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The Power of Prayer and People Doing What They Can to Benefit Natasha McShane

Stacey Jurich Being Helped With Fundraisers as Well

On April 23, while walking home from a night out at a Chicago restaurant, 23 year old County Armagh student Natasha McShane and her companion Stacy Jurich, were brutally attacked by a baseball bat-wielding thug. Both victims were left fighting for their lives. Stacy, who was seriously injured, is now out of hospital and in rehabilitation. Natasha, over a month after that terrible night, is only just out of an induced coma and faces a long hard road to recovery. She has been moved to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She is conscious but has limited brain activity and remains in a serious condition.

The two friends had been celebrating just before they were attacked. Natasha had received news that she could extend her stay in the US through an internship program while Stacy had just received a glowing job review from a Morgan Stanley Smith Barney brokerage office.

Police are holding Heriberto Viramontes (30) and Marcy Cruz (25) on charges of attempted murder. Prosecutors say that Cruz drove Viramontes to the Bucktown area of Chicago specifically to look for robbery victims and that she waited in the vehicle while he beat the victims around their heads and backs.

Natasha studied Environmental Planning in Manchester, England, and spent a summer in the Dominican Republic as volunteer building schools for children there. She then returned to Belfast and Queens University to complete her primary degree. With that, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh offered her a visa

and internship at the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. Then in 2008 she won a cross-Border scholarship in the Universities Ireland-CBI-IBEC North/South Masters program.



Her aunt Rose said: "Natasha heard about this scholarship being offered at University College, Dublin for architecture and urban planning. She won it because of her determination, I suppose. It was for the masters. Then there was a big presentation of the scholarship. And that was given to her by the current Taoiseach Brian Cowen. And that was given in Trinity. That was last year, a two-year scholarship. She came to Chicago then as a masters exchange student at the University of Illinois."

Having been selected for the student exchange program Natasha completed her Masters in Urban Planning and Public Affairs at U of I. She had planned to travel around America and return to Ireland. Then she heard that she had won another internship, meaning she could stay in a city she loved: Chicago. It was this news that Natasha was celebrating on the

night she was attacked.

The brutal and senseless attack on these two innocents and its awful consequences have truly galvanized the Irish American community in Chicago and beyond. The Chicago Irish are responding magnificently in an overwhelming swell of support.

There have been prayers for Natasha and her family at a special Mass at Old St Pat's and at Chicago's Gaelic Park and funds for Natasha's future care needs are being raised throughout events in Chicago and in New York. Irish communities in Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin are also raising funds.

Singer, songwriter and musician Joe McShane who is also from Armagh has, at the behest of Natasha's family, put a committee together in order to coordinate these events. They are making June 13 'Natasha Day,' with major fundraising events running concurrently at Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park.

Natasha's condition, at the time of this writing, has stabilized but is still very serious. She cannot talk or even recognize her own parents. Her aunt Rose said: "She's such a beautiful young woman. She's beautiful inside and out. And we're all just devastated that this has happened to her. Of course we know she has always been such a strong, determined girl—always has been, and always will be, and that she will do whatever is needed to come out of this, with all the help that she's getting here and the support that the family is getting—we know that she'll get through it."

Natasha faces a long battle for her recovery. If you would like to help her family with the costs you can visit www.helpnatasha.net on the web. Prayers are also welcomed.



MAUREEN O'BRIEN



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HISTORIC Maureen O'Brien has been a resident of the Gold Coast for over 40 years, growing up as a child here and raising her own children on Astor Street. She served as President of the Gold Coast Neighbors Association for three years, has been a Board member of GCN for over fourteen years, and is currently active on the Zoning Committee of GCN. She also chaired 'Evening on Astor,' the highly successful block party for three years.

DISPERSED Maureen loves the Gold Coast neighborhood and due to her involvement in both the real estate and restaurant industries around the area for many years, her clients benefit from her wealth of knowledge of the Near North Side. Maureen is a licensed broker in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan and is eager to help you buy and sell properties.



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Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



Natasha McShane Benefit June 13th
Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park

The brutal and cowardly beating of two young female students in the Bucktown area of Chicago shocked everybody. It was a savage attack and left Natasha McShane and Stacy Jurich in hospital fighting for their lives. The shock was compounded when we heard that Natasha was from home, she was a visitor to our city and an exchange student from Silverbridge, Co. Armagh.

A month later Stacy has been released from hospital and is going through rehabilitation and Natasha has been moved to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Natasha, awake now after a drug induced coma, has “limited” brain activity. Natasha and her family need our prayers and support.

This senseless act of brutality has galvanized the Irish community into action on an unprecedented scale and the Chicago Irish are responding magnificently in an overwhelming swell of support – they always do in times of crisis.

There have been prayers for Natasha and her family at a special Mass at Old St. Pat’s and at Chicago’s Gaelic Park and funds for Natasha’s future care needs have been raised throughout

events in Chicagoland and even in New York. Irish communities in Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin are also raising funds.

Singer, songwriter and musician Joe McShane who is also from Silverbridge, Co. Armagh has, at the behest of the family, put a committee together in order to coordinate these events and along with Paddy Homan, Maureen O’Looney and some great people from the Irish American Heritage Center and from Gaelic Park, they are making June 13th Natasha Day, with major fundraising events running concurrently at the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park.

Last night, May 18th, I attended a meeting at the Heritage Center and there were at least 100 people there, all volunteering their time and talent. Natasha’s father, Liam McShane was there as well as Councilor Kevin Kiely, Mayor of Limerick City in Ireland. Fr. Karl Langsdorf of the St. Patrick’s Fathers and Fr. Jim O’Brien were also there, and they will concelebrate Mass on Natasha Day at The Irish American Heritage Center at 1pm. The Irish Media represented by Irish American News Cliff Carlson, has persuaded other Irish newspaper editors from around the

United States to put Natasha on their covers to raise awareness—and all of the Chicagoland Irish Radio shows will also help to promote June 13th.

Irish musicians have the biggest hearts in the world and they have always risen to the occasion, this time is no exception with dozens of bands and musicians scheduled to play. There will be music for everybody from Bohola, Brogue, Silverbridge Band, Baal Tinne, Michael Londra, Dennis Cahill, Joe Cullen, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, Jim Conway, Paddy Homan, Johnny Gleeson, The Chancey Brothers, Joe Monahan, Mary McDonagh, The Heritage Singers, The Academy of Irish Music, The Four Courts, Phil Cooper, Margaret Nelson, John Dillon, Gerry Haughey and more volunteering to play every day. Schedules will be posted on the website which is www.helpnatasha.net

There will be a silent auction, raffles and plenty of opportunities for you all to contribute to this worthy cause. Admission is free and we hope that you come along early. Bring your

families, friends and neighbors, bring your checkbooks and loads of cash, Irish Musicians for Natasha will be a day to remember on both sides of our fair city. Be there and give generously, I know you will.

Oshkosh Irish Festival

Oshkosh Irish Festival was a great affair last year, probably the best debut festival ever and this year they have raised the bar again. The Leach Amphitheater and surrounding parkland on the lake is a beautiful venue and this year’s line up is spectacular. Gaelic Storm, The Elders, Tantrum, Rising Gael, Seamus Kennedy, Athas, Leahy’s Luck, The Rovers, Mairtin de Cogain, Derek Byrne, Blarney, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Trinity Dancers, The Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, all of these for a festival in it’s second year, now that’s impressive. This great family festival is certainly worth the trip and the organizers are amongst the most welcoming people I have ever met. There is a big “Cead Mile Failte” for you just up the road in Oshkosh.

2010 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil

For three days in June (25th - 27th), the Midwest’s finest Irish musicians will fill downtown Forest Park, IL with traditional music and fun. The occasion is the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil – the annual competition that decides who will represent the Midwest at the world championship in County Cavan, Ireland, in August, 2010. Spectators are welcomed and can try Irish social dancing (ceili) to live Irish music to cap Friday evening and the close of the music competition on Sunday, June 27.

The Midwest is home to a number of previous All-Ireland champions. Event co-chair Kell Chole says “No matter who wins the world title, the audiences for this exciting, beautiful music always win.” Each year, different states can host the Midwest competition; so June 25-27, 2010 is a convenient opportunity for Chicago-area Irish music lovers to enjoy this unique event. For more information, call the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club at 630-212-7679 <http://midwestfleadh.com>.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



amounts of money are available for Afghanistan! The current president justifies war in Af-

Britain, Ireland, Afghanistan

Hearts and Mines by William Sheehan is the third in the powerful trilogy containing the reports of the British soldiers and officers who fought in the War of Independence, focusing on the period between 1920 to 1922. The other books in this amazingly insightful series were British Voices and Fighting for Dublin.

I had not read more than a few pages when I was astonished at the similarity of the reports sent to London by the British generals and to those sent to Washington by American generals in Iraq and Afghanistan. The British generals were convinced that they were close to victory. Just as we are told that the "surge" will bring victory. What did/does victory mean?

This British report could be about the Taliban today: "the extremists resorted to violence... their dislike of 'foreign rule,' and the uncertainty of the future political situation..."

The support of the local people was crucial to the success of the Irish Republican Army; however, the British overlooked this support and emphasized the superiority of their own weapons. A description of the poor quality of the IRA is followed by the comment, "their intelligence system was excellent... Every movement of the crown was observed, noted and reported."

This is the period after World War I when many British factories were closed, workers were out of work, there were few jobs and constant labor strife, but there was almost unlimited money for the army in Ireland.

Today there is not enough money for our schools, police, and public services, but huge

ghanistan by saying "it is in the vital national interest of the United States." There is no money for our children's schools, but there is for Afghanistan. I wonder how the British Prime Minister 'spun and sold' the war in Ireland to the British people?

Hearts and Mines: The British 5th Division, Ireland — 1920-1922 by William Sheehan. The Collins-Press-Dufour Editions, 2010. 336 pages; \$25.95.

"Before You Begin, You Must Know the End"

The book The Maeve Binchy Writer's Club is packed with practical advice for a writer. We benefit from the experiences of many successful authors, like Marian Keyes, because Binchy invited them to write in sections of the book. There is useful advice for a writer working in almost any area of interest: writing fiction, a family history, play writing, writing TV scripts, etc.

Binchy, being the author of 17 novels, understands that writing is disciplined work, while also understanding all too well that it is often lonely.

She offers advice to overcome this feeling of loneliness. Depending on your interest, she suggests joining a writer's group, or a play reading group, etc., to feel you are not alone.

Plays and play writing are passions of mine, so I particularly enjoyed that section.

Binchy invited Jim Culleton to write the section "What Works Onstage." He is the artistic director of Dublin's multiple award winning Fishamble: The New Play Company, which produced new plays in Ireland, many other European countries and the United States.

These quotes are from Culleton's essay:

• "There are no rules for what will or won't work, but there are a few qualities I certainly look for."

• Stories adapted for the stage: "They have clearly defined characters, great dialogue... and something the author believes in passionately."

• "...playwrights should have a strong vision of what they want to say and then the language and structure should express it..."

• "Writing about what you know gives... a unique insight into human behavior... and a strong sense of truthfulness..."

• About how to structure a play "there are fascinating decisions for the playwright to make about the order of scenes and how information is revealed."

• Begin by writing "a very short play (under ten minutes) that establishes a premise, explores the issue, and reaches a conclusion, as Samuel Beckett does in many of his short plays."

For anyone interested in the power of words, get this extraordinary book.

The Maeve Binchy Writer's Club by Maeve Binchy. Anchor Bools-Random House, 2010. 290 pages; \$14.95.

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O'BITUARIES

Friends we will miss



Father Coughlin: a life for others

By Father Boland
of Catholic Charities
(continued from last month's column)

Happy Father's Day! As you read this, you may be looking forward to celebrating the big day with your family or friends. You may be the honoree! Or you may honor your father, your spouse, your grandfather, or a respected mentor or father-figure. Although he may have gone to the Lord long ago, you still remember him in your prayers.

Last month, I recalled some of

the early accomplishments of a great priest and exemplar of charity, who lived and worked at Catholic Charities from 1956 until he went to the Lord on April 15 of this year at the age of 84.

This will be Catholic Charities' first "Father's Day" without our own Father Roger J. Coughlin. For those of us at Catholic Charities who knew and loved Father Roger, who called him "friend" as well as "Father," our memories will include stories and laughter; and eternal gratitude for the tremendous good he did for hundreds of thousands of people in Cook and Lake counties.

Ordained in 1951, Father Roger was assigned to Catholic Charities in 1956 as Associate Administrator of the agency and Chaplain to St. Vincent Infant Hospital and Home. While it is impossible to fully detail Father Roger's nearly 60 years of extraordinary, compassionate ministry for God's people most in need, I would like to give some of his major accomplishments. They read like a march

through history.

In 1964, after earning his master's degree in social work, Father Coughlin returned to Catholic Charities' newly created Social Services Department, as the "War on Poverty" began in the United States. Skilled in training and organizing people to change their communities for the better, he spearheaded over the next few decades the development of dozens of programs that strengthened families and improved the quality of life for the elderly. Constantly, he nurtured the development of trained and talented staff members, and encouraged their leadership capabilities.

He began the development of parents clubs; and organized the Catholic Charities component of the diocesan



Fr. Roger Coughlin

Head Start program, including a central council for up to 20 Head Start centers.

In 1968, Catholic Charities' Social Services Department was restructured and Father Coughlin became the Director of the Department of Family, Aged and Community Services. In 1969, he established the South Asian Resettlement program serving Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

In 1969, two projects to assist older adults to maintain their physical, mental and emotional well-being were initiated. Catholic Charities began to publish a free, monthly newsletter for seniors, Keenager News; and Father Roger offered parishes the temporary help of Catholic Charities staff to organize local "Senior Citizen Clubs." By 1980, 330 clubs had been formed.

In order to provide the best professional services to Catholic Charities clients, most of whom were medium- or low-income families, Father Coughlin recruited social workers from graduate schools of social work throughout the country. He found and furnished homes for many of the Cuban refugee families, after the parents were allowed to be reunited with their children.

As the times and society changed, Catholic Charities' Community Services program educated and organized parishioners and pastors to play leadership roles in local communities in order to deal with urban unrest and the

needs of youth and families. This led to a rehabilitation project of neighborhood housing.

Father Coughlin actively participated in the National Conference of Catholic Charities, eventually serving as Vice President, organizing annual meeting workshops on community housing issues, such as mortgage red lining and insurance availability. In Chicago, Catholic Charities' Senior Citizen Services built a Senior Apartment building on the Northwest Side in conjunction with the National Council of Senior Citizens. Today, Catholic Charities operates 17 apartment residences that house 1,426 low-income seniors.

During the 1970s, as the State of Illinois closed orphanages and moved children into foster care, Father secured the former St. Vincent Hospital and Orphanage at 721 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago as a Catholic Charities center, opening the Arts of Living Institute there to serve pregnant teenagers. Today, the St. Vincent Center is a center for Catholic Charities' administration and numerous programs, including daily suppers for 130 homeless and hungry people in the Near North area. In 1974, he initiated a plan for redeveloping the Angel Guardian Orphanage site, which eventually became the site of the present Misericordia Heart of Mercy Home.

Nationally, Father Coughlin served as Vice President of the National Council of Catholic Charities for two years; and organized the National Parent Rights Movement. He served as director of Catholic Charities Research Services from 1978 until 1990. In 1986, he was appointed the first Director of the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office; and in 1987, he established the Maternity Fund to assist women and families in need. In 2004, Father Coughlin retired and became an almost full-time volunteer at Catholic Charities.

An author, historian and columnist, Father Coughlin also researched and wrote two major works about the local Catholic Charities: "Caritas Christi Urget Nos: Institutional History of the Archdiocese of Chicago;" and "The Story of Charitable Care in the Archdiocese of Chicago: 1844 - 1997" (published 1999). He updated the latter history in 2009 with his personal accounting of the time in Catholic Charities from 1950 in "The Story of Charitable Care in the Archdiocese of Chicago: 1950 - 2007." For the past 14 years, Father Coughlin also authored a monthly column, "Words for the Spirit," for Catholic Charities'

Keenager News, a free publication for seniors.

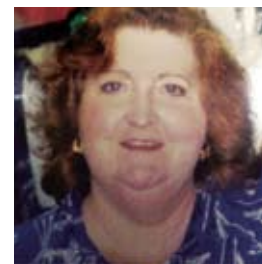
Since the 1970s, Father Coughlin has celebrated Mass almost every Christmas Eve with friends and family, from a handful to a roomful, in the chapel at Catholic Charities St. Vincent Center, or in the home of an invalid friend, always followed by a midnight meal. Says a friend who has attended most of the Masses: "Father Coughlin's life has been a continuous celebration." Thank you, Father Coughlin! And "Happy Father's Day" to all!

Sheila A. Wisniewski nee Ryan

Sheila A. Wisniewski, nee Ryan; Sheila struggled with cancer for 10 years, and went home on Monday, May 10, 2010. In dying, she taught us how to live. Beloved wife of Paul; loving mother of Christine (Robert) Strelzyk and the late Deborah (late John) Miller; devoted grandmother of Katherine, Matthew and Timothy Strelzyk; dearest daughter of the late Tommie and the late Julia Ryan; fond sister of Thomas (Mary Pat), John (Pepita), Edward (Mary), Marie (Bob) Auer, Deacon Robert (Peggy) and the late Jeremiah (Anne) Ryan; sister-in-law of Carl (Judy) Wisniewski; loving aunt of many and survived by family in Ireland. Funeral Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. from Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral, 6250 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago to St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Mass 10 a.m. Interment, Maryhill. In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Robert Bellarmine School Endowment Fund, 4646 N. Austin Chicago, IL 60630 appreciated. Proud member of the School Sisters of St. Francis Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Visitation, Friday 3 to 9 p.m. Info: 773-774-0366 or www.colonialfuneral.com

Lorraine Ann Kelly

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of NACTA member Lorraine Kelly, owner of Kelly's A Touch of Ireland in Pittman, NJ.



Lorraine Ann Kelly (nee McNamara) age 57 years, died May 21, in Underwood-Memorial Hospital, Woodbury, NJ. She

was born in Philadelphia and has lived in Sewell for the last 32 years. She is survived by her husband George, son George Ryan, grandsons Sean and Evan, brothers George, Joseph, and Michael McNamara, sister in law Dot McNamara, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorials may be shared at www.kelleyfuneralhome@comcast.net.



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Back by Popular Demand The Secret of Kells Makes A Second Go Around

Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago presents The Secret of Kells

Back by popular demand, the Art Insitute of Chicago presents the Academy Award nominated film that resinated in the hearts of the Chicago film community.

For a limited two week engagement June 25 - July 8, The Secret of Kells tells the story of the creation of the legandary Book of Kells in an animated adaptation that echos the artistic style of its namesake.

A medieval tale of monks and Viking marauders follows a boy, a forest fairy, a mysterious artist and his feline muse at the center of a ravishing fantasy that swirls with ornate Celtic imagery and stunning color, accompanied by strains of Celtic tunes.

The Secret of Kells is an all ages 2009 film produced by the same filmmakers that created Kirkou and the Sorceress and The Triplets of Belleville.

Tickets to each screening are \$10/general admission. Other ticket prices are \$7/student and \$5/Film

Center members. All tickets may be purchased at the Film Center Box Office. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets are available through Ticketmaster, 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets. The Film Center and its box office are open 5-9 pm, Monday-Friday; 2-9pm, Saturday; and 2-6pm, Sunday.

Showtimes for June 25--July 1
Fri. and Mon.-Thu. at 6:15 pm and 7:45 pm;

Sat. at 1:30 pm, 3pm, 4:30 pm, and 8pm;

Sun. at 3pm and 4:30 pm

Showtimes for July 2--July 8
Fri. and Tue.-Thu. at 6:15 pm and 7:45 pm;

Sat. and Sun. at 3:15 pm, 4:45 pm, 6:15 pm, and 7:45 pm;

Mon. at 3:15 pm and 4:45 pm

2009, Tomm Moore, Ireland/France/Belgium, 75 min.

Nominated for an Academy Award, and featuring the voice of Brendan Gleeson, comes a new film for all

ages, chronicling the creation of the "Book of Kells" in dazzling animation that echoes the intricate beauty of the masterpiece from which it was inspired. A must-see! In English. 35mm.

Two-week run! June 25--July 8.

Fellowship Club 37th "Irish Open" July 19th at Beverly Country Club

One of the country's finest Irish golf outings will be played at Beverly Country Club when the Irish Fellowship sponsors its 37th annual "Irish

Open" on Monday, July 19th. The event features a shotgun start at 1pm. The ticket price of \$350 per person will include green fees, driving range, golf cart, one fore-caddy per foursome, all liquid refreshments, lunch and a heavy buffet dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the most worthy participants and there will be a raffle for door prizes.

Tickets for the IFC golf outing are now available for \$350 per person. All reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. Members interested in only attending the dinner may purchase these tickets for \$75 per person. Please make checks payable to "The Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation." Proceeds from the outing will benefit the Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation.

Members interested in donating prizes or sponsoring a hole should contact Kathy Taylor, Executive Director at (312) 676-4120. This is a great way to advertise your business; all proceeds further the important work of the Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation. Contributions are tax deductible.



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Get Stuck In



Own Property in Co. Clare? Non Principal Private Residence Charge Due by June 30

Property owners affected by the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) scheme have a deadline for payment of the 200 euro charge for the year 2010 by June 30.

The charge, which was introduced nationally in 2009, relates to people who own properties they do not normally live in, including private rental property and holiday homes. The fee is payable by the owner(s) of the NPPR to the Local Authority in whose area the property concerned is located.

According to Ms Carmel Greene, “The NPPR Charge, which was introduced under the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 set an annual charge of €200 per residence, with a significant late payment fee. It is

Fore Matt Golf Outing Benefit Friday June 11, 2010 Stony Creek Golf Course



www.GulinoFamilyBenefit.com

In October of 2009, all who knew Matt Gulino felt a deep loss. Afflicted with TTP, Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura, a rare blood disorder, Matt was taken from us at the all too early age of 49.

Matt grew up in the Garfield Ridge community, and met his wife and sweetheart Joanne at Kennedy High School. They settled into the Oak Lawn community and St. Gerald Parish and became the proud parents of Nick, Sara & Kate.

Matt has been deeply involved as a volunteer for community sports and church activities. The level of his involvement, along with his constant smile and positive attitude led many to call him the “Mayor of Oak Lawn”. He brightened the day of everyone he encountered.

Golf & Dinner tickets are \$150, Golf Only tickets are \$100, and Dinner Only tickets are \$50. To purchase tickets please contact John Hickey at 708-805-9572 or email jhickey@hotmail.com. Funds from the benefit will help Joanne provide an education for their children.

important to note that the €20 late payment fee will apply in respect of each month or part of a month during which the charge remains unpaid.”

She noted that the charge is based on self-declaration and therefore, the onus is on the property owner them-

selves to register their property and make the payment.

“The Council urges owners of non principal private residences to log on to NPPR website and register their property and make payment before June 30 2010, to avoid incurring additional fees. Any unpaid charges and penalties might constitute an encumbrance on any future sale or transfer of the property”, added Ms.

Greene.

She continued: “For 2010, this means that the late payment fee will apply to all payments made on or after July 1 2010. The late payment fee will continue to roll up as long as the charge remains unpaid and the amount involved can be substantial.”

“Existing customers who paid the charge in 2009 should log onto www.nppr.ie and make renewal payments

using their pre-assigned account reference number. Those who have become the owner of a non-principal private residence can register for the first time as a New Customer”, Ms. Greene concluded.

Persons in doubt about the liability of their property should contact Clare County Council at 065 6821616 or nppr@clarecoco.ie.

www.nppr.ie.

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Arizona Law

Immigration law has been an overriding issue in the USA for many years, with laws enacted that favored some ethnic groups over others. I believe the Irish got the short end of the stick. We still need to live by the law of the land and we have immigration laws that are not rigidly enforced at the federal level. Our southern border is like a sieve. What is the problem with entering the US legally and becoming a naturalized citizen? My mother did, but my father came here illegally over the Canadian border about 1927. After they met and got married, my mother was expecting her second child, in the depths of the depression 1931. He was caught and sent back to Ireland after the baby was born, in February. One year later, he was allowed to come back legally, but he never became a citizen. What's going to happen now is the politicians will bend over backwards to pave the way for illegal immigrants. Maybe they will even be foolish enough to give them all amnesty or asylum, Democrats desperately need the Hispanic vote. No matter what, they can't vote. Let's dump the incumbents.

Illinois Politics

Governor Quinn has chosen Sheila Simon to run for Lt. Governor and the Democrats have endorsed her, except for Mayor Daley, who

thought State Rep. Art Turner (D-Chicago) should have been given the nod because Art Turner finished second in the primary to Scott Lee Cohen, who was then dumped by the Democrats because of his personal life. Applying that same logic, why didn't Mayor Daley endorse Forrest Claypool, who was a very close second to John Stroger in the primary for President of the Cook County Board? Quite simply, he was courting the black vote, and Todd Stroger was given the nod. Now although he said publicly he thought Rep. Art Turner should have been endorsed, the Democrats know they are in trouble, and Simon is a more acceptable candidate to present to the voting public, who are fed up with Cook County Democrats and the empty suits filling patronage jobs as well as the awarding of no-bid contracts, and the continued nepotism that exists in Chicago and Cook County politics. Vote early, vote often.

Archbishop of Dublin

Diarmuid Martin, the Archbishop of Dublin, delivered a speech to the Order of the Knights of St. Columbanus in Dublin. The following are excerpts of his brilliant speech:

"Why am I discouraged? The most obvious reason is the drip-by-drip never-ending revelation about child sexual abuse and the disastrous way it was handled. There are still strong forces which would prefer that the

truth did not emerge. The truth will make us free, even when that truth is uncomfortable. There are signs of subconscious denial on the part of many about the extent of the abuse which occurred within the church of Jesus Christ in Ireland and how it was covered up. There are other signs of rejection of a sense of responsibility for what had happened. There are worrying signs that despite solid regulations and norms these are not being followed with the rigour required."

"As regards the Archdiocese of Dublin, for which I have pastoral responsibility, I have constantly warned against any slippage in our vigilance. I appeal once again this evening publicly to all parishes in the archdiocese to ensure that all child protection measures are in place and in operation and that there is no let-back on the level of vigilance. Questions about child safeguarding should be on the agenda of every meeting of every parish pastoral council and if there are any concerns that are not being addressed, then let people contact me directly."

"There are those who claim that the media strategy of the Church and the Archdiocese of Dublin following the publication of the Murphy report was catastrophic. My answer is that what the Murphy Report narrated was catastrophic and the only honest reaction of the Church was to publicly admit that the manner in which the catastrophe was addressed was spectacularly wrong: Spectacularly wrong "full stop," not spectacularly wrong, "but." You cannot sound bite your way out of a catastrophe."

"Some will reply that sexual abuse by priests constitutes only a small percentage of the sexual abuse of children in our society in general. (This is an obvious reference to Bishop Christopher Jones, Sligo.) That is a fact. But that important fact should never appear in any way as an attempt to downplay the gravity of what took place in the Church of Christ. The

church is different, the church is a place where children should be the subject of its most severe language for those who disregard or scandalise children in any way."

"I am surprised at the manner in which church academics and church publicists can today calmly act as pundits on the roots of the sexual abuse scandals in the Church as if they were totally extraneous to the scandal. Where did responsibility lie for a culture of seminary institutions which produced both those who abused and those who mismanaged the abuse? Where were the pundit-publicists while a Church culture failed to recognise what was happening?"

After reading Archbishop Martin's speech, I think Cardinal Sean Brady should be recalled to Rome to join Cardinal Law, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin be elevated immediately to Cardinal.

Kerry Wedding

Boyle the Kettle journeyed to Ireland for the wedding of Eileen Boyle to Keith O'Sullivan on May 1st at St. John's Church, Causeway, Co. Kerry. The day was bright and sunny and the bride was beautiful. I had the privilege of doing the first reading of the Gospel. The reception was at the Ballyroe Heights Hotel in Tralee. The ballroom was elegant and the food was fantastic. How about poached salmon wrapped in filet of sole! Yum!

My cousin Dermot Cooney from Bunbrosna, Co. Westmeath, was travelling with me. I visited all of my first cousins, Patrick Casey, Thomas Casey, Eddie Joe McCarthy, and Patrick McCarthy and their families. And, of course, the ancestral home of the Boyles at Ballinglanna Causeway and many old friends like Dick Keane, and Maureen McCarthy. I met up with the artist Linda Graham in Kilflynn not far from Lixnaw. Dermot and I took a trip to Dingtletown where they were celebrating Baeltine.

There was an orchestra playing in the street. They were playing songs from the Sound of Music. The guy on the French horn hit a few sour notes. A block away there was a rhythm and blues stage. On the way out to Dingle we stopped for dinner at the South Pole Inn in Annuscul where we encountered some obnoxious young men celebrating the bank holiday by drinking and brawling.

We headed back to Tralee over the Connor Pass and tried to find my cousin Patricia and her husband Noel Fitzgerald in Castle Gregory. I forgot to mention we had a great night at Stoker's Pub in Tralee on Sunday. Dermot brought his Melodian along and played for several hours so we all got our chance to sing.

After five days in Kerry, we headed for Cork. When we got to Macroom we decided to have dinner. We dined at Granville's Bar which has great food—the best brown bread ever, and seafood chowder to die for. We arrived at Carrigtwohill in the late afternoon and spent the night with my good friend Louis O'Regan, his beautiful wife, Rowena and their son Robert. Rowena put out a great dinner. We spent the rest of the evening around the fire. The sofa was shared by an Irish Wolfhound with the unlikely name of Fluffy.

In spite of the sunny days we were in midst of a "scaraveen," the last fortnight in April and the first fortnight in May when the northerly winds blow. The following day we were in Cork City looking for Irish silver for my friends, the Harringtons, Jack and Karen. I wound up buying an Irish silver salt shovelfor myself. Late afternoon we headed for Kilkenny and Bally Bur in Cuffes Grange and my cousin Bernadette's home, here we had another great meal. We spent the evening at the Scelip, the oldest pub in Kilkenny with the whole Cooney, Brennan, and Marnell clan. Friday brought us back to Bunbrosna, my base for the rest for the trip. We met up with cousin Margaret O'Connor in Dublin, visited Newgrange and the new Museum and Visitors Center at Glasnevin Cemetery. I visited the Republican plot. We had another fabulous dinner in Clontarf. The whole time the ash cloud from the volcano in Iceland was shutting down airports. My return flight on American Airlines was cancelled. But I managed to get out on Aer Lingus. We flew north of the volcano and passed within 100 miles of the volcano. I took some great photos from the plane. I arrived back at O'Hare at 5:20pm, seventeen hours after I started the day in Rathbennet, Bunbrosna.

Heather A. Begley



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Ed McElroy, host of "Community in Focus" TV show, recently interviewed Neil Steinberg, columnist with the Chicago Sun-Times and Tom Cusack with Cusack Insurance Company. The show aired in May on Senior Network Can TV, Channel 19. (L-R Neil Steinberg, Ed McElroy and Tom Cusack.)

Pat Hennessy Celebrates His 90th Birthday at Chicago Gaelic Park!

Pat Hennessy enjoyed his 90th birthday celebration in April at Gaelic Park. Friends and family came out in droves to wish Pat well. “I’m going to celebrate by taking a break from writing my column in May,” laughed Pat. “After over 33 straight years of never missing a column, I’ll write it for you,” joked Cliff Carlson, publisher of Irish American News.

Pat wanted no presents, so, of course, they were piled high on an overflowing table for him!

An impressive genealogical chart dating back to the 1700’s was on the wall depicting the Hennessy Clan’s hugh family tree.

Maureen O’Looney and Alex McGrath traveled across town to be there. “We wouldn’t have missed this party for the world,” they both said in unison.

Pat, in his own humble way, thanked the crowd which contained another well-wisher, John Hunt, a spry 90 year old himself!

Marian Ryan, General Manager of Gaelic Park, and John Griffin, President, presented

Pat with an award depicting Gaelic Park and thanked Pat for his many years of friendship and service to the organization.

Pat will be back writing his column next

month so stay tuned!

During the many years of the Southside Irish Parade, Pat and the large Hennessy Clan could be seen marching and riding in the parade on

a Trolley. If the Southside Irish Parade returns, you can bet Pat and the clan will too!

Well wishers can reach Pat at 219-756-3852. Happy Birthday Pat!



Pat Hennessy, Marian Ryan, and John Griffin.



Many of Pat’s family were on hand to celebrate with him.

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Pat Hennessy, Maureen O’Looney, Liam O’Brien, Alex McGrath, and Nick Tierney

Michael Flatley Hails Strictly Damhsa, Ireland’s First Irish Dancing Magazine

Strictly Damhsa, Ireland’s first and only Irish dancing magazine, has been officially launched.

The Lord of the Dance himself Michael

Flatley has hailed the new publication as “truly brilliant” and believes that Strictly Damhsa will be a “huge success”.

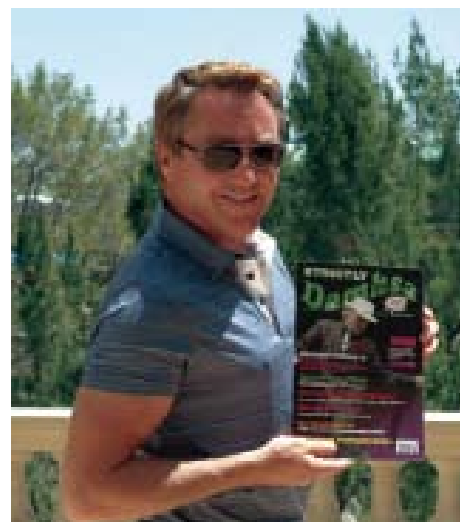
The glossy full-colour monthly magazine covers all aspects of the Irish dancing scene and includes interviews with professional dancers, health and fitness tips, feis results and photos plus features exploring the history and heritage of Irish dancing.

Debbie Maguire, former star of the Lord of the Dance and Celtic Tiger shows, is the editor of Strictly Damhsa.

Debbie says the magazine is for dancers, teachers, parents and anyone with an interest in Irish dancing.

Irish dancing has grown to such an extent that it even has its own specialist fitness gurus and mind coaches, one of whom, Sean Connolly, is a feature writer with the magazine.

To get a first glance at Strictly Damhsa visit www.strictlydamhsa.com.



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IRISH FEST - JULY 9, 10, & 11

Tickets Now Sale for the 25th Annual Irish American Heritage Festival

Irish Fest will celebrate its Silver Anniversary with one of its most engaging festivals ever, with special promotions and events in celebration of The Irish American Heritage Center's 25 years on Chicago's northwest side. Irish

Roi, The Dooley Brothers, Gareth Woods with Sugarbeat, Irish Music School of Chicago, Finbarr Fagan's Band, The Sandcarvers, Steve Davern and The Escape Artists, Mulligan Stew, The Matt Stedman Band, Joe Cullen and Teresa Shine, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band, Kevin Prendergast with Joe Cullen and Gerry Haughey, Joe McShane and



Tom Hughes, The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Irish Dance, The O'Hare School of Irish Dance,

The Tea Room will be open from 3pm-6pm on Saturday and Sunday and will offer live music, sandwiches, tea and coffee for purchase.

Fest activities and contests include The Hooley Hook-up, a Matchmaking event with live music, matchmaking and dancing, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Sham-ROCK Stars Singing Contest.

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

Tickets: \$14 per day;



The Elders

Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities.

The festival features three days of music on five stages, featuring confirmed performers The Elders, Scythian, Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, The Makem and Spain Brothers, The Prodigals, The Tossers, The Kreellers, The Mickey Finns, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, Kennedy's Kitchen, Dyed in the Wool, The Academy of Irish Music, Cu

The SilverBridge Band, Shannon

Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Switchback, The Misericordia Heartbreakers,

Dance, The Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance, The Trinity Academy of

The Mullane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy, Shape-shifters Theatre, The Mulhern School of Irish Dance, Mike Houlihan and more!

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

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

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



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President's Message

*"We're on the one road,
 sharing the one load ...
 north men, south men, com-
 rades all!"*

- The Wolfe Tones

This time of year, one might expect this type of sentiment to be a little difficult to take with the upcoming Crosstown Classic (Go White Sox!), and as much as I love to banter with family and friends about how much of a better team the Sox are compared to the Cubs, that is not the focus of my efforts this month. Over the past few months, I've noticed a change in the way our local Irish organizations are behaving. There is a spirit of camaraderie in the air that hasn't always been part of our community in the past, and I'm proud to say that our Center is right in the midst of it.

The Irish community in Chicago is as diverse as the story of Ireland itself. There are groups dedicated to step dancing and music and other groups dedicated to

literature and theater. There are the county associations, the Irish American clubs, and clubs and networks for Irish born folks. There are the Gaelic sport clubs and rugby and football clubs for men, women, and children alike. We have charitable groups and support networks. We have long standing organizations and brand new ones. We have historical societies and fraternal groups. The list goes on and on. All of these groups dedicated to preserving their "Irishness" in some way.

An old adage is nobody likes a good fight like the Irish or that nobody can hold a grudge like the Irish. Sadly, those adages too often proved true in the past. However, it seems as if we are growing out of some of those old patterns of behavior. In the past few months, our Center has partnered with several organizations around town and we are just starting to scratch the surface of what can be accomplished when

we work together.

A goal for our Center is to create a sense of home for the Irish Community and to be a gathering place for the entire Irish community in Chicago. In the past months, we have met with The Ireland



Network, Gaelic Park, The Irish Fellowship, The American Ireland Fund, The Ancient Order of Hibernians, and The Emerald Society to name a few. We've helped to sponsor several of the Gaelic sports clubs who make their home on the north side. More than 60 people came to the Center to plan a benefit for Natasha McShane last week and they came from all aspects of the Irish community - young

and old alike. We are also expanding beyond just the Irish community by creating partnerships with the Chicago Cultural Alliance, different neighborhood associations and several charitable organizations in Chicago.

Everywhere we go, we find the same desire to connect. People want to be part of something and our Irish organizations are no different. Everyone recognizes that society and community is changing and how we associate those things are changing. Perhaps it's an outgrowth of social networking online finding its way into real life, but whether it's working together to create a larger calendar of events encompassing all Irish organizations in Chicago or whether it's partnering on different programs and events, we find that the groups want to work together. People want to share their part of the Irish experience with others.

The Irish story is one of overcoming hardships, perseverance, hard work, and

ultimately success. Maybe it is an outcome of the recent success of Ireland as a nation, but more and more we are beginning to understand that the story of the Irish is a success story and we all have different contributions to make towards celebrating that success. Most importantly, I think we are starting to understand that the story is continuing and it is as much about celebrating our shared heritage and culture as it is about defining that culture for future generations.

What comes next or how that happens is still anybody's guess, but The Irish American Heritage Center is proud to be one of the many great organizations in Chicago who are working together to continue the Irish success story.

Robert McNamara,
 President
 Board of Directors
 Irish American Heritage
 Center

IAHC Elections & General Mtg

Elections for members of the Center's Board of Directors and a general membership meeting is Fri., June 18 at 7:30pm. Center members are encouraged to participate in the election and attend the meeting to receive updates from the Board. Current members can vote for four of the candidates who were nominated at the April membership meeting.

Center members may vote only if they are current members with dues paid through

2010 or beyond. Volunteers will be available to check membership status for members who wish to vote. If your



membership expired in Dec. 2009, we encourage

you to renew so you can vote, continue to receive the *Irish American News* and qualify for member discounts.

For more information call the office at 773-282-7035.

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Rising Gael

Friday, June 4 8pm \$10



The Young Dubliners

Friday, June 11 8pm \$20



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Executive Director's Message

Larry Legend

I grew up on a steady diet of Irish music, as songs were played and sung religiously on most evenings in the McDonnell household. It was a pretty broad mix of tunes from artists and groups like Phil Coulter, the Chieftains, The Dubliners, Paddy Reilly, Frank Patterson, The Wolfe Tones, Tony Kenny, Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers and none other than Larry Cunningham. Country western fans, my parents were sad to miss legendary Larry Cunningham's trip to Chicago and the IAHC stage in April, as they were left singing *Lovely Leitrim* and *Among the Wicklow Hills* from many miles away. Still a heck of a showman, Larry and his patented deep voice certainly did not disappoint the near capacity crowd in the

Auditorium, nor did Joe Cullen, Joe McShane, and the Silver-Bridge band. What a nice night; not to mention that the show raised close to \$20,000 toward the refurbishment of the Center's kitchen. Well done Mike Boyle and your great committee for coordinating the concert and the raffle! You came through in a really big way.

Good Samaritans

I am never prouder to be a part of the Chicago Irish community than when it rallies with character and compassion around one of its own in need. The tragic attack on Natasha McShane is difficult to understand and certainly a



black eye for the city. However, the Chicago Irish have moved faithfully through prayer and through generosity, and hopefully Natasha's health and the

McShane family's spirits have been and will continue to be lifted by that. Special thanks to Father Karl Langsdorf, Father Jim O'Brien, Father Jerry Boland, Father Bill O'Shea, Joe McShane, Jimmy Moore, Catherine O'Connell, Martin Rouine, Tim Reilly,

John Murtagh, Kate Rhodes, Father Tom Hurley and the entire Old St. Pat's Community for being a part of a prayer vigil that hopefully urged a healing hand. St. Pat himself was gazing down upon the family from behind the altar during the service. If

he can chase the snakes from Ireland, he can will Natasha back to full health. And thanks to Maureen O'Looney and Paddy Homan for taking the reigns on what will hopefully be a generous day of raising funds for the family on June 13th at the Center and Gaelic Park.

Top of the Table

Irish Center FC is currently 4-0-1 (4 wins, 1 draw) and in first place. Our last match of the season is on June 4 at 7:30 on the new turf field at North and Lakeshore. Come cheer us on! Playoffs to follow.

Onwards,
 Tim McDonnell
 Executive Director,
 Irish American Heritage Center

**Center Showcases
 The Life and Work of Writer James Joyce**

Celebrate the life and work of writer James Joyce with the Irish American Heritage Center's annual Bloomsday Celebrations this June.

On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his future wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, *Ulysses*. Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16 "Bloomsday"; a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works. The 11th annual Rattlin' of the Joists will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 7:30pm in the Fifth Province. The event includes performances with staged readings, music and song, presented by notables from Chicago's theatre and music community. Josephine Craven directs.

Tickets for the Rattlin' of the Joists are \$10 and can be



purchased at the door.

The presentation is in conjunction with the art exhibit, *30 views of Ulysses* by award-winning Chicago artist, Leonid Osseny.

30 views of Ulysses is an art exhibit of Leonid Osseny who was born in Russia in 1948. His reading of James Joyce's *Ulysses* and his other graphic works are informed by the compositional school of Sergey Eisenstein, who made use of the device of "inner monologue" to convey his ideas. Studying the works of Eisenstein in film, art and architecture gave him the necessary background to begin the illustrations for Joyce's novel.

Leonid Osseny: *30 views of Ulysses* runs from Friday, June 11 to Sunday, July 11. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm, with a free opening reception on Friday, June 11, from 6pm to 9pm. Note: The exhibit will run during the IAHC's Irish Fest from July 9-11, but there is an admission charge to enter the festival.

**Explore the City
 This Summer**

Reservations are now being taken for Summer in the City and in the Garden. This 5 week summer program is for children ages 7 to 15 and is designed for children to explore and learn the arts and technology in a city atmosphere.

In this fun-filled program, children learn new artistic skills, self-expression and a whole new way of seeing the world around them through public murals, gardens, photography and blogging.

The program is 3 days a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am-3pm from July 6 through August 5.

Tuition is \$350 per child with discounts for families and includes art materials, field trips and snacks. Childcare is also available from 3-5pm on program days an additional \$150 total, with discounts for families with more than 1 child.

To register, call 773-282-7035.



THE HERITAGE LINE
IRISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

The Celtic Church After St. Patrick

Father Dennis O'Neill will give a lecture on what the Celtic

Father Dennis O'Neill was born in Chicago in 1947, and ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1973. He served at St. Thomas the Apostle, Christ the King, St. Clotilde, St. Giles, and St. Benedict Parishes and for the past 10 years has been pastor



church looked like in the generation after St. Patrick and how it differed in many ways from the Roman Church.

O'Neill has studied St. Patrick, St. Brigid of Kildare and the Irish missionaries, Sts. Columcille, Columban and Gall.

of St. Martha Parish in Morton Grove, Illinois. He is the author of the books, Lazarus Interlude and Passionate Holiness.

The Celtic Church After St. Patrick is Sunday, June 27, 2pm and tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

It's Just a Cuppa Tea

Speed Dating in the Fifth Province

Speed dating is an organized form of matchmaking that focuses on meeting a lot of people in a short period of time. Most speed dating events include short 'dates' where participants meet for a face-to-face conversation about whatever they choose.

Join us in the Fifth Province for this fun and safe way to meet new friends and potential dates.

It's Just a Cuppa Tea is the second Sunday and last Wednesday of each month, in the beautiful Fifth Province.

Speed dating is from 7pm-9pm and mingling and cocktails from 9pm-11pm.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill,
Editor

Contributors:

- Frank Crowley
- Mary Griffin
- Mary Johnson
- Gorski
- Tim McDonnell
- Bob McNamara
- Mary Morris
- Sheila Murphy
- Leslie Singel

June 2010

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| June 2 | TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting | Room 109 | 11am |
| June 4 | Rising Gael in Concert | Erin Rm | 8pm |
| | Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance | Fifth Province | 8pm |
| June 5 | Sham-ROCK Into Summer | Fifth Province | 5pm |
| June 7 | Shamrock American Club Social | Sham Am Rm | 8pm |
| June 10 | Irish Immigrant Support Meetings | Sham Am Rm | 10am |
| June 11 | Young Dubliners in Concert | Erin Room | 8pm |
| June 12 | St. Patrick's Fathers Social | Social Center | 8pm |
| June 13 | Natasha McShane Benefit | Full Bldg. | 1pm |
| | Great Irish Books Club Discussion | Library | 2pm |
| June 16 | Bloomsday Celebration | Fifth Province | 7:30pm |
| June 18 | IAHC Election | Room 109 | 7:30pm |
| June 24 | Irish Immigrant Support Meetings | Sham Am Rm | 10am |
| June 27 | The Celtic Church after St. Patrick | Sham Am Rm | 2pm |
| | Genealogy Meeting | Library | 1pm |

Regularly Scheduled Events

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Tues. | Quilting and Needlework | Room 208 | 9:30am |
| | Traditional Irish Art Class | Room 308 | 7pm |
| Wed. | Quilting and Needlework | Room 208 | 7:30pm |
| | Open Music Session | Room 302 | 7:30pm |
| Thurs. | Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal | Room 304 | 7:30pm |
| Fri. | Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac.&Dance | Room 111 | 8pm |
| Sat. | Irish School | Various | 9am |



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

June 2010

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Fri, 6/4 | Ceili Mor |
| Sat, 6/5 | Donofinn |
| Fri, 6/11 | Joe McShane |
| Sat, 6/12 | Stephen's Green |
| Fri, 6/18 | Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore |
| Sat, 6/19 | The Vandammes |
| Fri, 6/25 | Joe Cullen |
| Sat, 6/26 | Dooley Brothers |



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

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WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

WIN a Trip to Ireland!

2010 IAHC Membership Drive Member – Get A Member Contest

The drive to 2010 New Members in 2010 continues! 540 new members have joined The Irish American Heritage Center so far this year. That's just over 25% of our goal and the registrations keep coming in.

In an effort to strengthen our organization, we are looking to expand our membership and bring our mission to as many people as possible. As members you are the best possible sales people we could find to spread the word about our organization. In fact, we are so confident that our members will do a great job of recruiting our membership that we are offering a trip to

Ireland as incentive! That's right, you could be going to our Ireland.

Encourage a new person to join the IAHC and you have the chance to win a trip for two to Ireland. It couldn't be easier, each of us probably knows someone who should become a member (or maybe has become a lapsed member).

If you are not a member – join today and you can start recruiting members to get into the contest.

The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members!

Get your family and friends to join and Win a Trip to Ireland or other great prizes.

Here are the contest rules:

1. All current IAHC members are eligible to recruit new members for this contest.

2. Multiple referrals are allowed. For each person that you recruit, you get an additional chance to win! The more new members you find, the better your chances of winning. Our goal this year is 2010 new members!

3. The person who recruits the most new members will receive a free party at the Center for themselves and 25 guests.

4. For the purpose of the contest, the new member must not have previously been an IAHC Member within the past year.

5. Members whose membership expired at the end of 2009, may renew their membership and then be eligible to refer new members for the contest.

6. Referral entries must be a new member and not an addition to an existing IAHC family membership.

7. New members that are recruited for this contest may in turn also recruit new members and be entered into the contest.

How to enter:

Once you have identified a new member for the IAHC, have them fill out a IAHC Membership Form or contact the office for details.

On the top of the new member's form, insert your name in the, "I was recruited by" space.

Have the new member complete the form and submit it with their dues to the Center for processing.

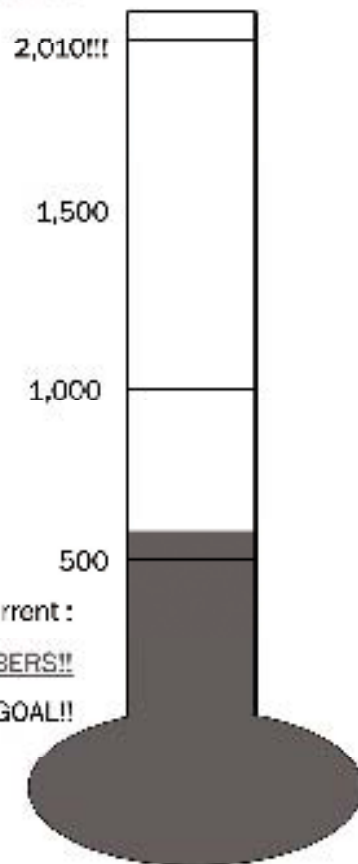
Membership Forms are available in this issue or online at www.irish-american.org.

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by 12/31/2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at a 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January, 2011.

2010 IAHC Membership Drive

Member – Get A Member Contest

**WIN A TRIP
 FOR TWO
 TO IRELAND!**



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL
 RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

2010 NEW MEMBERS IN 2010!!

I was referred by: _____

BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it. Running, maintaining, and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

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

The Irish American
 Heritage Center
 Membership
 4626 N. Knox Ave
 Chicago IL 60630

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Credit Card # _____ Exp _____
 3 Digit code on card's back: _____

Individual Membership

Annual dues
 \$30/year or \$50/2 years

Family Membership
 \$40/year or \$60/2 years

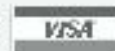
\$250 - Harper
 3-year membership

\$500 - Bard
 5-year membership

\$1,000 - Chieftain
 10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King
 25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint
 Lifetime membership without annual dues





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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Sounds grim? It is and it's not: there are dry one liners in it that lighten events—a little!—and make you give a sort of horrified gasp; but the thing is that you recognise these characters. You may not

Yes! Something Positive To Say!

There's an Irish movie that's been doing the rounds of the Film Festivals for a while now. It has won several awards at this stage* and yet seems to have come up against a brick wall in some quarters. It's called "8.5 hours" and when it had its American premier in Arizona last month, then for anyone who was lucky enough to see it, it probably divided opinion amongst them; but for what my opinion is worth it's one of the best Irish films in years.

It's shot on a tight budget of around €100,000, but is superbly crafted, acted and delivers the dramatic goods on several fronts. This isn't usually a film column so I didn't check out to any extent the writer/director Brian Lally. However, he has introduced us to some seriously interesting characters.

A bit like life, really.

I caught up with it at The Eye cinema in Galway some weeks ago. I was disappointed that I wasn't able to make the Wednesday showing where the director was doing a Questions and Answers session, but the feedback was that the audience really enjoyed it. I had seen it the night before and found the same thing from being my usual nosy self.

It roughly tells the story of four office workers and their boss who may be workmates but sure as hell aren't friends in the conventional sense. The action takes place over one working day and, being set in 2007, perfectly encapsulates the dying gasps of the Celtic Tiger.

like them, but you do recognise them.

I even recognised a small part of myself in what for me is the film's most revealing line: "We were the first generation to have everything: we went to university, landed great jobs, made lots of money and some of us still managed to f***k it up."

It seems to have come up against a barrier with the Dublin critics and maybe that's not surprising. We don't all like to look at our reflection in the mirror some mornings, after all, but it is honest and I really hope that you go to see it if you get the chance.

It definitely deserves an audience,

It is described as a social drama, but to be honest, considering how accurate I found it, it could almost pass as a social document of that not-so-long-ago time of surface affluence.

There's a solid cast that includes Victor Burke, Jonathan Byrne and Geraldine Plunkett but without doubt the most complex character is Rachel, played by Lynette Callaghan.

You may think that she is just a venal and grasping bitch (she is) or you may think that she is as ambitious as she needs to be, but one thing is for sure: you will not be indifferent to her.

As a snapshot of a certain period in modern Irish life I think that it is hard to beat. Nor do I regret the passing of that era.

*Best Actress for Lynette Callaghan as Rachel at the Yellow Fever Independent Awards. Best Irish Feature Film in Clonmel.

2nd Best at Waterford Festival.
chasbrady7@eircom.net.

Illinois St. Andrew Society Scottish Festival & Highland Games



is open to the public on Friday, June 18th from 4-10pm and Saturday, June 19th from 8am-9pm.

This two-day summer celebration has an extensive array of uniquely Scottish attractions: Pipe Band competition; Highland Dance competition; Heavy Athletics Chicago Open; Rugby Sevens Highland Challenge; Children's Soccer Tournament; British Car Show; Scottish cultural exhibits; Scotch Whisky tastings & seminars live; Celtic musical performances (both traditional and Celtic rock); Parade of Tartans; Kilted Mile Run; Raffle and Auction; Children's crafts and activities; Celtic Canines and a variety of attendee contests such as: Shortbread, Knobbly Knees, Haggis Hurling and Haggis Eating. Attendees can also enjoy traditional Scottish cuisine and drink, including a Tea Tent and the Celtic Marketplace, featuring a variety of unique Scottish and Celtic merchandise.

The Illinois Saint Andrew Society will present the 24th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games, June 18th and 19th, 2010 at the Polo Grounds, 700 Oak Brook Road in Oak Brook, Illinois. The festival

For ticket information visit www.chicago-scots.org or call (708) 447-5092. Children 12 & under are free.

HOROSCOPES: ARIES: You are about to embark on a magical mystery tour while fatty britches Jupiter meets unpredictable Uranus at your place! Ready much activity in your face.

It should be good for the most part but be prepared for extra attention from bosses, the media, and hopefully not the police!

TAURUS: A whole lot is going on in your life behind the scenes. A surprise could be brewing in the shadows for you. This is no reason to worry, but there is a definite element of surprise going on here. You could suddenly become privy to somebody's secret issues that weren't meant for the light of day.

GEMINI: The new moon of the month of June 2010 falls right where you live. Yep, the spotlight is right on you! This should be the best time all year to dive into your pet project(s). You are a champion of multitasking and have the energy to do this in a big way! Go get 'em!

CANCER: You are getting ready to hit the streets with your new ideas and projects. Right now you are resting and recharging, but before June 2010 is over you will come out ready for your brand of world domination. Be positive about your bright future!

LEO: For the last eight months planet Mars has been at your house and now you are feeling the fallout in your financial sector. It could have been a blowout in your close relationships leading to changes in your lifestyle, or someone moving in with you due to hardship. Now you can start to breath a sigh of relief in some areas of your life.

VIRGO: Your wealth situation is going to improve by means that you will not see coming. Jupiter and Uranus are entering your eighth sector

of the wealth of others and insurance matters. Just hope that you are not a victim of some disaster that will alter your home requiring excess of energy and cleanup on your part. Perhaps the surprise could come as an inheritance.

LIBRA: Saturn is about to enter your home sign. Some of you with planets at the very beginning of Libra or those whose birthdays occur around September 21st of any year will soon experience a whirlwind change in your lives. At around the same time, planet Mars will oppose the erratic conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus. These will directly affect you. Make the best of all of this because all experiences in life will serve to enrich us in some way.

SCORPIO: Your health situation could take a surprising turn. You may finally find a solution to whatever ails you in a good way, but not without considerable energy expended. Some of you may require surgical intervention and a possible hospital stay. Others will find the medication or preventative treatment that will improve your quality of life. It's all good!

SAGITTARIUS: You will be surprised to the hilt this June 2010 with a situation regarding your children, creative efforts, or even your love life. Those of you who were born in the vicinity of November 22nd of any year could feel this trend more acutely. Even if you don't gamble, a small lottery pick could yield a modest return!

CAPRICORN: Rest assured that your lot in life will improve in the near future! Mars finally moves to assist you in gaining more energy to accomplish you projects that have been on the back burner. You are now emerging from your cocoon a better rested and happier chap. Now go

and enjoy your summer!

AQUARIUS: Your rulers, Uranus along with Saturn, are acting with the presence of Mars and Jupiter to throw a life ring your way. You can get a rest from your worries and see the light at the end of the tunnel. Keep the faith. The new moon of the month of June 2010 will bolster your dreams

and give a lift to your soul.

PISCES: Your financial status is now the focus of your attention in June 2010. Get your books in order. Streamline expenditures to be able to meet unforeseen emergencies. Surprises are the trend. The combination of Jupiter and Uranus could bring you a gain you never expected!

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- 6/5 Michael Bennett
- 6/11 Gavigan
- 6/12 Bluesid Brothers
- 6/18 Dan McGuinness
- 6/19 Justin Griffin
- 6/25 Bernie Gilm and Country Road
- 6/26 Week Back

Don't forget the Golf Outing
 Friday, June 11. See Teigh for details.

Friday night entertainment begins
 at 7:30pm and Saturday night at 10pm.

Check Web Site for Full Schedule

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- Playing Lessons



Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



G A E L L I C P A R K

A Chaide:

Due to the press deadline of this fine monthly publication, I am preparing this letter prior to the annual Irish Festival at Gaelic Park and you will be receiving it after the fact. Hopefully, we had good weather and it was a great festival. Certainly, the festival preparation is phenomenal. Frank Bradley has been an inspirational leader as chairman of the festival for the past 24 years. He works on the festival year-round and is constantly trying to make it better. Frank leads an army of eager and enthusiastic volunteers. Like the Irish American Heritage Center, Gaelic Park does not have any permanent festival grounds or facilities. Therefore, each year the preparation and construction of the festival grounds is an awesome undertaking. During the festival, the volunteers work tirelessly and often anonymously. For example, past president John Barrett leads a group of grounds maintenance workers (previously known as garbage pickers) every day beginning at 6:00 a.m. Each night, when the festival closes, the grounds look like thousands of people had a great time. By the time the grounds open the next morning, they look as though no one was there the day before. All in all, the festival brings together all aspects of Gaelic Park for a fine exhibition of Irish culture and heritage.

After the Memorial Day weekend festival, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) season starts in full swing. The games are basically played every Sunday afternoon. A full game schedule can be found on the Gaelic Park website. This year's GAA season will culminate with the North American playoffs being played at Gaelic Park over Labor Day weekend. Teams from more than 14 cities in the United States and Canada will meet to crown the North American champions. Harry Costelloe and his volunteers have been and will continue to work every day to ensure that the pitches are in the best condition possible for the GAA season. Sunday afternoons at Gaelic Park are a great family event. Food and refreshments are available for purchase and the children's playground

is buzzing with activity. The games are exciting, fast-paced and extremely spirited. Gaelic football and hurling are uniquely Irish games and a major part of our Irish culture and history. We hope to see you at Gaelic Park over the summer.

Sincerely yours,
John C. Griffin



Another one of the benches you can find only at Gaelic Park features County Antrim. Look for them when you visit next!

Gaelic Park Players

We are very pleased to announce An Introduction to Theatre course for children ages 10 to 13. Classes will be scheduled here at Gaelic Park for one hour on Saturday mornings over ten weeks this summer. Registration and "meet the instructor" evening will take place in early June with fees, start date and time to be announced. Class size will be limited. For information, call Larry Coughlin 708.532.0526 or John Devitt 708.710.8591.

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Bicycle Season Is Here

and Chicago Gaelic Park is a great spot to start and end your ride. The Tinley Creek Trails are just a few miles west of the Park!

**I took the bikes and himself and the troops
To Gaelic Park for the ten mile loop
And after our ride, Tadgh said "Come inside,
For a drink and some Carraig Pub soup."**

CGP Sunday Radio Program

Broadcast on Sundays,
7:05pm-9pm,
on WCEV 1450 AM.

Musical Luncheons

Are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Doors open at noon, lunch served at 1pm, music until 4pm, \$13 per person. Reservations required

Family Music Sessions

are held on Thursday evenings with traditional Irish music played by students from the Irish Music School. Instructors are Sean Cleland and Pat Finnegan. For more information email LearnIrishMusic@aol.com.

Set Dancing

is held year round on Monday nights, 7:30-9:30pm. There is a \$3 weekly fee.

Step Dancing

is offered by four step dancing schools for children at CGP:

Cross Keys - 773.298.0038

Lavin-Cassidy - 708.448.6593

Mullane - 708.267.3638

McCormack-Fay Academy 708.856.2961

A benefit for Natasha McShane

the young lady beaten senseless by a robber with a baseball bat is being planned for Sunday June 13. This benefit is jointly hosted by the Irish American Heritage Center and Chicago Gaelic Park. Hours: IAHC 1pm-9pm; CGP 3pm-9pm



Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



Chicago's Irish Brigade

We know they came from at least 29 counties in Ireland. They represented 27 of the then current 35 states, including seven of the Confederate States. By war's end men from 14 foreign countries, including Canada, Norway, Germany, Bohemia, England, Holland and Switzerland, had volunteered to join her ranks. Two had been born on "The High Seas." Many were new arrivals to the United States, having emigrated during the Great Famine. Their ranks included the Irish immigrant population of Chicago and Detroit, and from nearby farming communities around LaSalle and Ogle Counties, Illinois. The sons of emigrants also joined the Regiment.

The cornerstones of Chicago's Irish Brigade were the Irish militia companies that had been formed out of necessity in the days when bears, wolves and hostile Indians still threatened Chicago's citizens. They were called the Montgomery Guards, Emmet Guards, and the Shields Guards. As the war began they were prepared. By trade her ranks included physicians, firemen, lawyers, policemen, teachers, boat builders, cigar makers, engineers, carpenters, miners, musicians, news boys, sailors, a priest and a preacher. However, the majority were listed simply as farmers and laborers. At enlistment, they ranged in age from 10 to 63 years of age. Most of them were Catholic, although Presbyterian, Baptist, Anglican and Lutheran patriots marched among them. Several were already combat veterans. Some fought in the Crimean War. At least a dozen had served in the Mexican War between 1846-1848. It is likely that a few had even fought in Italy with the St Patrick Battalion during 1860 in the Papal Wars.

Just days after Fort Sumpter, more than 600 Irishmen had initially answered the Union's call. Eventually, more than a thousand came together and elected James A. Mulligan Colonel of the "Irish Brigade" (although actually a regiment, the unit was popularly referred to as "The Irish Brigade."). Only after meeting with President Abraham Lincoln, was the 23rd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as it was formally known, accepted into Federal service. They marched under both the Stars and Stripes of their adopted land and a green silk flag bearing the Harp and Sunburst of their native land. So strong was the bond to Old Ireland that about 150 Confederate POWs turned in their grey uniforms for the blue of the Union in Chicago. Their

common bonds were the Irish language and desire for freedom. A sizable number of the regiment were also loyal members of the Fenian Brotherhood, which promulgated the use of arms to force the English from Ireland. After the War many of them joined the 800 man Fenian Battalion raised in Chicago, including several key Officers.

At war's end the Commanding Officer of the Irish Brigade listed 43 separate battles or engagements in which they participated. At least 154 of them made the ultimate sacrifice. They died in camp, on the battle field and in hospitals. They succumbed to typhoid, dysentery, fevers, amputations, pneumonia, infections and train wrecks. They died on the fields at Lexington, Missouri, Moorefield and Greenland Gap, West Virginia, Maryland Heights and Shepherdstown, Maryland, Winchester, Kernstown, Cedar Creek, Berryville, Snicker's Ferry, Fisher's Hill in the Shenandoah Valley, and Hatcher's Run, Fort Gregg and Appomattox Court House in Virginia. They died by artillery fire, bayonet, hand-to-hand combat and musket fire. Thirty-two gave their lives in Confederate prison camps named Andersonville, Danville and Libby Prison in Richmond. Men of the 23rd Illinois were present on the field at Appomattox Court House the day General Robert E. Lee surrendered. Three of her members were awarded the Medal of Honor by Congress. The story of this unique Irish regiment has never been fully

told. Jim Creed of Gaelic Park is currently researching and writing "The Harp and the Eagle: The History of Mulligan's Irish Brigade." Many of the members of this heroic regiment settled in Chicago after the War. A data base of over 3,400 names of men who served has been developed. Should any decedents or friends of Chicago's Irish Brigade like to contribute to her history or learn more about the regiment, please contact Jim at CreedChgo@aol.com.

GAA

The St Jarlath's Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling clubs season is upon us, and we are always looking for new players from ages 5-18 with all skill levels to play. Football practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 pm, and Hurling practices are Friday evenings from 6:30-8 pm. Our annual GAA Football and Hurling Camp will be held June 14-18th at Gaelic Park. The camps are taught by certified coaches, and are structured so that a different aspect of the game is worked on each day. For more information visit our website www.chicagosjarlaths.com

The National Handball Tournament will be held in Austin Texas this month. The Chicago Gaelic Handball Club annual tournament was held on April 24th and was a huge success. We had 25 juniors compete in five different divisions. The level of skill for some of these young players was amazing. If you would like to participate or join the club, please call Colm Connolly at 630 935 3722 or James Cooke at 708 257 7047.

Gaelic Handball Club: Front row: E Murray, K Walsh, J Cooke, O Conlan, C Cooke. Middle row: D Nugent, P Cooke, E Cooke, B Varley, T Conlan, M Ruane, J Walsh, I Conlan, J Cooke. Back row: S Desbouais, A McMahon, K Ruane, S Nugent, T Murray, E Nugent, D Varley, C Connolly.



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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



The Pigs Won't Like It

Several years ago a story briefly did the rounds of the European media. It was to the effect that concerns in Germany regarding the stability of the EURO were prompting some customers to demand “German” Euros from their banks while rejecting Euros from other EU states, particularly those from southern Europe. Euro notes and coins have identifiable national markings which made such an exercise possible. The inference was that, in the event of a meltdown in the Euro, Germany could withdraw from it and recognise only its “own” currency. The story was quickly rubbished as totally unfounded and far-fetched.

The Euro, in circulation since 2002, is now in use in 16 of the 27 EU members including four of the world's ten largest national economies. More importantly, it replaced one of the four major world currencies, and the pivotal European one, the German Deutschmark. German participation was an act of faith in the new currency. This core reality is often overlooked. The Euro, from the beginning, was invested with the strength, stability and reputation of the Deutschmark.

Anyone familiar with the development and launch of the US Dollar two centuries ago will know how difficult it was to merge and replace the currencies of thirteen disparate pre-industrial economies. How much greater the challenge, then, of attempting the integration of most of the major currencies of Europe (Britain remained outside), bearing with them their fiscal and budgetary baggage. There were reservations at the time about the adequacy of the Euro's control mechanisms, including the 3% ceiling on budget deficits. These were brushed aside in the euphoria of the occasion.

It has since become apparent in the Euro era that, without political union, the scope for imposing budgetary discipline among errant Euro members is limited. This is hardly surprising, given that the countries concerned are functioning parliamentary democracies, with regular elections and electorates increasingly impatient with politicians. The path to re-election is one of making promises; keeping them costs money. The path to defeat is to seek to raise that money by higher taxes. The end result, across Europe, has been steady increases in borrowing by

governments over decades to pay for promises made. In an era of growth and low interest rates, debt could be handled, or fudged.

Who, after all, would lie awake worrying that the national debt was 50, 70 or even 100% of GDP? And who took seriously complaints and warnings from the European Central Bank if a country's borrowing exceeded slightly the permitted annual ceiling? The excess could be corrected in the next year, or be postponed further if an election loomed. 3% became aspirational rather than mandatory. The Germans might grumble, some fines might be imposed, but, as long as the Euro prospered, problems could be seen off. Sticking plasters rather than radical treatment became the order of the day.

The last year has seen reality dawn and the flaws and fault lines in the Euro zone exposed. First came Ireland, as the air escaped at pace from the Celtic Tiger. A country running substantial budget surpluses collapsed into deficit—and how! It will take four years to sweat down Ireland's current double digit borrowing requirement to 3%. Ireland was lucky; overall government debt had been low after the good years, so some massive borrowing was possible. Ireland was also amenable to good advice once its leaders grasped how serious the situation was; spending, including public sector pay, was slashed. Ireland, so far, has taken her medicine.

Greece came next, and, on a Richter scale of calamity, the Greek situation scored higher than the Irish one. A small economy, with almost \$400 billion in debts, no tax base to speak of and a feather-bedded public sector and welfare state, held its hand up late last year and revealed that the last government had lied about the extent of its economic mess. As the weeks went by it became clear that Greece had no hope of tackling its debt crisis unaided, and, critically, was unlikely to be able even to roll over the portion of the debt due in 2010. Moreover, any default by Greece would expose two other dominoes, the remaining PIGS, Portugal and Spain, both with serious financial and fiscal problems. Were Spain, the

ninth economic power in the world, to go belly-up, the results would be catastrophic, certainly for the Eurozone, possibly for the global economy

Saving Greece, therefore, has become a combination of damage limitation and self preservation for the rest of the Eurozone. A three year rescue plan was agreed in early May under which Greece will be loaned up to \$150 billion by other Eurozone countries and the IMF. Inter alia, Ireland, currently borrowing \$500 million per week just to keep going, will borrow \$1.7 billion more to lend to Greece, as her share! It remains to be seen whether this plan will work, how the markets will react in the coming months and in particular whether the Greek public will accept the severe measures imposed as Greece's part of the bargain.

Politicians and Eurocrats are currently scrabbling to find more lasting solutions within the existing rules. However, it is difficult to see the Euro survive unless the current arrangements are overhauled. At the very least a new system of control over national budget deficits will have to be worked out. The stakes are high. Individual national sovereignties are at stake. A special Intergovernmental Conference would be necessary, with treaty revisions to follow. Given how jealously countries such as Ireland have defended their control over national taxation there must be considerable doubt that this method of reform would succeed, hence the sticking plaster approach. The issue is further complicated by the fact that one major EU country and currency remains outside the Euro – Britain and Sterling. All in all, an appalling vista.

In the short term the Euro will probably stagger on. Critical is the attitude of Germany. German public opinion is already seething at bailing out the Greeks (the arguments are along the lines of why should hard working thrifty Germans bail out a country where people can retire on pension in their

mid-50s) but the German government is seized by the argument that it's better to hang together than separately. They may also calculate that a weak Euro will give a much needed boost to Eurozone (and German, and indeed Irish) exports, aiding overall economic recovery. They probably also shrink from the formidable task of reforming the Euro.

What else could happen? Orthodoxy asserts that no country can be expelled from the Euro, that no country could leave the Euro and that a two-tier Euro

(the Northern states and the PIGS, with Ireland and Italy disputing the “I”) is unworkable. In short, there is a fixation with the status quo, if only because of the appalling vista scenario and an unwillingness to think the unthinkable. If the Euro goes down in flames there will be massive direct and collateral damage. The coming months could be interesting times. Some at least will start checking their Euro notes for the serial letter X—the code for Germany.

IAN Songwriter's Challenge: You Don't Have to Be Irish to Write A Great Song!

Songwriters are the unsung heroes of the music world. Individual notes are written and re-written in a myriad of different order and tempo until the notes become a score. If the score is the foundation of the song, the lyrics are the decorations: bright or monotone, rich or plain. Lyrics bring the music to the waking world.

Irish American News, Rego Records and Vital Music Recording Studio present the Songwriter's Challenge. This summer, at a pub near you, we will hold tryouts for the Best Song in Chicagoland (and beyond).

Bridie McKenna's Pub in Hollywood, The Atlantic Pub in Chicago and McNally's Pub in St. Charles will host the tryouts for Songwriter's Challenge.

Here are the Rules:

1. All songs must be original and unrecorded
2. Songwriters must be unsigned with another Record Label
3. \$50 non-refundable entry fee
4. Performance for try-outs in the pubs is limited to no more than one singer and one accompanist.
5. Tryout winners will be decided by popular vote.
6. Tryout winners must compete in the Semi-finals on Oct. 29
7. Contestants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent.
8. Contestants will perform at tryouts by a random drawing.

All contestants must be present at the start of the Contest.

9. There is a cap of 15 entries per night.

10. Performance for semi finals and finals is limited to no more than one drummer, one accompanist and two singers

11. Two songwriter winners from contests throughout Chicagoland (12 songwriters total) will be chosen to compete in the semi-finals at the IAHC on Oct 29.

12. Finalists will compete at the IAHC on Nov. 6.

13. Semi and Finalists will be decided by four judges and one consensus popular vote by attendees.

14. IAN will record interviews with all Finalists to be shown Nov. 6.

15. Semi and Finalists will perform in the order determined by random drawing.

All contestants must be present at the start of the Contest.

16. Grand Prize is \$1000 cash, song recording session at Vital Records and song distribution by Rego Records

17. Second Prize is \$300 cash

18. Third Prize is \$200 cash

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



TO COPE WITH looming events of historic magnitude, we must acquire a level of self-control and reality perception that's been lacking for years, especially in the U.S. To fulfill our civic "...by the people..." obligations we cannot function without facts about economic and governmental policies. But we now live in a blizzard of lies. At a time when Wall Street, the banks, and our government, are engaged in blatant crimes, it is disastrous that so many are so misled. The news media shill for their corporate sponsors, but by far the worst are Rush Limbaugh, the Evening Standard, Charles Krauthammer, and everybody on Fox TV. They serve only Israel and the corporate and gov't gangsters, especially Repubs Roger Ailes and Karl Rove. Through them many Americans have been led to believe outlandish falsehoods about the census, about health care, about the safety of off-shore drilling, our "noble" wars, etc. "Birthers" never will learn of Obama's U.S. birth for so long as Fox TV is their news source. Their loud slanders against Obama are providing cover for his actual crimes that so weaken our nation. Those about whom Eisenhower warned us, now also own the news media, and they have so deceived America as to have multitudes promoting policies that benefit only our republic's enemies, the corporate and governmental criminals and foreign genocidists. Here, bolded, are some of the most prevalent, nation-destroying falsehoods:

"Banks Gave Mortgages to Dead Beats Due to Governmental Pressure, Which is What Caused the Near-Crash." The gov't was and is involved in the sub-prime mortgage crimes that have wrecked our and the world's economies, but its encouragement to provide housing for the poor is not the crime, and the liar-loan recipients are not the culprits. Lacking "equal arms," the poor were not in a position to negotiate when the banks made their mortgage offers through realtors. They were led to believe the banks were ushering them into the American Dream of home ownership, and must have been grateful. They were told that the rising value of their houses would provide the additional equity that would pay their mortgages. One can know that the banks, not the house-buyers, were the culpable parties, by the following list of crimes perpetrated or arranged by the banks; 1) the higher-than-market

appraisal of the house; thus 2) the larger-than-necessary mortgage, 3) the unconscionable closing-day fees taken immediately by the bank but added to the buyer's mortgage, 4) the slicing and dicing of that mortgage and combining pieces of it with pieces of scores or hundreds of similar junk mortgages into junk financial instruments called Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) to render the titles untraceable, 5) the bribing of ratings agencies Fitch, Standard & Poor, and the revered Moody to rate the junk AAA, 6) the selling of this AAA-rated junk to pension funds and investors across the world who obviously trusted an American AAA rating, and the capper, 7) the banks' shorting of those "AAA" instruments by means of other criminal financial instruments called Credit Default Swaps (CDSs) which paid off to the banks when the CDOs they had created and sold had failed as planned. Note well: all seven of these steps were separate felonies. Nobody has been prosecuted yet. Because not enough of their CDOs were unloaded before everyone learned their true nature, the banks began to collapse. President Bush, to stave off a certain and immediate crash of our entire economy and nation, provided nearly \$800 billion to the banks and some of the banks' victims. Despite my abhorrence of such largesse at tax-payers' expense in normal times, this pump-priming by Bush is not one of his many crimes, nor, in my opinion, were Obama's subsequent bank bail-outs criminal. The tea-partiers screams against the bail-outs might be right, but I doubt it, given what we faced. Obama's (and Bush's) crimes were in their failures to immediately prosecute the criminals instead of presenting them as geniuses extricating us from the collapse they had

engineered. Having made \$billions for their banks from their crimes, they paid themselves tens and hundreds of \$millions and, with governmental complicity, they continue to pay themselves such, even while we bail them out with \$trillions. Thus, our government is now actively complicit, a full partner, in the greatest financial crime in history. The indigent mortgagors were merely pawns; they were used and soon evicted, while America was looted of \$trillions, all to make \$billionaires out of banksters and \$millionaires out of their accomplices in gov't and the ratings agencies, etc.

"Only Conservatives Care About Gov't Spending." All Americans oppose parts of our gov't expenditures, but to disprove the "conservatives" claim, ask Tea-Partiers, as I do, if we should stop spending money on war (a \$trillion in Iraq and Afghanistan so far) and you will get a blank stare. Ask them if we ought to stop giving Israel \$8.2 million per day, 365 days per year, all \$3 billion of it paid in advance on January 1 each year, and you will get another blank stare. The "conservatives" I've questioned don't care about U.S. expenditures on our killing machines, or on genocidists, or in providing tax relief to America's richest. They want pensions for themselves, and their own Social Security and Medicare income from the gov't. They like highways, armies, garbage pick-up, police and fire services, and prisons, etc. but they don't want to pay for them. They are famously flag-waving about our military but don't adequately fund VA treatment for wounded vets. Above all, "conservatives" resent any benefits to the poor, especially if dark-skinned.

"The United States Does Not Torture." That is what Obama has stated. Many Americans believe it though foreigners tend to be better informed about it. Torture was officially prohibited policy throughout the 214 or so years of our proud republic until a few years into Bush 2's era when he turned us into a squalid empire complete with his own Gulag archipelago of "black"

torture sites. Obama and his "Justice" Dept obstruct all efforts to prosecute official torturers and refuse justice to torture victims. Obama is also covering up the "extraordinary rendition" flights that deliver victims to torture sites. This just in: An Irish opponent of the use of Shannon Airport for CIA rendition flights has had his US visa revoked without explanation, Firedoglake reports. Edward Horgan was scheduled to attend an April conference at Duke University to speak about his opposition to "extraordinary rendition."

"Oil from off-shore US wells is for American consumption only." No such allocations exist. All crude is sold on the international market.

"The Good Friday Agreement (GFA) Brought Peace to Ireland." The homicide rate of the most recent

phase of the Anglo-Irish conflict peaked in 1973 and dropped rapidly to very small numbers as long ago as 1988. The GFA, written by Britain's MI5, cedes the Six-Counties to Britain, thus cedes thousands of square miles of mineral-rich Irish seafloor to Britain.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See www.terrorismireland.org.

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT; beneficial? See www.michaelmckevitt.com, www.friendsofcolinduff.com, and www.freegerry.com. A Brit court (Diplock, ie. juryless) in Occupied Ireland has Gerry on trial these days. For a daily report on it contact mcclafferty32@aol.com.



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Tradition
In Review

Bill Margeson



The regular reader knows the frequency we bring the London distribution and promotion firm, Copperplate Distribution, to the fore, as a service for you. Copperplate founder, Alan O’Leary has been mentioned on these pages almost as often as Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane and Reeltime over the years. For good reasons. And, here they are.

There are precious few Alan O’Learys left. Now, it is true that guys like Alan outlive and end up burying us all, but still, there aren’t that many left. Come to think of it, there never were that many in the first place. If you are a newbie here, Copperplate handles only the top, top traditional Irish music artists in Europe, with some from America thrown in, as well. Copperplate representation in any form means quality. Assured. Probably before you read the rest of this, you should Google Copperplate Distribution, and check it out. You’ll see. What you will notice is a total mix of the most famous and best in real Irish music, such as Shaun Davey, Rita Connelly, Tommy Peoples, Eilis Kennedy and Teada, through lesser known, but vastly important trad artists. Never heard of Chris Droney? Bobby Casey? Cillian Vallely? You should have, and not only has Alan O’Leary heard them, he has signed them up. Copperplate’s secret is this. Much of Alan’s life has been split among three forces. The need to make a living, his total love and devotion to trad and his principle of only handling the best. Himself, a noted wooden flute and tin whistle player (why hasn’t he made an album?) he knows them all. He knew them all. Seamus Ennis? Willie Clancy? Sean O’Riada? The Keanes? The Everly Brothers? Howlin’ Wolf? Wait. Howlin’ and the Everlys? Yup.

Born in Dublin, Alan’s family moved to London when he was 10. He arrived just in time to grow into that misty, magical, musical memory muse of the 60’s, by which time he was besotted by the music of the rockers. He attended almost all of the legendary London clubs of that time. He laughs easily about those days. “Wonderful, marvelous,” he enthuses in his laughing way with a word. “The less said of some of many of my experiences in that time, the better. But it was all fantastic in London then.” Let’s cut to the chase now. During this time, he was washing

the family car, when a neighbor heard the young rocker boy whistling an Irish tune he had heard somewhere. “Do you like Irish music?” asked the neighbor. It was the right neighbor, who then introduced him to the London musical scene in Fulham Broadway and the famous White Hart Public House. When Alan had replied in the affirmative, the adventure had really begun. For years, he was promoting and tour managing both rock and folk acts, including a good bit of time with the iconic, Ralph McTell. He got to know the business. Meanwhile, he was falling more and more in love with traditional music as he learned to play the flute and meet- ing essentially everyone in London and Ireland

abilities, was his personal knowledge of the retailers, the artists, the distributors, the producers, presenters, agents—the whole rainbow. Indeed, Alan was uniquely positioned. Green Linnet saw the opportunity. So did Alan. Fast forward to the eventual demise of Linnet. At this time, 1998 or so, he decided to form Copperplate. “I went to 10 artists and friends like Tommy Peoples and asked each of them for 10 CD’s. They kindly gave them, and I was off to the races!”

Through the years there have been O’Leary-hosted radio programs, and he still appears as a guest on almost all the music shows with some regularity. His encyclopedic knowledge is legendary and welcomed by those less experienced. He now hosts the best Irish traditional music podcast in the world on a monthly format. It is available for subscription through iTunes—keyword Copperplate. You can also have a listen through his site. In that site, you will also find the magic. The best of the best in trad. Legends. No nonsense. If you love the music, and you do—or else you wouldn’t be this far into this article—Copperplate Distribution is the most important site for you to bookmark in the music end of it. It is impossible to tell you all the artists or the variety of traditional offerings on the site. The key concept is the quality. 100%. The deal. The real Allie Dailey.

“Well, I can say it has been an interesting journey. I’ve made a lot of friends, as well as memories. Most of them good! To tell you the truth, I’m not sure how it all happened. The starting place is music. Then, Irish music. When that gets into you, you do what you have to do, but you become a part of it. It becomes such a part of you. I’ve loved every minute of it. The early days in folk and rock, and then Irish. The secret is to stick with the best.”

Well, that IS Copperplate. And, its artists. Check the albums and you will see the percentage of artists and companies that have more than one album working through Alan. They return time and time again for him to handle their music—and their careers. There are very, very few in this position. We could name them, but with the exception of Judith Joiner in America, there is no one actually doing the work at this level.

Who wins? Well, the artists who have benefitted in so many ways, the companies—and, us! And, that is why you are reading about him here. Alan O’Leary would tell you he is the big winner. “I’ve gotten to spend my life in music. Who could do better?”

Indeed. And, who could do it better?



Alan O’Leary

at the time. Everyone. Mention a name in the field, and Alan has not only met him or her, he knows them. “Well, they were all around in those days. And, there were not as many venues for them as there are today, so you could find them. There they would be in a regular session at a pub. And, if you knew how to behave, you could learn a lot.”

He came into his adult years, completely at home in booking and creating concerts and tours, as well as managing artists on the road—somewhat akin to herding cats. As his reputation grew, he joined forces in the 90’s with the powerhouse of its day, Green Linnet, based in Connecticut. Alan represented Linnet in the U.K., and led it to a number one position in its field in sales, market presence and influence. Green Linnet was a powerhouse in America in Irish traditional music, and the powerhouse in the U.K. Salad days, in many ways. Not to put too fine a point on it, but the reason for the success, other than Alan’s considerable promotional

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

The title of this column is a quote from Tom Brokaw. As I was thinking about a subject for this column, I came across these words by Brokaw. It really spoke to me; hopefully it will speak to you. I am convinced that the desire to make a difference may be universal; we all want to influence the world in our own way.

Ideally the difference we bring about is a positive change.

I have developed this theme with the random statements below. Hope you find one or more that speak to your desire for some immortality.

Be Nice to someone in one of those invisible jobs (a ticket taker, a garbage man, a postal worker or a landscaper.) Ask them about their day.

Help Someone who is not in a position to repay your kindness. It may be someone who is homeless or physically challenged, or just someone who needs the door held open for them.

Ask a co-worker about his/her family. Has Andy decided on what college he is going to attend? How is your daughter's volleyball team doing in the State tournament? Is the baby teething yet?

Find a way to sincerely compliment one of your colleagues. Sometimes even the most incidental compliment will be well received. Remember the most important people in your life also like to be complimented. Most people can distinguish between "kiss up" compliments and genuine praise. Don't you think you can make that distinction? Country music artist, Brad Paisley says "Anytime you do something from the heart, people just know it."

Counsel a person at work—show them how to improve their performance. We live in a world that has gotten increasingly busy—we have no time for people.

Find some time to mentor someone. You will



be surprised how much you learn from the process.

Give a larger tip than you usually do. It will make someone's day. I had breakfast with a friend of mine who left a \$5 bill on the

table as the tip. The young waitress chased after us—thinking that Bob had made a mistake. Seeing the smile on her face when she realized that Bob had intended to leave it for her was really special. I am not sure about the waitress, but it sure helped make my day.

Boy Scouts are remembered fondly for helping little old folks across the street. Is today your chance to help someone in the spirit of the Scouts?

Include the new guy at work in the conversation—make him/her feel comfortable and appreciated.

Call an old pal whom you haven't had contact with in a long time. S/he will relish the call. Haven't you felt that way after receiving such a call?

Sincerely engage someone in conversation about their day. There is a great story on the internet about a freshman boy carrying a load of books home on a Friday afternoon. Another lad engaged him in conversation about his day; and invited him to a little party. Fast forward to their graduation when the first boy is the class

the helpful student got the despairing freshman over the hump. Wouldn't you like to have that effect on someone's life? The opportunities abound all around us.

Treat everyone you meet on one day of the week (your choice) with great respect, however modest their station in life. It will make you a better person.

And it may have a domino effect.

Get in the habit of being nice, respectful to everyone—hey, it's good business—it will pay you rewards—it will make your life more enjoyable (even those with the thickest skin may be inspired by the reaction of the recipient of the kindness). Aristotle said "Quality is not an act, it is a habit".

One of the biggest complaints that employees have is their boss' failure to listen to them. Also failing to give feedback; particularly sincere and thoughtful feedback.

Zig Ziglar's admonition is that we shouldn't let a day go by without thanking someone for the help they gave us some time in our life.

It is common that people in certain jobs or professions, such as police officers, criminal attorneys, and bus drivers become hardened and callous due to the people they are forced to deal with. But hopefully just the opposite might work if people are treated with genuine kindness and generosity. Their lives could be greatly enhanced.

As a long time observer of business people, I am often struck by our callous behavior. Do you admire thoughtless people? Do you strive to be like that rude tactless boss that you once had? I would venture to speculate that it's far more likely you admire the boss who could be direct and possibly even blunt in rendering criticism, but who was respectful of your abilities and genuinely supportive of you.

We have great counsel around us all the time. The challenge is deciding on what counsel to accept. "The mind is everything. What you think, you become." Buddha. Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc. an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. NEW Email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com



Nature's Creatures were on exhibit at the Heritage Center's Green Family Festival in April for all to enjoy.

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**The French Quarter's
Southern Irish Hospitality**

Spring brings a specific joie de vivre to The Big Easy. The second weekend in May falls right after Jazz Fest and before the summer festivals really get underway. The horrid humidity hasn't really hit yet, for the most part. This is one town that doesn't have to think hard for reasons to celebrate. If you're in search of a festival, parade, or just general merry-making, you'll find it in New Orleans. Except in mid-May. It's the perfect time to visit. Those seeking a quieter getaway will find thinner crowds and shorter lines.

Start our brief tour of The French Quarter out right at The Kerry Irish Pub. The Kerry strives to act as a haven for both talented local musicians, and those just passing through town. "People here (in New Orleans) are very musically generous, our bartender Kevin informs us. It's nothing to see the same guy playing with three different bands in one week. That's why we get such a great mix of music down here." In a city best known for its jazz, The Kerry features live music—not just Irish—every night of the week ranging from country, folk, rock, bluegrass, roots rock, etc., from 9pm-1am, with traditional Irish sessions during the week from 5-8pm. The pub does musical tributes by the month. May is Bob Dylan month. St. Patty's Day spans about 10 days in this "Best of the Big Easy 2008" award recipient. Stop in for the best Guinness in the French Quarter. 331 Decatur St.; Daily 2pm-2am.

New Orleans is arguably America's best city of music, especially for jazz. After having a quick Guinness at Fahy's, a charming hole-in-the-wall hangout on Burgundy St, stop in at Fritzel's European Jazz Pub, New Orleans' oldest jazz bar for great music any night of the week. It's a good time, in a touristy-sort of way, but the 6 block walk to Frenchman's St. from the heart of The Quarter is well worth it for the real-deal in local jazz 7 nights a week. Fahy's—540 Burgundy St.; 2pm-2am; Fritzel's—733 Bourbon St.; Mon-Thur 2pm-2am, Fri & Sat 12pm-3am.

d.b.a. is a hip-while-not-trendy club with a

great dance floor. Get a seat at the bar to watch the nightly group of locals swing dance in amazing step with each other. When the lights come on at d.b.a, swing across to The Spotted Cat for another hour. Frenchman Street is the place to visit local New Orleans—you won't find overstuffed shops of Mardi Gras masks, Saints paraphernalia or frozen daiquiris. d.b.a. Mon-Thu, Sun 4pm-4am; Fri-Sat 4pm-5am; The Spotted Cat, weekdays 4pm-2am; weekends 3pm-2am.

In this neighborhood, you find yourself right around the corner from the Convent of the Ursuline Sisters, the only actual example of French architecture in The Quarter. Most of the buildings in The Quarter are actually of Spanish design,



since Spain ruled over this area until just before the Louisiana Purchase. When the U.S. made the acquisition, most of the residents still spoke French, dubbing this area The French Quarter.

A short stop into this 1752 former convent, and you'll not only be entering the oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley, but also paying respect to the truly unsung heroines of this city. The Ursuline order of nuns sailed across the ocean from France, narrowly escaping pirate attacks and disease to arrive in the Mississippi Valley when it was truly nothing but swampland. Founding a convent, which doubled as an orphanage and school, the nuns cared for and educated children. Today, the convent, garden and Chapel of St.

Mary's serve as a museum/tribute to the early years and hardships of this area and the city of New Orleans. 1100 Chartres St.; Daily, except Sunday, 10am-4pm, \$5 for adults.

Across the street from the convent, Civil War buffs will enjoy a walk through the Beauregard-Keyes House and Gardens. One of the finest examples of a proper New Orleanian historic home, it is named for both Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard and author Frances Parkinson Keyes. Dating from 1826, it is an extensive study of antiques and fine decor, reminiscent of the proper South. 1113 Chartres St.; Daily except Sunday, 10am-3pm, \$10 for adults. Group rates available.

From here it's just a short block toward the river, up Ursuline St. and back to Decatur for a red-carpet welcome at Molly's at the Market from former Chicagoan Jim Monaghan. Jim's grandfather, also Jim Monaghan, set up shop just opposite the French Market, in 1973.

"We were the first pub to have live music post-Katrina," Jim relates. Molly kept her doors open during the hurricane to offer regulars and relief workers alike "a place to feel a part of somewhere, keep up on weather reports and generally stick together during a tough time. People need a place to belong at a time like that. We even held the annual Halloween parade, despite Katrina hitting in late August." Beside Halloween, the pub also sponsors a St. Patrick's Day parade, in addition to acting as a libation portal for the festival season. "Every year, the Krewe de Vieux Carré makes an official stop at Molly's to drink a kick-off toast. Monaghan took the time to explain that the Krewe de Vieux Carré is a collection of people who combine resources to obtain parade permits and pay other expenses—a Mardi Gras

welcoming committee of sorts—to a befuddled northerner.

Have a seat right across from the "New Orleans—we put the fun in funeral" sign at the bar. Look to the left of it and you'll see the World Famous Butch McGuire's sign next to it. Monaghan was a close friend of Chicago's beloved Butch McGuire. The Guinness is as respected in this public house as it is at Butch's. Abita, the local Louisiana brewery, also makes an appearance on draught as well. Not to be left out of category in the city with the world's largest selection of frozen drinks, be sure to sample Molly's frozen Irish coffees. 1107 Decatur St., Daily 10am-6am.

Cross Decatur St. to the large, open-air trading post known as the French Market. Doing business daily since its birth in 1791 as a Native American trading post along the banks of the Mississippi, it is America's oldest outdoor market, also hosting several restaurants on its expansive site. Merchandise spans from fresh produce and traditional beignets to antiques, tchotchke souvenirs, knock-offs and local artwork. And pretty much anything else in between! Open daily, rain or shine, 1200 block of north Peters St., free admission.

Check out The Quarter in the spring for a relaxing getaway complete with southern Irish hospitality.

Maureen Callahan is a Chicago freelancer writer and columnist. missmaurencallahan@gmail.com.

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Piping It In



Jack Baker



and they have been releasing some seriously good music. I've got two of their new releases to tell you about, one Irish and one Scottish and both impres-

It's June and time to get down to some festival going and music listening, but first we've got some serious news to consider. I'm sure that by now, unless you live in a cave, you've heard about the two girls attacked in the Bucktown area of Chicago on April 23 by a baseball bat wielding maniac. One of the young ladies is Natasha McShane of Silverbridge, Co. Armagh, Ireland, and the Irish community in Chicago has come together to help this poor kid with her crippling medical expenses. She was only two weeks away from graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago when she was attacked. A special fundraising day called "Natasha's Day" is scheduled for Sunday, June 13. There will be three benefits taking place around the Chicago area. You'll find info on all three listed in this paper. Go to one of them, see some great entertainment, have a couple beverages, a little food, participate in the silent auctions and raffles and, by doing so, help out a poor kid that caught a miserable break. We can't put her back to where she was before that slimeball attacked but if we all work together; we can make her recovery less painful.

Now for some news about a real gem of a festival, Oshkosh Irish Fest! The fest takes place this year on June 11, 12 and 13 and features a tremendous lineup of talent. Gaelic Storm, The Elders, Rising Gael, Seamus Kennedy, Leahy's Luck, Máirtín de Cógáin Project, Tantrum and bunches more. The folks that run this festival work their tails off researching who's hot in Irish music, and they've put together a list that impresses me, and I'm hard to impress. One group I recommend you listen to is Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers. Kevin writes his own songs and this fellow is a wordsmith of rare talent. His songs speak to us; give him a listen. This is only the festival's second year, but I have seldom seen festival organizers who cared more or worked harder to create a great fest. Food last year was great; facility is superb, sound system is one of the best I've seen. Well worth the trip. For more info, try their website at www.oshkoshirishfest.com.

Bunches of new music to talk about, both independent productions and label releases. A relatively new label is New Folk Records in Minnesota

The Irish release is by a group called Two Tap Trio and is called A Night at the Fair. Three young and impressive musicians form the trio, Nathan Gourley on fiddle, Norah Rendell on flute and vocals, and Brian Miller on guitar, bouzouki and backing vocals. They were a complete and delightful surprise to me. A very traditional recording by three players that know, respect, and perform the music the way it should be played. Can't wait to see these folks in person.



The Scottish release by New Folk is titled Cross the Roaring Main by a group called Rungumption. There isn't a Scottish music tradition in the US like the Irish, and most impressive Scottish groups have come from Scotland, but these boys have got the sound down pat and play some serious sounds that will make fans of real Scottish music sit up and take notice. The band lineup is Shawn McBurnie on vocals (and what vocals! My Lord that boy can sing) bodhran and cello, Chad McAnally on whistles, harp and hammered dulcimer (a very nice touch), Jason Noval on cittern and flute and Adam Modares on Djembe and uilleann pipes. They've picked some of the more interesting tunes as well, including "Twa Corbies," "The Peeler & The Goat," "Sour Milk Cart" and "Slieve Gallion Braes." This CD is a rarity! It took me by surprise because I have learned not to expect much from Scottish-American groups but this band, Rungumption, delivers some serious Scottish folk music that touches my kilted soul. They are scheduled to play at the Minnesota Highland

Games. I'll be there and I'll let you know if they are as good live as they are recorded. I suspect they will be, and I suspect we will be hearing more of this talented bunch.

Speaking of talented bunches, about a year or so ago, my friend Noah turned me on to a talented Irish trad group from Denmark called Kasir. They have now released their second CD, titled Chilling on a Sunday. Every bit as good as their first CD, their second introduces a couple vocals, sung in English which are quite good. The band features one of the finer guitar players I've heard, a young fellow by the name of Aske Fuglsang Ruhe, who performs the aforementioned vocals and plays a sweet mandolin. As with their first CD the arrangements are unique, original and very entertaining. This is another group I would love to see touring in the U.S.

Another new independent release comes to us from veteran Scottish songsmith Alex Beaton. From the Sea to the Shore is his new recording featuring Alex's renderings of eleven sea songs. As always, Alex Beaton takes popular tunes, gives them his own unique arrangements, backs them with the finest studio musicians he can find, and creates memorable versions that are his alone. He performs several old saws, like "Shoals of Herring," "Fiddler's Green," "Farewell to Tarwathie," "Mingulay Boat Song," songs we've heard a thousand times, but he does them in his distinguished way and I can't help but feel like I've never really "heard" them before. Alex always puts so much of his own feelings into the music that you feel that he's sharing something personal with you, and he is. Another fine CD from one of the finest singers with one of the finest voices. He's also a genuinely nice guy to boot.

Finally another hit CD from Compass records. Is there a month that goes by without Compass releasing a "must have" CD? I don't think so and I am eternally grateful to them for their efforts in bringing us the best in Celtic music. This month their blockbuster release is Aurora by whistle/flute virtuoso Michael McGoldrick. Has Michael ever released a CD I wasn't crazy about? Not so far, and this one's no different. Ranging from totally trad to slightly country to somewhat jazzy, McGoldrick takes you on a wild musical sleigh ride that will leave you a little breathless but full of happiness as you put it back on to play again. Does it sound like I like this CD? It should. Surrounded with the brightest lights in Celtic music: John McCusker, Manus Lunny, John Joe Kelly, Dezi Donnelly, to name but a few, McGoldrick continues on his journey to raise the standard for great music. Just buy it and enjoy, I can say

no more.

Hope to see you all at the many festivals this year. Keep up your support of independent music. You can catch me at the store, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 South Villa, Villa Park, IL 60181, or call 630-834-8108 or email at pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainté.

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



What’s the Meaning of Reform

I was recently approached by a gentleman after church who asked: “you write and offer sections from church leaders in the bulletin about Immigration reform, but, what really does reform mean? I hear so many commentators say that all our government has to do is enforce the laws on the books since 1986, why is this approach not sufficient? I have no problem taking up a challenging question; I do however reserve the right to say I can’t answer such a question in thirty seconds.

I like words and their definitions and origins, so, here is the definition of reform to be found in Webster’s dictionary:

1 a: to put or change into an improved form or condition b: to amend or improve by change of form or removal of faults or abuses

2: to put an end to (an evil) by enforcing or introducing a better method or course of action

It is clear to anyone who is familiar with US Immigration law that the said law is definitely in need of revision. The 1986 law my questioner referred to does not serve the best interests of this country as we journey into the second decade of the 21st Century. That is not simply my opinion. It is not simply the opinion of a group of left leaning political groups. That is the opinion of the majority of both main political parties in the US. Both Democrats and Republicans agree that our Immigration laws need, in the words of our definition, to be amended or improved. What they don’t always agree on are the details of such an amendment.

At the end of April in response to the very draconian immigration statutes signed into law by the Governor of Arizona, members of the Senate Democratic leadership issued a set of principles, which they hoped would be the foundation for a serious effort

to move the debate on Comprehensive Immigration reform.

Draft Proposal for Immigration Reform Unveiled

The proposal was written by Senate Democrats as an invitation to Senate Republicans to move forward on a bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform this year. The proposal outlines all the things immigration activists have been hoping, wishing, marching, campaigning and praying for.

In relation to the draft proposal, it contains 5 basic elements: increased border enforcement; revised entry-exit system and ending illegal employment; reform of America’s system of legal immigration; dealing with the undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S.; and, reform of other parts of the U.S. immigration system.

1. Increased Border Enforcement:

Proponents of reform acknowledge that America’s borders must be secure before action can be taken to legalize the undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S. There are various action items outlined to help achieve secure borders including increased number of Border Patrol officers and increased number of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to combat smuggling operations.

2. Revised Entry-Exit System and Ending Future Illegal Employment:

A second component of the draft proposal involves a future detection, apprehension and removal policy for unlawfully present persons in the U.S. This involves implementing an entry-exit system that will allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to know whether foreign nationals have overstayed their visas, an element that is lacking in the current system.

To prevent future waves of illegal

immigration, the hiring, recruitment or referral of unauthorized immigrants must be prevented. The proposal envisages a biometric type social security card that will be fraud resistant. A detailed procedure of how this card will work is outlined in the proposal.

3. Reform of America’s System of Legal Immigration:

The reform will tackle both the immigration of highly skilled workers and that of lower-skilled workers in addition to overhauling the clearly broken existing green card system.

Highly Skilled Workers:

The proposal will reform the current immigration system to ensure the world’s best and brightest can come and work in the U.S. while preventing the loss of American jobs to temporary labor contractors. Currently, some of these highly skilled individuals are unable to secure a visa to come to the U.S. due to numerical visa limitations (caps). The H-1B and L visa categories will be revamped to ensure those individuals are not “job shopped” out to third party clients thereby lowering the wages of U.S. workers.

Lower Skilled Workers:

In relation to lower skilled workers, strict enforcement and increased prevailing wage requirements will be added to the existing H-2A and H-2B visa categories.

A new visa category, the H-2C will be created for non-seasonal, non-agricultural workers to enter the U.S. This visa will allow the individual to pursue permanent residency, assuming certain conditions are met. U.S. employers will be required to test the labor market for qualified U.S. workers before hiring someone on an H-2C visa.

A Commission on Employment-Based Immigration will be established to study the current system and make recommendations that will promote economic growth and competitiveness while minimizing job displacement, wage depression and unauthorized employment.

Current Green Card System:

The proposal will address the technical issues that prevent widows and orphans of U.S. citizens from obtaining immigration benefits. The family immigration backlog will be cleared over the course of the next 8 years. Thereafter, the current numeric caps on the family-preference categories will remain the same as current law.

The proposal will also end discrimination in the current immigration laws by allowing partners of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain green card status.

4. Unauthorized Immigrant Presently in the U.S.:

The DHS estimates that there are approximately 10.8 million people currently living in the U.S. with no legal

status. The proposal includes a broad registration program that requires all undocumented immigrants to come forward, register, be screened and, if eligible, complete other requirements to earn legal status including paying back taxes.

A two-phase process will be instituted to implement this procedure:

Phase 1:

Eligible applicants will be registered, fingerprinted, screened, and considered for an interim “Lawful Prospective Immigrant” (LPI) status that allows them to work and to travel outside of the United States.

The initial registration process will require the following:

(1) Complete an application supplying basic biographic and biometric information;

(2) Pass terrorism, criminal history, and other security checks;

(3) Pay all applicable fees, civil penalties, and taxes; and

(4) Have been continuously present in the United States since the date of enactment

Individuals will not be eligible for registration if they:

(1) Have been convicted of any felony offense under Federal or State law (all offenses punishable with a term of imprisonment greater than one year), or three or more misdemeanors;

(2) Have participated in the persecution of others;

(3) Are inadmissible under certain provisions of INA 212(a), particularly with regard to national security grounds and criminal grounds;

(4) Are currently present in the U.S. in an authorized immigrant or non-immigrant status; or

(5) Have entered illegally after the date of introduction of the bill.

Phase 2:

This will take place in 8 years time when the current backlogs have been cleared. This scenario is commonly referred to the “back of the line” provision.

After eight years, individuals who have been granted LPI status will be permitted to apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence (LPR), provided that they can demonstrate that they meet criteria related to:

(1) Basic citizenship skills;

(2) English language skills;

(3) Continuous residence in the U.S.;

(4) Updated terrorism, criminal history, and other checks;

(5) Payment of all federal income taxes, fees, and civil penalties; and

(6) Registration for Selective Service.

5. Reform of Other Parts of the U.S. Immigration System:

Various technical reforms will be

implemented to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of America’s immigration system.

These are as follows:

- new program created to promote property ownership by foreign nationals

- R-1 religious worker visa will be made permanent

- Conrad J-1 visa and the H-1B visa will be more easily obtainable by foreign doctors

- An E-3 professional visa will be created for nationals of the Republic of Ireland similar to that of the visa already provided for nationals of Australia

All in all, this proposal is very promising. We need to keep the pressure on the politicians. Get out there and show them you want this reform. If you won’t fight for it, how can we expect our Senators and Congressmen to?

(The above summary is courtesy of Fiona McEntee, an immigration lawyer and board member of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support.)

Two Monks (An Old Zen Story)

Two monks were walking together down an old road.

Soon they arrived at a river which crossed their path, and there a beautiful young woman approached them. She greeted the two monks politely and requested their help in crossing. She told them of her need to get to the other side of the river, and then went on to explain that crossing by herself would certainly wet and ruin her clothes.

At this, the first monk smiled pleasantly, and honored her request. He carried the young woman across the river on his shoulders and set her down on the other side. Afterward, the woman thanked him and was quite grateful for the kind act. And although the second monk didn’t seem too pleased, because traditionally this could be construed as improper, the two monks bid farewell and continued along their way.

It was a good way down the road when the second monk turned to the first, with an angry expression upon his face. He could hold his tongue no longer. “How could you give in to temptation like that and carry that girl across the river? And so casually, at that.”

To this the first monk replied without hesitation, “My dear brother, we left that nice young woman back there at the river crossing. Why are you still carrying her?”

Gentle reader, are you perhaps carrying something today that would be best left by the wayside?

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

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Books & Plays in Review

Continued from page 7

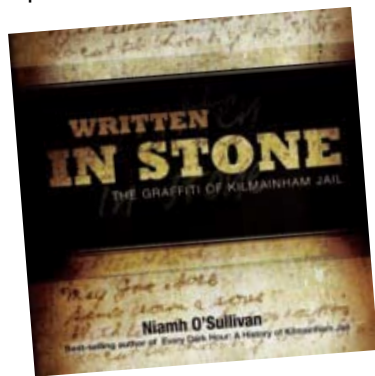
"Fortune Who Betrays Us Today, Will Smile On Us Tomorrow"

I was young man when I first visited Dublin's Kilmainham Jail, which operated from 1796 to 1924. I had read of the Irish heroes who were imprisoned there, including: Robert Emmet, Henry Joy McCracken, O'Donovan Rossa, Charles Parnell, Padraig Pearse and James Connolly, to name only a few.

I found the prison to be grim, gloomy, musty and forsaken. What must it have felt like to them when the cell door closed behind them?

Some were sent to the stonebreaker's yard to be shot, or to Australia to grind out their lives at hard labor. Fortunately, these patriots never gave in or even flinched.

They did leave behind two things. One was hope that Ireland



would be free someday; the other is graffiti on the prison's walls.

This unique book is about that graffiti. Most of it was from the 1916-1924 period, but the first carving was made in 1798 by Patrick McCann. Who was he? Was he a United Irishman? Had he been in the Uprising of 1798?

Quoting from the press release about this emotionally powerful book: "The book discusses some of the heartbreaking messages left for posterity..."

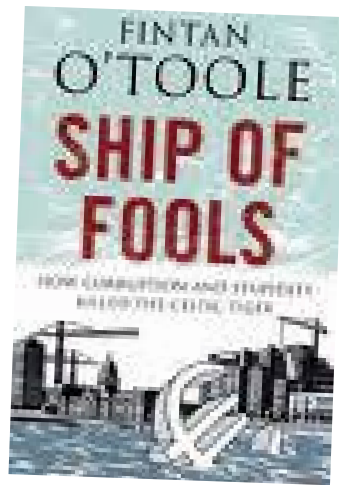
These are great examples of persistence for our personal lives.

Written Stone: The Graffiti in Kilmainham Jail by Niamh O'Sullivan. Liberties Press-Dufour Editions, 2010. 112 pages; \$24.95.

Ship of Fools: How Stupidity & Corruption Sank the Celtic Tiger

This book just arrived—so I have not read it—just glanced through it.

It is the story of Ireland's economic collapse, and how the Irish government used mind boggling amounts of tax money to bail out Ireland's



banks.

The author, Fintan O'Toole, is a columnist for the Irish Times and was recently in Chicago to discuss this topic for the Chicago Council of World Relations.

The novel tells of the same sordid story there as in the United States: unparalleled greed, high risk bank loans to gamble on "investments," failure of government officials to exert oversight, collusion of bankers with government officials, and irresponsible politicians who looked the other way. Sound familiar? Heartbreakingly familiar?

The names are different: instead of Goldman Sachs there is Allied Irish Bank, instead of TARP, there is NAMA, instead of Paulson and Geithner there are Michael Fingleton and Sean Fitzpatrick.

Even the story is the same. Ordinary Irish and American citizens bailed out the gamblers and will be paying their debts for years. An ABC poll released recently said 75% of Americans believe the big banks are responsible for the crisis in the United States.

The author is careful with facts and uses clear prose to passionately tell the story.

A real change requires a profound political change. O'Toole urges his fellow Irish citizens to vote for a new government. Please remember this when you vote in the November 2010 elections.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

The Lighter Side of Summer Eating

As the summertime begins, all things ‘light’ start to enter into everyday vocabulary. Lighter clothes are worn, the evenings are lighter longer, and even food is emerging from the heavy, hearty winter meats and hours-long

many towns will have this venue available and open to the public. While Seattle has its Pike Place Market, filled to the rafters with the best produce in the region, the other forty-nine states’ farmer’s markets do the local merchants



stews to light vegetables and easy no fuss dishes. This shift is due in part to the outdoor warming trends, the comforting summer sun. It also is encouraged by the addition of more open air social activities. And, in no small way, lighter, easier foods can be attributed to the wonderful assortment of the summer seasonal foods available.

The summer food palate is extensive. With so many varieties of every type of fruit and vegetable, the means to try different textures and tastes are limitless. One of the best places for the freshest summer produce is the farmer’s market. Most large cities and

and growers proud with their own best. And I must say, I have never seen the variety of vegetables and fruit and other artisan products like I do at the small open air markets. Walking the rows of stands, sampling the early morning breads and pastries, or trying a green bean ‘picked that morning’ with the dew still on it, that is a master chef’s dream canvas.

As you walk through the stands, begin to formulate ideas for your lunch, dinner, dessert. What looks and smells fresh. Food is not only taste, but sight, smell, texture, and even sound. Think of when you make soda bread. Do you thump the bottom to hear the

hollow, to test if it is hollow? Or buying French bread, squeezing it and hearing the crisp crackle of the freshness? Or even the slurp when biting into a beautifully ripe peach?

Food gives all the senses a wakeup call. Regardless if you have access to the open air market or the produce department of the grocery store, get a feel for the seasonal items and formulate a dish around that flavor. If you have a recipe you’d like to update or even a recipe that you think can be altered into the tastes and textures you crave, go for it.

Think about shepherds or cottage pie, both with meat and gravy bases and topped with thick, creamy mashed potatoes. It sounds good, but not that much so if it’s hot outside or you are looking to lighten up the dinner. Instead, use chicken and low fat cream of chicken soup and add zucchini, celery, and leeks. To top it, make car-nip. That is, mashed carrots and mashed parsnips. Add a little bit of low fat cream cheese for creaminess, and you have a new summer dish

After imagining the different combination of vegetables and other ingredients, set to the task.

Use a variety of herbs, spices and other flavorings to bring out the freshness of the food. Cook the food as minimally as possible, in order to keep the vitamins, minerals, and bright summer flavors intact. And finally, enjoy the lightness, freshness and great seasonal tastes acquired from eating at the peak of summer perfection. These items may be shipped in to the stores in January. But for best results, consume according to the calendar. Your whole body will thank you for it.

The following two recipes are perfect for a summer dinner. The first, summer veggies pot au feu soup, is ideal for a cooler evening or an early lunch, when a light, warm dish is needed. Pot au feu is a French meat stew. I’ve seen it with shredded chicken and my version leaves it optional.

The remaining French part is allspice and thyme. Serve this with garlic French bread. The second, zucchini pappardelle with lemon thyme ricotta is an easy, no hot kitchen dinner. This also would be complimented with garlic bread.

Summer Veggies Pot Au Feu

Serves 4-6

- 6 c. torn kale
- 3 large carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch rounds
- 3 celery stalks, cleaned and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 2 leeks, cut into 1/2 inch rounds
- 1/2 c. coarsely chopped fresh flat parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, whole
- 1 can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 4 c. chicken or vegetable stock
- 4 c. water
- 1/4 t. Salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1/4 t. celery salt
- 1/2 t. allspice
- 1/2 t. thyme
- 1 1/2 c. cooked, shredded chicken (optional, if desired)

Bring stock and water to a slow boil. Add all the veggies, except the beans. Add thyme, allspice and pepper. Simmer until carrots are barely tender, 7-10 minutes. Add beans, salt and celery salt. Simmer another 5 minutes. Add cooked chicken, if desired. Taste and adjust seasoning, if needed. Serve immediately, with parmesan sprinkled over top.

Zucchini Pappardelle with Lemon Thyme

Ricotta
Serves 4

- 3 – 4 zucchinis, on the small side
- 1 15 oz. container low fat ricotta
- 2 T. fresh thyme, or 1 T. dried thyme
- Zest from one lemon
- 2 T. parmesan
- Dash of ground red pepper
- Juice from 1 lemon juice
- 2 t. garlic powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 T. chopped fresh parsley

Make ricotta. Combine all ingredients except zucchini in small bowl. Season to taste. Using wire whip, beat for 1 minute. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. With a vegetable peeler, peel slices of zucchini into long strips. Using smaller zucchini will keep the ‘noodles’ uniform. Lay zucchini in casserole with 1/4 c. water and microwave 2 minutes covered, or until ‘noodle’ is soft and pliable. Mound noodles on individual plates and top with ricotta cheese and parsley. Serve immediately and with garlic bread.

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

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



What do I do now? Become a smarter investor!

Is This Recovery for Real? The stock market has taken investors on quite a roller coaster ride the past 3 years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average went from hitting an all time high of 14,164 in October 2007, to losing over 50 percent of its value the next 18 months and a twelve year low of 6,547 in early March 2009, and recently it has rallied back over 11,000. A respectable 65 percent gain from the 2009 low, but still more than 25 percent off of its all time high.

Investors are asking themselves “Is this recovery for real?” or “Is this just a bear market rally?” Many investors find themselves torn between greed and fear. On the one hand, they want to participate in the markets recovery and generate healthy returns (especially with short term interest rates at all time lows). But at the same time, the recent economic conditions and market volatility have produced fear.

So, is this recovery for real; is this another bull market or are we headed for a double dip recession? Unfortunately, only time will tell whether this is a true recovery or not. However, that doesn’t mean investors should wait on the sidelines for the outcome. Here are some time tested principles to follow that will help make you a smarter and more successful investor in the future.

Separate Savings and Investing
Saving is usually meant for short-term goals or for funds that you can have immediate access to. This liquidity usually comes with a lower return but also a lower level of risk. Investing is for longer term goals. You should have at least a five year time horizon before you might need the money. Warren Buffet once said “Only buy something that you’d be perfectly happy to hold if the market shut down for 10 years.”

Know Your Risk Tolerance
The recent market turmoil has caused many investors to realize they were taking too much risk. Everyone has their own comfort level or “risk tolerance” when it comes to investing. How much are you willing to risk for a certain level of return? Some investors are conservative, some are aggressive, and some are moderate. Your risk tolerance is in some ways a compromise between greed and fear. Knowing your own

risk tolerance is crucial to being a successful investor. Allocate your investments to match your goals, needs and risk tolerance. What percentage of stocks, bonds, cash, foreign stocks, real estate, etc. should you have in your portfolio? The amount in each asset class should depend upon your own personal goals, needs, and risk tolerance. Asset allocation accounts for 91 percent of a portfolio’s long term return. The idea is to maximize return while minimizing the risk in a portfolio. Well balanced portfolios can produce higher returns while taking less risk than the overall market. Follow A Detailed Plan Planning creates a purpose for investing. Many people spend more time planning their yearly vacations than they do on their investments. An investment plan or financial plan acts as your detailed road map.

It gives you direction; it outlines your goals, your risk tolerance, and your appropriate asset allocation. It keeps you on track in good markets and bad. Trying to drive cross-country without a road map would be foolish. Investing without a plan is no different. A detailed plan helps ensure a smooth journey and increases the odds of successfully reaching your destination. Stay Invested

Market volatility is nothing new, it is the norm. The stock market rarely delivers yearly returns that are even close to its long term averages. Investors who have stayed invested over the long run have significantly outperformed those who have tried to time the markets. It’s time in the market, not timing the market.

Monitor and rebalance your portfolio on an ongoing basis.

Market movements will shift your allocation over time. When an asset class does well, you’ll be overweight or when another asset class under performs, you’ll be underweight. This keeps you disciplined to sell high and buy low to rebalance your portfolio. Also, as allocations change so do the investments within that allocation. Evaluate your investments to make sure they are still doing what you bought them to do. Whether

it’s a stock, bond, or mutual fund, you should always evaluate your investments and make the necessary changes when appropriate.

While there is no such thing as a guarantee in the stock markets, investors who have followed disciplined, long term strategies have been generously rewarded.

John P. Daly is a Certified Fi-

ancial Planner and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. Phone: 312-239-1317 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or Financial Planning.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



of Coulter’s talented fingers.

Longtime fans of Keane since her days with Gaelic Storm have been eager to hear more since she recorded her self-titled debut album back in 1999, and she did not disappoint by not only performing songs from that album but also giving a first listen to several songs from the new album she is currently recording with Coulter.

The show opened with a duo of a different kind, the prolific James Conway, a master on the harmonica, along with Rick “Cookin” Sherry on the old fashioned washboard. Their highly entertaining mix of folk and blues took the audience from the mean streets to the boxcars to the Scottish Highlands

and through the Emerald Isle and back to southern country roads and Sunday choirs in a travelogue of toe-tapping tunes.

Local champion Irish step dancer Marieke Van Der Maelen kept the tempo going in accompanying Keane in many of her signature and newly-created songs. Van Der Maelen makes Irish dancing come alive for neophytes and aficionados alike, with a remarkable blend of artistry and athleticism.

Keane was an accomplished musician even in her youth, earning national and international acclaim for music and dancing. It must run in the blood because the matinee and evening performances also showed 8 year old niece Collette Kathleen Staunton in action just months after learning the violin. Her fiddle work showed an amazing level of maturity and confidence.

Even with Aunt Kathleen playing alongside Collette’s playing of several polkas made it clear that she was the one in charge of starting and finishing the pieces.

Keane’s penchant for variety included singing the Catholic elementary schoolgirl standard Immaculate Mary, doing a sitting chair dance at the speed of light and playing a simple four dollar beginner tin whistle and making it sound like a million dollars.

With a lifelong track record of musical success, it would be easy for Kathleen Keane to rest on her laurels and flawlessly cover the same material that has brought her recognition from Chicago to Ireland and back again. But her latest matinee and evening performances at SPACE show she has a bright future ahead with a new dynamic duo with William Coulter, a pending second record album and as always, the promise of entertaining performances with spirit, skill and variety.

Kathleen Keane Fills SPACE With Variety

While the space program may be winding down, Kathleen Keane’s latest appearance at Evanston SPACE was out of this world.

The Chicago born singular sensation in Irish pop and traditional music followed up last summer’s sold-out appearance at SPACE (Society for the Preservation of Art and Culture in Evanston) with a multi-act, multi-faceted offering from the multitalented instrumentalist and vocalist.

In the few short years since SPACE opened it has become a prime evening showcase for national and local talent. Keane expanded the space with two shows recently, with the world debut of her new duo with Grammy award-winning guitarist William Coulter. Whether singing, playing the fiddle or performing on the flute and tin whistle, Keane with her new music partner made a smooth and stunning combo. Softer pieces had a more striking and reflective air about them and sprightlier tunes had even more punch with the addition



Kathleen Keane & William Coulter. Photo by Virginia Franchi.

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Who Is To Blame For Ireland's Economic Woes?

By Sean Canniffe

Recriminations over Fianna Fáil's role in the downfall of the Celtic Tiger economy and opposition claims that the ruling party is mismanaging attempts at recovery continue to dominate the news cycles in Ireland.

A recent nationwide opinion poll had Fianna Fáil—top vote-getters in the last Irish general election and the ruling party for most of the last 50 years—in third place behind Fine Gael and Labour.

At the heart of the economic crisis facing Ireland are the collapse of the housing market (some estimates say down 40 percent from the 2007 peak) and the precarious state of the banking industry, which has received billions of euro so far in bailout money.

Just three years ago the construction sector accounted for about a quarter of the Republic's economy, employing one in six of the work force directly or indirectly. Construction is now just a tiny fraction of what it was and there doesn't seem to be any immediate prospects for its recovery. Some economists say that Ireland has over 350,000 vacant housing units at present, many of which are in so-called 'ghost estates,' where less than 50 percent of units

are occupied. Property developers are defaulting wholesale on massive loans which has led the government to bailout the banks that made these loans and to set up NAMA, the National Assets Management Agency. NAMA is in effect a 'bad bank,' a government owned entity buying up troubled loans with the aim of freeing up the banks to start lending money again. Opponents say that the government has hugely overpaid for many of these loans, leaving the taxpayer on the hook, and that in any case the banks are still so undercapitalized that they require massive injections of capital just to remain viable, let alone become profitable once again.

In the government's view, the survival of the Irish banking system is crucial to the economic recovery of the country. Its view, simply put, is that if the banks collapsed, the cost to Ireland to borrow money on the international markets would be so high that it would delay recovery indefinitely. There would even be a significant risk that Ireland would be unable to borrow money any more. That is the unsaid and the unthinkable. Currently a third of all government spending is funded from borrowed money.

Along with the problems inherent

in the Irish financial system, last year's deficit of over 12 percent was the major threat to Ireland's credit worthiness. In order to reduce the current deficit, the government introduced the harshest budget in decades last December, saving euro 3 billion from public expenditure but slashing the pay of public sector workers (one in three workers in the Republic are in the public sector). Even after those measures the deficit is still running over 10 percent. Unemployment is around 13 percent.

Fianna Fáil ministers point to the fact that the international currency markets have reacted positively to Ireland's corrective measures and that Ireland's position as a borrower is good as a result.

Opposition politicians, however, are accusing the Government and its predecessors of causing the crisis, primarily by allowing an ultra lax system of banking and financial regulation. Developers and speculators were allowed to borrow enormous sums of money, they say, with little salient collateral, to build developments that demand could not possibly sustain. It was a classic 'bubble,' people borrowed more and more from banks willing to take

greater and greater risks to build and buy property, seemingly under the conviction that property prices would never stop rising.

When the world hit an economic crisis in 2008, the already visible cracks in the Irish economy were shown for what they were, gaping chasms.

Now, almost two years later, the political battle ensues. The coalition government, although having low standing in the opinion polls, looks likely to see out the year and may even survive its full term, until 2012.

The opposition parties are seeking to maximize their chances in the next election, whenever it comes, by making the case that Irish economy is not merely an unwitting victim of a crisis which has engulfed the US, most of Europe and many other parts of the developed world. They are pressing the notion instead that the current government and its predecessors were the prime reason for Ireland's troubles today.

Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny has said that the Taoiseach, in defending his own personal handling of events, was refusing to acknowledge that he drove the economy "up on the rocks" for four years when he was minister for finance. "He expects everybody else to accept responsibility for it

but not him," he said. "It's another example of hands being washed by those in charge, a refusal to accept responsibility for their part in destroying the Irish economy and heaping economic woes and depression upon so many people."

The Taoiseach, for his part, has conceded that there were internal factors, including mistakes by government, that had exacerbated the economic and financial crisis. But, he insisted, there would have been a "soft landing" for the Irish economy if the unprecedented global financial collapse had not occurred.

Ironically, the government's position is strengthened by the crises facing several other European countries, notably Greece, but also, Portugal, Spain, Italy and even the United Kingdom, which is facing a deficit possibly worse than even that of Greece. The Taoiseach and his supporters argue that Ireland would be where Greece is today were it not for the swift action taken by Fianna Fáil. And it may be too that the resolution, or otherwise, of the wider European crisis is what will ultimately determine who wins the next Irish election.

Sean Canniffe is a member of the American Irish Media group, and is the publisher of the Irish Herald, based in California.

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How the Irish Saved Theatre

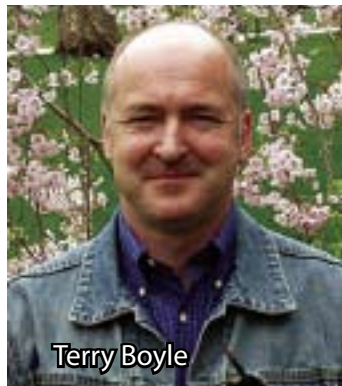
By Terry Boyle

Faced with a title, as the one above, I was beginning to feel somewhat overwhelmed by the task. B.J. Jones, director of Northlight Theater, had invited me to speak about the origins of the Irish National Theatre, later to become more popularly known as the Abbey. But, how was one to prove, substantiate, or qualify such a statement about the Irish contribution to modern theatre? The following is a summary of my attempt to show how Irish theatre shone in the limelight of the world's stage.

Three of the four Irish Nobel prizewinners for literature; Samuel Beckett, G.B. Shaw, W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney, were dramatists. For such a small country, Ireland has produced some of the most influential and innovative writers. By way of introduction, I tried to describe the mood of Ireland during the 1890s. The Irish Parliamentary Party (the Home Rule party), spearheaded by Parnell, was coming undone. News of Parnell's affair with Kitty O'Shea, followed by the Catholic Church's withdrawal of support, heralded a change in Ireland. Parnell's subsequent resignation from the party, created a political vacuum that inspired the movement we now refer to as the Gaelic revival.

Among the leaders of one of these groups was W.B. Yeats. He, along with Lady Gregory and others, sought to create a literary movement that celebrated the diversity of Irish culture. Ireland would stand proud among the other nations of the world, offering a rich tradition of folklore, and artistic talent. After centuries of colonial rule, the failed hope of

Home Rule, and numerous other political factors, the Gaelic revival in all its expressions, G.A.A., Gaelic League etc., encouraged Irish men and women to revive the language, cultivate a greater appreciation of their ancient heritage, and actively work against the British stereotypical view of Irish. For example, the Ox-



ford dictionary had once defined the Irish as illogical, and bad-tempered. The British, as Terry Eagleton puts it in his book, *The Truth About the O' Irish*, considered the Irish, as "feckless, aggressive and unruly."

As a new sense of identity, emerging out of centuries of inferiority, enabled Yeats to establish the Irish National Theatre. Among the most notable of the early dramatists was John Millington Synge, a young man, who, on the advice of Yeats, turned his sights from Paris to the West of Ireland. His plays were well received, though he was regularly criticized for his portrayal of his subject matter. His muse, it was suggested, was not the Irish but the Greeks. Was his work truly Irish? But who has not been slighted with the slur of not being Irish enough?

Indeed, I remember when as a graduate student in Ireland, I was offered the chance to act in a series of cable commercials. As a hard-up student living on a government grant, the offer of financial gain was too good to pass up, even if it meant selling used cars! I flew to Oregon from Ireland where I was given four scripts to rehearse for the said commercials. The language of the advertisements was not only "twee," folksy, but they were also designed around a very stereotypical accent only to be found in the movie *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*.

I negotiated with the director, who kindly let me change everything about the script, and come up with something that would not prove embarrassing, and would compliment my strong northern brogue. Having sold my soul to the corporate god, I was pleased with the finished product. My employer, also quite "chuffed" with my efforts, brought me back for a second series of ads. When I arrived at his office in Oregon, the secretary reported to me that she had received a call from an unhappy viewer. The caller, who had friends who lived in Ireland, was calling to complain about my accent. People in Ireland didn't speak that way. It seems that even if you're born and raised on the Fair Isle, you still might not be Irish enough. The quest to discover what is authentically Irish is not without its problems, as Synge discovered.

Synge's affluent Protestant background, or as Heaney puts it "the other side of the house," was enough for ardent Catholic nationalists to suspect him of not being the real McCoy, or Murphy. To his credit, he was undaunted by these slights, and went on to produce wonderful dramas, culminating in the famous *The Playboy of the Western World*. Even before the play was produced, the cast warned him that his realistic portrayal of the West would prove to be controversial. They particularly alerted him to his use of "strong" language. After a number of revisions, the play was eventually staged in 1907.

Yeats, a strong supporter of Synge, was at the time lecturing in Aberdeen, Scotland.

When the lecture was over Yeats received a telegram stating, "Play great success." The telegram, which had been sent after the second act of *Playboy*, was premature. At 1am he was woken up and given another telegram, which read: "Audience broke up in disorder at the word shift" (*Petticoat* for those too young to remember this word). Over 40 young men, sitting at the front of the theatre "stamped and shouted

and blown trumpets from the rise to the fall of the curtain," (and we think that the odd cell phoning ring out some worn out tune is a disruption.) The theatre was in complete chaos. Actors were hard pressed to continue amid such a cacophony of riotous sound.

The moral right wing of the Catholic Church publicly upbraided the playwright for his suggestion that a young woman would sleep under the same roof as an alleged murderer, at least not without a chaperone. Synge had morally offended the moral sensibilities of his Catholic audience. "This," they declared, "was not the West." Yeats entered the fray, coming to the defense of his protégée, but his attempts to calm the mob were ineffective. At one point, Synge came to the poet's side and told him, "A young doctor has just told me that he can hardly keep himself from jumping onto a seat and pointing out in that howling mob those whom he is treating for venereal disease." I am assuming that those self-righteous castigators were at least chaperoned when they contracted the disease.

As Yeats later said while defending O'Casey "Dublin has once again rocked the cradle of genius, from such a scene in this theatre went forth the fame of Synge." *Playboy* has become one of the most celebrated Irish plays. Its themes are timeless, and universal. His true genius lives on in the works of subsequent generations of dramatists, such as Samuel Beckett, the Nobel Prize winner.

A successor of Synge's, Sean O'Casey is credited with saving the Abbey from financial ruin. Known as the dramatist of the Dublin slums, O'Casey's plays are, as Seamus Deane puts it, "a mixture of bitter satire with poignant studies of nobility and generosity lacking in unlikely places." O'Casey, the working class hero, underlines the Dublin plays with his own socialist perspective. He derides nationalist idealism for not addressing the plight of the working classes. In O'Casey's view, if the change of flag does not improve the quality of life for the worker then nationalism has failed,

Ten years after the 1916 Rising, O'Casey's play *The Plough* and the Stars was greeted with disdain. In a decade public opinion had dramatically changed. The rebels who, initially, were treated with ridicule, spat at by those they were fighting to liberate, were by 1926 treated as heroes. The execution of the Rising leaders by the British, helped to fuel an overwhelming sympathy for the rebels, who now acquired the status of martyrs. It was against this

background of idolatry that O'Casey chose to satirize the nationalist cause. Each society has its sacred cow. Try caricaturing Mohammed, or claim that your band is greater than Jesus Christ and see how quickly the crowd bays for blood.

The villains in *The Plough* are the vainglorious rebels intent on ruining the lives of those they are trying to save. O'Casey is scathing in his criticism of the now venerated victims of British Imperialism. It probably didn't help O'Casey's cause when he juxtaposed the frisky Rosie Redmond soliciting the favor of young men in a bar with the Speaker, a shadowy representation of Pearse, soliciting foolish young men for the cause of Ireland. Synge might have been accused of inappropriate behavior between an Irish man and woman, but O'Casey's offense was worse, when he suggested there were Irish women involved in the oldest trade, prostitution. To add insult to injury, Ireland, herself was nothing more than an old whore thriving on the sacrifice of young men. The reaction of the audience was? Yes, you guessed it. Riots! Once more, the "cradle of genius" was rocked. Those whose moral and political sensibilities were publicly assaulted rose up against O'Casey, and soon after he left Ireland to live in England.

We miss those exciting times when theatre meant something. How often do you hear of riots in the aisles? Where are the protests, the cries of blasphemy, or political treachery? Ireland may not have single-handedly saved theatre, but it certainly dominated the world stage for a time. The actions of the Irish public towards Synge and O'Casey should bring hope to all dramatists who seriously want to stir up their audience's imagination. The early years of the Irish National Theatre saved drama from simply becoming a fourth wall in our lives. Those early pioneers of Irish theatre not only placed talented playwrights on the international scene, but they also made it easier for new talent, modernists, to continue their experimental work. The Gate Theatre, Dublin, along with the Peacock, saved Irish theatre from becoming insular and stale. A new generation of artists took on the mantle of Yeats and his contemporaries, staging European modernists, and creating a milieu for future Irish dramatists to experiment with form. Ireland was not only discovering its own identity as a nation, but a nation equal with its European neighbors. Having established its own unique voice, Irish theatre could now join its voice with the rest of Europe, and the world.

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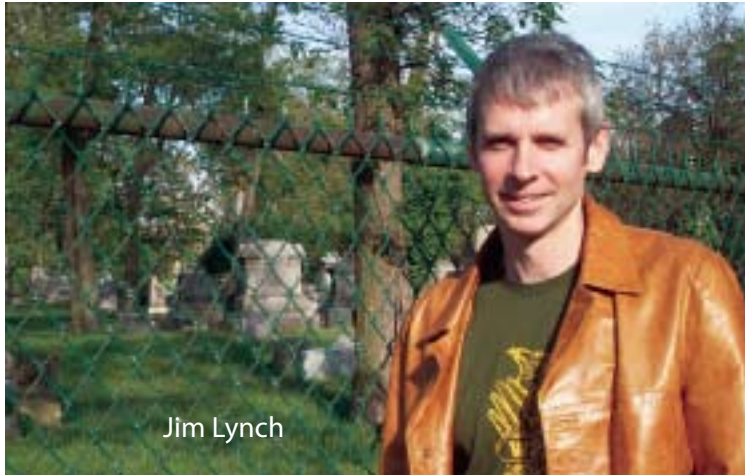
New Irish American Playwright Jim Lynch

By Frank West

There are many plays written each year, few ever get produced, and fewer yet are produced by a first rate ensemble of actors.

by the Irish people I knew and heard as a young person. I remember the stories I heard growing up in the Jefferson Park area.

FW: How does your Irishness



Jim Lynch

Jim Lynch, a young Irish American from Chicago, has done the almost impossible. He has written a play that has such an intriguing plot that it will be produced by Artistic Home from June 20 to August 5.

I have seen many plays at Artistic Home and I think this group of actors is one of the best in the city. Producing riveting theatre experiences for years, the Artistic Home Theatre is located at 3914 N. Clark St., near Clark and Irving Park.

Jim Lynch wrote *The Tallest Man* and when I interviewed him I was immediately impressed by his enthusiasm for the theatre in addition to his intense observation of life.

Lynch is a first generation Irish American, as well as a successful attorney and is only in his late 30s.

While growing up, Lynch was greatly impressed by the beauty and power of the words and phrases he heard used by other Irish relatives. He has used those words and stories in *The Tallest Man*.

Producing a play requires enormous teamwork. The producer (business manager) making the tough financial decisions is the quietly capable Jim Ronan.

Outstanding actor and director, John Mossman, will direct the play, providing the production the benefit of his years of theatre experience.

I also want to thank the well-known Chicago actor, Eamonn McDonagh. He not only acts in the play but also introduced me to these marvelous people.

This is an interview with Jim Lynch:

Frank West: Jim, it is rare for a new play to be produced. Where were you trained?

Jim Lynch: I have little formal training in playwriting. However, I'm a lawyer, and a first generation Irish American. I was strongly influenced

influence you?

JL: I see life through the lens of a first generation person. I hear the words, sounds and rhythms of the Irish people I heard when growing up.

FW: What motivated you to do so much for the theatre?

JL: I owe it to my heritage, and to 'see' how the stories of my parents would be on the stage. It is very satisfying to see that actors have a play with substance to work with.

FW: In Synge's *The Tinkers* Wedding, the greedy, arrogant priest is outsmarted by the tinkers. Were you influenced by *The Tinker's Wedding*?

JL: I've never even seen it. But the wishful triumph over the arrogant is probably a theme in *Irish Life*.

FW: What is your play saying about how we should live life?

JL: The people in the play won't be pushed down. They are proud to be people and proud to be Irish.

FW: Why is theatre important to people?

JL: Theatre distills the human experience.

FW: What is the future of theatre?

JL: I am optimistic that people will eventually be turned by 60-second sound bits. Theatre will last because it fulfills a need of people to see a larger world beyond the events of the everyday.

FW: As a playwright, are there any observations you might want to tell our readers?

JL: Observations of life: I am looking to see the same things I can put into a play.

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Sugar at Drury Lane Oakbrook

Sugar, adapted from the Oscar winning 1959 Billy Wilder gem *Some Like It Hot*, opens at

Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, on June 12 and runs through August 1.

Sugar is a sexy Prohibition-era musical farce that romps from Chicago to Miami, with a slew of chaotic mishaps.

On the eve of the Great Depression in Chicago, the St. Valentine's Day massacre plays out its bloody aftermath in a Clark Street garage (accidentally) witnessed by Joe and Jerry, two down on their luck musicians. After being discovered by Capone's hit men, their only ticket out of town is to disguise themselves as females and join Sue, the leader of Sweet Sue And Her Society

Syncopaters, an all-female band headed for Miami. The chase is on but the boys can't help chasing a skirt themselves when they fall for the band's lead singer, a blonde bombshell named Sugar.

At risk of being caught by The Mob, Joe and Jerry pursue Sugar while keeping their real identities a secret. More than anything, Sugar wants to marry a millionaire, prompting Joe to disguise himself as the man of her dreams.



Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



Meanwhile, wealthy and elderly Osgood Fielding Jr. is pursuing Daphne, unaware she really is Jerry in drag.

Box Office 630-530-0111 or TicketMaster at 800.745.3000. www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

You will never believe what happened! I am going to compete in the North American Nationals in Disney World! I'm so happy! We have had a few weeks of practice. I am going to compete in 3 dances: choreography, mixed ceili, and girl ceili. It's a lot of fun doing team practices again.

My family & I recently celebrated my sister's First Communion. Fr. Jim Gartland of Cristo Rey High School said Mass in our house. It was really cool. My brother, sister, and I said the readings. All of my family was there. We had a party at our house afterwards. It was a lot of fun!

I am running for student council vice president at my school. I am running unopposed so I don't think the election will be that stressful. I had fun making posters and helping my friend with her campaign. We went on a field trip on an architectural boat tour. I learned an amazing amount of information about Chicago. It was very fun. I can't believe school is almost over. I can't wait until summer is finally here. I hope it will be a great summer. I went on my first visit of the year to the Lincoln Park Zoo with my 2-year-old cousin. We really enjoyed it. She was imitating all the animals and the weather was great.

I have another very exciting thing I'm doing, but I'll tell you about that next month! Enjoy the warmer weather!

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



He'd had a brilliant career as a wiseass, but that was about it.

Rory Flavin was driving a limo last winter and wracking his brain at how he wound up behind the wheel of a Lincoln Town Car Sedan. The recession had grabbed him by the throat. He'd spent the first fifty odd years of his life avoiding most ordinary work.

And now here he was sitting in the limo lot outside O'Hare and staring out at hundreds of limos and cabs with motors running and the biting cold outside turning every breath into smoke. Rory only had a few bucks on him but he had to throw something down his gullet after ten hours of driving young shmucks all over town who thought he was invisible.

He got out of the car and walked across the lot to the snack bar, Tomaine Toto's. The joint was like The Tower of Babel with all the different languages being spoken by a hundred different varieties of Arabs. Rory looked up at the menu over the counter and thought to himself, "Toto must be the owner's old dog. They probably served him for lunch today."

On top of the babblers from Babylon yakking up a storm as they huddled in the smelly shack, weird ass music played

night and day on a soundtrack to serenade the drivers while they ate falafel off Styrofoam plates. Rory studied the prices of the deadly grub and tried to find the cheapest item that wouldn't trigger retching in the car later.

He wanted a hot chocolate, but instead barked at the guy behind the counter who was wearing a gigantic eyebrow above his apron.

"Gimme a chocolate milk."

Rory figured that was the safest bet since the milk would remain untouched by any of the "chefs" behind the counter. A guy in a turban yapped at the cash register and all of sudden it seemed like the whole joint was woofing Farsi. Rory was used to it. They sound like they're about to pull the ripcord on their suicide bomber dynamite packs but they're actually probably bitchin' about last night's Bulls game.

Rory flipped up his collar and waded through the crowd of camel jockeys and out into the freezing cold. Around the corner he went to take a leak in the limo lot latrine.

This is what the men's room in hell looks like. The troughs were smaller dented rejects from Wrigley Field and the crappers had cut up cardboard boxes on the floor. Rory prayed that he'd never have to drop a deuce in that sty.

He stood for a moment and was grateful that the joint had no mirror, just a fun house piece of stainless steel slapped on the wall. Rory eyeballed his reflection and thought, "How the hell did I wind up here?"

Oh yeah.

One morning last November his front doorbell rang at about five am, followed by an insistent pounding. Rory

jumped from his bed and listened to his door being knocked with authority. It was scary. Who could it be? The cops?

He peeked out the corner from behind the curtains and saw a tow truck parked in front of the house, with engine running. A huge Hell's Angel type character with a Moses beard and a clipboard stood on Rory's front porch, his breath a volcano over Iceland. Rory gasped, "Damn, it's the Repo Man!"

Rory hadn't made a payment on his Fleetwood in six months. He'd been late before and of course been threatened with repossession but how could he know this time, since he hadn't answered his phone in several weeks. He'd seen too many strange area codes, 866 numbers and "unavailable" on his caller ID. Rory weighed his options as he opened the front door in his boxers.

He smiled as he cracked open the front door and leaned out through the storm door, "Good morning."

Moses stared hot burning coals into Rory's head and barked, "Where's the 2002 Fleetwood?"

Oh so he wants to play the hard guy. Well Rory could play it with the best of them, he was after all a professional. He jutted his jaw in attitude and told Moses, "Hey relax, I talked to Wendy last night. I'm wiring the payment today by Western Union."

"Who is Wendy? Sir?"

He said "sir" like it had a nasty meaning. Rory did not like his tone.

She's the woman at GMAC; call her if you don't believe me.

Moses showed Rory the repossession order with name, address, and license plate number on it. A tattoo on Moses' hairy wrist spelled out, "Eat S---t & Die!"

He pointed his gnarly finger to the "past due amount." "You owe over nine hundred bucks! Where's the car?"

Rory now leaned back, placed his palm in the waistband of his shorts and said,

The car is in the garage... and that's where it's going to stay, ...sir.

"Are you refusing to surrender the vehicle?"

Yeah, that's what I'm doin' sir, refusing to surrender the vehicle."

"I'll call Wendy and if you're not tellin' the truth I will be back tomorrow with a Cook County Sheriff's Deputy."

Rory shut the door and plotted his next move. He had to get his hands on nine hundred bucks in cash and wire it to GMAC before Moses found out he'd never talked to Wendy... or if there even was a Wendy.

That's when it hit him.

I'm gonna have to get some kind of job!

And that's how Rory Flavin became The Limo Man.

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Watch the World Cup at The Atlantic Bar and Grill

By Scott Powers

You've been waiting four years for this, and the time has finally come.

You throw on your team's jersey. You put on your team's scarf. You're ready to chant. You're ready to marvel the game's greatest players. You're ready to celebrate the biggest tournament in the world.

The only thing left to figure out is, "Where am I going to watch the World Cup?"

Your answer should be, Irish American News advertiser, The Atlantic on 5062 N. Lincoln Avenue in Chicago.

There are certainly countless options throughout Chicago and its suburbs to watch the games. But no place will your World Cup experience be like the one you have at The Atlantic.

To start with, the Atlantic is the only place you can actually win a replica World Cup trophy. It's the same height. It's the same weight. You can lift it into the air with your closest friends, kiss it and celebrate as if you, yourself, had won the World Cup.

"You might not ever win the World Cup yourself, but you can at least pretend," Atlantic owner Cathal Lynch said with a laugh.

So how do you get your hands on this unique replica of soccer's greatest prize? It's simple. For one, you must attend six total World Cup games at The Atlantic. You need to be at three qualifying games, one quarterfinal, one semifinal and the championship. Each time, you'll get a card stamped. If you've filled the card with six stamps, you'll drop into it a box after the championship, and a random winner will be selected.

Aside from the replica cup, there's more motivation. The winner also will win 1 free drink at The Atlantic for an entire year. That's 365 free drinks.

Plus, a second-prize winner will receive their choice of a team jersey with their name and number on the back along with an official 2010 World Cup hat, scarf and flag. The third-place winner will receive a 2010 World Cup neon sign.

In addition to the grand prizes, there will be prizes given out every game day. Prizes will include hats, jerseys, t-shirts, soccer

balls and more. If you're going to be going out for the games, you might as well be winning prizes as well.

Throughout the World Cup, the Atlantic will be offering \$4 Carlsberg pints, the official beer of the World Cup, and \$3.50 Atlantic Ale pints. There are also daily drink and food specials. The Atlantic serves 12 different types of beer on tap. The kitchen is open every day, and it includes The Atlantic's famous Shepherd's Pie, fish and chips, corned beef, homemade hamburgers and more.

The Atlantic is no stranger to hosting soccer fans. It's the official home of the Glasgow Celtic Supporters Club and televises hundreds of English Premier League and Champions League games on its nine televisions.

There is free parking available next door to The Atlantic, and the bar is a short walk from the Western stop off the CTA Brown Line.



Atlantic revelers can win a replica World Cup trophy, and most importantly, one free drink a day for a year, that's 365 free drinks if you stop in every day!

The Atlantic is owned by Lynch and Paul Mulvey, who are both from Ireland, and the bar has been open since 2004. You can find more information about The Atlantic at www.theatlanticbar.com, by checking them out on Facebook and at 773-506-7090.

"The World Cup is unbelievable," Lynch said. "I've been to a number of games. There's nothing like it. While you might not be able to get South Africa yourself this year, we'll try to give you the closest experience to it."

Youth Boxing Exchange Program Hosts Irish Boxers

The Chicago Park District's Youth Boxing Exchange Program will be hosting young boxers from Ireland at two tournaments, which will be held on June 9th at 115 Bourbon St., 3359 W. 115th St. in Merrionette Park at 7pm, and June 11th at Notre Dame High School, 7655 W. Dempster in Niles also at 7pm. Admission for the Bourbon St. event is \$20 and \$10 for the Notre Dame event.

The exchange program, which exists through the generous support of sponsors, in-kind donations and cash contributions, promotes cross cultural boundaries in the spirit of sports.

Pat Hogan, Chicago Tournament Coordinator; Cell: 847-962-8356.

St. Brigid's Annual Golf Outing

The St. Brigid's Ladies Football Club is a volunteer organization, which promotes the Irish sport of Gaelic football here in the United States. The not for profit club operates solely on the generosity of donors and sponsorships.

The 3rd Annual Golf Outing will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2010, at George Dunne National, 16310 S. Central in Oak Forest, IL, with a 7:30am tee time. (Businesses and friends can sponsor a shared golf hole for \$100 or an individual hole for \$200.)

The cost is \$100 per player. For questions or to reserve your team contact Caroline at cscans@yahoo.com; 773-909-1888; Fax: 630-472-2846.

Currach Solo Row for Regatta

On June 21, 2010, Danny O'Flaherty, folksinger (www.dannyoflaherty.com) a native of Connemara in County Galway, will set off on a grueling solo row in an Irish currach across Lake Pontchartrain. The goal is to raise money to bring Irish rowers to Louisiana in November to participate in the World Cup Currach Regatta and provide demonstrations of these historical vessels. He will be rowing 24 miles and hopes to raise \$500 for each mile he rows for a total of \$12,000 to cover those expenses.

In 1994, Danny began working with a group of currach enthusiasts in Ireland to help re-establish the tradition of currach racing, forming Coiste Lar Na gCurrachai (Central Currach Committee) to promote currach racing in Ireland.

Due to budget cuts in grant funding and a weak economy, last year was the first year since 1994 that there was not enough funding to bring the Irish rowers to the World Cup Regatta. His belief in the culture and what it offers future generations is why O'Flaherty has decided to take on such a difficult challenge.

Donation checks payable to: The Margaret Currach Club, C/O 1021 4th Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 or if by credit card visit www.firstgiving.com/worldcupcurrachregatta.

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Bandit Country

Stacy, taller, was reportedly hit first. Then the thug turned on Natasha. Standing 4 feet 9 inches, Natasha could have presented no threat to the bat wielding Spanish Cobras henchman. Yet after bringing her to the ground with one blow, he reportedly clubbed Natasha’s head three times more. When Stacy tried to intervene he struck her a second time. With those blows a Chicago bullyboy with a 33 page rap sheet and 19 jail terms in his brag book—a nobody going nowhere and caring about nothing but the next kick, cut short a lovely girl’s budding career serving humankind.

“Bandit Country” is the label Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees (later Lord Merlyn-Rees) applied to South Armagh. Once the most militarized region in Western Europe, South Armagh for nearly thirty years was considered the most dangerous posting in the world for a British soldier. From the days following the Cromwellian conquest when Count Redmond O’Hanlon and his Rapparees waged guerrilla war against the Crown, its population has been opposed to any form of British presence.

Silverbridge is a country area north of Crossmaglen it has a population of less than 200 people. The worst thing to happen there in recent memory was on December 19, 1975 when two women and a boy were shot to death at Donnelly’s Silverbridge Inn by the Pro-British UVF. In the years of conflict many other atrocities were committed in

Northeast Ireland. But I cannot think of one instance of a man casually inflicting vicious, life-threatening wounds on two young girls, strangers, simply to finance another evening of squalid entertainment.

I’ve seen the “peace” walls in Belfast, stories high, built to insure that the heirs to Cromwell’s long-ago plunder needn’t be bothered having to look at the likes of Natasha. Since the peace settlement, those walls have grown. There are now 13 miles of them in Belfast. Yet I’m thinking those walls are in the wrong “Dirty Old Town” altogether.

I spoke with Natasha’s aunt, Rose Coleman, and asked had she ever heard of such an attack back in Armagh: “No, that type of violence never really happened way back then. Even during the troubles you would never have seen a woman beaten by a baseball bat, or anything like that.”

Rose remembered her niece growing up: “Natasha was born on the 12th of September 1986; and there was great excitement. We were all very anxious because things didn’t go according to plan for the delivery, and she ended up being born by caesarean section. Natasha is the oldest of 5. She has 2 brothers and 2 sisters. And she was always a beautiful, bubbly girl. She was a typical teenager, enjoyed all the dancin’ and the socializing. She was into sports. She played camogie for our local team, the Silverbridge Camogie Team. And Irish dancing—she was in the Mona Roddy School of Irish dancing. She was good with the Irish. She entered

into the Feis for her Gaelic language skills. She went to the Gaelthacht in Donegal in her first and second years in Our Lady’s.”

“How did she enjoy that?”
“She loved it—as much as for being able to talk the Irish as for the bit of craic she’d have there with the people she’d meet. They had great fun, a great time; and they were well looked after.”

“Was there something about young Natasha that told you she was so bright and would be such a success?”

Rose: “She was always clever, from when she was a little girl she picked things up very quickly. She was head of the posse the whole time. We always knew she was going to do well because she was always... She would be doing something say, for school. And she always said ‘No, I don’t know whether this is right or not’. But we knew that it was. And then she’d get this excellent mark and we’d say: ‘Lookit, will ya, why did you think you weren’t going to do it?’ She always doubted her abilities, but for no reason other than that she always strived to do the best.”

“Natasha was always very bright. When she had something to do she’d always get it done. If it took her all night, she would sit and do it. She never put things on ‘the long finger.’”

“This is what I couldn’t understand: She could sit in the kitchen with the television blaring, in the middle of an evening meal, and say she’d be studying for a test the next day. And I used to say to her: ‘Would you not go to your bedroom—it’s nice and quiet, relaxing—and study?’ She said: ‘I can’t study like that’. Natasha loved noise, chaos, round her. She needed that traffic ‘round her. But she could do it. It didn’t hold her back, she did it.”
“She studied. And every time she got an A. She’d be like, just sittin’, and the radio on in the background, the television on, the noise of us... she could do that; she could master all that.”

Leaving Our Lady’s Grammar School in Co. Down, she aced her GCSE exams attaining 5 A*s (A-stars) and 5 A’s. She has great talent.

Rose: “She was very good at art. One of her works won a prize. She always loved architecture, and that’s what she was going on for.” In 2004 her prize work was hung at a Belfast art gallery.”

Sheila Mcshane, Natasha’s mother, recalled her daughter’s energy and curiosity. Three years ago Sheila treated three of her children, Natasha, Conor and Caitlin to a week’s vacation in Majorca. They had just arrived at 8 in the evening after a long flight on a hot day, and were getting ready for bed for a good rest, and then: “Natasha disappeared; went off to find out what excursions they had going. I thought it

would be nice to lie on for the first day, get your bearings, find out what to do. But, of course she had us booked in on a bus to go to a water park.”

Rose: “And the Following morning at 7 o’clock she had them all up out of bed to go on one of these excursions to a water park. The bus was leaving at 9 o’clock and they had slept in.”

Sheila: “We were runnin’ out the door at half eight. And we had to walk five or ten minutes to catch the bus. People were sitting, waiting on us. And we’re runnin’ up the street. And I’d be the last one, ‘cause I’d be the slow one. I, of course, tripped over. I said to Natasha, ‘I’m goin’ to kill you,’ I mean, ‘I came here to have a relaxing kind of a break, and it’s already not the first day into it and ye have me rushin’ and leapin’. And I met people I had met at the poolside when we first arrived. They were just laughin’ at me. I just said: ‘Wait’ll I get her, after.’ It was funny at the time. We did laugh about it later. I met those people that evening, and we had a good laugh over it. They had told a lot of friends they had met Mrs. McShane in this bluster, runnin’ up the street, trying to catch this bus.”

“So that’s Natasha, that’s the kind of girl she was. She’d just get in there and organize ‘round me, and I used to say: ‘Please, just give me a break’ But she’d always just—go. She was full of enthusiasm.”

“She was in charge?”
“Well, she took charge those first few days, but then I took charge. She wanted to go sightseeing ‘round the capitol of Majorca, which is Palma. This is just 3 days into the excursion. I said ‘no’. I would stay back. ‘Ye’s go on ahead and do your sightseeing and your history’ She was taking notes that day. And she was always very much into the buildings and the culture and even the churches. She looked through many of the church buildings. Anywhere Natasha went she was very much into the history and culture of the place. She’d come home with lots of information on what she saw, what she’d done. ... And let’s hope she gets that back.”

Natasha went on to university to study Environmental Planning in Manchester; and spent a summer in the Dominican Republic as volunteer building schools for children there. She then returned to Belfast and Queens University to complete her primary degree. With that, the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh offered her a visa and internship at the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. Then in 2008 she won a cross-Border scholarship in the Universities Ireland-CBI-IBEC North/South Masters program.

Rose: “Natasha heard about this scholarship being offered at University College, Dublin for architecture and

urban planning. At that stage there were supposed to be three people going for the scholarship. Then she heard there was just going to be one. So she didn’t know if she was going to get it or not. But she ended up, she won it because of her, her... determination, I suppose. She wrote a letter to them to say why she thought she deserved to be the one to be picked. She then went for an interview and she... she won it then. It was for the masters. Then there was a big presentation of the scholarship. And that was given to her by the current Taoiseach Brian Cowen. And that was given in Trinity. That was last year, a two-year scholarship. She came to Chicago then as a masters exchange student at the University of Illinois.”

Having been selected for the student exchange program Natasha completed her Masters in Urban Planning and Public Affairs at U of I. She had planned to travel around America and return to Ireland. Then she heard that she had won another internship, meaning she could stay in a city she loved: Chicago.

Natasha and her close friend Stacy Starl Jurich were planning a trip to Cape Cod to meet up with Natasha’s friends from home. Stacy also had received good news regarding her financial advisor post at Morgan Stanley.

Stacy: “We had dinner, we were celebrating... It was just a wonderful night (with) my little dance partner.”

Rose: “She’s such a beautiful young woman. She’s beautiful inside and out. And we’re all just devastated that this has happened to her. Of course we know she has always been such a strong, determined girl—always has been, and always will be, and that she will do whatever is needed to come out of this, with all the help that she’s getting here and the support that the family is getting—we know that she’ll get through it.”

Stacey is recovering slowly, and Natasha is out of her coma. She sees, but still hasn’t recognized her family. It looks like a long road to recovery.

Donations can be sent by check or wired to help Natasha and her family to cover all the expenses due to her long recovery, on this bank account:

The Natasha McShane Fund
Signature Bank
6400 N. Northwest Highway
Chicago, IL 60631
Routing Number: 071026628
Account Number: 4000013629

While faring better than Natasha, Stacey also needs help. To help Stacey, go to stacyjurichbenefit.com.

Find information elsewhere in this paper, or at HelpNatasha.NET.

Author Mike Morley can be reached at myotherbills@gmail.com. ©Mike Morley 2010 E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net.



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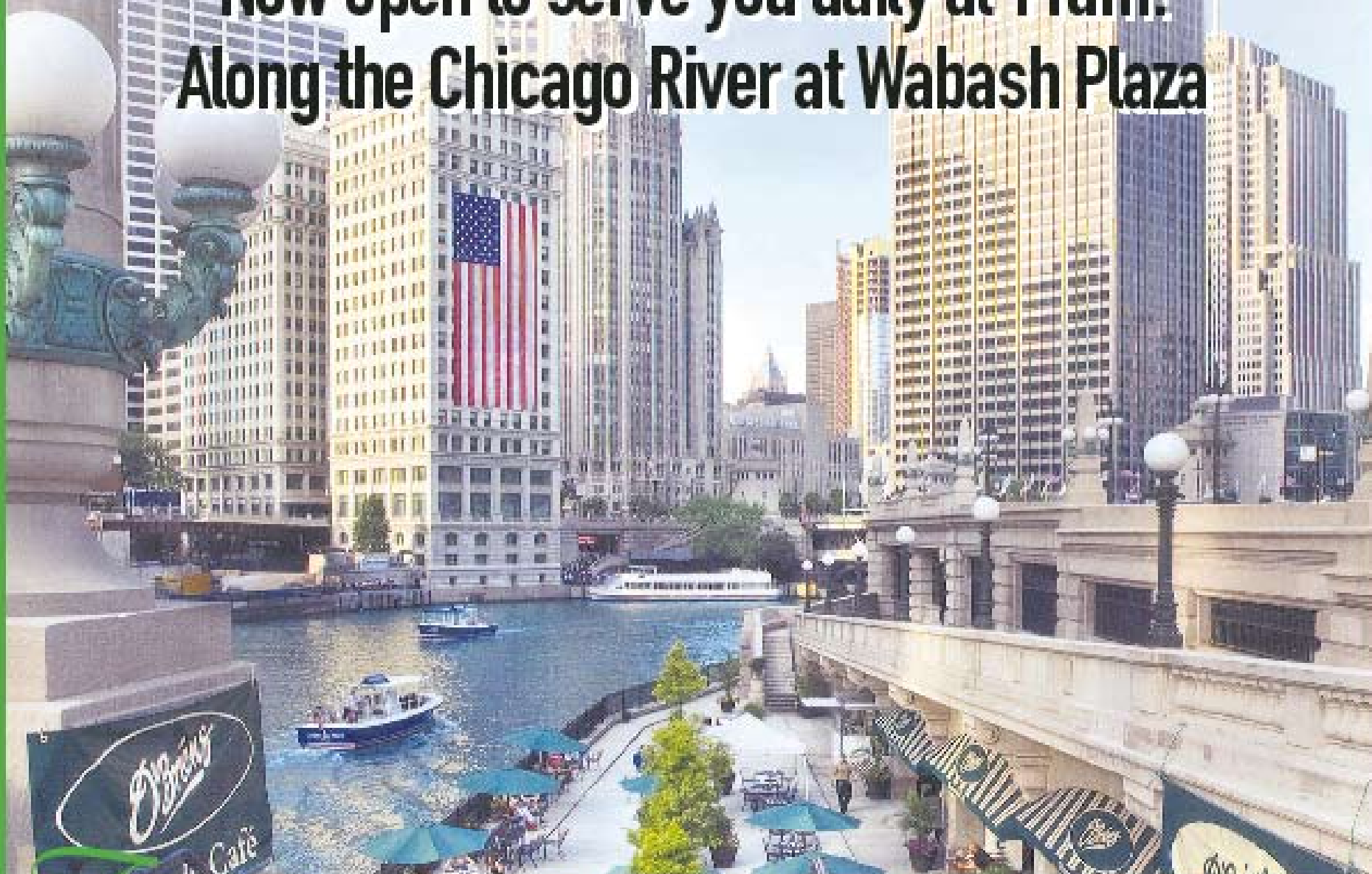
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