution to "special affinity." While the practicalities of this may be difficult, at a time when Irish membership of the European Union involves giving access and advantages to those from other EU countries, it is surely appropriate to contemplate doing something for our own.

For those already citizens, the issue of the right to vote in Irish elections arises. This issue raises particular emotions among many recent emigrants, who feel they have been driven to emigration and consider they should have a right to redress through the ballot box. The more detached acknowledge the practical difficulties and accept the logic of the argument that voters must

be resident, together with the additional point that there should be no representation without taxation. (The issue of taxation of Irish people living abroad has resurfaced this year but purely as a domestic issue aimed at certain high-profile personalities on the Irish scene who pay no Irish tax.) For consideration here, and the report refers to it, is whether some seats in the Irish Senate could be reserved for representatives of emigrants.

The report suggests giving recognition for Irish achievement overseas through the establishment of an annual awards scheme. This idea has some merit with regard to high achievers but misses the point of doing something for all. Moreover, the fact that Ireland has no honours system for achievers within Ireland means that any movement on this for the Irish abroad will not be in the short term. The British award to Teddy Kennedy shortly before his death, threw into sharp relief our inability to do likewise. On this, as on much else, swift action is needed.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Santa, The Easter Bunny, Uncle John Cobby and All

It never ends with our politicians, our crooks, or a combination of both. The gravy train just never stops rolling in for them, it seems. They are just so shameless now as to be beyond either redemption or irony.

Also, our current bunch of gougers know that their day is over (at least for the next election; well, I hope so) so they will gouge out every shekel from us; and they will do this without compassion, without decency, and without shame.

Take Ray Burke, for example. Do you remember the disgraced Dublin North TD—and if you have tried to blot his face from your memory, I can't say that I blame you—who was labelled, quite unambiguously, "corrupt" by the Flood Tribunal?

Well, good old "Rambo" Ray, as his crawling sycophants knew him, despite being an ex-con and shamed ring leader of the appalling Fianna Failures, is still giving us the middle finger.

In the last two years this disgrace—not only as a corrupt politician, but as a smirking "I got one over on you" human being—has pocketed two

major boosts to his pension (and can you believe that, in a country where so many have lost theirs?) of €31,600.

That's how much the taxpayer is shelling out to a tax evader.

How he must be quietly laughing at we bunch of law-abiding eejits while he continues to coin it in.

He served some of a six-month sentence—four and a half months in total for good behaviour—while the idiots who voted for him turned a blind eye until it was too late.

Hell, who can forget the other guy who is still under investigation, Mr. Bertie Ahern, saying that he had been "up and down every tree in North Dublin" looking for evidence of Rambo's corruption while distancing himself big time when a very un-Rambo like Burke went into the gentle—far too gentle—care of our ridiculous prison system.

Maybe Bertie was looking up and down the wrong trees because the dogs in the street knew that Rambo Burke was a crook.

I'm beginning to think that we should elect these dogs the next time around, because they seem to know a lot more about what deception and thievery is going on in this great little nation than our bunch do, with their

selective memories.

Cowen, Harney and Lenihan will be happy to say that this happened in different times, but it was a handful of years ago, and of course, he was a member outstanding of the same corrupt party, while savagely cutting the Christmas bonus from pensioners, the unemployed, and appallingly paid carers in our society.

This will save our egregiously profligate politicians the princely sum of two hundred and two euros a person, while they still swan around in their mercs and their government jet.

Do they even care what they have done to these people for whom €200 at Christmas will mean the difference between buying a few carefully budgeted presents for their children or grandchildren, or not being able to buy a damned thing?

No, because we have to get busy bailing out the banks and the builders; and we sure as it is black in Hell at midnight don't care about that, as long as they can keep on sipping their claret and their champagne while sneering at the poor sods who can do nothing about them any more.

What happened to the fighting spirit of the Celts, because I really want to know: why are we so put down that the fact that the Health Service Executive cutbacks, presided over by Death's Head Harney, have led to the amputations of legs and feet of almost 350 suffering diabetics in the last year, because we have to cut back on spending?

I can't possibly tell you how

sarcastically happy I am that Bertie Ahern's words of several years ago, before the evidence of dodgy money finding its way into briefcases that then found their way to Manchester, have come true.

He whined that those worried about the economy should "just go off and commit suicide." That was his advice.

You got that right, didn't you, you self-serving little weasel? We have more people here in Ireland than ever committing suicide, as they see just no way out.

I hope that you are proud of yourself.

I always like reading Father Michael Boland of the Archdiocese of Chicago in these pages and don't ask me why, because I disagree with him more than half the time; yet he strikes me as one of the good guys.

How would I know? I'm thousands of miles away in geographic terms, and even farther in terms of my thinking, but he got it right in the November issue when he wrote: "...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 who are having difficulties making mortgage or rent payments—people who have never needed help before—are coming to Catholic Charities in great numbers."

He couldn't have spoken truer words if he was writing from the West of Ireland.

Here, though, we do things a little differently, as mentioned last month: here we all head up to the alleged Shrine of Knock on the say-so of a supposed clairvoyant, Joe




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### Better Health Info For Women

"Today's women age 50 and older control more than 75% of the nation's wealth, are the fastest growing group on Facebook, and are the healthiest, most active generation of women in the history of the US," said Mary Pat Byrne, creator of a new website [www.JustaNumber.com](http://www.JustaNumber.com). With over 20 years in the health care field, Byrne created the site to meet the health and informational needs of

this powerful demographic. "I personally was fed up with what is available to me on the web in terms of quality health information," said Byrne. "We created [JustaNumber.com](http://www.JustaNumber.com) to offer practical, bonafide information to help women live healthily. We go beyond fad diets and celebrity news to offer practical advice,

real voices, and non-celebrity role models."

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Continued from previous page  
Coleman of Dublin, who is telling us the schedule of the Virgin Mary's appearances.

The shrine is being thronged, despite the fact that the Church itself has said that Coleman is taking nonsense.

Why did 15,000 people feel the irrational need to be there last month, simply because a chancer has said that the Virgin has given him (and why him in particular?) an itinerary that says she will appear once again with an important message on the 5th of December?

Does the Virgin Mary have a timetable of stops that she has to make before She ascends again to talk to a Beloved Son that seemed to lose interest (and can you blame Him) centuries ago?

I had a vision myself last night, so I can save you from listening to this smug, overbearing "mystic." [And just to save the editor the trouble these are my thoughts only, not by any means representative of this publication.]

My personal vision told me that the next appearance at Knock will be of Father Christmas on the 25th of December. He says that you shouldn't expect much in the way of speeches, as he will be doubtless a mite tired from the night before when he was delivering all those presents.

If you are interested you can get a ride in his magical sleigh, which can hold an unlimited amount, and doubtless end up much cheaper than if you flew by Ryanair.

The next confirmed sighting will be of the Easter Bunny at... well, Easter, of course.

In the meantime, while we wait for news that Superman may put in an appearance, this is my last column until 2010.

For all of us, non-believers and believers, I hope that it is a good, prosperous and better year than this one has been.

And whether you believe in God or not, I hope that this season is kind to you and yours.

Hope to see you next year.



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**Rev. Fr. Aengus Finucane Dead at 77**

The well known Irish priest, Rev. Fr. Aengus Finucane, died recently in Dublin, and countless friends at home, and abroad on the mission fields of Africa and others mourned his loss. The great Limerick man braved civil wars and learned all too well "that in order to do good you must fight like Hell."

Coming from Limerick, he loved the old caman game, and our own P.J. O'Dea hurred side by side with him in Limerick championship games. When the good priest came to Chicago, he got in touch with "the man from Clare" and they no doubt talked about their happy days in Limerick. (P.J. worked in that great city, the home of Mick and John Mackey, two of Ireland's finest caman wielders. I have always said that Mick Mackey was the greatest leader on the field that I ever saw, and I've seen some good ones in my time.)

Fr. Finucane was a Spiritan Father in Nigeria during the terrible Civil War in the 60's with the breakaway of Biafra. He worked through his

friends in Dublin to get aid for the unfortunate people, even though they bombed the airstrips. His aid effort Concern in 1970 provided food, medical support, and education for some of the world's poorest countries.

He later became Concern's chief executive, and since that time, as president spearheading fund raising in the United States. His credo should not be forgotten, "We have a strong inclination to do evil—and



Maeve O'Malley with Fr. Aengus Finucane in St. Martin working for Concern Worldwide.

you have to fight like hell to do any good." How true that is. Ar dheis De go raibht an aimn.

**GAA Oral History Project**

The GAA Oral History Project, now in progress, would like to hear your story, whether you were a player, hurler or footballer, or a chairman, or officer, or a supporter of the games.

They are compiling what the GAA really meant to the Irish, at home or in exile, since its birth in 1884. Remember, it was Michael Cusack (another man from Clare) who sent out the clarion call, "Bring hurling back to Ireland."

At that time, the spirit of the Irish people was almost dead. A terrible famine, with added brutal oppression by the British, was having its effect. The great revival that followed resulted in the restoration of the Irish people, and the glorious Easter Rising of 1916. Call us, 219-756-3852, if you would like to participate.

**Beannact**

**Na Nollaig,**

**A Cairde**

**Blessed Christmas My Friends**

Once again we get ready to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child at beautiful Christmas time. We extend best wishes to all our readers for a very happy and holy Yuletide and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Our thanks to the many readers who over the year corresponded with us, pro and con, on our many comments.

That's what writing a column is all about. Of course, our sincere thanks is extended to a hard working Editor and his staff who put all our thoughts together and made the column readable. Gur a mile agat a cairde. (Thank you my friends.)

Christmas in Ireland over 80 years ago when I was a "gorsonn," a young lad, was the most wonderful time of the year. Hustle and bustle was the order of the day even then, as cottages and farm houses had to be cleaned, washed and painted or whitewashed, at least two months before the feast day. Nothing was left to chance. Everyone, even the youngest, had their chores upon which rested the prestige of the family. Roaming in the woods for the holly and laurel had to be taken seriously in order to bring home the very best. The nightly family rosary was said with much more fervour, with every member getting his own decade, and woe betide him or her if it was not properly recited.

Prior to the coming of the Midnight Mass in the cities, the first mass on Christmas morning was the most important one of the season. Scheduled for 6am, the people made their way, hail, rain or shine, walking in groups along the boreens (country lanes) reciting the rosary and greeting on comers with the old Irish salutation "Beannact Na Nollaig, a cairde," Blessed Christmas my friend. With the lighted candles in the windows of the cottages along the way it was a beautiful sight, es-

pecially if a snowflake fell.

The overflow attendance of the church demonstrated the importance of the Mass, and the prayers and beautiful hymns were sung and recited befitting the solemn occasion. Everyone seemed happy. A family knelt together and gave thanks to the Christ Child for a good year, and asking for a repeat with peace and good health for the coming one. Outside the church after mass was another big occasion as neighbor and friend greeted one another after a very decisive Civil War. It was a great sign that peace was not far away. This good will would also be repeated on the hurling and football fields, after dinner. Tanum cun De (Thanks to God.)

The big Christmas dinner that memorable day, presided over by parents and grandparents, is still unforgettable. Hurling and football games were always on the schedule after dinner. The next day, St. Stephen's Day, the Wren boys, men and women dressed in tattered clothing and playing all kinds of musical instruments, roamed the countryside spreading happiness and good will all along the way. Those Christmases will never be forgotten by those who where lucky enough to be around then. Thanks to the very enterprising Chicago Kerry Association, this good old Christmas custom is continued at Chicago Gaelic Park on the night of the 25th, starting at 7pm. For information call 708-687-9323.

Slainte, a Cairde.

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**Hennessy Family Celebrates at Gaelic Park**

Over 80 members of the Hennessy Family gathered at Chicago Gaelic Park recently to attend the 10th Annual Family Dinner. They found time to celebrate Kilkenny Hurling Victories, now 4 in a row, ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING TITLES!

It was also the unveiling of the Hennessy Family Tree. Family members Mary Lou Hennessy-Duda, Kathleen Hendrickson (NY) and Gary Hinds (NY) have been researching their relatives for many years. To date over 700 names have been located and confirmed on the tree, living in Kilkenny-Ireland, America, England, and other countries. The research is open and ongoing. Pictured are Chicago businessman Joe Holohan, native of Castlecomer, Kilkenny Co. wearing the Kilkenny black and amber sweater and Pat Hennessy, native of Kilkenny and Chicago, holding a hurling stick from Kilkenny.





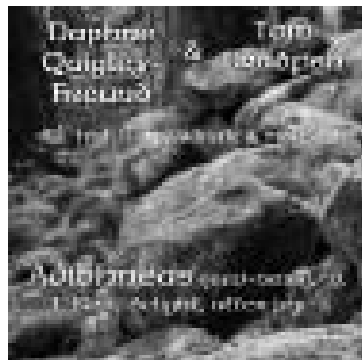
## Spóirt

Mary Margaret O'Leary



### New CD By Local Harpist

Daphne Quigley-Freund is an Irish immigrant who has performed for audiences around Chicagoland and around the world, and now performs to help her son Patrick fight leukemia.



Daphne and Tom Bradfish have just released an album, "Aoibhneas," (pronounced Eve-ness) and hope it will help fund treatment.

Patrick was diagnosed with leukemia in May 2005 at age 5. Having to make several trips a week to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago required Daphne to give up her job as a fitness instructor.

Freund gives harp lessons, and her husband Walter teaches at Kendall College. Walter estimates the family has had to pay \$60,000 to \$70,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses

so far.

The good news is that Patrick is currently in his third remission since he was diagnosed.

"We've nearly lost Patrick two or three times," Daphne said. "The doctors were ready to give up on Patrick and even asked him if he wanted to give up treatment."

"This kid never gives up," Daphne added.

Walter also had to overcome prostate cancer and resulting surgery in 2006.

Daphne is proud of the new album, Aoibhneas. "In spite of circumstances this is the best work I feel I have ever done," said Daphne.

The album is traditional Irish music, all instrumentals, with Greek and Spanish elements. Bradfish plays a bouzouki, Daphne the harp.

The album can be found at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).



Daphne Quigley-Freund and Tom Bradfish

The Chicago Fire Department Gaelic Football Team recently returned from Ireland after competing in their first-ever Gaelic football matches. The team played the Dublin Fire Brigade on October 24th at St. Vincent's GAA Club in Dublin, and the Northern Ireland Fire Service on October 26th at Casement Park in Belfast. New York City firefighters have had a Gaelic Football team since 1972, and have been competing against Dublin since 2002, so it only makes sense that Chicago firemen would want to form their own team. Last August, after receiving a challenge from the Dublin Fire Brigade, Mike Flanagan, a Calumet City firefighter, began to organize the squad.

The Chicago team began practicing only five and a half months before they would compete in their first match. Coached by Tom Sheehy, the administrator for the North American County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association, practices were held three days a week. Most of the firemen could attend at least two of the practices weekly. Gaelic Park, a facility that serves the social and cultural needs for Chicago's Irish community, was deemed homebase for the team's practices. With only two of the twenty-four men on the team ever having played Gaelic football before, there was a lot to learn. Team member Brendan Byrne notes "we were kind of figuring it out as we went along... we were still learning rules we weren't aware of thirty-six hours before our flight."

Aside of practicing and learning the logistics of the game, the men

also made time to plan three charity events that took place before their departure. The team's charitable efforts were recognized by many people who attended the events, and by their union, who showed support by providing jerseys and warm-ups for the players. The money raised at the fundraisers was given to the pediatric burn unit at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin in Dublin, and The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children in Belfast. The team was able to spend some of their time at both hospitals with the children and the staff.

Although the final results were not in favor of the Chicago team, they did, however, put up a good fight and established a bond with the Dublin and Belfast teams. "The guys treated us very well; it was very well organized and coordinated. They took us out after the game and showed us places we would have never known to exist... We may have lost the games, but I think we won the party. Hopefully we can reciprocate if they come here next year," said Byrne.

Practices will start up again in the spring and the team is expected to grow in size and strength. Most importantly is the fact that the team has been established. Now that the team is formed, the fans and supporters are eager to see what The Chicago Fire Department Gaelic Football Team will accomplish in the future... and we are expecting big things!

Visit [www.cfdgaelicfootball.com](http://www.cfdgaelicfootball.com) for more information on the team

A second photo can be found online at [www.iannews.com](http://www.iannews.com).

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Back (l to r): Pat Owens, Tim Green, Mike Kaval, Justin Kreimes, Bill Nolan, Dave Barron, Mike Flanagan, Pat Coyne, John O'Carroll, Marty Doherty, Joe Haugh, Brian Haran Front Row (l to r): Tom Sheehy, Chip Hulne, Dan Murphy, Jim Ban, Brian Clarke, Eric Carlson, Brendan Byrne, Nick LaPorta, Mike Day, Malachy McDonagh, John Haran, Pat Looney, Tom Furlong. On ground: Pat Hulne

## Emigrant Support Programme Grants

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Micheál Martin, T.D. recently announced the allocation of grants totalling \$2.68million to 28 organisations in the United States.

Included in the grants announced by the Minister is a grant of US\$50,000 to the Irish Technology Leadership Group in California to assist and nurture Irish companies in the software industry by utilising the expertise of experienced Irish executives in Silicon Valley. He emphasized that supporting Irish communities overseas, and in particular the most vulnerable members of these communities, remains an important priority for the Government.

Also included in the grants an-

nounced was a grant of \$50,000 for the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR). This brings total Government funding to the ILIR since 2006 to \$285,000. Speaking after his meeting in New York with representatives of ILIR and the Coalition of Immigration Centres, Minister Martin noted:

"The resolution of the situation facing the undocumented Irish, and the early establishment of new arrangements to facilitate legal migration between Ireland and the US remain a priority for me as Minister. The allocation of additional Government support to the ILIR is a further indication of the Government's firm determination to work with our community in the US to find a long term solution".

## Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### Senator Burris

Flexing his little muscles, he says he won't vote for health care reform legislation without the public option. Let's just pray the health care bill wasn't written by the insurance companies like the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan was. Medicare is now telling doctors they can't prescribe new drugs unless the existing formularies can't be used because of side effects. This means you have to try all of the old drugs, before you're allowed to fill a prescription for any new medicine. The down side is the price of the new drugs are through the roof. Medicare is making it as difficult as they can for those who depend on the system.

Now Senator Burris has been reprimanded by the Senate Ethics Committee who found no "actionable violations of law." He was slammed for inconsistent, incomplete, and misleading "sworn statements before the Illinois House of Representatives." The citizens of Illinois and the greater United States deserve better representation than this.

### Cook County

#### Property Taxes

"Words that are heavy with nothing but trouble." "Tinker to Evers to Chance." Cook County Assessor, James Houlihan said Mayor Daley asked for more money, so Mike Madigan let the 7% tax cap expire, so now everybody gets punished, while they passed the buck. The senior citizens on fixed incomes are hit the hardest. Here's how they did it. They lowered the assessed valuation of a home by 12%, then jacked up the fair market value 40.8%. The fair market increase is an outrage. Property values have dropped dramatically over the last two years, and home prices won't rise again for years to come. Yet we are

expected to swallow the "bitter pill."

They are suffocating the economy; sales tax revenues have already dropped by 12-14%, depending on the county you live in, Cook, DuPage, or Lake. Another hefty increase in property taxes will keep a lot of people out of the stores, and mean no Christmas for many.

The tax increases are backfiring. They raised the cigarette tax again and the revenues dropped from \$33 million to \$25 million. What's happening? People are buying cigarettes out of state or on the black market, which I'm sure is thriving.

Regressive taxes will suffocate the consumer. That's something Republicans seem to understand, Democrats just don't get it. Remember that on election day.

### Political Ads

Surprisingly enough, the words "honesty" and "integrity" have been popping up. I'm waiting for the "I'll fight for you" slogan to surface. And how about "we're going to tax the rich people only?" "Horse poop!"

### Drama Critic

John B. Keane's play Moll was recently staged at the Irish American Heritage Center. I'm afraid John B. wouldn't be pleased with the mildly amusing production. Casting could have been much better. Vera Kelly would have been perfect in the role of Moll. We seem to have the same leading lady in all the plays, as well as the same director. The cameo by Tim O'Sullivan was dreadful. The Bishop, played by Jim Mallon, was one of the bright spots of the evening.

### Judges

Don't know who to vote for? I know several good men running for judge. Terry MacCarthy (D) is

running county-wide. He was most recently endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor. He has served 19 years as Assistant Cook County Public Defender. He has been endorsed by ten bar associations. Dan Malone (D) is running for the 3rd Subcircuit in Cook County. John Griffin (D), President of Chicago Gaelic Park, is running in the 15th Subcircuit. Russell William Hartigan (D) is running county-wide for judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He is rated highly qualified by the Chicago Bar Association. I believe all of these men to be of outstanding character and well qualified to fill the office.

### Happy Christmas

It took me years to get used to my Irish cousins wishing me "Happy Christmas." Hopefully, it will be both happy and merry for all of us. Just don't forget the less fortunate. How well my family remembers the post-Depression Christmas in the dark days of World War II, when we got a navel orange and some brazil nuts in the nylon stocking we hung on the piano. You could never get all of the nut out the shell. Toys were something other children got.

### iBAM!

It was an exciting weekend, starting with the dinner on Friday, October 30th, in the Erin Room at the IAHC. The cultural awards were the highlight of the evening. Malachy McCourt got the crowd going with some very funny stories, and had everyone singing "Will you go, lassie, go." Saturday, I enjoyed meeting the authors and bought a number of books. If you missed iBAM!, you missed a lot.

### Irish to the Core

Now's the time to support the Irish organization of your choice. The Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago Gaelic Park, The Irish Fellowship Club, The Young Irish Fellowship Club, The American Ireland Fund. Get involved. You'll never regret it.

### Victor Shaffer

My grand nephew, Victor Shaffer, has just been named all-league defensive left tackle in the Mid-Penn Keystone Division. Victor plays left tackle for Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, PA. This is the second time he was named to the all-league team. The team is now in the playoffs with a record of 11-0. They beat Governor Mifflin, Saturday, November 21, 49-7. The next opponent is Penn Manor on Saturday, November 28th. Bishop McDevitt has scored 40 or more points in every game this year.

Have a great Christmas and a spectacular New Year.

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and  
Happy New Year**



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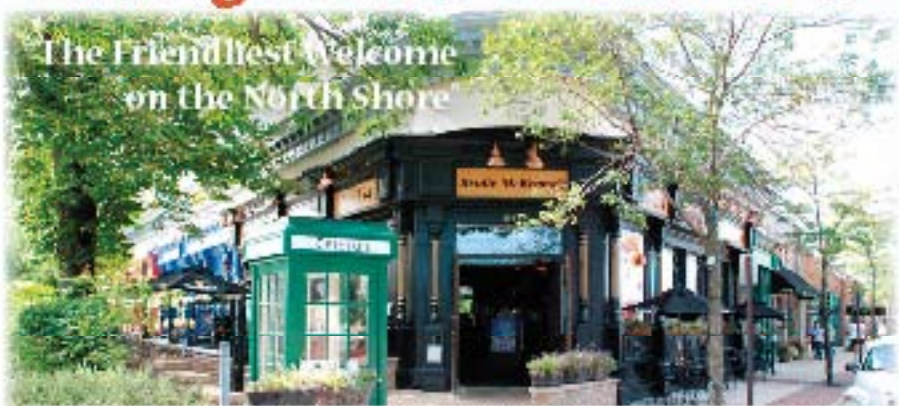
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## O'Brien Aims for Cook County Board President

By Cliff Carlson

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District President, Terrence O'Brien, (53) has shouldered responsibility most of his adult life, serving on the MWRD board for twenty-one years, and as president for over 13 years now. He gets along well with his colleagues on the board who elect a president is going to be every two years.

In these hard economic times, and only a couple of years away from being able to retire, I asked Terry why he would want to run for President of the Cook County Board. "I still have a lot of energy and a lot of life ahead of me, and I think that some of the good things we have done MWRD can be transposed over to county government

to better their operation."

Q. How long were you involved in the Deep Tunnel Project?

A. The project started in 1976.



Terrence O'Brien

I've been involved in the deep tunnel project since 1978 when I first got out

of school. I spent a year and a half working on the construction side of the project. I like to tell people that I started out on top and had to work my way down, then when I was elected to the MWRD I started at the bottom, and had to work my way up! The last 9 miles of the tunnels 109 miles were completed in May, 2006.

Q. Is the tunnel 200 or 300 feet deep?

A. The tunnel is a gravity feed system. It starts at about 200 feet deep, and ends at about 350 feet deep.

Q. Were you born in Chicago?

A. I was born and raised in Chicago in West Rogers Park. I am one of five kids. I went to St. Hillary's Grade School, then on to Loyola Academy in Wilmette, and to John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. Mom and dad are first generation Irish. My mom's family came from Cork and Cavan, and my father's family came from Mayo.

Q. What does your brothers and sister do now?

A. Greg is a associate judge in the probate division of the Cook County court system, and Bill, a full circuit court Judge resides at the Skokie Courthouse in the criminal division. Another brother, John, lives in Cleveland and is in the computer business, and my sister, Kathy, just retired last year from teaching.

Q. What was your first job?

A. My first job out of college was on the deep tunnel project in 1978. At age 24 I went to work for the MWRD for a few years, but left because they had a freeze on promotions. I went into the private sector, and worked with a couple of companies that were specialists in disposing of chemical waste.

Q. Were you always interested in running for office?

A. I was always involved in politics locally, working as a member of the 50th Ward organization. I stayed there for 30 years, and just two years ago I joined the 40th Ward with my friend Pat O'Connor. My father actually worked at the MWRD as a painter until he passed away in 1987. My grandfather was a 399 operating engineer. I grew up with a great deal of respect for the District. My dad always thought I could do great things there. The time I spent working on the deep tunnel project, in the research and development department at the District as well as my jobs in the private sector covering environmental issues brought me to run for Commissioner in 1988.

Q. Why are you running for the Cook County Board?

A. I have always thought about what I might do beyond working at

the MWRD. I discussed many possibilities with my wife and friends. As I watched what was happening in Cook County these past 3 years, I realized that what has been accomplished at the district with regards to management, and being fiscally responsible could also be accomplished at the County. People are tired of just being tax and spend attitude of government as well as a lack of accountability on many levels. We are in tough economic times. Currently, the District is the second largest governmental agency in Cook County with a budget of 1.6 billion, and an infrastructure of 30 billion, and we were able to refund 56 million dollars back to the taxpayers in 2008.

I give much of the credit to our staff which is very professional. People are hired for what they know, not who they know. Of the 2,056 positions here at MWRD, only 60 are exempt from the exam process because they work for the board of commissioners, and department heads. When I first elected in 1988 we had over 3,000 employees. Since 2004 we have taken on additional responsibilities such as storm water management formerly controlled by the Cook County Board, but did not have to hire additional staff. In fact, as employees retired, many positions remained vacant therefore reducing the number of employees to 2056 positions in 2009.

Q. What would you do differently if elected?

A. The first thing on my agenda would be to repeal the 1% sales tax increase. We will also conduct an independent audit of each of the departments at County. By looking at the budgets and personnel needs we hope to find revenue that can offset the deficit. Now that County has an independent health board they are making progress in correcting deficiencies and unnecessary spending in health care system. They have actually cut their budget for 2010 by 80 million. Their open receivables, and uncollected bills for health care services due to the lack of attention in completing the necessary documents in order to receive reimbursement from Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance. According to County statistics 57% of health care system users can't afford to pay for health care services. On the other hand, 43% of the users do some means of paying for health care services, yet only about 10% of that is collected. Health Care documents for service must be completed on time and with much more accuracy to details. This will help the reimbursement process for Health Care Services, thereby increasing revenue.

I also intend improve the line of communication with all commission-

ers and the 11 other elected county officials. Communication is essential in maintaining integrity of any organization or government. The MWRD Board has always been diverse and had political partisan yet what we have been able to accomplish due to our ability to find the best solutions regardless of our personal agendas. The current administration at the County level is clearly ineffective. Prime example would be repeatedly trying to repeal the sales tax over the past 8 months. The consistent lack of consensus proves that communication among the commissioners and their leader is absent. As recently as 8 months ago, the Cook County President said the increase in sales tax as to make up a 400 million dollar deficit, additionally he led the public to believe there would be a freeze on hiring. However, in late October, 2009, positions with salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000, which had been vacant for 6 years, were now being filled. My question to the Board is where is this deficit that they are so concerned about? The current president says they have a balanced budget. In my opinion, I believe this budget is balance at the expense of the taxpayers. Conversely, the District not only has a balanced budget, but as mentioned earlier, we refunded 56 million dollars back to the taxpayers in 2008. This fiscal responsibility and efficient management is what I would ultimately like to bring to the County. This regressive sales tax is chasing commercial and industrial business away from Cook County.

Q. What is the Cook County Board responsible for?

A. About a third is health care, a third is safety which includes prisons and courts, and another third is the infrastructure system. Increase in electronic monitoring, home confinement and work release programs would decrease incarceration of non-violent criminals, cutting the costs of housing offenders.

Q. Do you feel you can cross the racial boundaries that seem to be there?

A. I've had a lot of support from all ethnic communities in the county the last four times I ran for Commissioner of the MWRD, and I know I can garner that same support in this upcoming primary. I hope every register voter will come out and vote on February 2nd. We believe are only true opposition is apathy. By not voting, you really don't have a voice. Early voting starts January 10th and absentee balloting starts December 26th with no excuse needed to vote absentee.

On February, 2, 2010 which is Groundhog Day, I hope to see my shadow at the doors of the Cook County Building!

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Beyond The Star marks the end of a very busy year for Michael with tours of the US and Asia. His recording of The Water is Wide was featured on a new release from Universal Records entitled Arias, alongside legends such as Andrea Bocelli, Il Divo, Pavarotti, Sarah Brightman and Kathryn Jenkins. He has partnered with Chatterbox/Really Wild Greeting Cards in the UK to develop a range of Audio Greeting Cards featuring his voice. The Sounds of Ireland range will be released in Jan 2010 in the UK, Ireland and US.

**Concern Worldwide**

A \$2 contribution from every CD/DVD sold will go Concern Worldwide's water projects in Haiti which will help to improve access to clean water, a basic human need. Michael's goal with Beyond The Star is not only to raise money for Concern, but also to increase awareness of the poverty and issues that face the people of La Gonave everyday.

312 341 1746 email [mjb@michael-londra.com](mailto:mjb@michael-londra.com) [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org).


All American Ireland Fund photos by Cathy Curry of [4girlsphotography.com](http://4girlsphotography.com)




Irish Counsel General Martin Rouine, Mary Hanafin, T.D.; Ireland Minister of Social and Family Affairs, and Chris Kozicki.



Top: (l to r): Patrick and Kelly Heneghan, Catherine Gilmore-Lawless, Billy Lawless, Jr. Bottom: Anne McKeown, Cliff Carlson, and Mary McCauley enjoying the American Ireland Fund Dinner.

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# Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



## From Corn to Cotton to Cactus to Maryland's Cow Palace

It all came together in a few days, far off festivals that would extend this tough season so what's a Celtic Road Warrior to do?—I hit the road. Jack Baker called it The Desperation Tour, Monroe, LA, Phoenix, AZ, Tucson, AZ, and Baltimore, MD, 4 weekends, almost 4 time zones, 6000 miles, great music, great people and some great adventures too. First up was the Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival in West Monroe, Louisiana, held at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center on October 24th and 25th. Darren Burgess, one of the organizers, made me feel very welcome and it was great to be in the company of fellow vendors Danny O'Neill, Goran Zdravkouski, and Sam Matthews. They were as always a great help, we always look after each other. I met some great musicians in Louisiana. Paddy Keenan's Shelta, Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band and Beth Patterson were headliners. Brendan Nolan, Ed Miller and Jim Flanagan were all brilliant. Being Louisiana, there were many other influences to this Celtic Festival, and it was hard to miss Trout Fishing in America as Ezra Idlet is almost 7 feet tall, and along with Keith Grimwood, they were a refreshing change of pace. Ed Miller was awesome, I

From Monroe I turned west on I-20 for Phoenix, AZ, but I spent a few nights in the good company of Craig and Deanna Scotland in Ft. Worth, Texas. Deanna fronts the Texas band Jiggernaut and Craig plays bodhran with Shift, another Texas based band. No surprise, but we talked and swapped music for a few days. I told you about Deanna before, she wrote the beautiful tribute song "The Man who Dug the Well" for Tommy Makem, and it will be the title track on her soon to be released album.

Westward Ho again through Abilene, El Paso and New Mexico into Arizona, what a drive through some of the most ruggedly beautiful scenery I have ever seen... it was majestic and my photographs do it no justice at all.

Phoenix at last, for the Arizona Irish Festival hosted by the Irish Cultural Center and the visit to the Phoenix Irish Cultural Center was worth the trip alone. The Festival, a one day event featured The McMorrrows, Traveller, The Brazen Heads, The Phoenix Pipe Band and some great Irish Dancers. The irrepressible Pat McCrossan from Derry was everywhere as he emceed the event and performed with his performers from

might say. Great atmosphere, great food and an outstanding pint of Guinness. Declan Fox from Co. Meath, is one of the owners and he showed me around his fine establishment. Well done lads, fair play to you. I saw a roadrunner when I was there, no, not in the Pub but on the road... crazy bird it was, ran right in front of me and I expected to see the ACME truck or the coyote, but no luck, just the beautiful mountains and cactus, lots of cactus.

Tucson Celtic Festival was held at the Rillito Raceway Park on November 6th, 7th and 8th. Glorious weather and great festival facility. Brother, Jed Marum, and Lone Star Stout brought out the crowds and Sharon Goldwasser's band, Round the House, gave the occasion some great Irish Traditional performances. On Friday evening, as I finished my set up, I walked up the park and heard a few bars of accordion music as the bands went through their sound check. I knew immediately that it was Hugh Morrison. I went over to say Hi and realized that he was part of Jed Marum's band along with Mason Brown and Rodger Harrison. I have been playing Hugh's album, Under a Texas Skye for a year or so, but had never met Hugh before. Great band, check out [www.jedmarum.com](http://www.jedmarum.com)—Hugh has just finished the Ali MacGregor's Music Collection, which he had compiled. It's a beautiful collection of sheet

music and CD featuring the tunes of Scotland's Ali McGregor, Hugh Morrison's mentor. More info at [www.hughmorrison.co.uk](http://www.hughmorrison.co.uk).

Heading back east at last, this is the longest leg of the Desperation Tour, and again I stay a night in Ft. Worth with Craig & Deanna, then a few nights in Nashville with my old school pal Chris Purcell, and eventually I arrive in Timonium, MD, for the Maryland Irish Festival. Yeah, I'm back in the Cow Palace in Timonium for a three day fest to benefit the Irish Charities of Maryland, lots of familiar faces here. Mel and John are on the ball and are ready for a great weekend. Entertainment is provided by Barleyjuice, Dublin City Ramblers, The Rovers and the Sean Flemming Band, among others. Best festival food provided by many AOH chapters, and Mary and Gina came down from Philly to lend a hand. Busy weekend, and I'm beginning to drag a bit after all that driving, but I'm on the home stretch now. I left the Cow Palace at 6:30 on Sunday evening and by 2:15am I was cruising by Toledo, less than 300 miles to go, when I blew a wheel bearing that cost me more than just the 12 hours till I got back on the road again, but I made it home safely, just in time for Blarney on the Air. No rest for the wicked.

Happy Christmas to you all, tune in for Blarney on the Air Monday 7pm Central, at 90.9 FM [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org).



really loved performances by Brendan Nolan and Jim Flanagan also. Brendan Nolan, from Dublin, is a wonderful ballad singer/songwriter with a terrific arsenal of songs. His album Song Brook is exceptional... Check out Brendan at [www.brendannolan.com](http://www.brendannolan.com). Really great stuff. Jim Flanagan from Ballyvourney, Co. Cork was another great treat, as he sang some of the most beautiful Irish songs preserving all the traditional sensibilities due. Really beautiful albums are Blood Drops in the Snow and Anseo is Ansúd. Jim Flanagan is a national treasure, check him out at [www.flanagan-songs.com](http://www.flanagan-songs.com)... Superb. There were mighty sessions at Enoch's Irish Pub, Enoch Doyle, the owner, is also the Founder of the Celtic Festival and should be proud of this great event. There were many pints consumed, but that's another story.

his Academy of Irish & Celtic Studies. Pat played the Showband Circuit in Ireland with the Magnificent 7 and was also part of the Checkers, the first rock band to appear on RTE, Ireland's National Television Station. Mary Moriarty was like the energizer bunny as she directed operations, and I was delighted to meet Patricia Prior from Waterford who is the President of the Center. Amazing place, amazing people. I had some time to kill until the next event in Tucson, so I spent it resting in the beautiful home of Mary Henderson out in the desert, near Surprise, AZ. We cooked, chatted and played lots of Irish music, and we found a little treasure of an Irish Pub that had just opened in the little town of Surprise. The Irish Wolfhound is certainly a little bit of Ireland in the desert, an oasis you

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



'Twas the night before Christmas  
 And Houli had emptied his pouch.  
 With no presents for his wife, he slept on  
 the couch.  
 And then on the steps there arose such a  
 clatter  
 That he stirred from his sleep to find out  
 What the hell was the matter?  
 A statuesque blonde descended the stairs  
 With a fur collar trim to her lovely red suit,  
 For one of Santa's elves, she surely was a  
 beaut.  
 With sleigh bells in hand  
 She jingled her muse.  
 Houli spied one look and said  
 "I gotta lay off the booze."  
 She laughed when she saw him  
 Trying to be hip  
 Then a voice like an angel  
 Seem to coo from her lip.  
 "Houli... Houli... wake up, it's Christmas Eve."  
 He woke with a start and stared at this vision.  
 In a dream like state, he made a decision.  
 Wow... if you're lookin' for milk and cookies  
 you came to the right place, Santa.  
 "I'm not Santa, Houli. I'm the ghost of Christ-  
 mas past."

Oh yeah, well I'm not  
 Scrooge, but giggety gee  
 anyway.

"Your wife thinks  
 you're Scrooge!"

My wife!

Houli jumped from

the couch and realized he was in no position to  
 boast.

You gotta get outta here, if my wife sees me  
 with Jill St. John in a Santa suit, I'm gonna be  
 toast.

"I'm not Jill St. John! I'm the ghost of Christ-  
 mas past!"

Yeah, and I'm Tiny Tim but you're movin' way  
 too fast.

Suddenly they heard a door unlocking, and the  
 sound of someone loudly knocking

Upon the basement door.

"Who's that knockin' on Houli's door?"

It's my old lady, now please miss, you are lovely,  
 but you gotta disappear.

The door opened and Houli heard the sound of  
 footsteps coming down the stairs.

"Someone's coming!"

Quick, take those gigantic bazzooms of yours  
 and get in the laundry room!

Houli hustled Jayne Mansfield out the door and  
 gave her a cozy seat on top of the dryer.

When he stepped back into the room, there  
 stood the Dooley Brothers carrying their instru-  
 ments. Two of them had guitars and the third a  
 concertina.

An aura surrounded them and each grinned  
 like a hyena.

Jim said, "Hey Houli."

Bill said, "Hiya Houli"

Mike said, "Merry Christmas, Houli!"

Houli said "Dooley!"

The Dooleys said "Houli!"

Dooley! Houli! Dooley!

And then the three troubadours broke into song,  
 to the tune of "Have a holly jolly Christmas".

"Have a Houli-Dooley Christmas!"

The brothers sang with panache and had Houli  
 tappin' his toes to their cheery holiday tune.

When they finished he applauded.

Nice job boys, very festive. Now what in the  
 hell are the Dooley Brothers doin' in my basement  
 on Christmas Eve?

Jim Dooley said, "You got anything to drink  
 down here Houli? I'm parched."

Houli offered them some of the Bailey's he  
 had been sampling while decorating the tree  
 earlier. The Dooley Brothers made themselves at  
 home and Inger Stevens took her cleavage for a  
 walk as she stepped out of the laundry room in  
 her Santa suit.

Houli said, "Uh... she's the ghost of Christmas  
 past."

Mike Dooley said, "Well how about some  
 tidings?"

Jim said, "Of comfort!"

Bill said, "And joy!"

And so it went. The Dooley Brothers pulled up  
 chairs for themselves and Elke Sommer the sexy  
 elf, and she was more fun than Donner and Blitzen  
 as they swapped Christmas stories with Houli and  
 made beautiful music with holiday tunes they sang  
 as kids. The ghost of Christmas past inspired them  
 all with her charms and the next morning Houli  
 couldn't remember if it had really happened or was  
 it all just a dreamy, not very silent night.

The Houli-Dooley Christmas was like an old  
 Bob Hope show with Ann Margaret, Elvis, Burl  
 Ives, Bing Crosby, and Les Brown and His Band  
 of Renown.

On Christmas morning Houli's wife made him  
 pancakes and greeted him with a kiss.

Honey, you're not mad at me?

"Come on its Christmas! I saw the show, it was  
 one I wouldn't miss!"

And you can see it too. Catch the Houli-Dooley  
 Christmas Show at the Irish American Heritage  
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 tales about being home for the holidays.

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# THE IRISH TENORS CHRISTMAS



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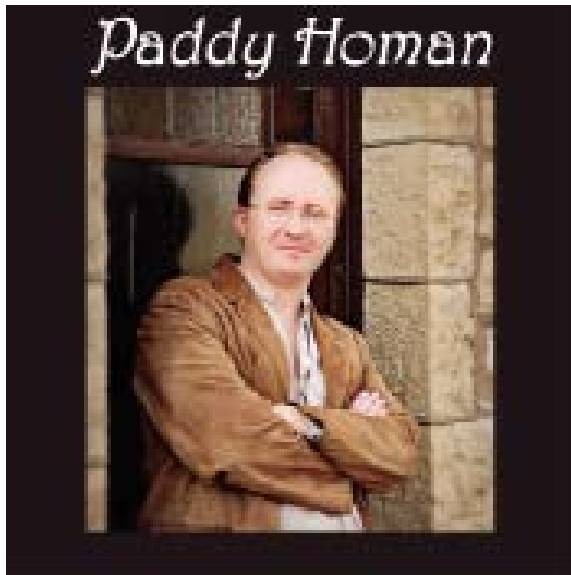
## Irish Tenor Paddy Homan Launches New CD December 5 and 13: Joined by Best of Chicago Musicians

Since his arrival three years ago, Paddy Homan has performed with passion and formed partnerships with many of the talented Irish musicians that make Chicago such a vibrant city. From Cork, Ireland, Paddy's passionate delivery of Irish songs and deep knowledge of the history of these songs has attracted appreciative notice from Irish music critics, fellow musicians and his audiences. A master entertainer, Paddy brings a vast repertoire of songs from Ireland, stories and quick witted Cork humor to his new home, Chicago, a city which has been attracting great numbers of Irish immigrants since the turn of the last century. Chief Francis O'Neill, also from County Cork, traveled the streetcars of Chicago in the early 1900s, listening to people humming and whistling little tunes and eventually produced the largest snapshot ever taken of Irish traditional music.

On December 5th, Paddy will add to that snapshot with the launch of his new CD aptly titled, Paddy Homan, at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave, at 9 p.m., and at the Galway Arms, 2442 North Clark on December 13th at 8 p.m.

For Paddy, the launch of a new CD is a celebration of his integration into Chicago's musical landscape and the larger Irish American community. Dennis Cahill, the frequently sought after producer for serious musical artists in Chicagoland recorded and produced the new CD. Cahill's guitar, bass, and mandolin are the perfect complement to Paddy's lyric voice. Soon after his arrival, Paddy linked up with well known multi-instrumentalist, Johnny Williams, co-founder of Solas, with whom he has performed at many venues including regular sessions at the Galway Arms, the Irish American Heritage Center, the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield and DePaul University.

Two other internationally known musicians, Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders of Bohola fame -- the Just Plain Folks 2009 Celtic Album Winner -- bring their seasoned skills on the accordion and bouzouki to join Paddy's delivery of several ancient traditional Irish songs. Jimmy Moore contributes his multi-talents on guitar, bass, low whistle, and mandocello. Kathleen Keane, well known for her



virtuosity on the tin whistle brings her lively fiddle to join in this production. Maurice Lennon from Co. Leitrim plays his 300-year-old viola to accompany Paddy in a unique rendition of The Boys of Fair Hill. In addition to their own featured performances, all of these musicians frequently join up with each other in accord with that ancient tradition among Irish musicians who enjoy and support good music wherever it is played.

The entire CD is a collaborative production with some of the finest Irish musicians living today. Paddy's 13 tracks draw from the ancient to contemporary traditions. The Lowlands of Holland, a 17th century folk song is given a stirring rendition with J. Keane, accordion, Broaders, bouzouki, and Cahill, mandolin. Thomas Moore's Avenging and Bright, "a beautiful and truly Irish air" is performed by that most beautiful of all instruments, the human voice alone

as is Robert Burn's Parcel of Rogues, made popular by the great Luke Kelly. The contemporary Bright Blue Rose by legendary Jimmy McCarthy is sung with accompaniment by versatile Jimmy Moore on guitar, bass, low whistle, and mandocello. The trio of Dennis Cahill, guitar, Katherine Keane, fiddle and John Williams, accordion support Paddy over the Mountains of Pomey, "an outlawed man in a land forlorn". One of Cork's more entertaining story songs: Johnny Jump Up is included along with the tongue twisting Scottish folksong, Mary Mac. James Joyce devotees will experience sheer joy at this original version of the Lass of Aughrim with Dennis Cahill's exquisite guitar arrangement. The three songs, Lark in the Morning, Slán le Máigh and Boys of Fairhill give a distinctive Cork imprint to this new collection. Maurice Lennon with

his 300 year old viola introduced to Paddy a new interpretation of this last song which he knew so well from his own neighborhood in Cork. Paddy's strong delivery of Foggy Dew surely "encourages Irishmen to fight for the cause of Ireland" supported by the rhythms of Cahill's guitar, bass and mandolin and K. Keane's fiddle. His tender version of The Bard of Armagh indeed raises "up the strains of his dear native land" with the delicate strumming of Cahill on guitar and bass.

The launch coincides with the anniversary of another critical moment in the portrait of this traditional Irish singer as a young man. It was exactly one year ago that Paddy was stricken with a burst appendix resulting in an emergency appendectomy at Northwestern Hospital. Paddy's several months' recovery experience confirmed the old adage: it takes a village to make a person. He experienced the generosity and assistance of many friends and from anonymous strangers. Paddy's imprint on the Chicago Irish community was clearly visible by the rapid response of so many caring people. Paddy has been a regular volunteer at the Irish American Heritage Center and also a frequent performer there, supporting its mission of promoting the best of Irish music, art and culture. Many of those volunteers step forward to assist him.

Paddy was chosen to be featured performer for Mayor Richard Daley's St. Patrick's Day Reception 2009 and has performed at numerous Irish fests including Gaelic Park's Irish Fest Chicago 2009, the 2008 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil, Detroit, and Celtic Fest Chicago 2007. He has been a guest on Rick Kogan's on The Sunday Papers, WGN Radio 720, on National Public Radio's "Celtic Connections" and on Maine Public Radio's "A Cultural Conversation," March 14, 2008 on the eve of his mini-tour in New England. Paddy is a frequent visitor to the Maureen O'Looney radio show on WSBC 1240 AM and on other Chicago Irish radio stations. He also hosts his own TV program quarterly at Chicago Access network TV.

In addition to becoming a regular part of Chicago's Irish music scene, Paddy has given over 100 concerts in New England, Milwaukee, Detroit, New Hampshire and Wisconsin. A popular performer at Universities and Colleges and in Lifelong Learning programs, Paddy has given programs at DePaul University, Northwestern University, Harvard University, University of Southern Maine, Tufts University, Dartmouth College, Suffolk University (Boston),

O'Neill on wax cylinder recordings 100 years ago.

There was another significant milestone in the life of Paddy Homan of Cork exactly two years ago when readers of The Chicago Tribune on the day after Thanksgiving found a front page story with the headline: 'His Irish songs lift others' hearts: As he visits disabled, social worker Paddy Homan connects by bringing memories, songs of native Ireland' (Nov. 21, 2007). The feature story by Judith Graham follows Paddy as Director of Clinical Services, Wellspring Personal Care, as he "... visits old and disabled clients across Chicago and, to their surprise and often delight, serenades them with song. An accomplished Irish tenor who makes listeners quiet down and reach for tissues to dab their eyes, Homan isn't your ordinary social worker (his job by day) or your typical musician (his passion after hours).... To Homan, the two activities are joined spiritually by what he calls the 'power of being present.' If you connect with your listeners, the music will soar, he said. And if you're genuinely interested in them, older people will sense it and be open to your aid."



Mike Doyle and Paddy Homan performing at the Irish American Heritage Center.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University College Cork.

A graduate of University College Cork (BSW '04), Paddy is proud of his native city and heritage and seeks every opportunity to promote it. He has worked with the Chicago Alumni Chapter of UCC to plan its annual gathering for Friday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Siobhán and Brendan McKinney at Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant, 3471 North Elston Avenue. Mel Mercier, Head of UCC's School of Music will make a presentation on his project to digitize and disseminate the music captured from Chicago Irish immigrants by Chief

When Paddy's first CD, Far From the Land was launched during the celebration of Cork City as 2005 European Capital of Culture, the Cork Southern Star wrote: "If you enjoy a good Irish song performed with passion and feeling, get yourself a copy of his debut CD 'Far From the Land'. Bob Lyons, co-producer of Paddy's first CD, says: "As the poet speaks: 'Ireland is a land of great beauty with sweet sounds that give delight and hurt not.' Paddy Homan's new CD, the fresh voice of the best of Ireland's song combined with the sounds of these seasoned Chicago musicians will continue to give delight to all who enjoy a good Irish song performed with passion."



### A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

**Reverend Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO



Promoting A Culture of Life for the Common Good

On November 12, His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, welcomed almost 300 members of the Board of Advisors to the 92nd Annual Meeting of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

It was a time for Catholic Charities to report and reflect on one of the most difficult periods in our long history. We did this through our Annual Report and our 2009-2010 position paper: "Promoting a Culture of Life for the Common Good."

From all the people who have called or come to our doors during the past year, we have heard the unrelenting "bad news" about the rising jobless rate, the rising tide of homelessness due to foreclosures, the loss of savings, and the rising number of "middle class" families who are suddenly unable to meet their own daily needs.

But the "good news" is that Catholic Charities has firmly resolved to continue our life-giving mission of

providing hope to the hopeless. We will provide food for the hungry, clothing and emergency assistance to keep families and individuals housed and healthy, and we will continue to offer our 156 short- and long-term services.

Last year, we assisted more than 1,085,000 persons in need: pregnant teens and their unborn children, seniors in need of low-cost, safe housing or nursing care; families running low on food; infants and pre-schoolers in need of safe, high-quality day care; refugees from oppression starting a new life here with few earthly goods; families trying to pay their utility bills and retain their housing.

As Catholics, we cannot be the Church the Lord calls us to be without serving those in need. As Americans, we cannot be the society set forth by the framers of our Constitution without caring for and protecting the vulnerable and weakened members among us. These include seniors whose retirement savings don't stretch as far in this economy;

and low-income parents who are regularly visiting our food pantries and weekly suppers to stretch their budget.

At Catholic Charities, we see poverty as a threat gaining a stranglehold not only on low-income families, but also on the middle-class folks who have been losing their jobs and coming to us for help. However, we are more resolved than ever to continue to offer all these neighbors of ours the gift of hope and the tools to build a future; and to speak out for justice for our neighbors in need. This is the moral obligation of every human being.

As Catholics, we have a proud history of teaching and living the principles of social justice. Most recently, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have released encyclicals that urge nations, societies and individuals to nourish "a culture of life for the common good."

Catholic Charities' life-giving mission—to serve those in need—of all faiths, races and religions, is one of hope. We believe in the dignity of each individual life and we work to assist families, children, and those who are vulnerable and underserved to achieve dignity and independence. We see their strength, and we offer them the hope and the tools to build a future.

As the social services arm of the

Catholic Church, Catholic Charities actively promotes and works diligently to nurture a culture of life in society. In our role as voice for those who have no voice, we speak for the vulnerable, the weak and the hopeless. We call upon individuals and society to join us as we strive with hope toward a culture of life—for the common good.

I ask your prayers for all those suf-

fering in this economy; and I thank all those generous parishes, organizations, families and individuals who are sacrificing to help their neighbors who are in need.

May God bless you.

To read Catholic Charities' 2009 Annual Report and position paper: "Promoting a Culture of Life for the Common Good," visit [www.catholic-charities.net](http://www.catholic-charities.net).

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**COMMISSIONER BRENDAN HOULIHAN**

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## President's Message

### Make a Gift of Your Irish Heritage

Happy Holidays! The Irish American Heritage Center wishes the entire Irish Community a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

As you finish up your holiday shopping (or if you are like me, you haven't started yet), there is still time to give the gift of Irish heritage to someone or to yourself. There are two different ways to make a gift of your Irish heritage - support our annual appeal or purchase a membership to the Center.

Our annual appeal is a direct fundraiser that supports general operating expenses of the Center. 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 help them give all they can give! Your participation in the annual appeal will ensure that our Center can continue in its mission to preserve and strengthen Irish culture and heritage in Chicago.

By giving the gift of membership,

someone you care about will be able to enjoy all the offerings of the IAHC along with membership discounts, and member privileges (including a subscription to the *Irish American News!*) Membership as a gift shows you care about preserving your Irish heritage and provides someone with a gift that continues to give through the amazing place that is The Irish American Heritage Center.

You can get membership and annual appeal forms in this issue or online at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org). We hope to see many of you over the holidays at the Center - at our Holiday Bazaar December 6th, in the Fifth Province for a drink, or maybe at your family party in one of our many rooms available.

### Planning for the New Year

2009 was a year of great change for our Center, but more importantly it laid the groundwork for a very promising future. With the edition of our new ballroom, The Erin Room, and the successful inaugural iBAM event, the Center made new

great strides towards our vision of becoming a premier Irish cultural organization. The new ballroom will become a destination point for many Irish events - from gala dinners and weddings to family gatherings and benefits. iBAM created a unique and rich cultural gathering of the type the city hasn't seen in years. Events such as iBAM will be the cornerstones for the preservation of Irish culture for future generations.

The plans for an incredible 2010 are already well underway. Along with our annual St. Patrick Day's celebration and the Irish Fest this summer, we are also planning a large Earth Day celebration, iBAM will return next fall and there will be countless other events throughout the year from cultural exhibits to concerts featuring such acts as Munnely and Searson to name a few. One of the more exciting plans we are working on is the development of The Irish American Hall of Fame which will be housed at our Center. More announcements

on this special undertaking will be coming in the new year.

Finally, 2010 marks 25 years since we bought our building and 2011 marks 35 years since The Irish American Heritage Center was founded. Starting with Irish Fest in July 2010, we will begin a year-long celebration that will culminate at Irish Fest 2011 to mark both of these important anniversaries. I can't give away any of the surprises to come in this amazing celebration, but just think of it as the Irish American Heritage on steroids - it's going to be HUGE!

There isn't a better time to be part of our Center. We will be building our future as we celebrate our incredible past. There is room for everyone to get involved, contact the Center at [info@irishahc.org](mailto:info@irishahc.org) if you would like to volunteer. We need your help as we build towards **Amaráich** (from the Irish meaning tomorrow). Thank You for your support.

Merry Christmas,  
Robert McNamara  
President, Board of Directors,  
The Irish American Heritage Center



## Executive Director's Message

October and November were special months at the Irish American Heritage Center.

We dedicated our beautiful new ballroom, the Erin Room, with more than 1,000 of our members and friends here in October. Together, we hoisted the Stars and Stripes, the Tricolor and the Chicago flag over the Center's entrance. Together we raised our glasses to the generosity of the Irish government and to the hard work of our volunteers. And together we danced into the wee hours to the ceili music of an all-star cast of musicians. What a special day at the Heritage Center!

On Halloween weekend, during our iBAM celebration, we welcomed more than 100 Irish authors, artists and musicians from all around the world to celebrate Irish culture. Together we bel-

ly-laughed over Malachy McCourt's tales from growing up in Limerick. Together we learned the story of Chicago's Irish Legion in the Civil War through James Swan, to find our voices as writers through Anna McPartlin and to take pride in discovering our roots through the stories of Irish-America's leading lady, Mary Pat Kelly. And together we sat in awe while listening to Maurice Lennon's mastery of the fiddle, to Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders of Bohola and their transcendent sound, to Maura O'Connell's angelic voice and to the familiar chords of 15 volunteers (as well as writers and artists, including Phillip Gray) closing down the inaugural iBAM with a spirited sing-song in the Fifth Province. What a special weekend at the Center.

On November 15, along with the Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Choir,

our Irish Heritage Singers hosted a phenomenal concert in the Auditorium called Slainte and Shalom. Together we watched an incredibly evocative show, as the two groups connected the 500 members of the

Irish and Jewish community in the audience with the shared traditions of two very proud cultures. Together we sang along with wonderful renditions of A Nation Once Again, Take Me Home, Spancil Hill, Carrickfergus and Caledonia. And together we learned Jewish stories of home and hope through the Kol Zimrah's beautiful songs. What a special day at the Center.

Together we have created many rich experiences to celebrate across the past couple of months. Now, as the holiday season descends upon us, I look forward to sharing many moments of love and peace with my extended family here at the

Irish American Heritage Center, before we turn the page toward an exciting 2010 in our Chicago Irish Home.

Onwards,  
Tim McDonnell  
Executive Director  
Irish American Heritage Center

Join us for the first leg of a "Member-Get-A-Member" Campaign. The IAHC member who signs up the most new members in the month of December, will receive a free party at the Fifth Province on the date of your choice. The winner will be announced at our New Member Open House on Saturday, December 19, before the Houli-Dooley Christmas Show (see page 3).

The next leg of the campaign will be also be announced at the open house and will be organized for our St. Patrick's Day events.







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**the  
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All shows start  
after 9 p.m.

#### December 2009

Fri, 12/4 Ceili Dancing with  
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Sat, 12/5 Paddy Homan  
CD Release Party  
Fri, 12/11 Matt Stedman Band  
Sat, 12/12 Dooley Brothers  
Fri, 12/18 Joe McShane  
Sat, 12/19 Mulligan Stew  
Sat, 12/26 Brendan Loughrey  
(of Blue Stack)  
Boxing Day Party  
Thur, 12/31 New Year's Eve with  
Joe McShane and Joe Cullen



Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music.  
Pub food is served from 6pm-10pm.

**No Cover  
Free Parking**

Stay Tuned!

Saturday, January 9, 2010 - **Reilly** - *direct from Milwaukee*

Saturday, January 30, 2010 - **Irish Fest Favorites The Mickey Finns** *return*

## Irish American Heritage Center 2009 Annual Appeal

**Yes!** Count me in as a donor to the 2009 Annual Appeal  
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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please charge my credit card as a:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single payment in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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The Erin Room (left) is  
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## Searson Back By Popular Demand

Irish Fest favorites, Searson are back by popular demand at the IAHC this January.

With talent that remains full of fierce energy, Searson continues to astound their audiences with unguarded sincerity in their vocals, raw fiddling and ferocious stepdancing.

The band has been taking North America and Europe by storm, performing an average of 150 shows a year. Their crowd pleasing set at Irish Fest in 2009 left Chicago audiences begging for more.

Growing up in Canada, sisters Erin, Heather and Colleen Searson began performing for audiences at a young age. From this, developed a contemporary style of high energy, roots, Celtic, country and pop, a

sound for which they are known and loved. Searson has recorded five albums in their illustrious career.

The multi-talented sisters play a variety of instruments and are all expert step dancers. Erin plays a boogie style of piano, organ, and mandolin. Colleen is on fiddle and joins Erin in the lead vocals with Heather on bass. Rounding out the live show they are joined by two other talented musicians from the Ot-

tawa area, Mary Gellner on drums and Andrew Krause on acoustic and electric guitars.

Searson performs on

January 23 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10 or visiting [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).



### IAHC Board of Directors

2009-2010

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Kathleen O'Neill, *editor*

*Contributors:*

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Tim McDonnell  
Bob McNamara  
Mary Morris  
Peggy Murphy  
Sheila Murphy

## Celebrate the Holiday with a Houli-Dooley Christmas

Comedian and writer Mike Houlihan will join Irish-American folk and rock group The Dooley Brothers onstage for a holiday variety show at the IAHC in December.

The one-night only performance will combine Houlihan's madcap storytelling style with the jovial music of the legendary Dooley Brothers band. The evening consists of favorite Christmas stories and tunes from Houlihan and the Dooleys.

The Dooley Brothers have been a Chicago area favorite for more than 35 years. They have given thousands of performances throughout the Midwest and Europe and at such Chicago area venues as Taste of Chicago, Celtic Fest, Navy Pier and FitzGerald's Nightclub, and have played regularly in the Fifth Province Pub and at the

Irish Fest at the IAHC.

They are known for its good-time music, vocal harmonies and rousing renditions of Irish songs.

Mike Houlihan is a former columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, where he penned the Houli in 'da Hood column. He has written the Hooliganism column in the Irish American News since 1996. He began his career as an actor in 1973 with the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford Ct., and appeared onstage with regional theatres across the country as well as Off-Broadway, on Broadway on television and in major motion pictures. His one-man comic memoir of his Chicago Irish childhood, GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND, ran for more than six years in Chicago.

The show is on Sat., Dec. 19 at 8pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.



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## BECOME A MEMBER

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

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### Individual Membership Annual dues

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### \$250 - Harper

3-year membership  
no annual dues

### \$500 - Bard

5-year membership  
no annual dues

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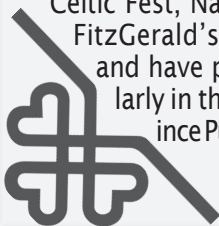
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without annual dues

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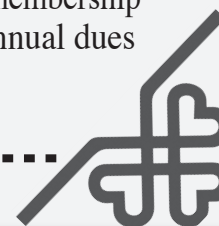
25-year membership  
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THE HERITAGE LINE







# IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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## AND TIME RUNS ON

### *A Musical Journey Through Celtic Mythology*

On December 5th, 6th, 12th, and 13th, Dragoncello Theater Company and Shapeshifters Theatre will present an original, one-hour performance featuring the myths of ancient Ireland. Perfect for the entire family, *And Time Runs On* features a live traditional Irish music, puppets and eye-popping costumes.

Performances will take place at the IAHC on Satur-

days at 2pm and 6pm and Sundays at 2pm.

Tickets are \$5 for children and adults. Interactive craft activities will be available for children 20 minutes before each performance.

Kids of all ages are welcome to learn more about Irish culture and heritage while participating in this exciting, interactive musical theater experience.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

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

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 10:30 a.m. and a traditional Irish breakfast follows. The Irish Heritage Singers will provide the music for the mass.

The Breakfast is full and we can no longer accept reservations.

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 himself, visits from 1-3pm and children can have their photos taken with him for free. The IAHC is stroller-friendly.

As a special treat, Dragoncello Theater Company and Shapeshifters Theatre will present an original, one-hour performance featuring the myths of ancient Ireland. Perfect for the entire family, *And Time Runs On* features a live traditional Irish music, puppets, and eye-popping costumes. The performance is at 2pm and tickets are \$5 for children and adults.

For more information on the bazaar, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Think You're So Smart?

Test your trivia knowledge with

## Quiz Night at the IAHC

\$30 per team

With a limit of six players per team

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

Food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16 and May 21

8pm

No reservations necessary

## ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT THE IAHC

Kick off the New Year in high style with the annual New Year's Eve party at the IAHC.

This year, celebrate under the chandeliers in the brand new Erin Room. Doors open at 8pm on December 31. At 7pm, there will be a Mass in the Auditorium.

Tickets for the party are \$25 and include dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and a champagne toast at mid-



night, party favors and entertainment by members of the SilverBridge Band, including Joe McShane, Myles McVeigh, Gerry Carey and Kara Eadie and guest performer, Joe Cullen.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by phone. To reserve tickets or to reserve a table for you and your friends, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

## TONY KENNY'S CHRISTMAS TIME IN IRELAND RETURNS

The IAHC is proud 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.

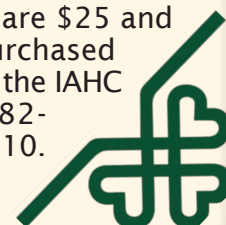
Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland celebrates the Christmas tradition with the finest in Irish song, dance, music and laughter. The show stars vocalist Tony Kenny, who, in the world of Irish music, needs little introduction. He was Ireland's 1998 "Entertainer of the Year," and

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*. He will be joined by singer and dancer, Victoria Kenny, comedian Joe Cuddy and the Dublin City Dancers.

Victoria Kenny, Tony Kenny's daughter, is an Irish and ballet dancer who combines the worlds

of traditional and contemporary Irish dance. The Dublin City Dancers are a renowned troupe of Ireland's finest traditional and contemporary Irish dancers. The team is comprised of dancers straight from Ireland's most prestigious dance shows, including *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.





# Mary Pat Kelly: A Proud Chicago Irish Success Story

By Cliff Carlson

Some people in the world sit on the sidelines and watch it all go by. Some dive in. Some dream and sleep, some dream and do. Mary Pat Kelly dives in head first. She dreams it, she does it. What makes a person believe in their abilities? Probably the ability to see the glass as half full, and not waiting for others permission to do anything. the ability to "just do it!" Mary Pat is one of those. She has had a unique Chicago upbringing. Spending time on the Southside at Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish, she moved to Oak Park and attended St. Catherine of Sienna, then Queen of All Saints in Sauganash, and Marywood High School in Evanston.

She grew up extremely proud of being Irish. But, to her, being Irish meant John Kennedy, Notre Dame, Mayor Daley, her pride was in being Chicago Irish.

A product of her times, Mary Pat was idealistic and wanted to be a part of helping the world. She entered the Sisters of Providence just out of high school to become a nun along with 13 of her class of 100! "It was a way to do good in the world," she said. Mary Pat spent five years studying, and a year teaching at Providence High School on the Westside of Chicago. She was there during 1968 when Martin Luther King was assassinated, and the Westside went up in flames. "The need for change was obvious, along with the need to

have a better life, and to be given a fair shake," she said.

To do something about making a change she left teaching, and went to work for the city becoming an urban life advisor on that same Westside of Chicago.

At the same time she was very interested in film. While in the convent at St. Mary of the Woods, Mary Pat was isolated, but one of the teachers, Sister Mary Olive, had been a theater director and she held classes in theater. While in these classes she came across a story about a short-film maker, Martin Scorsese. Mary Pat wrote him, and got back a 16-page letter that he typed with such energy that the periods went right through the page! That was a start of a friendship that lasts until this day. He advised her to go to see Hiroshima Mon Amour. She couldn't even leave the convent let alone go to see the movies he was suggesting! He gave her a list of books to read, and the sister in the library ordered them all. She tells the story in her 1997 novel Special Intentions.

When she left the job of urban life advisor, Mary Pat wanted to work in the arts. "There is something about the arts that brings people together - you can reach people's hearts," she said. Scorsese suggested she go to New York Film School, and she did. Through the last 40 years that's been her path. She has written books, directed documentaries and

feature films, but really she likes people stories with a message to communicate.

Kelly worked for Good Morning America in 1976, and that's where she met John Hume. Her stint at Saturday Night Live was in 1979 and 1980 where she produced the short films.

Her first job in television was with the Dick Cavett Show, and she got the job through her younger sister who was going on vacation. Mary Pat filled in, and they liked her. One thing led to another. Her background in academics, and her knowledge of current affairs helped. She knew how to do research and she was a good writer as well. "Writing can get you so many places," she said. "I have to thank the Sisters of Providence, Sister Mary Olive, Sister Marie Denise and all my great teachers. I think that one of the great strengths of Chicago is our parochial school system. People like me who came through that really learned," she continued.

"I had written Special Intentions. The novel had not been published yet, but Columbia Pictures optioned it as a possible movie so I went out to Los Angeles to write the screenplay and start my Hollywood life. I had what they call "development deals" at various studios. I had an office at Paramount Pictures which I shared

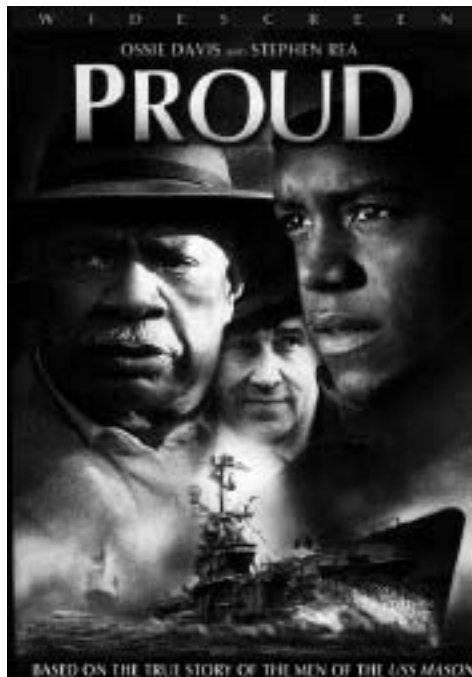
with the producer on another project called Moon River, Gabrielle Kelly, but we were moved out and replaced by Pee Wee Herman. So goes life in Hollywood! I learned that it is one thing to write and sell a screenplay and another thing to actually have it made into a movie.

I have always had an interest in Irish subjects and have a PhD with a concentration in Irish literature. So I took the money I'd made in Hollywood and went to Ireland to do a

for an Emmy and won the Special Jury Prize at the San Francisco Film Festival.

The title was To Live For Ireland. "John Hume expresses his philosophy this way. 'I want our young people to live for Ireland not to die for it, to shed their sweat, and not their blood.' When he won the Nobel Prize in 1998 John and Pat invited my husband and me to come to Oslo, Norway for the ceremony. What an amazing experience!

Northern Ireland also led me to another rich area of interest. I discovered that there were 300,000 Americans stationed in Ireland during WWII. So during the 50th anniversary of WWII in 1992, I thought it would be great to bring back some veterans who had been in Northern Ireland because they had such positive memories and do a documentary about them with the support of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board with WTTW as our entry station. I wanted Americans to see beyond the stereotypical picture of Northern Ireland presented in the media. The countryside is beautiful, and most people there want change through nonviolence and do not support the extremists. Showing Northern Ireland through the



documentary on John Hume and his party, the SDLP. This was 1985. I had been inspired by John and his wife Pat after I met them while working at Good Morning, America. I called on friends who helped me make the documentary. I came back home to Chicago and we launched the program on the PBS network through WTTW Channel 11 in Chicago for which I was very grateful," she said. The film would be nominated

lens of WWII offered a way to present this picture. This documentary Home Away From Home: The Yanks in Ireland featured members of the original Darby's Rangers, the famous army unit which was established in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland along with Tuck Smith, the US Navy pilot who found the German warship, Bismarck, after it escaped into the North Atlantic. He had flown out from an RAF flying boat base on

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(l to r): Malachy McCourt, Mary Pat Kelly, Larry Kirwan, Alphonse McCourt, Michael Patrick MacDonald of the Irish American Writers and Artists Assn., and the president of the Irish American Heritage Center, Bob McNamara during the iBAM! Chicago celebration at the IAHC October 31, November 1, 2009.





Irish Counsel General Martin Rouine, Malachy McCourt, and Mary Pat Kelly During the gala awards dinner for iBAM! Chicago. The dinner was held in the beautiful new Erin Room on the top floor.

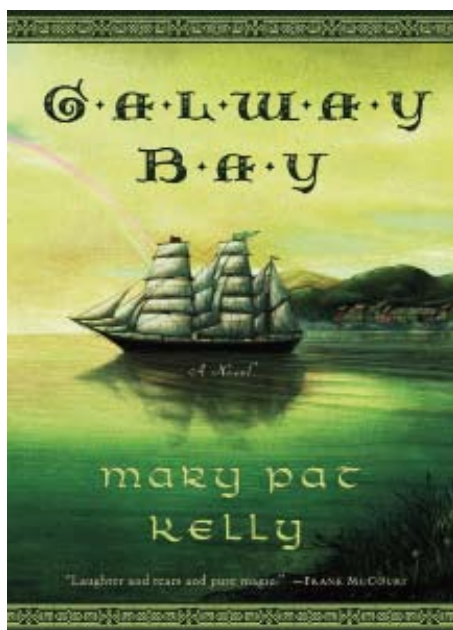
Lough Erne, County Fermanagh. He was there training RAF pilots but in secret, because this was well before Pearl Harbor and America had not yet entered the war. He did not take credit for this heroic action but gave it to an RAF pilot in order to keep the secret. But this RAF pilot revealed the truth right before he died and so we could Tuck Smith back to County Fermanagh and honor him as part of the documentary."

Kelly wanted to include Derry which was the biggest US Navy base in Europe during WWII, the port for many US Destroyers and Destroyer Escorts. Walter Cronkite was based in Derry as a young war correspondent. Because of the fond memories he had of Northern Ireland he agreed to introduce the film, and he did it without a fee which was really nice," said Kelly.

While researching this history Kelly discovered the U.S.S. Mason. "It was the only warship in WWII with an African-American crew that went into combat. The men escorted convoys across the U-boat infested North Atlantic. I located the veterans. They told me the first time in their lives they were treated as Americans was in Northern Ireland." Proudly We Served: The Men of the U.S.S. Mason became another PBS documentary in 1995. Years later, with the help of Tommy Hilfiger, who was inspired by the Mason crew, the story became a dramatic feature film, Proud (2005), starring Ossie Davis, and Stephen Rea, produced by Ally Hilfiger and written and directed by Mary Pat Kelly. The

movie was selected for festivals such as the Tribeca Film Festival, played in 10 cities and was brought out as a DVD by Lionsgate.

Another special Irish-US Military connection came to light after Kelly's encounter with the US Marine Corp. "I met Admiral Leighton "Snuffy"



Smith when he and his wife came to Northern Ireland to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day in May, 1995 with a group of US Navy Veterans. I was their guide. Admiral Smith was the Commander of Naval Forces and the NATO Commander in charge of Bosnia. The Smiths are my age and when the band played a waltz we said we wished they'd played a twist."

Soon after Kelly returned to the States she saw Admiral Smith on TV announcing that the US Marines

had rescued the downed Air Force Pilot Capt. Scott O'Grady from Bosnia. "They'd gone in in broad daylight and plucked him out of an area surrounded by three enemy armies," Kelly says. Admiral Smith was eager for the Marines' story to be told and arranged for Kelly to interview the men on their ship, the SS Kearsarge, for an article that would become the book Good To Go: The Rescue of Scott of Scott O'Grady. "I tail-hooked onto the battleship USS Theodore Roosevelt and went by helicopter to the Kearsarge which was exciting. I was extremely impressed with the Marines but for me the best part came later when I discovered that 500 Marines had been stationed in Derry during WW1. And their base was on the grounds of a beautiful hotel, Beech Hill House, which was owned by friends of ours - The Donnelly-O'Kane family. Every year since 1997 groups of US Marines have returned to Beech Hill to commemorate those who went be-

fore them. John Hume presides over many of the ceremonies. He met the Marines as a boy of 6 in Derry and says these men taught him to play baseball while introducing him to American ideas. "E Pluribus Unum" would become the foundation of his philosophy. "We're going again this year," Kelly says, "for the 65th Anniversary of V-E Day." The trip will start in Galway. We'll visit the places mentioned in Galway Bay first and then go North The Travel Exchange

is putting it together. Details are on my website."

For Kelly the novel Galway Bay offered a chance to do what all her other Irish projects hadn't - connect to her own family' story. "I had made 50 or 60 trips to Ireland but I still didn't know where I came from. People would ask me what county my Kellys were from and I would say Cook. I decided to find out. "All I knew was that the Kellys came to Bridgeport about 1849," Kelly says. "But my father had a cousin, Sister Mary Erigena BVM, who was 107 when she died in 1997. I'd never asked her about the family really but when I did, in 1985, she told me she'd known my great-great-grandmother. Her name was Honora Keeley Kelly and they'd lived on Hickory Street which became Hillock. Sister had been born in 1889 and Honora lived until 1899. Now I could find her in the census and eventually after years of looking I found Honora's birthplace, Bearna/Freeport, right on the shores of Galway Bay. When I stood there for the first time a part of me that I never knew was missing was restored. I began to hear Honora's voice and that was how I wrote Galway Bay. I tried to capture the emotional reality of what our ancestors endured. Sister Erigena told me Honora would say 'We wouldn't die and that annoyed

them. I wanted to celebrate that determination to survive. One million died in the Great Starvation - a term I prefer to The Famine which implies there was no food. There was plenty but only for those with money - and we must never forget them. But two million escaped - saving themselves. That's the American story." People Magazine called Galway Bay "so rousingly epic it can't help but touch readers' hearts and Frank West in the Irish American News said that Galway Bay was the "story of our people." The novel has been widely praised. "I've had a wonderful time doing events all over Chicago, Irish Festivals and all over the country and sharing stories. Our ancestors endured so much to give us what we have.

Mary Pat Kelly was named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans by Irish America Magazine three times and in 2009 was listed with the Top 100 Global Irish. Her films have won awards including the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle. She serves on the board of the new group, Irish American Writers and Artists. "We'd love to have lots of member from Chicago," she said,

Mary Pat Kelly lives with her husband, Martin Sheerin, (from Co. Tyrone) in New York City.

[www.marypatkelly.com](http://www.marypatkelly.com)

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 Candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge – 15th Subcircuit



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**Candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge 15th Subcircuit**

*The Chicago Federation of Labor endorsed John C. Griffin, for Cook County Circuit Court Judge, 15th Subcircuit in the far south and southwest suburbs*

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- ◆ Graduate, DePaul University, College of Law, Cum Laude
- ◆ Graduate, University of Notre Dame, With honors
- ◆ Graduate, St. Rita High School

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- ◆ Practicing Attorney – 31 years
- ◆ Appointed Circuit Court Judge – March, 2008
- ◆ Judge – Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section, Chancery Div.-14 months

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- ◆ Chicago Gaelic Park, President – 1991 - Present
- ◆ Moraine Valley Community College, Trustee – 1988 – 1991
- ◆ Irish Fellowship Club, Director – 1986 – Present
- ◆ St. Xavier University – School for Continuing Professional Studies, Advisory Council – 2007 – Present
- ◆ Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Director and Treasurer – 1980 – Present

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- ◆ Follow the law
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- ◆ Work hard
- ◆ Treat people equally and with dignity and respect

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By Julianna Leber

**Christmas Cookies: The Interactive Holiday Scrapbook**

Once again, it's that time of year where we rush from place to place, writing lists for big and small projects, and overall carrying the rushed holiday feeling of "If I only had more time!" If that worry begins to creep in, relax and throw a party for your friends. A growing trend among the many holiday cookie makers is the cookie party or cookie swap. It combines a long held tradition of making and then gifting cookies to friends and family, along with gathering together with your nearest and dearest.

The cookie party or cookie swap came from the idea that people have so much planned that they needed to create a way to socialize, while crossing off lines on their holiday list. The hostess invites her friends over for the evening, asking them to bring three or four dozen of their favorite cookies, along with gift



trays if they want. The attendees (mostly women) search their recipe books for one or two of their favorites and then bake them at home. When the 'party' night arrives, the ladies file in with their trays of holiday pastries,

lay them out on the tables and begin with the stories of where these wonderful traditional favorites originated.

The holiday cookie though, is the centerpiece of this evening. There will be many sizes, shapes and tastes to discover from this swap, not to mention a plethora of new recipes to fill a recipe book. The baking stories told from one generation to the next enable these simple pastries to be tasty interactive holiday



scrapbooks. One can even taste a bit of history in the cinnamon, ginger and butter.

As the kitchen klatch moves into the cookie room, bask in the wide range of culinary traditions. Spread out on the cookie tables, there may be a dozen of their favorite cookies, along with gift

Continued to page 27

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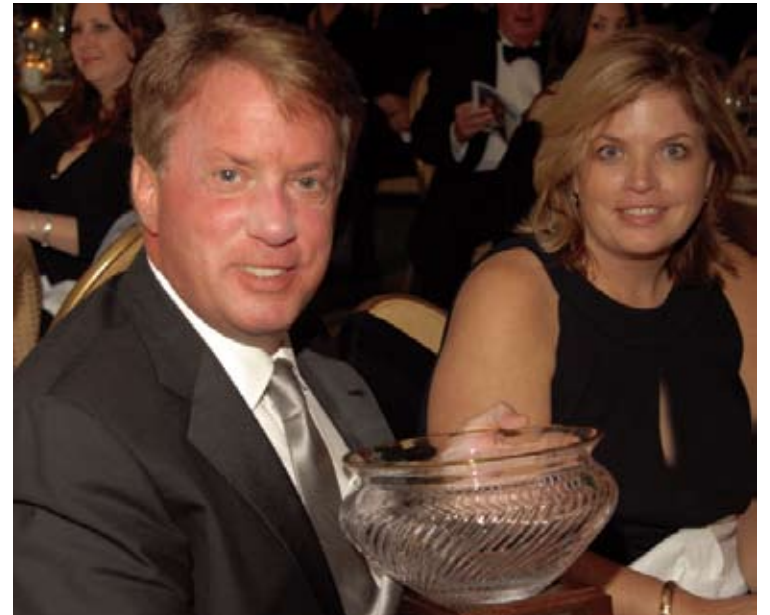
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The Emerald Loops' Conor O'Keefe and his wife, Mary, enjoy the American Ireland Fund Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago.



The Hon. Terrence A. Duffy, Executive Chairman of the CME Group, was the 2009 Honoree of the American Ireland Fund Dinner.

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## Celtic Kitchen

Continued from page 24

be traditional Polish or German fruit cookies, delicate Italian pizzelles, French cinnamon cookies, and Irish breads or stout cakes all displayed and ready to be packaged. Regionally, there are Buckeye candies, cajun pralines, Georgian snickerdoodles, New England molasses crinkles, Midwestern lebekuchen, and West Coast mince meat pies. Then there are the favorites, like ladylocks, 5 minute fudge, sugar cookie cutouts, chocolate kiss cookies, mini cheesecakes, macaroons, divinity, and the list goes on.

After wrapping each gift tray and savoring a sample or two, the guests should gather recipes. Make sure the guests bring several copies of each cookie made because they will all be favorites (and also to list possible allergies). Before leaving, congratulate each other for making the holiday chores a bit easier and for having a great ladies' night out. Christmas multi-tasking at its best!

One professional tip: if using plastic wrap, buy some from a warehouse store or professional food store. The roll is never ending and the plastic clings a lot better than many commercial brands.

To start your holidays, I suggest a mulled wine or cider—I've seen a couple great 'mulled cider kits' in the stores—and a seasonal vanilla hazelnut martini, recipe to follow. As for the pastries, I have a couple recipes you can give to a neighbor for Christmas morning or dessert, an English muffin bread, and chocolate stout cake. The English muffin bread is courtesy of Mrs. Berringer, a neighbor of my mom's for many years. The Irish stout cake is from a reader's request. Christmas is the perfect time for chocolate stout cake!

### Vanilla Hazelnut Martini

serves 1 large glass or 2 small

- 2 oz. vanilla vodka
- 2 oz. hazelnut liqueur
- 1 oz. cream
- 1/2 c. water and sugar, each
- 1/4 c. sugar

Heat 1/2 c. of sugar and water, stir and dissolve completely to make simple syrup. Cool. Pour 1/4 c. of sugar in a wide bowl. Dip the glasses in syrup then dip in sugar to rim. Let dry slightly. Shake martini ingredients in ice filled shaker and pour into glass and serve.

### English Muffin Bread

makes 2 loaves

- 5-6 c. flour
- 2 pkgs. dry yeast
- 1 T. sugar
- 2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. baking soda
- 2 c. whole milk
- 1/2 c. water
- Cornmeal

Grease two loaf pans and lightly coat insides with cornmeal. Combine 3 c. flour, yeast, sugar, salt and baking soda. Heat liquids until warm, 120-130°F. Add to dry ingredients. Beat well. Stir in more flour, 1/2 c. at a time, into order to make a stiff batter. Spoon into loaf pans. Cover and let rise for 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°F, then bake for 25 minutes. Remove from pans immediately and cool on wire racks.

\*You will love this bread toasted with Irish butter, so make an extra batch!

### Chocolate Stout Cake

Makes 1 2-layer cake or 6 mini bundts

- 1 c. stout (Guinness or a Rogue chocolate stout)
- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 3/4 c. unsweetened cocoa powder (+ 2 T.)
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 t. baking soda
- 3/4 t. salt
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 scant c. sour cream
- Ganache
- 1 c. heavy cream
- 8 oz. bittersweet chocolate, in bits

Butter and flour (with 2 T. cocoa) pans. Preheat oven to 350°F. Heat stout and butter in heavy pan and stir. Add cocoa powder and mix completely. Let cool. Whisk dry ingredients together. With electric mixer, combine eggs and sour cream. Add stout mixture to egg mix and beat to combine. Add four mixture and mix slowly, just to combine. Using spatula, fold ingredients together to mix completely. Pour into pans and bake 30 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean. Mini bundts will be 10 minutes shorter. Cool 10 minutes in pan, then remove and cool completely.

In heavy saucepan combine cream and chocolate and stir until fully melted. Set aside and cool until almost spreadable. When ready, frost or pour ganache over cakes, top with whip cream and serve.

Merry Christmas!!

## Plant Your Irish Roots

Irish Gift Trees is a new Irish company based in the breathtaking scenery of County Kerry in the South West of Ireland. They specialize in planting of Irish Holly trees as unique long lasting gifts.

The trees will be allowed to grow for their natural life span and will provide a habitat for birds, mammals and insects for years to come. Holly trees are an ideal gift for any occasion (private or corporate) but especially poignant for those with an Irish connection. Having roots in Ireland is a bond that runs deep. If you choose to dedicate a tree to someone the company will email you a certificate of dedication or you can elect to receive a handmade certificate mounted on reclaimed Irish slate.

The trees will be planted on the Dingle Peninsula which is situated in the southwest of Ireland in the County of Kerry. Steeped in history and sculpted by the Atlantic, the dramatic beauty of the Dingle Peninsula has been an inspiration and a wonder to visitors for hundreds of years. National Geographic has described the region as "the most beautiful place on Earth".

The native Holly Tree (*Ilex aquifolium*) once flourished here in vast Holly forests but now only a few pockets remain. These trees will help revive the area.

Trees are planted in batches of two hundred and you can get a picture of the planting along with your trees unique location reference.

To get roots in Ireland go to [www.irishgift-trees.com](http://www.irishgift-trees.com)

## Chicago Gaelic Park

### Monthly Musical Luncheon

Gaelic Park will host their monthly Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music by Sean O'Donnell, dancing and a delicious lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

### Paintings of Ireland Exhibit

Irish Painter Mary McSweeney will exhibit her work at Chicago Gaelic Park on Saturday, December 12th, and Sunday, December 13th.

McSweeney, who has a studio and gallery in Cape Cod is returning for her 16th annual exhibition at Gaelic Park, which is open to the public on Saturday, December 12th from 3-9pm and Sunday, Dec., 13th from 9am to 8pm.

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**Tradition In Review**

**Bill Margeson**

I remember well when I started collecting antique images of Ulysses S. Grant, America's greatest general. When anyone starts collecting, they are all in a mad rush. For me, it was anything with Grant's image on it. For others, it is coins, stamps, old samplers, antique maps... whatever. And, for all those collectors, the result is always the same. The madness subsides, and through whatever process one goes through, the taste becomes more specific. Twists, turns and modifications lead the ardent collector to study more specifically, and purchase more carefully. Inevitable, and beneficial.

So it is with music—really, any art form. Having paid my way through college as a studio musician in Chicago while performing in different R&B bands, I thought the be-all and end-alls were Sam and Dave, Ray Charles, Wilson Pickett and James Brown. And, so they are, even today—in their branch of music. Along the way, through a twisting path, I was introduced to real Irish music. It has stayed with me all these years, and having written about it for well over 20 years while receiving about 500 CD's a year in the mail for possible review, (they used to be cassettes and before that, records! Actual records!) the "Grant experience" has been repeated. Hopefully, the mad rush of, "Gee!

I LOVE Irish music!" mellows to a more discerning and knowledgeable set of tastes, with a better ear. And then, certain artists change everything along the way, starting with an early collaborator and folk hero, Bruce Hirsch, to the great Irish groups we all know. When I came into it, DeDannan, Planxty, the Bothy Band, Christy Moore, were all the go. Along the line, groups like Reeltime, Moving Cloud, and the David Munnelly Band appear and change everything while confirming everything at the same time. Singers like Laura Smith, Cathie Ryan, Rita Connolly, Eddi Reader, Tim Dennehy, Seamus Heaney, Eilis Kennedy, Sean Tyrrell, Frank Harte and Tommy Fleming light a whole new path of meaning and beauty.

And, somewhere in all this, something else interesting happens. With certain artists, you begin to lose the ability to evaluate, never mind "judge" their music. What they produce is of such uniform brilliance, you have fallen in love, and love is blind. When, in the past, we have said we would listen to Cathie Ryan sing the phone book, we mean it. These artists are the essence of magic. So, when a new CD arrives, you know you are sunk. I have always thought it was nonsense that a writer or critic in any art form should be "objective," or claim to be. News reporters should be objective. Critics are paid to be subjective. And, in that subjectivity, it is like falling in love with a woman. You lose all your faculties, walk around and stumble into things, hit your head getting into the car, become obsessed with it all. That is how a new album from a ton of Irish artists hits us.



Sunk before the first tune. A new group gets a fair and impartial hearing, but not someone like Brock-McGuire, Bohola, Liz Carroll, Kevin Henry, and all the other aforementioned.

So, with this rambling in mind, I received the new Mulcahy family album from the best promoter and distributor in the business, Alan O'Leary of Copperplate in London. Michelle Mulcahy, sister Louise and father, Mick, have done it again. This time, it is called, Reelin' in Tradition. Mick holds forth on the accordion, Michelle and Louise on every other instrument in the tradition. Does it do to tell you that Mi-



chelle was teaching master classes in the Irish harp at the age of 18? That, at 16, Louise was in the very forefront of uilleann pipers? See, for you, after all these years, the hope is that you find a critic or writer in whose taste you trust. Our pal, Jimmy Keane—himself the best piano accordion player in Irish music—always says, "A CD that you love is the cheapest thing you can buy. Think of what it gives you over the years." As usual, he is right. What I have to add is that a CD that you don't like and will never play again, is a pretty expensive thing. So, you find writers and artists whom you trust. Trust the Mulcahys. Perfection every time, every cut. This all-instrumental treat will be, for sure, at Rampant Lion and Paddy's on the Square, locally. I can't put it in words. This all-instrumental album is at the apex of Irish music. I'd love to tell you more, but I can't.

I'm listening to it now. Michelle is on the harp, and I am numb. Wow! Just... perfect. Rating: Four Harps

Then comes Munnelly. The best vocal/instrumental act in the business. The album is Tight Squeeze. David Munnelly on button box (is he the best in the world?—probably—though if I could hear a duo with him and Paul Brock, I could die a happy man), Kieran Munnelly on flute and vocals, Paul Kelly on fiddle and mandolin, Fergal Scahill on guitar, Ryan Molloy on piano, and the unexcelled Shauna Mullin on vocals. Mulcahys... meet The Munnelly Band. You both share such excellence and such a total grasp of the tradition, we are left speechless, while tapping our toes and smiling. BTW, this album has the best and funniest cover we have seen in years. Brill. This instrumental music is so perfectly conceived and played, we are left speechless. Since we heard this album and gave it its world premiere on our radio program here in Chicago, we have listened to it about 40 times at last count. Shauna's alto continues to melt us down every time, while the band offers up a whole new level in the tradition. If you are in Chicago and reading this, you may well have seen the band in concert, as Chicago is about their fav American city. Who sounds like them? As with all the very best, no one sounds like them, though there are a ton of groups ripping them off and trying trying trying to sound like them. They can't do it. There are lots of good vocal/instrumental groups in the business. But, there is only one Munnelly. Rating: Four Harps.

Christmas approacheth. My top three for your musical stocking stuffers this year are: The Irish and the Jews by Mick Moloney, Tight Squeeze by Munnelly and Reelin' in Tradition. Obviously, we had other plans for our top three, but there you are.

The best all-time Irish Christmas CD's? Bohola's Bo-Ho-Ho-Hola, A Kiltartan Road Christmas by Kathy Cowan, and the Chieftain's Bells of Dublin.

We ran out of room. Next month we review a gorgeous and powerful new album just out from the wonderful Kat Eggleston. It is called, Speak and it is sensational.

\*Merry Merry and Happy Happy—and join us every Monday night for Ireland Tonight, BOTA, Part 2 from 8-9pm Chicago time, preceded by Shay Clarke's, Blarney on the Air from 7-8pm on WDCB, 90.9, or www.wdcb.org fm. Ta!

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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



HICs during our healthful 20s to 60s or 70s ought not be forfeited to HICs as their profit. Instead the payments ought

"TALKING POINTS," (propaganda) are the means by which gov't criminals get the people to work against their own interests. "Tough customers" once described Americans. It no longer does, as shown by the willingness of so many Americans to believe their religious leaders' politically-motivated misinterpretations of the Bible. Many are so deceived as to deny their own direct experiences and to promote blatant falsehoods that benefit America's enemies. A friend recently sent me Repub talking points that promote health insurance companies (HICs). I responded by citing our complete satisfaction with Medicare ("socialized medicine") and our dissatisfaction with Blue Cross/Blue Shield's constant scamming despite its provision of only supplemental coverage. I asked her why HICs are allowed to siphon off funds that people set aside for medical care. I also referred to Cigna's ex-p.r. chief Wendell Potter who, upon visiting his West Virginia birthplace, found thousands in the local fairgrounds receiving medical care from volunteer doctors and nurses. The patients had come from as far away as Florida and Illinois due to unaffordability and lack of medical coverage. The scene forced Mr. Potter to rethink his own part in all of this, including the gold fixtures in the corporate jet he used. He resigned from Cigna and became an unpaid lobbyist for universal health care. My friend replied to my letter by citing the deaths last year of her mother and sister, and how the lives of all three of them were made a hell - by the same Cigna Corporation. While doctors tried to save the lives of her mother and sister, Cigna's profit-maximizing death panels had countermanded those doctors' decisions, thus subjecting her relatives to unnecessary suffering and untimely deaths. So she and her relatives had direct experience with death panels; Cigna's death panels, not gov't ones.

HOW CAN IT BE that my friend, despite her own direct experience with HIC death panels, was shilling for them by forwarding warnings about "socialized medicine" and "gov't death panels"? Here's how: Behaviorists have learned how to subvert the public's ability to think. Corporations hire behaviorists to identify "hot button" issues that induce fear and other (mostly subconscious) emotions that short-circuit our intellect.

INSURING against fires and auto accidents makes sense, but not against illness. Here's why: fire and auto accidents are a matter of IF. But illness is different. Illness is not a matter of IF but of WHEN. The premiums we pay to

to be prepayments toward our time of medical need. Only deliverers of medical care ought to receive such payments. At present, HICs, who don't deliver medical care, make their obscene profits by interfering with doctors who do. The HICs' siphoning off of what ought to go to doctors and hospitals is a scam created by our pols that the HICs bribed into working for them and against us. Compared with the rest of the industrialized world we in the US pay 1.5 times as much per capita for a result not nearly as good. We live sicker, shorter lives than they. Sickness doesn't render them bankrupt and homeless, but it does us. Our "best medical system in the world" is available to the world's kings and sheiks, but not to most Americans.

"WE THE PEOPLE" are failing in our duty to run our gov't. Many if not most of us have been hoodwinked into complicity with America's enemies not only in the HICs but in the following historic crimes: Israel's genocide of the Palestinians (which SecState Clinton endorses), and 2) our funding of it. 3) The Bush/Cheney/Powell/neo-con Supreme Crime against Iraq. 4) Their WMD lies that created support for that crime. 5) Their use of torture. 6) Their use of CIA hit squads and other mercenaries who have murdered scores of noncombatants in daylight with impunity; 7) their bombing of wedding parties, 8) outing of CIA covert operative Valerie Plame during wartime (for which crime the law prescribes death by firing squad), 9) The banksters/pols' looting of America by which means they 10) destroyed the US financial system and 11) much of our, and the world's, economy. In 12) violating his Oath of Office to uphold the US Constitution by prosecuting the above criminals, Obama has 13) Obstructed Justice. He also 14) lies to America much as Bush did. Thus far he has 15) kept Guantanamo open, and 16) continues "Special Renditions" and 17) outsources torture.

IT SPEAKS for itself that Bush/Obama operatives prohibit the Iraqis and Afghans from voting as to our occupation of their countries. The frantic attempt to turn the Ft. Hood massacre into a hot-button-pushing orgy speaks for itself. It speaks for itself that our news media aren't asking what non-violent, effective means the

killer could have used to stop our crimes against Arabs. So does our Congress's recent rejection of Judge Goldstone's report on Israel's crimes against Gazans. If we fail to publicly object, Congress's official endorsement of Israel's crimes makes all U.S. citizens Israel's criminal accomplices. It speaks for itself that immediately upon the Bush gang's attack upon Iraq his collaborators at Fox TV, etc., spun it into a question of whether we "support the troops."

THE CRUX. What ought informed patriots do when outlaws in our gov't endanger America by perpetrating these and other crimes despite the expressed will of the people? First, to defend the US against more 9/11s we must continue to demand cessation of our murderous foreign policies. We must publicly reject their fraudulent talking points. We must define "terrorism" accurately; in nearly all cases "terrorist" is what terrorist nations call their victims. It is especially what terrorist nations call those who attempt to defend against State terrorism. The success of that Big Lie is crucial. It is crucial to Israel's continuing genocide of Palestine. It was crucial to British success in Occupied Ireland (see my [www.terrorismireland.org](http://www.terrorismireland.org)), and it is now crucial to the success of Bush/Obama crimes around the world. It has also proven crucial to British Petroleum which is now back where it was before Iraq freed itself nearly sixty years ago; looting the oil from Iraq's best oilfield. Ditto as to US-based oil companies. But their looting doesn't benefit Americans. It isn't reflected in lower gas-pump prices. It benefits only the oil companies and their criminal CEOs. It is for their profits and their crimes that our troops are sacrificing their lives. These facts might sound like mere opinion to the inattentive. The news media cover-up of these facts makes them rare, and their rarity might induce people to doubt them or deem them mere opinions. It is late in the day for Americans. We don't have much time left to begin paying the attention that will enable us to restore our Constitution, our future and our standing in the world. There is an iron law - that negligent communities are ruled by criminals, and more commonly by domestic ones than by foreign invaders.

THE GOOD FRIDAY Agreement. Beneficial? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), and [www.friendsofcolinduffy.com](http://www.friendsofcolinduffy.com).

IRELAND'S GOV'T? See [www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com) and read "Coolcrease."

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org). Reach me at [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) or 312/664-7651.

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# Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



At the start, Patrick (John Devitt) and Margaret (Deborah Ryan Sampson) Finnerty are a young married couple happy

Craddock's Well, the fall production of Gaelic Park Players directed by Larry Coughlin, is the story of the demise of Cloonmore, a small village in Co. Galway, over a 50 year period—from the 1950s until the present. The village, an impoverished hamlet of some 50 souls, slowly dies through emigration, natural attrition, and the mysterious influence of Craddock's Well—where local people get their drinking water. The story is told through the eyes of the Finnertys, a family with a small farm just outside the village.

with the birth of their firstborn—a son. But within a few short years all that changes. The son contracts tuberculosis and dies, leaving Margaret in perpetual grief. She cannot get over the shock of his death, becomes embittered and leaves the household forever without joy. Margaret and Patrick remain trapped in a loveless marriage for the next 40 years, and not even the birth of a second child—Brendan (played variously by Martin Murphy, Brendan McWilliams and Tom Kearney) can relieve that.

Margaret remains moody and has to be hospitalized for nerves in Galway City from time to time. This has a negative effect on Brendan, who as he grows develops a love-hate relationship with his parents, especially his mother. Eventually he spurns his father's offer of inheriting the farm and runs away to America to emancipate himself. In the ensuing years, he becomes remote and seldom writes. He does not learn of his mother's death until three months after it happened, and only returns home a few years later for his father's funeral. The play actually starts at that point, and what happened before is recounted in a series of flashbacks.

### Impoverished Ireland

Craddock's Well, written by Michael Carey, a retired school principal from Headford, Co. Galway, is an ambitious play with some positives and several shortcomings. On the positive side, it is an authentic depiction of life in impoverished rural Ireland in the third quarter of the twentieth century. The dialogue and actions accurately depict the hopelessness and lack of opportunity so prevalent in the country at that time, and how tuppence was won't to look down on three ha'pence at the slightest opportunity. This is seen when Margaret rails against Brendan, "a farmer's son," for hanging out with "corner boys" at the cross roads. The play shows the populace as a guilt ridden bunch whose main solace is getting down on their knees and reciting the family rosary in the kitchen before bed each night.

On the negative side, the play has too

many characters for its content, and more scenes than needed to tell its tale. Some characters are only briefly on stage and then are gone. And some scenes add little to the overall arc of the play. They appear to have been gratuitously inserted—such as some with two local misfits, Tim Dalton (Dave O'Carroll) and Patcheen Thatch (Mick Kenna) for relief—both comic and urinary.

### Similarities

This play has much in common with the Valley of the Squinting Windows, a novel by Brindsley McNamara, also set in the Irish midlands, but published four decades earlier. The novel takes the lid off a small town and shows how people spy on each other, delight in spreading gossip with malice, and how hypocrisy is rampant. The novel led to lawsuits for libel and the author's family being run out of town. This did not happen with playwright Carey, which perhaps shows how times have changed in Ireland. Since the play, Carey has been elected to political office for Fine Gael for his area.

Nevertheless, the premise of Craddock's Well is similar to the book in that virtually



no one has a good word to say about anyone under any circumstances. There is venomous Biddy Cassidy (Kate McNally), and others such as Eileen Dykes (Mary Zemaitis), and Katie McGrath (Janet Wittenmyer), who

posture as being pleasant but are not slow in demonstrating cattiness as well. Only Mary Morley (Georgina Chapman) is presented as in any way balanced and normal.

While this is a difficult play to stage with its many scenes and large cast, Director Coughlin did an excellent job of making it work. He used the stage well. Scene changes were smooth, due in no small measure to the expertise of stage managers Myra McWilliams and Bridget Christianson. Of the cast, both Deborah Ryan Sampson and John Devitt were outstanding. Devitt was authentic as the small holding farmer trying to be big hearted but being beaten down constantly by his cheerless wife, while Sampson truly evoked pity and made you feel deep in your heart her unending despair. And Kate McNally was excellent as a harridan—she was so good that everyone winced with her every word.

### 500 Clown Christmas in Naperville December 18 Through December 23rd

500 Clown, a nonprofit theater, presents its holiday hit 500 Clown Christmas for a limited holiday 2009 engagement at North Central College's Madden Theater, 171 E. Chicago Ave. in Naperville, IL.

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## Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



return calls a week or two after the initial call, without the slightest sense of apology. The message of your call has finally floated to the

### Do You Understand The Job Search Process?

As a person who meets with a lot of job seekers, I see at least six important concepts that the average job seeker doesn't know. Ignorance of these basic concepts will affect a person's job search significantly. So if you or a loved one is looking for a new job, this article could help you understand the process better.

#1. Many job seekers simply don't know how to use contacts. Many people don't seem to be able to decide who they should contact. Simply stated, everyone you know is a contact for you, i.e. family members, former school mates, fellow alums, current and former colleagues, your insurance agent, your barber/hair dresser, etc. It is much the same method as when are looking for a doctor, lawyer, insurance agent, or car repair shop. If the person has a pulse, s/he is a potentially valuable contact.

But you must have an agenda. You need to be prepared to tell your story crisply. You must be ready to tell every contact at least four important things. A. What specific things have you been doing for the past five to ten years? B. What specific job would you like to do for the next five or ten years? C. Where do you want to do this? D. In round numbers, what should someone expect to pay you?

Many of us feel that our contacts know us and our circumstances very well. Accordingly, telling them the above-mentioned four things doesn't apply. Absolute nonsense! Very few people, including our family members, have a clear understanding of what you do for a living. Test this theory; ask some of your close friends to describe what you do for a living, in more detail than simply stating your company's name and job title. If your personal contacts (aka your sales team) don't know much about your background, how can they speak to their contacts about you in an intelligent fashion?

Andrea Nierenberg, in conjunction with New York University's Management Institute, conducted a survey a while back which asked working professionals to rate the top positive traits related to networking. She found that the leading characteristic was "sincerity" (rated 4.6 out of 5) with "credibility" a close second, receiving a 4.5 rating. It would be very hard for me to believe a job seeker could project sincerity if s/he didn't know what sort of a job they were seeking.

#2. Job seekers fail to understand that their network contacts need to do their own jobs. They may not return your phone calls because they are simply too busy. They have just returned from a long business trip and have a deskful of other things that need their immediate attention. Or, alternatively, they are getting ready for an important meeting and are concentrating on tasks that they consider essential. They simply don't view your call as essential to their well being. It is not that they don't care about you. It is not uncommon that people will

top of their list of things to do. It is a matter of priorities. The employed person has his/her own demon to tame. They are duty bound to do those things that they feel have higher priorities. Isn't that the way most of us operate? But there is a great tendency to "awfulize" our particular situation. Such an attitude can be the start of a downward and destructive spiral.

#3. Don't take the lack of response as a personal affront. I recently had a call from a client of mine. He had just received an email from a former subordinate he had been trying to reach for the past three weeks. The email stated that recently the former subordinate had been as busy as he had ever been in his career (don't you like comments like that?). Accordingly, he simply didn't have time to return my client's call. Clearly, this is not a personal affront; the guy is simply buried under his work load. He made a decision about how he was going to use that precious commodity, his time. Unfortunately, my client took it as a slap in the face and got very annoyed and distracted by this person's lack of concern. I told my client to "lighten up" and give the guy a little slack. What does he lose by being gracious in this situation? He ascribed a level of responsibility for his situation to his contact that is unwarranted under the circumstances.

#4. Typical job seekers don't know how to present themselves in an interview. Most job seekers, including a lot of senior executives, can't effectively articulate the type of job they are looking for. They tend to mumble something about a job "similar to the one I just left." A job seeker needs to develop an oral presentation of his job goals. Think about it; when people are unable to articulate what they want, are you inclined to give them your full attention. Here is an excerpt from an email I received today; an ideal job for me would entail using my managerial experience working for people to accomplish goals. What does that sentence mean to you? Does this person want to be captain of an enormous cruise ship or to work for a delivery service? Does the "ideal job" statement really help someone understand this person's job interest?

Job seekers need to develop a "marketing

oriented" resume (aka sales brochure). Yes, it is intended to inform the reader, but you also want to impress the reader with your accomplishments. Most resumes just do not include enough achievements; rather they focus on job responsibilities. Empower two or three reviewers to tear your resume apart. The final resume will result in a much more powerful resume. I am committed to the belief that no one's resume should be longer than two pages. You should demand that every word carry meaning.

There are many books that will guide you as you write your resume. Remember you are trying to tell your "story," but that really means your achievements. You are trying to answer the question, why should I hire you? The resume should be concise, succinct, and positive.

#5. Most people do not know where to find help in their job search. There are numerous organizations that will support you. I have my favorite at the ecumenically-sponsored Career Transitions Center housed at Old St. Patrick's in Chicago. There is a website, [www.jobsupportministry.com](http://www.jobsupportministry.com), which lists job support groups throughout the country. The services provided by each organization may vary, but most of them will provide you help developing a resume, coaching on the process itself including the interview, access to the internet and research tools, and a sense of support.

#6. Most people don't understand that helping someone else through the process will accrue great benefits to them in their own search. Stop worrying about yourself and concentrate on someone else's problem. Somehow your own problem doesn't seem to be so overwhelming. Maybe this other person is not as mature, as experienced or as knowledgeable as you. You can actually help mentor them through the process. Carpe diem.

This column is the fourth of six columns that address some aspect of the job search process. For those of you currently searching for that next job, God bless.

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



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# Horoscope

Theresa Castro

**ARIES:** You are in for great things this holiday season with Venus, Mars, and Juno on your side! Better watch out or someone could have their way with you. Also you could fall hopelessly in love as well! You are doomed to a holiday season of no rest, much revelry, and a significant other that always pesters you for affection!

**TAURUS:** You are waiting for something you have requested from Santa and hope that your wish will be granted. Saturn has just passed out of your fifth sector of speculation and amusements so your chances of getting what you want are good. If you asked for a new toy, playmate, or new baby, you are in luck!

**GEMINI:** This is the time when you have a bit less energy than other times of the year. Other people may take a great interest in you and vice versa. You will have a relaxing and calm holiday season if you don't let the drama of Saturn and Uranus get in the way. The movements of the planets seem to mirror life's events and characters. Only you can control these issues.

**CANCER:** You have had quite a ride this last two or so years. Now it is time to start something new. If you do the same thing over and over but expect different results, you are not likely to get what you want. Now the rules are different and the restrictive nature of Saturn has changed. This time you have new ammunition and better resources to apply to your problems. The Sun

will rise for you again.

**LEO:** You are a glutton for punishment during the holiday season! For years you have beat yourself into exhaustion making holiday cheer for others. Shopping, cooking, hosting and paying for it all in January. You love to make people happy but now you need to reap some of the benefits as well. Go easy!

**VIRGO:** You are the object of someone else's great interest and this could be really good for you! During this holiday season you may actually have a significant other to share the time with. How great is that? No more third, or fifth wheel for you! No more solitary nights watching reruns from the 1960's alone. Finally, Santa cuts loose with the goods!

**LIBRA:** Now is the time for you to celebrate! You have been held back from your happiness long enough! Your star is shining over your head now for the holidays and will make you happy! Recently, you took the initiative to get something or someone you wanted and won. Now you have only God and the planets to thank! Merry Christmas!

**SCORPIO:** Your planetary rulers Mars, and Pluto are smiling at each other and are being assisted by Venus, and frisky Juno. This means you could become very lucky with someone you adore this holiday season! If you put forth a little effort, you may find yourself on

the love boat!

**SAGITTARIUS:** You have the best fate of all this holiday season! The new Moon of December 2009 falls right in your front yard! This is very good for you! Venus and Mars are heating up the situation very quickly helping you to be irresistible to the opposite gender. You might as well wrap yourself up in tinsel because you are creating a lot of electricity!

**CAPRICORN:** You are getting some of the back wind from something you did in the past. Well, you cannot un-ring a bell, but you can always move forward. Since it is the holiday season, try "silver bells" instead! Some Caps won't suffer the above mentioned fate because we all make different choices in life. Go figure.

**AQUARIUS:** You have the unique fortune of having Jupiter, Chiron, and Neptune congregating in your sign making life beautiful! You could find the love of your life now if you haven't in the recent past. This holiday season brings with it a most enchanted time for you! Merry Christmas!

**PISCES:** You and Virgo have similar fates this holiday season while the stars shine on you! Saturn, the wet blanket of the zodiac, has passed his peak irritation of your life and no longer has the power to dominate you. Now you can rest a bit easier and concentrate on conquering your world!

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## Piping It In

Jack Baker



There are few things I like better than watching and listening to a good pipe band. When I hear the snare drums start their roll off and the pipes strike up, my ears go up like an infield fly. This time of the year I don't get much opportunity to hear bands in person, so I have to rely on my CDs for a pipe band fix. Unfortunately, new pipe band recordings have been few and far between recently.

I was pleasantly surprised recently to receive a promo CD from a band in the Orlando, Florida area. Duncan McCall Pipe Band is a Grade 4 competition band formed in 2004. This year they've released their self titled CD as a fundraiser and it's really one to be proud of. It has all the tunes that people ask for including Amazing Grace, Rowan Tree, Minstrel Boy, Green Hills of Tyrol, Scotland the Brave, High Road to Gairloch, Mairi's Wedding, all performed flawlessly. This band is definitely playing above their grade and giving people the tunes they want. But they don't stop there, they've got some great solo guest shots from Pipe Major Steve Bicknell, Ryan Morrison (PM of the Ian Sturrock Memorial Pipe Band), and Chris King (PM of the Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums). My favorite cut on the whole album features a beautiful rendition of Greensleeves by PM Steve Bicknell on a set of Gibson Fireside pipes, and Tom Morley on violin. There's a further track featuring William Fletcher on Shepherd small pipes that is pretty sweet as well. I think it impressive that a band can put out a fundraiser CD like this that is so pleasant to listen to. They've obviously given it a lot of thought and a lot of work. I've listened to it several times and there's not a clinker on it! I expect to hear more from this band in future.

I had the opportunity this year at the Bethlehem Celtic Classic to listen to an Irish rock band that I like! Granted this band would give my good buddy Bill Margeson fits, so I won't be giving him any of these CDs for Christmas. The band is called The Town Pants, from Vancouver BC and

they bring that Canadian musical enthusiasm to their performances, along with their sense of humor. The band consists of Duane Keogh on guitar, vocals and spoons, his brother Dave on banjo, mandolin, whistle, guitar and vocals, Aaron Chapman on whistle, mandolin and assorted noises, Brendan Mooney on bass, Gilles Nadon on percussion and Ivanka Watkin on fiddle. They have released 5 CDs, from their newest Shore Leave (2009); Coming Home (2007), Weight of Words (2006), Piston Baroque (2001), and Liverdance (1997). We don't get to see them too often in the Midwest, and that's a shame because they light up the stage with their high energy performances. Shore Leave contains their excellent version of Galway Girl, a song that appeared in the movie PS, I Love You. You can hear snippets of their music on [www.thetownpants.com](http://www.thetownpants.com).



This will be a rather short column this month in that I'm dictating it to my poor wife, since I banged up my right arm at the Weston Irish Festival. No, I wasn't falling down drunk, despite what you might have heard, but I did discover that I was diabetic and I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone, especially old farts like me, to get their blood tested. I noticed no symptoms, yet my blood sugar was off the charts. Thank god all I did was rip a tendon.



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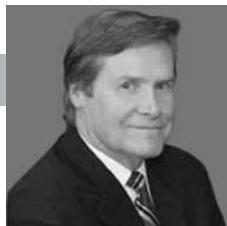
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## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



Senior Partner

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

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). [www.HealyLawFirm.com](http://www.HealyLawFirm.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

### The Joy of Being a Plaintiff's Attorney

During the last eight years, it was a privilege to represent a seriously injured Irish immigrant carpenter. His future was in our hands. Last month, we turned over the responsibility for his future to a jury of twelve ordinary citizens to decide his case.

To have the opportunity to assist a seriously injured person so in need of help, can be very satisfying to the attorney representing the individual. While the very seriously injured can seldom be brought back to their pre-

accident condition, a fair verdict can significantly help the individual in many ways. And when that fair verdict is obtained, it can bring great joy to the attorneys representing the individual. That happened last month.

Previously we wrote about the case of a 22-year-old carpenter from Derry who was rendered quadriplegic after diving into an in-ground swimming pool in the southwest suburbs. On November 5, 2009, a Cook County jury returned a significant

verdict in favor of the carpenter, in fact a record high verdict in Illinois for a swimming pool-related injury according to the Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter.

On July 15, 2001, the Plaintiff and several acquaintances left a tavern at its 4am closing time and accepted an invitation to a house with an in-ground pool. The man had never swum in a pool in the U.S. but was used to the typical deep end/shallow end pool from experiences in Ireland and elsewhere.

Plaintiff entered the shallow end of the pool that had stairs and railings and felt the slope of the bottom going downward toward the other end of the pool. Looking at the other end of the pool, he noted that there weren't any stairs or railings for entry or exit, and also noted at the other end what he thought to be a "deep end" ladder. From all that, he concluded that the pool had a typical shallow end/deep end configuration. He got out of the shallow end and walked toward and then dove into the other end of the pool, the end he thought to be the deep end. Unfortunately, where he dove, instead of being the deep end was actually 3 feet deep. Rather than being a typical deep end/shallow end pool, it in fact had two shallow ends and a deep middle. His head hit the upward slope of the pool, like diving

into a wall. He sustained complete paralysis in his legs and partial paralysis in his arms and hands.

We filed suit in 2002 based on the fact that the design of the pool was unusual and failed to have "no diving" signs. The manufacturer of the liner of the pool admitted that the pool had minor design defects according to the National Spa and Pool Industry (NSPI), but argued that it was a reasonable design and safe pool. Motions for summary judgment were filed by the defendants to prevent the case from proceeding to trial. The motions were based on previous Illinois cases which state that the dangers of diving into certain bodies of water are open and obvious, so no warnings are required.

The Circuit Court agreed with the defendants and in 2006 dismissed the claim. We filed an appeal to the Illinois Appellate Court. Subsequently, the Appellate Court ruled in favor of our client and overturned the trial court ruling stating that our injured client was entitled to his day in court.

The four-week products liability trial which began in October of this year, was presided over by Circuit Judge Susan Zwick. At trial, the installer of the pool and the manufacturer of the pool liner argued that the pool was not unusual but rather

a somewhat popular "sports pool." Defendants also argued that Plaintiff should recover nothing because diving into an admittedly unknown depth of water assumed the risk of injury, and doing so while allegedly intoxicated was the sole proximate cause of the injury.

The jury deliberated for three days after the closing arguments. On the third day, they returned a verdict of \$8.1 million for the Plaintiff, and reduced it to \$4.05 million based on Plaintiff's 50% Assumption of Risk of the injury. 50% or less Assumption of Risk reduces the verdict as done here. More than 50% Assumption of Risk eliminates any recovery.

Confidential settlement agreements were reached between the Plaintiff and both Defendants after closing argument and prior to the verdict which means the case is settled and there will be no appeals.

The settlement which exceeds the amount of the net verdict will be paid from insurance proceeds. These proceeds will significantly improve his medical care back in Ireland, provide for his future, and realize his dream of having his own land and home in Ireland. Martin Healy, Jr., Jack Cannon and Dennis Lynch of The Healy Law Firm represented the Plaintiff. It's great to be part of helping someone with such needs.

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# 2ND ANNUAL GALA

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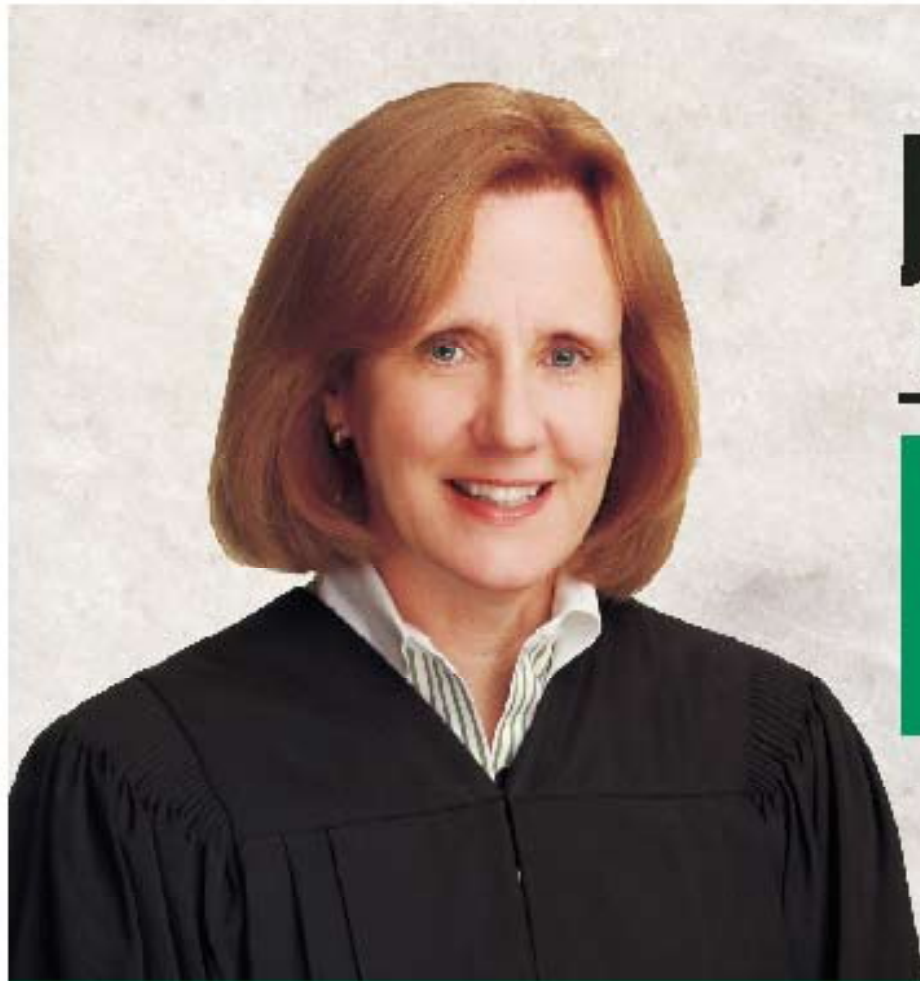
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Mary Katherine**



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**Judicial Experience:**

Judge Rochford has been a member of the judiciary of Cook County since February, 1991. Judge Rochford has served in the Chancery and Law Divisions and First and Second Municipal Districts, handling a variety of calls, both civil and criminal. She has an established record of competence, fairness, and an excellent work ethic.

**Education**

University of Notre Dame

- J.D. Cum Laude
- B.B.A. Magna Cum Laude

- Former Member, Subcommittee of 2nd District Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

- Former Chair, 2nd District Community Safety Initiatives Committee: managed programs focused on reducing drunk driving among young people.

- 2007 Award YWCA Evanston/ North Shore for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Violence, in recognition of the "many lives..(she) saved."

- 2006 Judge's Award  
North Suburban Bar Association

"... [she was praised for] her integrity, outstanding service to the Judiciary, and continued dedication to the community."

*As reported by the Women's Bar Association at the time of award.*

Mary Katherine was born and raised in Chicago by her parents Thomas and Bridget, natives of County Mayo.

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A copy of our report is or will be  
available at the Illinois State  
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**VOTE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010**





# rose of tra lee

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

## Midwest Rose of Tralee

**NOW OPEN TO THE ENTIRE MIDWEST**

**Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Minnesota - Wisconsin**

**Enter to represent the United States Midwest *in Ireland* for the 2010 Rose of Tralee Selection this August. If you are a young lady of Irish descent between the ages of 18 and 27, you may enter to win the experience of a lifetime!**

There will be only 30 girls chosen from all the Midwest to participate in this year's selection to be held Friday, March 12, 2010 during the Southside Irish Festival weekend in Chicago. The selection will take place at the Beverly Art Center Theater and the 30 winners will participate in the entire weekend festival that will include bands, vendors and more! The staged event will be held Friday and the winner will be announced on Saturday.

**DEADLINE: All preliminary applications need to be in the hands of the Committee no later than January 31, 2010.**

### Midwest Rose of Tralee Rose Entry Form

**THIS PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS FREE! (There is no entry fee to enter at the preliminary stage.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State you will represent: (please circle)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Illinois Indiana Iowa Minnesota Wisconsin

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: (MM-DD-YY) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be 18-27 years old - by August 20, 2010)

In a paragraph, tell us why you want to be the Midwest Rose of Tralee: (You can add a sheet of paper to this application if you do not have enough room)

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Irish Organizations and Clubs you are affiliated with: \_\_\_\_\_

Irish surnames in your family: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information visit our website at [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com) and the International website at: [www.roseoftralee.ie](http://www.roseoftralee.ie)

#### Rules:

- \*You must be available the entire weekend, March 12, 13 & 14th.
- \*You must be between the ages of 18 and 27 as stated above.
- \*Able to travel to Ireland for a 2-week all expenses paid trip in August 2010.
- \*Preliminary Application is in the hands of the Committee no later than January 31, 2010.
- \*If chosen as one of the 30 Midwest Finalists from the preliminary application, you agree to secure a \$300 sponsorship fee. (This can include businesses, friends and family).

Please mail completed entry to: Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo | Midwest Rose of Tralee | 11137 S. Artesian | Chicago, Illinois 60655 | 773-239-3927



WISHING YOU  
AND YOURS



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AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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*Democrat for*

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The Leadership Taxpayers Deserve*

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- Demand an open and transparent budget process

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# O'BRIEN

*Democrat for Cook County Board President*

*The Experience Taxpayers Need  
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Terrence J. O'Brien for Cook County, Committee for O'Brien for Cook County are not soliciting or accepting contributions for this or any other purpose. A copy of our record is filed with the State Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk and is for informational purposes from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois and from the Cook County Clerk, 66 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60601



Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!



Daniel J. McLaughlin  
Mayor of Orland Park



# Donegal Imports

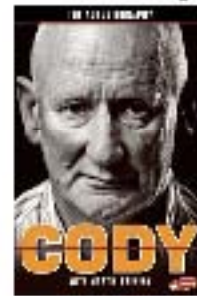
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### Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas Party at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park presents the Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas parties on Thursday, December 10th and Thursday, December 17th.

The Mingle & Jingle is a great way for small offices or groups to join together with others in the area for one big holiday celebration. For the cost of \$36 per person, the party, which runs from 6-10:30pm, includes a four and a half hour open bar, a delicious buffet dinner, and a live DJ.

### Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park hosts weekly Celtic Suppers every Sunday from 4-9pm.

The Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for family celebrations for the holidays. For the cost of \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided.

Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9

### Irish American Wife and Husband on Ballot

Frank Edward Gardner and his wife Kathleen Mary O'Reilley both 2nd generation Irish-Americans will be on the ballot in the February 2, 2010 Democratic Primary in Cook County. Kathleen is a candidate for Commissioner of the Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and Frank is seeking the office of Judge of the Appellate Court.

Frank was twice elected in the past as Commissioner of the MWRD. He has practiced law for more than 31 years and handled nearly every type of case in the public and private sectors. He is well regarded as a Legal Scholar.



Kathleen is very experienced in government administration and as an environmental activist. She will bring exciting new environmental ideas and plans to save tax dollars to the MWRD.

Kathleen and Frank have been married for 25 years and have 3 children. Their entire family has traveled extensively throughout Ireland and maintains close ties with their family in Clare, Donegal and Down.

Frank Edward Gardner  
Candidate for Appellate Court Judge  
gardner823@comcast.net  
Kathleen Mary O'Reilley  
Candidate for Commissioner of the Water Reclamation District  
kathleenmaryoreilley823@comcast.net  
823 Jackson Avenue  
River Forest, Illinois 60305  
708-771-0091

and children under 3 are free. Please call Gaelic Park to reserve tickets.

Entertainment this month includes Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane on December 6th, Raymond Gavigan on December 13th and The Griffins on December 20th.

### Carraig Pub

Carraig Pub, is the place for a great night out with music and mouth-watering food. There are daily specials Monday through Thursday 5-9pm and Friday and Saturday 5-10pm.

Music is big at the Carraig with free enter-

tainment Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers beginning at 9:30pm. This month includes: 12/4 K-Section; 12/5 Pat Guinee; 12/11 Ray Gavigan; 12/12 Bob Hartwell; 12/18 Clarence Goodman; 12/19 Bernie Glim & Country Roads; and 12/26 Steven Peterson.

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31st, come in for a free party including hors d'oeuvres, party favors and a midnight champagne toast. Bernie Glim & Country Roads will perform. No cover charge.

Pub Trivia every Tuesday night at 8pm and weekly through mid-December. Pub Trivia is

a great way to show off or expand your knowledge of useless information and win prizes.

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.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. Call (708) 687-9323 for reservations or information, or visit Gaelic Park's website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) for a full calendar of upcoming events, information on special performances, banquets, Gaelic Park cultural activities, and more.

## An Irish Santa's Gift List

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eamon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael <input type="checkbox"/> Mary <input type="checkbox"/> Katie <input type="checkbox"/> Meaghan <input type="checkbox"/> Sean <input type="checkbox"/> Siobhan <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew <input type="checkbox"/> Brigid <input type="checkbox"/> Mom  <input type="checkbox"/> Dad <input type="checkbox"/> Grandma <input type="checkbox"/> Grandpa <input type="checkbox"/> Baby Colleen <input type="checkbox"/> Aunt Jane <input type="checkbox"/> Uncle Dan <input type="checkbox"/> Boss <input type="checkbox"/> Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Irish Wool Sweater</li> <li>♣ Stained Glass Window &amp; Fireplace Screen</li> <li>♣ Waterford 2009 Christmas Ornament</li> <li>♣ South Side Irish Pub T-Shirt</li> <li>♣ Claddagh Ring &amp; Earrings</li> <li>♣ Bracelet &amp; Waterford Heirloom Ornament</li> <li>♣ Belleek 2009 Collector's Piece, Mini Cachet Pot</li> <li>♣ Guinness Rugby Shirt &amp; Pint Glass</li> <li>♣ New Irish Santa Figurine &amp; 2010 Calendar</li> <li>♣ New Belleek South Side Irish Ornament</li> <li>♣ St. Brigid Cross</li> <li>♣ Waterford "12 Days of Christmas Flute" &amp; Inis Perfume</li> <li>♣ Wool Cap &amp; Wool Tie</li> <li>♣ Grandma Sweat</li> <li>♣ South Side Parish T-shirt</li> <li>♣ Waterford Baby's 1st Christmas Ornament</li> <li>♣ Exclusive South Side Irish Silver Trinity Necklace</li> <li>♣ St. Daniel Medal</li> <li>♣ Glassware</li> <li>♣ Philip Gray Painting</li> <li>♣ South Side Irish Magnet &amp; Christmas Ornament</li> </ul>
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Happy Holidays from the staff of South Side Irish Imports!



## Irish Books and Plays in Review

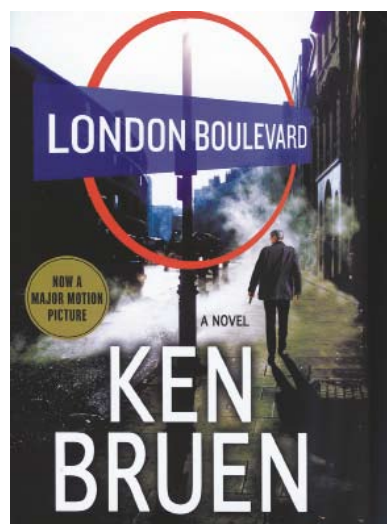
Frank West



### Ken Bruen: Master of Noir Fiction

Bruen has written 19 novels and many short stories. And he has won prestigious awards for them.

He has created memorable and unforgettable characters, like Jack Taylor, the former Irish Guard, and Brant, the London cop.



I have read many of Bruen's novels, and reviewed Sanctuary last month, and Once Were Cops in January. When a new Bruen novel is sent for review, I relish reading it.

London Boulevard has only been available in the UK, but now, thanks to Minotaur Books, it will be published here.

London Boulevard is a "dark twist on the classic" Sunset Boulevard. It will soon become a motion picture, starring Colin Farrell and Keira Knightley.

Quoting from a previous review: "Noir writing is characterized by lots of dialogue, both inner and outer, and a dark view of life." Or as one of Bruen's character's says: "The moving finger having writ, has not moved on."

Bruen's noir style of writing reminds me of Dashell Hammett. Think Humphrey Bogart in The Maltese Falcon: one struggling against the forces of evil.

The main character in London Boulevard is Mitchell. Newly out of prison, it is hard to get a job. Finally, he is hired as a handyman for the huge London mansion of a has-been actress.

After a day of work, he walks down the road to the gate. He unexpectedly looks back and sees a curtain twitch, as if someone had been watching him. Mysterious and evil things soon begin to happen.

We see the humanity of the character, even as evil and violence threaten to overwhelm him.

London Boulevard by Ken Bruen. Minotaur Books, New York, 2009. 245 pages; \$24.99. www.minotaurbooks.com.

### Ireland 1649-52: Cromwell's Protestant Crusade

We are descendants of the Irish people who survived the Cromwellian invasion. This colorful book will help us understand this period.

This is the tenth in the Osprey Publishing series about the history of Britain and Ireland during the profoundly turbulent mid-1600's.

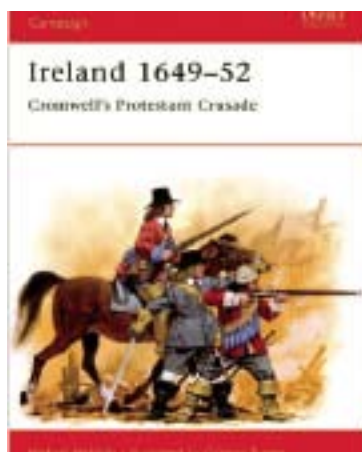
The incredibly bloody Thirty Years War (1618-1648) had just ended. Religion had been a major factor, causing some of the worst brutality. The invasion of Ireland by Cromwell was a carry over from that war. And his soldiers felt that they were on a religious crusade.

This book features illustrations and maps in brilliant color. Another lovely feature of this book are the sidebar biographies of people mentioned in the text.

The main part of the story we know. Beginning in the early 1600's, the English crown seized the lands of Irish people and sent, or "planted," English and Scots who would be loyal to the English king.

Memories of land ownership, of course, were never forgotten. Religious resentments and personal hatreds led to constant warfare in Ireland during the 1600's.

The English parliament had seized power,



executed the king, and sent Cromwell to settle the problems in Ireland once and for all.

The officers and men who composed his army heard the "lurid reports of the massacre of... Protestants, leading them to regard the expedition as a crusade against Catholicism and the Irish."

Notorious and odious names from this period will always be obnoxious to Irish people. Some are: Cromwell, Ireton, Coote, Ponsonby and Hewson. They all shared a bitter hatred for the Irish, who they believed, followed a religion that was idolatrous and superstitious.

The massacre of prisoners at Drogheda was led by Colonel Hewson. Cromwell was leading soldiers in an attack in another part of the city. Thus he could claim he had no part in it. But he didn't punish Hewson. Did Hewson know that he was doing what Cromwell really wanted?

The result of Cromwell's campaign was more land seized from the Irish. In the future were the

Battle of the Boyne in 1690, and the Penal Laws. The Irish who survived, and weren't sold into slavery, naturally nursed a bitter hatred of the English. This resulted in many bloody uprisings, until the final Rising of 1916, and the War for Independence led by Michael Collins, that brought independence to most of Ireland. Gerry Adams, Martin Maginnis, and Sinn Fein carry on this noble struggle to make Ireland whole again.

This is an outstanding book about a brutal and fateful period. However, the story is told impartially, objectively, and well.

Ireland 1649-52: Cromwell's Protestant Crusade by Michael McNally. Osprey Publishing, Oxford, U.K., 2009. 96 pages; \$19.95.

### The Story of the GAA

The GAA, or Gaelic Athletic Association, is celebrating its 125th anniversary. And Vincent McDonnell has written this history of the GAA for young readers.

Vincent McDonnell writes books for children. I have reviewed three of those and next month, I'll review his book about Michael Collins.

McDonnell's books have won many prizes. Born and raised in County Mayo, he now lives in County Cork.

The game of hurling has had a special place in Ireland's culture since ancient times. Knowing this, the English outlawed it in 1366-1367 with the Statutes of Kilkenny. Luckily this didn't succeed, and hurling became a strong symbol of Irish patriotism.



The founding of the GAA in 1884 had the purposes of encouraging traditional Irish sports, checking the power of British sports authorities, and encouraging the pride, self-esteem, and patriotism of Irish people.

The GAA quickly became popular, but it also drew the attention of the political and religious establishments.

About encouraging patriotism, Great Irish Heroes says: "The association of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and Fenianism with the GAA later caused it to be regarded as subversive by the British authorities and suspect by the Catholic Church."

The Story of the GAA by Vincent McDonnell. The Collins Press and DuFour Editions, Chester Springs, PA, 2009. 146 pages; \$13.95.

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## An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



### Bishop's Visit

Bishop of Derry, Seamus Hegarty provided a much-needed boost to the plight of the undocumented Irish during a "whirlwind" trip to the United States last month. Bishop Hegarty, the current Chair of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE), celebrated masses in Boston and Philadelphia before traveling to Washington DC for meetings with the US Bishop's Conference and politicians to advocate for immigration reform.

At the meetings in south Boston and upper Darby Philadelphia the Bishop heard many stories from folks who are as he said: "doubly grieving the loss of close family members due to their inability to travel back to Ireland for the funerals."

While in our Nation's Capitol, Bishop Hegarty met with Michael Collins, the Irish Ambassador to the U.S. He was informed about the untiring efforts of the Irish Government's representation on behalf of the undocumented, and of their efforts to encourage the US elected leaders to continue the push for comprehensive immigration reform.

I was part of the delegation accompanying Bishop Hegarty on Capitol Hill. There we had a very constructive meeting with Congressmen Neal, Walsh, and Crowley of the Friends of Ireland group. Chicago's own Luis Gutierrez, who had visited Ireland last June with the friends of Ireland group, also attended that meeting. Congressman Gutierrez told our delegation of his plans to introduce a new bill this month. He also expressed a strong view that immigration reform would be introduced in the Senate as early as February 2010. It would have to wait for the completion of health care reform and the "Cap & Trade" issues to be dealt with first.

The Bishop stressed the importance of keeping the message of C.I.R. alive, and of remembering the 50,000 or so undocumented Irish people in the United States. Bishop Hegarty, because he is the head of Derry Diocese, has always had a keen interest in the politics of Northern Ireland, and so he also provided the Friends of Ireland group with his keen observations on the current state of affairs in the North. In particular, he spoke about

the continuing efforts being made to reach a workable solution to the thorny question of the devolution of policing powers in the province.

Before leaving D.C. the Bishop had a meeting with the board of The Irish Apostolate USA. This is the umbrella group which oversees the work of the various Irish immigration pastoral centers in the US. He encouraged all of us to keep up our good work on behalf of all Irish immigrants, but in particular the cause of the undocumented. He asked us to express his best wishes and thanks to all of our staff and volunteers whom he said are: "doing such a stellar job in the services you provide."

Just 5 More Minutes

While at the park one day, a woman sat down next to a man on a bench near a playground.

"That's my son over there," she said, pointing to a little boy in a red sweater who was gliding down the slide.

"He's a fine looking boy" the man said. "That's my daughter on the bike in the white dress."

Then, looking at his watch, he called to his daughter. "What do you say we go, Melissa?"

Melissa pleaded, "Just five more minutes, Dad. Please? Just five more minutes."

The man nodded and Melissa continued to ride her bike to her heart's content. Minutes passed and the father stood and called again to his daughter. "Time to go now?"

Again Melissa pleaded, "Five more minutes, Dad. Just five more minutes."

The man smiled and said, "OK."

"My, you certainly are a patient father," the woman responded.

The man smiled and then said, "Her older brother Tommy was killed by a drunk driver last year while he was riding his bike near here. I never spent much time with Tommy, and now I'd give anything for just five more minutes with him. I've vowed not to make the same mistake with Melissa."

"She thinks she has five more minutes to ride her bike. The truth is, I get five more minutes to watch her play."

Life is all about making priorities, what are your priorities?

Give someone you love 5 more minutes of your time today!

### Christmas

Once again Christmas is upon us, and I take this opportunity to wish one and all the peace and joy of this beautiful feast. The quote below from Dickens gives us something to think about and much to be grateful for.

I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. —Charles Dickens

As always, if you have any questions, comments etc., please feel free to contact me at 312-534-8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.

### Galway Tribes Alehouse in Mokena

The unstoppable Niall Freyne is back with The Galway Tribes Alehouse, aka as "Tribes" located on the corner of Wolf Road and route 30 at 11220 W. Lincoln Highway in Mokena Illinois. 60448

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### The Wren Boys Come to Town and an Elder's Gift to You for Christmas

By Shay Clarke

Every year at this time, we write and talk a lot about the Wren Boy's and how we celebrated Dec 26th, St. Stephens Day back in rural Ireland years ago. Maurice Lennon tells me that the Abbey Pub is celebrating The Day of the Wren on Dec 26th and it will surely be a great day and the beginning of a new Holiday Tradition here in Chicago. There will be loads of musicians and from what I'm hearing a great day for all the family.

The Elder's have an early Christmas prezzy for you too. They have recorded a song called Christmas Day and it is available from their website as a free download. It's a beautiful seasonal song from Ian Byrne and the lad's who will be back in Chicagoland in March. The Elder's are cruising in January on the Irish Festival Cruise and there may be some space left if you fancy getting away from the winter weather..... Thank's Lads and Merry Christmas to you all.

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Mick

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High Priests of the Press

On April 15, Timothy M. Dolan became New York's 10th archbishop, and right off the bat he appears to possess the resolute qualities of New York's first archbishop, Tyrone-born John Hughes. In October he took a swing at the citadel of secular evangelism, The New York Times.

Dolan, "first among equals" to his flock of over 2.5 million Catholics in the Archdiocese of New York, submitted an op-ed piece to that paper. And The Times refused to print it. The archbishop then published it online in his blog. As usual, the press by its almost total silence nationwide supported the Sulzbergers in their chutzpah. Tim Dolan could use some support.

Here is what The Times decreed "Not fit to print,"

\*\*\*

By Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

The following article was submitted in a slightly shorter form to the New York Times as an op-ed article. The Times declined to publish it. I thought you might be interested in reading it.

**FOUL BALL!**  
October is the month we relish the highpoint of our national pastime, especially when one of our own New York teams is in the World Series!

Sadly, America has another national pastime, this one not pleasant at all: anti-catholicism.

It is not hyperbole to call prejudice against the Catholic Church a national pastime. Scholars such as Arthur Schlesinger Sr. referred to it as "the deepest bias in the history of the American people," while John Higham described it as "the most luxuriant, tenacious tradition of paranoiac agitation in American history." "The anti-semitism of the left," is how Paul Viereck reads it, and Professor Philip Jenkins sub-titles his book on the topic "the last acceptable prejudice."

If you want recent evidence of this unfairness against the Catholic Church, look no further than a few of these following examples of occur-

rences over the last couple weeks:  
• On October 14, in the pages of the New York Times, reporter Paul Vitello exposed the sad extent of child sexual abuse in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish community. According to the article, there were forty cases of such abuse in this tiny community last year alone. Yet The Times did not demand what it has called for incessantly when addressing the same kind of abuse by a tiny minority of priests: release of names of abusers, rollback of statute of limitations,



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

York Times only seem to have priests in their crosshairs.

• On October 16, Laurie Goodstein of The Times offered a front page, above-the-fold story on the sad episode of a Franciscan priest who had fathered a child. Even taking into account that the relationship with the mother was consensual and between two adults, and that the Franciscans have attempted to deal justly with the errant priest's responsibilities to his son, this action is still sinful, scandalous, and indefensible. However, one still has to wonder why a quarter-century old story of a sin by a priest is now suddenly more pressing and newsworthy than the war in Afghanistan, health care, and starvation-genocide in Sudan. No other cleric from religions other than Catholic ever seems to merit such attention.

• Five days later, October 21, The Times gave its major headline to the decision by the Vatican to welcome Anglicans who had requested union with Rome. Fair enough. Unfair, though, was the article's observation that the Holy See lured and bid for the Anglicans. Of course, the reality is simply that for years thousands of Anglicans have been asking Rome to be accepted into the Catholic Church with a special sensitivity for their own tradi-

tion. As Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's chief ecumenist, observed, "We are not fishing in the Anglican pond." Not enough for The Times; for them, this was another case of the conniving Vatican luring and bidding unsuspecting, good people, greedily capitalizing on the current internal tensions in Anglicanism.

• Finally, the most combustible example of all came Sunday with an intemperate and scurrilous piece by Maureen Dowd on the opinion pages of The Times. In a diatribe that rightly never would have passed muster with the editors had it so criticized an Islamic, Jewish, or African-American religious issue, she digs deep into the nativist handbook to use every anti-Catholic caricature possible, from the Inquisition to the Holocaust, condoms, obsession with sex, pedophile priests, and oppression of women, all the while slashing Pope Benedict XVI for his shoes, his forced conscription — along with every other German teenage boy — into the German army, his outreach to former Catholics, and his recent welcome to Anglicans.

True enough, the matter that

triggered her spasm — the current visitation of women religious by Vatican representatives — is well-worth discussing, and hardly exempt from legitimate questioning. But her prejudice, while maybe appropriate for the Know-Nothing newspaper of the 1850's, the Menace, has no place in a major publication today.

I do not mean to suggest that anti-catholicism is confined to the pages New York Times. Unfortunately, abundant examples can be found in many different venues. I will not even begin to try and list the many cases of anti-catholicism in the so-called entertainment media, as they are so prevalent they sometimes seem almost routine and obligatory. Elsewhere, last week, Representative Patrick Kennedy made some incredibly inaccurate and uncalled-for remarks concerning the Catholic bishops, as mentioned in this blog on Monday. Also, the New York State Legislature has levied a special payroll tax to help the Metropolitan Transportation Authority fund its deficit. This legislation calls for the public schools to be reimbursed the cost of the tax; Catholic schools, and other private schools, will not receive the reimbursement, costing each of the schools thousands — in some cases tens of thousands — of dollars, money that the parents and schools can hardly afford. (Nor can the archdiocese, which already underwrites the schools by \$30 million annually.) Is it not an issue of basic fairness for ALL school-children and their parents to be treated equally?

The Catholic Church is not above criticism. We Catholics do a fair amount of it ourselves. We welcome and expect it. All we ask is that such critique be fair, rational, and accurate, what we would expect for anybody. The suspicion and bias against the Church is a national pastime that should be "rained out" for good.

I guess my own background in American history should caution me not to hold my breath.

Then again, yesterday was the Feast of Saint Jude, the patron saint of impossible causes.

\*\*\*

Read more on Sulzberg vs. Dolan in Mick online: <http://irishamericannews.com/index.php/opinion/mick/>  
E-mail: [IrishTV@ameritech.net](mailto:IrishTV@ameritech.net)

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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](http://www.chicagoirishpubmusicmeetup.com), or contact Jan Alderman, travel planner, at 847-274-6700 or [jantvplus@aol.com](mailto:jantvplus@aol.com).

Find more information about Paddy, Jesse, and the Irish Cottage at the following websites: [www.paddyhoman.com](http://www.paddyhoman.com); [www.jesselangen.com](http://www.jesselangen.com); and [www.theirishcottageboutiquehotel.com](http://www.theirishcottageboutiquehotel.com).

external investigations, release of all records, and total transparency. Instead, an attorney is quoted urging law enforcement officials to recognize "religious sensitivities," and no criticism was offered of the DA's office for allowing Orthodox rabbis to settle these cases "internally." Given the Catholic Church's own recent horrible experience, I am hardly in any position to criticize our Orthodox Jewish neighbors, and have no wish to do so... but I can criticize this kind of "selective outrage."

Of course, this selective outrage probably should not surprise us at all, as we have seen many other examples of the phenomenon in recent years when it comes to the issue of sexual abuse. To cite but two: In 2004, Professor Carol Shakeshaft documented the wide-spread problem of sexual abuse of minors in our nation's public schools. In 2007, the Associated Press issued a series of investigative reports that also showed the numerous examples of sexual abuse by educators against public school students. Both the Shakeshaft study and the AP reports were essentially ignored, as papers such as the New



## Ireland's Western Region—Life Changing

In her final article on Ireland's Western Region Joanne Grehan discovers why moving from the US to the West of Ireland was a great decision for Justin Knecht and Tommy Morahan, and she poses the question; will you be spending next Christmas in your new home in the West of Ireland?

For Justin Knecht, moving from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Sligo has been "fantastic." Indeed, he sums it up by saying, "I look out the front window every morning and

consider how lucky I am. I am American and my wife is from the West of Ireland so the idea of living in an 'unspoilt' landscape was a huge draw for us when we first talked about moving."

Going from Senior Manager of Design Services at Crayola to Program Manager at Sligo Institute's of Technology Centre for Design Innovation with just three employees has been a big change but "I love it."

As an applied research center, our aim is to stimulate applied research within the third level Institutes of Technology and to help organisations to innovate more effectively. Our services have been in higher demand over the past year as more and more companies and people with ideas approach us to help them



Justin Knecht

develop new products. This is the knowledge economy at work."

Justin believes that the West offers particular advantages to the Creative Sector as there is a large concentration of creative people living there including a strong concentration of people working in film, digital media, theatre and graphic design.

As well as the attractions for enterprise, Justin loves the variety of things to do and the quality of life. "Here in Sligo, the landscape is astounding and there is great access to natural amenities from some of the best surfing in Europe to great fishing lakes. There are lots of leisure and social amenities in my local area, and the more you look, the more you find. My fear when locating to Ireland was that I would have to move to Dublin for work. And the whole motivation for coming to Ireland was a change of lifestyle. Sligo has certainly lived up to that."

Justin has seen good infrastructural improvements in both rail and road services and has recently begun to take the train to Dublin to avail of the work time rather than sitting in the car if he needs to travel there for meetings. His nearest railway station is five minutes from work and 20 minutes from home so he

finds it very convenient.

"I would definitely recommend the move to others and would say that the best thing about it for me has been the quality of life. The only advice I would give others thinking of the move would be to check the availability of broadband before they purchase their home. My broadband experiences have been mixed; at work it's fine, but in order to get the broadband quality I need at my home office I have to pay over \$100 per month. Although work is well underway under Ireland's National Broadband Scheme to bring high quality broadband to all rural areas, it's not everywhere yet. Apart from broadband at home, everything else has been great, including shorter commuting times, cheaper living costs, more family time and less stress."

Tommy Morahan moved back from San Francisco to Louisburgh in his native County Mayo just three months ago in August 2009. "I was a lecturer in San Francisco State University in the Broadcast Electronic Communication Arts Department and my main reason for returning home to Mayo was because my family still live there."

Tommy's experience with broadband access has been more positive than Justin's. "For me, broadband internet access has been excellent. It took a little while to get the con-



Tommy Morahan

nection hooked-up but, once it was installed, it has been excellent and it's wireless too which is great.

"Although it's only three months since we moved, so far I see the main improvements in quality of life as being more family time and smaller class sizes in schools. We are still settling in, but, so far so good. There are wonderful leisure and social amenities in my local area including gyms and leisure centres in Westport,

as well as a great variety of outdoor activities including cycling, walking and mountain climbing.

"I would recommend the move to others and I'd say the best thing about my move has been the impact on our two year old son. He is thriving in his new found 'space.' I can't explain it but he loves going for walks on the beach and visiting his Nana, not to mention cousins and friends. There is a sense of freedom for him that we never expected to see, even though we had heard others talk about it. The key piece of advice I'd give to others planning to move is to live in a rural setting if you have young kids. I'd also start the search for jobs before you relocate. All in all, I have to say, it's been a fantastic few months, and we're really looking forward to spending our first Christmas back home in Mayo," said Tommy.

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## An Irish Christmas With Andy Cooney and George Casey

Andy Cooney, with his outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence, brings his show "A Classic Irish Christmas" to Chicago Gaelic Park on Sunday, December 13, 2009 with doors opening at 7pm.

Andy Cooney has always been a favorite among American and Irish audiences everywhere and is surely one of the greatest singing sensations on the stage today. Being christened Irish America's Favorite Son by The New York Times is a well-deserved honor.

Joining Andy in this show is Ireland's new king of Blarney, George Casey who has toured with performers such as Rosemary Clooney and Bobby Vinton. Odette Woods is an Irish soprano singer, has captivated listeners all over the world



Andy Cooney

and has sung to thousands in opera houses and international arenas, and intimate gatherings in churches, concert halls and corporate venues.

Also joining Andy are The Dublin City Dancers, direct from Ireland who will surely thrill the audience. These talented young dancers from Ireland's capital city have toured extensively throughout the United States with Ireland's Tony Kenny, and recently appeared on PBS.

Andy also surrounds himself with the finest musicians lead by Musical Director Brian Moran, a most accomplished musician from

New York along with Matthew Fisher on flute and whistles, percussionist Jimmy Kelly and guitarist Colm Graham.

"A Classic Irish Christmas" is sure to entertain everyone with all sorts of talent including Andy's outstanding voice and stage presence, thrilling dancing, laughter and Christmas joy. Tickets to the show are \$25 per person and can be reserved by calling (708) 687-9323.

### Family New Year's Eve Party

An Irish Family New Year's Eve Party will be held beginning at 4pm on Thursday, December 31, 2009 in the Tara Room.

Included in the fun filled package is a delicious buffet dinner, musical entertainment by John Dillon, sparkling juice and champagne toasts for the Irish New Year at 6pm which is midnight in Ireland. There will also be party favors and surprises until 8pm.

Tickets to this event are \$28.50 for adults, \$11.00 for kids 4-12 and under 3 are free. Please call Gaelic Park to reserve tickets.

### Gala New Year's Eve Party

Gaelic Park's Gala New Year's Eve Party begins at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 31, 2009 in the Emerald Room.

Tickets for this event are \$65.00 per person and require reservations. This ticket price includes a premium 4 hour open bar, hors d'oeuvres, an elegant five course dinner, a toast of champagne at the midnight hour and plenty of party favors.

Sean O'Donnell will provide dinner music followed by Tone Productions providing all your favorite hits.

ment, increase markets for farmers, save tax dollars, and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. I served as Vice-Chairman of the Veterans Committee and passed legislation creating the Veterans lottery ticket, with all proceeds going to the Illinois Veterans programs. Another piece of legislation I passed was the Military Family Relief Act which helps family when the breadwinner is off in Afghanistan or Iraq. This has now been copied by 35 other states. I have also served as Chairman of Financial Institutions and Chairman of Higher Education. In the late 1990's, I promoted an amendment to achieve universal health care for the people of Illinois. We named this the Bernardin Amendment, after the late Cardinal Bernardin, an advocate of universal health care. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful.

I am now running for Lt. Governor of Illinois and promoting the Challenge Scholarship program which would give young people a foot in the door of college (30 semester hours), if they meet certain academic and character challenges, such as avoiding drug and alcohol abuse, violent behavior, stealing, and gang membership. This would not be supported by tax dollars, but rather by a variety of funding proposals.

There are many things that need to be done for the people of this state, and I would like the opportunity to work hard as I have always done, and to serve honorably in the office of Lt. Governor.

## Mike Boland

### Candidate for Lt. Governor

I was born and raised in an old fashioned Irish Catholic family. Both parents were right off the farm and did not have much formal education, but they were smart, good moral people that loved to read. I was the second youngest in a family of seven children. We were what would be called a low-income family today, but I attended Catholic grades school and graduated from a Catholic high school. I worked my way through college, eventually earning a Masters Degree.

I taught 30 years in the public schools and nights and Saturday mornings at a local community college and a Catholic Women's college called Marycrest. My wife, Mary, and I have been married for 42 years and we have two daughters and two grandchildren.

After serving on my community's Library Board, I was elected to the School Board. Following that service, I helped create CUB (Citizens Utility Board) to fight high utility rates and was elected to that Board, serving ten years—two terms as Vice-President.

In 1994, I was elected to the House of Representatives and I am serving my 8th term. While a lawmaker, I served as Vice-Chairman of the Renewable Energy Committee, passing four major pieces of environmental and energy saving legislation. These laws help the environ-



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Cate Baker



The Corrs to Colm MacConiomare and Ronan Hardiman, it has some great talent, and some that was born from this movie. Some of the actual actors and actresses from the band continued on to form a

Holidays are coming! Some of you may be thinking "What do I get for my mother-in-law?" "What do I get my teenage kid?" The holiday season can be a hectic one, and there are websites out there to help those in need of some quick gifts, but here is where I'll help you with really great movies to get for your friends and family.

Last time, I wrote about Waking Ned Devine, The Wind That Shakes the Barley and a few others. Both movies are great presents for family and friends. Waking Ned Devine was the story of two old men trying to accept the lottery money in place of their friend, who passed away after he found out he had won. One of the best movies I think for historians is The Wind That Shakes the Barley. It's all about Ireland in the early 20's and the fight for their independence.

If you're looking for a great romance flick, The Matchmaker is the perfect choice. It's about a woman who works for a U.S. senator on his re-election campaign. He needs the Irish vote, so he sends Marcy (Janeane Garofalo) to Ireland to find his relatives and ancestors. While in the town of Ballinagra, she is immersed into the matchmaking festival and the local matchmaker is trying to pair her off with a handsome bachelor (David O'Hara).

Continuing the romance film speech, a great film is Sliding Doors. Helen (Gwyneth Paltrow) has, well had, a job at a big company in London in the PR department. She got fired for taking some Smirnoff from the boss. As she heads to train, you see her life change in a split second. In one side of her life, she makes the train and heads back to her apartment to find her boyfriend (John Lynch) having an affair with another woman (Jeanne Tripplehorn). The other side of her life, she misses the train, gets mugged, and has to work two jobs to support her boyfriend, who's "writing" a book. John Hannah plays the handsome man she falls in love with when she makes the train.

Just to change tracks a bit, one of my favorite movies of all time is The Commitments. Inside this film, lots of famous mainstream musicians as well as Irish traditional musicians have cameo roles auditioning for the band. From

band called The Commitments!

The best place to get these movies for your loved ones is the coolest store I know of. Rampant Lion Celtic Traders in Villa Park Illinois has not only a good selection of movies, but also the most amazing, extensive, and rather brilliant collections of Celtic CD's for purchase ever. You can visit them on the web at [www.rampantlion.com](http://www.rampantlion.com). Not only can you find great music, you can also find my creations there. My Utility Sacs are a great inexpensive gift for any age person. They come in a variety of colors and styles, a great gift for a high school or college student. A perfect gift for the coupon snipper or the person always looking for their charging cord for their music player. I have several and I use them for my pens and pencils at school and another for all of my charging cords for my phone and my iPod. Rampant Lion is the place to shop this holiday season for the perfect gifts. Throughout the Christmas season, there will be different artists and other "traveling stores" staying for a few days to add to our crazy cool store.

This holiday season will be tough one for everyone. Look for the great deals, and the sales; shop at the less expensive stores to get a better deal on a present. But most of all, listen to the music of the season, the songs you heard when you were a child, have your kids listen to them. My bowling team at school is already talking about have practice where we BLAST Christmas songs, and I'm really excited. Get out all of the CD's and even some records to listen to while wrapping presents, preparing a family meal, anything to make you feel in the season. Music can set a scene, a day, even a week. This season has thousands of songs, so find one and understand why this season is not about the really expensive gifts or the HUGE dinners, but about family and being with the ones you love and the ones who love you. I cherish everyday with my family even though we fight a lot, I don't know what I would do without them by my side. So, as I always do, even if an iPod accidentally gets really wet, I always have my tunes on shuffle so I can jam out to anytime of year, month, week, day or hour. Keep it on shuffle, and have a safe and Happy Holiday and a wonderful New Year!



James B. Sloan, Jimmy Sloan and Patrick Haines at the American Ireland Dinner.



# Own A Piece of Irish History

**THE PROCLAMATION OF IRISH FREEDOM  
Easter 1916**

**24"x36" print**

Sixteen men pictured here meeting in Dublin's Liberty Hall were key proponents of and participants in the Irish rebellion of 1916, commonly termed the Easter Rising.

As a military action, the Easter Rising lacked initial popular support and ended disastrously within a week's time.

This defeat proved to be a strategic political success igniting Irish patriotism. The majority of the members of this Military Council and hundreds of men and women who fought with them were not professional soldiers. Although all men in the picture were executed for their insurgency, their sacrifices rallied Ireland's people and brought lasting life to the nation's quest for freedom.

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*including spaces*





# The Irish Rover

By James McClure



## Winter Hot Spot in Chicago

Ah, the majestic outspread fronds of palm trees, tropical pastures of far flung ferns, and sandy soil-filled forests of cactus amidst the warming heat and humidity.

Isn't that a bit much to hope for in Winter, you might ask? And isn't more than one cactus a cacti? You might be surprised to learn that the answers to those warm weather questions and more lie just a few short minutes from downtown Chicago on the CTA, or just off the Eisenhower expressway in your car, even if its heater and defroster are going full blast.

That's because the Garfield Park Conservatory is a hidden yet sprawling hundred year old jewel on the west side of Chicago. This terrarium in maxi-ature contains far-reaching glass greenhouses

filled with amazing specimens of flora and fauna, like tropical rubber trees just a few blocks from the rubber soles screeching on the basketball court that Michael Jordan built.

Run by the Chicago Park District and absolutely free (parking too), this unique daytime getaway has its own stop on the Green Line el, not to mention seven dozen species of palm trees. Feel the need to stretch your legs when the county forest preserves are a bit too frigid? Try strolling through the 4.5 acres of one of the largest and most remarkable conservatories in the nation.

At one time Chicago had three different large Westside parks with conservatories of their own, that sadly fell into disrepair around the

turn of the century. They were all consolidated into the giant expanse at Garfield, and since 1908, a stunning collection of growing things, including beautiful and colorful orchids and vibrant groundcover plants from across the globe.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and described as "landscape art under glass," the glass houses where people walk stones were inspired by the strength and shape of haystacks, strewn throughout the Midwestern landscapes of late Fall in the early 20th century. One year after its Centennial year, visitors can enjoy water along with all the foliage. Several fish-filled ponds and brooks bridge the houses, along with streaming waterfalls in miniature, and picturesque lily pads beneath real life squirrels that can't quite believe their good wintertime fortune. What a way to hibernate!

If you are yearning for more holiday than hibiscus, 'tis the season to get more than your share of visual Christmas cheer. The Holiday Flower Show at Garfield Park Conservatory just opened Saturday, November 28th and runs through Sunday, January 10th, in 2010. It's a safe bet you will never see so many colors or varieties of poinsettias, and growing live, not wrapped in green or red tinfoil! It's a great place for holiday visitors and Yuletide family photos. The Conservatory is open from 9am-5pm daily, and the vibrant holiday display of reds, whites, pinks and greens has a special night time hue on Wednesdays until 8pm.

Still not quite warmed up as the outside grows colder? Fear not. The Spring Flower Show comes but a few weeks away in February. Even if love isn't yet in blossom for you, the ever-romantic Garfield Park Conservatory surely will be!  
IrishRoverJim@aol.com.



Garfield Park Conservatory



## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



iBAM was so fun! There were a lot of authors there. I met Brenna Briggs! She writes the Liffy Rivers books, which I love. She is very nice. My mom, sister, and I went to her discussion about the book. We talked to her for an hour. She wouldn't give away any of the secrets of her next book, but I really enjoyed talking to her. We are going to keep in touch. I already sent her an email. She wrote back saying that she liked my column. She also gave me

some pointers on how to write. I also met Arthur Cola. He wrote a book called Papa and the Leprechaun King. I am reading it. It is very good. It is about a hidden pot of gold and papa and the king are on a mission all around Ireland to find it. Oireachtas is almost here! I am so excited!!! (But I bet you couldn't already tell by all the exclamation points I am using.) I have been practicing every single day. I bought special makeup for it. It looks so pretty. I have a new wig. I tried on my team dress. They look so beautiful. Next time I write to you, I'll have my Oireachtas results. Wish me luck! I want to wish everyone going to Oireachtas, especially MHOBsters (Mullane Healy O'Brien) good luck and I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving!

Monthly Mass & Breakfast - Gaelic Park

The Monthly Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, December 13th 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 for \$8.

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*Nollaig shona  
agus  
Athbhliain faoi mhaise*

**(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)  
to**

**All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS**



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