

**Catie Keogh:
Irish Eyes on Chicago**

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Catie Keogh: Star of 24/7 Chicago

By Cliff Carlson

This month’s “cover girl,” Catie Keogh, is living her dream as the star of NBC5’s 24/7 Chicago airing Saturday’s at 12:30am and 6 times a day Monday through Friday on NBC5’s nonstop cable channel.

With a lineage that includes the great Grace Kelly, and the legendary hurler, Nicky English, it’s no surprise that Catie reaches for the stars. Grace Kelly’s great-grandfather and Catie’s mother’s great-great grandfather were brothers. Catie’s mom is first generation from Newport, County Mayo and her dad is second generation from Limerick. This qualifies Catie and

her sister Colleen to be Irish citizens, and they are. They have the passports to prove it.

I caught up with Catie and Colleen in Chicago at the Emerald Loop—the Vaughan family downtown restaurant.

IAN: Colleen, you were a part of 24/7 Chicago along with Catie in the early years, Tell us about that and what are you doing now?

Colleen: Along with a third partner, Catie and I created and produced our show on NBC called 24/7 Chicago. After a couple of years with 24/7, we took our camera crews to the picturesque country of Italy to

shoot an international production. We absolutely loved it! I have lived in Europe and always knew that travel was my passion. After producing our show in Europe, I decided to follow my lifelong dream of creating a travel show. Together with another 24/7 Producer, Tricia Fusilero, we formed a new company called Travel Film Productions LLC. Catie wanted to stay on with 24/7 and having the two companies with different shows turned out to be a perfect fit for all of us. We really enjoy traveling to Ireland, talking about our heritage and, I personally, also enjoy writing about Ireland and international issues.

IAN: It’s kind of amazing. You two are sisters and both decided to go into the same field becoming executive producers of your own shows. How did you make that happen?

Catie: When my husband took a job at Johns Hopkins, we transferred to Baltimore for a year. I was really involved at Improv Olympics and Second City here in Chicago. The improv scene in Baltimore wasn’t as great as Chicago, so, I decided to explore various entertainment opportunities. To get my foot in the entertainment scene, I called up Kimberlee Suerth (co-host of Baltimore’s TV show, *Just Be TV*) and asked her for a job. The luck of the Irish was definitely on my side as she hired me that very day! I shadowed Kim and learned a great deal on how to run a successful TV production company. When

my husband and I returned to Chicago, I collaborated with my sister Colleen (who has a marketing background) and

24/7 Chicago and got the mid-night spot after *Saturday Night Live*. It’s been a dream come true to be a part of the NBC5 family



Catie Keogh of 24/7 Chicago enjoying the jazz at O'Brien's Riverwalk Cafe. (Photo by Cathy Curry.)

another colleague Jane Hunter. I wanted to create a TV show that was *Access Hollywood* meets Chicago and be the on-air talent! While taping our pilot episode on the streets of Chicago, Larry Wert of NBC5, saw us and contacted me to be a part of the traffic team. At the time, I had a 9 month old baby and getting up in the early morning hours to feed her and then go to work at 4am was tough as a new mom. So, I pitched them again with

and I will always be thankful to Larry and his team for believing in me!

IAN: Tell us about the show.

Catie: 24/7 Chicago defines, represents, and celebrates the lifestyles of the people of Chicago through entertainment, celebrity interviews, fashion, culture, nightlife, and dining. Our show has been nominated twice for an Emmy and won for Outstanding Achievement in directing and producing. 24/7 Chicago airs

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IAN: All of your work is top notch. You also host and executive produce Test Drive, featuring the Chicago Auto Show (FOX), and you have been Emmy nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Programs all three years you have been doing it!

Catie: Well, Thank you! I work with an amazing and talented group of people. My team is top notch and we all LOVE Chicago!

IAN: Where did you go to school?

Catie: I grew up in Park Ridge, IL and attended Mary Seat of Wisdom for grammar school and Maine South for High School. My dad's job at the Hertz Corporation transferred our family to Houston. I started my Sophomore year there and graduated from Kingwood High School. After that, I went on to the University of Texas at Austin where I graduated with a degree in Communications.

IAN: How many times have you been to Ireland?

Catie: I've been to Ireland eight times, most recently to Ashford Castle which is amazing. Ashford Castle was so relaxing and beautiful and is perfect for families. My little five-year-old swears she saw a leprechaun! It was a real treat to bring her this trip because the last time I went to Ireland I was pregnant with her. We would joke that she had been to Ireland before, but she would reply back with, 'No Mommy, it doesn't count unless you touch the ground.' I just love going home to Ireland and visiting my friends and family in Newport and Westport.

In June of 2011, my mother and her sister decided that it was time for all of our family to get in touch with their Irish roots. My Aunt Eileen Peters, her children, all her grandchildren, my mom and dad, my sister, our husbands, and our children travelled to Newport, Co. Mayo. In all, there were 27 of us. With the help of our cousins, the Morans, we were able to find the ruins of five different ancestral homes. It was magical!

IAN: Is anyone musical in your family?

Catie: My mom plays the violin. My husband is trying to play the bagpipes. Does that count? We enjoy Irish dancing, too. I want to get my daughter more involved with Irish dancing and music. For me, though, it's all about celebrating our culture. My mom instilled that in us. We took Irish dance lessons and violin lessons. It was a requirement in my house....

that, and making Irish soda bread!

IAN: Is your husband Irish?

Catie: My husband is Scotch/Irish and Swedish but embraces his Irish side the most. I am truly blessed and couldn't have asked for a better husband! He's my rock in life.

You know, it's funny. I was just talking to someone about Irish heritage. Growing up, I thought I

was Irish before I was American. It wasn't until I was seven years-old and had to fill out a passport for our Ireland trip. My mom said I was old enough to do it myself, so, I filled it out. When they asked for your nationality, I wrote 'Irish.' My mom hesitated and said, 'Oh honey, you're American.' I thought, 'Oh really? I thought I was Irish first.' It's a big deal in our house to be Irish!

For more information on *Catie Keogh and 24/7 Chicago*, contact www.247secrets.com

Look for *Colleen Keogh in future editions of Irish American News writing about travel.* www.travelfilmsproductions.com.

(Cover photo taken at *O'Brien's Riverwalk Cafe* by *Cathy Curry of 4girlsphotography.com*.)

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Founding Member of Original Irish Tenors in Chicago Soon

By Cliff Carlson

Scheduled to appear at the Auditorium Theatre on September 17, 2011 for a one-night-only performance, Anthony Kearns talked recently with *Irish American News* about his career and his future.

IAN: You were one of the founding Irish Tenors, right Anthony?

A: That is correct, the original of the species! Along with John McDermott and Ronan Tynan.

IAN: I remember going to see you at the United Center when the three of you were all together. That was a big show.

A: That was a big year for us, back around '99 wasn't it?

IAN: Yes. How long have the tenors been together as a group?

A: Well, it began really for us around '98. That would be the first North American tour in '99 and we are still going strong. There has been a few change ups within the line up since then. At the current moment we have Finbar Wright, whose been an Irish Tenor for at least ten years now, and Ronan Tynan who has returned to the fold, and myself.

IAN: You've been there since day one.

A: I never went anywhere. I'm the anchor cannon. You need someone to be a good referee to be in the middle.

IAN: What's it like with all the different personalities? Everyone get along?

A: Absolutely, it's all good fun. We all enjoy the craic, and the only reason people would have left is for solo opportunities, and that is understandable. The guys are pushing on a little bit in age, and I a few years on them, thank God. But they were given the opportunities and you cannot deny them those opportunities. But, we are back here chipping away together now. I believe we have a nice tour coming up this Christmas—around 17 shows. So we will be quite busy over the December period.

IAN: Where will you be over Christmas?

A: All over the map, certainly. Starting out on the West Coast in the state of California, and I know we have a few venues in the state of Florida, as well, and anywhere in between. We will be in the East Coast up around New York and Boston area, and maybe Chicago. I'm not really sure on that one.

[Tour Starts December 2-22. Cities: Palm Desert, CA, Phoenix, AR, Houston, TX, Frisco, TX, Memphis TN, Hartford, CN, Avon Park, FL,

Fort Meyers, FL, Melbourne, FL, Hollywood, FL, Sarasota, FL, Clearwater, FL, New Brunswick, NJ, Baltimore, MD.]

A: There is actually a great audience base in Florida. I do a lot of

and my focus, is that people have got to have fun. They are spending money to go out, to let out the steam and just have a good ol' time. That's what you have to do, allow them to have that time. I usually do



Anthony Kearns

my solo shows all over the state of Florida. And its understandable because many of the people spend six months in Florida and six months away.

IAN: So where have you been this year so far?

A: Mainly within the United States, partly in Canada, and back home in Ireland. Performing solo concerts and opera. I have been mixing it up a bit with that.

IAN: How has the opera been coming?

A: It's been good, a different kettle of fish as they say. It's not about you, it's about the whole show. It's not like the concerts where you can role in one day and leave the next. With the opera you have to stay for at least three weeks. It's a lot of heavy time needed to work and rehearse, just going over it over and over again just to get it right.

IAN: Well, I imagine that is a win-win for you because it allows you to work full time and still perform your solo gigs on the side.

A: Yes it is, its great. I think you have to take your level of the game up. You have to welcome your craft and work with professionals. It keeps you on your toes. And, I think both compliment one another. I think you can take someone off the stage, but you can't take the stage out of the person. And the audiences are pretty much the same with the crossover as well, so it's a win-win.

IAN: Do you have a feel for what the audience likes when doing your own concert?

A: I do. The bottom line for me,

a cross between Neapolitan sounds, to classic Irish sounds, to operatic sounds. I try not to get too heavy in the concerts with too much opera, but I mix it up. And then I throw comedy in there as well. It's a mix for everyone that they can enjoy all night.

IAN: Well, Ronan is always good for cracking jokes and making people laugh.

A: True, we have to put a muzzle on him!

IAN: I noticed you have been pretty active this year, PR wise. Your kind of a catalyst for the group. And you're making more things happen this year, which is good to see.

A: Well, before I was always the quiet one of the group. You had the big man on my left, Ronan Tynan, and you had, in the very beginning, John McDermott. Both men were good PR machines and I was just learning the ropes. Then Finbar joined the group and now he is the quiet one. But he has also been around the block and had a good 15 year career before he even joined the Irish Tenors. When I came in I was completely green, but I'll be coming up to 14 years next month. So there is no harm investing in yourself and keeping things flowing for yourself as well as the group.

You need to be doing it when you can do it. There is no point in waiting to do it when you're playing with the opera and the symphony orchestra.

I've been doing a lot of solo projects recently and I'll be making my way to Chicago soon enough,

September 17 actually. I'll be part of the show there on Broadway. And they are selling extremely well there in Chicago. We are performing in Cincinnati on the 6th of August. It'll be more like a showcase I suppose, based on performances we recorded in Prague. Musicals in a concert setting and it is fantastic.

IAN: So your from Wexford in Ireland?

A: Right along the Southeast Coast.

IAN: Sean Keane from that same area?

A: Sean, no, he would be West of Ireland.

IAN: Maybe he just sings about the East of Ireland.

A: He probably sang some rebel songs that came from that area. That's where all that stuff in '79 kind of erupted. When they all took arms up against the English. Same old song and story...

IAN: You know your history.

A: Yeah, my great-great grandfather would have been first cousins with Father Mogue Kearns. And John Kenney would have been first cousins also. It's a small area so were all connected; I'm from the village of Killealy, which is just two miles away from Killanne, the home village of John Kenney and the famous Rackard brothers. The Rackard brothers were famous in the 50s in Ireland for Hurling.

IAN: So how long have you been coming to the states?

A: My first trip was in '94, I think. I've been coming on and off ever since. And I spend about six months out of the year here now.

IAN: Married?

A: No, single man. I've been so busy I really haven't had time. It's a selfish business and you need a good strong woman who can put up with a man that travels from city to city all over the world. I've covered 48 of the 50 states, all but Alaska and Hawaii. Lot of miles on the clock over the last 13-14 years.

IAN: Anything else you would like to say to the people here in Chicagoland?

A: I'm hungry to get back to Chicago in a solo capacity. I would really like to get back out there soon and put on a concert, just a solo one probably. It's been a while since I did that and I would like to go there and meet up with the old crew. Coming from a place with the strongest gathering that I have found, a bunch of people are in Chicago. Not a lot in New York or Boston but in Chicago, that is why I enjoy it so much when I go there.

Local New Lenox Rider Qualifies to Represent Illinois at World Championship

Aisling Griffin, daughter of Jim and Eileen Griffin (well known local musical duo "The Griffins"), has qualified to represent Illinois at the American Quarter Horse Association Youth World Championship in Oklahoma City in August 2011. Aisling qualified in Performance Halter Geldings, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation and Western Horsemanship and is an alternate for Showmanship at Halter. She has been a semi-finalist and finalist at the AQHA Congress in Ohio, a national competition with more than 9,500 competitors from the US and



Aisling Griffin and "Talkin Texan"


Canada. Pictured below is Aisling with her horse, *Talkin Texan*, at a recent 6-day show in Iowa where she earned Novice Youth 18 and Under High Point under 6 judges, 3 Circuit Awards and 2 Reserve Circuit Awards. Aisling boards her horse and trains with KKT Performance Horses in Peotone, IL. Aisling is a recent graduate of Lincolnway West High School and will attend the University of South Carolina in the fall where she will major in International Business Management, Finance and Spanish.

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Proposal at Irish Fest



Kerry Brennan (St. Patrick's Day Queen 2010) was surprised by now-fiance Pat Doran - who proposed to her at this year's Irish Fest at the Irish American Heritage Center. Congratulations and Best of Luck!



Photos by Stacy McReynolds.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



First off this month I must give a large public thank you to that man of letters and fellow columnist, Bill Margeson. Bill wrote about the new Brock McGuire Band recording *Green Grass Blue Grass* which prompted me to contact Paul Brock, who immediately shipped a quantity of CDs to my store. I have to report that Bill was, as usual, right on the money. This CD is stupendous. I love it and you will too.

The remarkable Mr. Margeson also wrote, a couple months back, about a singer name of Rita Gallagher. Bill enthused about her new CD *The May Morning Dew*.

Once again Bill hit the bullseye. I just got a stock of this recording in and not only wonderful, it's also a double CD for the price of a single. So again I say "Thanks, Bill," you've never steered me wrong and this time you brought me to a pair of classics.

Now it's my turn to bring out a classic. I've been mentioning Daithi Sproule's new recording, *Lost River: Vol. 1* in recent columns. It's now in the store and folks who have heard it have praised it far more eloquently than I. Daithi, an icon in traditional Irish music, performs his best work ever. The release date is this month and it's here. Stop by the store to give it a listen or listen to it on Bill Margeson's radio show, Mondays at 8 PM on WDCB, 90.9 FM.

One of the most popular, most talented, bands touring the Irish music festival circuit in the US is Scythian. They've been touring for a number of years now and have established a huge fan base. They've also produced a number of fine recordings. Their latest, *American Shanty* is their best and contains a number of high energy tunes done in their unique style, flavored with musical influences from all over the world. To call their music fusion is to underestimate it. Scythian is to music like gumbo is to dining, lots of ingredients combining to form something new and unique that doesn't taste/sound like any of the individual ingredients. Last month I got to catch their set at the Heritage Center Fest and it was a treat. Give their music a listen and don't pass on the opportunity to

see them live. They are great fun on stage. Compass Records releases another notable CD this month with Beoga's fourth, *How to Tune a Fish*. Answering that memorable question (How do you tuna fish?) Beoga always delivers a load of fun danceable music. Dancers looking for tunes to work some choreography to would be wise to give this one a listen. The danceableness (is that a word?) just might come from the influence of two great dance musicians, Damian McKee on button accordion and Liam Bradley on piano. Sean Og Graham gives in with great work on button accordion, guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, bass while Eamon Murray provides solid percussion and precision bodhran. Leaving



the prettiest for last, Niamh Dunne shows off her lovely voice and her blistering fiddle. There are several original compositions included and my favorite is track 6, two excellent reels from Niamh.

Last for this month is a lovely recording that has been out awhile but just came to

my attention. The group is Four Celtic Voices and the new CD is *Four Leaf Clover*. There are four women in the group and they all contribute to the vocal mix. Celeste Ray plays bowed psaltery, harmonium and piano and is joined by Erin Hill on harp and bass, Carol Crittenden and Wendy Luck on flute. The choice of tunes tends to run to the well established with "Molly Malone," "Isle of Innisfree" and "Danny Boy" but all done very well. The band tours mainly on the East coast, so it's doubtful we'll get a chance to see them in concert anytime soon but hope springs eternal.

This month sees two of the biggest and best Irish festivals, Dublin, Ohio, on the first weekend and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the third weekend. We've had to give up going to a number of festivals due to declining sales but Dublin and Milwaukee are two I wouldn't miss. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago for one of the finest festivals ever. You can find me at the store in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or online at pipingitin@comcast.net.

Slainté.

The Irish Connection

By Colleen Kelly

New Irish Lass Writes on Travel

My name is Colleen Kelly and I wanted to introduce myself, as next month will be my first column for the Irish American News. As an Irish American, I am very excited to be writing for what I believe to be one of most well respected Irish publications in America (and that it's owned and operated right here in Chicago doesn't hurt either!) I have been a loyal reader for many years, but now the tables have turned and I will be writing monthly for the web and print versions.

The column will be mainly tips and advice about traveling in the US and throughout the world, with a hint of Irish laughter thrown into the mix. And, being that this is a new column, I wanted to give you a little background.

Although I was born in Chicago, I am an Irish-American who has been raised in three states: Illinois, Texas and Arizona. My mother was from Chicago and considered North Side Irish and my father, also from Chicago, was South Side Irish.

Being half North Side Irish and half South Side, I grew up absorbing everything Irish. I took Irish step dancing, listened to long hours of my mother, Kathleen Sweeney Keogh, practicing Irish songs on her violin while my grandfather sang in his Irish brogue, and I tried my first Guinness in Ireland.

My father, Bill Keogh, used to say to his two daughters, "Work hard, go to college and marry an Irish beer salesman and I will be the happiest dad on earth!"

With no beer salesman future husband in sight by the time I finished college, I went out and became the beer salesman or person, I should say, with a brewery selling Irish Stout and my father, benefiting from the many beer samples I was given, was a happy man. I learned everything about beer that I could (it was a tough job but someone had to do it) and since leaving the brewery, I have used those skills wisely in many Irish pub situations.

After the brewery job, I changed careers and dove into another passion of mine, television. Along with a third partner

and my sister, Host Catie Keogh, I created a show our show on NBC called "24/7 Chicago".



Colleen Kelly

Then, after a couple years with the NBC show, I decided to focus on my interest in all things travel and with my business partner, Tricia Fusilero, created a television production company called Travel Film Productions, which focuses mainly on national travel shows.

As you might have guessed, my other favorite subject is travel. Over the years, I have lived in Europe and traveled the world. I even got engaged and married in Austria. However, throughout all my travels around the world, my love of Ireland and the people has remained constant.

In my new column for the Irish American News, I will write about what I have learned throughout my travels and life, sprinkled with advice and tips that I have gathered along the way.

I hope also to learn from you, the reader. Feel free to write me and give me any pointers, tips or advice you may have. I hope you enjoy the column and I look forward to a new year filled with travel, adventure, fun tips, and of course, all things Irish (and that includes the Guinness). See you next month!

Colleen Kelly can be reached through Travel Film Productions through email at info@travelfilmproductions.com (Please reference *Irish American News*.)

A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Success Stories That Inspire

The Gospels and Sunday readings are filled with scenes of Christ feeding hungry crowds, curing the sick and troubled, and comforting the sorrowful. Jesus had compassion for the poor.

Based on the Gospel mandate to love our neighbor as ourselves, the mission statement of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is quite simple and direct: “Catholic Charities fulfills the Church’s role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life.”

Every day for the last 93 years, Catholic Charities has lived this mission of charity in service to our neighbors of all races, religions and nationalities who

are suffering poverty or crisis. Today, as a fully accredited social service agency offering a wide range of 159 programs at 156 sites throughout Cook and Lake counties, we help more than a million people each year with food, clothing, housing and professional counseling. But that’s not all. I’d like to share with you just three of these “success stories” of social services, loving care, great courage and renewed hope.

- A 20-year-old mother with two young children came to one of our residences for women. In order to deal with the physical and emotional abuse she had experienced as a child, she had become involved in drugs and gang activities. After the father of her children was incarcerated, she and her children became homeless and entered Catholic Charities Samaritan House. She

became determined to make a positive change in her life. She met weekly with the Samaritan House Case Manager, working to obtain financial assistance to eliminate her outstanding electric bill and to receive domestic violence education services. The client wanted her children to have what she did not have as a child; to raise her children in a safe neighborhood where they would have the opportunity to attend a school with a strong academic reputation. As a participant at Samaritan House, she maintained her TANF benefits, enrolled in a college with an emphasis on the Medical Assistant program, and obtained housing through the Rapid Re-Housing Program.

- D. has been a resident of Catholic Charities’ St. Leo Residence for Veterans in Chicago for five years, and during his stay, he has been a model citizen. D. is very friendly and is always lending a helping hand to another fellow veteran. Prior to coming to St. Leo’s, D. had a serious gambling addiction. Since D. has been a resident of St. Leo’s, he was referred to and has actively participated in Gambling Anonymous meetings and job training. He is now in recovery and

is employed with an organization as an Outreach Case Manager, helping others.

- ACES is Catholic Charities’ Addiction Consultation and Educational Services program that provides counseling on an individual, family or group basis for adults 18 years of age or older who are affected with alcohol- or drug-related problems. Founded by Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott several decades ago, the program has assisted thousands of people over the years. Recently, a client was referred for outpatient treatment to ACES and was not very active initially. He seemed to have little connection with his family and stated emphatically, “THIS is my family.” As sessions continued, he participated a bit more. When asked about plans for an upcoming weekend, he responded, “It’s my birthday on Saturday and it will be the first sober one I’ve had in over twenty years.”

On Monday, when it was his turn to share with the group, he said, “I stayed sober and it was the best birthday in my life. My family surprised me and came to visit and they brought me a cake and everything. It was the first birthday cake I can remember.” With that, there

was silence.

There are hundreds more stories that I—or any of Catholic Charities’ million clients each year—could tell. Some inspire silence, some tears, some cheers.

The people we help are refugees from oppression, recovering from addictions or physical or mental illness, working their way out of homelessness or joblessness, trying to retain their housing, or striving to assure an education and bright future for themselves and their children.

It is all these brothers and sisters of ours in need of help who inspire the commitment, hard work and generosity of our staff members, counselors, program directors and leadership—as well as our donors, benefactors, volunteers, Board and Junior Board members, and numerous parish partners throughout the Archdiocese.

I am deeply grateful for the genuine love of neighbor that permeates and enlivens Catholic Charities, our partners in charity, and our work for those in need. May God bless us all!

For more information about Catholic Charities or to make a donation, visit www.catholiccharities.net.

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McDade Steers Comeback of Shattered Globe Theatre Sit Up! We're just getting started

In November 1991, Roger Smart, Director of Shattered Globe Theatre Company's production of *Talk Radio*, cast Doug McDade as 'Sydney Greenberg.' Shortly after the run began, McDade became one of Shattered Globe's original ensemble members and performed several roles throughout the 19 years since.

Last fall, when Shattered Globe was facing imminent demise, McDade volunteered to step in as Interim Managing Director to help return SGT to its status as one of Chicago's finest professional theatres. In his new position, McDade supported installing Roger Smart as the new Artistic Director, who he helped to forge a new artistic vision for the company, and enlisted a new board of directors to put together a season of rebirth. "My goal was to retain the integrity and support of many of the company's benefactors, as well as, honor the body of work SGT had created in the past two decades," said McDade.

In order to achieve this revival, SGT had to mount three shows before the end of June 2011. The tremendous efforts involved earned the company the title Shattered Globe 2.0 and they opened their first show with *The Beauty Queen Of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh. The play was a critical success and also marked McDade's debut as a SGT producer. He also co-produced the unique production of *Down & Dirty Romeo & Juliet*, which is playing at various venues and landmarks throughout Chicago this summer.

Educating Rita, which opened in June and runs through August 14th, marked the SGT's third successful opening in six months and concludes the company's revival season. However, the road to rebirth was not an easy one as an actor. McDade, a proud member



Doug McDade

of the Actor's Equity Association, admits pulling this last production together was a difficult process for him as one of the decisions for it to happen called for SGT to drop its Equity status. "This preempted me from the possibility of being cast in the role of 'Frank,' and as casting director for the company, it was my duty to recommend possible non-union artists for consideration," said McDade.

Embracing his new role, McDade persevered and used his experience to put together a great artistic team. This included the recommendation of Madison Rep's Artistic Director Richard Corley, who previously directed *Educating Rita* to critical acclaim at the Berkshire Theatre Fest, as a candidate to direct SGT's production. Come

opening night, McDade's concerns dissipated as he witnessed the phenomenal performances of the two artists on stage, Whitney White and Brad Woodard. "I was able to live as an actor in Brad's performance... I tried to be critical and negative because I had a passion for playing that role but I simply couldn't," said McDade. "I was able to live as an actor in Brad's performance. I am proud of the job he's doing and I know the emotional commitment he is making. And God Bless Whitney White. I thought, 'She IS RITA!'"

Last year at this time, many said that Shattered Globe Theatre was dead, but today, thanks to the new life breathed into to the company, due in part to the dedication of those like McDade and his team, Shattered Globe looks forward to yet another groundbreaking and exciting new season.

"As I was applauding the final bow of *Rita*'s opening night, I looked over at Roger. In his eyes I could see we shared a thought in that brief moment: 'We did it,' said McDade. *Educating Rita* is a landmark production for SGT 2.0. "It is wonderful story about two people coming together, building a relationship and nurturing survival against all odds. I am proud of this show. I am proud of the work we have done in the last ten months. And while being prideful is something we should not aspire to, I find no other words to aptly describe what I feel. *Educating Rita* is a story about persevering. So is SGT 2.0."

For more information about Shattered Globe Theatre or tickets, visit www.shatteredglobe.com.



"Educating Rita" is JEFF RECOMMENDED!
A young hairdresser from Liverpool and her literature tutor teach each other some hard life lessons in this play about freedom, class and the cost of change.

World Renown Bagpiper Dick Hensold to Perform in Park Forest August 11

A concert with multi-bagpiper Dick Hensold will take place Thursday, August 11, at 7:30pm at Faith United Protestant Church in Park Forest, IL. This concert features different types of quieter, indoor bagpipes.

Dick Hensold is the top Northumbrian smallpiper in America, and has performed in England, Scotland, Japan, Canada, and across the United States. Northumbrian smallpipes are a quiet bagpipe from Northeast England, a close relative to the Irish uilleann pipes. His solo Northumbrian smallpipes CD *Big Music for Northumbrian Smallpipes* was released in 2007.

In addition to Northumbrian smallpipes, the concert features a number of other unusual instruments. A quieter indoor version of the Scottish Highland pipes is the reel pipes, which was traditionally used for Highland dance music, and which Hensold mainly uses for traditional Cape Breton dance piping. A bit of Scandinavian music will be played on the Swedish bagpipes (also known as the säckpipa), and on the seljefløyte, or Norwegian willow-flute. Also heard will be the Welsh hornpipe, or pibgorn, and other instruments.

Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia is a cultural gem, authentically preserving many aspects of old Scottish Highland Gaelic culture. Hensold has studied Cape Breton Music for the past 6 years with two teachers in Nova Scotia (one a piper and one a fiddler), and this program gives a tantalizing glimpse of how music, song and dance flow together seamlessly in traditional Gaelic culture. He also presents little-known traditional music from early 18th-century Scottish manuscripts, as well as some original music.

This is what others say about Dick Hensold:

"The piping is fluent and assured... his technique is impressive and the music is delightfully interpreted"—*FolkWorld CD Reviews*

"Hensold is an amazing international known musician that just happens to live in The Twin Cities"—*The Irish Gazette*

Join us for an intimate musical evening with one of America's finest and most unusual traditional bagpipers.

The church address is 10 Hemlock St., Park Forest, IL 60466. For tickets and more info, call 708-747-1330.

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Wheat-Free Rose

By Rosemarie O’Carroll



Ok, its August, its hot, and no one wants to turn on the oven to bake cookies! Eating cookies is a completely different matter! Cookies are one of those happy foods. When some one comes into the shop looking sad or upset, our first line of support is “ Can I get you



a cookie?” Food can make you happy in an immediate, visceral way. I’m not saying that you should eat cookies every time you are sad; that would be silly. However, I profoundly believe that what you eat makes a difference in your mental and physical health and well being. Food is more than physical; it is emotional as well. We share meals with our family and friends. We bring food as gifts; we celebrate big events with cakes and special meals. Having a nice meal with people you love can make you happy in ways that few other experiences can do. I recently learned that the cells that create 80% of the serotonin in your bodies are in your digestive tract. Serotonin is called the “happy hormone” although it is really a neurotransmitter that helps your brain function. It primarily affects brain cells related to mood sexual desire and function, appetite, sleep, memory, learning temperature regulation and some social behavior. It literally is used directly or indirectly by almost every cell in your brain. And it is made in

your digestive tract!
So here’s my point, eating real, fresh foods that have been made with love can have a profoundly positive impact on your entire life. The recipe this month is for a grilled chicken, avocado, pineapple salad that is healthy and delicious on several levels. First, it is easy to prepare. It’s hot out and we want our healthy and delicious food to be easy and to not heat up the kitchen!



Grilled Avocado, Pineapple and Chicken Salad

- Here’s what you will need:
This will make four entrée size salads.
- 2 ripe avocados, peeled, pitted, and halved
 - 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 lemon, juiced
 - Sea salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper
 - Whole Fresh Pineapple: Peeled, cored and halved (you can cheat if you have a grocery store that has sliced fresh pineapple)
 - 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 lb. Organic Chicken Breasts sliced

into strips: Marinate in 1/2 cup olive oil, 3 tablespoons lemon juice and 1 tsp salt and pepper

Sliced Almonds
1/2 of a Purple Onion, sliced in rings

Mixed organic greens
First, marinate your chicken. If you will be grilling it within a half an hour, it is fine to leave out, if not cover and let the chicken marinate in the refrigerator.

Slice up your fresh pineapple and make several thick spears. We will be grilling the pineapple and so we want to coat both sides of the pineapple spear in olive oil so it won’t stick to the grill. If you slice them too small, they could fall through the grate on the grill. Grilling really brings out the intense sweetness of the pineapple. And it’s fast.

Cut your avocado halves into 6 to 8 slices and toss them with the lemon juice, olive oil and salt. Put aside.

Grill your chicken and pineapple. You can grill the pineapple first, since it will only take a few minutes. You just need to see the grill marks on each side and you can put the pineapple to the side. Grill the chicken until the juices run clear and the meat is no longer pink. If your grill is nice and hot (375-400°F.) your chicken strips should take about 10 minutes. Grill on both sides.

Now you are ready to assemble the salads: Each salad will take 1/4 pound of chicken, with the strips laid out on the salad greens first. Then half of an avocado for each portion arranging the avocados to complement the chicken strips, and then four spears of grilled pineapple. A few slices of purple onion, and a sprinkling of almonds and you have an August Salad that will make your stomach happy. We serve ours at the shop with balsamic vinaigrette but you can choose whichever salad dressing you prefer or even a simple lemon and olive oil mix. Enjoy, stay cool and eat happy!

Rose’s Wheat-Free Bakery and Café, 2901 Central St., Evanston, IL 60201. www.rosesbakery.com. We ship or come on by.

Fox Valley Irish Fest Sept. 9th-11th

Go Green at the 16th Annual Fox Valley Irish Festival

Celebrate all things Irish at the popular Fox Valley Irish Fest. They’re bringing in new performers and familiar favorites, expanded Irish cuisine, toe-tapping Championship Irish dance troupes and much, much more!

The 16th Annual Fox Valley Irish Fest, which is part of the Saint Catherine of Siena Centennial Celebration, will be held on Friday, September 9, 2011 through Sunday, September 11, 2011 on the grounds of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Routes 31 and 72, in West Dundee, two miles north of I-90. Visit www.foxvalleyirishfest.com or call 847-426-2217.

The Fox Valley Irish festival takes place rain or shine! All events are outdoors under the main tent. Daily admission is \$10.00 on Friday and Saturday with half-price \$5.00 admission on Sunday; a three-day pass is \$20.00. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult. Admission for fun loving fest-goers age 65 and over is \$8.00 on Friday and Saturday and \$5.00 on Sunday. Fest hours are: Friday 5pm to 11pm, Saturday 1pm to 11pm, and Sunday 12:30pm to 7pm.

Celebration of Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church will be held at regular times in the Church on Saturday, September 10 at 4:30pm and Sunday, September 11 at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.

Entertainment tapped for this year’s Fox Valley Irish Fest includes: Brigid’s Cross, The Fenians, The Whigmaleeries, Band of Rogues, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, Dyed in the Wool, Solid-Aire, Paddy Homan and the Chicago Celtic Bag Pipers. Enjoy the wonder of Irish dancing performed by the talented members of the Mayer School of

Irish Dance and Championship Irish dance troupes.

The Wee Folk area for children and ‘tweens will be held throughout the Fox Valley Irish



Fest with no extra admission cost. Featured events include crafts, games, temporary tattoos, photo gallery, story telling, karaoke, and more.

Enjoy three solid days of family entertainment, fun, food, and shopping at the Fox Valley Irish Festival in West Dundee—one of the finest Irish Festivals in the Chicago area!

Father Michael Lavan, Parochial Administrator of Saint Catherine of Siena Church, will focus on a year of events for parish growth, including: Liturgical, Personal Faith Formation, Charitable Outreach and Parish Community. As the parish reaches its Centennial on Sunday, July 8, 2012, the Jubilee will conclude with a Jubilee Mass and the Centennial Siena Ball.

St. Catherine of Siena Church is located at 845 West Main Street in West Dundee. The Church was founded at 426 Highland Avenue in West Dundee on July 8, 1912. The site is now the home of the Dundee Township Historical Society.

For information and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.foxvalleyirishfest.com or call (847) 426-2217.

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Milwaukee Irish Fest Announces 2011 Festival Entertainers

In Addition to Festival Favorites,
Lineup Pays Tribute to Ireland Counties of Derry & Donegal

Milwaukee Irish Fest is North America's largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts at the four-day, 16-stage event at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. The annual festival takes place every third weekend in August with this year's festival taking place August 18 to 21, 2011. The excitement continues next year, August 16 to 19, 2012. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Milwaukee Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities, and genealogy through year-round programming. For more information, visit www.IrishFest.com.

Irish Fest's quest for "new" and "unique," took their group on a journey to Ireland late last fall. They found many of this year's cutting edge artists during their visit to multiple showcases and performances put on by top musicians.

Musicians such as Fiach and Goitse are just two of the most recently discovered talents Irish Fest is bringing this year for those who are looking for something new. Irish Fest will be breaking some of the newest and hottest Irish music talent at this year's festival, such as up-and-comers Fídal, the Henry Girls, Nodlaig Brolly and Outside Track.

But, Irish Fest also knows that their audience wants the tried and true.

Artists back by popular demand include Altan, Kintra, Different Drums, Tom Sweeney, Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Red Hot Chillii Pipers, the Elders, Seamus Kennedy, Vishten and Clumsy Lovers.

As part of this year's special focus on the Ireland counties of Derry and Donegal, musicians who hail from those

regions include Altan, Moya Brennan, Kintra, Different Drums, Liz Doherty Connection, Fídal, Brendan Hendry Band, the Henry Girls, Nodlaig Brolly, Kathleen Fitzgerald with the Screaming Orphans and Tom Sweeney.

On this side of the Atlantic, the festival draws strong Irish music talent throughout the Midwest with acts coming from cities such as Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Detroit. Regional bands include Bob Reeder from Kansas City, Two Tap Trio from Minneapolis, Blackthorn of Detroit and the Hatfield Sisters of Chicago. Considered the epicenter of Irish culture and music in the U.S., Milwaukee boasts its own lineup of great Irish artists, including Fiona Molly, Reilly, Blarney, Finbar McCarthy, Theiss & O'Connor, Whiskey of the Damned, the Sandcarvers, and the Gleasons.

About the Artists

Altan. With their exquisitely produced, award-winning recordings, evident is the band's unwavering commitment to bringing the beauty of traditional music, particularly that of the Donegal fiddlers and singers, to contemporary audiences in a way that brings out all its qualities and destroys none.

Brendan Hendry Band. Brendan Hendry, an Irish traditional fiddle player, hails from Bellaghy in South Derry. His work has been called, "real trad played and sung perfectly."

Clumsy Lovers. The Clumsy Lovers are first and foremost a live band who has honed their musical mayhem to provide some of the most entertaining shows anywhere.

Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones. Derek Warfield has enjoyed a lifetime of success as a founding

member and leader for 38 years of the legendary Wolfe Tones. The Young Wolfe Tones have assembled to carry on the tradition.

Different Drums. Different Drums brings the indigenous drums of Ireland – the lambeg and the bodhran together for performances hailed as "celebratory".

The Elders. Since forming in 1998, the Elders have set the American music scene on its ear, thanks to a skillful mix of amped-up roots rock, augmented with powerful vocals, blazing instrumentals and top-notch song writing.

Fiach. Until now, Fiach has been one of the Irish music scene's best kept secrets. Fiach Moriarty is a 27-year-old Dubliner, well respected for his songwriting, exceptional voice, and guitar playing.

Fídal. Described as "stunning" and "mind-blowing," their music making is marked by an intricate and intelligent approach that maintains the fiery exuberance of traditional fiddle music of their native region.

Gaelic Storm. After a start playing monthly gigs for friends at Santa Monica's O'Brien's Tavern in 1995, the band's popularity skyrocketed when it appeared in James Cameron's *Titanic* as the Celtic party band in the ship's steerage. Seven albums later, Gaelic Storm has amassed a large, loyal and ever-growing following and spends more than 200 days a year on the road performing.

Goitse. Up-and-comers Goitse (pronounced gwi-cha), are a five member Irish Traditional band – all of whom are students of Traditional Music and Dance at the University of Limerick.

The Henry Girls. The Henry Girls – Joleen, Lorna, and Karen McLaugh-

Continued on page 24...



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Tee Time for Golf Open

The 22nd Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Sat., Aug. 13. The outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC.

The price is \$100 per person and includes greens fees, a cart, dinner, cocktails, entertainment and prizes.

For tickets, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603, Maureen O'Looney at 773-286-6866 or the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

We are also offering sponsorship opportunities. Among them are:



a) Hole sponsorship: \$100; b) Gift basket sponsorship: \$150; c) Golf ball sponsorship: \$400; d) Dinner sponsorship: \$800

In exchange for sponsorship, participants will have a sign acknowledging their sup-

port on the hole of their choice and will be listed in our September issue of the *Heritage Line* of the *Irish American News*, reaching more than 30,000 households.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603.

First Annual Chicago Heritage Craft Brewfest

Join us in the Fifth Province Pub for our first annual celebration of craft brews.

The Chicago Heritage Craft Brewfest is Saturday, August 27 and the tasting runs from Noon to 4pm.

The day features tasting samples of craft brews, live music with Machine Gun Mojo and LTD, and food is available for purchase. A few of the menu items will have some of the featured brews in their recipes. Stay all day for the tasting and music and enjoy a cash bar from 4pm-7pm.

Featured breweries include Guinness, Heineken, Half Acre Brewing Company, the Chicago Beer Company, Samuel Adams, Batch 19, Leinenkugel's, Blue Moon and Magic Hat.



Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. 21 and over, only. Patrons will be carded at the event.

For tickets, call 773-282-7035 or visit www.irish-american.org.

The IAHC Welcomes Our New Board Members

John Gorski

Father James O'Brien

John O'Malley

Mike Shevlin

IAHC 2011-2012 Officers are:

President - John Gorski

Vice President - John O'Malley

Treasurer - Reverend James O'Brien

Secretary - Meghan Curran

Irish Fest 2011



Thanks to all the attendees, volunteers, vendors, sponsors and performers that made the 2011 Irish Fest one of our most successful ever!



Irish Fest is one of our largest fundraisers and we couldn't do it without you!

Irish Fest is July 13,14 and 15, 2012!

Save the Date for...

McToberfest

Saturday, October 22

Steins and Pints

Kilts and Lederhosen

Brats and Blarney

\$10 in advance and \$15 at the door



2011 Irish Fest Raffle Winners

We had a very successful Irish Fest Raffle and thanks to all who donated prizes or purchased tickets.

The winners are:

Grand Prize

Round Trip Tickets to Ireland from CIE Tours and American Airlines
 Sheila Clements

First Prize

One Night Stay at the Irish Cottage

Susie Hanbury

Second Prize

4 White Sox Tickets

Kati Maloney

Third Prize

2 Cubs Tickets

Joe Kelly

Fourth Prize

2 Cubs Tickets

Jeanne Haran

Fifth Prize

4 tickets to a Chicago Fire Game

J Carroll

Sixth Prize

Waterford Crystal

Mary Dwyer

Seventh Prize

4 Tickets to a Northlight Theatre production

Nancy Anne Powers

Eighth Prize

2 Tickets to a Steppenwolf Theatre production
 Kelly McCraven

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Chicago, Illinois



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Executive Director's Message

Handing Down the Tradition



Members of the IAHC evaluate my performance based on two things; the overall financial performance of the Center and our ability to deliver our mission to our membership and to Irish America. Although we are making strides in building financial strength, thanks to the generous support of our members and friends, I am most proud of how substantial the Center's programming has become thanks to combined efforts by staff and volunteers. Frank Gleeson and his tireless Cultural Committee had an incredibly active first half of 2011, with 11 events, programs, and exhibits, including film viewings of *The Pipe*, *Hunger*, *Shalom Ireland*, *Great Architects*, and *The Brendan Voyage*, panel discussions and lectures on the Irish Economy, No Irish Need Apply, the 30th Anniversary of Bobby Sands' death, The Irish in Texas, and Irish Revolutionary Women Kathleen Clarke and Margaret Skinnider, with Celtic Women and art and museum exhibits including Tim McCarthy's *The Old Neighborhood* and James Galbraith's *Regular People Doing Regular Things in Ireland*.

We also hosted seven concerts, including Girsá, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem Tribute, with the High Kings, the Makem and Spain Brothers and Clancy Legacy, Frankie Gavin and De Dannan, Larry Cunningham, Barleyjuice, Emma-Kate Tobia and Susan McCann and two dance shows, *Irish Dance Chicago* and *In Love With The Dance*.

This spring also saw the induction of the inaugural class of the Irish American Hall of Fame, which as it expands will play an important educational role in helping people learn more about those that came before us, especially those who had a big impact on Irish America and all Americans. On top of our own

events, we also played host to the Chicago Rose of Tralee competition, the City of Chicago Pipe Band and Piping Academy's Pub Night, and the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil.

Gleeson's committee has several more programs planned for the second half of the year, to include Heritage Camp, Irish Bootcamp, the *Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series*, *Yeats and the Irish Peasant* literary program, the Samhain/Day of the Dead art exhibit, a piper's tional, and, of course, iBAM!

I believe that iBAM!, which stands for Irish Books, Art, and Music and is a partnered event with Cliff Carlson and Cathy Curry and the *Irish American News* team, will become the Center's cornerstone event over the next few years, and based on the Center's mission, it should be! iBAM! takes the celebration of Irish culture in a very substantive direction, and that's what the Center should stand for; a cut above in its commitment to preserving Irish and Irish American traditions and to showcasing the best of Irish arts and cultural talent across all disciplines.

Supported by Culture Ireland as part of its Imagine Ireland initiative, this year's iBAM! theme is Handing Down the Tradition and will provide access for the Chicago Irish community to some of the world's best traditional Irish musicians; Liz Carroll, Martin Hayes, Jackie Daly, Mick Moloney, Jimmy Keane, Dennis Cahill, Matt Cranitch, Ben, Maurice, and Charlie Lennon, Sean Cleland, Johnny McCarthy and many others. We'll also feature some of the best writers in today's Ireland and Irish America, including Chris Binchy, Kevin Barry, Bill Cullen, Frank Delaney, Joseph Woods, Vincent Woods, Claire Kilroy, Belinda McKeon, Glenn Patterson, Mary Pat Kelly and many others, wonderful exhibits from Ireland including *The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats* from the National Library in Dublin and *From The Sources* from the Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork, Sean N6s dancing by the Cunningham Family, Irish artists such as Elizabeth Cope and Jennifer Allen, Irish theater performances by Seanachai, ShawChicago and

Smock Alley, films from the Chicago Irish Film Festival, and food by celebrity chef Rachel Gaffney, all under one roof in one weekend. If you do not recognize any of these names, spend a half-hour on Google, and get familiar. And mark your calendars now for November 11th-13th. What an event this promises to be.

Beyond just events and programs, the halls of the Center are alive day after day with teachers, students, performers and families involved in our cultural partner organizations; the Academy of Irish Music, Na Gaeil Irish Language School, Trinity Irish Dancers, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Francis O'Neill Ceili Club, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, Irish Music School of Chicago, Seanachai Theater, City of Chicago Pipe Band and Chicago Academy of Piping and Drumming, and Pat Cannady's piobairi uilleann pipers' gathering, or here for our own Irish Heritage Singers, Shapeshifters Theatre, genealogy program, the Library book club, memoir-writing class, set dancing, Celtic Art, and *Book of Kells* programs, Nimble Thimbles and more. Culture is alive and thriving at the Center.

All of the above is of course supported by a facility that costs a lot of money to operate and maintain, a volunteer force of several hundred committed Irish Americans who care about where they come from and the role that the Center plays in promoting the heritage, and a staff that works hard to match the commitment of the volunteer ranks and goes above and beyond to support a rapidly expanding program and event calendar and community. I just feel privileged to be a part of it all and plan to spend a lot more time saying thank you to everyone who makes it all happen.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Introducing the

IAHC Shamrock Kids Club

We are looking for new members aged 6 to 12!

A club for kids to learn about and enjoy their Irish heritage!

Why join the Shamrocks?

- Learn all about Ireland in a fun way
- the culture and country
- the art and Celtic symbols
- the food
- the music, dance, and books
- Make new friends
- Discover cool new things
- Tour the library
- A club just for kids

Don't miss out on the year-round fun!

- Movie night
- All-You-Can-Eat-Spaghetti night
- Create a beautiful Irish art piece
- Learn to do the Zig
- Bake yummy scones and bread
- Family night at the Center
- Be in the St. Patrick's Day Parade!
- And more activities to come!

For more information, e-mail info@irishahc.org



President's Message

I wish to thank everyone including the members, volunteers, staff and the Board

forward to continuing to grow and support the cultural vision and mission of the Center.

As we move forward, we need to keep in perspective that we have the responsibility to pass on the Center, and all that is good about it, to future generations. We owe this to the Center's founders, past and present members and all that pass through our doors. We also owe the current generations, the best in Irish American cultural experiences.

To accomplish our goals, we need to be a team that will think, plan and communicate openly as we implement for the short term as well as for the long term. Collaboration does have value. Together we will continue to position the Center as a cultural magnet for all ages. We will serve our younger members as we launch our Shamrock Kid's Club and we will serve our Seniors with the Golden Diners' Lunch program. And, we will serve everyone in between those age groups as we continue to be all inclusive and all included.

I will do my part. I am sure you will continue to do your part as well.

Thank you and God Bless!
John Gorski, President, IAHC

of Directors of the Irish American Heritage Center for their support in electing me to the Board and to the office of President. I would like to also personally thank former president, Bob McNamara, for his dedication and service to the Center. I look forward to serving and I am honored to be the President of this amazing legacy.

I am committed to the purpose of the Center and I look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the spirit of transparency, sustainability, openness and communication.

My Irish roots trace back to Lismore, County Waterford. In the 1850's, the widow Mary Keefe Crowley made the long hard journey and brought her sons Patrick, Edward and John to America with her. John is my Great Great Grandfather. I am sure they would be proud IAHC members were they here today.

The Center celebrates the best in Irish American culture. I look



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Saturday October 15, 2011 7:30 pm

General Admission \$40 IAHC Members \$35

Ticket Information available at: Irish-american.org

Tax Deductible - to support the Wexford Institute Autism Center programs

www.anthonypearns.net

www.wexford.org

Recipes Wanted

This fall, the Center will publish a new Heritage Cookbook and we'd like your recipes.

Give us your recipe for your favorite soup, salad, appetizer, entree, dessert or even beverage. The top ten recipes will be entered into a cook-off and the dish voted the best becomes a part of our Fifth Province menu.

Email your recipe to info@irishahc.org or drop it off at the IAHC office by August 15 at 5pm.



Memoir Writing Class

Join us for our ongoing Memoir Writing Class Series. The sessions are Monday, September 12-October 17 or Tuesday, September 13-October 18 from 7pm-9pm.

Everyone has a story to tell. Here's an opportunity to tell yours.

Whether it was one memorable summer, or an incredible life voyage, this writing workshop will not only help you identify the key turning moments in your life, but understand them against a backdrop of time and place.

Students will do in-class writing exercises, readings and discussions. Outside assignments will also be given. In the later session, time will also be given to discussing markets for publication.

You can sign up for either session; Monday or Tuesday and both of the writing

classes will be conducted by instructor, Virginia Gibbons, Professor

of English at Oakton Community College. She also is facilitator for the Great Irish Books Club at the Irish American Heritage Center Library.

The cost of the six-week workshop is \$60 per person and class size limited to 10 writers. Advance registration and payment is strongly advised.

NOTE: There will be a printed materials fee of \$5.00 to be paid at the first session.

To register, contact Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057.



Remember the San Patricios: The Irish Soldiers of Mexico

Save the date for a multimedia presentation on the San Patricios, Irish soldiers who fought in the Mexican American War.

The program includes a screening of the documentary *St. Patrick's Battalion*, with an introduction and post film talkback with Dr. Michael Hogan. Much of the film's content overlaps with his book *The Irish Soldiers of Mexico*, which he will discuss, sign and sell

before and after the film.

After the discussion, a mix of Mexican and Irish food will be available for purchase in the Fifth Province, along with a mix of Mexican and Irish traditional music.

Remember the San Patricios: The Irish Soldiers of Mexico is Sunday, September 11 from 3pm-7pm and the cost is \$10 at the door.

Yeats and the Irish Peasant

Join the IAHC's Cultural Committee for a multimedia presentation, Yeats and the Irish Peasant this fall. The event will feature a slide presentation by Theresa Choske, a lecture by Professor James Murphy of DePaul University and live music.

For poet and playwright, W.B. Yeats, the early nineteenth-century Irish novelist William Carleton, personally as much as in his writings, was the archetypal masculine Irish peasant struggling against poverty. Murphy will discuss how Yeats used Carleton, seeing him as the celebrator of the true Irish peasant to enhance Yeats's own authority and reputation as a critic and rising writer over others in the 1890's, but how William Carleton was not quite how Yeats imagined him to be.

Carleton was the masculine Irish peasant archetype Yeats used in his poetry and drama against the effeminate Irish peasant of the writings of the English critic Matthew Arnold. Whereas Arnold's Celt could be

made to serve a complementary view of the imperial relationship between the English and the Irish, Yeats's Celt longed for

the complementary leadership of the benign (Anglo-Irish) aristocrat.

Murphy will discuss how Carleton viewed the Irish people and Arnold's views of English and Irish relationship.

Murphy is professor of English at DePaul University, Chicago. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a past president of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland.

He is the author or editor of twelve books, most recently, *Irish Novelists and the Victorian Age* and *The Oxford History of the Irish Book, Vol. IV (1800-91)*.

Yeats and the Irish Peasant is Sunday, September 18 from 2pm-4pm. The cost is \$10 at the door and refreshments will be served. This lecture is a preview to the iBAM! celebration in November. iBAM! will feature a Yeats exhibit, called *The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats* from the National Library in Dublin.





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Annual iBAM! Celebration Returns this Fall

The third annual iBAM! celebration comes to the IAHC this November. This year's theme is Handing Down the Tradition.

Co-produced by the IAHC and the Irish American News, iBAM! is a 2-day Irish cultural celebration that brings together as many as 100 authors, artists and musicians from North America and Ireland. The celebration features art and museum exhibits, panel discussions, poetry readings, film screenings, live music, theater and dance performances.

Confirmed participants include:

Writers

Chris Binchy, Kevin Barry, Bill Cullen, Frank Delaney, Joseph Woods, Claire Kilroy, Vincent Woods, Glenn Patterson, Belinda McKeon, Mary Pat Kelly, David Lynch, Mary O'Donoghue, John Hoban, Cathal Liam, Kevin O'Hara, Patricia Falvey and Rita Emmett

Music

Liz Carroll, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, Mick Moloney, Jimmy Keane, and Sean Cleland, Matt Cranitch, Jackie Daly and Paul de Grae, Maurice, Ben, and Charlie Lennon, Johnny McCarthy, Cormac McCarthy, John Hoban and Dr. Larry McCullough

Exhibits

The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats from the National Library in Dublin

From The Sources from University College Cork

Wake Amusements from University Collect

Cork

John McGahern Special Collection from NUI

Galway

Artists

Elizabeth Cope

Jennifer Allen

Dance

The Cunninghams Sean N6s dancers from

Connemara

Theater

Performances by Seanachai, ShawChicago and

Smock Alley

Film

a partnered program with the Chicago Irish Film

Festival

Food

Celebrity Chef Rachel Gaffney

iBAM! is November 12 and 13 at the IAHC and the cost is \$10 for IAHC members and \$15 for general admission per day. The annual iBAM! Awards Dinner and Cocktail Party will be held on November 11 with cocktails at 7pm and dinner following at 8pm. Tickets for the dinner are \$100. For more details and the full schedule, visit www.ibamchicago.com.



IAHC Book Captures Spirit of Center's Mission and Volunteers

You can still pick up a copy of the Irish American Heritage Center book that was sold at Irish Fest in July.

The book takes readers into the hearts and minds of the first-generation of Irish immigrants who made the dream for an Irish cultural center and community gathering spot in Chicago a reality.

The book brings to life that courageous vision and shines the spotlight on the 50,000 people who come today to this massive 86,000-square-foot building, which houses an authentic Irish pub, a 650-foot theater, ballroom, library, museum, classes for language, dancing and music and have celebrated together for 25 years at the annual Irish Fest held in July.

It is a magnificent story with a rich cast of

ordinary people who have been extraordinary passionate in their efforts to create a home for the Irish in Chicago.

The finely detailed stories, and memorable moments of the founders, volunteers and many visitors will be brought to life in photographs and powerful anecdotal story telling.

The authors, Monica Dougherty and Mary

Beth Sammons will be signing the books at the following locations:

Irish Fest Milwaukee

TBA

August 18-21

Donegal Imports

5358 W Devon Ave.,

Chicago

August 25, 4pm-7pm

Glascott's Saloon

2158 North Halsted,

Chicago

August 28, 2pm-5pm

Copies can be purchased at the IAHC office for \$22.



The Center is Paving the Front Courtyard

Makes a Great Gift!

Buy an engraved brick for your family, business, friends or yourself. Each brick is guaranteed for 100 years!

4 x 8 brick

\$100

8 x 8 brick

\$250

(IAHC Mbrs

\$200)

12 x 12 brick

\$500

(IAHC Mbrs

\$400)



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IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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The Irish American Heritage Center invites you on our first ever Group Vacation to Ireland!

What better way to celebrate our 25th anniversary than a trip back to the old sod? Come join us on this deluxe tour through Ireland and experience the sights and sounds of our heritage in the company of our members!

Seven Nights in Eire!

October 6-13, 2011

Featuring Musical Hosts:

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 - Kylemore Abbey
 - Cliffs of Moher
 - Blarney Castle & Wooden Mills
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Bensenville, IL 60106

triseasons@aol.com

Or Call:

Cathy: (847) 542-1539

Or

Susan: (630) 595-7170

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August 2011

August 5	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
August 6	Rose of Tralee Gold Party	Fifth Province	7pm
August 11	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
August 25	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
August 27	Heritage Craft Brewfest	Erin Room	Noon
August 28	Ice Cream Social	Fifth Province	5pm
	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.-Sat. Golden Diners Lunch Program Kitchen 12:30pm-2pm

Save the Date for...

Margo O'Donnell in Concert!

Don't Miss the Queen of Irish and Country music, accompanied by Johnny Gleeson

Sat., October 29

7pm

\$35

Concert in the Auditorium, followed by a post concert dance in the Fifth Province

Sponsored by the St. Patrick Fathers.

For tickets, call 773-282-7035.



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Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it.

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\$250 - Harper

3-year membership
no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership
no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

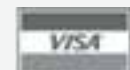
10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

AUGUST 2011

In August, our live entertainment is abbreviated

Sat, 8/6 Ted Healy

Sat, 8/13 Ted Healy

Sat, 8/20 Ted Healy

Sat, 8/27 Hayden and Shine Band



Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music.

No Cover
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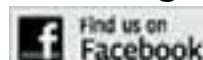
Center Chats

Starting on Thursday, September 1st, Executive Director, Tim McDonnell will host a monthly 'fireside chat' in the Fifth Province on the first Thursday of the month to discuss and answer

questions on the current state of affairs at the Center. The forum will be very informal. If you are curious to find out more about the Center's plans and what we are working on, join us.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways, follow the IAHC on



Facebook and Twitter



The Heritage Line Staff

Contributors:

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Mike Boyle	Theresa Choske	Monica Dougherty	John Gorski
Mary Griffin	Tim McDonnell	Stacy McReynolds	Mary Morris
Sheila Murphy	Kevin O'Kennedy	Mary Beth Sammons	Leslie Singel

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UK Klux Klan

In April 2006 Mervyn Gibson was forced to stand down as Chairman of the Loyalist Commission. The problem: members reportedly were anxious about the Reverend Gibson's involvement in an initiative by Britain's Northern Ireland Office which would include nationalist residents groups. That would have meant Orangemen having to address Catholic complaints about Orange parades celebrating Protestant rule being forced through their communities.

It's not as though Gibson is a Taig lover. On the contrary, he's a poster boy for British patriotism. He is Deputy Grand Chaplain of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Minister of Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church in Belfast, a lifelong member of the Orange Institution and also a former Royal Ulster Constabulary officer and Chairman of the Loyalist Commission.

What is the Loyalist Commission? It is successor to The Combined Loyalist Military Command and represents three Loyalist vigilante groups—the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), and the Red Hand Commando (RHC)—as well as Protestant church and community leaders. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) helped to set up the group in October 2001, three years after the Good Friday Agreement. Perhaps that's why there are now estimated to be three times as many "peace walls," huge apartheid fences separating Protestants from Catholic communities, in Northern Ireland than before the GFA was signed.

The press tells you that the "peace process" is working, but is threatened by a few "dissidents." You are never told that the heart of the problem is the government itself.

Church and state are one in the UK. That's why Tony Blair had to keep his Catholicism secret until he left office. Writing for the *Guardian* about Blair's

"30 years as a closet Catholic," Steven Bates had it right: "the motives of Catholic politicians have traditionally been regarded with suspicion by non-Catholics, both here and in the US..."

Queen Elizabeth II is Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The title derives from King Henry VIII and his Act of Supremacy. Parliament has the right of final approval of all church measures. Adopting Protestantism was a political rather than a religious move. When Henry married his brother's wife, Catherine of Aragon, he had to get a papal dispensation because such a union was considered incestuous. And when the marriage produced no male children, Henry then cast his eye on one of Catherine's attendants.

But to marry Ann Boleyn, his marriage with Catherine had to be annulled by the pope. Having already received one dispensation to marry Catherine, an annulment would imply that the first papal dispensation was in error, something the pope was not willing to do. Another problem was that Holy Roman Emperor Charles V had invaded Rome, and the pope was his captive. Charles was Catherine's nephew and resented Henry's dishonorable treatment of his aunt. Having failed to change the pope's mind, Henry

arrested Lord Chancellor Cardinal Wolsey, his closest advisor, and replaced him with Thomas Cranmer and Thomas Cromwell, sympathizers of Martin Luther. They advised Henry to split the English church from the Roman, declare the king its spiritual head, then grant himself the annulment.

Henry's pursuit of a male heir led to centuries of misery and death for Irish Catholics who were murdered, enslaved, starved and disenfranchised on a mass scale. And from 1688 to this enlightened day there has never been a Catholic prime minister. Were a member of the royal family to marry a Catholic, they would be barred from succession to the throne.

The Orange Order has stricter rules: no one who is even related to a Catholic need apply. Over a third of representatives in Northern Ireland's assembly are Orange Order members. So last month when police removed objectionable UVF and UDA flags hung around Sacred Heart Catholic church in Ballyclare, a small Antrim town only 8% Catholic, and residents broke into a major riot, burning cars and injuring police with firebombs, the reaction by Assistant Chief Constable Alistair Finlay, second in command of the entire PSNI force should not be surprising: Following that pre-parade riot, Finlay

went on Ulster TV and actually made a PUBLIC APOLOGY

out of business decades ago.)

I checked the *New York Times* and *Chicago Trib* for news on the parade disturbances. The *Times* had two short paragraphs in its "World Briefs" section telling readers that Protestants lit bonfires and Roman Catholics, trying to attack those celebrating at the bonfires, rioted against police. Very misinformative: nothing about UVF attacks on the Short Strand community or police forcing Orange marches through the Ardoyne. The *Tribune* carried nothing at all except a very basic online video from *Reuters*. The general US media line is: the rioters are uninformed Catholic youngsters, some as young as ten, out for thrills, and often egged on by dissidents trying to ruin the peace process.



Typical bonfire. Flag burning approved.

to the Protestant death squads for removing their flags in an insensitive manner. Finley of course knows where his bread is buttered. And despite this very public and shocking kowtow, world media simply ignored it. Can you picture that happening if police removed say, Nazi flags from any church, synagogue, mosque or ashram anywhere else in the civilized world? (That's the same world, including England, that put the Nazis

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net

Watch: IRISH JOURNAL TELEVISION

Chicago cable-CAN-TV, Channel 19: Monday 7pm, Tuesday 2pm; Comcast (Skokie system) 24 North suburbs—Ch. 19 (or 35): Tuesday, 6pm; Comcast (Elmhurst system) 41 West suburbs—Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30pm.

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



LET’S HELP! We must rescue Gerry McGeough and his fellow republican prisoners in Maghaberry from criminal abuse (possibly torture) by British warders. Helen McClafferty writes: “Gerry’s Judicial Review is scheduled for September. It is imperative that we lobby our local politicians to contact the NIO to grant Gerry his amnesty/pardon. Please reach out as soon as possible; contact political representatives and news media.” Let’s do it!

AT THE SAME TIME let’s recover our national honor by ending American torture; whether at Guantánamo Bay or Pelican Bay (whose inmates are now on hunger-strike).

CLEAN-UP is also required here. As urgent as US debt, jobs, and the economy are; they cannot be remedied until we purge the Big Lie, the Lie that small business won’t hire unless we continue the lowest top tax rate of the past seventy years; the rate extant when our economy crashed in 2008. While immensely profitable Ameri-

can Electric Power, Boeing, DuPont, Exxon Mobil, FedEx, General Electric, Honeywell, IBM, United Technologies, Verizon, Wells Fargo, Yahoo, and others pay zero taxes the pols and corporate news media blast us about the needy having to sacrifice. While we have given \$undreds of billions to the banksters whose fraudulent CDOs and CDSs collapsed our economy, many of our fellow citizens are so disinformed as to loudly promote policies designed to render them homeless and without medical care while further enriching the super-rich. Who disinformed America? You’re right - Fox TV is one culprit. The same perps also disinformed England. Lord Conrad Black disinformed England with his Examiner, and Telegraph newspapers, and the US via his Chicago Sun-Times and others. He also owns the Jerusalem Post. He’s in a Florida prison. Rupert Murdoch disinformed England via his News of the World, Sunday Times, Mail, Express, and Sun newspapers. He continues to abet the banksters

via his Fox TV, NY Post, Washington Times, Wall Street Journal and Barron’s. Murdoch promotes the interests of Israeli and American oligarchs and is America’s main publisher of Fundamentalist books.

CORPORATE FALSEHOODS

via Fox TV et al:

· The super-rich are small business owners.



Gerry McGeough

· The super-rich will quit their small businesses, causing lay-offs, if the top tax rate is raised from its current lowest level in seventy years (35%; it was 91% during Ike’s era of prosperity)

· Jobs are created by cutting gov’t spending (Pres. Hoover’s failed policy). Gov’t ought to cut spending during booms; not during depressions.

· It’s socialism if the debt ceiling is raised by Obama (but wasn’t when Bush raised it five times).

· The \$trillions in costs of our criminal wars needn’t be ended or reduced; but Medicare must.

WHO’D HAVE GUESSED that the super-rich would grab so much American wealth as to destroy its middle-class? How did the Koch brothers get their tea-partiers to support policies designed to render the latter homeless and without medical care? How did they manage to get the impoverished middle-class to blame retired cops and teachers instead of the super-rich whose wars and fraudulent CDOs and CDSs looted the economy? The class war is over; the super-rich

have won and are now mopping up; their victims call for even more middle-class sacrifice to give further wealth to the richest.

BUT THE CAT is out of the bag: Some Repubs have named the source of their policies. They order their staffs to read the works of Ayn Rand. Three of her books “The Fountainhead” (about a genius architect); “Atlas Shrugged;” (the productive giant’s shoulders carry earth and its parasites, and Atlas ought to just shrug the world off his shoulders after which the parasites will all starve to death upon which he can resume his genius work in a depopulated, thus more congenial, world). A later book is “The Virtue of Selfishness” (whose title speaks for itself).

WHAT THE INNOCENT (and largely religious) tea-partiers do not know (but Murdoch and Ailes do) is that Rand, whose ideas they spout, was profoundly anti-religious, had contempt for marriage (“strong individuals hook up with whomever they please whenever they please”); and was intensely genocidal. Her works call for the powerful to wipe out everyone else; the road we’ve been on for some time. Summon your courage; you’ll need it.

AMERICA IS THREATENED mortally; not by bogeymen (Sharia law, or same-sex marriage, or undocumented immigrants) but by the predatory super-rich now raping America and running our government and its murderous foreign policy.

THE MASS KILL-OFF of Americans can begin when the super-rich get the Repubs and Obama to kill organized labor and reduce unemployment compensation, social security, Medicare and Medicaid. Many are so set on killing off America’s people of color that they ignore the fact that they, too, are in the same cross-hairs and won’t survive either.

THE KILL-OFF OF FOREIGNERS is already well underway via our bombs and oil robberies in the Middle East and Africa, and our munitioning of Israel’s genocide of Palestine.

REMEMBER: The blue-collar tea-partiers supposedly rose in rebellion against the elite but it was founded

with the help of the billionaire Koch brothers and is promoted by Murdoch’s Fox News. Their policies benefit only the super-rich, to working America’s detriment.

€BILLIONS of Ireland’s petroleum wealth given to multinationals by crooked pols. See www.shelltosea.com.

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.freegerry.com, www.michaelmckevitt.com, and www.friendsofcolinduffy.com. Contact me at 312/664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net.

Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series

The Irish American Heritage Center has announced that it will begin a Sunday brunch/theatre series, starting in September. Each month, a cast of professional actors will perform staged readings of Irish one act plays in the Fifth Province Pub following an Irish brunch.

Dates for the first three Sundays in the series are September 25, October 16, and November 6. On each date, brunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m., and the performances begin at 1 p.m.

The Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series will present *Lovers* (Part II - Losers) by Brian Friel and two plays by Hugh Leonard, *A View From the Obelisk* and *Pizzazz* for their first offerings. Writer/producer Frank Mahon (*The Quiet Man Tales*) and actress Brigid Duffy Gerace and other IAHC members, have formed a group of theatre professionals in order to rekindle local interest in one of Ireland’s great art forms, the one act play.

First popularized by the young Abbey Theatre in the first part of the 20th century, the one act play has recently found a new audience. While always being appreciated in traditional theatres, one act plays are nowadays often produced in pubs and restaurants, particularly in Ireland. Serving a bowl of soup and a short play on its second floor, Bewley’s Café Theatre in Dublin has been a “hot ticket” for a number of years.

Tickets for the brunch/theatre package are \$25 for IAHC members, \$30 for non-members and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



He Was One of Those Kids...

He was one of those kids that years later you say "Oh, yeah! Nice quiet kid. Never did much."

John P. Fardy was the son of Chicago Fireman Martin Fardy and housewife Mary Fardy and lived in St. Clothilde Parish at 8144 South Calumet Avenue (Telephone Radcliffe 5771) John Fardy attended Leo High School, then conducted by the Irish Christian Brothers and like nearly all of his classmates was an Irish American Kid.

He was less than an exceptional student. His 1940 Class Rank was 138 out of 184 with an average cumulative percentage score (contemporary method) of 77%. However, John Fardy was learning to be a hero—one of America's Saints—Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

John Fardy was not a school athlete and played on no teams. His only activity listed on his senior page is Public Speaking. After Leo, "He took a course in typing at the Fox Secretarial College the same year and entered the Illinois Institute of Technology the following year. He majored in mechanical engineering but left after the first year. He had been doing time study work previously, so he went to work at the Cornell Forge Company as a time study man and draftsman." Then came military service - America was attacked by Japan.

Inducted into the Marine Corps on May 8, 1943, he went through recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, upon completion of which he was assigned to the Japanese Language School at his own request. He was promoted to private first class in July, about two weeks before the start of school. After one month of attendance at the language school at Camp Elliott, San Diego, PFC Fardy was transferred to the Infantry Battalion where he was trained as an automatic rifleman.

Private First Class Fardy joined the 29th Replacement Battalion shortly before the unit left the United States on October 28, 1943. He journeyed to Nouméa, New Caledonia, and was reassigned to the 27th Replacement Battalion,

which was leaving to join the 1st Marine Division.

Attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines upon his arrival at Goodenough Island, D'Entrecasteaux Islands, early in December 1943, PFC Fardy left with that unit about a week later for Nasing, Alatu, New Guinea. The stay there was a short one also, for the 1st Marines left Finschhafen on Christmas Day 1943, for their December 26 landing on enemy-held Cape Gloucester, New Britain. Within two months of the time he left his home shores, the former draftsman was involved in a battle for an enemy airdrome on an island rarely heard of before.

Following the Cape Gloucester operation, and the return of the 1st Marine Division to the Russell Islands for over three months training, the division left for Peleliu. After practice landings at Guadalcanal, the division landed on the coral-studded, shadeless Peleliu. PFC Fardy participated in the capture of the airport and the attack on the coral hills overlooking it before returning to the Russell Islands with his regiment in early October.

Promoted to Corporal on December 21, 1944, the veteran of two campaigns became a squad leader as the reorganized division started training for the next operation. The training ashore ended in February and the Marines embarked aboard the ships that took them for practice landings at Baniki (Russell Islands), Guadalcanal, and Ulithi Atoll in the Caroline Islands. The landing on Okinawa occurred on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945 and the division's sweep across the island up to the northern tip was accomplished with comparative ease. Later, Marines were moved south to help hard-pressed Army troops.

It was on May 6, 1945 when Company C was advancing against a strongly fortified, fanatically-defended Japanese position that Cpl Fardy's squad was suddenly brought under heavy small-arms fire. Cpl Fardy temporarily deployed his men along a convenient drainage ditch. Shortly afterwards, an enemy hand grenade landed

in the ditch, falling among the pinned-down Marines. Instantly, the 21-year-old corporal flung himself upon the grenade and absorbed the exploding charge with his own body. Taken to a field hospital, Cpl Fardy died the next day.

The Medal of Honor was presented to Corporal Fardy's parents at ceremonies conducted by the Marine Corps League in Chicago, September 15, 1946.

Re-interment services for Cpl Fardy, with military honors by the Chicago Detachment of the Marine Corps League, were held on April 7, 1949, at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.

Author and University of North Dakota (Fargo) professor of psychology Terrence Barrett contacted Leo High School about his forthcoming book—a study of Marine recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Cpl. John Fardy's valor is focused in Dr. Barrett's study. Not only that, Dr. Barrett suggested that Cpl. Fardy's grave marker be upgraded and replaced. The current marker makes no mention of Cpl. John Fardy's Medal of Honor. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Terry Barrett, The Alumni Association is fixing that and on August 8 at 10am at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Chicago, we are having a rededication ceremony with the newly engraved headstone that shows the Medal of Honor Badge and the words "Medal of Honor."



Medal of Honor Citation

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL JOHN P. FARDY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Squad Leader, serving with Company C, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Islands, 7 May 1945. When his squad was suddenly assailed by extremely heavy small-arms fire from the front during a determined advance against

strongly fortified, fiercely defended Japanese positions, Corporal Fardy temporarily deployed his men along a near-by drainage ditch. Shortly thereafter, an enemy grenade fell among the Marines in the ditch. Instantly throwing himself upon the deadly missile, Corporal Fardy absorbed the exploding blast in his own body, thereby protecting his comrades from certain and perhaps fatal injuries. Concerned solely for the welfare of his men, he willingly relinquished his own hope of survival to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. A stouthearted leader and indomitable fighter, Corporal Fardy, by his prompt decision and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death, had rendered valiant service, and his conduct throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

The Leo Alumni was contacted by a Marine and professional psychologist Terrence Barrett of University of North Dakota at Fargo. Mr. Barrett

is writing a book on Valor and John Fardy is a key focus among other CMH Marines.

The Leo High School Alums Vietnam Hero Jim Furlong and the



brother of fallen Chicago Police Officer/Marine and Leo Man Eric Lee, Mr. Mark Lee, are heading up a search for any relatives of Cpl. John Fardy.

On August 8, 2011, at 10:00am, The Leo Alumni, an honor guard of The U.S. Marine Corps, Marine Corps League Detachment 73, and Marine Corps League Detachment 553, members of Cpl. Fardy's family and officials of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation will place a new and more appropriate grave marker for this fallen American hero.

Call Pat Hickey at Leo High School for more information - (773) 224-9600.

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Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



be a knock-'em-dead argument.

"We're not everyone on the block, and they don't all have dogs."

"But can't we go over to the pet shop

on Saturday... just to look?"

"No, Michael, we've got too many things going on this weekend. Maybe next week. "Aha! A huge chink in the armor, one wide enough to squeeze through. "How am I ever supposed to learn about responsibility, if you won't gimme a chance to prove it?" There, that ought to do it. How could she refute that one?"

"We did, with the first dog, and you remember how that turned out."

"But Mom..."

The gavel smashed down with a resounding boom.

"Michael! That's enough. I said, we'll see next week!" She turned back to the sink and commenced to scrub a saucepan furiously, a few suds splashing onto the kitchen floor.

Displaying my best pouty face, I turned on my heel and stamped off to my bedroom, with a half-smile barely concealed. The seeds had been sown.

The Saturday after next, I rose early as possible so that I'd be dressed and ready for the big day. To show responsibility, I cleaned my room by shoving all the dirty clothes down the laundry chute, along with a few of my brother's toys he'd left on the floor. Well, that was his problem, let him dig 'em out later from the pile in the basement. I needed to get our room ready for its new resident, who took precedent. I cleared out a small space in the corner near the closet, and retrieved a few of Mom's towels from the linen closet to make a nice warm nest for the new puppy. I wolfed down my breakfast in ten seconds flat, then stood behind Dad's chair and tugged at his sleeve as he finished up with the sports page.

"C'mon, Dad! All the good ones will be gone if we don't get there early!"

My father sighed, folded his paper, and pushed his chair away from the table.

"Alright, Mike, go get your jacket and meet me in the garage at..." He glanced at his watch. "0:945 hundred hours." I looked at him, uncomprehending.

"It's 9:40 right now. That means five minutes. Chop, chop!" He clapped his hands twice, and I raced upstairs to my bedroom closet. At 0:943 hundred hours, I stood in the garage doorway, waiting for Dad to back the car into the alley.

"Good morning, gentlemen! What can I get for you today?" the pet shop manager greeted us as we passed the front counter.

"A puppy!" I blurted out.

"Let's take a look around first, Mike." Dad winked at the clerk, grasped my shoulders and steered me far from the plaintive yelping I could hear in the back aisle. We perused the aquariums, which fascinated me, though I had determined not to be swayed from my goal. I would not even look at

the fish today. *Puppy, puppy, puppy* was my mantra. Dad bent down low to view the tarantulas and scorpions, keeping his body between me and the aquariums on the shelf. No sense tempting the kid with those. Mary would have a fit.

We slowly wandered down each aisle, gazing up at the miniature Wild Kingdom. Bored with all these nonsense animals, I kept a sharp eye on how close we had come to the puppy pens in the rear of the store. Then, we found ourselves in the reptile department. As I mentioned, I'd always kept a warm spot in my heart for cold-blooded creatures. One day I caught a huge garter snake over two feet long and thicker than the base of my thumb. A feisty creature, she bit me twice and my dad once, regularly shed her skin and even had a litter of babies, much to the envy of every other boy on our block. So it was with no little enthusiasm that I reviewed the reptile department with my father, who always had a scientific interest in such things. That, of course, was how he'd got bitten by my pet in the first place. Dad immediately perceived the bright side of the situation however, and took full advantage. After disinfecting and wrapping up his wound he marched to the cabinet in the dining room, bent down, reached in, and stood up grasping a shotglass in his bandaged hand and a fifth of Canadian Club in the other. Mom looked at him, shaking her head reprovingly.

"For snakebite, Mary!" He grinned at her and eyeballed the glass as he poured himself a medicinal snort.

Now he stood beside me in the aisle, trying to determine which species in these tanks possessed the shortest teeth. Then, he noticed some that had none at all.

"Hey Mike, lookit this!" He pointed to a huge kiddie pool in the corner, filled with flat rocks, a waterfall and even a little fake palm tree island. Scattered across every horizontal surface, small round dark green discs with yellow and red edges lay sunning themselves under the heat lamp. Some had heads, feet and tails sticking out.

"Turtles!" I cried in delight, forgetting all about my master plan for a puppy.

They'll Make Great Pets (Part 1 of 2)

I've always had a soft spot in my heart for animals. And not only the soft, cuddly ones. I loved to visit the pet shop, where I could indulge my fantasies of someday owning at least one of every animal in the store. Any time I was out with Mom or Dad I'd beg them to stop there so I could pet the puppies. They were irresistible. I just *had* to have one... it had been far too long. Sure we'd owned a dog once before, but our first foray into pet ownership had been a total disaster, and my parents had since shown no predilection for another round. Every time I returned from the pet shop starry-eyed and hopeful, my pleas fell on deaf ears.

"No, Michael! We barely have room in this house for us, never mind a dog!"

"Mom, everybody else on the block has one, and their houses are just like ours!" I pointed out, sure that this would

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



to gouge as much more loot out of the suckers as humanly possible and the family and the extended family are taken care of with as many

jobs for the boys as they can fill; well then it is time for the politician’s really important task, almost as important as siphoning off as much as he can get into his especially enlarged pockets. Yes, it’s time for them to cover their asses. Now you would think that having been at it for so long these guys would be really bloody top notch at covering those great big well fed backsides, but no. They always seem to get caught out.

However, the thing is this isn’t some country like Britain, where they actually send crooks to jail. No, this is Ireland. So they know they are relatively safe. They have the shining examples of a chancer like Haughey and a proven and disgraced liar like Ahern. No one is going to do time. At worst we will have a tribunal that lasts for ten years, we’ll denounce whoever needs to be denounced and they will be warned not to misbehave again.

This is nothing that I haven’t said before but it’s worth repeating now that we have a whole new set of gangsters in power. We—eejits that we are—were willing to give them the benefit of the doubt at least until Christmas. I mean, surely even people who are crooks by nature could keep their greasy hands to themselves until the end of their minimum grace period at least.

Well, as we all know by now, that was a hopelessly unrealistic way of thinking. Most of them were out of the traps with their True Colours flapping in the slipstream long before the usual hundred days’ leeway was over, never mind Christmas. One by one they were caught doing exactly what they had held the hideous Fianna Failures up to ridicule for doing.

The second week in July, as I write, really does take the biscuit

though. As the Roscommon A&E closes, it also highlights the cynical, heartless nature of what this government is going to be like. After all, if it is as cruel as this in its infancy I don’t see it getting any better. It’s only five months—on February 8—since the party leader Enda Kenny told listeners unequivocally that he was committed to Roscommon County Hospital staying open. Even a politician should be able to remember that far back.

Of course, being a politician—someone that lying comes to naturally when they emerge from the womb—Kenny denied ever saying any such thing.

Don’t you find it rather worrying that in the age of tape recorders, never mind youtube, the leader of a modern country thinks he can get away with just flatly denying everything he has said? As he has been caught—and only because he has been caught—Kenny is now apologising for “any confusion.”

Mr. Kenny, there was no confusion. You are a liar; and you have given us the sign that this government will be no different to the previous one.

When Marlon Brando described his profession as “lying for a living” he could have been describing your own.

Lying for a Living

I don’t suppose that anyone with even one foot in the real world expected Fine Gael to, in the heel of the hunt, turn out to be any different from their crooked predecessors. After all, they are politicians and what politicians do is lie for a living.

Of course their main concern once they have conned their way into power is to set about feathering their own nests; and pardon the mixed metaphors but if they haven’t got their pig snouts in the troughs from a very early point, then they feel as if they are missing out on something.

Their next main task is to steal as much as they can from the suckers who voted for them while still calling it legal. It doesn’t matter if they destroy peoples’ lives as long as it is the lives of the poorer people. They must be careful at all times not to upset the rich.

As to the steadily rising suicide rate, completely out of control in some areas, well they’re just collateral damage. In fact, it might even be encouraged as a way to bring down the unemployment figures.

After all, at least one loathsome politician—Bertie Ahern—famously wondered why anyone who had a problem with the economy didn’t just “go off and commit suicide.”

Anyway, having done all this they then get stuck into what they endlessly accused their predecessors of doing: acts of shameless cronyism and nepotism. It doesn’t matter if there is someone better qualified for the job, to a politician the crony always comes first. So if it’s a case of an unemployed person, out of work through no fault of their own, well capable and hungry to work—and the politician’s nephew, who left school at ten and has an IQ of 45, then the nephew will always win.

Now that they have their hands in the till; now that all the endless expense forms are filled out in triplicate and double checked just in case there is a spare cent that they could have claimed for; now that plans are in place



Terrence J. O’Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago announced that the Board of Commissioners and staff hosted a tour of the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, Mainstream Pumping Station and the McCook Reservoir. Among the attendees were, (L-R) M.W.R.D. Commissioner Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany, State Representative Bill Cunningham, and Commissioner Patricia Horton.

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College in Ireland

By F. J. Mahon

Americans go to Ireland for many reasons—the scenery, the golf, the culture, the heritage. And more and more, Americans go to Ireland for college.

Recognizing an ever-increasing desire of American students to spend part of their higher education in The Land of Saints and Scholars, Ireland's seven universities, located in Dublin, Cork, Galway, and Limerick, have joined forces and formed the Irish University Association to market their institutions to American students, not just for a semester or two, but for their entire college and postgraduate degrees.

The IUA member universities are now actively recruiting full-time American students, and Chicago students are of particular interest to Irish universities. "There are lots of good high schools in Chicago, strong Irish American connec-

tions, and our Irish diaspora is very active in Chicago," says current IUA Chair Lou undergraduate levels at some of the Irish universities. Students are not required



Trinity College, Dublin

ise Tobin. "We have already welcomed high school counselors to our universities. They are very interested in us because they are trying to place their students in quality universities."

Why should students consider going to Ireland for higher education? "Key selling points are the quality of degrees, the affordability compared to U.S. colleges, and the experience of going to school in Ireland," says Tobin, adding, "The combination of traditional aspects of Irish education enhanced by cutting-edge facilities, and the access to the rich cultural heritage of Ireland and its great natural beauty make the student experience one that is very highly rated by our students." Chicago personal injury attorney Devon C. Bruce, who attended University College Cork as an undergraduate in 1988, was one those students. "Studying abroad in Ireland was one of the most memorable and exciting times of my life," Bruce says. "I made lifelong friends, and I urge any student considering studying abroad to do so!"

With the cost of tuition steadily rising in the U.S., college-bound students are increasingly taking Bruce's advice. "Higher education in Ireland costs far less than it does in the U.S.," explains Tobin, who also serves as Director of International Recruitment at University College Cork. Law degrees, for example, are offered at

to get an undergraduate degree prior to going to law school in Ireland, and some undergraduate degrees require only three years of study. Cost of living in Ireland is also lower. In a recent survey of the most expensive major cities in the world in which to live, Dublin ranked only 47th. Ireland's other university cities are even cheaper to live in.

Sinead Lucey, International Education Manager for the IUA, says that Irish universities started noticing that international students who spent part of their college education in Ireland would often return to do their post-graduate work. There has also been a growing number of students coming to Ireland for their full undergraduate degrees. These students represent the global community, not just Irish American students. Over 27,000 international students from 114 countries live and study in Ireland. 8,000 of those students are American, but not exclusively Irish Americans. "Students get another perspective on life, and skills to adapt in an ever-changing world," says Lucey. "It's about being able to interact with different countries, not just your hometown or your home country." "UCC and Cork have far exceeded my expectations," says American student Megan Nethercut, who received her undergraduate degree at University College Cork. "It has really been an excellent choice."

The IUA member universities also participate in the Erasmus Program, an international exchange student program, offering students who attend Irish universities the opportunity to study at another European school for up to a year at no additional cost to the student.

In Ireland, higher education is referred to as Third Level education. Graduate education is often referred to as Fourth Level. As it is in the U.S., a doctorate is the most advanced form of graduate education, and is defined by its goal: the advancement of knowledge through original research. The Irish universities are very proud of their research opportunities. Ninety percent of the research facilities offered to Irish university students are located in Ireland. These facilities receive major funding from Europe and the EU, a testament to the quality of the research and of the doctoral programs.

The seven universities that comprise the IUA are the four Dublin universities, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, and National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and the three universities in the west of Ireland, the University of Limerick, University College Cork, and National University of Ireland, Galway. Each university offers internationally recognized bachelors and masters degrees as well as doctoral programs. Here is a brief description of each school:

Trinity College, Dublin

Ireland's oldest university was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. Located in the heart of Dublin, covering 47 acres, Trinity's student community is comprised of 16,500 students, 15% of which are international students representing over 90 countries. Trinity is ranked in the top 10 universities in Ireland and the UK. Over 400 degrees and post graduates degrees are available. Trinity is home to the *Book of Kells*, and 4.5 million other books.

University College, Dublin

UCD is Ireland's largest university, sitting on 350 acres 2.5 miles south of Dublin city center. Of its 24,000 students, 19%

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understand that the state failed to pay into the pension trust fund, and now we start playing the blame game all over

Shamrock Stars

Once more I had the pleasure of being one of the judges for the singing contest at the Irish American Heritage Center Festival. These gifted children are remarkable singers. Clare Sheedy and her sister, Maeve, both sang songs in Gaelic. Their future is bright. Maeve took first place in the Clover Group (under 12), and Clare was second in the Shamrock Group (12 and over), but it was very hard to choose between Clare and Mikayla Walsh, who sang "A Song for Ireland" and took first place. Mikayla took a first place a couple of years ago singing, "Caledonia."

As a judge I'm a stickler on voice, lyrics, and stage presence. There were no losers! Emmett Horn, Nicole Walsh, and Elizabeth Lannon gave their very best.

National Debt Default

Are you sick of the finger pointing and the blame game? We have a Mexican standoff, but to say that today is politically incorrect! Republicans won't raise the ceiling on the debt and won't raise taxes, as that would stifle job creation. They also want to go after entitlements, i.e., Medicare and Social Security, since they don't have to rely on either one themselves. These are the same people who protected the major pharmaceutical companies so Medicare couldn't negotiate prescription drug prices.

Whatever side of the aisle they sit on they are all rotten to the core, yet they just voted themselves another \$3,000 per year raise. Social Security hasn't had an increase in two years. How about tightening the belts in Washington? Whatever compromise they reach will leave room for them to blame the other party for whatever they do to entitlements.

Joe Biden, VP

He came to town and said the Republicans are attacking the unions. I

again. Reportedly, this all started with the Thompson administration and has been ongoing since. Look on both sides of the aisle again. There are no choir boys in Springfield, IL. The Democrats rely heavily on the unions for votes and campaign funds. Are the unions getting the shaft? They negotiate contracts and expect that the terms of those contracts be fulfilled. For union members working in the public sector, state, county, or municipal, you are at the mercy of the government to raise taxes to cover those costs. If you are a union worker in the private sector you simply get laid off if there is no work. Why is there no work? Lets not rehash the collapse of the financial markets or get into the Senator Barney Frank or Senator Christopher Dodd Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fiasco! The next time they talk about the American Dream, remember, the definition of a dream is an improbable wish.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel

He's stirring the pot, and I think ward politics are never going to be the same. It would seem everything is on the table. Now he is butting heads with the unions. That could impact the election in 2012... I hope!

Power Failure

The big storm on July 11th knocked out the power at the IAHC for two days. That postponed the Irish American Heritage Center board meeting for one week. The annual election of officers took place on Monday, July 18th. The new officers are: John Gorski, President, John O'Malley, Vice President, Fr. James O'Brien, Treasurer, Meghan Curran, Secretary.

Chicago Flash Mobs

Have there been any impassioned speeches by Jesse Jackson Sr. or Jr., Fr.

Pflaeger, Louis Farrakan, Congressman Danny Davis, or the Black leadership other than this statement. This kind of activity has been going on on the West side and the South side of Chicago for years, but the media doesn't report it.

When gangs of Black teenagers invade Michigan Avenue stores it becomes newsworthy. Many individuals have had their ipods, cell phones, and electronic devices stolen because they are easily converted to cash. You can get robbed anywhere—on the street, public transportation—there is no safety zone anywhere. Once again we will hear about economic deprivation and how it impacts the Black community. Unfortunately, that is true. But, when do people decide they can commit crimes like this and justify it in their own minds. They *are* the victims of society. There is new violence in Boys Town with two stabbings in the last week, again, with Black gangs involved.

The Cloyne Report

The whole sex abuse wound has festered again. Victims are calling for the Vatican to strip Bishop John McGee, and Monsignor Denis O'Callaghan of their titles. The Murphy Commission report said these two repeatedly failed to report abuse to the civil authorities.

Irish Prime Minister, Enda Kenny, put the Vatican on notice. He called on the Vatican to repeat its commitment that civil law will *always* be followed. "The Irish-Catholic Church and the Vatican has faced severe criticism over repeated attempts to deal with incidents of abuse behind closed doors, rather than by handing over suspects to the Garda Siochána." "The law of the land will not be stopped by Crosier, or by Collar," said Enda Kenny. Deputy PM, Eamon Gilmore said, "there is one law in this country. Everyone is going to have to learn to comply with it. The Vatican will have to comply with the laws of this country." Excerpts are from the *UK Guardian* in an article by Henry McDonald.

Lixnaw Wedding

On August 6th, Maire McCarthy, from Ahabeg East will marry Nigel O'Leary from Causeway at St. Michael's Church.

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College in Ireland

...Continued from page 22

are international. The university traces its origins back to Catholic University of Ireland, founded in 1854. Besides offering bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in 34 fields, UCD is the only university in Ireland that has all of the four Life Science Faculties: Agriculture, Medicine, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Dublin City University

Ireland’s youngest university is Dublin City University, located 3 miles north of city center. DCU is a midsize university, with a campus covering 85 acres, and currently has an enrollment of over 11,000 students. It is also the home of Ireland’s largest arts center, The Helix. DCU offers 80 programs across all disciplines, and was the first Irish university to introduce work placement as part of its degree programs.

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Situated 15 miles west of the city of Dublin, National University of Ireland, Maynooth has an enrollment of 8,400 students from 50 different countries and is Ireland’s fastest growing university. NUI Maynooth is adjacent to Ireland’s “silicon valley” and has developed strong relationships with Intel and other industry giants. NUIM is home to the Innovative Value Institute, which specializes in cutting-edge research into areas such as immunology, climatology, and digital humanities. NUIM is the first and only university outside North America to be included in the *Princeton Review Guidebook The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition* (due out in August).

University of Limerick

The University of Limerick is located close to Limerick City on a beautiful, sprawling campus along the Shannon River. UL was founded in 1972, and has an enrollment of over 11,000 students. It offers a wide range of programs, unique MA programs such as Ethnomusicology, and internationally recognized research institutes such as the Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society.

University College Cork

University College Cork ranks in the top 3% of universities worldwide and is home to over 20,000 students from 100 countries. Just 10 minutes walk from the center of Cork City (Ireland’s “Second City”), UCC was

founded in 1845, and is situated along the banks of the River Lee. It is home to the Glucksman Art Gallery and Granary Theatre. UCC offers 3-year programs in Arts and Law. It is the only Irish university to offer an Early Start Program—a pre-semester in Irish Studies with Archeology, Folklore, Literature and Music.

National University of Ireland, Galway

Just 15 minutes from Galway City center, NUI Galway, founded in 1845, has a 260 acre campus that sits along the banks of the River Corrib. Over 17,000 students are enrolled from 92 countries. International students represent 13% of the university’s student population. Among its many offerings, NUI is home to the (John) Huston School of Film and Digital Media.

For those students who are considering Ireland for college or post-graduate work, here are some facts: Ireland has a young population. There are 73,000 undergraduates enrolled at universities across Ireland. The population of the Republic of Ireland is 4.4 million, and 1.8 million living in Northern Ireland. The school year runs from September to June, holidays at Christmas and Easter. The school year is comprised of 2 or 3 semesters, depending on the university. Most degree programs last 3 to 4 years, professional degrees are longer. As in the U.S., Irish universities look at high school grades, SAT and ACT scores.

Interested students should contact the universities they are interested in directly, they may contact Sinead Lucey at Sinead.lucey@iua.ie, or visit IUA’s website at www.iua.ie for more information. The IUA also has representatives across the U.S.

Milwaukee Irish Fest

...Continued from Page 11

lin – are three sisters from Inishowen in Co. Donegal, Ireland. Their music is an eclectic mix of folk, blues, and traditional Irish, with “spine-tingling” three part harmonies.

The High Kings. Irish ballad group and Ireland’s Folk Band of the Year, the High Kings consist of renowned vocalists and musicians Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey, Darren Holden, and Finbarr Clancy. The High Kings showcase their incredible versatility and skills as multi-instrumentalists, playing 13 instruments between them.

Kathleen Fitzgerald with the Screaming Orphans. Kathleen Fitzgerald is regarded as one of the finest vocalists to emerge out of the Céili band scene. Her four, close-knit daughters followed in their mother’s musical footsteps and formed a band that stays true to their roots in traditional Irish music with a strong focus on melody-driven songs with pop and rocks strains.

Kintra. Under the musical direction of renowned fiddle player, Matt McGranahan, Kintra perform Irish and Scottish music, song, and dance in an exciting colorful stage show featuring fiddle, piano, tin whistle, guitar, bass, drums, pipers, and singers.

Liz Doherty Connection. Dr. Liz Doherty hails from Donegal and is a well-known fiddle player, earning her PhD. Doherty is the director of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention to be held in Derry and Donegal in 2012 and performs with the Liz Doherty Connection.

Moya Brennan. When you walk the windswept hills and endless beaches of Donegal, the music of Moya Brennan just makes sense. Moya’s voice captures the essence of her homeland in all its cascading beauty, mystery, and contradictions.

Nodlaig Brolly. Nodlaig Brolly brings a mix of Gaelic singing accom-

panied by her champion harp and flute in songs already famous and new to her collection.

Outside Track. A stunning synthesis of virtuosity and energy, the Outside Track’s marriage of Canadian, Scottish, and Irish music and song has been rapturously received around the world.

Paul McKenna Band. With a contemporary approach to songs, although not straying too far from their roots, their arrangements are both fresh and innovative.

Qristina and Quinn Bachand. This young brother and sister duo from Victoria, BC, Canada are quickly carving out a name for themselves in the world of Celtic music. Together, Qristina and Quinn Bachand create music that is challenging yet energetic, refreshing and fun.

Red Hot Chillli Pipers. Bagpipers with attitude, a blazing rock band and a show so hot it carries its own health warning, the Red Hot Chillli Pipers have been rocking the world from New York to Beijing with musicianship of the highest order and a passion for pipes that will leave you breathless.

Seythian. Rousing and raucous, Seythian plays kicked-up Celtic and world music with hints of Gypsy and Klezmer, all infused with a touch of punk-rock sensibility.

Seamus Kennedy. A native of Belfast, Ireland, Seamus Kennedy is a maestro among Irish troubadours—his trademark is his ongoing interaction with his audiences.

Tom Sweeney. Tom captures the mood and essence of traditional music while singing and playing from the heart. He has been instrumental in keeping the Makem tradition alive.

Vishten. Consisting of 7th generation Acadians, Emmanuelle and Pastelle from Prince Edward Island on the east coast of Canada, Vishten mixes the rhythms and irresistible dance of Acadian music with climbing notes and voices.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



album, we know. (He has EVERYTHING.) So does Copperplate in London with the unexcelled Alan O'Leary. It is a great piece of music. And, yes, there WILL be a Vol. II! Over the years, we have come to marvel at Daithi and his music. Every album he releases confirms that judgment. A winner of an album from a winner of a musician and singer! And, there are tons of great guest artists, also,



including our Liz Carroll!

For the true true trad fan, it is hard to do better than *Bosca Ceoil and Fiddle* from Cathal Clohessy and Eamonn Costello on fiddle

and button box, respectively. Copperplate in London has it available. This is a hard to find gem. The trad fan will adore this. Really terrific playing from two young men who really understand the tradition and play it gorgeously. We play this a LOT in the office. Just Google Copperplate. Welcome to heaven. The American cousin of Copperplate is fab fab fab Rampant Lion in Villa Park, Illinois. Magic.

Here's the truth, and it is fairly humiliating. Two-time consecutive winner of the Female Musician of the Year, Shannon Heaton, is also part of a wonderful group, based out of New England. It is called, Long Time Courting. They are getting a lot of work at several venues in New England, including concert halls and festivals. Big time talents. Four gals. We'll say no more. Nudge. Nudge. Nod as good as a wink. Here's the kicker: we're holding the album in our hands and it is called, *Alternate Routes*. We don't know if we're supposed to tell you all about it yet. As we review this we have not been able to catch

up with Shannon. We reached her yesterday on the telephone, we found ourselves interrupting a flute class she was conducting somewhere out there. Having said hello to all the students on her speaker phone, and flogging the weekly radio program, we never got a chance to get the details on this album. Here is what it is for right now: It's a terrific album. Call Rampant Lion in Villa Park and pre-order. Maybe Jack Baker has it. Maybe he doesn't. We'll have all this sorted out by next month.

Do tune in to the weekly radio program for the best in real Irish music. Co-host Maryann Keifer and Producer, Imelda Bhroga are there for you every week. Monday nights 8pm, WDCB 90.9 FM. Also check it out on www.wdcb.org. While listening, also check out our website, www.ireland-tonight.com and Friend us on Facebook at *Ireland Tonight*. All the latest news and inside scoops. This is the weekly spot for the real deal, traditional Irish music. Now, off to Milwaukee. See you there! Pints on you!!!

*Ta!

Here's the bottom line. Memories flood in of columns past about Irish Fest in Milwaukee, this year from August 18th through the 21st. It is the greatest celebration of Irish music and culture in the world. Period. No arguments. It is a fab place to bring the family. We used to write out a whole grid on who to see, what stage, what time, etc. This year the Milwaukee gang has outdone themselves for the true Irish music lover. No nonsense, and no crapola in THIS list! Virtually a record year. We're just gonna list the names of the acts you must see and in no priority order. You go to the Irish Fest web site, which is what you should do first, and figure your own schedules. Here are the best of the best you should not miss, if possible! The Four Courts (Sat. only). Brendan Hendry, Fidil,

Altan, Paul McKenna Band, Liz Doherty, Goitse, The Henry Girls, Outside Track, Qristina and Quinn Bazhand, Jeff Ward Band, Two Tap Trio, Vishten and the Memorial Concert for the great, Chuck Ward. Do your homework, and enjoy!

The fab Daithi Sproule has a brand new album out, *Lost River: Vol. 1*. You know Daithi. Guitar player for Altan. A great musician and singer of the real stuff. We're writing a huge article for *Irish Music Magazine* on Daithi and this album right now. Suffice it to say here that it is filled to the brim with treats. Very tasty, indeed! We love Daithi's singing, and his guitar playing is rightly admired around the world. Our pal, Jack Baker at Rampant Lion has this



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Safe Home

By Heather Begley



My youngest child will turn three this month. This is a milestone, not only because she is becoming more independent, but it also the age when she is apparently allowed more access to play with the toys labeled as “CHOKING HAZARD - Not for children under 3 years old.” Like any vigilant parent, I have kept the doll shoes, marbles and other small toys out of her reach. It is a relief that she is no longer as likely to choke on these items, but I will still be cautious about her access to these items. These playthings—intended to provide hours of enjoyment—can be hazardous and even fatal.

My husband jokes that when he was growing up, the entire town of Dingle did not have as many stuffed animals as my kids have in the house. Thanks to generous family and friends, we certainly have no shortage of toys and in the past few years, there has been extensive news coverage about dangerous toys. Stories of entrapment, lead-poisoning and suffocation have been associated with poorly-designed products.

What are you as a parent to do to keep your child safe from their own

toys? Stay informed on the latest product recalls. Trust your instincts as well; if you do not feel comfortable with your child playing with a toy, get rid of it. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPC) maintains a database of thousands of recalled items, including toys and children’s products. The USCPC database can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

You can keep track of the safety of toys purchased in Ireland as well by conducting a simple Internet search. The National Consumer Agency is the authority responsible for monitoring the recalls of non-food items in Ireland. The European Commission maintains an extensive database of recalls of products sold in Europe. You can visit the website at <http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex>.

Teach your children to be observant of dangerous toys. This past Easter, my two-year old daughter opened a plastic egg and found a “Jawbreaker” candy inside. Instead of ripping into it, she told us it was a “choking hazard.” Sure, she may be the daughter of an overzealous personal injury attorney, but children must be educated on the dangers of toys so they can watch out

for themselves, their siblings and their little friends.

Choose toys that are age appropriate. Many toys have an age-appropriate label on them. Take into consideration your child’s level of maturity. If your three-year old is still putting items in his or her mouth, do not give them small toys that could be harmful.

Magnetic toys can be extremely dangerous if swallowed because serious injury can result when two magnetic toys connect internally. The USCPC recommends that children under the age of six not be allowed to play with magnetic toys.

Avoid toys with strings longer than twelve inches. Toys, ribbons and cords on toys can cause strangulation.

Un-inflated balloons and pieces of a popped balloon can be also choking hazards inquisitive toddlers.

Ensure that all toys are in good condition. Secondhand toys should be examined to make sure they are in good condition and have not been recalled.

We have the best intentions when giving our children toys. It is great to see the smile on their faces as they play. I love listening to their dialogue as they whip up a batch of imaginary cookies in their play kitchen or as they gather their teddy bears for an impromptu tea party. Games and toys are an integral part of our children’s lives. Let’s keep our children’s safety our top priority by ensuring that their toys are not hazardous.

Horoscope Theresa Castro



ARIES: You have the potential to be lucky in your financial dealings this month of August 2011. If you have been struggling or suffering due to money woes, you may find some relief. With a little effort you may be able to streamline expenses. You may find that some things are not necessary and can be eliminated from your bills.



TAURUS: You have lucky Jupiter in your sign all year. How great is that? Very. For starters the gas giant of the solar system, Jupiter, is God’s gift to humankind that brings abundance whenever it touches our lives. All this goodness can of course be too much of a good thing so try not to squander the gift.



GEMINI: There is an angel on your shoulder. Or at least behind you. Jupiter is in your twelfth sector of hidden assets and or liabilities. This also applies to hidden allies or enemies. With Jupiter there, you get a clue that you have a hidden ally pulling for you in subtle ways. You will probably not know who it is. They are praying for you.



CANCER: You are the champion of suffering. This month you can rest from the barrage of eclipse activity from the past couple of months that has left you raw and exhausted. Some “crabs” have been through the wringer in personal, professional, and possibly financial areas. God bless you for your strength and courage. You will rise up to find peace and happiness again.



LEO: The new moon in Leo is in your 1st sector of self. Planet Venus is not far behind helping you appear appealing and elegant. Your popularity is at a high. If you are in a career that involves working with the public, you will shine. If you are starting a new job this is the best time to do so.



VIRGO: Your friends will be the key to your month this August 2011. The new moon and planet Venus are very close to each other in strong aspect to planet Jupiter in your eighth sector. In a nut shell, this means that you could get very practical financial help

from friends. Lucky you.



LIBRA: Your professional sphere is highlighted this month of August 2011. You are now coming into your own in your chosen field. Also, those of you who have been struggling to find work you will find good hunting now. You’ll edge out the competition.



SCORPIO: Like your neighbor Libra, you will do very well in the public sector. Job hunting should go better than in the past and you will make great strides in the public sector. Do be good though. You will be high viz this month. Watch your speed while driving and look both ways when crossing streets.



SAGITTARIUS: You will have a chance to improve on your health and fitness regimen. You have been inspired to try a new work out method and or a change in your diet that will give you a new lease on life. Keep up the good work.



CAPRICORN: You are being blessed with the freedom to play. If you have recently gone through a change of circumstances in your life you will now feel free to enjoy some fun in your world. You could also see growth in your family through marriage or the birth of children.



AQUARIUS: Your home life and significant relationships are going through changes for better or worse. You could be entering a new important romantic or business partnership. You could also be concluding the latter as well. Also your home life could change as well; moving into a new home or leaving that home. You are definitely making changes.



PISCES: You are heading into a phase of prolific communication in the written word and general correspondence. If you are a writer you will not want for subject matter to convey your feeling and thoughts. You are also imbued with eloquence in the spoken word as well. If you are looking for work, your resume will be particularly stellar and will surely stand out above the competition.



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Spóirt

Maggie O'Leary



Like so many others, I have always admired the Special Olympics program. But also like so many others I knew little about how it began and what opportunities I might have to become involved.

Founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the first ever Special Olympics event was held in Chicago at Soldiers Field, in 1968. The mission of Special Olympics was to offer people with intellectual disabilities everywhere "the chance to play, the chance to compete and the chance to grow." Shriver believed that people with intellectual disabilities were far more capable than commonly thought and deserved the same opportunities and experiences as others. Special Olympics has been instrumental in raising awareness and providing opportunities for those individuals to participate in the same experience as others, particularly in sports and physical activity. Its establishment offered people with intellectual and developmental disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage as well as experiencing the joy and friendship inherent to competitive participation. Today Special Olympics provides year-round training and competitions to 3.1 million athletes from 175 countries.

Special Olympics is all about participation and it was clear to me that to do this article justice I needed to speak with a "participant". When my parish pastor, Father David Ryan told me he had someone in mind for me to interview who has been directly involved with Special Olympics, I was thrilled. He put me in touch with Jay Doherty, President of the City Club of Chicago and proud long-time supporter of Special Olympics. After graduating from Marquette University, Doherty moved to Chicago to work for Ted Kennedy and Sergeant Shriver. He is a past Director of Communication for the Merchandise Mart and is the Kennedy family's "point man" for fundraising and

public appearances in Illinois. Despite his busy schedule, he was very generous with his time and clearly eager to discuss the significance of Special Olympics and various ways to contribute and become directly involved.

The importance of Special Olympics goes beyond the op-



Special Olympics

portunities it presents to the athletes. Designed as a grassroots movement, it is all inclusive and everyone is encouraged to participate. Families, friends, indeed the entire community as well as the athletes take an active role in their local programs. By sharing in the training of athletes and assisting in the public education efforts volunteers help to create a greater understanding of the emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs of the participants and their families. The education goes beyond the local communities that sponsor the events. Today most events take place with full coverage by the media, which CEO Timothy Shriver says "will serve as the method for a lasting change in the public's attitude toward the inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities in every aspect of society in every county on the planet."

There is no cost for children

or adults to participate in the Special Olympics. All program costs are covered by fundraising. Jay Doherty has used his clout and influence within the Chicago scene to help fundraising. "We [The City Club of Chicago] have been able to ask Mayor Daley, Governor Pat Quinn, Anne Burke and Chris Kennedy among others to be key-note speakers or headline fundraisers for Special Olympics. We have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Special Olympics. We want to encourage them to have as many great programs as possible for these kids." Aside

opening ceremonies of the local chapter or even the International Games. The torch holder would then pass the torch to an athlete and, symbolically, together they run up to the cauldron lighting it to signify the beginning of the games.

We Irish think big when it comes to matters of the heart! The largest Special Olympics event to date took place in Dublin, Ireland in 2003. The importance of the Dublin's games became evident as it was the first ever live broadcasted Special Olympics and also the first venue to have an opening and closing ceremony. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese said the 2003 Games dramatically changed the perceptions and attitudes of society regarding the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin attracted nearly 7,000 athletes from 150 countries and featured 23 sporting disciplines. President McAleese described the event as "a time when Ireland was at its superb best."

Every two years the World Games are held, alternating between summer and winter sports. The Summer Games took place this year in Athens, Greece. The next Winter Games will be in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2013.

Special Olympics have made and will continue to make significant differences in the lives of all those involved. It gives the athletes an opportunity to competitively participate in sports, it gives their families the opportunity to share in the joy of their achievements, it provides volunteers with a greater understanding of the emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs of the participants and it creates lasting change in the public's attitude toward those with intellectual disabilities. The message of the program is very powerful and very real—it doesn't matter what your ability or disability is, do not limit yourself and strive to be the best that you can be. Live true to the programs motto and remember "there is no limit to the human spirit."

To learn more about becoming involved in a Special Olympics program near you visit www.specialolympics.org. For information on the City Club of Chicago visit www.cityclub-chicago.org.

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



A Chairde:

It's summertime in Chicago and while many Irish will reminisce about long summer days and the sun setting over Galway Bay, if the truth be told many a day at the seaside was spoiled by the occasional showers (translate to a shower every 10 minutes). We are guaranteed a summer in Chicago and on most days outdoor plans can be scheduled. One of Gaelic Park's most popular outdoor summer events will take place on August 22 on the patio. Our Lady of Knock celebration is an annual event with benediction, rosary and a procession to the Our Lady Grotto behind the main playing field at Gaelic Park. This is a wonderful evening which has attracted over 500 people in recent years. The Gaelic Park's Ladies Auxiliary provides refreshments after the rosary. The GAA season is in full swing, so make plans to come to Gaelic Park any Sunday between 1pm and 7pm and enjoy a full schedule of hurling and football games. The patio will be open on Friday August 19th for food and drinks with music to follow a GAA game on the main field. Conversation is a favorite Irish pastime and when we are not talking about the weather, we talk about everything and anything. I enjoy sitting in the shade of the patio with the sound of the waterfall in the background and practicing the art of conversation with all our Gaelic Park visitors. Come join us any Thursday evening with the Irish Musicians or Sundays at the games, and we can talk about the summertime in Chicago or anything and everything!

John Devitt, President

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK VOTED the BEST!



Readers of the *SouthtownStar* Newspaper have casted their votes for Chicago Gaelic Park as the "Best Fest" and the CGP Carraig Pub the "Best Irish Food," in their 2011 search for the Best of Chicago's Southland!

Lady of Knock Commemoration

Gaelic Park once again honors this astonishing event on Monday, August 22 beginning at 7:30pm. Please make every effort to attend this beautiful evening, and we welcome you to stay for refreshments following the service.

Lunch Music & Dancing at the Park on the first Wednesday of the month, NOON until 4pm. Mark you calendars for August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7. We welcome your group outings! Make plans today for these dates with friends, neighbors, church groups and clubs. A warm welcome awaits you! You will enjoy a wonderful full course meal and the cost is a modest \$13. Reservations are necessary, call 708.687.9323.

Heritage & Harvest family day is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th. This is a wonderful celebration of authentic Irish culture and heritage, with a full schedule of events for all age groups. This event will be FREE ADMISSION with food and refreshments available for purchase. Back by popular demand is the Apple Pie Baking Contest - so dig out the old family recipe! Full details and final schedule for this day will be listed in September *IA News!*



Gaelic Athletic Association

August 21st will mark the date of the Chicago Finals for Gaelic Football, Hurling, & Camogie. The top teams will advance to the North American finals to be held in San Francisco this year. Our city had four teams take their place as North American Champions when the tournament was held in Chicago last year, and each team has even more talent and dedication this year. With the addition of the St. Oliver Plunketts this summer, Chicago is home to fourteen different clubs in all. Each one hungry for their own title and cup. This is sure to be one of the fiercest fought Chicago

Finals we've had at Gaelic Park yet. As always there will be free parking & concessions available as well as the **Stock Yard Kilty Band** playing during and after the games just inside the patio. For more information and up-to-date schedules please visit www.chicagogaelicports.com.

Banquets at Gaelic Park You will have *the elegant surroundings, the finest of food & excellent service!* Gaelic Park has been hosting weddings for over 25 years. We have three beautiful banquet rooms that can accommodate events from a fairytale wedding, bridal and baby showers, high school proms, business seminars, group luncheons or any special party you are planning. The remodeled Emerald Room can accommodate up to 500 guests, our Tara Room with window views of our beautiful new patio waterfall, can accommodate up to 300 guests. The Celtic Room, on the second floor is suitable for parties up to 120 guests. Our Patio has now become a favorite for outdoor wedding ceremonies, as well as outdoor dining. Call the office today for open dates and reserve your 2011 or 2012 celebration in one of these gorgeous rooms.

Gaelic Park Players will perform *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, by Martin McDonagh in the Fall 2011. Audition dates will be announced sometime in August. If you are interested in receiving audition information and/or would like to join our mailing list, send your name, address and email to info@gaelicparkplayers.org. You can also mail the information to Gaelic Park Players, Chicago Gaelic Park 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest, IL The play dates are: Fridays Nov 4, 11 & 18, Saturdays Nov. 5, 12 & 19 at 8pm. and Sundays Nov. 6, 13 & 20, at 3pm. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* is a dark yet comedic tale of two women who find themselves victims of isolation and loneliness. Set in the rural and remote village of Leenane, Western Ireland, Maureen toils with her solitary life of drudgery and caring for her ailing mother Mag. This play brings a realistic and astounding conflict to the stage as we witness relationships unravel and hurt that goes much deeper than surface wounds.



We will also be at Milwaukee Irish Fest presenting two short plays: *Finger Food* by Nina Shengold and *Meet Me Half Way* by Kathy (Holahan) Oliva, on Saturday and Sunday, August 20 & 21. Featured are Marty Donovan, Julie L. Zebbleckis and Kathy (Holahan) Oliva, who also is acting director.

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8/26	Bernie Glim & Country Roads
8/27	John Dillon

Friday night entertainment begins at 7:30pm and Saturday night at 9:30pm.

Check Website for Full Schedule

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Wild County Clare

Spending five days in the wild and beautiful County Clare simply is not enough. I arrived in Ennis on a wet Wednesday and left for Dublin on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Pardon the assonance and alliteration! Neither wind nor rain can deter you from enjoying the magnificent splendor of this region.

I left Ennis early on the Saturday morning and headed for the ‘Lodge at Doonbeg’. This 5 star resort is perched on the edge of the Atlantic, looming above the sand dunes, looking outwards to the United States of America. Before I arrived here I stopped in the town of Lisdoonvarna, famous for its annual matchmaking festival every September; I was a few months too early for this but stopped to visit the ‘Burren Smokehouse’.

The ‘Burren Smokehouse’ is owned by Birgitta and Peter Curtin; their famous smoked

salmon is the reason for my visit. Located approximately five miles



(L-R) Rachel Gaffney & Aidan McGrath (Wild Honey Inn).

from the Burren, it is a traveler’s respite. The Curtin’s salmon is known all over Ireland, the UK, Europe and now the United States. In fact it is so well known

that this was the salmon served to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II recently in Ireland. Only 100% Irish fish is used, sourcing from Lough Swilly in County Donegal, wild salmon from the three sister rivers Barrow, Nore and Suir, and Blackwater.

When the salmon comes in, Peadar (master smoker) skillfully fillets the salmon, then rinses thoroughly and salts using only

pure Atlantic Sea Salt. Birgitta assures me that temperature is critical. Being a baker, I completely understand the variations on any given day! They use oak chips and Birgitta mentioned one thing in passing that ultimately meant everything to me. She said, “It CANNOT be rushed” Each salmon is like a baby, lovingly taken care of. By the way, I ate their wild salmon, and the proof was most certainly in the eating!

Never underestimate the power of social media. I am referring to Twitter here. Through this medium, I met Kate Sweeney and Aidan McGrath, owners of the ‘Wild Honey Inn’, located a stones throw from the ‘Burren Smokehouse’. It seemed only natural to pay a visit to my Twitter friends. Was I in for a surprise.

Here is where I found the best bowl of soup in Ireland. We love our soup and it is all indeed very good, but I am still dreaming of theirs. In fact, they have been kind enough to share their recipe with us.

Just by eating the food, I knew instinctively what the chefs philosophy was. He allowed the ingredients to be the stars. I am not a chef. I am not a critic. I am not even formally trained, but I do cook, I do shop and I do spend money on food. The Wild Honey

Inn is worthy of anyone’s dollars or Euros.

My friend Audrey and I sat by the window and each of us began to eat our bowl of ‘carrot and coriander’ soup. Silently we exchanged glances each knowing what the other felt about this soup. How can a bowl of soup glean such pleasure? Easy. It is made from the best ingredients.

As if this was not enough, there was a surprise waiting at the bottom of the bowl; shredded pickled carrot. Needless to say, we could not leave here without sampling dessert. I had apple crumble with homemade vanilla ice cream and Audrey had a trifle

made with white peaches and raspberries.

Have you ever noticed how hard people try to impress you with their menus when a simple soup and crumble made with love and the best ingredients can leave you wanting more? As I travel and teach Irish Cooking classes around the USA, people constantly ask me what I think makes Irish cooking so great? It is not the cooking, anyone can go to culinary school, but in my opinion, the ingredients in Ireland are the best in the world. Try for yourself and when next in Clare tell Birgitta, Kate & Aidan that Rachel Gaffney sent you.



Wild Honey Inn Carrot and Coriander Soup

Ingredients

2.5 lbs carrots (approx 6-7 large)
1/2 lb potato
2-4 Tbsp olive oil
sea salt & ground black pepper
butter
2-3 cloves purple garlic, remove the center vein/stem when you cut in half
1/2 Tbsp coriander seeds to taste
1 large spanish white onion peeled and diced
juice of 2 oranges
4 C. of chicken stock
thyme & bay leaf
cress for garnish

Method

Wash, peel and dice the carrots and potato. Heat some of the oil in a

heavy bottomed pot over a medium heat. Sweat the garlic, onion, carrot, thyme, coriander seeds and bay leaf. Add some butter, enough to coat vegetables. Add the potato, sweat again for a few minutes and season. Add the chicken stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile reduce the orange juice in a small pot and reduce slowly to a light syrup consistency.

When the vegetables are cooked, add the orange syrup and simmer for another 8 minutes

Blend the soup in a powerful blender until smooth.

Pour the soup into a bowl and garnish with cress and a drizzle of olive oil.

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Somebody Out There Likes Us

Despite our economic woes somebody out there likes us and wants to come here to live! The very first results of the 2011 census have appeared—the head count. They show that the population of the republic has risen to 4,581,269, an increase of 340,000, or 8.1%, since 2006. The size of the increase came as a surprise to officialdom, exceeding estimates by 100,000. It would appear that, in addition to a high birth rate, more people arrived and stayed and fewer left than had been thought. Given that even now living standards here (and the social welfare system) compare favourably with those in Central Europe and the Baltics, let alone the third world, should anyone have been surprised?

The 2011 figures suggest at the very least that one of the common official assumptions concerning inward migration needs revisiting, i.e., that many of those who came “for work” during the Tiger Years would leave when the economy imploded. Certainly some have, and the number arriving has diminished, yet many more have stayed. The actual figures will not become clear until more detailed data from the census becomes available next year, but recent contacts and exchanges I have had with just three embassies in Dublin paint a very interesting picture. The myth of the mobile transient Polish building worker needs to be put to rest.

There are now probably 200,000 Poles living in Ireland, anywhere up to 100,000 Lithuanians and 30,000 Latvians. These three nationalities alone now comprise 7% of the country's population. Anyone who has been an emigrant, or is familiar with the pattern of Irish emigration over the years will not be surprised, given the numbers who came to Ireland from 2004 on. Once the emigration pain barrier of several years has been reached, experience suggests that a good proportion of immigrants will stay, put down roots, develop relationships and

start families. These people are not going anywhere.

Similar considerations apply to the 75,000 immigrants from three other Central European EU states—the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, who arrived here during the boom (to end 2008). It's fair to assume that they have stayed on in much the same proportion as the others, i.e., anywhere up to 50,000. Moreover, though the numbers arriving from these six EU states have declined sharply since 2008, PPS registrations for the six (our equivalent of social security numbers) in 2009 totalled 26,000, in 2010, 18,500 and, in the first five months of 2011, 6,000. Poles continue to register at over 100 per week. Again, it is reasonable to assume that most of these latecomers, who came with their eyes open, post-boom, are still here.

These EU migrants had one other thing in common—no restriction on the right to work in Ireland. People from non-EU countries, and Romania and Bulgaria after 2007, require work permits, and, in terms of receiving welfare benefits, must meet the criteria for “habitual resi-

dence” regulations introduced by Ireland and others of the “richer” EU states after 2004 to combat welfare shopping by immigrants (and, incidentally, applied to incoming Irish citizens and returned emigrants). The total number of new work permits issued to all nationalities in 2008 was 8,481, declining to 4,024 in 2009 and 3,394 in 2010. Romanians received just under 1,100 of these.

Nevertheless, 22,000 Romanians received PPS numbers in 2007 and 2008 and a further 5,500 in 2009 and 2010; around 1,500 have done so this year. The figures for Brazilians (who received slightly over 500 new work permits since 2008) are even more startling. This is a non-EU state with which Ireland has few historical or trading links (unlike Argentina, where there is a large population of Irish descent). Between 2006 and 2008 almost 14,000 Brazilians received PPS numbers, in 2009 2,741, while the figure for 2010 was 4,257 (as compared to 143 Argentinians). To date in 2011, 2,553 PPS numbers have been issued to Brazilians, almost as many as to Poles. Again, presumably most of the latest arrivals, plus a good proportion of those who have arrived since 2007 have stayed. Ditto with regard to those coming from third world countries, roughly 8,000 in 2010. The message is clear. Despite our current economic difficulties, Ireland continues to be attractive to those coming from poorer societies.

To complete the picture, there is more affluent immigration also and, all told, in 2010, around 70,000 PPS numbers were issued to non-Irish people (the 85,130 issued to Irish people were, with a few exceptions, to babies), a rate being maintained this year, despite the economic situation. While emigration has picked up the net inflow continues and, as the census has revealed, its extent has been underestimated.

The consequences of continued strong inward migration have received little public attention. While there was considerable coverage and hand-wringing over estimates of up to 50,000 young Irish people emigrating last year, there has been little or no focus on the fact that 35,000 plus arrived here last year as economic migrants. Clearly should this trend continue, on top of the current situation, it will add considerably to the problem of tackling unemployment, still stubbornly high at 450,000.

The recovery of the 90s took place initially with no inward migration, a static or declining population and a work force in which women were underrepresented. This has now changed utterly, and, while there are almost daily announcements of new jobs in the multinational sector, they are not impacting on the total out of work. Like Spain, Ireland may be entering a period with chronic high levels of unemployment compounded by immigration and, in Ireland's case, a demographic structure which promises a continued high birth rate.

The detailed breakdown of the population by age, nationality or ethnic origin etc. will become clear as more of the census results become available, but, generally, more people means more pressure on resources. At a time of financial stringency this will cause the state some headaches, but there is one potential silver lining. More people also means more demand, including for accommodation, so an economic recovery should see a surge in demand for housing, helping to solve the overhang of excess housing units and correct the current imbalance.

Having a sizeable percentage of the population non-Irish raises other issues, which were pointed to in the 2006 Census, but which are likely to become more pressing. Not least of these relates to democratic representation. Only citizens can vote, but any review of the Constitution (which is being mooted) can hardly ignore the issue of the vote for non-nationals. The issue of multiculturalism also needs addressing in a more coherent way than up to now. The data from the Census will be critical in this regard.

Some historical perspective. The current population figure of almost 4.6 million is still far short of the 1841 total of 6.5 million for the 26 county area, and, while the population of Leinster is now one third higher, the population of Munster is a little over half the pre-Famine level, while those of Connacht and Ulster are 60% less. It will take a lot more inward migration to dent that shortfall.

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Oh What a Bloody Good Friday!

Some time ago I visited York, England for the bi-annual production of the 14th Century Mystery plays. I sat for five and half hours, watching eleven plays, with only a ten-minute break. The plays, religious in nature, are based on bible stories.

The playwrights took the cannon of scripture and injected their own unique flavour into the stories, something that we today call poetic license. Given that the audience were largely illiterate, who would know what was the artist’s imagination, and what was the word of God?

The task for the writer was to make the sacred book come alive to an audience unfamiliar with its mysteries. In order to do this, they needed to employ the language of the vernacular, and a little comedy. The plays, performed on the feast of Corpus Christi, were a great source of entertainment, a communal event in which actors and craftsmen demonstrated their talents.

Given the limitations of the genre, it is no surprise that the authors sought to humanize the biblical characters, adding humour that, at times, could be construed as sacrilegious and by today’s standards not politically correct. One of my favourite examples of this approach involves the dramatist’s interpretation

of the story of Noah. While the heavens opened and the world is about to be drowned; Noah’s wife hesitates to get on the ark. She doesn’t want to be separated from her ‘gossips’ (friends). Resorting to violence, Noah strikes his wife, and his blow is returned with gusto. The scene is hilarious.

Having been inspired by the creative genius of the medieval dramatists, I took it upon myself to try and construct a modern version of the mystery play. This is not a new idea; others have attempted this with success.

For me, I wanted to place the death and resurrection of Christ in Derry, Northern Ireland. I wanted to find a path back to what it must have been like for those alive during the life and death of Christ. We have had over two thousand years of church councils to refine our understanding of these events, and as such lost the immediacy as well as the confusion of the times. There had to be a way to strip away our erudite preconceptions and place the audience back into the experience that was neither didactic, nor demeaning to the act of belief.

I still remember a priest speaking to our high school in the 70’s about how the conflict in Derry was not unlike that of the time of Jesus. For some reason his little motivational homily found a niche in my mind, and I could see for myself the ingredients for creating a modern version of New Testament Israel in Northern Ireland. We had all the right players; the foreign occupying forces, the rebellious insurgents, an overbearing religious system and the occasional

movement for peace.

As all of these ideas began take form in my imagination, I wanted to have the story told by women, since their role, though pivotal, appears underwritten in the gospels. Mary, the mother Jesus, should be a typical Derry woman, a bingo player with the odd flutter on the horses. Mary Magdalene, the former party girl whose search for the mystical could also be the result of too many hallucinogens.

Coupled with the more recognizable biblical women, I included Siobhan and Phyllis. Both these women have complicated lives. Siobhan loves life, loves to gossip, and appears the epitome of superficiality. She is hopelessly decadent. When we first meet her she’s on her way for a sexual liaison with someone she just met at the pub.

Phyllis, a teacher, is in the prime of her life. As a married woman with children, she is forced to come to terms with aging. She is on the verge of a breakdown. Casting caution to the wind, she becomes entangled with a younger man who wants to break up with her. Desperately, she seeks to maintain control of her life while all around her the world is changing.

Initially, neither of these women is interested in the news that a man of peace has died. The reports of his subsequent resurrection are discarded as religious delusion. But as the play unfolds, circumstances force them to re-consider the significance of the larger political/religious events. What neither of them realizes, and which becomes obvious to the audience, is that they have deep feelings for the same man and it is this key relationship that brings them into the centre of the mystery of faith.

Their human complexities are placed against the backdrop of Northern Irish politics, hence the play on the phrase ‘good Friday’. The tensions of the larger world, coupled with the strange religious struggles and drive them to re-evaluate their priorities.

As I worked on this play, I had a chance encounter with the president of Loyola University, Chicago, who was enthusiastic about the project. I sent him one of

the earlier drafts of the drama, and soon found his enthusiasm developed into an offer to stage the drama at Loyola, and Cuneo Mansion. (Vernon Hills, north of the city).

Since the mystery plays were staged outside, this play will take place in front of the Information Commons building at Loyola (August 30th), and at the rear of the mansion at Cuneo (September 9/10/11). To add to my good fortune, a very dear friend of mine, is coming from England to direct the work. If you are out and about, near Chicago, I hope you can join us.

**Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in Chicago and teaches Irish and British Literature at Loyola University, Chicago. terenceboyle@sbcglobal.net.*

Learn a Bite of Irish Gaelic with Bitesize Irish Gaelic



Start practising every day:

The Primer Method

For this you will need: A room where you previously placed some labels in Irish Gaelic.

Pick one of the labeled objects at random and see how many simple sentences you can make up about it.

If you are only starting to learn Irish Gaelic, keep this game in mind for later.

For example, choose an balla (the wall):

- *Tá balla ann.* [taw BOL-ah ow-n] (There is a wall.)
- *Tá an balla crua.* [taw on BOL-ah KROOO-ah] (The wall is hard.)
- *Tá an balla bán.* [taw on BOL-ah bawn] (The wall is white.)

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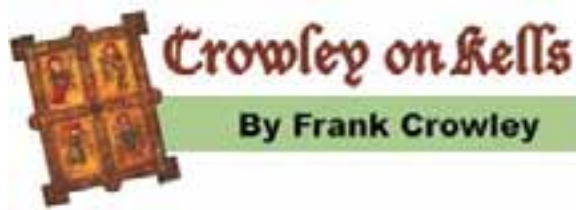
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St. Mark’s Initium Euangelii Ihu Xpi “The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ” 130r*

This is the third of five full-page Incipit Illuminations of the Gospels. They are called “incipit” because each one uses the first word or phrase of each Gospel text as the basis for a spectacular introduction to each Gospel. Matthew had two such pages: “Liber generationis” (29r) (The book of the generations) and “Chi Rho” (34r) (Christi autem generatio-The conception) See IAN, May and June 2011.

As suggested earlier, one particular scribe, who I call Artist/Scribe A, (A/S A) with more or less collaboration with other scribes, does them all. A/S A deliberately creates designs using color, artistic imagination and amazing visual techniques (can I add inspiration?) to evoke in readers a sense of divine presence, of spiritual epiphany and ecstatic rapture-feelings and emotions appropriate to accompany the words of the deity. We can surmise that all early Gospel scribes endeavored to do that-but the scribes of the *Book of Kells* actually achieved it—especially A/S A.

Earlier Insular Gospel’s scribes/artists first used the design of combining the letters, “I-n-i,” to appear to be the letter “N” and “I-n-I.” Later, monks copying the designs, would immediately know it is “I-n-i,” would insert the rest of the letters in boxes where there was room. The “I-n-i” combination was a recognized design, using a backward “s” shape to connect the two “I”s.

In Mark’s Initial page, A/S A designed a page in a similar style that he used previously in Matthew’s “Liber generationis” (29r.) Using his highly developed artistic vision he, again, created a unified page-filling design. In his “I-n-I” the top and bottom of each “I” are knot-work designs of blue, violet or red snakes. Bands that are filled in with interlaced snakes and peacocks designs fill in spaces around boxes of text from the upper right side of the design down to the bottom left. Snakes and peacocks interlacing fill the spaces inside the “I-n-i” letters. Less space is devoted to the approximately 110 “spinning” spirals and disks.

There are two other figures in the upper right, which I think were done by a collaborating scribe. The style is different than A/S A’s and similar to other figures

elsewhere in the Book. A man in white clothing with red interlacing is in the jaws of a lion. There are a few anomalies in this drawing, but I don’t think they have any special meanings. The man has white clothing on, he is not painted white. Look



at his neck and see a definite collar. His left hand pulling on his knotted beard is attached to his right arm. The right hand holding the lion’s tongue is attached to his left arm. Also, it appears he has two

All The President’s Men!



One of Ireland’s legendary bands Bagatelle were among the special invited acts to perform at a Summer Garden party hosted by President Mary McAleese on July 1st at Aras An Uachtarain. More than 350 guests attended the Garden party, and were representing Community groups such as Cancer Care, DSPCA, Rehab Care, the PSNI and Dochas. (L-R) Liam Reilly, President Mary Mc Aleese, Ken Doyle, Senator Michael Mc Aleese, Paul Byrne and Conor Mc Gouran.

right feet.

Careful observation shows the man’s arms and legs are interlaced with the lion’s body. Finally, the band that starts at behind the lion’s head and goes down the right side around the text boxes and across the bottom is actually the lion’s body. The man appears to be seated on one of the lion’s front legs.

Attempting to understand the meanings of the images in the Gospel books, we have at least three concepts to take into consideration.

1. Determine if the image is deliberately placed within a text and is connected to it, either specifically or symbolically.
2. Compare it to other similar works to place it into a tradition of such usage.
3. Compare artistic styles and draw on experience studying graphic designs of that era.

A short analysis of the man and lion on this page can be simple. The lion is often a symbol of divinity and also a symbol of Mark: they are symbolically intertwined

for this Gospel.

Next month: St. Luke

*Note: the numbers refer to folio (“page”)

“r” = right side and “v” left side as you look at the book.

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



**The Shadow
of a Gunman**

The Shadow of a Gunman, by Sean O’Casey, will be presented at the Irish American Heritage Center from September 15 to October 23.

The play will be produced by the Seanachai Theatre Company. This company of exceptional actors just finished a brilliant season of Irish theatre.

O’Casey wrote the play in 1923,

and set it in the Dublin of 1920. This was during Ireland’s war for independence from the British Empire. That struggle began in 1916 and lasted until 1921. O’Casey shows the constant fear and tension people endured in war time Dublin.

The main character is Donal Davoren, a poet. The rumor in the tenement he is living in is that he is an IRA gunman “on the run.” One of the dictionary definitions is: “a reflected image.”

He doesn’t deny the rumor because the air of mystery and danger helps him win the attentions of a beautiful girl who lives in the same building.

That “shadow” is far reaching and has fatal results.

773-878-3727, www.seanachai.org.

**Focus
on Things of Beauty**

During World War II (1939-1945) London and other British cities were bombed, or blitzed, by the German air force.

Belfast’s ship building, naval repair, and airplane production facilities were of great military importance. In April and May, 1941, this Northern Ireland city was bombed.

The story of that horrific event is told here by citizens of Belfast. They wrote these vivid descriptions and accounts immediately after the bombing.

The Belfast Blitz: The People’s Story contains over 150 contribu-



tions from the widest possible range of sources including nurses, policemen, air raid wardens, housewives, parish chronicles, school magazines, newspapers and almost all told by ordinary citizens.

After the bombing, Emma Duffin, a volunteer aid worker, describes visiting an enormous makeshift morgue. Row after row of open coffins contained the ghastly broken bodies of Belfast’s citizens: “All the way to the place I had told myself I was bound to see horrible sights...” “I had seen many dead, but they had died in hospital beds... death to a certain extent had been... made decent. Here it was grotesque, repulsive, horrible.”

She is in a place of death, sorrow and horror. “I tried not to think of it, and think of whatsoever things are good... are lovely... birds, flowers, beautiful skies and seas.”

The Belfast Blitz: The People’s Story by Stephen Douds. Blackstaff Press and Dufour Editions. factotum@dufour editions.com.

**Hero of the
War for Independence**

Ernie O’Malley was an extraor-

dinary person: hero of Ireland’s War of Independence, author of classic books, and promoter of Irish culture.

After medical school the future for this handsome young man was golden. But, love of country made him leave medicine to become a full-time organizer for the Irish Volunteers (later the IRA).

During the Revolution (1916 to 1921), O’Malley’s advice was so important, that on page 276, the book says he reported “directly to Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence.”

O’Malley wrote the classic account of the Irish Revolution. *On Another Man’s Wound: Raids and Rallies* is based on the hundreds of interviews he conducted during the 1950’s with former IRA soldiers. Some were collected into this book and published in 1982.

After all those years, O’Malley was still amazed at the unrelenting opposition to the revolution. He tells of the thunderous editorials of the daily press, the pronouncements of the Catholic church hierarchy, and the pressures of other establishment propaganda.

Mercier Press and Dufour editions. factotum@dufour editions.com.

Dublin Wit

Quickness of mind is a quality prized in Ireland since ancient times. The traditional stories of Ireland are filled with examples.

In *Dublin Wit*, Des MacHale assembles examples of acute observation and quick thinking. I received a previous book he wrote, and know him to be meticulous in recording humor.

MacHale finds wit in many places and from contemporary Dubliner, as well as from famous Dubliners of the past.

- Graffiti in a hospital washroom: the human body, properly looked after, will last a lifetime.

- A Trinity College professor: What the difference between a man and a woman is I can’t conceive.

- Graffiti in a psychiatric hospital: Give generously to mental health week - or I’ll kill you.

- Oscar Wilde: I regret I must decline your invitation owing to an engagement I’m just about to make.

- George Bernard Shaw: I am an unbeliever but sometimes I have doubts.

- Also by Shaw: In baseball I see no reason why the infield should not try to put the batter off his stride at the critical moment by neatly timed disparagements of his



mother’s respectability.

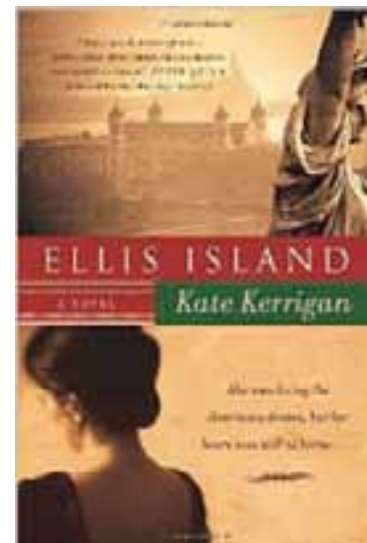
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**Was She Going to Live
the American Dream?**

When my grandmother came here from rural Ireland, she worked as a domestic servant. But she probably felt lucky because the house of her wealthy employer had running water, indoor plumbing, the new electricity, etc.

Kate Kerrigan is the author of *Ellis Island: A Novel*. It is a love story because the main character, Ellie Hogan, leaves a loved, but disabled husband in Ireland. She comes to America to earn enough money to return and live well.

In New York, she is tempted by “this glittering new world of fine clothes and parties, money and mansions. She meets a “charming suitor who can give her all she ever wanted.”



I don’t understand why he falls in love with an uneducated country girl. This is possible, but not plausible.

My grandmother met my grandfather (a handsome Irish policeman) and they lived the American Dream.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



The ER did some preliminary tests and the doc told me "You've either got meningitis or a sinus infection."

They gave me some pretty good painkillers and I headed to Walgreens to get my prescription filled.

Looking back I realize I was drugged during the whole encounter. Maybe that's why it felt so strange.

I handed the woman behind the pharmacy counter my prescription. She blanched. "Mike Houlihan? You're Mike Houlihan?"

Yes, why, is there a problem?

"Oh, no, the name kind of threw me, that's all... That was my ex-husband's name."

For a moment, time stood still.

Oh... really?

Now the drugs were really starting to kick in. My headache was gone and I was slowly transforming into a werewolf.

I grinned at her, suddenly feeling like an old lecher. She wasn't bad. Her Walgreens nametag read "Cindy." She looked about forty, nice body, sort of a mousy pixie hairdo. She wasn't a pig.

So, you were Mrs. Mike Houlihan, huh? Well tell me what happened, Cindy?

The air in Walgreens suddenly grew very chilly.

"It didn't end well. Your prescription will be ready in about twenty minutes, ...sir."

Yeah, keep calling me that, I thought as I made my way to a chair in the waiting area.

She'd shut down pretty quick there, wonder what old Mike had done to deserve such derision from his ex-old lady.

I leafed through Modern Maturity magazine as I imagined what had gone awry between Mike and Cindy Houlihan.

Maybe Mike was abusive, came home most nights three sheets to the wind, told her he wasn't happy with the tuna casserole. "This tastes awful, Cindy! Is this your mother's recipe for dog crap?"

Maybe Mike was a womanizer, sneaking around with chicks from Rite-Aid and CVS. One of the pharmacists told Cindy she saw him one night picking up a stacked redhead in front of Osco.

Mike might've been an amateur shrink, who delighted in psychoanalyzing Cindy for sport, had her so turned around she was practically Sybil.

Surely there had never been any domestic violence; except that one time when the Sox lost in the tenth

inning and Cindy became hysterical as Mike got her in a friendly headlock in the kitchen and explained the infield fly rule to her.

I glanced up and felt the eyes of the pharmacist on me. She was leaning against the rack of anti-depressants and talking to someone on the phone while looking directly at me. I could feel the hate emanating out of her horn rimmed glasses.

Wait a minute, now I get it. Mike wasn't the bad guy in this marriage. It was Cindy!

Mike spent the entire ten years of their marriage trying to enlighten her. But no, Cindy wanted to be Gloria Steinem.

Sure, this psycho bitch would drive any man off his rocker. She was probably addicted to the Percodan she stole from the pharmacy every day.

And what about the time the Reverend and Cindy were discovered together one night at Rainbow beach wearing each other's bathing suits?

Cindy was nothing but a dirty slut, with a drug problem on top of being an alcoholic sex addict to boot.

Poor Mike once loved her but he never counted on Cindy's metamorphosis into the centerfold for "White Trash Monthly."

I stood up and made my way to the counter, ready to give Cindy a piece of my mind for her cavalier treatment of Mike. She confronted me with my drugs and put them in a bag just as the lovely Mary came in from waiting outside in the car.

I paid for the stuff and jammed the pills into my jacket and grabbed Mary around the shoulder.

Ya see this, Cindy? This is the real Mrs. Mike Houlihan!

Cindy looked at me with daggers and walked away as Mary and I made our way to the parking lot.

Mary looked at me and said, "Who was that?"

That was Cindy!

"Who the heck is Cindy?"

My ex-wife!

"How many of those pills did you take?"

Enough to spot some screwball chick that didn't know how good she had it!

Mary looked at me funny and said, "You better let me drive."

Don't worry, I have no intention of taking any of the poison she put in my prescription.

The lovely Mary smiled as she started up the car "Shut up and go to sleep."

Irish American Alliance Picnic 8-28

The Irish American Alliance is hosting their 19th Annual Picnic Sunday, August 28, 2011 at Burr Oak Woods, Grove 1 (136th and Harlem Avenue in Palos Heights). The picnic features Traditional Irish Music and Entertainment, Children's and Adult Games, a Bean Bag Tournament and Raffle. It also Features free food, soft drinks, beer and other beverages.

The Irish American Alliance is a social organization open to any and all individuals interested in joining an Irish Oriented Social Club. Membership dues are \$25.00 per person. The picnic



starts after a 1:00PM Catholic Mass and goes until sunset.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



A Last Goodbye from Meredith

Back in 1983 Meredith Louise Vieira was a *CBS News* Correspondent based in Chicago covering Midwest news events for the number one network. I wanted to succeed her one day.

So it made perfect sense to me to call the object of my affection, er, admiration for her insights, tips and reflections. "I'm calling Meredith," I announced one day. It may have echoed through the halls of my Indiana station with the resounding incredulity of the water boy asking the head cheerleader out to the prom. "McClure's calling Meredith!" exclaimed Notre Dame grad Mike Murphy on the day beat. "I wish I wasn't married," said former playboy and main anchor Brad Byrd. "Jimbo's aiming for the Dithster!" teased Chris the sports guy. "You are gonna get shot down so-o-o bad," said weather gal Suzanne in her Kentucky twang.

I checked the time... after Rather's first newscast and before the Western Edition... rechecked the CBS News directory and dialed for dollars. A few seconds later the name "Vieira!" came tersely from the somewhat tired 29 year old voice on the other end. "Hi, my name is Jim McClure at the affiliate in Evansville, I just wanted to tell you that I think your stories are fantastic, your writing is incredible and I just want to know your thoughts sometime on how I can get to the network someday."

Now this is what I call telling someone you want to be them when you grow up. Other dimmer souls may say it was a great pickup line. Rubbish, I meant every word. And it worked.

"Oh my gosh, thank you so much I'm really honored, ...Jim?" As the conversation continued she related that she was humbled by the great writers around her, and it was her effort to be worthy of their company that marked any style or accomplishment she had. "When you see and work with Liz Trotta and Martha Teichner (the combat-hardened and veteran female reporters of CBS at that time), you have to try to be your best. I really look up to them," Meredith said.

"But how did you ever make it to CBS?" I asked with genuine wonder and hope I could pull it off one day. "Well it's funny," she said, giving me a

lifelong lesson that still rings true for the latest generation of news wannabes. "There's this guy who travels around to different markets spending all his



CBS News Correspondent Meredith Vieira, February, 1984

time in hotel rooms videotaping local newscasts. He saw me doing a stand-up (on air appearance to end a story) in the snow in Providence, Rhode Island, where I started out and it captured his attention. The next thing I get a call from New York City and WCBS-TV. Then the network bureau reporting gig came three years after that job."

"The snow?" I said in disbelief. "You never know what makes one person stand out from another," Meredith patiently instructed. "The fluffiness of the snowflakes, I don't know. There was just something about it."

The conversation between mentor and mentee, Old Pro at 29 and Cubbie Reporter at 22, continued a few weeks later when I met her for the first time in Chicago after she graciously looked at a tape of my work and sat down next to me on a bureau lobby bench to talk about it. No glamor here—no makeup, untucked denim workshirt, torn tattered jeans and flip-flops with a Bel-air Glide of a floating feminine walk that struck me as out of place with her rugged Peppermint Patty appearance and surprisingly salty language. She couldn't have been more gracious as she gave her thoughts on my work.

Needless to say we kept in touch and

she was always available when I had a career question or a troubling situation at work. As she packed for another out of town trip one Sunday afternoon I remember her telling me over her home phone that "Hey, if a job is causing you that much angst you gotta ask yourself if it's really worth it in the long run." In coming decades she would confound experts and insiders herself by placing family matters first, famously leaving 60 Minutes to spend more time with a newborn child. Later she would devote herself to a husband stricken with MS and growing children from their 1986 marriage as a first priority despite success at ABC with *The View* and later NBC and *Today*, not to mention *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

Vieira said goodbye to *Today* and probably broadcasting a few weeks ago, but I remember another goodbye.

During the eve of Christmas Eve 1983 I saw Meredith for the last time when I met her at O'Hare Airport by chance. Well chance, greatly aided by my knowing that she was single like myself and had parents in Providence. She had filed her report on the Friday *CBS Evening News* earlier that day and I was heading off to a weekend schedule in Virginia after seeing my folks in Northbrook. With a slight winter delay I went from my United concourse to the United wing with the only evening flight to Providence.

Among the finely dressed passengers a short long-haired woman in jeans, work boots and a maroon down parka was sitting on the floor with her back against the wall looking at the planes outside.

It had been a few months. "Oh my Gawwd!" she said with a trace of Manhattan accent not yet completely conquered by Midwest meandering. I proudly related that I had been hired by the NBC affiliate in Norfolk, Virginia and handed her my new business card as I crouched down at eye-level facing her. "Yeah I'm off to see my folks for Christmas then I'm co-anchoring (CBS) *Morning News* as a try-out on Monday." She fingered my card and one big green eye squinted as she said with a wry smile, "I dunno, NBC... you're the competition now." I thought I better go before I wore out my welcome, feeling a bit stalker-ish to boot for my successful guessing that she'd be there. As I stood up, Meredith did too. She then stood up on her toes and wrapped her arms around my neck, looked me in the eyes, brightly smiled and said, "Well... Merry Christmas, Kiddo!" and gave me a quick, first-ever and last-ever kiss on the lips.

Okay that's enough, readers. No big

deal, especially if you've since seen her kiss every contestant on *Millionaire* 20 years later. But then again, I sure hadn't!

I don't remember much else. The boys back in Evansville would have cheered in the newsroom. The boys in Norfolk still don't believe it.

She and I wouldn't talk again as fate would have it. I do recall wandering

in a blissful dreamlike state back to my gate and my 737... and looking across the tarmac seeing Meredith's 737 getting ready to back out. Both of us heading to quite different futures than either of us pictured I'm sure.

And then it started to snow. Big fluffy flakes. There was just something about it.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling, Director of Social Services
Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

Advancing Justice for the Elderly

Last month I attended the Illinois Department on Aging’s Elder Rights Conference in Chicago. I was saddened to learn about how often seniors are the victims of abuse and exploitation. However, the general message of the conference was a very positive one and I also learned about the great work being done to improve the quality of life for all older adults. These efforts are far too many to be discussed in this article so I have chosen to share with you just one development that I found particularly interesting.

The Elder Court Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Last December Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans announced the creation of a new division within the Circuit Court of Cook County. This division is to be focused on elder law cases. In the coming months Cook County will join only a handful of counties across the entire country to have a senior division to their court system. The announcement reflects the growing recognition that in order to protect seniors the courts must be aware of the issues that impact older

adults. The Honorable Judge Patricia Banks, who has been appointed as the Presiding Judge of the Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Division, addressed the conference. She explained the benefit to seniors of having their cases heard by judges with additional knowledge and training around elder-specific issues. Judge Banks also said that a number of practical changes would be made to the way the courts are run in order to make them more senior-friendly. These changes include scheduling courts to start later in the morning, reducing wait times at court houses, and holding court at easily accessible venues. Judge Banks told those present that she expects the elder division to be officially opened in the near future.

Take Charge of Your Health at the IAHC

Taught by two trained class leaders, this workshop helps those with ongoing health conditions, such as arthritis, heart or lung disease, asthma, etc, to regain control of their life to do the things that matter to them and

have more energy with relief from symptoms like pain and fatigue. This workshop is a way to meet new people, share experiences, and learn ways to improve one’s life.

The Take Charge of Your Health workshop will run for two and a half hours, once a week, for six consecutive weeks, at the Irish American Heritage Center. The first session will take place on Tuesday 23rd of August. If you would like to know more about the workshop please come along to Chicago Irish Immigrant Supports senior group meeting on Thursday 11th August when one of the workshop coordinators will be there to provide more details and answer any questions that you may have. All are welcome to attend this information session which will take place after our scheduled programming.

The topics covered include:

- Coping with fatigue, frustration, pain and isolation that may be related to ongoing health conditions
- Exercising to maintain and improve strength, flexibility and endurance

• Using medications and practicing good nutrition

- Communicating with family, friends and health professionals
- Planning for future healthcare needs

• Goal setting and problem solving to make positive changes in your life
Space is limited so registration is required. For more information or to reserve your place on this great workshop, contact Paul Dowling at Chicago Irish Immigrant Support at 773-282-8445.

Got a Question?

We want to make sure that our monthly column is giving you the information that you need. Any senior with a query related to social services is invited to contact us with their question and see the answer featured right here in this column. You can mail your questions to us at Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60647, or you can reach us by phone at 773-282-8445. We can also be reached via e-mail at ciis-socialservices@gmail.com.

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



A Little Hypocrisy

I couldn’t help it recently but had to act like a hypocrite while attending a summer party. There I was enjoying a glass of good wine and tasty food in an affluent suburb and “Rose” (that’s not her real name) came to take a toddler away for his nap. I discovered that “Rose” is an undocumented immigrant from somewhere south of the border. I later heard one of the toddler’s grandparents complain about all these “illegals” that continue to drain America’s resources. I had to bite my tongue and acted like I didn’t know anything about the thousands of “Roses” and “Josés”, who do such an enormous amount of work to help people in the city and in the “burbs” to maintain a very comfortable standard of living.

Hypocrite comes from the Greek meaning to be an actor. If

Don’t Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you’re trudging seems all uphill
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit --
Rest if you must, but don’t quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don’t give up though the pace seems slow --
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a fair and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor’s cup,
And he learned too late when night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out --
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar,
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit, --
It’s when things seem worst that you mustn’t quit.

—Author Unknown

we are honest we are all hypocritical from time to time. We pretend to be someone else or hold opinions or at other times go along with opinions for the sake of being accepted or because we don’t want to upset someone.

Politicians are often accused of being hypocritical in relation to their policies or statements on various issues. This has become evident again in recent time in relation to immigration reform. One has to wonder if the statements of prominent candidates (from both sides of the isle) are really genuine or are they made to placate a certain group of people whom they think they need to keep on their side if they have a real chance of being elected.

With that in mind, I take the recent statements of most of our candidates and their stance on immigration reform, with “a pinch of salt” knowing that the chances of any real reform before the 2012 general elections are very slim indeed.

Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me sliabhanoir@yahoo.com Tel: 773-282-8445.

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Eileen Magner
Eileen Magner is the north western correspondent for Ireland's national broadcaster Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE) and has been reporting the news from that region to national audiences for many years. Eileen is a seasoned professional and her news reports and analysis are informative and engaging. Don't miss her LIVE weekly national news reports on Good Morning Ireland round about 10:55 PM on 1450 AM WCEV.

Tommy Marren
Tommy Marren is the presenter of an award winning current affairs program that airs from 9 AM to 11 AM on one of Ireland's most popular independent radio stations - Midwest Radio in Ballyvaughan Co. Mayo. Tommy began his broadcasting career as an anchorman on a weekend sports show. His sports commentary can often be heard these days on RTE radio where he is a free lance match commentator. Luckily for listeners to Good Morning Ireland he provides a very comprehensive sports report each week - the only one of its kind on the air waves in Chicago or the country!

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Saturday

- Mayer School of Irish Dance 7 pm
- Solid-Aire 3 pm
- Dyod in the Wool 4 pm
- Sullivans Dance Troupe 5 pm
- Larkin & Moran Brothers 6:15 pm
- Brigid's Cross 7:45 pm
- The Fenians 9:30 pm

Sunday: Irish Folk Day

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