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Welcoming Back South Side Irish Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Pre- Parade Fundraiser at Bourbon Street

The South Side Irish Parade Committee and Bourbon Street will co-host a Pre-Parade fundraiser Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 6 until 10 p.m. in Marionette Park.

Regarded as the first official celebration marking the return of the South Side Irish Parade, the Bourbon Street fundraiser will help the committee meet the mounting costs earmarked for barricades, porta-potties, marketing, security and clean up.

“Everyone’s rolling up their sleeves or reaching in their wallets because they know the return of the parade with a zero tolerance campaign is a winner for the neighborhood,” said Joe Connelly, parade chairman. “Our pre-parade party celebrates the accomplishments of all those who have worked hard to recast this parade and those who want to contribute now to help defray costs.”

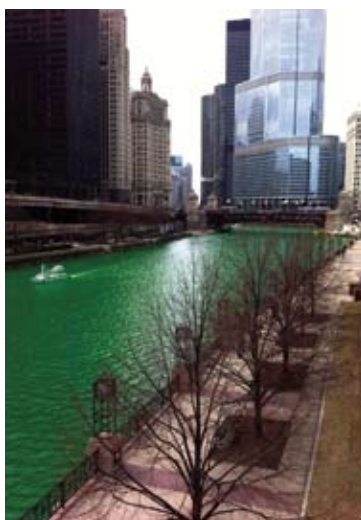
Advance tickets will be \$25 (\$30 at the door) for food, beverages, live music and door prizes. The Larkin and Moran Brothers will perform traditional Gaelic music. The evening will include silent auctions, raffles, split the pot and more.

Tradition Marches On is the theme for the March 11, 2012 South Side Irish St. Patrick’s Day Parade, a book-end finish to Sunday’s Family Fest at the Beverly Arts Center and a grand culmination of a 10-day celebration of Irish heritage in the Beverly/Morgan Park community.

“The parade committee salutes the many businesses who exhibited creativity and monetary pledges to support the return of the parade,” said Jim Sheahan, a volunteer. “The desire to



Green River Golden Anniversary



In 1963 members of Plumbers Local 130 in Chicago came up with the brilliant idea of dyeing the Chicago River green for St. Patrick’s Day. 2012 will be the 50th consecutive year that they have colored the river green. This year the dyeing will be done at 10 am along the river between Wabash Ave. and Columbus Drive. The river will remain green until dusk. The ever popular St. Patrick’s Day parade will begin at noon on the 17th. It will take place along Columbus Drive between Balbo and Monroe. For further information or questions visit the web sites - www.greenchicagoriver.com or www.chicagostpatsparade.com

retain and enrich this 32-year tradition has proven worth it.”

Kicking off March 2 and running until March 8, 2012, the Chicago Irish Film Festival is one of only three such festivals in the country.

“Just as the parade itself began was as a seedling nurtured by the Wee People, the Beverly Art Center’s Irish Film

Fest has grown in significance and following,” said Mike Nix, executive director of the Beverly Art Center.

Tickets in advance at O’Brien Pub or the South Side Irish Parade offices at 10934 A South Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643.

For information 708/388-8881. www.southsideirishparade.org.

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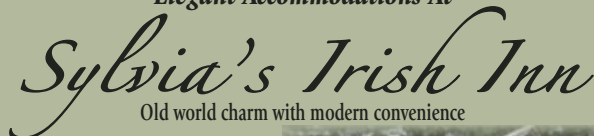


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irish american news
icon
(ISSN #1085-4053) USPS #013454
February 2012 Vol. XXXVI #02
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Irish News, Inc. is published
monthly on the 1st of month
SUBSCRIPTION
First class delivery
Fastest! Delivered in envelope
1 year \$35 • 2 year \$65 • 3 year \$90
Regular delivery
1 year \$30 • 2 year \$55 • 3 year \$75
Canada 1 year \$35 • 2 year \$60
International: 1 year \$85
(Periodicals Postage Paid at
Palatine, IL) **POSTMASTER:**
Send address changes to
Irish News, Inc.
7115 W NORTH AVE #327
OAK PARK, IL 60302
708-445-0700
e-mail to:
editor@irishamericannews.com

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
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**Distribution
15,013**

Irish American Hall of Fame Announces 2012 Nominees

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) announces the nominees for the its 2012 class of inductees. Nominations were submitted from July through September 2011 from individuals across the country and the world. Over 300 nominations were considered. A screening committee comprised of a specially-selected, diverse group of individuals from across a wide range of disciplines reviewed

and vetted all nominations and specified a number of candidates to be put forth in an election. The award categories and nominees listed on the 2012 slate of candidates are:

Arts and Humanities: James Cagney, George M. Cohan, Bing Crosby, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Michael Flatley, John Ford, John Huston, Gene Kelly, Tommy Makem; Business & Industry: George Meany, Daniel Rooney, Patrick

G. Ryan; Public Service: Commodore John Barry, Mayor Richard M. Daley, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Brigadier General Thomas Meagher, Audie Murphy, Congressman Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, The Fighting Sullivan Brothers; Sports: Connie Mack, John McGraw, John L. Sullivan, Gene Tunney; Religion: Archbishop John Carroll, Mother Mary Frances Clarke, BVM, Fr.

Edward Flanagan, Fr. Mychal Judge, Monsignor Ignatius McDermott; Education: Loretta Brennan Glucksman, John Lahey, Emmet Larkin, Lawrence McCaffrey; Science: Eileen Collins, Michael Collins, John Philip Holland, Cyrus McCormick

Voting by a national body of distinguished individuals representing academia, government, and Irish-affiliated organizations from around the

Continued to page 24

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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Till Debt Us Do Part

2012. The Centenary of the Titanic! Let's hope that won't become a metaphor for Ireland or the EU this year. The actual anniversary of the sinking is mid-April. By then we should know some details of the proposals to save the Euro, and even whether Ireland will need a referendum to address the issue. If yes (which is my guess – if only to satisfy public demand) then winning it becomes the political priority for the Government.

There are plans already for two referenda this year, one on the future of the Seanad, another on the rights of the child. Both would be popular, including from the government's point of view (i.e. winnable). But neither are priorities, particularly that on the Seanad; that can wait, and no energy or resources should be put into it. The child referendum issue is important, certainly, and if one can be held, so much the better. But if there is to be a referendum on the Euro, this must assume priority. Should the Euro collapse, or should Ireland be left behind by a no vote, the future rights of the child will be among the least of our worries.

Parking Europe, coping with Ireland's debts is the government's ongoing domestic priority. The end of year financial figures for 2011 are now in and make for grim reading. The good news is that tax revenue has stabilised at around €4 billion (roughly \$45 billion), or about the amount raised in 2004; for reference, in 2007 it was \$61 billion. The bad news, however, is that expenditure for 2011 was almost \$33 billion more. Even stripping out all payments to the banks (most of them once –off), the net current deficit only actually fell to around \$21 billion. This after five severe budgets. The day to day cost of running the country was some \$62 billion while interest payments on the total debt were around € billion. Not even Mark Twain could do much about these figures.

By the Titanic anniversary Ireland will have borrowed a further \$5 billion in 2012, just to keep the country running. This has nothing to do with the bank bailout. This is the gap (roughly \$400 million every week) between what the government raises in taxes and spends on state

salaries and pensions, child benefit, unemployment assistance, lone parent allowances, creaking health and education services, old age pensions and, a growth item, interest payments on the growing national debt. Clearly something must be done. Ireland cannot continue to borrow at this rate.

The government's strategy, like that of its shell-shocked predecessor, is not to set about reducing spending to 2004 levels in order bring finances into balance. Politics is, after all, the art of the possible. Expectations are far higher than in 2004. And a warped sense of entitlement among the public, massaged over the years by politicians, makes reconciling income with expenditure more difficult still. Expenditure and welfare payments remain too high for the size of the economy. The gigantic red herring of the bank bailout has warped and distracted from the reality. The definable target is to get the deficit down to a "manageable" 3%; whenever. This involves paring away at spending, while seeking to build up the tax base, incrementally, hoping that an economic pickup will increase employment and tax revenue while reducing unemployment costs.

The EU and IMF, who are supplying the \$400 million per week – no one else would – have bought into this, which relies on optimistic growth assumptions about the Irish and world economies. The government will cut what it can (i.e. what is politically palatable), increase taxes where it can (again, what is palatable), cross its fingers and hope to meet the target about half way if the economy picks up. That is a very big if. Meanwhile the total owing will grow by \$24 billion this year and, even, on the government's own optimistic projections, will continue to grow by \$18 billion in 2013 and roughly \$12 billion in 2014. Interest on the total debt in 2015 will be around \$12 billion. Any double dip recession worldwide will see these figures worsen.

Meeting these targets, moreover, will require a succession of severe budgets, for which read more cuts and more taxes, on top of the five we have had since 2008. Frankly the omens are not good. While the 2012 budget was passed, and the ownership of economic policy is now firmly that of the current government, it was not without hiccup and a subsequent serious

dent in the government's popularity. The budget, not something to marvel over, has already been criticised externally for taking the easy option of front loading capital expenditure cuts, packing them into 2012, despite their direct effect on employment.

There is more. To a great extent the Labour tail seems to have wagged the Fine Gael dog. The broad brush stroke approach of benefit cuts was dodged, the anticipated rise in third level registration fees was halved, and the threshold for paying the Universal Social Charge was hiked – three strikes for Labour. VAT and motor tax rates were increased as the major sources of additional revenue. Again, sops to Labour since there is no VAT on most foodstuffs, and the impact for the most part will fall on persons with higher incomes.

All Fine Gael could point to was holding the line on income tax rates and tax bands together with a flat rate property tax of €00 per household. This last has been greeted with howls of protest from the opposition and the government is running scared enough to have flagged its intention to introduce a graduated property tax (those in better homes paying more) earlier than intended. Clearly there is a fear that some Labour horses – and even some Fine Gael ones – may bolt.

Moreover, failure to grasp the big nettles of benefit cuts and public sector pay and pensions entailed many minor, politically embarrassing and damaging cuts throughout the rest of the budget to achieve the necessary overall targets. Notable here was a proposed savage cut in payments to handicapped 16 and 17 year olds, yielding peanuts financially, and less than twice the cost of the salaries of Ministerial special advisers. The government at least had the cop-on to drop this proposal forthwith. Almost equally damaging were cuts in small grant assisted local and community projects, which, as well as being targeted at the socially disadvantaged, took people off the dole.

The next budget could be make or break. All the easy choices have been taken. On the plus side more politicians and academics have been speaking out and laying emphasis on the need to do something about the structural deficit. Hopefully this will trickle down into the public consciousness sooner rather than later, to shake the sense of entitlement. On the negative side the dark matter of a referendum on the Euro lies just below the horizon. Like an iceberg. Basil Fawlty once remarked "Piece of Cake; now for the hard bit." These sentiments may well be echoed by the government come midsummer."

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Munster, IN- Due to popular demand, Theatre at the Center will once again treat audiences to an old-fashioned St. Patrick’s Day celebration with the award-winning Irish duo, SWITCHBACK. Traditional Irish dishes and a unique Irish Beer & Wine Tasting event will precede the performance from 5:30 until 7 p.m. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana.

For over two decades, the musical partnership of Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, known as SWITCHBACK, has achieved commercial success without forgetting their Irish roots. The duo originated when chosen by legendary County Kerry composer and concertina master Terrence ‘Cuz’ Teahan to join his traditional Irish group. FitzGerald and McCormack were taught the old country techniques of Irish musical

entertainment, making them one of the last generations to be directly influenced by a master of this musical



with their energy and creativity.

The dinner portion of the evening will include customary Irish favorites such as Corned Beef & Cabbage, Red Potatoes, Carrots, Rye Bread, Irish Soda Bread, and Irish Whiskey Cake. Irish beers and wine will round out the menu.

Founded in 1991, Theatre at the Center is a year-round professional theater at its home, The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana. Theatre at the Center is Located off I-80/94, just 35 minutes from downtown Chicago, and has free parking.

The concert will take place March 14, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$40. Dinner will be served from at 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. at an additional \$20 per person.

To purchase individual tickets call the Box Office at 219.836.3255 or Tickets.com at 800.511.1552. Gift certificates, perfect for all special occasions, are also available by calling the Box Office at 219.836.3255. For more on Theatre at the Center, visit TheatreAtTheCenter.com.

genre.

The duo has shared the stage with such notable Celtic musicians as Cherish the Ladies, Gaelic Storm, Liz Carroll, and John Williams. They annually tour Ireland and wherever they play, Switchback always captivates and charms folks

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2012 will be a Busy year for Youth Gaelic Games

The International Gaelic Games tournament for Youth Gaelic footballers and Hurlers returns to Chicago’s own Gaelic Park this year 2012.

The Continental Youth Championship (CYC) will be held over four days Thursday July 26th to July 29th.

This is an international tournament consisting of young players from Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the United States, Including New York.

Boys and girls ages 7 to 18 will compete in Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie (Hurl-

ing for Girls).

There are over 300 games played by over 2400 competitors.

This is the largest collection of Gaelic Athletes outside of the Island of Ireland.

Chicago is delighted to host this year’s championship after five years of traveling to other cities (Philadelphia, Boston, New York and San Francisco)

No doubt that Gaelic Park will once again shine as the premier facility for Gaelic Games in North America.

Fields will be manicured, Nets will be repaired, Goalposts will be painted and scoreboards manufactured all in preparation for this historic event.

In 2009 an impact study was completed for the CYC held in Philadelphia and it was determined that there is a one million plus economic impact in the local area of this tournament.

Local restaurants, hotels, car hire and airlines can all look forward to the benefits of having these young Gaelic Players, their parents and



coaches make the trip to the Chicago area.

Come join the party July 26th to 29th.

Thankfully what makes all the preparation worthwhile is the smiles on the faces of our young players.

If you would like any information how to get your child involved in Gaelic Games in the Chicago area please e mail colm.egan.gd.central.usa.@gaa.ie

Chicago Gaelic Games development information @ www.chicagoirishsports.com

Colm Egan January 2012

Online Only This Month

If you don’t find your favorite columnist in this month’s edition, please check for them online at www.irishamericannews.com. We are fortunate to sometimes have more writers than we have room for. We try and rotate columnists when we do run out of room, so be patient!

If you like Irish American News, visit our sister publication covering the Ohio Irish scene. www.ianohio.com.

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Terry Gallagher

By Bridget Fitzgerald

During his 23rd year as an attorney at law, Chicagoan Terry Gallagher continues his campaign as a Democratic Candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial Sub-Circuit. With the primary election on March 20th of 2012 Gallagher hopes to sustain his momentum, “I have 2 more months - it’s been really great so far and I hope I can keep it up that way”. The potential judge describes how his campaign has been a positive one, “It’s been refreshing,” he explains “people are really glad to meet me as a judicial candidate.” Gallagher describes what voters tell him “it’s time for a change.”

Born on the north side of Chicago, Gallagher has gathered unique experience before he returned to the state of Illinois in 1992. After his graduation from St. Mary’s University, in Win-

ona, Minnesota in 1981 he moved to Houston, Texas. It was while working construction did Gallagher realize his true strength; “I wanted to use my brain instead of my muscles”. After earning this Juris Doctor degree from Seattle University School of Law, in Seattle, Washington in 1987 his international travel began when he joined the United States Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Gallagher served two years stationed at the Naval Legal Service Office in San Diego, California and then spent three years at the Sigonella Naval Air Station, Sigonella, in Sicily. “Even until this day,” Gallagher reflected “[the time with the Navy] provided me with a great foundation to build on.” Terry expands “you meet people from all walks of life- from all over the country; [those that] just enlisted at 18 years old to senior officers who have been in the Navy for 30 years; you have to know how to deal with all these different kinds of people.”

Gallagher was honorably discharged from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1992 and returned to Chicago. After work-

ing at two firms he invested in his own. Santana & Gallagher was established in 1996 and is located in Northlake Illinois. “Time goes by fast” Gallagher explains, “I have always enjoyed a challenge – which is one of the reasons I joined the Navy.” His judicial candidacy is a challenge he is passionate about, “being a judge is a way to give back to the community,” he explains, “every community needs good judges.”



Terry has been a resident of Western Springs Illinois since 1992 with his wife of 23 years and five children.

Gallagher’s solid foundations in law and distinctive international experiences have contributed to the qualities that he possesses to succeed “I have good judicial temperament, I am open-minded and above all, I believe I can be fair”. He describes his intelligence and patience as it, “is what makes me stand out.” Gallagher says, “with my experience, I know I can do this job well, and I hope the voters agree with me!” He continues, “I know what it takes to get the job done. He agrees with his supporters, “It’s time for a change”.



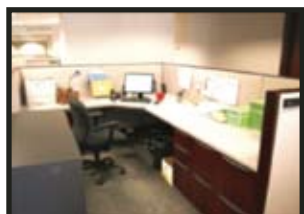
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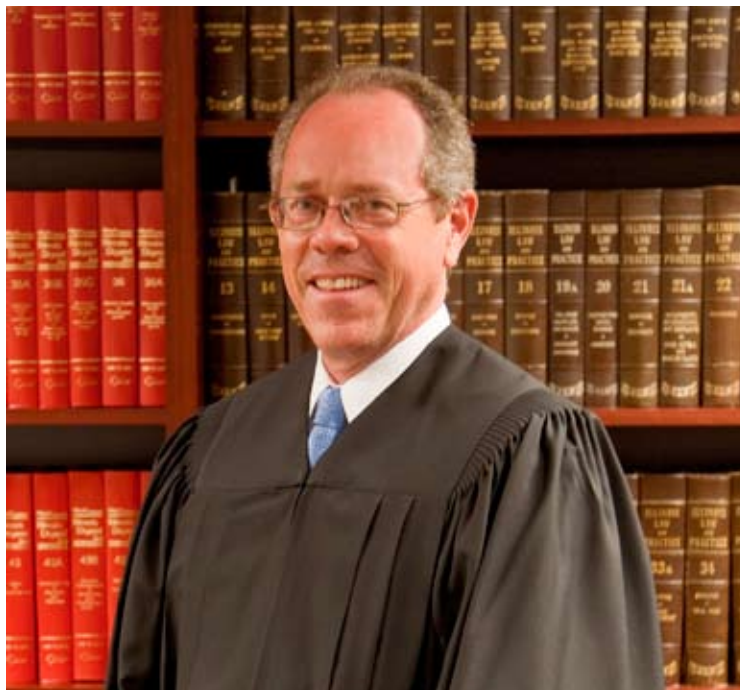
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 (Reservations Required)

An Irish Mass in Honor of St. Patrick
 Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Naperville
 Wednesday, March 14th: 6:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Parade
 Downtown Naperville
 Saturday, March 17th: 10:00 a.m.



For more information, please visit our webpage:
 www.wsirish.org



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Irish Festival Queen Contest

All single girls of Irish heritage having reached 18 to 26 years of age (by the date of March 4, 2012) are invited to enter this contest. The deadline for submitting your application form with \$10 entry fee is Monday, February 27. The new Irish Festival Queen and her Court will be chosen at our Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 4. Each of the contestants will be introduced and the winners will be announced. The newly selected Queen will enjoy all the festivities during the week of Ireland on Parade at Gaelic Park and on St. Patrick's Day as well as given the high seat atop the Gaelic Park float which will be part of all the local St. Patrick's Day parades. The Queen will be awarded gifts and prizes valued at over \$1,000, which includes a round trip ticket to Ireland, sponsored by Aer Lingus and Gadabout Travel. The Queen and her Court will be participating in many upcoming Chicago Gaelic

Park events including Memorial Day Irish Fest and special ceremonies, contests and festivals throughout the year. You can pick up your application at the Chicago Gaelic Park office or by calling 708.687.9323. More at www.chicagogaelicpark.org.



Ireland On Parade!

Chicago Gaelic Park is proud to host Ireland on Parade, a multi-generational tradition, also known as Irish Week. Each evening this celebration includes traditional Irish music entertainment followed by performances from the Irish step dancing schools from all over the Chicago area. There is no admission fee and doors open each evening at 5:30pm with the first dance show starting at 7pm. Food and refreshments from the bar will be available for purchase every night.

The Parades Check our website for dates/times/locations. Come join our float and march with us in the Downtown Chicago and all the South Suburban parades - the more the merrier!

South Side Irish Sunday March 11 The all day celebration begins with 9am Mass followed by a full Irish breakfast. Doors will reopen again at 1:30pm with four stages of continuous live entertainment and fun for the entire family going on in every room of Gaelic Park. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 12 and under.

Saturday, March the 17th

St. Patrick's Day The Emerald Room doors open at 11am for the annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon with music and dancing for just \$25 per person.

St. Patrick's Afternoon The Tara Room doors open at 4:30pm with live music and children's entertainment. There is no admission fee and a delicious hot food buffet is available for purchase.

St. Patrick's Evening The group Leahy's Luck will perform at our Dinner & Show for the cost of \$45 per person. Reserve your seat or a table of ten. This evening will be full of fun and celebration!

Tickets for St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and Dinner Show must be purchased in advance! Call 708.687.9323.

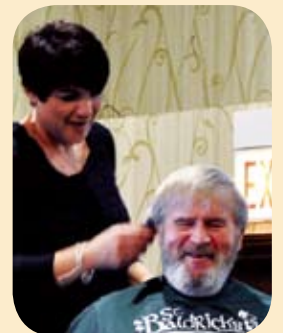
CGP St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

Gaelic Park and the Carraig Pub once again are hosting the annual St. Baldrick's Fundraiser on Saturday, March 10, at 1pm in the Tara



Room. The Carraig Pub will open at NOON and food will be served starting at 1pm. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. Volunteers, sponsored by donations from friends and family, shave their heads in solidarity for children with cancer. Gaelic Park has been

hosting a St Baldrick's event for the last five years and in that time we have had 265 volunteers that have participated and raised almost \$100,000! We welcome volunteers to be a "shavee" or help out as a volunteer on the day of the event! Just go to the St. Baldrick's web site www.stbaldricks.org, search "Gaelic Park" and sign up, it's that simple! All donations will benefit the fight against children's cancer.



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Irish reunion
2012

Things are not what they used to be...
But they can be again For one night!

Saturday February 11, 2012

8:00pm - Midnight
Hosted by Gaelic Park
6119 W. 147th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452
www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Free Entry! Free Hors D'Oeuvres! Free Irish Sandwiches
Rollback prices on refreshments
Entertainment by Jerry & Kara Eadle



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

As I write, Winter has not yet arrived, so it feels surreal talking about The Merry Ploughboys and The Wolfe Tones, two great shows that have traditionally been mile-markers in the February concert season at Gaelic Park. February is a busy month at Gaelic Park with a Special Party for the Big Game at Gaelic Park on Sunday, February 5 and our Craicpalooza party on Saturday, February 11; This is a fun event when we provide free entertainment, Jerry and Kara Eadie, free Irish sandwiches and appetizers, reduced drink prices, and most importantly a chance to touch base with old friends that you have been meaning to call. Gaelic Park Players' Annual All-Ireland Quiz is scheduled for Friday February 24 with

reigning champions Cork eager to defend their title. We have a free Matinee showing of the movie Michael Collins on Sunday February 12 at 2pm, followed by a discussion. This is a great movie about a fascinating figure in Irish History. Professor John Harney, visiting Professor of History at De Paul University, is scheduled to be in attendance to offer his insights and answer questions. I wish to thank the many people at Gaelic Park and elsewhere who wish me well as President of Gaelic Park. Gaelic Park is a special place in the hearts and minds of many people. Our children and grandchildren are watching and listening, so let Gaelic Park continue to be one the greatest gifts we can give them.

John Devitt, President

Ireland's Best Selling Artists Perform at CGP

The Wolfetones return to Gaelic Park on Saturday, February 18. The doors open at 7pm and the concert starts at 8pm.

Currently celebrating 48 years on the road, these legendary Dublin balladeers continue to be one of Ireland's biggest box office attractions. The group has sold out at prestigious venues during the past year all across Ireland, U.K., Europe and the U.S. This rabble-rousing group has inspired many to fight against the injustices in Ireland with their poignant, powerful and unsurpassed style of music. In recent years, the Wolfe Tones have become the biggest selling artists in Ireland, and have sold more albums than the ever-popular U2. The Wolfe Tones also have had double and triple platinum albums. Tickets \$25 each.



THE MERRY PLOUGHBOYS direct from Dublin will perform on Saturday February 4. The doors open at 7:30pm and the show begins at 8:30pm. With the sounds of the fiddle, bluegrass banjo, bodhran, bass guitar, piano accordion, and the distinct sounds of the mandolin, The Merry Ploughboys will definitely rouse the crowd's high spirits with not only music but also a reverence for Ireland. Tickets are \$20 per person. Reserve tickets by calling 708.687.9323. All major credit cards accepted. Tickets for both shows will go quickly, as both were sell outs last year!



2012 Scholarship Essay Contest

Chicago Gaelic Park's annual Scholarship Essay Contest is open to all students in good standing. The topic this year is **"America has re-thought itself since the tragedy of 9/11. How would you describe yourself as an American?"**

Students will be awarded in these categories:

Grammar School - Grades 6 through 8

Maximum of 3 typed 8.5 x 11 pages

High School - All Grades

Maximum of typed pages (8.5 by 11) Awards in each category will be: \$1000 \$750 \$500, and all essays are evaluated by an independent academic committee.

Awards are issued jointly to student and parents. A random draw awarding a \$250 prize will reward the efforts

of entrants and give recognition to those other than the six winners.

Entry forms are available at the Chicago Gaelic Park office, and completed essays must be submitted no later than Friday, February 24 with the properly completed Entry Form attached. The essay can be hand delivered or mailed to: Chicago Gaelic Park Scholarship Committee, 6119 West 147 Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452; or faxed to 708.687.0120. ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL and will not be returned.

CGP office hours are 9am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Individual winners will be notified by phone and announced at Gaelic Park on Sunday, March 11 following the 9am Mass. Awards will be presented to the winners on Sunday, April 1, at the Sunday Celtic Supper. Please contact Gaelic Park at 708.687.9323 for essay applications or further information.



Congratulations Harry Costelloe, Mary Riordan and Mary Hackett for 25 years on the air, with their live broadcast **CGP Sunday Radio Show** 7-8pm on WCEV 1450AM. Call 708.687.9330 to request a song or dedication

Enjoy the Music & Spirit of the Irish in our Authentic Pub Imported Directly From Ireland.

Open to the Public 7 Days Live Entertainment Every Weekend

Traditional Irish Music Session on Thursdays - 7:30pm

featuring students from the Irish Music School of Chicago

Pub food available Monday - Saturday.

Check out our menu items.

Daily drink and food specials.

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

"Pub Trivia" Every

Tuesday Night @ 7:30pm

Live Music in the Pub

Friday	Feb 3	Week Back	7:30pm
Saturday	Feb 4	The Rockets	9:30pm
Friday	Feb 10	Gerard Haughey	7:30pm
Saturday	Feb 11	Mulligan Stew	9:30pm
Friday	Feb 17	Pat Daly	7:30pm
Saturday	Feb 18	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Friday	Feb 24	Gerry Dignan	7:30pm
Saturday	Feb 25	Rico Quinn	9:00pm

Music is at 7:30pm on Friday; 9:30pm on Saturday nights. New expanded Pub food and appetizer menu!

Check Website for Full Schedule

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W' 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL

708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



All Ireland Trivia Quiz Night Is Back!

Gaelic Park Players will again host their annual All-Ireland Trivia Quiz on Friday February 24 at 7:30pm. This is a fun event for young and old which has attracted 25-30 teams in past years. The Quiz Masters emphasize that this is a trivia quiz with 75% of the questions being of a general nature and 25% having an Irish flavor. The winning team takes home "The Cup" as well as individual trophies and a \$250 cash prize. Teams will choose one of

the Counties of Ireland as their team name and battle it out to become All Ireland Quiz Champions. Get your group together and defend your County name! There is a \$50 minimum entry fee per team registered with a maximum of five members per team. Individuals are very welcome (\$10 entry fee) and will be placed on one of the teams. Contact John Devitt at 708.710.8591 or email devittj62@yahoo.com to register your team.

US Performance Tour of IT'S THE REAL McCOY

Get ready for an action-packed night of drama and comedy as a brand new 3-act Irish Comedy is heading to the States this March - just in time to whet the appetite ahead of St. Patrick's day! Its two years now since Tommy Marren - a broadcaster on Midwest Radio in Mayo - arrived in town with a play entitled "The Banshee of Crokey Hill" and he returns for four shows in March that promise to deliver rip-roaring comedy, fascinating plots and sub plots and some riveting drama. It's the Real McCoy is set in rural Ireland in 1964 and focuses on the life of 68 year-old Madge Mulloy who has spent over 40 years struggling to survive on a small farm with her only daughter Maura. Sadly, Madge has had to live with the fact that her husband Tom simply vanished within 5 months of marrying her without trace. The play centres around the fact that Tom has decided to return home to explain to Madge the sequence of events that led to his disappearance and what unfolds on stage is a combination of high drama, amazing Irish wit and a happy ending. The local postman Martin Daly is played by Midwest Radio presenter Gerry Glennon and the local curate Fr. Michael McCoy is played by the writer and director Tommy Marren. This is a play that will really keep the audience on the edge of their seats right to the final curtain. Already the play has attracted huge audiences in the West of Ireland and local publications have published glowing reviews of the production.

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER 8.00pm Phone 773.282.7035
SUNDAY MARCH 11
IRISH CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTER in MILWAKEE 3.00PM 414.345.8800
Tickets for all shows are \$20 at the door or \$18 Prebooked
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT tommy@midwestradio.ie

County Association Connection

The Clare Association will host their 46th Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday March 10 at Chicago Gaelic Park with music Joe Cullen and his band. Dinner tickets are \$55 per person. For information call President Mary Reilly at 708.499.2474. Raffle tickets are also available.



We welcome all CGP County Association events or announcements! Send at least one month in advance of the event so as to make the deadline for publication. Attention: Newsletter Staff Chicago Gaelic Park office or email to cmfreidy5@comcast.net.

What's going on with your County?

*Antrim Armagh Carlow Cavan
Clare Cork Derry Donegal Down
Dublin Fermanagh Galway
Kerry Kildare Kilkenny Laois
Leitrim Limerick Longford Louth
Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly
Roscommon Sligo Tipperary
Tyrone Waterford Westmeath
Wexford Wicklow*

Sunday Mass and Breakfast and Celtic Supper

Our monthly Mass will be held on February 12 at 10am and March 11 at 9am with a full Irish Breakfast to follow. Sunday Celtic Suppers No Celtic Suppers will be held on February 5 and February 19 due to special events scheduled in the Emerald and Tara Rooms. Suppers will be held on February 12 with the music of Pat Daly and on February 26 with Kara & Jerry Eadie as the entertainment.

Musical Luncheon

Start celebrating the month of your Irish heritage on Wednesday, March 7! Enjoy a wonderful hot meal and enjoy the music of Joe Cullen. Reservations required. St. Patrick's Day, March 17, doors will open at 11am for a very special luncheon will be held. There will be a dance performance by the Cross Keys School of Dancing and entertainment provided by Joe Cullen. Admission to this celebration luncheon is \$25 and tickets must be purchased in advance. Call 708.687.9323 today for your reservations for both luncheons. Groups are welcome!

Ceili and Set Dancing

resumes on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Donation of \$2 a night. Set Dancing is held year round on Monday nights, 7:30-9:30pm with a \$3 weekly fee. Everyone is welcome!

Spring Play at CGP

Coming in April, Try Anything Twice, a hilarious comedy by William Rockel!

Old St. Pat's Series

This monthly series continues through May. The evening begins 6:30pm and discussions at 7pm.
Wednesday, February 15 Bob Kolatorowicz, Adult Spirituality, Old Saint Patrick's Topic: Vocabulary of Faith
Wednesday, March 21 Al Gufstason, Founder Career Transitions Center Topic: Give Us Today our Daily Bread
Wednesday, April 18 Mary Kay Slowikowski, Public Speaker Topic: One Woman's Journey to Grace
Wednesday, May 16 (final night) Dr. Mary Amore, Executive Director of Mayslake Ministries Topic: In the Footsteps of Jesus

Irish Music Sessions in the Pub are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm by Pat Finnegan and Friends. Everyone welcome!



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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Introduce your child to
tin whistle and Irish fiddle.

Tuesday & Wednesday
January 3 and 4 from 4:30-5:30pm
Thursday January 5 from 6:00-7:00pm
followed by an Irish Music Session in the
Carraig Pub at 7:30pm

Recommended for children
aged 7 years and up.
Cost \$15 per child.

Instruction will be led by
Pat Finnegan and friends.



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Yvonne Byrne at
708-687-9323



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For a day of shopping at our

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Featuring 25 of our Top-Rated Vendors

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres

And 25 Great Giveaways!

12:00-3:00pm

Admission \$5.00 at the door

With a Fashion Show Featuring

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(708) 687-9323 / www.chicagogaelpark.org*



A Romantic Valentine's Day Dinner at The Carraig Irish Pub

Tuesday February 14, 2012

\$60.00 per Couple

Reservations are required,
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ask for our Bar Manager
Yvonne Byrne and make
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Your delicious meal includes Soup, Salad, your
entrée of Filet Mignon & Shrimp, vegetable,
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ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER & SHOW STARRING
LEAHY'S LUCK, SATURDAY, MARCH 17 TICKETS \$45 EA

Free Matinee at Gaelic Park Sunday February 12 @ 2:00pm Michael Collins

**His dreams inspired hope. His words ignited passion.
His courage forged a nation's destiny**

Michael Collins is a historical
biographical film, produced in
Ireland starring Liam Neeson
as General Michael Collins, the
Irish patriot and revolutionary
who died in the Irish Civil War.

This film is written and directed
by Neil Jordan and also stars
Aidan Quinn, Stephen Rea and
Julia Roberts with musical per-
formances by Sinead O'Connor.



John Harney, a visiting
Professor of History at DePaul
will be in attendance for discussion regarding this movie.

6119 W. 147th Street – Oak Forest, IL. 60452
708-687-9323 – www.chicagogaelpark.org

Stay for dinner after the movie –
Food in the pub from 3 to 8pm,
or our Celtic Supper starting at 4pm.

Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner

THE HEALY LAW FIRM

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

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

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

Toyota and Sudden Acceleration Cases

For over two years, Toyota Motor Company has been featured prominently in news reports concerning accidents, injuries and even deaths caused by sudden and unexplained acceleration occurring in certain model Toyotas. Now, some of those claims are coming to trial in courts throughout the country.

After initially admitting that problems with the gas pedals caused some cars to accelerate when drivers did not intend, issuing three recalls, and actually settling one case, Toyota has now begun to defend vigorously these claims. It appears that the defense strategy is to simply blame the driver.

Toyota Sudden Acceleration Recalls

The recalls began in 2009 when Toyota received reports of unintended acceleration. The first recall, in November 2009, was to correct a problem with an out-of-place front driver's side floor mat in the foot pedal well. Toyota claimed that the floor mats were causing the accelerator pedal to become entrapped, which, in turn, resulted in unexpected acceleration.

However, the same problems continued after the floor mats were recalled. Toyota continued to receive reports of unintended acceleration by Toyota drivers. After several of these crashes were found not to have been caused by the floor mat, Toyota issued a second recall in January 2010. This time, the defect was identified as a possible mechanical sticking of the accelerator pedal causing unintended acceleration. The next month, in February 2010, Toyota issued a third recall for its hybrid anti-lock braking software.

According to Toyota, by the end of January 2010, the recalls affected over 9 million vehicles worldwide, including some related Lexus models. As of that time, 37 deaths were alleged to have resulted from the sudden acceleration problem. That number has increased in the last two years.

Toyota litigation hitting full stride



In February 2011, Toyota recalled an additional 2 million vehicles for gas pedals that became trapped on floor hardware. Today, Toyota is facing

over 300 lawsuits for injuries and deaths allegedly caused by unintended acceleration in 2009 and 2010.

Some of these cases are now moving closer and closer to trial. As they do, the plaintiffs' theories of liability and Toyota's theories of defense have become clearer. The plaintiffs in these cases allege that certain Toyota vehicles were defective, and that Toyota had the technology to implement a brake override system as a safety solution for the sudden acceleration problems, but chose not to do so. In a departure from its earlier willingness to settle these types of claims, Toyota now argues that the actions of the driver error were the reasons for sudden acceleration in many cases.

One such case, filed in the U.S. District Court in California, was brought by the family of a Utah man who crashed into a stone wall after exiting interstate 80. The man and his soon-to-be daughter-in-law died as a result of the crash. The man's wife and son reported to police that the man had tried to apply his brakes but could not. Police identified skid marks leading up to the scene of the crash. This evidence would indicate that the plaintiff was attempting to brake while the car was accelerating, but was unable to do so.

Toyota denies that the lack of a brake override system was a cause of the accident, and claims that any injuries to the plaintiffs in that case "were caused in whole or in part" by the driver's actions. In that case, Toyota intends to rely on evidence from the car's black box recorders that the driver never hit the brakes. However, the information in the black box recorder is limited to only a few seconds before a crash. The case is set to be tried in February 2013.

Toyota changed its stance on sudden acceleration

Toyota's most recent position on this matter stands in contrast to the position Toyota took when the scope of the recall appeared more limited. In September 2010, Toyota paid \$10 million to settle the case of one California family. In that case, an off-duty police officer crashed into a ravine near San Diego, killing the officer, his wife, 13 year-old daughter, and brother. Attempts to keep the amount of the settlement confidential were rejected by a California Superior Court judge. Toyota claims that the California settlement was not an admission of liability to be used against it in future cases. Instead, Toyota now intends to defend many of these claims on theories revolving around driver error.

Product Liability Claims

At The Healy Law Firm, we have represented clients injured by dangerous consumer products, and have investigated several claims regarding sudden acceleration in Toyota vehicles. Product liability litigation encourages corporations to act in a responsible manner.

As the problems with Toyota vehicles indicate, while progress in automotive safety has been made, there still remains on our roads, many vehicles with dangerous defects. If you or a loved one has been injured by a defective product, automotive, drugs or other types of consumer products, you should seek legal advice.

We hope that the coming year will be a safe one for you and your family.

BY: Martin Healy Jr. Patrick C. Anderson, pictured: (right)





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What's a Fleadh? An Irish festival, of course!

MARCH 10, 2012

For more details, hotel information or to register,

visit www.oak-forest.org

call 708-687-4600

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8:30 a.m. Fleadh 5K
10 a.m. Open Bike Ride
11 a.m. Parade
5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Pub & Restaurant Open House
Stay at the Best Western for only \$69.99, plus tax



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IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Valentine's Day Hooley

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and love is in the air, or at least in the Fifth Province at the IAHC. We will celebrate the holiday again with our annual Valentine's Day Hooley.

Join us for an evening of live music, dancing and matchmaking in front of the



Fifth Province fireplace. The Hooley is Sunday, February 12, at 4pm. The cost is \$12 and includes light refreshments, live music with Gerry Haughey and Teresa Shine, dancing and a cash bar. To purchase tickets, call the Center at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or purchase at the door.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Center continues its tradition of its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this February, beginning on February 22 and running through Friday, April 6, from 6:30pm-9pm in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music begins at 9pm.



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with 2 Parties

The Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March.

What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof. People wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay late, beating the bar crowds and cold weather.

On Saturday, March 17, the Center holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day



Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities

begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Performers include the the Irish Heritage Singers, Shannon Rovers, the Wiggleworms, Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, the Sullivan Brothers, Larry Nugent and Bill O'Donoghue, Mulligan Stew, the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, the Trinity School of Irish Dance, the Rebecca McCarthy School of Irish Dance, the Mulhern School of Irish Dance and the Mullane Healy Godley Academy of Irish Dance.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 15. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

On Sunday, March 18, the fun doesn't end! Come back for more with the St. Patrick's Afterparty. The fun begins at 10:30am with mass in the Auditorium, followed by an Irish breakfast, catered by Harrington's in the Erin Room. The cost for breakfast is \$10 and reservations are necessary and must be made by March 14. Following breakfast, there will be a full day of music and fun in the Fifth Province with live music, step dancing, and face painting for children. The entertainment, which runs from 1pm to 9:30pm and closing time is 10pm, includes Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, the Sandcarvers and Barry Fagan's Band. Tickets are \$10 at the door and children 12 and under are free.

For information and to purchase select tickets, call 773-282-7035 or visit www.irish-american.org.

Shamrock Kids Valentine's Day Party



Parents, bring your kids to the Shamrock Kids Club Valentine's Day Party this February.

At the party, kids can create Valentine's Day Cards to share with friends and enjoy Heart Dogs (Hot Dogs) for \$1. The party is on Friday, February 10 from 6pm to 8pm and the cost is \$4 for members and \$5 for visitors.

Reservations are a must and can be made at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 by February 9.



Show Your Colors with the Wearing of the Green

March is practically St. Patrick's Month at the Center and what better way to kick it off in style with the fifth annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance.

Festivities include dancing and music by Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, a sit-down dinner, catered by Harrington's Catering, spot prizes and a raffle. The menu will include corned beef and cabbage, chicken entrees and more. There will be a cash bar available.

Reservations are necessary and must be made by February 27 and tickets will not be sold at the door. The dance is Sunday, March 4, from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40. Reservations must be made by calling the IAHC Center office at 773-282-7035.



GIFT SHOP SALE FEBRUARY!

TAKE 20% OFF ALL JEWELRY



IAHC Members Receive a 10% discount on all orders over \$10. VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS and CASH always welcome.

Store Hours:

Monday Closed
 Tuesday 11am-8pm
 Wednesday 11am-8pm
 Thursday 11am-8pm
 Friday 11am-10pm
 Saturday 11am-10pm
 Sunday Closed

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IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

To place an order call 773-282-7035, ext. 14

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME
 Announcing the 2012 Candidates!

Winners Announced in March!

Art & Humanities:

Tommy Makem
 John Ford
 George M. Cohan
 F. Scott Fitzgerald
 Bing Crosby
 James Cagney
 John Huston
 Gene Kelly
 Michael Flatley

Business & Industry:

Patrick Ryan
 George Meany
 Daniel Rooney

Education:

Emmet Larkin
 Loretta Brennan Glucksman
 Lawrence McCaffrey
 John Lahey

Public Service:

Robert F. Kennedy
 Richard M. Daley
 Tip O'Neill
 Fighting Sullivan Brothers
 Mother Jones
 John Barry
 Thomas F. Meager
 Audie Murphy

Religion:

Fr. Edward Flanagan
 Archbishop John Carroll
 Mother Clarke
 Msgr. Ignatius McDermott
 Fr. Mychal Judge

Science:

Cyrus McCormick
 John Philip Holland
 Michael Collins
 Eileen Collins

Sports:

John L. Sullivan
 Gene Tunney
 Connie Mack
 John McGraw

SAVE THE DATE!
 Awards Gala is April 28, 2012!



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



President's Message

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2011 was a great year for the Center and 2012 promises to be even a brighter year.

Over the holidays, I had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time at the Center. During that time, a few members came up to me and said something like "You should go home, it's the holidays". I thanked them for their kind words.....but, I was at home. And, I hope when you are at the Center, you feel as

though you are at home.

The Center is home to me and you as well. Why else would we spend time here, volunteer, donate, work, eat, play, dance, go to mass, read and have fun here?

Why would we all work so hard to raise funds and keep the place up? The Center must be home or why else would we work so hard to preserve our culture and plan how to pass on the Center to our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and generations to come?

WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

We do all this and more because we are home. We are blessed to have the Center.

But, with that blessing comes an awesome responsibility; the responsibility to continue the mission and vision of the founders today, tomorrow and in the future.

Please continue to help with this responsibility in 2012. Your help can take many forms....

- Volunteering Time and Talent
- Financial contributions



- Renewing your membership
- Joining an IAHC club or group
- Eating in the 5th Province
- Voting in elections
- Helping to attract new members

Heritage Gift Shop

- Finding corporate sponsors for events
- Renting rooms for parties and gatherings

- Attending Town Hall meetings
- Planned giving
- Donating items
- Attending cultural events
- Offering suggestions
-and more!

The Center wants your help and needs your help.

2012 will be a great year for us. I look forward to seeing you often at home this year. It's really a nice home!

John Crowley Gorski

Annual Appeal Continues

The Annual Appeal is a very important element of our overall funding. We thank you for your contributions, past and present, and urge to once again think of the Center and make a donation. We are working hard to preserve Irish heritage and provide our members and friends with the events and programming you have come to expect from the Center.

We are on the road to success, but we do need your contribution.

Your contribution will be enhanced once again by the matching program offered by Pat and Peggy Burke. We thank them for their continued generosity.

All gifts made to the Annual Appeal are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

The names below are contributors from December 1 through January 15, 2012. We will continue to list donor names through the March 2012 issue.

Benefactor (\$500-\$999)

Anne McGarrigle
Thomas J. Moriarty

Patron (\$250-499)

Thomas J. Boyle
Tim R. FitzSimons
Margaret M. Fric, *in memory of Ryann McCarthy*
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Annabell V. O'Malley
Thomas E. O'Shea

Advocate (\$100-\$249)

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Martin Duffy
John Regan Farwick
Jim and Ann Geraghty
Stephen Goldspiel
Mary E. Griffin

Daniel Hartnett
Helene R. Hembreiker
Michael L. Igoe
Ann and Jim Hogan *Thank You All!*
Marilyn Jancewicz
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Marie and Michael Lally
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Patrick J. Harrison, *in memory of Alena Murphy Harrison*
Virginia McLaughlin
Tom and Mary McNamara
William and Donna Mullaly
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Mike and Kathleen Nash
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Gerald O'Donnell
Mary Phee
Denise Ponzetti
Tim and Maureen Richardson
Eva Sheehan
Eileen Sheridan
Joan Slattery, *in memory of Cecilia O'Hara Slattery*
Margaret Trelford
Bridget Viglione
Mary Ann Zalinski

2012 Committee Chairs Needed

2012 Genealogy Fest Co-Chairs

with Chicagoland employers, including Irish businesses in Chicago.

To help organize a one day Genealogy Fest at the Center featuring seminars, lectures and vendor booths to help attendees connect with their past.

GOAL: Members and guests are energized to connect with their Irish past and become active in their own research as they utilize the IAHC as a resource.

2012 Business/Job Fair Co-Chairs

To help organize a one day event that would feature booths



GOAL: Members and guests attend to network with potential employers.

2012 Teen Events Co-Chairs

To help plan and implement activities for teens at the IAHC.

GOAL: Energize teens to become active and contributing members at the IAHC.

2012 Cookbook Co-Chairs

To help gather recipes from members and then work with a publisher to produce the book.

GOAL: Highlight the talent of our membership and raise funds through book sales.

Please call 773-282-7035, ext. 32 to volunteer.

Meet the Volunteer Coordinator

Carmel O'Kane, a long time member of the Center, is our new volunteer coordinator.

This volunteer position is crucial for the Center. O'Kane, who is a retired nurse, has her degrees in nursing and a Masters in Pastoral Counseling and has held a variety of managerial positions in the nursing field during her career. She will help the Center update and keep current the personnel record/files of our many hard-working volunteers.

By having our files organized and up to date, we can better utilize the skills and talents of those who have offered their time to help us make the Center the best place it can be for Irish American culture.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Carmel O'Kane through the Center at 773-282-7035. She will be at the Center various days and times each week.

Rummage Sale

Sellers and Vendors Wanted!

Clean out the basement, raid the attic, look in the closet and be a part of the Center's Rummage Sale.

Our first annual Rummage Sale is Saturday, February 25, 11am to 5pm. This indoor event is a fun way to sell some items you have and maybe pick up some more!

The charge for one 4x8 table and two chairs is \$10 each for members and \$15 for guests. You can also purchase more than one table, based on a space available basis. Sales and profits of goods sold go to the seller. However, if an exhibitor would care to make a donation to the Center, it would be greatly appreciated.

Acceptable items for sale include antiques, books, flatware, household items, clothing, dishware, tools, artwork and more.

Banned items for sale include, but are not limited to firearms, fireworks and illegal or offensive items. The event is free, open to the public and food will be available for purchase.

Exhibitors must reserve space by calling the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 and reserving tables by February 10.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Think You're So Smart?

Test your trivia knowledge with Quiz Night at the Center.

The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province Pub.

Quiz Nights are Fridays February 17, March 23, April 20 and May 18.



For more information, call 773-282-7035.

It's the Real McCoy

Get ready for a night of drama and comedy, direct from Ireland, as a brand new three-act Irish comedy hits the IAHC, for two nights only!

It's the Real McCoy is set in rural Ireland in 1964 and focuses on the life of 68 year-old Madge Mulloy who has spent more than 40 years struggling to survive on a small farm with her only daughter Maura. Sadly, Madge has had to live with the fact that her husband Tom simply vanished within five months of marrying her, without trace.

The play centers around Tom's homecoming and explanation of his disappearance. What unfolds on stage is a combination of high drama, amazing Irish wit and a happy ending.



It's been two years now since Tommy Marren, a broadcaster on Midwest Radio in Mayo, arrived in town with a play entitled *The Banshee of Crokey Hill*, and he returns for four shows in March that promises to deliver rip-roaring comedy, fascinating plots and sub plots and some riveting drama.

There are seven characters in the production with two of Ireland's nosiest neighbors constantly appearing in Madge's kitchen, at the most inappropriate moments! Nora O'Hora and her daughter Cora definitely add spice to the plot! The local postman Martin Daly is played by Midwest Radio presenter Gerry Glennon and the local curate Fr. Michael McCoy is played by the writer and director Tommy Marren.

It's the Real McCoy comes to the Center for two shows in March. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door and can be purchased at 773-282-7035, ext.10.

PIOBAIRI

PIOBAIRI, a piping presentation hosted by Pat Cannady and Friends returns to the Fifth Province Pub in 2012.

Come and sample the pub menu and enjoy the music on selected Saturday afternoons from 5 to 7pm.

Dates are:

Feb 4	Jun 2
Feb 18	Jun 16
Mar 3	
Apr 7	
May 5	



Wish List

In February, we wish you would:

- Attend the Annual Hooley for a great night of music and dance
- Get your tickets for the Wearing of the Green Dinner
- Sign up to volunteer this March for our many events

Town Hall Meeting

Center members, join the Center for a President's Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 7:30pm.

Bring yourself and your thoughts and ideas and join your fellow members and learn what we are working on and what we have in store for 2012!

Culture Corner

Visit the **IAHC Library**

- for research and lending of our extensive collection, book signings, lectures and activities

the **Genealogy Club**

- for monthly meetings on finding your roots

the **Art Gallery**

- for Exhibits, lectures and art classes

and the **Museum**

- for our collection and special exhibits



HOURS

Genealogy Monthly Meetings

The last Sunday of every month at 1pm (except December)

Museum

Call our office for a docent led 45 minute tour

Art Gallery

Special exhibits throughout the year

Library

Mondays and Wednesdays 4-8pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1 pm
Friday closed
Saturday 9-3pm
Sunday open on the 2nd and last Sunday of the month



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

February 2012

February 1	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
February 3	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
February 5	Superbowl Party	Fifth Province	5pm
February 10	Shamrock Kids Club Valentine's Party	Rm 310	6pm
February 11	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
February 11	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
February 12	Valentine's Day Hooley	Fifth Province	4pm
February 14	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
February 16	Town Hall Meeting	Sham Amer Rm	7:30pm
February 17	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
February 21	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7pm
February 25	Rummage Sale	1st Flr Hallway	11am
February 26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
February 28	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am

Regularly scheduled events

Golden Diners Lunch Program in Kitchen Tuesday through Sat 12:30pm-2pm
 Memoir Writing Class at 7pm in the Shamrock American Club Room

If you have an iPhone and the Kaywa Quick Response Code Reader App, scan the code to the right and be taken directly to the Irish American Heritage Center website!





the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT All shows start after 9 p.m.

February 2012

Fri, 2/3	Ceili Mor
Sat, 2/4	In Spite of Ourselves
Fri, 2/10	Shara Maxwell Jazz Night
Sat, 2/11	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Fri, 2/17	Joe McShane
Sat, 2/18	Dooley Brothers
Fri, 2/24	Matt Stedman Band
Sat, 2/25	Andy O'Driscoll and Martin Doyle



No Cover Free Parking

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

BECOME A MEMBER

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

The Irish American Heritage Center Membership
 4626 N. Knox Ave
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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways, follow the IAHC on Facebook and Twitter



Find us on Facebook



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Our Mission

The mission of the Irish American Heritage Center is to nurture and strengthen Irish culture and heritage through programs emphasizing Irish music, literature, drama, traditional dancing, fine arts, and the constructive contributions of Irish and Irish-Americans to the United States of America. The Irish American Heritage Center supports this mission by maintaining its resources including the:

MUSEUM	IRISH SCHOOL
ARCHIVES	CHOIR
ART GALLERY	LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM	THEATRE GROUP

And other related programs and partnerships, while providing a gathering place for the Irish American community and those interested in Irish culture.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: John Gorski Mary Gorski Mary Griffin
 Mary Morris Sheila Murphy Michael Boyle

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Hoping That It Will Just Go Away

I didn't think that I would be writing about Vita Cortex, the Cork manufacturing plant. I really didn't. I had thought that by now even a Government as uncaring by choice and ruthless, self-serving, brutal and wicked by nature would have felt that even they were obliged to find a way out this mess by now. I give Fine Gael too much credit, I really do.

The foam packaging manufacturers closed down before Christmas with the lofty and unfeeling announcement that their workers could take a



hike if they thought that they would be getting any redundancy payment. Oh yeah, and Merry bloody Christmas to you. Now get lost. We're closed.

So the workers did the only thing that they could, under the circumstances: they began a sit-in, which as I write this has now been going on just a couple of days shy of one month. This is an absolute disgrace. Even by the levels of callousness that we have come to expect here, this is totally without shame. These 32 people have been sleeping on stone floors over Christmas, missing out on that time with their families and because they know that if they move they will never see a penny of what they have worked long years for. And it's not as if they are looking for anything approaching what useless politicians and bankers routinely give themselves as golden handshakes. No, they're looking for €2 million for 847 years between 32 of them. That's €7,500 each. Hell, we've known politi-

cians who wouldn't think twice of grabbing that as travelling expenses for the year.

The staff were told that it was all down to NAMA (what isn't in this Godforsaken country?) and they would only see what they were entitled to if those worthies could see themselves willing to free the deposit of €5 million that is being held by the sister company. NAMA however says: "Our objective is to minimise the losses of the taxpayer and unfortunately we cannot release funds from one company in NAMA to pay the debt of another."

Did you ever hear such bloody codology? Of course our shower of swinish politicians seized on this as an opportunity to say: "Woe is me! Our hands are tied. We're not to blame. It's those bad Nama people. They've explained that if we paid these people their redundancy it wouldn't be LEGAL!" In the name of justice, they're paying former developers €00,000 a year!

It's just the same old story in Ireland. Look after the big boys, even when they have made a monumental balls of things and screw the little people.

Well, as more than one person has pointed out, Enda Kenny had no compunction about breaking the rules when he looked after his party crony Ciaran Conlon so nicely last month. Or there was Willie Penrose being handed €0,000 after resigning his super-junior minister post... after eight months.

The really galling thing is that their excuse for freezing the money is because it has to be used to repay the € million debt that is owed by the owner—Jack Ronan—to Allied Irish Bank. So because he's getting helped out his ex-workers have to suffer. Well, there's no fear of this guy feeling the pinch. He's involved in supermarkets, stud farms and retail parks to name just a few. Incredibly, some of the businesses he's involved in actually owe money to Vita Cortex. (He is

also the cousin of that other NAMAd property developer Johnny Ronan, known as "the Buccaneer" to his many sycophants. He, of course, has spent most of the year without a care in the world, swanning around the Mediterranean.) He's a director of National By-Products. What I'm saying is that if you took everything that this guy has a hand in into account he would hardly feel it if he paid the €2 million out of his own pocket; but we know that this isn't going to happen.

On Thursday 12th some of the workers left the sit-in temporarily to take their case to the Dail, where they were joined by hundreds of supporters, though of course—predictably—no one from Fine Gael had the time to speak to them.

You know, the newspapers and in particular the tabloids have a lot of venomous things said about them, but without them scandals like this would be allowed to fade away. Make no mistake, that's what this Government had hoped would happen. That people would have enough to worry about themselves these days, without bothering their heads about 32 workers down in Cork. Yet so many journalists have just refused to let this one go. In particular I think that the Irish Daily Mail deserves full credit for its campaign, which has gone on every single day; and a nod also to the very outspoken Terry McGeehan from the Irish Daily Star. There were others and every one of them has made sure that Enda and Company are not being allowed to brush this one away.

I hope that it has been resolved by the time that you read this. If it has been it is only because Fine Gael and Nama have been dragged, kicking and screaming, to a resolution.

Finally, when someone dies here it's normal to hear the dreaded phrase "tributes poured in" and those tributes are usually from someone who hated the dearly departed guts. So for a change it's good to read some genuine ones and to add my own very few words. Mary Raftery has passed away at the age of 54. The journalist and broadcaster worked hard in the industry since the mid-eighties but will doubtless be best remembered for her 1999 documentary States of Fear where we began to learn for the first time the full extent of the abuse being carried out under the guise of religion. It was thanks to Miss Raftery that we got see the Ryan Report. Certainly the Church wasn't interested in seeing it come out.

Still, one of the tributes yesterday came from Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Diarmuid Martin who admitted that because of the work of Mary Raftery "the Church is a better place for children." That says a lot.

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Strictly Commercial

By Kevin O'Donnell and Susan Farmer



If you're anything like us, you've admired the craftsmanship at McNally's Irish Pub in St. Charles. Walking through the pub doors is like crossing the ocean and being brought straight to Ireland. But what you may not know is that owner Maurice McNally custom built out the restaurant through his design build construction company, Avondale Custom Homes and his custom woodworking company. Over 25 years ago Maurice started Custom Woodworking, Inc. which offers handcrafted millwork, cabinetry, and trim. From there, he went on to building homes and commercial projects through Avondale. His experience in commercial projects range from a number of restaurants, including McGonigal's Pub in Barrington, to office suites and retail sites throughout the Chicagoland area. We recently sat down with Maurice to talk about the commercial build out process.

O'Donnell Commercial (O): Being in the construction business, you had a leg up as to what to look for when choosing a new pub location. How should commercial tenants select a location from a construction point of view?

Maurice McNally (M): Yes, my construction experience does help me evaluate the pros and cons of previous construction. Therefore,

most companies or restaurants 1-2 months to find the space they need. Add another month at minimum for negotiations and attorney review. That is three months before the space is even ready for construction. When we work hand in hand with brokers, we are able to bring in architects and necessary construction professionals during negotiation so that we can be ready for construction as soon as proper documents are signed. But many times, we aren't brought in till the 11th hour, meaning we have to play catch up on the project.

O: Avondale has in-house architectural services, right?

M: Yes, Avondale offers architectural services, but also works with a variety of local architects. As long as there is a cohesive team for a tenant that includes commercial real estate representation, construction, and architecture they are in good hands.

O: We recommend tenants to bid out three contractors for projects. How do you feel about this and what should a tenant look for in a contractor?

M: Absolutely. Interviewing and bidding out contractors is important. The contractor you choose is essential to the success of your commercial site. Even if you have the best architecture plans, if the contractor who needs to execute them correctly, on time and in budget. I'm all for keeping the business in the family, but saving money by hiring your cousin to dry wall a space may end up costing you more in the end.

Unless your family members are licensed and bonded, and practice that construction field daily, it may cost you more in the end to use them than choosing a well regarded contractor.

I make sure to spend time with my clients prior to build out. We tour office suites I have built out, grab lunch at the pub to talk about construction elements there, or merely listen to them as they discuss their business plan. Understanding the direction of the company or restaurant, and the budget constraints they may have, is important. Therefore, if a contractor isn't putting their time up front in getting to know you, chances are they won't put the time in later on to fix any construction errors or kinks that may have developed after occupancy.

O'Donnell Commercial had the opportunity to represent Maurice in the purchase of the new McNally's Pub in St. Charles. We continue to work hand in hand with his firm suggesting them for bids on new commercial projects to any of our clients. For more information on Avondale Custom Homes or to start the search for your new commercial site, contact us today. We promise to help you with your office, medical, retail, or industrial lease or purchase every step of the way, starting with finding the right contractor.

kevin@odcre.com
susie@odcre.com 630.444.0444

I believe it is essential to involve a contractor as early as possible. I have been included in a number of site searches where I helped evaluate office spaces and restaurant establishments to estimate build out timing and costs before any lease or purchase document was signed. Avondale is more than happy to work directly with a commercial real estate broker and tenant to tour perspective spaces.

O: So you can work directly with our firm and a tenant to evaluate approximate timing on build outs?

M: Yes. Many tenants may not understand the time needed to build out a commercial space. Build out doesn't just involved the contractor. We team up with an architect to design the space, then bring those plans to the proper city for permitting, and finally start construction. The permit process and applications can be quite cumbersome and lengthy, taking up to about 30 days in certain cities. Meaning we can't even start construction for a month.

O: We advise people all the time to start their search for space anywhere from 6-12 months out for most commercial needs, longer if they require a larger space or more built out. Would you say that is true?

M: Definitely. In my experience, it takes

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Safe Home

By Heather Begley



more productive armed with the following tips:

Clear communication. Mutual understanding of the symptoms and

Be Proactive at the Doctor's Office

When you have an injury or are not feeling well, it is stressful and unfortunately, your attention may be focused on the pain and not on what you need to do to get better. By being proactive and articulating your concerns at the doctor's office, you are actively participating in your own well-being. While many medical treaters are providing outstanding patient care, some are failing their patients. Patients' concerns may not be fully addressed because it can be intimidating at the doctor's office and overwhelming when you are diagnosed with a medical condition. It is important to be an active part of receiving quality health care for yourself. Make your next doctor's appointment

the treatment plan is essential to receiving better health care. Tell the nurse and physician all of your symptoms and make sure that all of your questions are answered. If there is any confusion, ask for clarification. Bring your spouse or a friend along. In addition to providing moral support, another person's presence may help with communication.

Ask for a treatment plan. Request a plan laying out the next steps and a time frame for what to do if you have any new symptoms and do not see improvement.

Arrive prepared. Before your appointment, write down your concerns and any questions you have for the doctor. This step will help you to avoid getting sidetracked at the appointment. Insist on having your questions answered. Remember that even though your doctor's office is busy, your health is of primary importance and getting your questions answered is the key to better care and treatment.

Take notes during the appointment. If you do not write down the treatment plan, you might forget it. If you are confused or do not understand any aspect of the plan, such as the amount of medicine or the results of a test, tell the doctor.

Ask your doctor and nurse, "When will I feel better?" You may need additional medical attention if you are not healing or getting better. By knowing what to expect, you will know if something is going awry.

The next time that you receive medical treatment, consider taking more notes and asking more questions, for your own health and well-being.

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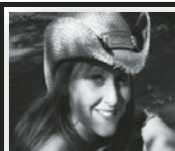
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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



forward to seeing the Kelly Truth Squad in full regalia now that he has a Chicago Press Pass.

Kelly has run for Congress and

Sate Comptroller over the years but hasn't won anything, yet. Now he's on the ballot for Republican Ward Committeeman of the 42nd Ward. He tells me, "My plan is in rapid fire to become Chairman of the Chicago GOP."

In this presidential election year a lot more folks will be taking Republican ballots than in the past so this primary in the 42nd Ward could be a scrum. And if there is anyplace Kelly has the advantage it's in close combat with those who want to deny him his shot.

The Democrats have locked up Chicago and Cook County for decades. It's a one party system and that has led to fat politicians with fatter wallets. But it's our dough in those wallets so William Kelly has a plan.

"If anybody does not believe that we have reached political rock bottom in Chicago, I can simply tell you this: There is currently no Republican candidate slated in my ward for congress, state senate, state rep, Cook County States Attorney, Water Reclamation District or Board of Review."

If Kelly is running the Chicago GOP, "I will have a candidate in every one of those races."

Kelly first showed up on my radar in 1993. I was watching the news and a report came on of a young man removed from President Bill Clinton's Chicago press conference for shouting out a question. I loathed Clinton and leaned into the TV. Turns out the kid was Bill Kelly from Beverly, went to my alma mater Christ The King, so I called his house that night to congratulate him and his dad answered the phone and told me Bill was in federal custody at the Metropolitan Correctional Center downtown.

"That was an experience that changed my life obviously," say Kelly.

The next day they hauled Kelly into court and he heard the bailiff announce, "The United States of America vs. William J. Kelly."

He had been charged with a federal crime, a

catchall statute, "being in a federally secured area where the President of the United States was temporarily located."

Bill was released 24 hours later. "I immediately went to old St. Pat's church and said a prayer."

Ed Vrdolyak defended Kelly. He was a Republican then and he asked Bill, "Who's your congressman? Maybe we can get your congressman to help?"

Kelly lived in the district of former Black Panther Bobby Rush.

Vrdolyak told him, "Your congressman, when he was your age, was advocating violent revolution and the overthrow of the American government and now he's a congressman and here you ask about a tax cut at a town meeting and you're being charged with a federal crime. Do you see any irony here?"

Eddie V then advised Kelly, "You should run against Bobby Rush for congress!"

The day Kelly announced his candidacy; they dropped all charges against him.

Wild Bill Kelly has been fighting the good fight ever since.

"I became a Republican when the Democratic Party became what I perceive

to be anti-everything that I believe in. I could have very easily been the number one precinct captain in the 19th Ward but for the fact that the Democrats sold out."

And that is when, as Yeats would say, "a terrible beauty was born"

If you live in the 42nd Ward you've probably seen Bill Kelly in the hood. He's lived there for over a decade. Maybe you should give him a



Wild Bill Kelly at it again!

Kelly is the thorn in the side of liberal media dweebs. Maybe you saw his confrontation with candidate Rahm Emmanuel last year. Kelly and his camera crew caught up with Rahm on the mayoral campaign trail and Wild Bill asked him a question.

KELLY: Rahm, there are a lot of people that speculate that the stimulus was actually just a payback to your Wall Street friends that made you a multi-millionaire.

EMANUEL: Heh heh.

KELLY: What do you say to those people?

Good question William, except the tiny dancer ignored him and walked away so WLS reporter Charles Thomas and CBS wimp Jay Levine could throw softballs to Rahm and kiss his butt like most of the media did during the campaign. But Kelly would not be denied and asked "What about the residency issue?" The old guard reporters were appalled at the temerity of The Kelly Truth Squad as he refused to back down and they tried elbowing him out of the interview so they could protect Rahm from this right wing interloper.

They became especially agitated when Kelly asked of Thomas and Levine, "Are you his press secretary?"

Finally Jay Levine screamed at Kelly, "... I'm going to deck you!!"

It was the contretemps of the campaign and Kelly pressed charges for assault. It was thrown out in court because the judge probably believed Jay Levine could never "deck" anybody, including his sister.

Not long after that Kelly was asked to leave a press conference after inquiring of Senator Dick Durbin if he felt any responsibility for the nation losing its credit rating.

One of the other reporters then told Kelly, "You can't ask questions at a press conference."

That absurd declaration epitomizes the political theatre William J. Kelly creates whenever he's on the scene in his role as conservative provocateur. He drives the left wing media nuts and puts the pols into paroxysms.

Kelly had been operating without press credentials until just recently so we can look

second look when you cast your Republican ballot for Ward Committeeman.

Everybody always knew the Harlem Globetrotters were going to beat the Washington Generals every time they met on the basketball court. Chicago politics works the same way, the fix is in and everybody knows it. If it was legit, the fans might have seen a better game.

Maybe it's time to give the ball to Wild Bill Kelly.

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Try Your Luck at Twenty-Five

Introduction and Compilation

by Michael Boyle

If you've ever been looking for a game steeped in Irish origins, you may just be in luck with the game of 25, a fast-paced card game from the rural pubs of Ireland. The ranking order of cards is a little different than most games, but after a few hands, you won't even think about it. You and your opponents play with a hand of five cards each and are tasked with taking tricks. Each trick is worth five points, and the first person to 25 points wins the game.

Twenty-five games are played every Friday evening in the Fifth Province lounge at the Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N Knox in Chicago at 7:30pm. Beginners and advanced players are all welcome. Instruction is available.

Introduction

Twenty-Five could be considered the national card game of Ireland: it is played widely in rural pubs and at home. The game moves quite quickly - it does not take long to play a hand. Though there is luck involved, there is also some scope for skill. It is normally played by about five people but can be played by as few as two or as many as ten. The ranking order of the cards may seem a little arcane at first, but with a little practice it becomes second nature.

As well as the basic game, there are more complicated bidding versions called 55, 110 or 220 depending on the final score to be attained.

Players

The game is normally played by from 3 to 9 people; two-player and ten-player games are possible, but the two-player game is not very interesting and ten players might prefer to split into two five-player games. Any number can play as individuals; 4, 6 or 8 (or 10) can play in pairs, partners sitting opposite each other; the nine-player game can be played between three teams of three, each player sitting between members of the two other teams. The most common number of players in a game is 6. In large tournaments, the most common format is 9 players.

Hall of Fame

Continued from page 4

United States took place in December 2011 and votes are currently being tabulated. The 2012 inductees will be announced on March 1.

The IAHO's goal is to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States. The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC). While the Hall of Fame is an organization born of and operated under the auspices of the IAHC, it will be overseen by a separate governing committee and have a national focus. The IAHO's initial emphasis will be on electronic and online information and inductees are commemorated with a display at the IAHC. The vision is for a bricks-and-mortar museum to be founded as the hall of fame grows. The Awards Gala recognizing the 2012 inductees will be held on April 28, 2012 at the Irish American Heritage Center.

Object of the Game

The object of the game is to be the first player or team to twenty five points, scoring five points per trick. This will usually take two or more deals. For an evening of fun, players or teams will play the first to 5 games and offer a prize for the winning team.

Play

One card is played by each player, in turn, starting with the player to the left of the dealer and continuing clockwise, to player's left, around the table. The winner of the trick is determined by who played the highest card in that round. The winner gets five points (on his way to 25). Points are added up based on tricks won. If a player or team reached 25 points (including points earned in previous rounds), that player/team wins. If more than one player/team reaches 25 points in the same round, the player/team who reached 25 points first is the winner.



If no player or team reaches 25 points, the deal is given to the player to the left of the last dealer and a new round begins.

Players must always follow the suit of the first player to play in a trick, if possible. If a non-trump is played, that suit must be followed but a trump can always be played. If a non-trump is led and a subsequent player does not have a card of that suit, that player can play any card of any suit and is not required to play a trump. If a trump is led, if possible a card of the trump suit must be played with the exceptions be the 5 and Jack of trumps, and the Ace of hearts. (See below for rules.) If a trump is led and a subsequent player does not have a trump, that player can play any card.

The card that is lead can only be bettered with a better card in the same suit or with a trump. The player who wins a trick, plays the first card for the next trick.

Any trump suit card beats every non-trump suit card, (except the Ace of Hearts, which will be explained below).

The only time in which a player may choose not to follow trump suit is when the player has one of the best 3 cards in the deck - the 5 of

trumps, Jack of trumps, or Ace of hearts. These cards can be renege unless a better card has been led. This means that the 5 of trumps can always be renege. A player might wish to save a powerful card if he believes that another player is saving another strong card, or if the player is trying to prevent a different team from winning a game. The action of holding a card in this fashion is known as "renegeing."

Points are added from round to round until a player or team reaches 25 and wins.

Once a player has revealed his card to players, that card is deemed to be played.

A common question among players who are not paying attention is to ask "what was led". They want to know the name of the suit of the card that was played first in that round. A common answer to this question is something like "heart led, spades up" or "hearts led, spades trump".

Ranking Order of Cards

Twenty-Five is played with a standard 52-card pack with jokers removed. In each deal,

one suit will be chosen as trumps. The rank of cards is different depending on the color of the suit and whether it is trumps. From high to low, the cards rank as follows:

Trump suit: The rank is:

Hearts: 5,J,A,K,Q,10,9,8,7,6,4,3,2

Diamonds: 5,J,A(Hearts),A(Diamonds),K,Q,10,9,8,7,6,4,3,2

Clubs: 5,J,A(Hearts),A(Clubs),K,Q,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Spades: 5,J,A(Hearts),A(Spades),K,Q,2,3,

4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Non-trump suit:

Hearts: K,Q,J,10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2 (Note: Ace of Hearts is always considered a trump.)

Diamonds: K,Q,J,10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,A

Clubs: K,Q,J,A,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Spades: K,Q,J,A,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

To summarize:

The highest trump is always the five of the trump suit.

The second highest trump is always the jack of the trump suit.

The third highest trump is always the ace of hearts, no matter what the trump suit is.

If the trump suit is not hearts, the fourth highest trump is the ace of trumps. .

After the ace of trumps follow the King, Queen and numeral cards.

In a non-trump suit, the highest card is the King, followed by the Queen, Jack and numeral cards.

Among the numeral cards, the highest cards are best in the red suits, but the lowest cards are best in the black suits: players remember this as "highest in red, lowest in black".

The ace of hearts is always a trump. The other aces, when their suit is not trumps, count as ordinary ones. Therefore the ace of diamonds is the lowest card of its suit when diamonds are not trumps. The black aces, when not trumps, rank between the jack and the two.

Dealing the Cards and "Robbing"

The dealer shuffles and offers the cards to the player on the right to cut if he or she wishes to. Then, dealing to his left, the dealer deals five cards to each person in two circuits of the table. Traditionally, first three cards are dealt to everyone, then followed by two cards to each player. The turn to deal passes to the dealer's left after each hand.

After dealing, the dealer stacks the undealt cards face down in the center of the table. The dealer then announces how many tricks each player/team has won. After announcing, the dealer turns the top card of this card stack face up. The suit of this turned card is trumps for the hand. If you hold the ace of trumps you may "rob" the trump turned up by the dealer. To rob the trump, on your first turn, you must "pay" for the ace by placing any unwanted card from your hand face down in front of you and either take the turned up trump into your hand or leave it on top of the deck. In either case, it is your card to play as you see fit. If the dealer turns up the ace, the dealer robs. In this case, the dealer must "pay" for the ace before anyone plays a card. If the ace of trumps is not dealt, no one can rob the turned trump. If you are entitled to rob the deck trump, it must be done before you play a card in the first trick; else you lose the right to rob.

In the extremely rare case of a player not wanting to rob, he must turn down the deck trump and announce to the table that he holds the ace of trumps and does not wish to rob. If he fails to announce or forgets to rob, he loses his right to play his ace of trumps as the ace, even if it is the ace of hearts. In that case, the ace becomes the lowest ranked trump.

If a deck card is robbed, any player may inquire in the first hand of play what trump suit was turned up, but not thereafter as it disrupts the game.

Misdeals

A misdeal may be called after the cards for a hand are dealt and before the first trick is finished. A misdeal is called if the deck is found to be imperfect, or any but the face card is found face up. In that case the same dealer deals again. However, if any cards are exposed, failure to have cards cut, counting cards in remainder of deck or if too many or too few cards are in a hand, this is also a

misdeal but the dealer loses his deal and the player to his left gets the next deal.

Before the dealer turns the trump card, he asks if everyone has five cards, then announces the beginning of play, this exempts him from a misdeal. The game must now continue without exception.

Play

The player to dealer's left leads to the first trick. The highest card of the suit led wins unless a trump is played, in which case the highest trump wins. The winner of each trick plays the first card for the next trick.

When a card of a non-trump suit is led, players who have cards of this suit must either play a card of the suit that was led or play a trump. You are always allowed to play a trump even if you could have followed suit. If you don't wish to play a trump, you must follow suit if you can. However, if you are unable to follow suit you do not have to trump - in this case you may play any card - either a trump or a card of another non-trump suit.

When a trump is led, the other players must play trumps if possible, with the exception of the top three trumps (the 5, J and A), which have the privilege of reneging. You can never be forced to play any of these three top trumps unless another player leads a better trump than the one you hold. A player who holds no trumps (except possibly one or more of the top three when a lower trump was led) may play any card.

Note that for the purposes of following suit, the ace of hearts counts as a trump, not as a heart. However, if the ace of hearts is led and you do not have a trump, you must play a heart if you have one.

Examples:

Spades are trumps. You hold the 5 of spades, Ace of hearts and no other trumps. The 7 of spades is led. Your trumps are both from the top three cards and better than the lead, so you do not have to play either of them - you may play any card.

Spades are trumps. You hold 5 of spades, Ace of spades and no other trumps. The 7 of spades is led. The Ace of spades does not have the privilege of reneging, so you must play either this or your other trump, the 5 of spades. You cannot throw a card of another suit on this trick.

Spades are trumps. You hold Ace of hearts and no other trumps. The Jack of spades is led. Since the trump that was led is better than yours, you are forced to play your Ace of hearts.

Spades are trumps. You hold Ace of hearts and no other trumps. The 7 of spades is led and the next player plays the 5 of spades. You are the third

player. Although the trick contains a card that is higher than yours, that high trump was not led, i.e. was not the first card played to the trick (the lead was a low trump - the 7) so you need not play your Ace of hearts. You are free to play any card to this trick.

Spades are trumps. You hold the King of hearts and no trumps. The Ace of hearts is led. You must play your King of hearts.

Scoring

Each trick is worth five points to the team or player that wins it. As soon as a player or team reaches 25 points (i.e. has won five tricks), the player or team announces the win and the game is over. If no one has reached 25 at the end of the hand, the next dealer shuffles, the cards are cut, and a new hand is dealt and played.

Note that the game very often ends in the middle before all the cards are played. As soon as a player or team wins its fifth trick, reaching 25 points, play stops and the winners are paid. If another game is to be played the cards are shuffled and there is a new deal.

Usually the game is played for a small stake, for example 20 pence. Some people pay for each game, but when the game is played between two teams, some play the best of five games, in which case the first team to win three games wins the stake.

It is often agreed that if one player or team wins in one hand by winning all five tricks (for 25 points), that entitles them to a double stake (40 pence if the basic stake per game was 20 pence). The five tricks do not necessarily have to be won in the first hand, but in order to claim the double stake, the player or team must have no previous score in that game.

Example of Play of a Hand

Three players are A, B, and C. A is the dealer and deals three cards to each player, and then two cards to each player. He then turns up the two of spades - thus spades are trumps.

The three hands

A: 9 of spades, 4 of spades, 10 of clubs, J of hearts, J of diamonds.

B: Q of hearts, Q of spades, Ace of spades, 6 of clubs, 2 of diamonds (used to pay for "the rob")

C: K of hearts, 5 of clubs, 8 of diamonds, 5 of spades, 10 of hearts.

Play

Trick 1: B places his 2 of diamonds face down on the table indicating that he is robbing the two of spades and leads the Q of hearts, C plays the K of hearts and A plays the 9 of spades, happy to have won a trick with his little trump. A wins the first trick. This first trick is traditionally called the "dealing trick" because the dealer has the last play

and usually wins the trick.

Trick 2: A leads the 4 of spades (a trump). B plays his Q of spades (trump) and C wanting to keep his 5 of spades (the highest trump) reneges his 5 of spades (his privilege) and instead plays his 5 of clubs. B wins the second trick.

Trick 3: B now leads the ace of spades (ace of trumps). To this C reneges his 5 of spades (his privilege) and plays the 8 of diamonds (now the worst card in his hand) instead. A plays a lowly 10 of clubs. B wins the third trick.

Trick 4: B then leads his other trump (from the top of the deck) the 2 of spades. C (with a smile) plays the five, and A plays the J of hearts. C wins the fourth trick.

Trick 5: C then leads the 10 of hearts, winning against A's Jack of Diamonds and B's 6 of clubs.

Score:

A: 1 trick therefore 5 points

B: 2 tricks therefore 10 points

C: 2 tricks therefore 10 points.

The cards are combined, shuffled and the next player to the left deals the next hand.

Playing a Game with Partners

Before playing a game of partners, all players sit at a table. Any player, traditionally the host, picks up the cards and shuffles. That player (the host) then announces the "partner" cards. For example, the host says "Jacks and red Aces for partners." The next step is what is called "throwing for partners." The host deals the cards face up one at a time to all players at the table. Once a player receives a "partner card", that player's cards are turned face down and is said to be "looking for a partner." The first two players to receive a "partner card" become partners. The next two to receive a "partner card" become partners and so on until all the partners are matched.

The first player who received a "partner card" does not move from his position at the table and also becomes the first dealer. The players are re-aligned around the table so that partners are opposite each other. For example: six players would make a game for three teams we'll call teams A, B, and C. The players would be aligned ABCABC around the table. For nine players, the alignment is ABCABCABC.

Glossary

Boarded - The suit of the first card played in a hand is said to be the suit that was "boarded."

Booking Your Hand - When a player does not feel his hand is any good, he throws down his hand and refuses to play that hand. This action disrupts the game and is prohibited.

Co-card - Any non-trump card in

your hand is called a co-card.

Count - The count is the score of the game up to that point. For example, the count could be expressed as "two tens and a five" or "fifteen ten" or a similar description.

Fall of Play - The dealer always has the "fall of play" for the first trick. This means that the dealer is the last to play in the first trick, an advantage for the dealer on that trick. When a trick is taken, the player to the immediate right of the player who won is said to have the "fall of play."

High man - The player or team with the most tricks is said to be "high man." The other players or teams will generally cooperate to stop the "high man" from getting more tricks.

Jink - When a player or team wins all the tricks in one hand, he scores all 25 points and wins the game with a "jink." Some provide a double payout for a jink if playing for money. This should be agreed to before the players begin play.

Playing in His Place - In a game of six players, the player two out from the dealer is expected to "stick" the dealer in the first trick. This involves playing a good card to make it harder for the dealer to take the first trick. This is also done for all subsequent tricks to prevent the last player from getting an easy trick. A player who "sticks" the dealer, is said to be "playing in his place" or "going in his

place."

Reneging - Failure to play card of the same suit as the card that was led for a trick. This is usually for a trump suit but not necessarily. When discovered, the player at fault must turn his hand face down. He forfeits his interest in the remainder of that hand. Any tricks taken legally he retains. Tricks deemed no legal he loses. If the reneging is discovered after the hand is played, the player and team forfeit any tricks affected by the illegal play. The penalty should be agreed to by the majority of the players at the table.

Saver - A small trump card that can be used to save your best trump in case a stronger trump is led. If the stronger trump is played, the small trump card can be played.

Speech Play - Any player found giving signals by hand, eye, voice, or any other means must, upon discovery, turn his hand face down and that player and team forfeits any trick taken in that hand. Any tricks taken before the incident he keeps. Speaking about the game, including asking the count, is allowed up until the trump card is turned up on the deck at the start of a hand.

Trick - The best card played in a round of play wins a "trick." Each "trick" is 5 points, and thus it takes five "tricks" to win a game of Twenty Five.

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Mick Mike Morley



SUNDAY SAVAGES

Prelude to January 30, 1972: Forty years ago the Irish of Derry paraded in protest against the mass arrest and internment (without trial) and brutal treatment of 342 citizens throughout Northern Ireland. Of the 450 names on the original October 6, 1971 internment list drawn up by RUC Special Branch and MI5, not one was a Loyalist. Protestant murder gangs like the UVF were exempted. The British urged Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian Faulkner to intern a few Prot-

estant death squad members for the sake of appearance, but he refused.

Soldier 027, Granted the right to testify anonymously at Lord Mark Saville's second Bloody Sunday Inquiry, said he had done things he was "ashamed" of and that what he termed the "beasting" of civilians was common practice. "More men than I can remember took the severest of beatings at our hands."

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) was formed in 1967 to combat anti-Catholic dis-

crimination. On January 22, eight days before Bloody Sunday, hundreds marched with NICRA to Magilligan, the worst of the internment camps, northeast of Derry. They were met by some 300 British Army Green Jackets and Parachute Regiment troops who beat protesters so severely they had to be physically restrained by their own officers. News reports showed people being savagely kicked as they lay on the ground and rubber bullets and CS gas canisters being fired at them from close range.

Saville counsel Christopher Clarke, QC said some witnesses had a sense of foreboding about the coming Derry march because paratroops at Magilligan warned them "with some belligerence" that they would: "see them next week".

Earlier that January Major-General Robert Ford, the Army's second in command in Northern Ireland, met with Derry merchants concerned lest rioting occur in the city center and damage shops there. Sir Robert penned a secret memo to his superior, Sir Harry Tuzo, General Officer Commanding, stating that soldiers were taking hails of missiles like "Aunt Sallies". Ford's recommendation: "I am coming to the conclusion that the minimum force necessary to achieve a restoration of law and order is to shoot selected ringleaders..."

Questioned at the Saville Inquiry, Sir Robert testified he was not recommending soldiers kill citizens, noting:

"shoot and kill are obviously different words".

Six days before Bloody Sunday, Ford overruled objections by Derry commander Brigadier Pat MacLellan and local police chief Frank Lagan to his proposed use of the paras. Senior Derry-based officers expressed similar alarm. One officer even phoned a military contact in London to try to get Chief of General Staff Sir Michael Carver to intervene.

On Thursday, January 27, the Democratic Unionist Association in Derry, the youth wing of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party defiantly announced their intention to hold a public "religious rally" Sunday at Guildhall Square, the announced end point of the NICRA march. Their Vice-President, Free Presbyterian Church minister James McClelland declared: "The authorities will have to keep their word and stop the civil rights march and give us protection."

Friday, January 28, a British cabinet committee met at 10 Downing Street, London, and approved security plans for the march. Lord Gifford QC, representing the family of one of the victims, told the inquiry facts suggested there was a plan to shoot unarmed civilians and this was known by Prime Ministers Sir Edward Heath and Brian Faulkner. However the 2011 Saville Report issued its carefully worded conclusion: "Neither the UK nor Northern Ireland governments planned or foresaw the use of unnec-

essary lethal force

On Saturday the British Army and police issued a joint statement warning that any violence the next day would be blamed on NICRA. Rioting that day in William Street ended with two teenagers wounded by army gunfire. Soldier 027 testified that groups of paratroopers that evening boasted about getting "kills" when they arrived in Derry.

Sunday January 30, 1972: The Paratroop Regiment arrives in Derry. Morning papers announce the Protestant rally is called off at the last minute. Rev. McClelland says ominously: "We were approached by the Government and given assurances that the Civil Rights march would be halted - by force if necessary. We believe wholesale riot and bloodshed could be the result of the Civil Rights activities tomorrow and we would be held responsible if our rally takes place. We have appealed to all loyalists to stay out of the city centre tomorrow."

CS gas, water cannon, rubber bullets, internment and martial law had failed to stop Catholic protest. The stage was now set for a showdown between the British government and its Irish Catholic citizens.

10,000 began to march, their numbers doubling along the 3-mile walk to the Bogside. They are stopped by a British army barricade, and as they turn to move to Free Derry Corner, the paratroops unleash a barrage of gas, water cannon and rubber baton rounds.

General Ford, though he had no operational role that day, travelled to Derry and stood at the edge of the Bogside behind Barrier 14 shouting "Go on the paras!" as they charged through a barricade towards what became the Rossville Street killing ground. As Commander of Land Forces, Northern Ireland, Ford was the most senior officer on the ground on Bloody Sunday. The next year Queen Elizabeth awarded Ford the CB, Companion of The Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

Then a hail of bullets. 17 year old Jackie Duddy, a young club boxer and uncle of now retired middleweight boxing champion John Duddy, is the first murdered. He was running alongside Father (later Bishop) Daly when he was shot from behind by Private R.

The complete article may be viewed at IrishAmericanNews.com/Mick

E-mail: MPM809p-IAN@att.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 7:30 PM © Mike Morley 2012

Heather A. Begley



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St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest will take place on Sunday, February 19th at Plumber's Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd. Candidates must be between the ages of 17 and 27 and never married. Judging will choose one Queen and four women for the Queen's Court. The winners must agree to attend events throughout the year as directed by the St. Patrick's Day Committee, and will ride on the float during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago.

the deadline for entries is February 10, 2012. Applications can be downloaded from the parade website: www.chicagostpatsparade.com.

The parade steps off on Columbus Drive at Noon, March 17th!

This is a fun day for families. Bring the kids!

Illinois Tollway

Bend over drivers and start your engines. The Illinois Tollway Authority has raised tolls 87.5%. Considering all the tollway construction over the last eight years, this is way beyond expectation.

Who is the new executive director, Kristi LaFleur? What are her political affiliations? She was appointed by Governor Quinn! How much will rebuilding the tollway cost? Over 49 million dollars per mile. There are 286 miles in the tollway system - many of which have already been rebuilt. This project will yield 13,000 construction jobs for the next 10 years. I'm sure the operating engineers are thrilled. Let's see which way labor votes come election time. John Q. Public is over the barrel.

Internet Humor

Email: "There is conclusive evidence that Osama bin Laden, and Muammar Gaddafi are dead. Yesterday, they both registered to vote in Chicago!"

Big Shoulders

Chicago, "The City of Big Shoulders," as Carl Sandburg so aptly described it in his poem, "Chicago," "The city has changed, and the shoulders are drooping now from the weight of

the taxes and the ill-conceived sale of city assets such as the parking meters. The parking meter contract that has become more odorous than the wild onion that the city was named for, the area which the native American Indians called, "Skunk Place." Perhaps more odorous than a cook county forest preserve outhouse on a hot summer's day, odorous!

Back to Sandburg's poem, third stanza, "They tell me you are crooked, and I answer yes it is true. I have seen the gunmen kill and go free to kill again."

How many people will die in Englewood tonight? There is no respect for the law. In Logan Square a 20 year old woman beaten senseless and lying naked in the street. Wicker Park, remember Natasha McShane.



fearing Christian. Some of the worst bastards I ever met wore their religion on their sleeve. Somewhere in the Bible the enwhitened sepelchure is mentioned. Oh, yes, Matthew 23:28 "In the same way on the outside you appear to people as righteous, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness." That's the best definition of a politician I've heard. Webster's Dictionary says, "One versed in the science of government; one skilled in politics; one who occupies himself with politics as a profession." Can a Christian evangelical vote for a Mormon whose grandfather was a polygamist? Did they pick the best ham in Dubuque.

Onyango Obama

President Obama's half-uncle, an illegal emigrant fighting deportation to Kenya since 1989, was arrested for dui, and had a blood alcohol level of 0.14 percent. His attorneys are investigating the records of the police officers who arrested him. Hmmmmmm? I wonder if Onyango is getting social security, public assistance, or better yet, a public defender.

Southside Parade

The saloon owners along Western Avenue in Beverly are rejoicing! The Southside Parade, a distant relative of the Frankenstein monster has been brought back to life. Organizers have vowed it will be family oriented, and a wholesome celebration of the Feast of St. Patrick.

There will be zero tolerance for open alcohol, and a private security force of eight will patrol the parade route.

So, fill your flask with brandy, and head South. Don't forget to wear a sprig of Shamrock and a green sash. Don't forget to sing, "The Wild Rover" in the shower that morning. ... "I've been

a moonshiner for many a year, and I've spent all my money on whisky and beer." ...Sunday, March 11th the social experiment begins. ...Keep an eye out for Skinny and Houli. Take your video camera with you.

North Kerry Senior Football

Finuge, 1-9, defeated Beale, 0-11, for the North Kerry Senior Football Championship. Three of my cousins were on the Finuge team. John McCarthy played center fielder, Declan McCarthy played cornerback, and Kevin McCarthy was a substitute.

Flash mobs, pit bull attacks, mayhem on the Green Line trains. You had better be streetwise in this toddling town, or is it teetering town?

No Bid Contract

The Chicago Sun-Times just reported another no bid contract for 115 million dollars to an eleventh ward insider for people movers at the airport. What else is new? Will the attorney general investigate?

Iowa Caucuses

We are surely hung up on religion, and every candidate for president must present themselves as a God

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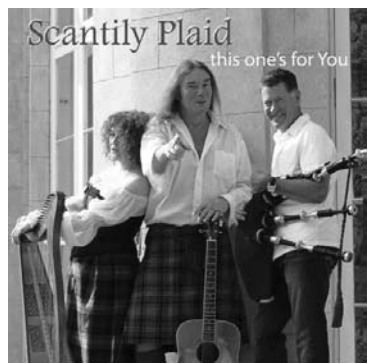
Jack Baker



While things are still slow in the music and festival industry, I do have a couple of hot CDs to tell you about, a classic festival and a new festival to fill you in on. Let’s start with the classic. The 8th annual Military History Fest is set to take place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of February at Pheasant Run Resort in St Charles Illinois. The largest show of its kind in the world, it has military reenacting encampments (ancient thru modern), a military vehicle rally, heavy weapons display, workshops, live historic music, seminars and the largest shopping array of military and reenacting gear imaginable. The Irish and Scots both have a proud military tradition and both will be suitably represented. This is one festival that readers have actually written and thanked me for telling them about it. The show opens Friday at noon and goes all day on Saturday & Sunday. You can find more info at www.militaryhistoryfest.com. I’ll have a table there and hope to see lots of folks come out.

The new festival I mentioned doesn’t take place until Saturday 28 April, but I wanted to give you plenty of advance notice so you can put it on your calendar, as it’s brand new. The 1st ever Hoffman Estates Celtic Festival is scheduled to take place at the Sears Centre Arena from 11 AM to 6 PM on the aforementioned date and it looks like it’s being done right! For years I’ve been crabbing that there wasn’t a decent indoor fest in the Chicago area, but this one might make me shut up, for awhile. They’re advertising live entertainment but so far no names. Also listed are athletics, kids activities and arts and crafts. There will be vendors, me for one and scotch & beer tasting. The best news of all is that the Midwest Pipe

Band Association’s Mini-Band Competition will be held there. Mini-bands has always been a gem for true piping fans, but it hasn’t been held in places that were easy to find or were large enough for any crowd. Now you can come see the bands and hear the music they’ve been working on all winter for the competition season. There are a lot of great bands in the Midwest Pipe Band Association and this will be a great opportunity to experience piping at its best. Two more little details I must mention, admis-



sion is free and parking is free! Can’t beat that. I’ll pass on more info as I get it but I’m really looking forward to being at this festival on April 28th! They do have a website, www.hoffmanestates.org/celtic.

Now for some new music, well, not actually new, it came out in 2010 but I didn’t learn of its existence until just recently. Scantly Plaid, a band from Canada, contains three of the most talented musicians you’d ever want to hear; Ruth Sutherland who plays wicked good harp and has a voice to make the angels envious, Doug Feaver who plays more instruments than I have clean socks and plays them all very well and Bob Worral, one of the most accomplished and versatile pipers alive today. Their

first CD “Just Checking In” came out a few years ago and was a tremendous hit. Ruth is a Gaelic singer of no small talent and, together with her multi-talented partners, they put out Scots trad music in new and exciting arrangements that certainly set the bar higher for other bands. Their new CD, “This One’s For You”, continues that tradition of fine music played right with Ruth’s lovely vocals as the icing on the cake. On the new recording they perform a great version of Dougie MacLean’s “Caledonia” and a fun version of George Harrison’s “Here Comes the Sun” plus some very impressive original pieces. All in all, a very impressive recording that I’ve been playing the grooves off of in the store.

Ruth Sutherland, whose lovely voice and expert harp add so much to Scantly Plaid’s sound, has produced a solo CD. Two scoops of her wizardry in this recording. For those of you who like good harp and good voice, this one’s for you (there’s a good title for a recording). “Bones & Runes”, Ruth’s solo offering, has very traditional music choices played in hauntingly contemporary arrangements. A great piece of work.

Lastly, two days after I finished my January column, we lost another member of the Rampant Lion Celtic Traders team when my Mom, Dorris Beth Baker died. She was instrumental in getting our business started and spent many a weekend in the early years working at festivals and later keeping an eye on the kids while Gayle and I worked. We have asked that anyone wishing to remember her should do so with a contribution to the Irish American Heritage Center. She was very proud of the IAHC and hoped that the good work done there would continue.

That’s it for this month. You can email me at pipingitin@comcast.net Slainté



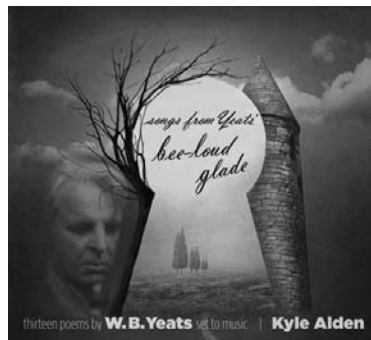
Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Something old. Something new. These three treats sure ring true. Valentine’s Day rhyming over.

This month, we have three tremendous releases, one older, two newer. Here is something really new, different, and wonderful. Kyle Alden out of California, has released a terrific album. Highly creative. Beautifully done. Songs from Yeats’ Bee-loud Glade. What Kyle has



done is taken W.B. Yeats’ poetry and set it to music. This is risky. As is any good, creative effort. There are 13 selections beautifully put together. Kyle wrote the music. Some of these succeed more than others, but the weakest of the 13 is terrific. The best are magic. What this all hinges on is if you like Kyle Alden’s voice (you will--reminds us of the great Minnesota folk singer, Pat Donohoe). Everyone will have their own taste as to which tempo, tune, and arrangements meet their individual fancy. There is a lot here to love. Any album like this can be dangerous. W.B. Yeats is such an iconic god in the Irish pantheon of writers that some people will disagree with the project ever being done in the first place. How dare you take Yeats’ poetry and set it to music? This opinion is stupid. No one more than Yeats would appreciate an artistic endeavor of such soul and depth. Nice one, Kyle. Keep ‘em coming.

The regular reader of this column knows that Norah Rendell is our current Female Vocalist of the Year. Her brilliant work with Outside Track earned her the honor in a walk. We discovered another magical Rendell from five years ago. She recorded it with husband, Brian Miller. In some

ways, this is our favorite Rendell so far. Wait There Pretty One shows a brilliant musical technique combination of the best of the Irish traditional approach and Norah’s stunning, purely American voice. We would guess from hearing this album that Norah has trimmed her sales somewhat in order to blend more perfectly with Outside Track. This is as it should be. But here is Norah in beautiful duet work with Brian and the whole thing is special, indeed. It is just as satisfying to discover a fab album that has been out for some time as it is to get your hands on something brand new, like Kyle Alden’s piece of brilliance on Yeats. So be it with Norah. She is really something, and this album goes a long way to proving that she always has been. More!

Our last piece of business is also very special, indeed. It is The Language of the Gael by Grainne Holland. Next year’s Musician of the Year, Brendan Mulholland, had Grainne send us this album. Find it online! It also uses the Gaelic title, Teanga Na nGael. Most of these songs are in Gaelic. The deal is the voice. Grainne is one of those northern Irish female singers who could sing anything. Maranna McCloskey, Donegal’s Shauna Mullin, Oonagh Derby and many others come to mind. First, and most importantly, these are real women singing. God save us from thin, reedy, nasal , warbly sopranos who think sean nos or Irish music has to be sung in a weak voice with no vibrato through their noses. Then, along come women like Grainne who cut the crapola. This is a wonderful singer with a unique voice. She will be around a long, long time. And, like so many of today’s best young artists, we can’t wait to watch this young woman and where she goes in her career. All of these singers, in the final analysis, come down to whether or not you love their voices. We love their voices. Go Grainne!

We hope you are listening to our weekly radio program, Ireland Tonight. Co-host Maryann Keifer, Producer, Imelda Bhroga and I bring you the best of real Irish music, the traditional stuff, every Monday night from 8-9 on WDCB 90.9fm, baby! And, also follow it on www.wdcb.org. You will have a ball, and with big enough ratings, we can demand more and more money from the station management. (lol)



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Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



Eight Circle Cross 33r

The level of artistic skill and aesthetic vision of this folio is very similar to the five full page illuminations that begin each Book of Kells Gospel. That brings it to six full page folios that are the most magnificent and artistic of any medieval manuscript that exists today. (Remember, St. Matthew has two full page illuminations)

Commenters have suggested that this image has its origin in Hebrew apocalypticism and even earlier in pagan sources.

For a long time there has been a connection between the resurrection of Jesus on the day after the Sabbath-the seventh day-making it the eighth day. Does that mean that the Artist/Scribes were steeped in the esoteric levels of numerology? Not necessarily,

but the legacy of the Resurrection contained the Christian sacred ideas of renewal and rebirth.

As Bernard Meehan writes in his

book, *The Book of Kells*, Thames & Hudson 1994. ISBN-10 0-500-27790-7, “...the artist did not necessarily com-



prehend the full significance of all they were copying. Some details may have been half remembered, imperfectly understood, or inaccurately copied.”

For our purposes, that will suffice.

Similar carpet pages of cross designs predating Kells were in the Lindisfarne, Durrow, Lichfield and Durham Gospel books. The scribes for these books used other Insular books for copying and images were interpreted and changed by each of the scribes.

This brings us to Artist/Scribe A, whom I believe was the most distinctive artist of the Book of Kells. He was the scribe with the finest artistic imagination and skill and I believe designed and drew all five first page illuminations for each Gospel text.

Eight Circle Cross 33r

Every section of f33r is unique. Although each irregular banded section behind the double-armed cross contains an interlace design, each is a different pattern. Also, the interlacing is primarily made of peacocks and snakes. These animals are both symbols of Christ's resurrection and renewal. Other sections appear to be interlaced dogs and in one section there are men entwined with the animals.

The eight circles of the cross are filled with over 400 yellow-gold colored spirals and discs. They are the kind of amazing artistic skills that are also in the other full page illuminations that A/S-A also produced. This is an example of astounding art that could induce in a medieval viewer a sense of shimmering gold and spinning spirals and discs--sacred text that lives!

Happy Valentine's Day

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Clutter: Funny, Hilarious, Powerful

By Frank West

I was introduced to Wendy Kaplan after the play. She is the president of Mad Kap Productions, the producer of Clutter. I want to compliment her for producing a play that doesn't need to rely on violence or crude language for laughs. No one gets hurt by Clutter's humor. It is just a great story, well told.

Clutter is a play that is funny sometimes even hilarious. But it has a meaningful subtext and is illuminated by powerful character sketches, or vignettes, that are full of meaning. The play will be presented at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. until March 11. It is both funny and insightful. I enjoyed it immensely.



Clutter is the story of the Collyer Brothers, Langley and Homer. They are wealthy and live in a mansion on New York's Fifth Avenue. But, they live in squalor and even refuse to pay their utility bills. When their electricity is shut off, they resort to using kerosene lamps.

From the early 1920's until 1947, they compulsively packed their mansion with tons of old newspapers and junk. When the police had to enter in 1947, because of the smell of a dead body, they had to spend hours in the tunnels the brothers had made in the stocks of newspapers and other clutter. The house was so packed that the play's subtitle is : The True Story of the Collyer Brothers Who Never Threw Anything Out.

The play was written by Mark Saltzman. He has received many awards, including seven Emmy Awards! He wrote "The Muppets," and "Sesame

Street." This is a man who understands the power of imagination.

The Collyer Brothers were descended from one of the country's wealthiest families - the family was rich and powerful long before the American Revolution. But does great wealth bring human closeness and warmth? Hardly.

There is a touching scene near the end of the play when Langley and Homer - very tentatively - grow close. They find this basic human need very difficult to accept.

Homer, blind and paralyzed, and near the end of his life, admits that Langley - who he always felt superior to because he considered his brother a fop - is a kind and generous brother.

This absence of closeness, human warmth and positive self esteem could possibly explain their odd behavior. Alcoholics, and other substance abusers often have this profound empti-

ness too. As a teacher for many years, I sadly observed this emptiness in children.

Of the many fine performances I especially liked that of Andrew Pond, who plays the pianist brother, Langley Cillyer - that of Joe Mach, who plays the gentle, humane detective, Sgt. Reillydolan, and that of Tim Walsh, who plays the snooty Reverend Bridgeman. He of the old church on Wall Street, who thinks he is superior to everyone whose ancestors didn't come on the Mayflower.

Clutter is presented at 7:30 Thursday thru Saturday, and at 2:30 on Sunday. 773-404-7336 or go to greenhousetheater.org.

Take Polar Plunge For SCC/Special Olympics Chicago!

Check This One Off Your Bucket List!

Registration is now open for the Chicago Polar Plunge, taking place Sunday, March 4, 2012, at the city's North Avenue Beach. Fearless Chicago weather warriors are invited to plunge into the chilly waters of Lake Michigan, with proceeds benefiting SCC/Special Olympics Chicago.

Plungers can register at www.sochicago.org. At that website, participants have the opportunity to create their own fundraising page to jump-start their efforts. Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$125. Complimentary bus service will be provided for teams of 20 or more people.

The Chicago Polar Plunge is known as a "must attend" event in the city, with over 1700 people taking part last year. The fun kicks off at 10 am when plungers are invited to enter the icy waters of Lake Michigan. Plungers are invited to go waist high or to take the full plunge. Once the dive is concluded, all are invited to a "Melt Down Party" which will take place inside the North Avenue Beach boathouse and in expanded heated tents from 11am-2pm. Admission is free and participants will receive free food and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available.

"The Polar Plunge is the top fundraising event of the year for Special Olympics Chicago," said James Sheahan, President of SCC/Special Olympics Chicago. "The Chicago Polar Plunge helps to change the lives of over 5,000 Chicago-area Special Olympians, by providing much of the funding necessary to provide year-round activities, programs and events for our athletes. It is tremendously important event for Special Olympics Chicago and its athletes and families."


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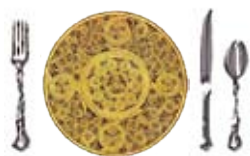
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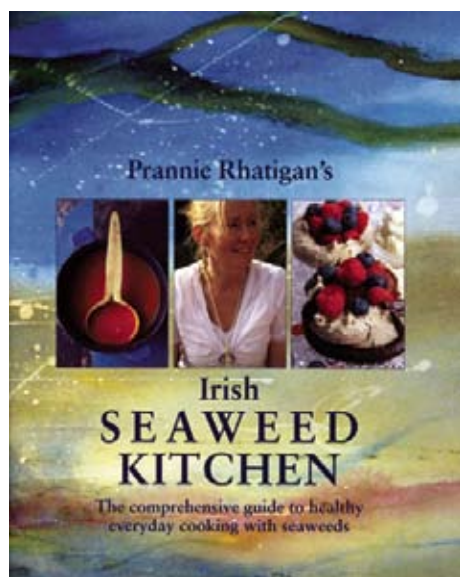
By Rachel Gaffney



medicine with the ancient nutritional value of seaweed. The gallery of photographs is a veritable treat for the eyes. After reading

Irish Seaweed Kitchen

When I was thirteen years old I spent a week at Knockadoon Summer Camp in Ballymacoda, located about thirty miles from Cork City. Conditions were primitive at best, sharing what seemed like army



barracks quarters with friends.

It was a mere stones throw from the beach and this Dominican run facility provided a lifetime of memories and a fascination with seaweed for me, for it was here that I began to learn about the infinite source of vitamins and minerals that these sea vegetables provides us.

We gathered samples, brought them back to the classroom, identified their class and even sketched them. We ambled over the rocks and potted around daily in rain or shine studying the zones, namely Upper, Middle and Lower. That was the extent of my experience with seaweed but not with my fascination.

Earlier last year I was reading various articles on the internet and quite by chance stumbled upon a website www.Prannie.com.

Prannie Rhatigan has been harvesting and cooking with seaweed since she was a child.

Born and raised on the west coast of Ireland and thanks to her father, she was taught how to harvest seaweed and how not to get trapped by the ever changing tides.

In 1990 she received her medical degree from the National University of Ireland, Cork and became a qualified General Practitioner (internal medicine) since 1994.

Once you enter this web site, you will discover how this medical doctor has managed to marry her knowledge of western

this, I knew I needed to read her book. It is called 'Irish Seaweed Kitchen' and is a comprehensive guide to healthy everyday cooking with seaweeds. The book is quite simply a wonderful treat. Filled with 150 easy to follow recipes and 100 color photographs. Even if you do not plan on cooking with seaweed (which I urge you to try) there is a glossary accompanied by a list of health benefits and uses.

Most people will have memories of 'Carrageen Moss' known as Chondrus crispus or commonly called Irish Moss. We used to spend summer vacations in Ardmore, Co Waterford and this seaweed was sold dried in the local store. It was popular for sore throats and healing properties. In this book Myrtle Allen from the famous 'Ballymaloe House' shares her memories and recipe for 'Carrageen Moss Pudding'

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking to Prannie. She explained that there was a very exciting research project being conducted at the University of Ulster. Eighty volunteers are being given seaweed on a daily basis over a period of approximately four weeks. Some are being given a placebo.

The anti inflammatory properties are so high in seaweed so this ground breaking research will be something we can all look forward to.

Prannie suggests introducing small amounts of a wide variety of seaweed on a daily basis for your health and well being.

Last weekend I made this banana bread recipe for my family. Taken from Prannie's book, it is made using 3/4 oz of dried Alaria.

Banana and Alaria Loaf
 3/4 oz dried alaria
 (1/4 " pieces)
 2 eggs
 4 oz golden raisins
 2 Tblsp honey
 1 Tblsp rum (optional)
 3 oz melted butter
 2 Tblsp sugar
 8 oz all purpose flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 3 bananas

To Prepare the Alaria

Soak the Alaria in a saucepan with 1/2 pint of water for 20 minutes. Place on a low heat and simmer, covered, for 40 minutes or until the mid stem is soft. Allow to cool slightly.

Preheat Oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a 2lb loaf pan or two 1lb loaf pans.

Beat the eggs in a small bowl. Soak

the golden raisins in the eggs and allow to plump. Add honey and rum if using to the seaweed and cooking liquid.

Melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the sugar and allow to cool slightly. Add the honeyed seaweed and the soaked golden raisins in egg mixture.

Mix the flour and baking powder in a large bowl. Add a large tablespoon of this to the wet mixture and mix well. Gently fold in the remaining flour mixture.

Stir in mashed bananas. Spoon the mixture, which should be of a soft dropping consistency, into the prepared tin. Bake on the middle shelf for 90 minutes. Remove and cool.

SOURCES FOR SEAWEED: WWW.SEAVEG.COM

VISIT PRANNIE RHATIGAN ON: WWW.PRANNIE.COM

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



HOPE & RESPECT

The bishops of Illinois have called upon Catholics to “provide hope and support to immigrant families and to advocate for comprehensive reform of our nation’s immigration laws.”

“The fact that there are 11 million men, women and children in our nation who live in the shadows and are fearful of family separation by deportation is proof that our current system is flawed and our immigration policies have failed us,” the bishops said in a statement for National Migration Week. “Let us pray that in this New Year we may recognize the need for comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rule of law, yet also ensures that the law is applied fairly and compassionately to those immigrant families among us who need our help.”

“Like the journey of the Magi following the star to the Source of hope, love and freedom found in the Holy Child lying in the Bethlehem manger, many families are also on a journey seeking hope in a new country,” the bishops added. “They seek a place of economic, emotional, physical and spiritual security, longing for those things needed to live in human dignity: productive work and fair wages, food, shelter, education, health care, and protection from harm, all too often out of reach in their



The new 2012 Irish Fellowship Club President, Brian Hickey, (L) President and Business Manager of the Operating Engineers, Local 399, is congratulated by outgoing President, Patrick Thompson, prominent Chicago Attorney.

native land.”

If you will pardon the pun, hopefully, this call to respect the lives of our immigrant brothers and sisters will find support, not only among Catholics but from all people of good will.

Recently, I spoke with an undocumented person and she said: “being in this situation is like sitting in a waiting room for good news. You think the door is about to open and you will have the burden lifted from your shoulders, but you wait and wait and though the folks on the other side of the door send messages that they know you are there, they never get around to giving you an answer.”

One of the things that trouble me about a very vocal minority of our people and their elected representatives is the fact that they offer no respect for the undocumented among us. Immigrants continue to bear the brunt of our angst, I hear people blame them for our economic woes etc. but there is little effort to try and understand their plight and the struggles they have to endure simply to make a living for themselves and their families.

And so, I’m hoping that though 2012 is an election year, that our elected officials will not use immigration as a political football. I’m particularly calling for respect for the millions of good people who live among us and who yearn so much to be a part of the American dream. Hopefully 2012 will see an end to the scapegoating of our undocumented brothers and sisters and that we will see the introduction of what the Illinois Bishops Conference have called for: that in this New Year we may recognize the need for comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rule of law, yet also ensures that the law is applied fairly and compassionately to those immigrant families among us who need our help.”

Someone once summed up the attitude I’m thinking of very well when they said: “Compassion has no limit. Kindness has no enemy.”

If we could shrink the earth's population

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following. There would be:

57 Asians 21 Europeans 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south 8 would be Africans

52 would be female 48 would be male

70 would be non-white 30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian 30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual 11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing 70 would be unable to read 50 would suffer from malnutrition

(ONE)1 would be near death; (ONE)1 would be near birth;

(ONE)1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education; (ONE)1 (yes, only 1) would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

And, therefore . . .

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how blessed you really are!

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

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



How Do You Attract A Career Mentor?

As an executive coach, clients regularly tell me about costly and avoidable mistakes they have made in their careers. Just this week, a mature and well educated client told me that he prided himself on only calling his boss when he had a serious problem. WRONG. You need to walk the line between being a whiner and an individual who keeps the boss in the loop. If you have the benefit of a mentor, you probably would have learned to keep in touch with your boss. Bosses may outwardly agree with the statement “call me only when the ship is floundering.” However, most bosses like to know what’s happening with their subordinates, if only because their boss might ask them about the status of an issue.

Throughout our lives, many of us have received guidance from mentors of one type or another. Parents, teachers, coaches or even just more talented pals served as role models or guides. Unfortunately, after taking our first significant job, many of us allow our advisors to slip away. Maybe we do this to prove to ourselves that we have made the passage into adulthood. Or maybe it because we are Intent on proving ourselves to our superior. Whatever the underlying reason, we make silly and costly mistakes that could have been avoided by enlisting the advice and insights of others who have more experience. People who realize the importance of attracting and keeping mentors greatly improve their odds of career success. One does not have to make every mistake personally to learn from the mistakes of others. Isn’t that why so many of us read books? Hopefully, just by reading of the authors’ experiences, we are more likely to avoid the mis-steps that they took.

Mentors can help you understand industry trends and intra-company debates while providing constructive criticism regarding your decision-making process. They can help you understand the agenda of others, even your internal competitors. They can provide guidance about avoiding some issues and interaction with fellow employees who could be toxic.

Developing a relationship with a mentor is not a new concept. Throughout history, men and women have recorded in their private papers the help provided to them by mentors, including Margaret Thatcher, George Marshall, Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln.

Ideally the mentor should be older and more experienced than you and

more knowledgeable about your corporate environment. Someone with a broader vision, who can see the entire company or division and put your role into perspective. Strive to enlist the help of someone with a strong reputation and who appears to be “on the move”. Choosing a mentor of your same gender may appear to be a wise move, but that isn’t always the case. Talent, maturity and the competence of the potential mentor are more important than gender. If you can genuinely convince the potential mentor of your substantial respect, there is a good chance the mentor will accept the responsibility of mentorship.

One mentor is great, two or three are better. With multiple mentors you get differing opinions from different perspectives. Take these steps to find a mentor:

- Prepare a list of likely candidates; list everyone who might be even remotely helpful, but only people whose judgment and maturity you respect and value.

- Sort through your list carefully. Reduce it to three or four candidates. This analysis will help you understand your needs better. Eliminate anyone who made your list strictly for sentimental reasons.

- Meet with your nominees separately: ideally in the order of your highest interest. Tell each that you would appreciate seeing them from time to time for lunch, a game of tennis or just a chat at the office—specifically to get their insights about your approach to your career. Get them to accept the role before discussing any specific issues.

- No matter how well you get along with your new mentor, never take them for granted. Once you demonstrate that you don’t value the advice you are receiving, the effectiveness of this relationship has probably been seriously damaged, if not destroyed.

- Establish a clear understanding as to the frequency of contact and stick to it even if you don’t have any pressing issues to discuss. Keep them posted on the progress of your career, even when all is well.

Accept this challenge TODAY: Find a mentor within the next 30 days. Carpe Diem.

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

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



RETIRED: NOW WHAT? The need for retirement planning doesn't end with the start of retirement. A new retiree's focus shifts from building wealth to managing and preserving it. One major challenge is to make the investment portfolio supply cash flow for the duration of life—and through different economic and market conditions. Three main factors drive portfolio endurance: asset mix, spending level, and investment time frame. Certain aspects of these factors are within an investor's control while others are not. Let's briefly consider them.

ASSET MIX: Asset mix describes the ratio of stocks to bonds in a portfolio. This determines risk exposure and expected performance, and is one of the most important decisions investors of all ages can make. Historically, stocks have outperformed bonds and outpaced inflation over time. Consequently, the larger the equity allocation, the greater a portfolio's expected return—and risk.

Keep in mind that risk and return go together. A higher allocation to equities increases the risk of experiencing periods of poor returns during retirement. But if you can handle the risk, having more equity exposure in a portfolio enhances its return potential. Growth can bring higher cash flow, inflation protection, and portfolio endurance over time. This is why most advisors believe that most investors should have some equity component in their portfolios, with actual weighting depending on one's time frame, risk tolerance, and spending flexibility.

SPENDING LEVEL: Portfolio withdrawals are typically described in terms of a specified dollar amount or a percent of annual portfolio value. Neither method is perfect, however—and for different reasons. Withdrawing a fixed amount each year and adjusting it for inflation can provide a stable income stream and preserve your living standard over time. But the portfolio may survive only if future withdrawals represent a small proportion of the portfolio's value. Withdrawing a fixed percentage of assets based on annual asset value makes it unlikely that you will deplete retirement assets because a sudden drop in market value would be accompanied by a proportional decline in spending. But this method can produce wide swings in your living standard when investment returns are volatile.

Retirees who need consistent cash flow may want to combine these two methods. One way is to withdraw cash flow according to a rule that combines past spending with a payout rate applied to current portfolio value. You can weight these factors to favor your preference for either more stable cash flow or a greater chance of portfolio survival. In effect, you are customizing your withdrawals to smooth out spending while responding to actual investment

performance.

INVESTMENT TIME FRAME: Investment time horizon may be the hardest to estimate, especially if it is the same as your lifespan. In this case, you can only guess how long your portfolio must support spending. If you plan to hand down assets to beneficiaries, your investment time frame may extend beyond your lifetime. This may influence your risk and spending decisions as well. Time frame forces a tradeoff between the short and long term. Retirees with a longer investment time horizon might choose a higher exposure to equities. But they may have to offset this risk by being more flexible about spending over time. Elderly retirees and others with a short time horizon may choose a less risky allocation or a higher payout rate, although they can experience rising spending levels, too. In any case, retirees should think carefully about equity exposure and avoid taking more risk than they can afford.

Planning involves assumptions about the future and successful planning involves asking whether your assumptions are realistic. You also have to consider how your lifestyle might change if future economic and financial conditions are much different than projected. Many retirement assumptions are based on historical numbers, but there is no certainty that future portfolio returns will resemble the past. This is why investors should think in terms of probability, not history.

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

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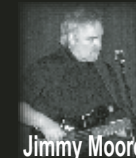
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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



THE IRISH HOLOCAUST. Finally; my book is essentially completed. It demolishes all but three “famine” books ever written. It vindicates the murdered millions. It proves that they did NOT “fall into a trap of their own making” by growing “only one crop” (it documents the existence of other crops). The torrent of food (documented in the book) taken at gunpoint by British military regiments (all named in the book) to the ports for export (typical manifests are listed) was cultivated and harvested by the Irish themselves, proven by the absence of any seasonal army of British spalpeens traveling to Ireland to perform that immense work. The Holocaust victims are routinely described, once by writers in this paper (with an eye on Hollywood), as “dirty,” “negligent,” “improvident,” etc. despite the irrelevance of the moral status of murder victims. Such smears trivialize the dead and minimize their murders. Ireland’s language died with its gaeilgeori.

I INVITE Chicago-area history professors/instructors to participate, with appropriate credit,

in the book’s wrap-up. This participation can be in fact-checking (any official documentation not in my possession is readily available), foot-noting, proof-reading, or of inserting its index once the book is paginated. This offer is extended to preclude what could be serious embarrassment to those institutions. Some years ago on local TV I debated four history professors (Ph.D.s); from U. of Chicago, Loyola (Ret’d), and two from Northwestern (of which one was about to teach at Ambrose College, Iowa). While we debated, the camera lingered on my multi-colored, poster-size map of Ireland that locates in Ireland each British regiment that starved it, and locates hundreds of the mass graves they caused. These professional historians couldn’t deny the official data, so resorted to ad hominem attacks. It is unlikely that any of these four will accept my invitation; but in furtherance of truth I warmly welcome any and all such profs and students to participate in this very end of the project. Over a year ago I reached out, unavailingly, to two local universities and do so again, now, publicly, for

the record. The book will be advertised in this paper.

TRUTH EMERGES. We were all taught the cover-up word; “famine.” Marist Brother Enda who taught us in Castlereagh finally told the truth of it a half century later. Asked by an ex-student how he could say that my “Mass Graves of Ireland: 1845-1850” pamphlet is accurate seeing that it contradicts everything he taught about the “famine” in school, he replied; “I had no choice. I had to teach the material as provided to me by the government” (to its eternal shame). About fifteen years ago universities and high schools began to use my pamphlet as course material. About 1997 one of the indications that Gerry Adams had sold out was his supporters’ violent attack on a few women distributing my Mass Graves pamphlet in an east-coast city. They destroyed cartons of pamphlets. Their spokesperson, an officer in Adams’ American organization, said that Adams forbade distribution of the pamphlets.

HOLOCAUST DENIERS. How to identify them? They ALL; 1) Cover up for the perpetrating British regiments. 2) Grossly understate the multi-million murder toll. 3) Accuse Britain only of “failure to do enough” as if it were a benefactor; 4) Never mention

the mass graves or their unmarked status; and 5) Reject the accurate “Holocaust,” “extermination” and “genocide,” and promote labels that conceal mass murder, e.g., “famine,” starvation,” “potatoes,” “Gorta Mor;” etc. Confronted about my work, they are slowly abandoning their falsehoods. For example; Christine Kinealy, in her gushing review (Fortnight magazine; April, 1990) of fellow cover-up artist Cormac O Grada’s “The Great Irish Famine,” wrote, in part: “And the failure of historians to address the period seriously has probably contributed more to the prevalence of the myths and misunderstandings – stories of ships full of grain leaving Ireland, of overcrowded famine graveyards, of callous landlords and of Queen Victoria contributing £5 to famine relief – which have been passed glibly down from generation to generation.” Some “myths”! Kinealy thus concealed genocide for years, by labeling its basic facts as “glib” “myths and misunderstandings.” After reporters asked her to explain the discrepancy between her work and mine she began to contradict her previous books and to acknowledge those “ships full of grain” as truth. But by covering up the at-gunpoint food removal she establishes the new, fall-back lie of “the rich Irish

starving the poor Irish.” **Holocaust Truth-Tellers** oppose the GFA sell-out of the Six Counties. None was invited to the 1994 triumphant GFA gathering at the White House. Attending was David Irvine whose UVF randomly murdered some 1,000 Irish Catholics (“Any Taig Will Do”). Other invitees present were Irish-Americans who opposed the MacBride Principles, freedom for Joe Doherty and the Birmingham Six, etc. Ditto Gerry Adams, and pols, like Teddy Kennedy, who had opposed Irish-American initiatives ever since British Intel subverted them in 1973. Teddy secured Adams’ visa while continuing to oppose one for Ruairi O Bradaigh and similar patriots.

Today, Holocaust truth-tellers oppose Britain’s current incarceration of 89+ Irish patriots including Gerry McGeough and Michael McKeivitt. We support the principles behind the Easter Rising, Bobby Sands, etal. We demand the release of Irish POWs and restoration of Articles 2 and 3 of Ireland’s Constitution that laid absolute claim to the entire island and its territorial waters.

WHO STARVED YOUR RELATIVES? www.irishholocaust.org. **WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS?** See www.terrorismireland.org. Contact fogartyc@att.net 312/664-7651.

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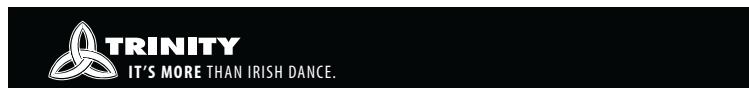


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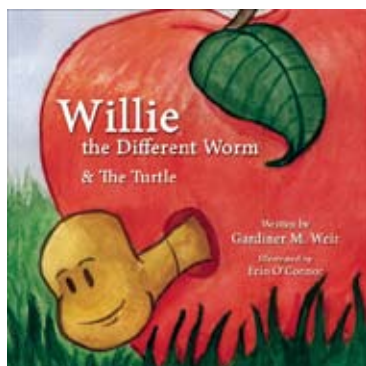
Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Willie and Imagination

Imagination! Can you begin too early to encourage imagination in children? Gardiner Weir is the author of this wonderfully imaginative book for young readers. He has a magic touch for creating emotions. Weir has written three books of short stories for adult, the last: *A world of Dreams*. I love their expansiveness of imagination and have reviewed them all. The characters reflect the Northern Ireland he knew as he was growing up. The book is available from amazon.com. Now Weir has written a book for children: *Willie the different worm and the Turtle*. Talk about test marketing! He read these stories to his own children. They loved them- now he has published them. They are written for children 8-10 years old, or at the second and



third grade level.

At an early age, a child's imagination is unlimited. I still remember some of the books I read as a child: *Pablo the Penguin*, also the adventures of a carved wooden Indian boy sitting in a wooden canoe as it travelled on rivers and lakes to the sea.

Willie is a worm but Weir gives him the emotions of a human. *Willie* is spurned by a female worm he loves. Her reason is superficial. It is good that a child learns early in life about superficial attraction and not from brutal experience.

The book has beautiful pictures- bright and vivid- created by Erin O'Connor. Erin holds a degree in visual communications and is a graphic designer at Willmington University. *Willie the Different Worm and The Turtle* is available as an ebook from amazon.com's Kindle, Barnes and Noble's Nook, Google's Ebook and published as a hard copy from publishamerican.net.

The Battle for Cork

This outstanding book tries to explain the puzzling collapse of anti-treaty forces in their stronghold, Cork City. They were well armed and in strong defensive positions. Why did they collapse so quickly?

The author, John Borgonovo, points to two explanations. 1). The general populace was tired of war, wanted peace, and a national Irish government. The results of the election to approve the treaty show this.

There was little popular support for the anti-treaty forces. When de Valera visited Cork in Spring, 1922, "his rally generated little public enthusiasm."



Michael Collins visited on March 13. He represented the National Government and he was a strong supporter of the treaty. "Up to 50,000 people attended the huge gathering, among the largest in the city's history."

2). The surprise landing of National Army troops behind the anti-treaty forces. The invasion force was commanded by General Emmett Dalton, a close friend of Michael Collins. He had carried out daring raids during the War for Independence.

Only 24 years old, Dalton had experience in leading soldiers during WWI, and even won the Military Cross.

The author, a military historian, says, "Dalton was the finest field commander of the Civil War."

The two ships he commanded looked like unarmed small steamers. The plan was that they arrive in Cork late at night and during a holiday.

Dalton had commanded his soldiers to stay below deck and not to return any fire. This caught the irregulars by surprise. By the time they realized what was happening, Dalton's troops were ashore and armored cars and artillery were being unloaded.

The surprise was so complete that, "By and large the garrison simply grabbed their weapons and ran away

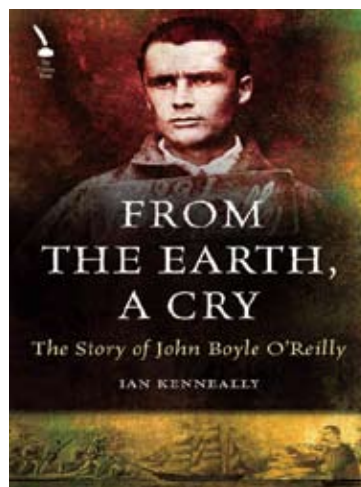
into the darkness."

Several days of hard fighting for Cork followed, and the Civil War continued until May, 1923. But, I believe the tide turned here for the National Government of Ireland.

The Battle for Cork: July-August 1922, Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. Info@dufour editions.com

Extraordinary Irishman

This book is about John Boyle O'Reilly who was an amazing man. He was born in 1844 in County Meath. His father was a national



school master. As a teenager he learned the printing trade, and later became a reporter. He became a member of the Fenian Brotherhood and joined the British Army so he could recruit Irish soldiers.

He was caught by the British, sentenced to death, but then commuted to life in prison. He escaped from British prisons and then "transported" to Australia. The British probably hoped they'd never hear from him again. But, he did the impossible - he escaped from Australia! He came to America and in 1869 settled in Boston.

There he worked for the "Boston Pilot," a newspaper that advocated for Irish Americans. He became editor of that paper until his death in 1890.

As editor he attracted and published the literary work of many influential Irish people, such as Douglas Hyde, Lady Wilde, and W. B. Yeats.

He was a strong supporter of home rule for Ireland, of Charles Stewart Parnell, and independence for Ireland.

Boyle was an early supporter of the American labor movement. Being a humane man, he was sensitive to the dignity of all people.

This book shows us his exciting and adventurous life.

From the Earth, A Cry - The Story of Boyle O'Reilly, by Ian Kenneally. The Collins Press and DuFour Editions. info@dufour editions.com.

Realistic Poetry

Why is a poem powerful and meaningful to one person and not to another?

Jerry O'Neill, local businessman and faithful encourager of Irish literature, read a poem of his to introduce the recent iBAM! gala dinner.

Expecting a typical syrupy or highly subjective poem, I was only half listening. But, after a few lines I sat up and paid close attention. This was because the poem was hard edged, realistic and powerful.

The next day Jerry gave me a collection of his poems: *Poetry From the Heart of An Irish Soul*. I am amazed at the intimacy and strength.

O'Neill is brave to show us his personal feelings and emotions.

The great Irish playwright, G. B. Shaw, would approve of the title. He said: "An Irishman's heart is nothing but his imagination."

I am constantly amazed at the profound literary production of the small island of Ireland. I feel this is because the love of words, and their nuances, is distinctly a part of our Irish literary heritage. This is one of Jerry O'Neill's poems.

It's 1:30 in the morning, the phone just rang and my heart is pounding,

Just what tragedy or whose death,

is that untimely alarm now sounding?

It's a great friend. He says, "Don't talk, just listen, and then he starts crying,

He says he's slipped and is ashamed, and he's drinking and using again and lying.

He can't believe that he has fallen again, so deep into the devil's hole,

Would I please help him find the way again,

To save his life and soul,

I told him he could count on me,, and together we would re-find the way,

I said he was already past the hardest part,

By admitting that he needed help today,

I told him I would pick him up tomorrow, Have coffee and talk and catch a meeting,

And get back to those 12 lifesaving steps,

That to survive we must go on repeating

I assured him again that I would Help him, things would be okay and not to worry

When he hung up I closed my eyes and

Prayed and begged for God to guide me.

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The Irish Rover

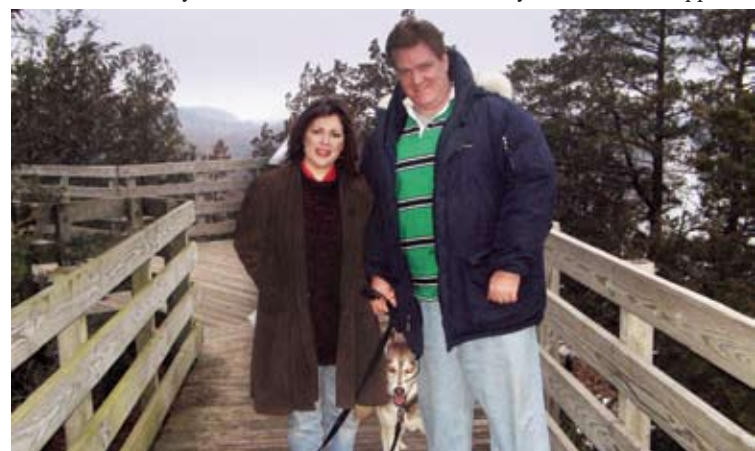
By James McClure



Love Conquers All

From time to time I am asked by readers to tell the rest of the story. In literature as in life you sometimes have

increasingly commonplace in the era of social media and personal internet sleuthing, ours was made all the more remarkable by the fact that it happened



to wait to see how it unfolds.

Such has been the case with a February column I wrote five years back about meeting a teenage crush thirty years after first meeting each other.

Virginia Franchi and I were friends, nothing more, back in the late 1970s in high school. While such reunions are

complete by chance. Or the kind of chance where you see God's hand in it from the start.

She was dating someone else and unavailable when we met as members of a teen Bible study that met summers in a rented bank basement downtown. After a couple such summers we both

went off to college in separate states and separate lives. At the risk of sounding like the then-contemporary Harry Chapin song Taxi I was going to be a lawyer and she was going to learn to fly.

Down on my luck after success in two down-on-their-heels careers, journalism and public relations, I made a controlled crash landing at an hourly security supervisor job at a major corporate headquarters in Northbrook. Licking my wounds from a double-dip recession and looking for laptops unsecured on desks I found the most important information to me –where my Girl Who Got Away ended up.

The name on the cubicle and my memories matched up, and Ginny and I have dated on and off for five instructive years of personal growth as individuals and eventually as a couple... held back by personal weaknesses and pressed forward by mutual sacrifice. What stubbornness and immaturity couldn't sidetrack, love and shared struggles overcame. We learned and loved more through loss of parents, income and guaranteed future once provided by corporate America.

The past year would have torn most couples apart—severe loss of revenue, job hopes dashed and positive steps toward new careers slowed and seemingly stopped again and again by economic gloom and lack of opportunity.

Through it all Ginny has pressed through endless hours of class hours toward a Master's degree and hundreds of hours in an internship to be a hospital chaplain. I've spent every spare minute either working part-time jobs to stay afloat or testing with law enforcement and public safety agencies to beat the hundred-to-one odds to become a 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatcher.

In one sense, we had to learn how

to serve others with all that entails. The hardships we endured in lack of time, lack of money and lack of foreseeable future helped us learn how to serve each other.

When we do finally move under one roof, sometime later this year, there won't be much argument over who carries whom over the threshold.

With God's help we did it together. IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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For more information contact Cindi Resser at 312-371-7040



Saw Doc Here 2-22

On February 22, fiery Irish rockers The Saw Doctors will embark on their largest North American tour with over 25 dates in several major markets including Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Toronto, as well as debut performances in Florida, North Carolina and Iowa.

In 2011 the band had a runaway hit with their cover of Petula Clark's sensational 1960s pop single "Downtown," which reached #2 on the chart in December. Clark joined the band in the studio to rerecord the chorus and harmony.

The Saw Doctors' latest album, 'The Further

Adventures Of The Saw Doctors,' was released in the UK to unanimous acclaim. It is by far their grittiest album to date, dealing with some of the most serious lyrics of the band's career.

Formed in 1986, The Saw Doctors have achieved eighteen top 30 singles and three number one hits in Ireland. Their single "I Useta Lover" is the country's bestselling single of all time, outselling U2. The band has toured America for over twenty years with the New York Times raving, "The Saw Doctors sing earnest folk-rocking anthems of small-town life."

for more information go to their website: <http://www.sawdoctors.com>



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The Irish Connection



By Colleen Kelly



Warm Bread, Valentine Memories and Taking the Plunge

As a kid, one of my most treasured Valentine memories, was clutching a brown-paper bag of newly acquired valentines and running home as fast as my legs would carry me to show my mom. My mother had her own little tradition on that special day.

She would boil up a pot of

steaming hot Barry’s Irish tea and bake a plate of Irish soda bread all slathered with melted butter...yum, yum! We anxiously gathered around the kitchen table to giggle and smile over the little rhymes and sayings.

During this month of love, I thought I would share my mother’s highly guarded Irish bread recipe, so when a loved one of yours comes home, wet from snow or maybe even just having a bad day, you can greet them with the smell of warm bread baking in the oven. I promise

you, they will feel the love.

And don’t forget a piping hot cup of tea. Tea always makes everything better.

Nana’s Irish Bread
“Kathleen Sweeney Keogh”

Note: My mother’s version is slightly “Americanized”

with a few more raisins thrown in.

- 3 cups of flour
- 2/3 cup of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of baking powder
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 _ cups of raisins (or more to taste)

- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 _ cups of buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons of corn oil

PREHEAT oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a rectangular bread pan. My mother’s recipe uses a rectangular pan, versus traditional Irish soda bread in a round pan.

Blend flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and raisins in a bowl.

In a separate bowl, mix beaten eggs, buttermilk and corn oil.

Mix the all of the liquid and dry ingredients together. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

However, if you are short on time, you can always head to the north-west side of Chicago to buy some Irish bread. O’Connor’s Deli and Market specializes in Irish groceries and bakery products. From Irish butter to sausages to Barry’s Irish tea and corn beef sandwiches, they

will fulfill your love of everything Irish. O’Connor’s Deli and Market is located at 7280 West Devon in Chicago, IL. 773. 631.0747 www.oconnorsdeli.com.

Looking for something to do this winter to warm your heart?

Speaking of coming in from the cold and feeling the love, Special Olympics Chicago is having their 12th annual Polar Plunge. Want to give back and looking for something adventurous to do? How about jumping into Lake Michigan in the middle of winter? Your body may be cold, but your heart will be warmed knowing that you are helping raise money for the Special Olympics.

Last year more than 1,700 people participated in the Polar Plunge and had the bragging rights to go along with it. A participant can sign up or set up a team. Special Olympics makes it easy to fundraise. They will set you up with a link for family and friends to donate. If you get

20 of your friends to participate in the plunge, they will even set you up with a FREE round trip bus.

There are prizes to win such as, best team costume and best overall fundraiser but most of all, the greatest part, is the warm feeling you will have knowing that you helped to support children and adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in year round Olympic sports and activities.

Special Olympics Chicago
12th Annual Polar Plunge
North Avenue Beach, Chicago, IL
Sunday, March 4, 2012

For more information on Special Olympics or to sign up for the plunge, go to www.sochicago.org or call 312.527.3743.

Have a Happy Valentine’s Day!

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



Chicago Fire Department Pipes and Drums Celebrate 5 Years

The Oldest Pipe & Drum band in the Country will help the youngest celebrate five years of service.

Organized in 2007. A few volunteers with next to no experience un-

members and mourned the loss of four line of duty deaths.

Helping celebrate the youngest Pipe & Drum band in the country is the oldest. Chicago’s very own



derstood that the Chicago Fire Department deserved their own Pipe & Drum band. The idea was long overdue. It’s written on every vehicle in the department. “We’re there when you need us.” The values that make the fire service a noble calling are the same values the band used to build their volunteer organization.

Fast forward to February 25, 2012. The CFD Pipes & Drums celebrates their 5th year of service. Never changing their mission. Remaining true to the promise. Every decision in the band is made with three words in mind. Pride, Honor & Tradition.

Since 2007 the CFD Pipes & Drums has celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Chicago Fire Department, laid to rest many retired

Stock Yard Kilty Band. Organized in 1921.

The celebration will be at 115 Bourbon Street. Merrionette Park, IL. On Saturday, February 25, 2012 (2pm-5pm). In addition to the Stockyard Kilty Band there will be performances by The Larkin & Moran brothers, Irish dancers and traditional Irish session music featuring Brendan Byrne. Tickets are \$25.

To find out more or to support this special event, please contact Douglas Crowley at 773-344-7188 or at douglas_crowley@hotmail.com.

When: Saturday, February 25, 2012, 2-5pm

Where: 115 Bourbon Street, Merrionette Park, IL.

Tickets: \$25

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Ronald Reagan or John F. Kennedy's Irish ancestors or relatives could not come to America legally today.

On December 13th 2011, Senate bill S1983 was introduced in the United States Senate. This bill would allow 10,500 Irish citizens to legally come to the United States every year. It has currently 53 co-sponsors in the Senate, we need only seven more to reverse the 1965 Immigration bill that stopped legal Immigration to the USA.

Please call the following Senators and ask them to vote for Senate Bill S1983 Irish E Visas

Alaska
Senator Lisa Murkowski
202 224 6665

Iowa
Senator Chuck Grassley
202 224 3744

New Hampshire
Senator Kelly Ayotte
202 224 3324

Arizona
Senator John McCain
202 224 2235

Kentucky
Senator Mitch McConnell
202 224 2541

Ohio
Senator Rob Portman
202 224 3353

Florida
Senator Marco Rubio
202 224 3041

Maine
Senator Susan Collins
202 224 2523

Pennsylvania
Senator Pat Toomey
202 224 4254

Illinois
Senator Mark Kirk
202 224 285

Maine
Senator Olympia Snowe
202 224 5344

Texas
Senator John Cornyn
202 224 2934

Indiana
Senator Dick Lugar
202 224 4814

Massachusetts
Senator Scott Brown
202 224 4543

Wisconsin
Senator Ron Johnson
202 224 5323

"Irish settlers helped form this nation yet, amazingly, they received only two-tenths of one percent of our green cards last year."

-Senator Jeff Sessions, Alabama Republican

Irish people were disproportionately affected by the 1965 Immigration Act. The Act "worked in a very dramatic and significant way against the Irish."

-The late Senator Edward Kennedy

www.irishlobbyusa.org

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

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Celebrating Success!

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.

As we endure the last blast of winter, I would like to share a few “success stories” of Catholic Charities’ clients, which will hopefully warm your heart. Each year, Catholic Charities assists more than one million people in need, of all faiths, ages and ethnicities through 157 programs at 162 sites in Cook and Lake counties. Hundreds of these “good news” stories are periodically submitted by our case workers. I hope our readers, benefactors and volunteers will share our pride in these few stories of hope and courage.

Addiction Counseling Education Services (ACES):

A client completed his outpatient

services and brought a figurine of a panda with a suitcase in one hand and a passport in the other to his last session. He said that, when he bought the figurine at the second hand store, it was broken and chipped in many places. When I saw it, it was beautiful and looked new. His explanation was this: “When I first came here, I was broken and chipped in many places. You put me together and helped me find the right path and now I am on a journey. I have what I need and can now go places knowing that my feet are steady and the path of recovery is before me.”

Housing Case Management:

John, a 63-year old Hispanic gentleman, came to Catholic Charities for mortgage delinquency and default resolution counseling. A Catholic Charities housing counselor met with John to address his specific needs in order to avoid foreclosure of his “dream home,” where he and his family had resided for over 14 years. They deeply desired to remain in the home. When John requested our services, he was three months behind on his mortgage payments

due to illness and unemployment, the family had exhausted their retirement and savings, and they did not know where else to turn. He had received a summons to appear in court and was losing hope. Our housing counselor referred John to a respected Legal Services firm for legal representation and assisted him in completing a home loan modification application with his lender, delaying the foreclosure process until John was ultimately approved for the modification. During this time, John obtained full-time employment and successfully completed the trial period. When the modification was completed, the interest rate on the mortgage was reduced by half and John is now able to afford his monthly expenses. Catholic Charities’ housing counselor is providing follow-up services to ensure that John can maintain his budget and continue to pay his monthly expenses. Had John not sought Housing Counseling services at Catholic Charities, it is probable that he and his family would have lost their home. Fortunately, our housing counselor was able to educate John regarding the foreclosure process, provide direction toward alternatives to avoid foreclosure, and stabilize his family’s housing.

The LOSS Program
Three months ago, Catholic

Charities’ LOSS Program (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) started a group in our Cicero office for Spanish-speaking individuals who have lost loved ones to suicide. For decades, monthly meetings have been held at almost a dozen sites for groups of survivors grieving such a loss, but the LOSS program had only been able to offer individual counseling for Spanish-speaking survivors. While helpful for these individuals, they missed the healing benefits and comfort of sharing with other survivors who were going through the same traumatic tragedy. Although the LOSS program had been brainstorming the idea of a Spanish-speaking group for a few years, it was thought that cultural or legal factors such as -immigration status; the reluctance to speak in

public or to share family problems outside of the family, and the concept of suicide as a sin and shameful to the family would prohibit Mexican and Latino participation. Fortunately, courageous families and individuals were willing to seek the benefits of these professional, confidential services in a group led by one of our Spanish-speaking therapists. Today, this group has three Spanish-speaking women who have lost their husbands to suicide. They are able to mourn in the company of other widows in their native language without fear of being shamed or stigmatized.

In these and many more ways, Catholic Charities lives the Gospel of God’s love every day of the year assisting our brothers and sisters who conquer insurmountable obstacles with courage and grace.



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ROSE OF TRALEE

By Siobhan Carroll

I was fortunate enough to be named the Chicago Rose of Tralee on St. Patrick's Day weekend of last year. The Chicago Rose of Tralee committee puts on an absolutely incredible weekend of activities in order to mimic what the Regional competition is like in Ireland. During the course of the weekend, all the Roses take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, individual and group interviews, chats with previous Roses, and of course, the on stage interview and show. One of the best parts of the weekend is simply the time you get to spend with the other Roses. We are constantly reminded that the Rose of Tralee is not about competition, its about camaraderie, friendship, connecting with

your Irish heritage and connecting with the global Irish community.

In May, I headed to Portlaois, Co. Laois along with girls from all over the world to compete in the Regional portion of the Rose of Tralee. The first time all the Roses met was at a briefing the evening before the Regional competition began. You could tell everyone was a bit anxious in the beginning, but by the time we walked out of the room, all anyone could hear was chatter and laughter. You also couldn't help but smile because of all the goodies we had just gotten from Newbridge Silver, the lead sponsor of the event.

Over the course of the next few days, the Roses were whisked around to some of the most beautiful homes, gardens and castles of Ireland where we were treated like absolute royalty. Whenever the Roses traveled, roads were actually shut down for us to come thru while we were police escorted to our destinations! At every location we visited, we were greeted by local dignitaries, business owners, local media, and of course, previous Roses. The evening is the time when your family can come cheer you on and when all the girls get to showcase their personalities. All the girls held hands as we waited for the final names to be called and when I heard Daithi say, "your Chicago Rose!" I was absolutely thrilled because I knew my journey wasn't over just yet.

After a summer full of fun events, such

as the Irish American Heritage Center's Irish Fest, I made my way to Dublin for the beginning of the 2011 Rose of Tralee International Competition. The Rose of Tralee is actually held in Tralee, Co. Kerry, however, they don't just let the Roses show up in Tralee, we go on tour throughout Ireland for a week in the official Rose bus until our grand entrance into Tralee. The night of our first briefing felt like a big reunion. All of us girls had kept in touch all summer long, so we couldn't wait to

are all put into a greenroom full of makeup artists, hair dressers, producers and directors. They put t.v.'s in the room so we can watch as the other girls do their interview. As the night went on, the room became less and less full until I was finally the last Rose in the room. "Right Chicago, your up!"

If you asked me what I even talked about while I was on t.v., in front of a million viewers, I honestly couldn't tell you. I remember walking off stage and it felt like a complete blur. Your time up there goes by so quickly and you're trying to remember, was I funny, did anyone laugh, did I mention my parents, did I even tell them my name? When I walked into that room and looked around at the thirty one other incredible girls I had been in the company with for the last ten days, I quickly reminded that its not about being the best on t.v or even about being the best Rose, its about being a part of something so incredibly special. It's about being a part of a tradition of Ireland and about representing you, your family, your hometown, and your heritage.

This year, the winner was Tara Talbot of Queensland, Australia. Tara has been such an incredible representative of not only the Rose of Tralee, but also of the 2011 Roses. Although I was not the winner of the



see each other and catch up. We also met the other girls that would make up the total of thirty-two, which included girls that did not go to regionals from Australia, Kerry, Cork and Dublin. One of the first things we were told was, if you thought Port Laois was incredible, you have only gotten a taste of what things will be like for the next ten days.

We traveled all over Ireland visiting some of the most famous and beautiful landmarks the country has to offer. We were taken on private tours of the Houses of the Oireachtas by Senators and Ambassadors, given all access tours of the Guinness Brewery in Dublin, honorary guests at the Cliffs of Moher, and were considered special guests of Newbridge Silver and the Carlton Hotel Group wherever we went. It was so exciting when the Rose bus would turn into a town and you could see people lined in the streets all waiting for a chance to take a photo with you and to get an autograph.

The day we headed into Tralee was full of excitement and anticipation. This was it, this was what the Rose of Tralee was all about. Banners were absolutely everywhere with all of the Roses faces on them, pictures were lined in pubs of different Roses that they were supporting, our faces were actually engraved onto hurling sticks that you could buy off of street vendors! People had shirts, hats, and pins with Roses names and faces on them. It was an absolutely incredible sight.

The night of the televised event, we

Rose of Tralee, that did not mean that my Rose duties stopped. I have continued to represent the Chicago Irish community and will continue to do so until I crown the 2012 Chicago Rose in March. I am so looking forward to sharing the experience all over again.

I am proud to say that I have the Chicago Rose of Tralee to thank for all that this year has brought me. I also cannot fail to thank my wonderful sponsor, The Irish Boutique and Paddy's on the Square of Long Grove. Because of sponsors like The Irish Boutique, The Emerald Loop, Euro Shippers, and Halstead Harp, the Chicago Rose of Tralee is possible. I also must thank the Irish American Heritage Center for always welcoming me into their doors with open arms and the Irish American News for their continuous support.

Most importantly, I must thank my parents, Frankie Carroll (showband star from The Big 8, Frankie Carroll and the Ranchers, and Brendan Boyer and the Irish Showband) and Dee Carroll nee Cadogan (former Waterford Rose contestant). I also have a lot of thanks that I need to share with my sister, Clare, and my boyfriend, Justin. These are the people that have been there for me every step of the way and I couldn't be more proud to have them as my Rose supporters.

Filling out that little application for the Chicago Rose of Tralee was one of the best decisions of my life. My life will never be the same because of that decision, and I couldn't be happier.

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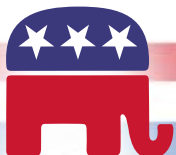
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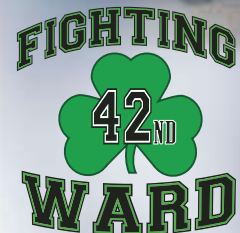
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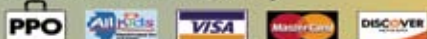


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