



Midwest Fleadh

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of Culture's
Shona
McCarthy
pg 15



The KEANE Machine



*"Amazing!" Frank Quinn
The Irish American Heritage Center and Marlene Productions are pleased
to announce the second concert of the Local Artist Concert Series.*

*** THIS JUST IN *** APRIL 15 *** KATHLEEN AND FRIENDS WITH STEVE HOLLOWAY OF RIVERDANCE *** HEARTLAND CAFE *** Details at www.heartlandcafe.com

*".. I missed
Britches Full
of Stiches"
... Katie & Betty*



Special Guest
Howard Levy
Harmonica & Composition

*"Remarkable!"
...Gerry Field*



Catherine
O'Connell
Vocals



Alfonso
Ponticelli
Guitar



Kathleen Keane

Vocals, Whistles, Fiddle, Button Accordion, Recitation & Stepdance

Jackie Moran
Bodhran, Banjo,
Storytelling & Vocals



Kimberly Bigler
Ballet & Stepdance



Steve Gibbons

Violin



Flamenco Dance
Cristina
Dominguez Gutierrez



Rebecca Zimmerman

Cello



Jim Dooley
Guitar & Vocals



James Moore
Guitar, Bass & Vocals



Alpha
Stewart
Percussion

Stepdance
& Recitation
Marieke
Van Der Maelen



Introducing
Kathy Cowan
Vocals



Introducing
Devin Shepherd
Fiddle



Saturday
May 19
8:00 PM

Graham
Nelson
Harmonica



Introducing
Ben Weber
Viola



Introducing
Larry Gray
Upright Bass



*"I didn't want
the night to end."
... Ann O'Driscoll*

The Keane Machine returns with special guest Howard Levy on Saturday, May 19th, 2012 at 8pm, to perform the first & second movements of Howard's Concerto for Diatonic Harmonica. The work will be performed for the first time with instrumentalists from the Keane Machine. The musicians will be also featured in their respective genres; jazz, Irish, country, bluegrass, classical & original.

Tickets:
\$25 in advance
\$30 at the door
Call 773.282.7035
or online:
www.irish-american.org

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HERITAGE CENTER**
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**ONLINE ONLY
IN APRIL**

We ran out of print space this month. Sean Farrell's "From the Motherland," and Jim McClures, "The Irish Rover" can be read at www.iannews.com

HELP WANTED

TJ Maloney's: Located in Merrillville, IN and the Region's ONLY Authentic Irish Restaurant & Pub, is currently hiring for all positions. Opportunity for growth within the corporate structure available as well. Please submit your resume to TJMaloneys@gmail.com. For more information go to www.tjmaloneys.com, 800 E 81st Ave Merrillville, IN 46410"

**Active Senior Expo
May 9 in Oak Forest**

Active Senior Expo, an event "Dedicated to inform, educate and entertain senior citizens", will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. in Oak Forest. Hours are 9:30 am. to 2:30 pm.

Active Senior Expo features hundreds of products and services designed specifically for seniors. Offerings include health care, retirement communities, assisted living, financial, insurance, legal, estate planning, home care, travel, consumer products, government programs and more.

Special attractions include free seminars, free health screenings and door prize drawings. Live entertainment will start at noon.

No registration is required and regular admission to the event is \$2. However, free admission coupons will be widely available and attendees can obtain a free admission coupon by visiting www.activeseniorexpo.net. Parking is free.

The sponsor of Active Senior Expo is *Chicago-land's Senior News*, "The Premier News Source for Active Adults Age 50 and Better". Major sponsors are the SouthtownStar, Alternatives For Seniors and Humana MarketPoint.

Silver Star Expositions at (630) 620-6347. Fax: (630) 620-7996. E-Mail: activeseniorexpo@hotmail.com

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

Easter is upon us again and while the staff at Gaelic Park will get no respite the Directors and Volunteers will get a short breather after the hectic March Season before we start preparing for Irish Fest. We continue to stress the importance of all the new social media while we maintain the traditional means of communication to maintain contact with our membership and supporters. Our message is still the same, Gaelic Park is the crossroads for anyone interested in any aspect of Irish Culture to meet and share that love or passion with like-minded people. We offer a safe, family-friendly environment to celebrate our common Irish Heritage. Once again Ireland's best and brightest are forced to emigrate and while Australia and Canada are the primary beneficiaries of Ireland's woes, 17,000 visas were issued for the USA. Evidence suggests that this current wave of emigration is

more educated and is choosing a wider variation of US cities to move to. I believe a sizeable number are choosing Chicago and I want them to know that Gaelic Park welcomes them. Irish Fest is the greatest of all crossroads when all the generations of Irish and Irish-Americans and significant others come together to sing, dance, chat, eat, and even share a toast or two for the four days of Memorial Weekend. Many people admire the commitment of our volunteers on all four days of Irish Fest, the volunteers will all tell you that their reward is the appreciation and laughter of all that come together for Irish Fest. In the meantime if you enjoyed "The Real McCoy" call Gaelic Park to book your ticket for Gaelic Park Player's Spring Production "Say Anything Twice". This fun comedy opens on Friday April 13th and runs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday ending on April 29th.

John Devitt, President



Cork Team wins 2012 All Ireland Trivia Contest

Winning All Ireland Trivia Team was Cork....again! David O'Carroll, Larry Coughlin, Tom Kearney, Bob Kearney and the fabulous, Miss Kitty. This was the second year in a row for this Cork Team.

The County Connection Corner

REMINDER: Galway Dinner Dance, Saturday April 14

Calling all CGP County Associations! Please share all your news, upcoming events and announcements! Send special dates at least one month prior to the event so as to make the deadline for publication. Email to cmfreidy5@comcast.net

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

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 TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE US!"



CGP Monthly Events

- 4/8 Mass & Irish Breakfast 10:00am
- 4/11 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm
- 4/18 Old St. Pat's Series 6:30pm
Mary Kay Slowikowski, One Woman's Journey to Grace
- 5/16 Final Old St. Pat's Series 6:30pm
Dr. Mary Amore, Mayslake Ministries, In the Footsteps of Jesus
- 5/25-28 IRISH FEST WEEKEND AT CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

Sunday Celtic Suppers Hot buffet served 4-7pm; music and dancing until 9pm, \$16 adults/\$9 children 12 and under. Entertainment: 4/8 Kara & Gerry Eadie, 4/15 John Dillon, 4/22 Sean O'Donnell, 4/29 Kara & Gerry Eadie. *Reservations required for large groups.*

Monthly Musical Luncheons Save the date for Wednesdays, April 4 and May 2. Doors open at noon, lunch served at 1pm, music until 4pm, \$13 per person. *Reservations required.*

Easter Sunday Celtic Supper at Gaelic Park
 There will be a special Easter Sunday edition of the Sunday Celtic Supper at Gaelic Park. A delicious holiday buffet including choice of soups, extensive salad bar, baked ham, lamb and chicken, vegetable, potato, dessert, tea & coffee will be served from 4-7pm. All of the fun, entertainment and delicious food is included in the \$23 ticket price and \$11 for children 12 and under. Music provided by Kara & Gerry Eadie and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny who will be bringing along treats for the kids. *Call for your reservations at 708-687-9323.*

Monday Evenings	Set Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	Ceili Dancing	7:30pm
	Pub Quiz Night	7:30pm
Thursday Evenings	Irish Sessions	7:30pm

CGP Sunday Radio Program

Live broadcast 7-8pm WCEV 1450 AM.
 Call 708.687.9330 to request a song or dedication



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 this listing to your calendar!



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Chicago Gaelic Park

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership Chairperson,
 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

A VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - All NEW Memberships and All Renewal Memberships will be entered in a raffle to win TWO tickets to Ireland sponsored by Aer Lingus Airlines. Winners drawn on Monday of the Fest!





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Gaelic Park Players Presents

Try Anything Twice

This is a comedy written by William Roche and directed by Bob Fox. When vivacious forty-something Josephine McGowan wins a Glamorous Grandmother Contest and



brings home suave, womanizing TV actor Clive Carthwright as a prize she upsets more than her gone-to-seed husband Mick. Josephine enjoys her nights out with romantic Clive, but when sexy reporter Paula arrives to

interview Mick he sees a way to prove he still "has it" with hilarious results! Theater Performance tickets: \$12

OPENING NIGHT ONLY (Friday, 4/13) BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Dinner & Theater (Sundays Only) tickets are \$25. Reservations are a must for Dinner & Theater. For Reservations call 708.687.9323

Show Dates:

Fridays: April 13, 20 & 27 8pm
Saturdays: April 14, 21 & 28 8pm
Sundays: April 15, 22 & 29 3pm
This play contains adult content and is not suitable for children under the age of 13 years. Tickets are non-refundable. If you are interested in receiving audition information and/or would like to join our mailing list, please send your name, address and email to info@gaelicparkplayers.org or mail in to Gaelic Park Players, Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Hope to see you at our Performing Arts Stage at Memorial Day Irish Fest! www.gaelicparkplayers.org.

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest Memorial 4 Day Weekend

5/25 Friday, Gates open 4pm	Special 1/2 price admission 4-5pm
5/26 Saturday Gates open 2pm	\$10 adult admission 2-3pm
5/27 Sunday Gates open 1pm	\$10 adult admission 1-2pm
5/28 Monday Gates open 1pm	\$10 adult admission 1-2pm

Regular Daily Ticket Prices: \$15 adults, \$12 Senior Citizens and children ages 4 to 12 yr. All children under the age of 4 are FREE. ONLINE Daily Pass til May 20 \$10 adults, \$8 Senior Citizens and children ages 4-12.....& ONLINE til April 30 You will save another 10% off of the above prices!

ENTERTAINMENT LINE UP includes:

Ronan Tynan, Gaelic Storm (2 Big Nights!), Girsra, Mairtin De Cogain, Dirt Drifers, Killdares, Makem & Spain Brothers, Blackstairs Rebel, Tommy Goodwin & Sharon, Chicago, Reel, 7th Heaven, Lounge Puppies, Gerry Carney, Eddie Gallagher, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Pat Finnegan & Friends, Streams of Whiskey, Kathleen Keane, Paddy Homan, Crossroads Ceili Band, Larkin & Moran Brothers, Irish Musicians, Gerard Haughey & Sean O'Donnell, Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society, Stepdancing Schools & more.



GAA Hurling Added to Super Bowl XLVI

The CuChulainn Hurling Club Is Back! "As a club, CuChulainn C.L.C.G decided that the time was right to take the field once again. We have a proud tradition and have had many successes both on and off the field in our 19 years of existence. We recognized how much hurling means to our membership. We also want to assist in making sure our ancient game survives the economic downturn of recent years. We want to get through this rough patch and in cooperation with the other hurling clubs restore Chicago Senior Hurling to the highest standards once again" Says Martin Redmond. Bringing the CuChulainns back was only one of the many big pushes the Chicago GAA will be making this year to rejuvenate a passion for hurling in Chicago. The Michael Cusacks Hurling Club will be expanding their recruitment from last year's hurling at the Lakefront to holding practices on a series of well known parks around the Chicagoland area. The Cusacks have promised to do whatever it takes to make Chicago a great hurling city once again. There's even been talk of connecting with The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick on the Northside to form a brand new hurling club here in Chicago. As we gear up for the GAA's Summer season, there certainly will be a lot more excitement around our hurling and camogie clubs, but if you can't wait until then to get out and put a run in, then the Michael Cusack Hurling Club invites you to join their 5K race at Gaelic Park on April 28th, 2012. For more information about the race contact Matt Daly mda-ly1818@gmail.com or 815-370-1922.



Congratulations to the 2012 Gaelic Park Queen (left) Siobhan Conroy and Runner-up Kiera Ferguson. These two lovely ladies will represent Gaelic Park at many of our upcoming festivities.

Adult Children of Aging Parents Workshop

Aging in America raises some very complex and confusing issues. Throughout the year we offer a wide

range of informational programming at our Tara Club and Emerald Club senior group meetings at the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park. The seniors who attend gain invaluable information on a host of senior related

topics that promote safe aging and provide practical assistance in planning for the future. Topics covered have included housing options, elder law, estate planning, and dementia care. It is common for seniors to become overwhelmed when faced with the challenges of preparing for the future. There may come a point when seniors are no longer able to make decisions for themselves and need the help of family and friends. Because of this, not only is it vital for seniors to have access to quality information, but it is also very important that their loved ones have the right knowledge to ensure that they are properly cared for. In order to help with this, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is holding an informational workshop for the adult children of aging parents. The event will feature a panel of experts in senior care who will discuss retirement housing options, elder law, hospice care, community resource and senior medical care. The work shop will take place on Saturday, April 28, registration begins at 8:30am; workshop runs between 9am and NOON; light refreshments served.

This is a free event! To register for the workshop, please call the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support office at 773.282.8445. We look forward to seeing you!

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 April 6	The Fret Brothers	7.30pm
Saturday April 7	John Dillon	8.00pm
Friday April 13	John Dillon	7.30pm
Saturday April 14	The Rockets	8.00pm
Friday April 20	Joe McShane	7.30pm
Saturday April 21	Mulligan Stew	8.00pm
Friday April 27	Gerard Haughey	7.30pm
Saturday April 28	Sean & Charlie	9.30pm



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

Starting new in April on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (through September) there will be live entertainment in the Pub featuring Frank Rossi beginning at 7:30pm. We are happy he will be entertaining here in the Carrraig Pub!

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Frank O'Neill Memorial Dinner 4-21

The Frank O'Neill Memorial Committee will celebrate its First Annual Dinner honoring the memory of James Francis O'Neill and his dedication to the Nation of Ireland. Please join us on Saturday, April 21 7 PM at the Irish American Heritage Center (Wilson Avenue at Knox) in Chicago. (See contact information for the dinner below.)

Guests will enjoy a catered dinner and the rousing music of Finbarr Fagan.

Three awards will be presented to individuals by the Committee for their dedication to the Nation of Ireland. Honorees will receive the Frank O'Neill Award, the P. Michael O'Sullivan Award, and the Mary Ó Dochartaigh Award.

Frank O'Neill needs no introduction to Irish in Chicago. He was a well-loved and well-respected Irish publican. He was also a staunch Irish Re-



Frank O'Neill

publican, who left this world a year ago February.

P. Michael O'Sullivan began his photojournalism career in Chicago following service in the 82nd Airborne Division. His powerful photographs of urban conflict are legendary. His work appeared in Time, Life, Newsweek, Paris Match, The Chicago Tribune, and other publications. In O'Sullivan's first major assignment was the Detroit riots, and his photograph was chosen over thousands of others to grace the cover of Life. But his most passionate work was spawned by the Northern Ireland conflict and the injustice he witnessed on "Bloody Sunday". His proudest achievement was the publication of his book, "Patriot Graves, Resistance in Ireland". Known for 'grace under fire' he

once managed to capture on film a rubber bullet fired toward him by a British soldier, narrowly missing him. A near-fatal accident in 1982 left him unable to pursue his career. He passed on in September, 2004.

Mary Ó Dochartaigh and her husband were active very early in the fight for civil rights. Her son, Fionnbarra is the author "Ulster's White Negroes" and "Ireland - England's Vietnam". He is a founder of the Northern Ireland Civil rights Association, whose most famous march culminated in the events of "Bloody Sunday".

The committee will conduct a silent auction and raffle. For advance seating arrangements, or to donate items call Richard Wallace, 312-855-1300 or email-ricoworld@ameritech.net

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Irish Princesses and The Shannon Rovers Take the Plunge
 "The Untouchables" Team participated in the Polar Plunge at North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 5. The group of teachers "took the plunge" to raise money for Special Olympics. They raised \$4,800. Several members of "The Untouchables" have participated in the event for more than six years. The team coined the phrase "The Spirit of a Special Olympian is Untouchable" since each teacher works with students with physical and mental disabilities. Untouchables (l to r): Amy Bigeck, Jenn Rottman, Megan Connelly, Jenny Feltz, Maureen LaRaviere.

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NORTH AMERICAN REGION 2012 MIDWEST FLEADH CHEOIL APRIL 13-15, 2012

Every August, tens of thousands flock to Ireland for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the premier annual event of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the international leader in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. Known simply to its many attendees as "The Fleadh" (pronounced flah), it is a music competition in which the year's "All-Ireland Champions" are decided. However, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is more than a mere contest, rather, it is a unique cultural event - a place for people to forge the bonds of friendship and reaffirm the spirit of Irish heritage through traditional music, song and dance of the highest standard. It is truly céad míle fáilte made real.

Each year, thousands travel from the United States to attend The Fleadh, but only a select few - those who have qualified on the local level - are allowed the opportunity to contend for an All-Ireland title. Over the Fleadh's 50 years of competition, many elite American musicians have earned this prestigious honor - will there be another this year? Come find out April

13-15, when the Irish American Heritage Center will host The Midwest Region Fleadh Cheoil! Bringing the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann's charm and vitality home to Chicago, the Midwest



Fleadh is one of only two such qualifying events in all of North America. It will attract hundreds of competitors and their families from Canada, Washington, California and Texas, along with supporters and members of the Irish community in Chicago, all of whom will be looking forward to the camaraderie and craic. It's a long road for those who want to make it to the Fleadh Cheoil in

Cavan, Ireland, for a shot at an All-Ireland this August - for this, the tradition's next generation, the Midwest Fleadh is where it all starts.

This year's Fleadh will feature

a special performance from 2011 All-Ireland Senior Céilí Band champs, the Shannon Vale Céilí Band (led by Danny O'Mahoney) from County Kerry. The band's members will also serve as competition adjudicators, and will be joined by world-renowned fiddle player Oisín MacDiarmada (Teada and the Innisfree Ceili Band) of County Sligo, master harpist Gráinne Hambly of County Mayo,

Mikie Smyth of Stoneybatter, County Dublin, set dance master teacher Ultan Mulcahy of Templeglantine, West Limerick, and Raidió na Gaeltachta host and leading Sean Nós singer Meaitijó Shéamuis Ó Fátharta. In addition, all adjudicators will teach intimate workshops for Fleadh attendees during the weekend.

All are welcome to attend Fleadh competitions, performances, and workshops (including the exciting band competitions on Saturday evening). You'll find the pace fast, the music beyond compare, and you'll be swept away by the whole experience!

The 2012 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil is sponsored by the Francis O'Neill Club of Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center.

Friday, April 13, 2012

7:00 PM

Opening Ceremony featuring performances by all adjudicators

Set Dance Céilí Mór, featuring The Shannon Vale Céilí Band Duet and Trio Competitions

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Doors open at 8:00 AM;

Competitions begin at 9 AM

Solo Competitions
Set and Céilí Dancing Competitions

Céilí Band Competitions
Pipe Band Competitions
Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions
Céilí Mór and Champion Showcase

Set Dance workshops with Ultan Mulcahy will be hosted throughout the day (additional fees will apply)

Sunday, April 15, 2012

Mass at 10:00am

Master Workshops with adjudicators (additional fees will apply)

Closing Session

Admission Fees:

\$20 per person for general public entry each day

\$15 per person each day for seniors and members of the Irish American Heritage Center, Francis O'Neill Club or Comhaltas

\$10 per day, per person for parents of competitors

There will be no admission charge on Sunday, April 15

Children under the age of 12, who are not competitors, are admitted free of charge

For more information and a schedule of competitions and events, visit the website at www.midwestfleadh.com.

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An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, Visits Chicago

Cliff: 2012, 2013, looks, to me to be fantastic for Ireland. You've got the Titanic anniversary in Cobh, "The Gathering going on in 2013, you've got the Fleadh going to Derry for the first time, and Derry will be The City of Culture for the UK in 2013 you've got the Titanic display in Belfast, the Olympiad, and more! It looks like the next two years or more will be very exciting for tourists.

Enda: It's a real opportunity in so many ways. You have, Dublin, the City of Science, this year. So what you've mentioned between all the facilities, really, present a great opportunity. For instance, Young Rori McIlroy is the world's number one in golf. The Irish open is happening in Northern Ireland for the first time in a very many years, which will attract enormous attention. You're right, Fleadh will be opening for half a million people next year, and Derry, the City of Culture is doing the same thing. The Volvo race finishes in Galway as well. They expect 600,000 people to attend that. So that's all there and next year, 2013, we're looking to bring people home from all over the world, both the Irish diaspora and all others who want to visit Ireland. We invite them to come and involve themselves in the country and understand the personality of the people that we have, and enjoy our very excellent tourism facilities as well. With that, we expect our visitors to be given really good value and a quality experience they will never forget. And that's going to continue through 2013 and 2014. We're going to have, what we call the Davos in respect of the creative arts, the imaginative arts, theater, drama, music and all of that. As you're aware, the Davos Institute is where they bring all of the chief economists of the world together in Switzerland, every year, for a big discussion over a week about the economies

of the world. We want to give vent to the flare and creativity of 2014, of the Irish diaspora in literature, art, the creative arts, music, film and drama.

That's all being planned up ahead now and we would say to people in the United States, 'Look, if you have Irish descent anywhere in you, and there are 45 million people who have, Come home and find the missing part of your own personality, which is very important. A sense of fulfillment that you can find out, you know, where your own people came from. If you've never been to Ireland before, get involved because Irish people are curious, inquisitive, gregarious, and people want to be associated with that. It's about life and living the challenge of life, which is great."

Cliff- You are here for business and tourism, and you were in Boston recently.

Enda- I was in Boston a month ago. I spoke at the Kennedy School of Government and at the Kennedy Library. I met with the Irish American's from Boston, of which they are a huge number. It was a great excitement. I've come here to do the St. Patrick's Day parade tomorrow, which, is the first time, I think, an Irish Taoiseach has walked in the parade in a very long time indeed. The Congress doesn't sit in Washington this week so my visit to the White House is on Tuesday. That allows me to visit a number of multinational companies who are based in Ireland from the Chicago area. I will meet with the Irish business organizations which looks after incentives for schools in Ireland and the education area. I'll also visit the Irish communities and explain what's happening at home and how we're involved in wanting to make the decisions to improve our country.

So, we're here for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and to celebrate the unique

bond between Ireland and America. We're in Chicago which I think is the most American of American cities, but Chicago also has a really strong group of people from Ireland whom I know of myself. Hopefully my visit will give them a sense of contact of connection with our country.

Cliff: You've been in Chicago before. Enda: I have been here over the years. You remember, St. Patrick's Day is an Irish day, but it's an Irish day the world over. You only have Bastille Day for the French and Independence day for the United States, which are of similar nature. But they don't have the reach of Ireland which has 70 million diaspora all around the world.

I've met people from Galway, Cork, Limerick and Mayo, and Tourmakeady. They talk about football and acquaintances and you know, all of that. I mentioned to people of the undocumented problem which is in limbo at the moment. Also the question of what's going on in regard to the E-3 visa's for people who may wish to come to America in the future.

Cliff: A lot of work is being done on that by Billy Lawless here in Chicago.

Enda: Billy's a very good friend of mine. He's done a great job for Irish in Chicago. He's very helpful and cooperative in so many personal and sensitive cases.

Cliff: The mood seems good in Ireland.

Enda: The mood is pragmatic. The country was in a very difficult position when they took of government last year. It meant that you had to make some really difficult decisions. We restored our competitiveness and put us in a position where we focus on job creation and cutting out where waste applied and making decision that would bring out country back. One of the things I'm really glad of, is here in America, our international reputation has been restored. American business and American investment now look at Ireland as being a very different place than it was before. They know that

there's no messing going on now in the sense of government not applying itself to it's job properly. From that point of view, we retain our 12 ½ % corporate tax rate, we value greatly the work that American investment provides in Ireland, and we're also very happy 80,000 people across 50 states are implied in Irish growing companies here.

Enterprise Ireland, which is our agency, working from Ireland in the United States, will do a great job with any young company that wants to expand its business into America.

Anyone who wants to do business from America to Ireland, we will ask them to involve themselves with the Industrial Development Authority. That's the agency that attracts investment to Ireland. The IDA. Here in the Chicago area, I'm going to visit Hollister which is a big plant in County Mayo, I'm going to visit Baxter, who has a plant in my home town in Castlebar employing more than 1200. I'm also going to talk to Abbot which make medical products in their (base in Sligo and Longford. I make it a point of going to talk to chief executives and corporate personal when I am in the states and I am very happy with that. They provide good employment for the people of Ireland, and we want to encourage that.

Cliff: Last words for the people of Chicago?

Enda: I'm thrilled to be here. It's a privilege as Taoiseach of Ireland to come to this historic city to meet so many Irish people. I wish them all a really happy St. Patrick's weekend. Let them not forget that Mayo has not won the All Ireland yet, but I'm going to try and do that this year again! From my part, we will continuously work through government in building opportunities for people so that, they can come home if they want to. For those who are at home, they don't have to leave if they don't want to either.

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April Seated Entertainment

✦ *Finbarr Fagan* ✦ *Morgan Fingleton* ✦ *The Fluffers* ✦
 ✦ *Gerry Haughey* ✦ *Fast Eddie McAteer* ✦
 ✦ *Hudson-McCoy* ✦ *Triadd* ✦ *Gareth Woods* ✦
 ✦ *Now Featuring Sunday Sessions with Seamus O'Kane* ✦
April 1st, 15th, 29th
Live music every weekend - see our website for dates and times

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Irish American Hall of Fame Weekend Friday – Saturday – Sunday April 27 – 28 – 29

The Irish American Hall of Fame will celebrate the induction of its 2012 Class with a full weekend of events. The Hall of Fame was established in 2011 under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center to recognize the outstanding contribution of Irish Americans to the history of the United States and to the Irish American experience in this country.

The weekend begins with a special concert by The Makem and Spain Brothers on Friday, April 27 at 8pm. Tickets are \$15 for IAHC members and \$20 for general admission.

The weekend continues on Saturday, April 28 at 6:30pm with the 2012 Irish American Hall of Fame Gala; this is a black tie event honoring the 2012 Inductees and features special appearances by Governor Patrick Quinn, the members of the families of John Ford, George M. Cohan, John L. Sullivan, Tip O'Neill, and the Sullivan Brothers of WWII. Tickets are \$200 for IAHC members and \$225 for general admission. Special presentations will be made in honor of Robert Kennedy, Patrick Ryan, Father Flanagan, Mayor Richard M. Daley and others. The weekend closes on Sunday, April 29 with a special screening of



John Ford films. Dan Ford, grandson of the Director, is scheduled to appear and will conduct a Q&A session. The films are at 2:30pm and tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

The 2012 Inductees to the Irish American Hall of Fame are Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Professor Emmet Larkin, "Ph.D", Cyrus McCormick, John L. Sullivan, Mayor Richard M. Daley, John Ford, Tommy Makem, George M. Cohan, Father Edward Flanagan, Patrick Ryan and the Sullivan Brothers of WWII.

For more information on the Irish American Hall of Fame weekend and to purchase tickets, call the Center at 773-282-7035 or visit www.iahof.org.

North American Region Midwest Fleadh Cheoil April 13-15

The 2012 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil is April 13-15 at the Center.

The Fleadh Cheoil, which is Irish for Music Festival, is a yearly competition for traditional musicians, singers and dancers of all ages and serves as the first round of competition for entry in the prestigious All-Ireland competition.

Eligible competitors come from all over North America and top winners from the Midwest Fleadh compete in the All-Ireland competition in August 2012 in Cavan, Ireland.

This year's Fleadh features a performance from the 2011 All-Ireland Senior Céilí Band, The Shannonvale Céilí Band, from County Kerry, who will also serve as adjudicators for the competition. They will be joined by world-renowned fiddle player Oisín MacDiarmada of County Sligo, master harpist Gráinne Hambly of County Mayo, set dance master teacher Ultan Mulcahy of Templeglantine, West Limerick and Raidió na Gaeltachta host and leading Sean Nós singer Meaití Jó Shéamuis Ó Fátharta. All adjudicators will teach intimate workshops for attendees during the weekend.

Hundreds of competitors and their families, along with supporters and members of the Irish community in Chicago, will assemble to experience a unique cultural tradition. All are welcome to attend Fleadh competitions, performances, and workshops, including the exciting band competitions on Saturday evening.

The 2012 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil is sponsored by the Francis O'Neill Club of Chicago and the Center.

The schedule is:
Friday, April 13 7pm
Opening Ceremony featuring

performances by adjudicators
Set Dance Céilí Mór, featuring The Shannonvale Céilí Band

Duet and Trio Competitions

Saturday, April 14

Doors open at 8am and competi-



tions begin at 9am

Solo Competitions
Set and Céilí Dancing Competitions
Céilí Band Competitions
Pipe Band Competitions
Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions
Céilí Mór and Champion Showcase
Set Dance workshops with Ultan Mulcahy will be hosted throughout the day and additional fees apply

Sunday, April 15

Mass at 10am

Master Workshops with adjudicators (additional fees apply)

Closing Session

Admission Fees

\$20 per person for general public entry each day.

\$15 per person each day for seniors and members of the Center, Francis O'Neill Club or Comhaltas

\$10 per day, per person for parents of competitors.

There is no admission charge on Sunday, April 15.

Children under the age of 12, who are not competitors, are free. For tickets and information on the Fleadh, www.midwestfleadh.com

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME WEEKEND

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY, APRIL 27-28-29

Irish American
Hall of Fame Concert
Starring

**The Makem and
Spain Brothers**

Sons of 2012 Hall of
Fame Inductee
Tommy Makem



Friday, April 27

\$20

\$15 Members

Doors open at 7:00

Music starts at 8:00

IRISH AMERICAN HALL
OF FAME GALA

Saturday, April 28

6:30 p.m.

*In the Erin Room
Black Tie*

*Honoring the
2012 Class of Inductees*

*Scheduled to Appear
Governor Patrick Quinn*

*Master of Ceremonies,
Joel Murray*

*(actor/comedian known for his roles in
"Shameless" "Mad Men" and the Academy
Award winning Film "The Artist")*

**Plus, additional special
presentations and appearances**

\$225

\$200 for Members

Irish American
Hall of Fame
Film Presentation

**The Films of Director
John Ford**

Class of 2012
Hall of Fame Inductee



Featuring a Special Q&A
session with Daniel Ford,
grandson of the director
scheduled to appear

Sunday, April 29

2:30 p.m.

\$5

The Irish American Hall of Fame Exhibits
will be on display throughout the Weekend!



For more information on each of these events and the
entire Irish American Hall of Fame experience,

please call (773) 282-7035

or visit www.iahof.org

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THE HERITAGE LINE
 IRISH AMERICAN
 heritage center Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

In early March I had a stroke, and since then I have learned so much about the Irish American Heritage Center and the Irish in Chicago. I always knew we had a great organization with great people. But the calls, e-mails, cards, prayers, masses and conversations since then have truly been overwhelming. Thank you all so much. Mary, and our girls, Meghan and Maureen and I will be forever grateful to you. And a special thank you to Mary whose quick thinking and care helped save my life. Special thanks to the team at the South Elgin Fire House and to the emergency room staff, janitors, cooks, servers, doctors, nurses and staff at Provena St. Joseph's Hospital in Elgin.

The Center's members and volunteers' support and prayers have been answered for me. I am here, back at work and with no complications. I was able to spend St. Patrick's Day with many of you just a few

days after the ambulance took me to the hospital. That would not have happened without your support and prayers. I think this is proof that the Center, the members and volunteers have a special connection.



What happened to me also helped me focus on how important it is that we make sure the Center is here for future generations. The Center is not just for us. It is here for those who will follow us and we are charged with the responsibility that it will be here for many generations to follow. I take this responsibility seriously.

I plan to take my second chance to work even harder. It is not time to rest, but to move on. I was not given a second chance to take it easy. God put me on this earth for a reason. I think I now have a better perspective on at least one of the reasons why I am here. It is time to continue to advance our major initiatives at the Center including.....

- continued dedication to the mission
 - expanding the use of technology at the Center to

better serve our members, manage our business and help address Risk Management.

-more cultural activities and programming and better funding of these activities and programs

-investing in the "branding" of the Center's valued name and reputation

-increased transparency with regular Town Hall meetings and member reports

-significantly grow our volunteer pool

-invest in Risk Management strategies and programs

-significantly growing the membership, attracting families and youth

-continued strengthening of our financial picture

- retaining, growing and thanking our volunteers

- staffing and supporting our Development Committee efforts

-addressing our buildings needs with a Master Plan for today and the future

- strengthening our bonds and relationships with other Irish organizations as well as with our local officials, neighbors and our friends in Ireland

I plan to take my second chance to work on these op-

portunities. Would you please help me and the Center as we move forward in 2012? I ask that you.....

-Consider a donation to our Annual Appeal

-Consider a "Planned Gift" to the Center

-Volunteer for something you never have volunteered for before

-Renew your membership

-Walk up to a staff member and a volunteer and say "Thank you"

-Visit our Fifth Province and enjoy a meal or a refreshment

-Bring a friend or a family member to a Center cultural event

-Vote in the upcoming 2012-2016 Board elections

-Tell someone new about us and help us drive the name and reputation of the Center

-Remember Center members and friends in our community who need our support and prayers

Please say a prayer for the continued success of the Center. He is listening and is with us. Trust me, I know that now more than ever.

John Crowley Gorski
 President

Save the Date for the Irish American Heritage Festival July 13, 14 and 15, 2012

Tickets are now on sale for the 27th annual Irish American Heritage Festival.

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago. The festival features three days of music on 5 stages, featuring the following confirmed performers:

- Dublin City Ramblers
- Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones
- Rant Maggie Rant
- The Mickey Finns
- The Larkin and Moran Brothers
- The Tossers
- Young Dubliners
- Dooley Brothers
- Matt Stedman Band
- The Great Whiskey Project
- Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers
- Kennedy's Kitchen and more!

Hours are 6pm to midnight on July 13, noon to midnight on July 14 and noon to 11pm on July 15. Tickets are \$7 for seniors, \$8 in advance for adults and \$15 at the door and children 12 and under are free.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.irishfestchicago.com.



Dublin City Ramblers



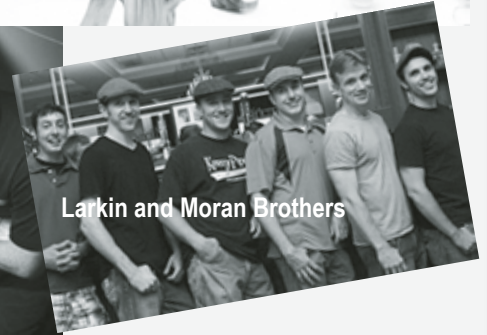
Matt Stedman Band



The Tossers



Young Dubliners. Photo: David Gwennap



Larkin and Moran Brothers

Kids Cook Up Fun!

Parents, bring the kids to the Shamrock Kids Club Baking Day. Join us in the kitchen for this event with the Galway Bakers. Kids will learn how to make cookies and have an afternoon of fun. All supplies will be provided onsite. Reservations are a must and we only have room for 30 children. Call 773-282-7035, ext 10 by April 4 to



reserve a place.

The Shamrock Kids Club Baking Day is Saturday, April 7 from 2pm to 4pm. The cost is \$4 for IAHC Members and \$5 for guests.

You can also call the above number for more information about the Shamrock Kids Club. This club is for kids ages 6-12 to learn about their heritage in a fun way and for families to socialize with each other.

VISIT THE GIFT SHOP! THE EASTER EGGS ARE HERE!

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

Come and fill your spring baskets with real Irish Easter Eggs. Quantities are limited, so stop in soon!



Be sure to stock up on Irish bangers, bacon, sausage rolls, and puddings. We have the best of Harrington and Winston's meats. Stop in for all your Irish import needs or call us at 773-282-7035, ext. 14

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

To place an order call 773-282-7035, ext. 14
 We also sell gift cards



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



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Make Your Vote Count!

Nominations for new members of the IAHC Board of Directors will be held at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 20 at 7pm.

We have four outgoing Board Members; Mike Boyle, Meghan Curran, Jack Harrington and Bob McNamara. We thank them for their hard work and look forward to working with them in the future.

All Members are encouraged to attend this meeting and nominate a member they think would be an asset to the Center. Board Nominees must:

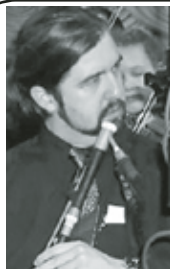
- Be a member, in good standing, for three consecutive years preceding their nomination
- Be willing to serve a four-year term
- Agree to abide by the Ethics Policy of the Center

- Support the mission and purposes of the Center

Nominations will not be accepted after the close of nominations at the meeting. Nominees should be present to accept this nomination.

Mark your calendars for Election Night on April 20 at 7pm. Check to make sure your dues are current so you don't miss the chance to vote. If you are unable to be present to vote, call the Center office for an absentee ballot. A reminder will be sent to you again with the biographies of all the candidates.

This is YOUR Irish American Heritage Center. Here is another opportunity to take an active part in how it is governed.



PIOBAIRI

PIOBAIRI, a piping presentation hosted by Pat Cannady and Friends continues this Spring in 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:
Apr 7
May 5
Jun 2
Jun 16

Wish List

In April, we wish you would:

- Attend the Annual General and Nominations Meeting on April 20
- Attend the Fleadh Cheoil on April 13, 14 and 15
- Attend our Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on April 1
- Volunteer on Saturdays as we get in shape for spring

Test Your Trivia Knowledge

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.

Remaining 2012 Quiz Nights are April 20 and May 18.

Culture Corner

Visit the **IAHC Library**

• for research and lending of our extensive collection, book signings, lectures and activities. **Library open:**

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

Genealogy Club

• for monthly meetings on finding your roots

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

the **Art Gallery**

• for lectures and art classes
- Special exhibits throughout the year

the Museum

• for our collection and special exhibits
Call our office for a docent-led 45 minute tour



The Keane Machine Returns This Spring

The Center and Marlene Productions are pleased to announce the second concert of the Local Artist Concert Series at the IAHC.

The Keane Machine returns with special guest Howard Levy, to perform the first and second movements of Howard's Concerto for Diatonic Harmonica. The musicians will be also featured in their respective genres; Irish, jazz, classical and country.

This is an event not to be missed. The concert features:

Kathleen Keane-Vocals, Whistles, Fiddle, Button Accordion, Recitation and Stepdance

Jackie Moran-Bodhran, Banjo, Storytelling and Vocals

Jimmy Moore-Guitar, Bass and Vocals

Catherine O'Connell -Vocals

Jim Dooley-Guitar and Vocals

Steve Gibbons-Violin

Alfonso Ponticelli-Guitar

Devin Shepherd-Fiddle

Graham Nelson-Harmonica

Marieke Van Der Maelen-Stepdance and Recitation

Kimberly Bigler-Ballet and Stepdance
Cristina Dominguez Guotierrez-Flamenco Dance,

Alpha Stewart-Percussion and Stage Presence,

Special Guest Howard Levy-Harmonica and Composition and introducing Kathy Cowan-vocals, Larry Gray-upright bass, Ben Weber-Viola, Rebecca Zimmerman-Cello.

The concert is Saturday, May 19th, 2012 at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035 or visiting www.irish-american.org.

The Keane Machine is a collaborative effort between musicians, singers and dancers from Irish, Gypsy Jazz, Classical and Flamenco backgrounds.

A generous portion of the profits from the concert will be donated to the installation of a permanent sound system in the IAHC auditorium.

For additional information, visit www.kathleenkeane.com.



Kathleen Keane



Jackie Moran



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



April 2012

WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

April 1	Palm Sunday Mass	Auditorium	10:30am
	Palm Sunday Breakfast	Fifth Province	11:30am
April 4	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
April 6	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
April 6	Lenten Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
April 7	Pipes and Sticks on Route 66	Auditorium	7:30pm
	Shamrock Kids Baking Day	Kitchen	2pm
	Easter Commemoration Dance	Fifth Province	6:30pm
April 8	Easter Rising Mass	Erin Room	10:30am
April 12	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
April 13	Midwest Fleadh Cheoil	Whole Building	6pm
April 14	Midwest Fleadh Cheoil	Whole Building	
April 15	Midwest Fleadh Cheoil	Whole Building	
April 17	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7pm
April 20	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
	IAHC Board Nominations	Room 310	7pm
April 21	Roscommon Club Dance	Room 310	8pm
April 26	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
April 27	Makem and Spain Brothers Concert	Auditorium	8pm
April 28	Hall of Fame Gala	Erin Room	6:30pm
	Chicago Puppetry Guild Performance	Fifth Province	11am
April 29	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly scheduled events -

Golden Diners Lunch Program in Kitchen Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat., 12:30pm-2pm

Moon for the Misbegotten - 3rd Floor Theatre -

Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 3pm, Through April 29

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

April 2012

All shows start after 9 p.m.

4/6 Ceili Mor
4/7 Joe McShane Clann na Gael

4/13 Fleadh Cheoil
4/14 Fleadh Cheoil

4/20 Seamus O'Kane & Jimmy Moore
4/21 The Dooley Brothers

4/27 Joe McShane
4/28 Dennis Florine Band



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

No Cover
Free Parking

BECOME A MEMBER

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

Running, maintaining, and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp _____ 3 Digit code on card's back: _____

Individual Membership

Annual dues

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

Family Membership

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

\$250 - Harper

3-year membership
no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership
no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues



Find us on Facebook

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For updates on upcoming events & ticket giveaways

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:

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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: Sean Cleland, Mary Griffin, John Gorski, Mary Gorski, Bob McNamara, Kathy Medic, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy, Pam Marshall Taylor

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Lying for a Living (Reprise)

The lies go on and on and on. They just never seem to end. It’s almost as if Enda Kenny and his worthless colleagues have studied in depth every sleazy, slimy move that was made by their hideous Fianna Fail predecessors and then said: “Look, lads. Let’s up the ante and take this racket to the nth degree. Let’s see just how much we can throw at the ignorant peasants who voted us in and watch what we can get away with. Now we’ve backtracked on nearly every promise that we made pre-election and there’s still no national outcry from the suckers, so any suggestions? What else can we do to rub their stupid faces in it? Oh, wait. I’ve got it...”

I’m writing this just before our annual ‘celebration’ of all things nonsensical, the awful St. Patrick’s Day weekend. Well, it is a weekend this time so now

we get a chance to drink even more, get into more fights at closing time and cover the streets in vomit for some poor devils to clean up the next day.

Yeah, St. Patrick’s Day: one day in the year when I am absolutely guaranteed to be nowhere near a public bar. I love it. Not as much as Kenny and Company, however. This year they’ve decided to stretch it out even further for themselves. The Dail is adding yet another day off in order to celebrate the coming of Christianity...or something. Well, why the hell not? After all, the punters will be too busy fighting amongst themselves to be fighting the real enemy: the government of dunces that are laughing their pig-ignorant heads off at us yet again. And we’ll let them get away with it-- yet again.

Mercifully, that sham knees-

up will be over by the time that you read this but I’ll bet that there hasn’t been a peep of protest. Hell, that would be asking just too much.

Today, the 15th, the Dail wraps up early at 1.30 so that they can start drinking a bit sooner--hell, why do they go in at all, no one would miss them if they didn’t--and that’s pretty much it until next Wednesday. Then they have a gruelling whole five days in which they will no doubt be working their soft little fingers to the bone before taking off again for their 19-day Easter break. I’m only amazed that they didn’t decide to cut out that five days altogether. I mean, surely at least one of them must have suggested: “Ah, Jeez, Enda, why don’t we make it an even month?”

Do you remember just over a year ago when they needed our votes and they said: “Our objective is to make Dail Eireann fit for the 21st century... We will introduce a packet of changes that will bring about a 50 per cent increase in Dail sitting days.”

Well, that hasn’t exactly worked out, now has it? Neither has: “There will be significantly reduced breaks at Christmas and Easter.” Instead they are now working on extending breaks to a length that would make a Fianna Failure blush.

Those promises were then and this is now. I hope that people don’t forget these liars when voting day comes around again; but then again, what would you put in instead? They’re all liars, whether it’s Fine Gael, Labour or Sinn Fein, the party that never saw an ink cartridge that it didn’t

lay claim to. Yeah, I know: at least this time it was only ink cartridges. Of course Aengus Ó Snodaigh has said that he’s got no intention of paying back the €50,000 that all his letter writing came to (and that’s a lot of letters) because he hasn’t been asked to! Well, that’s all right then. Anyway, he’s changed his method of communication with his constituents. Let’s hope he hasn’t discovered mobile phones. That fifty thousand would begin to look as if we got off lightly.

The upside of course is that we won’t have to look at any of their smarmy faces for a while as they’ll all be off doing what they do best at this time of the year: getting stuck into the junkets abroad! Free travel! The best of grub! Loads of drink! Go on ye good thing!

A couple of weeks’ previously at Fianna Fails’ Ard Fheis in Dublin you could have been forgiven for thinking that it was a massive celebration for everything they got right during their ‘leadership’ of over a decade. Thousands turned up to congratulate themselves because the increasingly desperate looking Micheál Martin had just handed out a half-baked ‘sorry’ for the debacle over which his party had presided. No ‘sorry’ on bailing out the banks to the tune of €400 billion, of course. “The jury is still on out on the bank guarantee”, he chirped merrily. What jury would that be, those cynics amongst us wondered; but any contrary thoughts would have been drowned out in the thunderous applause as all of the back-slapping, glad-handing sycophants slapped their little claws together and made you

look around to see if a re-incarnated Charlie Haughey had returned to the blessed fold of the Soldiers of Destiny.

Mind you, it was nothing like the applause that went up to the heavens for Brian Cowen. The rafters were damned near coming down for that one. He even got a standing ovation that left me wondering why he wasn’t still in charge, since he had done such a bang-up job. Go on, Brian, ye boyo, ye!

And of course it wouldn’t have been complete without good old Bertie Ahern swaggering around the place with all the self-importance of Bono. No bloody sense of embarrassment, any of them.

Still, we’ve managed to start jailing people. The menace to society that is Paul Begley has been jailed for six years for smuggling in garlic. Of course some people are jumping up and down to tell us that this is only right, as he has been avoiding paying tax; but that hardly makes him unique here now does it? Anyway, he’s been paying it off at €33,000 a month. So obviously he’s not short of a bob or two but at least he’s paying it back! Yet he still gets sent down while we can’t put a single crooked banker in jail because they were once best of mates with our corrupt political fraternity. Anyway, the jury’s probably “still out” on that one, eh, Micheal?

To put Begley’s dreadful crime into perspective: Ray Mulvey was also jailed for six years for the repeated rape of his daughter since she was five years old. So it’s six years for repeated rape of your daughter and also six years for smuggling in garlic. Yeah, in a country this insane that does sound about right.

Pastor David Syms from the Baptist Church of Ireland in Cork also isn’t too crazy about this discrepancy and so has now started a three-week hunger strike in order to try to highlight it. Of course, it won’t do a damned bit of good since nobody cares anyway, but since I admire his motivation I’ll just quote him here:

“The people who should be behind bars instead of Mr. Begley are the bankers who ruined this country, those behind Anglo Irish, the likes of Sean FitzPatrick.”

I can’t argue with that, Pastor. Just don’t hold your breath.

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Shona McCarthy was recently appointed as the Chief Executive Director for Culture Company 2013 Limited. Ms McCarthy will be responsible for leading the planning and delivery of a host of events including the cultural program, at the heart of City of Culture, between now and 2013. In a Skype interview she talks about her journey to this auspicious year.

Shona: I started back in 1990, 22 years as a cultural activist. I had done film and media studies as a degree course and my first proper job, if you like, was at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland representing all of the art forms.

It was felt that there was no real voice for film. Bizarre as it may seem in 2012, there was no representative body for film and many people would have argued that film should be a proper art form. A group of academics and producers, developed the Northern Ireland Film Council, a representative body for education, production and exhibition films. They needed a flagship project. Something that would really capture the imagination.

There was no films for children or young people happening at that time on any of the islands, either, Ireland, Scotland, Wales or England for that matter. They set up a children's film festival called Cinemagic and I was hired right out of University as the programmer. That really combined two of my interests- one in film in particular, and in arts and culture more generally.

I was born in 1968, which is the year that the modern Troubles began. I guess that what Cinemagic did was look at bigger worlds and bring film from all other countries around the world to Northern Ireland. It was a way of having a grasp on global issues and other context but having it in your own place. It was a way of exposing young people in Northern Ireland to the world through cinema. That became a major passion and an ongoing thread throughout my career: looking outward and connecting to the outer world.

We did Cinemagic in Pittsburgh, and brought Roy Disney over to be the key note speak-

er in a major conference on film making for young people. We created something that punched way above it's weight for a small place like Northern Ireland by hosting a film festival that had international recognition and it is still going very strong today. That was my main job. I also ran the Foyle Film Festival, which is the film festival based here, in Derry.

I became director of the Foyle Film Festival. We took it from being a wee local festival with an audience of 2,000 in it's first year to the year 2000, when I moved on from it, we had an audience of over 20,000.

In the year 2000, Belfast decided it was going to be the European Capital of Culture and go for that title. I headed up the Belfast bid and that was an amazing process. It gave me the interest for the whole City of Culture initiative. We always described it as one of life's most "successful failures" because, even though it didn't win, it did force a city that was emerging from conflict, a city that was still experiencing bomb scares on the streets, to actually envision a future of itself beyond the conflict. Not only for people visiting the city, but essentially for the people of the city themselves. Really in 2000, with that bidding process, we created a cultural strategy for Belfast and a vision for the city that is still being acted out today. 10 years after, Derry went for the UK City of Culture title, won it, and gloriously, I get a chance to actually do what I didn't get to do the last time with Belfast.

Cliff: I also notice that you served six months in Calcutta. I'm just wondering what made you choose that because it looks like you've been a leader most of those 22 years, you could have done whatever you wanted.

Shona: A London based organization called N.E.S.T.A (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) were supporting innovation and they were doing a lot of work to support cultural organizations. They were supporting all kinds of innovations, and creativity and they started a big program that only ran for 2 years which supported people who were

already in cultural leadership positions across the UK to take their leadership to another level and to internationalize their

to not be afraid of anything. Going to a place like Calcutta, the program gave me a budget and said, 'Look, manage the budget, go find a place to live, find a place for your kids to go

there, you are forced to get your head around it all, you navigate your way through those kind of logistics of somewhere to live, transport and all that kind of stuff. It made me



From left - Phil Redmond, Chair of City of Culture Judging panel, Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive Culture Company 2013, City Mayor, Maurice Devenny and Culture Company Chair, Martin Bradley, pictured at Ebrington in front of the city's new Peace Bridge.

experience. They put together a panel in Northern Ireland and I was really, really fortunate to be nominated by the panel. What interested me was out of the choice of twenty places to go, a lot of the places were European or English speaking or whatever. I thought, "If you're going to do something like this, you'd really have to be out of your own comfort zone. You'd really want to be in a place that is more challenging to your culture norms." I shortened the list to Calcutta, India and Shanghai. It was actually the organization in Calcutta called, The Seagull Foundation for the Arts. It was a publishing place, it was an art gallery, it was a multi-media resource center. It had a big program in education with young people and human rights. I really liked the combination of what they were doing. So, I went to Calcutta to live and worked for 6 months, and I took my two children who were then eight and nine, with me and it was a life enhancing experience.

Cliff: Has that helped you broaden your view in the events that you put on now?

Shona: It helped me broaden my view in the events, but it has also helped as an individual

to school, get a house.' Literally they just left it up to you to go and do. I don't know if you've ever been to Calcutta, but it's not the easiest city on the planet. When you first get

not afraid to do things and not afraid to take risks. I just kind of learned by different ways and different approaches to working. I always have been a

Continued to page 22

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Mayor Richard M. Daley,
John Ford,
Tommy Makem,
George M. Cohan,
Fr. Edward Flanagan,
Patrick Ryan,
The Sullivan Brothers of WWII

The Irish American Hall of Fame will be celebrating the induction of its 2012 Class Friday, Saturday, Sunday April 27-28-29 with a week-

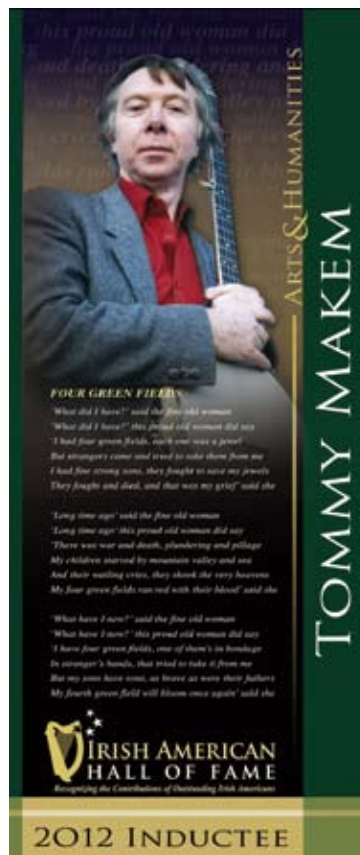
end of events. The Irish American Hall of Fame was established in 2011 under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Cen-



Joel Murray

ter in Chicago to recognize the outstanding contribution of Irish Americans to the history of the United States and to the Irish American experience in this country.

The weekend will begin with a special concert by The Makem and Spain Brothers on Friday, April 27th. The main event, featuring Joel Murray as Master of Ceremo-



nies, will be held on Saturday, April 28th with the 2012 Irish American Hall of Fame Gala - a black tie event honoring the 2012 Inductees and featuring special appearances by Governor Quinn, the members of the families of John Ford, George M. Cohan, John L. Sullivan, Tip O’Neill, and the Sullivan Brothers of WWII.

Special presentations will also be made in honor of Robert Kennedy, Patrick Ryan, Fr. Flanagan, Mayor Richard M. Daley, and others.

The weekend will close on Sunday, April 29th with a special screening of John Ford films featuring a Q&A session with Dan Ford, the grandson of the Director.

For more information on these events or the Hall of Fame, please contact the Irish American Heritage Center at (773) 282-7035 or visit www.iahof.org.

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The Co. Cork contingent was in full strength at their tourism luncheon held at the Drake Hotel in March. (l to r): Noel O’Driscoll, Declan Hurley, Seamus Heaney, Derry Cronin, and John Kearney.



The Irish Fellowship Club Of Chicago, Richard J. Daley Award was presented to Austin Kelly March 17, 2012. The Forty-Fifth Annual Award and Honor as Chicago’s Outstanding Irishman in Grateful Recognition and Appreciation of his leadership, his wisdom, his dedication to the public good, and his inspired service to the cause, character, and spirit of the Irish.

Irish Rovers New CD

Recently, The Irish Rovers' recording of Drunken Sailor reached a younger audience, generating over 6 million hits on various YouTube sites. This has led to the release of

by their friend Tom Paxton after he took part in one of their post-show parties.

Now twenty years later, Whores and Hounds continues the tradition, but in their true Celtic style. The album



to r: George Millar, John Reynolds, Sean O'Driscoll, Wilcil McDowell (seated), Ian Millar, Fred Graham at Carnlough Harbour, N. Ireland

DRUNKEN SAILOR, the album.

The sinking of the RMS Titanic is one of the largest peacetime maritime tragedies in history. Original Rover, George Millar shares his birthday of April 14, with the date the ship met its icy end on her maiden voyage a century ago. The legend of this mighty ship has both haunted and intrigued George all these years. For this landmark album, George wrote a tribute to the legend of The Titanic, in song. When listening to the single, we get a feeling of descending the ocean depths to meet the great ship at her resting place, then she quickly sweeps us away on a journey to her glory days, charging across the high seas. "Being from Northern Ireland and born on April 14th, the legend of the Titanic has been with me all my life. It took the labour of fifteen thousand Irishmen to build her - she was the pride of Belfast," says George Millar of The Irish Rovers.

This year the band celebrates 46 years as recording artists. To mark this achievement, The Irish Rovers are back on the small screen with a national television special "Home In Ireland", which was filmed entirely on-location in Northern Ireland. It was broadcast November through January.

Twenty years ago, The Irish Rovers had a massive #1 hit with Wasn't That A Party. The lads were the real authorities on the subject, literally - the song was written about them

of the sea, me matie.

As well as the title track and two singles, this up-tempo album includes Sweet Anne, The Jolly Roving Tar, The Good Ship Rover, Good Luck To The Barleymow, Across The Western Sea, Dear Ould Ireland, Cruising 'Round Yarmouth, Pleasant and Delightful, All For Me Grog, Trust In Drink and The Dublin Pub Crawl.

The Irish Rovers band includes George Millar (guitar & vocals), Wilcil McDowell (accordion), John Reynolds (guitar, bass & vocals), Sean O'Driscoll (banjo, bouzouki, mandolin & vocals), Ian Millar (guitar, bass & vocals), Fred Graham (bodhran, percussion)

The band will be supporting the release of this album with a tour of the Eastern US in 2012 See full concert schedule on their website <http://theirishroversmusic.com/page/ontour/#contenttop>

www.theirishroversmusic.com

contains both traditional songs and original numbers written by George Millar telling tales

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Chicago Actors' John Judd and Patrick Andrews Journey Into O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh"

By Mike Danahey

By his account, veteran Chicago actor John Judd has played a lot of Irish characters.

Among them are roles in productions of shows penned by contemporary Irish playwrights including Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa," Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan," and "The Lieutenant of Inishmore," and Conor McPherson's "Shining City."

"What I think these (Irish) characters have in common is a sense of being damned. They don't see themselves as victims but as being doomed. Sometimes, though, they do find a happy ending," Judd said.

Judd returns to the land of the damned and the doomed when he takes to the stage this April in Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece, "The Iceman Cometh."

This production is being directed by Robert Falls, and the cast includes Brian

Dennehy as disillusioned syndicalist-archivist Larry Slade and Nathan Lane as Hickey, the salesman who arrives on a summer night in 1912, not to celebrate Greenwich Village bar owner Harry Hope's birthday, as anticipated, but to convince patrons to give up their pipe dreams.

Falls and Dennehy are longtime collaborators whose award-winning partnerships have included "Death of a Salesman," and a host of O'Neill's epics including "Desire Under the Elms," "Hughie," a prior production of "Iceman" in which Dennehy played Hickey, and "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Judd has never worked with Lane or Dennehy before, but was in a production of O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night," which made its way to Galway in 2000 for two weeks.

"That was my first and only time in Ireland, and I'd love to get back," Judd says.

"O'Neill, of course, is Irish-American and uniquely American in a lot of ways. But what I think all (O'Neill and the Irish playwrights mentioned above) have in common is a love of language. They provide wonderful, long speeches for actors," Judd says.

In "Iceman," Judd plays Piet Wetjoen, which he says is "not a big part, but an important part." Wetjoen is a former Boer general who dreams of returning to South Africa despite having left being labeled a coward. His bar buddy and ex-war rival is Englishman Cecil Lewis, a former British army captain who left his homeland after

getting caught stealing and misappropriating public money.

"They're running from something, and a bar is an excellent place to hide," Judd says. "They're both stuck in the past and



reliving imagined glory days. While they had been enemies in the war, they depend on each other and don't really hate each other."

For his role in the four-hour-plus opus, Judd has been learning a dialect and has been researching historical detail.

"A great thing about working at The Goodman is they have people who help with this. A lot of the work is done for you," Judd says.

Judd has worked at The Goodman before, notably playing Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" and most recently in the aforementioned "Shining City," which also was directed by Falls.

"Bob draws a map for you, but you wind

up feeling like you've made the route yourself. He's got a light touch. And he throws a great party," Judd said.

Per his own path to the theatre, Judd was born in Aurora, has a master of fine arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago, and didn't start acting until the age of 30.

"That's something that couldn't happen anywhere but Chicago," he said.

In his case that meant studying improvisational theater with the late Del Close and Charna Halpern and being part of the group in the 1980s that developed "The Harold," a long form version of improv.

"The difference between was Del was doing at ImprovOlympic and what Bernie Sahlins and crew started at The Second City is that Del saw improv as an art form all its own whereas Bernie saw improv more as a tool which ultimately involved writing," Judd said.

TV viewers might recognize Judd from the pilot of the short-lived Fox cop drama "The Chicago Code" or from his role as attorney Eugene Hofstader in the Starz political potboiler "Boss," which stars Kelsey Grammer as the seriously ill mayor of Chicago.

Judd said a new season of the latter is set to begin shooting a second season soon here in Chicago. He might be involved if that can work around his schedule with "Iceman," which will have his undivided attention for the next few months.

As for the audience's attention, Judd said, "I hope ("Iceman") resonates in

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



weather personally. Yes, dear reader, I am that shallow.

In that spirit, let's change the

subject only a bit. There will be no recall of past hurts and harms, but only the simple humility of your happy scribe fully at peace with his bed of mushrooms in God's great forest.

In the mean time, let me tell you a story. Our story begins with a lay religion teacher by the name of Ernst N. Yong at south side Catholic high school for boys. Ernst toyed with the idea of being priest, but tossed that notion when he realized that chicks dig sensitive philosophical Emos who tend to look sad-eyed and despairing.

Ernst was most successful winning but never keeping the hands of fair maids. In fact one wag, remarked that Ernst got more rump-time than Kohler, but such a remark would be insensitive, sexist and low-minded.

Ernst read passages of Thomas Merton, Louis Evely and National Catholic Reporter that took the most extreme, and most radical position on anything. Ernst N. Yong was Pro-Gay Marriage, Pro-Abortion, Pro-Contraception, Pro-Liberation Theology, Anti-Death Penalty, Anti-War, if America were in any way involved, and Anti-Israel. Ernst had run out of causes upon which to take the most radical position.

He decided that he would be an atheist. His arms were not anywhere near too short to box with God. He had managed to live under the radar of theological detection by dint of his Call to Action imprimatur of his views and the very flattering portrayal of Ernst N. Yong's Catholic secondary pedagogy in articles written by Manya Brachear of the Chicago Tribune and his one guest appearance with Carol Marin on Chicago Tonight when the rusty-haired Cougar all but at up the twenty-something teacher-activist. Ernst had him some progressive Catholic Daily Worker street cred.

Now, Ernst was taking a huge leap

from faith. In front of his Senior Seminar Spring Semester Class - Jesus the Real Slim Shady, or Occupy This Temple - Ernst challenged Father, Son, Holy Ghost, or Whomever!

Ernst stood on his chair and raised a defiant chin to Heaven's Gate. He shouted, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!" Ten minutes went by.

The students quietly filed past Mr. Yong and out of the classroom to let Brother Sobel, the Dean, know that NPR had finally lost it. One lad whispered, "This gonna be on his final?"

Ernst kept taunting God, saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting." He got down to the last couple of minutes and a big 240 pound football player in the class walked back to the professor-lite, hit him full force in the face, and sent him flying from his platform. Ernst N. Yong struggled up, obviously shaken

and yelled, "What's the matter with you, Donahue? Why did you do that?"

The football player replied, "GOD WAS BUSY; HE SENT ME!" Dude, this is all guys. You need to work that street on chicks."

Sic, semper ad culus! Happy Easter Season!

A Practiced Posturing in Pedagogy

Well, I blew it. Well past the deadline for submission to Cliff Carlson's Irish American News. I had put-in for and been cleared for phone chat with New York City's recently elevated Cardinal Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan. Likewise I was asked to put in a similar request for a chat with Chicago's Francis Cardinal George by the Office of Communications. My idea was to discuss the American Catholic Church in the vastly secular world of 2012. In fact I wanted to lard out my phone interviews with two more - one with Chicago's Father Anthony Brankin, a renowned traditional liturgist, Irish musician sculptor and parish priest, as well as another with Professor Kenneth Howell of the Newman Center for University of Illinois at Chicago. On Friday, I received word from both the Archdiocese of New York and the Office of Communications for the Archdiocese of Chicago that neither would take place. I was advised by the Chicago Archdiocese that I might wish to use recent homilies made public in the New World, but that seems thin gruel. Instead, I will do what I do when proposals for funding to Leo High School by private and corporate foundations declare "their genuine interests in Leo's Mission and warmly wish us the very best for continued good luck with our important mission because there is no check accompanying this letter." I generally move on to the next opportunity to make things more of an easing of the burden borne on the broad shoulders of Leo' Alumni, following a litany of foul oaths and vain threats against the Hearst, Carnegie, Atlantic, or Face-less Plutocrats Foundations and their smartly dressed Boards of Directors. I tend to take the

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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



in a bed for a few minutes. I was excited and ready to start my favorite holiday of the year.

It seemed

So I hope you all enjoyed your St. Patrick's Day this year! I certainly did. I woke up and got straight out of bed unlike normal weekends where I lay

like it took forever for my family to get ready and head out the door (but it really wasn't that long). I was so anxious to hop on that same float I ride on every year. Every minute it took us to get downtown seemed a lifetime. I was that excited.

Finally we got downtown and we found our float. I ride on the Irish Fellowship float with the giant St. Patrick on it. Soon, my cousins met us on the float and we all took our seats. We were so lucky to have beautiful weather this year. I remember last year we had to bring a blanket on the float to keep us warm. This year, I was sweating. Then the parade finally started.

I still get the same thrill being in the parade that I did when I was 5. It never gets old. I waved to all the cameras and had a great time with my cousins and siblings yelling at the crowd and

joking around with each other. Before we knew it the parade was over and we made the semi-long trip back to the Hilton hotel for my second stop of the day, the Mercy party. I go to that party every year and I always have a blast. My whole family is usually there and we all have great craic together. (It is St. Patrick's Day after all.)

I usually dance at the party but this year was slightly different because I had to babysit for my neighbor's wedding. So my parents and I headed out early to go to the wedding then to the reception where I would be watching three kids. It might have changed up my usual St. Patrick's Day routine but sometimes change is good and I had a great time. Congratulations to Brigid McDonough and Sean Tillman on their

wedding. Over all I had an amazing St. Patrick's Day and I can't wait for next year!!

My eighth grade year is almost done and I cannot wait for high school! I was accepted to St. Ignatius last month and I am so excited to start there in the fall. I didn't want to sound cocky but I was pretty sure I got in after I took the test. It was not that difficult and what I liked about how Ignatius did the test was instead of giving you a 5 minute warning, they said your time is half up and what number you should be on. I was always pacing myself at the right speed. I can't wait to make a ton of new friends and join a lot of clubs. What's cool too is that some of my dance friends are going there to so that should be enjoyable.

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Crowley on Kells

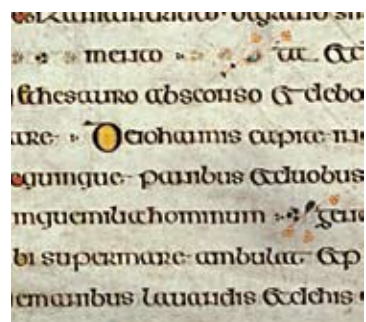
By Frank Crowley



Book of Kells Scribes

The script the Romans chiseled into their temples and monuments was the origin of what we call “uncial” script.

When it was written by hand with a quill, this script was characterized by broad, single strokes and simple round forms. Quills worked well on the smooth material such as

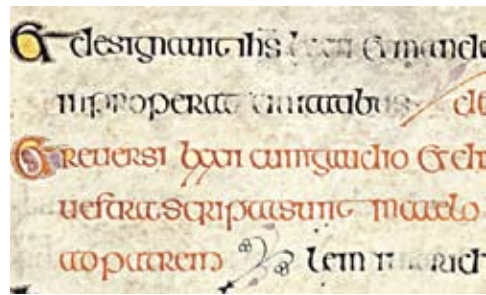


parchment (prepared animal skins) and vellum (prepared calf skin).

The letters were capital forms, but eventually lower case forms were added. Over

the centuries, the style was increasingly used by Irish and English monks and developed into a style that is called Insular half uncial or Insular majuscule. Insular Gospels written during the period of 600 to 850 CE used this script.

It will be no surprise to you, but the script use by the monks used in the Book of Kells is,



perhaps, the finest example of this style that has survived.

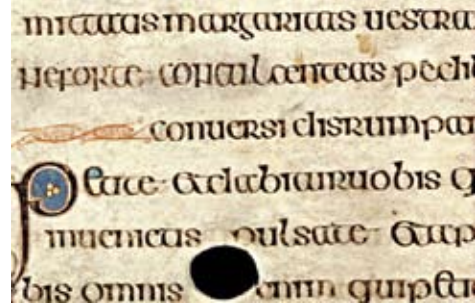
In discussing the scribes of the Book of Kells, we first must bring up a few issues.

For all scribes, various skills were required. For example,

the knowledge of Latin grammar, vocabulary and syntax was basic. The ability to read and see clearly what other scribes wrote was very important. However, many errors in the Book resulted from an insufficient level of these skills. But that will be another column.

Over the years, scholars have tried to determine the number of scribes that worked on the Book of Kells. The fact that there is no definite, documented, information regarding the number of scribes results in scrutinizing every minor variation in the text.

This is a sampling of the



scholars’ conclusions of the number of scribes based on the styles or “hands.”

- “...several scribes.”
- “...two scripts, same scribe.”
- “...one great scribe” using different styles”.

The distinctions between styles in manuscripts where it is known that there were more than one scribe strongly suggests the same is true in the Book of Kells.

Leading modern scholars, such as Bernard Meehan, say that there were probably at least 4 scribes with distinct styles. To go further, we would have to say that there were many well-trained scribes who printed in very similar styles and could match different styles when needed.

Meehan, the current Keeper of Manuscripts at Trinity College Dublin, says it is

“hazardous” to consider “a manuscript so full of caprice with any sense of absolute certainty.”

General description and example of 4 hands/scribes: Image 1 Hand A, Folio 16v

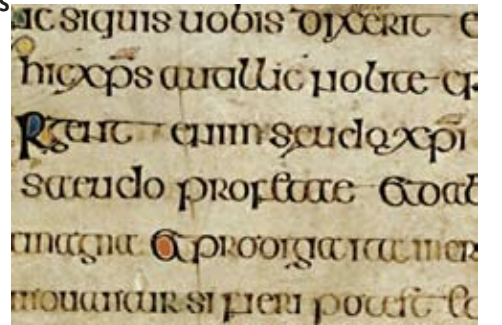
Hand A Letters are smaller and more compact. Used brown ink made from iron gall

Folios are ruled for 18 or 19 lines of text

Image 2 Hand B, Folio 21v Hand B Scholars characterize Hand B as flamboyant. Used purple, red and carbon black inks. Used decorative flourishes

Image 3 Hand C, Folio 48r Hand C Wrote most of the text. Used freer style. Slightly higher script

Image 4 Hand D, Folio 104r Hand D Larger, strong strokes. Slightly more angular



(Black oval is a hole in vellum)

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Derry Celebrates

Continued from page 15

working. I always have been a real believer in learning through experience. Not only find your way around but to really meet some extraordinary people, support and lead them through different projects. The whole history of the Irish missionary movement who went out to India and all of that is still absolutely huge. The cultural reference point that I found in Calcutta through the Irish theater there and literature and music and language and all kinds of things was just really staggering. Yes, it made the world a smaller place.

Cliff: It's good for you in Derry that the Irish diaspora is as big as it is. You can reach out to any continent and ask people to come back for your big event in 2012 and 2013, can't you?

Shona: That is really what we wanted. For Derry, society at last, is brewing in confidence. It was not an easy place to grow up between 1968 and now the last 10 years has been an ongoing transformation on this part of the island. As we have merged and grown wide of what was probably a very inward looking attitude, you'll be very impressed by the confidence here. We're a society that wants to open up and blossom, welcome people in, encourage diversity and encourage new thinking, new conversations and move on from this sort of stagnant place that we had been for the past 30 years. So yeah, bring it on.

Cliff: Like Phil Coulter said, 'The New Derry'.

Shona: Exactly, exactly. I spent two years working for the British Council, which is the International Culture Relations Agency for Great Britain. That was a fascinating time as well. That took me to all kinds of countries and places, too. They have 110 offices all across the world where they do education in language and arts based programs. I met a number of musicians who were Indian decent or Pakistani decent or Iranian musicians. They have a huge repertoire of Irish music, but are not all from Irish or from Irish decent. There is a big diaspora out there also that have a connection of understanding of music theater and are not necessarily Irish.

Cliff: In your latest role as the Chief

Executive of Derry, The City of Culture 2013, how many agencies do you have to work with?

Shona: It's huge. We have this perception of being, to some people, a British study, to many people, an Irish study. I see as an opportunity to work with all of the cultural institutions across the island of Ireland. But then we also have the opportunity to work with cultural institutions and agencies and studies across the UK and we are receiving tons of support from the Arts Councils of England. For English cultural organizations we'll have, for example, the National Ballet in London come to Derry for the first time ever. We'll have the London Symphony Orchestra, we'll have the Boy Blues Street Band Company from Jaspers, that's supported by the Arts of England.

The potential of it, the ambition of it and the potential benefits of it, aren't just for Derry but are for all of Northern Ireland; to reach across the island of Ireland and just pass through other cities. We're going to be in Washington then Toronto, so we start to feel the international effort.

This is the time to encourage people to spend time in Belfast, then come over the Giants Causeway. Travel on down and take that fabulous journey that leads to Derry. The City of Derry is going to be electric throughout 2013 with music, art and creativity. People need to come back home and take the journey and rediscover this place.

The Fleadh Cheoil is the single biggest event on the island of Ireland, annually, and it will be here in August 2013. It brings together Irish music from all over the world and it has over 300,000 attending.

It's a big undertaking, but we've been working very closely with the businesses, hoteliers and entrepreneurs in the city. There's going to be increased hotel accommodations. The university campus will be used to accommodate visitors throughout the year. We expect it to have a huge benefit to the area around as well.

The Olympics are happening in 2012. So actually, the Olympics are nearly upon us and as part of the Olympian effort the London 2012 Festival has really linked with Northern Ireland too in a series of events. The actual opening concert of the London 2012 Festival, which is the

cultural festival running along side the Olympics, is going to happen right outside my window! Right here in Derry, London Derry, on the 21st of June 2012.

The next two years, really, is going to be a great time. In 2013, there's also what's been called "The Gathering", which is spearheaded by the Irish government. There is a call out now for Irish theater to come back to the island of Ireland in the year of 2013. So between 2012 and 2013 this is the time for any Irish American, Irish Canadian, or Irish across the world anywhere to come back home.

Cliff: Some American's might be concerned for their safety. Since you've been talking openly about the Troubles, maybe you'd like to make a statement to lessen their fears.

Shona: Absolutely. This is interesting, Cliff, because it isn't just American's who feel that way. Even people in the South of Ireland were concerned about safety issues. What we did was bring together a whole delegation for the city, including representatives at superintendents level from the police service of Northern Ireland. The reality is, and all of the statistics prove, that Derry is the safest city on the island. Any kind of repercussions of the conflict, of what happened here, are focused on particular agendas and not at any danger to any tourists or visitors to the city. Really to be honest, we've been seeing less and less of that kind of activity here as well. We were able to give all of the reassurance that this is one of the safest cities that you will ever visit. We are working very closely with all of the agencies in the city and very closely with the security forces as well. So many of the events that are coming here are major family events. We really have moved on.

Cliff: It's a wonderful city. I've been there two or three times now. I remember looking down on a road, it was a wide road. It looked almost wide enough for cars to go both directions, but I never saw a car. Later on in my visit, I was down on top of this road and realized it was your ringed Wall. It's very thick. It's very wide.

Shona: The city wall is one of the greatest assets in Derry. In fact, in 2013, it's going to the 400th anniversary of the building of the wall. It's going to be a really special year for that kind of heritage

in the city. One of the big efforts through 2013, is to encourage the city and its citizens to take ownership of the wall as well. All of things that are on your doorstep you don't really experience or appreciate the same way as a visitor does. We did a huge poll with the city and had people come forward with their ideas about how they'd like to celebrate in 2013. We are going to have all kinds of animation on the city wall, from Irish dancing to music playing to big world performances. So any visitor that comes to Derry in 2013 is going to see the walls really come alive. There's going to be gardens on the walls, all kinds of things. Of course, from up there, you get every aspect of life in the city. You get the internal from the center itself within the walls and then the views right across every aspect of the city from on top of the walls. It's very lovely.

Cliff: Your Peace Bridge is fantastic.

Shona: I don't think, anybody would have really predicted the level of transformation that would happen in the city with the opening of the Peace Bridge. It has really doubled the size of Derry, not just the Peace Bridge itself, but the fact that it's the first and only walkway that takes you from one side to the other. I'm looking out the window here and I can see people jogging, people walking, people dressed as Amelia Earhart, because she flew across the Atlantic and landed in Derry. There's reenactments and all kinds of things going on outside of this window and it really has warmed the city. There has been over 400,000 over the bridge since it opened at the end of June in 2011.

Cliff: Can visitors go to Guildhall Press and peruse the books they publish?

Shona: It is small, but of course the Guildhall Press would be very welcoming. There's a wonderful collection of books on the heritage and stories of the city.

I guess whichever interests of life you're interested in, whether it's theater or music, you're going to be able to find all of this in Derry in 2013. We're using the actual city itself as a canvas. Visually, you won't be able to escape that this is a city that is connecting with art and culture. We're going to close our city of culture celebrations with a major celebration of life in December 2013. Come any month and enjoy our wonderful town of Derry!

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I actually thought I was going to die, on the morning of St. Patrick's Day.

It was like getting called back into the huddle, you've broken a couple ribs, your left ankle is shot, two teeth gone, and you don't think you'll ever father another child, but the coach turns to you and says, "Get in there kid, we need 'ya!"

So there I was on Columbus Drive, a balmy 70 degrees and I'm marching with the Emerald Society. Might as well go out in glory I figured because this St. Patrick's Day season was a killer.

The high holy days traditionally begin in late January at Plumber's Hall corned beef & cabbage fundraiser. As always, it was a gas.

By the time you hit the Queen Contest in late February you'll have Guinness coming out your ears. Still, on you roll.

The next two weeks were a series of beer-fueled skirmishes over the return of the Southside St. Patrick's Day Parade, which looked like a lock until Alderman Weener-pants tried unsuccessfully to stop it.

More corned beef and cabbage heaped on my plate at the Mulliganeers annual fundraiser and a flat tire in the parking lot did not deter me.

Mustering all my grit we headed to Springfield that Friday to entertain the Sons and Daughters of Erin at their annual banquet. Did my act and sold four books. But they made a nice fat donation to my movie, (ourishcousins.com) and put me and the missus up for the night at a cozy Inn around the corner from the Lincoln Museum.

The next day the lovely Mary and I immerse ourselves in history at the museum, which has special significance for me. When I told my dad I wanted to be an actor 40 years ago he screamed, "John Wilkes Booth was a #%&* actor!"

On our way back that Satur-

day night we hit Bourbon Street for the St. Baldrick's Parade Preview. We ran into the Queen and her court. The gals tell me they're not allowed to wear

south side by 8:30AM. Jimmy Smith gives me a lift in his golf cart over to St. Cajetan's for the parade mass. I walk into the vestibule and there's my niece Bridget hawking her book about the history of the parade. Later I spy Bridget crawling under her table to hide as the priest reads the gospel about Jesus throwing the moneylenders out of the temple

Filled with grace I hopped a

Battle fatigue was setting in and by the time I trudged over to Cornelius Mass' house, my butt was dragging. I was starting to feel old when I realized that the actual St. Patrick's Day wasn't going to happen for another six days!

Wednesday night I was hired to perform my shtick for the Blue Island Public Library. Two minutes into my bit an old guy in the front row starts heckling me. I quieted him with a look that said, "There is no audience participation in my show pal, so shut the feck up!" Sold six books!

Friday morning I'm having breakfast with the Flood Brothers at the Union League Club, where I was blackballed years ago.

The Taoiseach himself, Enda Kenny, is sitting next to Mayor Rahm Emmanuel. Shaking his hand I told him I was a friend of Mike Monaghan's in Headford, County Galway. Suddenly the Taoiseach lit up and said, "Mike is an old friend of mine, please tell him I will be out to see him soon!" I glanced over to the Rahminator thinking, "This is what Irish clout looks like, little

man."

That night I partied at Lizzie McNeill's with my sons Bill & Paddy to celebrate their birthday, leaving Goldie's in Forest Park around midnight. Nothing more fun than drinking with the Houlihan brothers.

Popped a couple aspirin Saturday morning and hopped the El downtown for the parade. I met Skinny on the Balbo bridge and then followed him through the crowd. Every three feet a fan would stop him with kudos on the Southside Parade. 'Twas like playing Pebble Beach with Bob Hope.

In the shade of trees in the park we assembled with the Emerald Society and our fellow marchers: the History Detective Rick Barrett, Neil Maas in his Garda uniform, Potter Palmer IV and his lady friend Erica Meyer.

As the parade stepped off I realized I wasn't going to croak. Potts took us all back to the Palmer House, (where his great grandmother invented the brownie), and as we toasted Chicago's Irish I said, "Next year we'll do it all in one week!"



their sashes the next day at the Southside Parade; some sort of protocol mix-up.

I offered to let Queen Sara borrow my own St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen sash and she looked at me strangely and nixed the idea. My sash was specially made for a bimbo I hired to hustle my book after the last South Side Parade. I took the sash back at the end of the night because Miss Ditz hadn't sold enough books and it cost me almost a hundred bucks.

Sunday morning I'm on the

Western Ave bus down to 102nd Street to march on a glorious day that restored the tradition of this great parade. As we marched past Ken's on 105th Street the wholesomeness of the event started to overwhelm me and I spot Jackie Casto in front of his saloon. I entered the shady gin mill for a better view of the parade out Ken's window.

Some beers later that afternoon I chomped more corned beef in the backyard of my pal Frankie Moran's daughter Julie.

Heather A. Begley



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Why The University Of Limerick Is The Most Popular University In Ireland

HOLIDAY IN IRELAND AND YOU CAN SEE why travellers return again and again. But while the tourist visits breathtaking cliffs, verdant hills and picture perfect towns, such places can only give you a hint of life in Ireland. To truly know the country—to understand its people and to fully appreciate what it is to be Irish—you need to live like a local, not a tourist. The University of Limerick (UL) offers just such an opportunity through its full time undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and its fully integrated study abroad program.

Located in Counties Limerick and Clare, with the River Shannon as a unifying focal point, UL is recognised internationally and boasts a proud record of innovation in education and excellence in research. The University’s mission is to remain distinctive, pioneering and connected and to shape the future by empowering people to meet the real challenges of tomorrow. A superb riverside campus, stretching over 325 acres, offers students outstanding recreational, cultural and sporting facilities, further enhancing this exceptional learning and working environment.

With over 12,000 students UL offers

programs in the disciplines of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Business, Education and Health Sciences, Science and Engineering. UL is also home to the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance which has recently opened the doors to its new, state-of-the-art Irish World Performing Arts Building.

In addition to top class undergraduate degrees, UL offers both taught and research postgraduate degrees across all aforementioned disciplines. UL has world-renowned Research Centers in a variety of areas including: Software Engineering, Materials and Surface Science, Applied Mathematics, Energy & Sustainable Environment, The Study of Knowledge in Society and Bioengineering & Biosciences. In September 2007, Ireland’s first ever Graduate Medical Program started at the University of Limerick.

UL also offers a comprehensive study abroad program (including 1200 modules across all four disciplines) to fulfil major, minor and/or general education requirements. The International Office ensures all international students are fully integrated with Irish and other international students for classes, on-campus accommodation and clubs & societies.



Above: The Pedestrian Living Bridge on the UL campus linking Counties Clare & Limerick.
Below: Members of the UL Rowing Team in practice on the Shannon

Known as Ireland’s “Sporting Campus,” UL offers academic programs in Sports & Exercise Science whilst its multi-purpose University Arena boasts international class indoor sport facilities, the National 50-metre pool and over 40 acres of outdoor sports grounds including the largest third-generation artificial sports surface in Europe.

UL’s Co-operative Education (undergraduate placement) program facilitates the career development of UL students as an integral part of their academic program. As part of the program, all undergraduate students, regardless of discipline, undertake relevant work experience normally of eight months duration. Annually, some 1,600 worldwide employers participate in the program and the vast majority of these employers employ UL graduates.

The employment rate of UL graduates is eight percent higher than the Irish national average. Worldwide, major graduate employers deliberately target UL graduates in recognition of the quality of their degrees. UL alumni are among the most influential thinkers, business leaders, artists, scientists, engineers and teachers in Ireland and throughout the world.

Fantastic amenities, student organisations, campus events, live bands, DJs, comedians, sports facilities, good food and friends ... there are so many reasons to love life at UL! Additionally, UL provides more on-campus accommodation than any other university in Ireland, with 5 purpose-built student villages providing 2400 rooms on campus. To see what life

is really like at UL, take a virtual tour by visiting www.ul.ie/experience.

UL attaches high priority to each student’s successful adjustment to life in Ireland and Limerick. UL’s “**First Seven Weeks**” initiative is designed to provide strong, targeted support to all students during the very early weeks of their time as a UL student.

The University of Limerick recently welcomed the findings of the **QS Stars™** report which awarded UL top scores across a number of key areas, in particular **graduate employability and innovation and knowledge transfer**. The **QS Stars™** provides an independent evaluation of some of the world’s leading universities. The report also awarded UL 5-star ratings across the areas of **infrastructure, teaching, engagement and internationalisation**. In addition, the UK’s Times Higher Education University Rankings places the University of Limerick in the top five percent of universities in the world.

For more information on undergraduate and postgraduate courses at UL and the study abroad program please go to the International Education Division’s website at www.ul.ie/international. Details on academic entry requirements, student accommodation, tuition fees can also be found here. Amanda Glennon, Coordinator, Full Degree International Recruitment will be visiting Chicago area high schools in April. For more information on Amanda’s visit to the Chicago area or for more information on applying to UL, please email Amanda at amanda.glennon@ul.ie

IRISH WEDDING SECTION



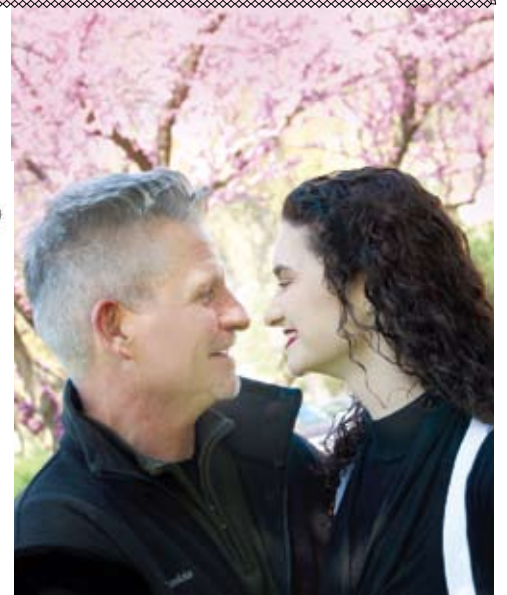
TWO COUPLES, TWO WEDDINGS, TWO CONTINENTS

**Brian
and Fiona**

September 5, 2009

**John and
Imelda**

April 20, 2012



Brian: How did I propose? Two and a half years after we started dating, we were spending Christmas in Ireland. I didn't know how I was going to propose or when I was going to propose, I just knew it was going to be in Ireland, in her childhood home. Christmas time we were with all the family: cousins, her brother and friends. A month prior, when Fiona's parents came over for Fiona's birthday, I had asked her father. I really wanted the whole family to be there when I popped the question. On Christmas eve, Fiona's father left to take a friend to the train station. I decided to ask her as soon as he returned Well,

he didn't come back: they have a few businesses back at home and stopped at one of their businesses to do some work. He didn't tell anybody and Fiona had his cellphone. So I was in a bad mood then because I wanted to propose, but I wanted her dad to be there. I was kind of sulking in the living room by myself. Fiona came over and said 'What's wrong?' I had closed the doors to the living room and I proposed to her then and there.

Fiona: Yeah, it was so nice. I can't even really remember. It's kind of a bit of a blur. But it was just the two of us.

Brian: Fiona ran into the kitchen right
Continued to page 28

Imelda: We met through my brother, Emmet. He moved back here to the states long before the rest of my family did. He met John in Celtic Crossings, I believe.

John: Yep, in 1996 and the first time I met you was '98, '99?

Imelda: I was living in Ireland and I used to come to Chicago for Christmas to visit my family, at Easter sometimes, and Thanksgiving. I stayed in the suburbs where my parents lived. I would go to the city to spend time with my brother and I met John. We always got along really well.

Any time we met, I was dating somebody in Ireland and he was dating somebody here

and that was the case for years. When we actually had our first date, it was in Dublin. We'll be honest, he did not come over for me. He had family business to take care of and he called me when he was in Dublin. I think it was the first time that we met when we weren't dating other people. We went out and we were listening to Irish music. When there was a break in the music, I looked him straight in the eye and I said, 'Well Mr. McEneaney, what are your intentions towards me?'

John: I said, 'To date you. I want to take you out to dinner.' That was the beginning and now we're planning our wedding in Dublin in April.

Continued to page 29



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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

Irish Wedding Traditions

As one of the lines in an old Irish song state "Spring time you know is ring time" April starts the beginning of the wedding season, with the Irish being no exception. There are many traditions that accompany an Irish Wedding all

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deeply rooted in folklore and superstition.

For instance: Marry in May and rue the day. While another states, marry in April if you can, joy for the Maiden, and for the Man.

Braided Hair: is an ancient Irish symbol of feminine power and luck.

Wearing Something Blue: Symbolizes purity.

A Six Pence: Worn in the Brides shoe will bring good luck.

Hand Fasting: The Celtic tradition in which a man and a woman come together at the beginning of their married life. Each partner holds the others hand, right hand to right hand, and left hand to left hand crossing their wrists. A ribbon is then wound around the wrists over the top of one and under and around the other creating an infinity symbol. This is where the term tying the knot came from.

The Lucky Wedding Coin: Given by the groom to his bride symbolizes prosperity, and good fortune. The coin then becomes a family heirloom and is given to the eldest son to be used on his wedding day.

At the Irish Shop in Oak Park we are often asked for traditional Irish wedding gift suggestions. Here are just a few of the many gift items we carry that are appropriate for the special occasion.

The Horseshoe: A symbol of luck, it was originally carried by the bride on her wedding day, and then hung over the front door to ward off evil.

The Make Up Bell: A Celtic tradition that every couple should receive one as a wedding gift.

If and when a disagreement takes place, one of the couple rings the bell to end the discord and declare a truce without an admission of fault.

The Magic Hanky: This charming custom symbolizes fertility. The bride carries it on her wedding day, then uses it to make a christening bonnet for her first born child.

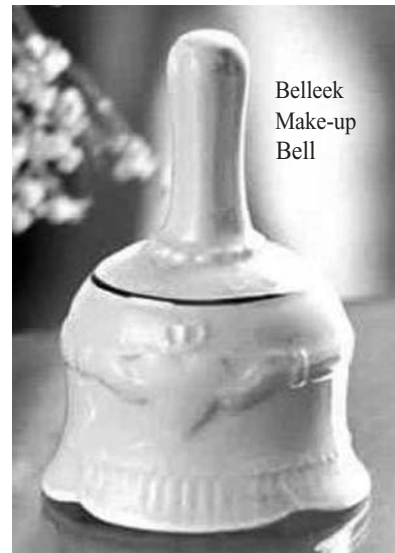
Other great wedding gifts include:

Salt and Pepper Shakers... So their home will never be without food.

Wine Glasses... So they will always have plenty to drink.

Candlestick Holders... So their home will always have light.

All of the items mentioned are available at The Irish Shop, 100 N Oak Park Ave., Oak Park IL 60301. 708-445-1149 or www.theirishshop-online.com. The Irish Shop has been helping the Irish community with all of their gift needs for over 20 years. they also have one of the largest selections of Celtic, and Irish jewelry in the Midwest. From Flakes to fabulous apparel, jewelry, and gifts for the whole family, you will be sure to find it at the Irish Shop!



Belleek Make-up Bell

MARQUETTE BANK

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All You Need is Love and a Financial Plan

Neighborhood bank offers financial pre-nuptial tips for those planning to get married

Marquette Bank, a locally-owned neighborhood bank, reminds couples that taking the next step is not only a marriage of hearts but also a marriage of finances. As spring blossoms, engaged couples should make sure they discuss their personal finances and attitudes toward money prior to walking down the aisle.

"It's no secret that people can become blinded by love, but if you stick to a plan, your financial situation doesn't have to be impaired," said Betty Kosky-Harn, Executive Vice President. "While we don't suggest you bring this topic up on a first date, talking about your financial habits, outlooks and plans with your partner is a critical step in building a strong financial foundation on which to maintain a long-lasting relationship."

An important component of any romantic relationship is a solid financial footing. Marquette Bank suggests that couples discuss the following:

1. Be mine, or yours? Will you and your spouse-to-be keep finances separated or combine them? Consider individual money styles and find a system that works for you.

2. Love's Cost. Calculate costs and discuss how bills will be paid. Both may contribute to the bill payment, but you must decide who will physically write the checks to pay the bills, what bills will be paid online, and who will monitor the investments and take care of the taxes. Consider setting a date every month to review and discuss finances.

3. Sharing Credit. It's important that spouses are aware of the others' credit situation. Marrying a person with bad credit will not drag down your stellar record. However, your other half's credit will be factored in when applying for joint financing. Knowing ahead of time will help you to plan more strategically.

4. Cupid's Arrow. Couples should develop a plan to shoot down existing debt, starting with the balances that carry the highest interest rates. Whether or not the pair works as a team or alone, debt must be tackled.

5. Sweet Savings. Saving as a couple fosters teamwork and is essential in times of financial hardship. Decide how much you want to save as a couple and do it automatically from your paychecks. Be sure to set money aside for emergencies. Discuss your goals. When will you buy a house? What do you want to do in retirement? Talk about wants, needs and must haves.

6. Beautiful Budgeting. Know your monthly expenses and your monthly income. Plan out budgets for entertainment, shelter, food, utilities, transportation and monthly bills like internet, phone and cable. Is a weekly date night a priority in your budget? Everyone is different and it is better to know that your future spouse must have a daily whipped skinny chocolate frappuccino latte to start the day. You can build it into the budget early on instead of fighting about it later on.

7. Happy Habits. Each person grows up in a family with different attitudes and approaches to money. Some people are savers and some people are spenders. We all have our own money habits. Tell your partner how your parents managed money, how you save, what you spend on and your experiences with finances. Build positive money habits together to ensure a solid financial foundation for your marriage.

Use these tips as a starting point to open a financial dialogue and avoid money becoming a source of relationship stress or divisive issue in your lives together. Marquette Bank provides free financial reviews for individuals, couples and business owners. The bank helps develop simple financial plans to help you track expenses, build a monthly budget, save for a home, pay for a child's education, develop retirement strategies and manage income after retirement. For more information on Marquette Bank's free financial planning, drop by any of Marquette Bank's 24 locations or call 1-888-254-9500.



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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

Brian and Fiona

Continued from page 25

away, where everyone was gathered. Ran up to her mom and showed her the ring. Her mom was doing dishes and her mom said, 'Give Melissa her ring back'.

Fiona: She thought it was my friend's ring, who was over from Chicago! Melissa looked at her hand and said, 'I have my ring. Oh my God!' At this point, Fiona's dad had come home. Everyone was so excited.

Brian: We had a glass of champagne, then we walked to mass. The mass was so packed we couldn't get sit down. Afterwards, her dad tracked down the priest and he blessed the ring right away.

Fiona: Christmas Eve, for us, is kind of like the night before Thanksgiving. You know, all of these people that I haven't seen in probably 4 or 5 years were there. It was so nice to be home. If I had gotten engaged in the states, it wouldn't have meant as much and I wouldn't have been able to tell people face to face, and all of my girlfriends, so it was really nice that I was home for it.

Brian: I had only picked up the ring, I think, the day before I had left, for Ireland. I did my research. Fiona had suggested that she wanted a solitaire with nothing else around it. So I went looking at diamonds, just single cut diamonds. I said, 'What do you think of this one, do you like it?' I did my homework, shopped around and finally found a jewelry shop called Fey and Company. A little background about Fiona: Her parents, call her "Save the Whales" because she's always been very involved in humanitarian causes. The reason I picked Fey and Company is because they guarantee their diamonds are conflict free.

Fiona: We picked a date straight away, I'd say everyone had at least a year and a half to plan. Our friends and family from



"So the thing is, if someone's been dating for a while and you think they're going to get married or if you're asking them if they are, the women say, 'Is it time for me to get a new hat?' That is the one thing here, all the woman arrived over with their big massive hat boxes for the day. You know, like in the royal wedding, that's traditional for us at home to wear hats at weddings."

Ireland got really cheap flights and a really great deal on the hotel.

Brian: We let everyone in Ireland know right away so that they could make it more of a family trip, vacation or holiday. As opposed to coming out for a quick wedding and going back.

Fiona: I definitely wanted a summer wedding but not in the peak of summer. I was conscious that people were going to be coming over from Ireland, after we had picked Chicago. I was thinking September is okay, like early September and it was Labor Day weekend. I was thinking, for Americans, they would at least get a 3 day wedding. So I figured it was a good weekend and July with the flight prices were crazy. I can't even picture what it would've been like had it have been in Ireland. I didn't really properly consider it. One of the reasons is we have so many friends here, as well, and I know Americans don't get a lot of vacation time. Irish people get 4 or 5 weeks, the Euro is really strong and I just thought more people could travel here than visa verse.

My mom came over for the important things, like the dress. You know, like she came over for that. So, she came over. I mean, we talk on the phone 4 or 5 times a day anyways. Anything that was big or important, she was here. They were here for the tastings, those kind of things. We're kind of lucky that we have them. For the wedding, they were probably here 2 or 3 weeks, I would say. We had a ton of people who came over from Ireland.

Brian: We had about 130 people from Ireland come. Fiona: We sort of turned it into a "wedding week" with different events and stuff.

Brian: The first night they arrived, on Tuesday, we just had champagne at your parent's room. Wednesday was the Cubs game or shopping at Gurnee Mills. Wednesday night we went to Howl at the Moon. Thursday during the day was an architectural boat tour and the Gangster tour. Then Thursday night was the Kingston Mines, a blues bar. Friday night was golfing and the rehearsal dinner. There were at least 150 for the rehearsal dinner.

Fiona: But that's pretty much an American thing, the rehearsal dinner. Obviously, it's customary to invite out of town guests. So we thought we couldn't invite some people and not others. We did appetizers and drinks and I think everyone had fun.

Brian: After the rehearsal dinner, our friend Dave, who introduced us, and who loves surprises, got together all of the bridal party, to get a horse and carriage to take us to the hotel Fiona



was staying at and then I took a cab home.

Fiona: The ceremony was 1:30 Saturday at St. Alphonsus in Lakeview. We brought our own priest actually, Father Michael. He married us. It was so nice to have an Irish priest marry us. We said the traditional vows. I don't think I've ever been to a wedding at home where they had written their own. After the wedding, we had organized, you know the big yellow school buses? To me, those are so American. We don't have anything like them at home. So they picked people up from the Drake Hotel and took them to the church. After the wedding, we went off to get our photos and the buses went off to Johnny O'Hagans

Continued to page 34

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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

John and Imelda

Continued from page 25

John: As the relationship progressed, over a few years, we did start to talk about marriage and we were pretty open about it. Me ... being a very smart man, I took her with me to look at the rings. I wanted to make sure they were what she wanted. There weren't going to be any surprises.

Imelda: Which was good, because I had no idea what I wanted, myself. So how could he know when I didn't.

John: We took our time, looked at a few places, then we finally picked everything and purchased them. We walked out of the store with them, and Imelda said, 'You know, this isn't very romantic, but they are your rings until you give them to me, whenever you're ready.' I said, 'Perfect.' I wanted to plan something special, but also surprise her. I had submitted for my Irish citizenship through the Irish Consulate. I have a couple of cousins who had done it many years ago and it was always in the back of my mind to do it. When I received my citizenship, a few months later, she said, 'I'm going to take you out to dinner to celebrate.'

John: She said, 'I'll pick the restaurant.' but I told her, 'I'll take care of it. We'll go to Henri's' because it had just opened up. I called the owner, Billy Lawless Jr, and told him what was going on. I had a friend send out an email to everyone telling them this was the night I was engaging her and for everyone to meet us after ... if she says 'Yes'. It was a surprise. I was very nervous.

Imelda: I didn't know.

John: They set up the table for us at Henri's, and she was going to sit behind a man who was bald, and I was like, "No, sit over here" where there was a window behind the other chair and that would've looked more picturesque.

Imelda: Because he brought a camera and I didn't know.

John: She sat down, I flipped the camera to the Maitre'd, I tried to get the ring out of my pocket, I'm thinking it's taking an hour to get it out and I'm sweating. I got down on one knee, in the middle of the restaurant and asked her to marry me.

Imelda: Yes he did! Totally took me by surprise! It was wonderful - a perfect moment! I said 'Yes' and then I believe I kissed him. You know, we had talked about it and had bought the rings, so I shouldn't have been surprised. He just rolled it in with the citizenship celebration so beautifully that he totally had caught me off guard. It was wonderful! Later in the evening, I went to the ladies room and it took me 20 mins to return because two little old ladies were talking to me about the proposal and looking at my ring.

John: I had people waiting next door and we couldn't get out of there - we were having such a great time.

Imelda: That was October 2010. My mother had been ill for some time. Shortly after our engagement her health deteriorated and she passed 2 months later. We honestly put every-



thing on hold for some time. Really, we should have gotten married in 2011, but it was a very difficult year. John was really supportive of me and understood the loss and grief, having lost both of his parents. He was incredibly patient, "thank you very much for being supportive". Some time later, we started planning and saying, 'Okay, we'll get married in Dublin.' We spent a lot of time back and forth in Dublin while dating, so it was a special place for us. We talked to our immediate families and they were really excited about it. They decided that they would make a family vacation out of it and visit Ireland. We also have a lot of friends in and around Europe who were delighted to visit Dublin. We went to Dublin last year, and we spent about 6 days doing intensive research. We kept coming back to the Shelbourne Hotel, which we've always loved.

Imelda: Our criteria for planning the wedding, number one, is that we knew we would have a lot of guests who would be traveling. It was a destination wedding. A lot of people don't have a big issue whether the reception is going to be in a hotel or not. For us, we wanted it to be in a hotel, so that people can come and go to their rooms as they wish. We always knew we were going to get married in the University Church on St. Stephen's Green because it's a beautiful church and you don't have to be a member of the parish for 6 months before getting married there. Obviously, if you're having a destination wedding, you need to find a place that is going

to work with you to make the ceremony work. They couldn't have been nicer! So we were trying to look at hotels around that general area. Then it worked out on a practical level as well. You don't need a car in the city center in Dublin. Everything you need is within walking distance of the Shelbourne Hotel.

John: We wanted it so that nobody had to rent cars. We wanted it to be convenient for people coming from America and Europe. Trying to drive in Dublin is madness.

come in and convince you of anything. In our particular circumstances, we knew it was going to be a destination wedding so we wanted a hotel. The Shelbourne Hotel was very accommodating. There were some hotels that said they'd give us a better deal on the reception if they increased the price of the hotel rooms for our guests. We said, 'Hold on, no way, these people are coming in from out of town they should not be paying more.'

John: Yeah, I would rather pay more per plate if you can give them a better rate for their room.

Imelda: We booked the church and spent about 3 months going back and forth making arrangements with the Shelbourne. There are many different areas to negotiate, even things like the rehearsal dinner which we were going to have at the hotel. We're having it in the Constitution Room, where they actually signed the "Constitution of Ireland" in 1937. The hotel wedding planner showed us everything which I think is very important for people to do because you have to see it in your mind to make your plans work. As it happened, we thought we were going to have a smaller wedding, around 80-100. We weren't sure how many people were going to be able to travel. Our number, as of today is, 137 confirmed. Over 50% are travelling from American.

John: Somebody once told me, when you're inviting people, the people who you think are going to come, won't, and the people who you think won't come, will. I have a few of my friends from my youth that I've always kept in contact with - I am amazed, in awe, that they are coming to my wedding. They live around the Chicago area. I think a lot of people are going to travel around Europe after the wedding.

Imelda: Another thing we wanted to ensure was to get a "Save the Date" out so that people had plenty of time to make arrangements. We sent our "Save the Date" email about 6 months before the wedding and our formal invitations went out about 3 months beforehand. We included, 'Please make sure that your passport is not expired.' in big bold letters!

John: We gave them a map showing them exactly where everything is and it helped a lot of Americans to understand where the hotel is and how close it is to all the cultural activities and shopping areas.

Imelda: We negotiated back and forth with the hotel for 3 months about pricing and arrangements. We saved a lot of money by having the time to negotiate and holding our ground to plan the day we wanted. We were also dealing with a different currency and time zone. When we sat down to do our budget, we calculated it in US dollars and in Euro. We figured on \$1.40 to the Euro at the low end and \$1.50 for the high end and inflated it. That is why we are pretty okay with where we're at right now with our budget.

John: We took time to sit down and talk to each other, discussing things about budget and everything and that really helped. Do we need it, do we really need it? Do we want it?

Imelda: Another thing is that we had to keep in mind people are travelling with a limited amount of suitcase space. So we thought about that while discussing "favors". What are our

Imelda: When planning, it makes a difference when you know the layout of the venue and what's going on around the area. I lived in Dublin for 6 years. Also, my sister got married in Dublin several years before that. It makes a difference when you've helped plan a wedding for somebody you're close to. When you're helping plan for someone, you have that emotional detachment where you can think more like a business person. Whereas, with your own wedding, you get more emotionally involved, which you should! I think that the most important thing when planning anything is that you need to know what your budget is and have an idea of what you want. They will sell you anything. So you need to know, do you want those napkins with your names on them? You have to have a clear idea in your mind of at least your budget and what your focus is on that day.

John: We're pretty much on budget. We're pretty sensible on what we wanted.

Imelda: You really need to know what you both want. If you're unsure, people can really

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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

A Touch of Green: Irish Dancers at Your Wedding

By Katie Hamilton

For many couples, a wedding is a treasured day to exchange the holiest of vows in the presence of family, friends, and loved ones. If you're Irish, a wedding is also an opportunity to throw a darn-good party.

For the perfect tribute to your heritage and that extra-special wedding flare, hire Irish dancers to perform at your reception. Irish dancers surprise and entertain guests with a performance that is both novel and

nostalgic. Barbara McNulty T.C.R.G. has more than 41 years of experience providing live Irish dance entertainment. "This is probably the easiest part of the whole wedding planning process," said Barbara. "All it takes is two phone calls – one to set up the dancers and one to firm the time."

Each wedding performance is unique per the client's preferences. Choices include the length and location of the performance, number of dancers, type of costumes, and nature of music. For example, a small group of Championship dancers can perform a few short numbers during cocktail hour, or a full troupe can entertain throughout dinner. The McNulty Irish Dancers offer a variety

of costume choices, including traditional Celtic dresses, playful plaid skirts, and dazzling solo dresses. The dancers can supply their own recorded music, or Barbara can arrange live musical accompaniment.

The most common request Barbara receives is that the performance be a surprise. "Nine times out of ten, dancers are a surprise for the guests, and that is the bride and groom's main concern," said Barbara. "We take special care to ensure this sweet request is met."

But the dancers pack in a few surprises themselves. For brides/grooms that used to Irish dance, they are invited on stage for a rousing jig finale. This crowd-pleaser allows an extraordinary glimpse into the past life of the dancer, and may cause more than a few moist eyes in the house.

Another option is a performance of the Siege of Ennis. All guests are encouraged to join the dancers and learn this traditional Irish céilí. Young and old, Irish and not, everyone takes delight and thrill in dancing together as the Siege is taught.

Barbara also conducts group lessons for the bridal party prior to the wedding. For those looking to really impress their audience, this is the way to go. The bridal party will learn the jig or another party dance, and perform it with the dancers at the end of the show. The level of involvement and interaction is entirely up to the client.

Sydney Neukirch (nee Martin), 26, married Jeremy, 29, in December 2010. Sydney's mom arranged to have Irish dancers at her wedding as a surprise to the couple. "My mom thought Irish dancers would be meaningful to have at my wedding since Irish dance was a big part of mine and my

family's life," said Sydney, a former Irish dancer. "I didn't know Jeremy then, so that was something new to him as well."

A group of seven McNulty dancers performed during dinner service. "People were in a festive party mood and definitely lit up by it," said Sydney. "But the best part about the performance was the dancers' personalities. You could tell they were enjoying themselves and loved to be there."

Meghan Basic, 29, said she could not image her upcoming June nuptials to Chris Collins, 30, without Irish dancers. "I am so proud of being Irish," said Meghan. "Having Irish dancers celebrate my wedding – this was the natural thing to do." She plans on having the dancers perform for 15 to 20 minutes during dinner, during the short lull in the evening's activities. "This is a celebration of two big Irish families coming together," said Meghan. "Irish dancers will get people up and dancing. This will set the tone of the night and make it a really fun event."

Barbara has received many unusual wedding requests over the years, but a certain Libertyville couple's may have taken the cake. The McNulty Irish Dancers performed at Tara Teschky and Paul Quinn's wedding on St. Patrick's Day - atop a float in Lake Villa's St. Patrick's Day parade.

From the strictly traditional reception to wildly creative ceremony, Irish dancers provide that special touch that ensures an unforgettable time.

"It's been more than a year since we've been married, and people still talk about how special it was having dancers at the wedding," said Sydney. "Everyone really loved it."



Sydney Neukirch was thrilled with the McNulty Dancers' red and gold costumes, which matched their Christmas wedding colors. "It worked out really well," said Sydney.

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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

John and Imelda

Continued to page 31

guests going to do with the favors? They've got to pack them in their bags and bring them 3,000 miles back home. Is that convenient? Even deciding on the wedding registry was interesting. Our guests would have to bring a gift with them to the wedding. So for our purposes, as much as we love beautiful gifts, we would have to bring it back home. We set up our registry early and the gifts will be shipped to our house. It makes it easier for guests and for us.

Imelda: We wanted our wedding to be on a Friday. Weddings on Friday and Saturdays actually cost the same in Ireland, but we wanted to enjoy the Saturday after the wedding with our guests when we had more time to spend with them – especially since we had all travelled to be together.

We're getting married in a Catholic church and had to prepare that documentation. We also had to prepare the civil documentation and we met with staff of the General Register's Office. We had to order a special birth certificate here to include a special "apostille" seal in compliance with the relevant laws internationally. This is the Irish equivalent to the marriage license. So just remember, no matter where you're getting married, find out

what you need to do for the religious and/or civil requirements. Make sure that your documentation here gets sent over there in time for them to approve it. It took months. We both had

and I have been together for a long time. We have both lived on our own and have careers. The course is good for people who are getting married, but who perhaps have not discussed these things. These topics are what couples need to talk about: bank accounts, bill payments, jobs. It seems really silly, but it really matters.

John: Cures a lot of the fights. Deal with those issues up front. Another thing, she's not taking my name. Which isn't a big deal.

Imelda: I don't have an issue with being called Mrs. McEneaney. I have had my career for many years before I ever met John and I'm known by my own name. There is no need to change that. If we have kids, they will have McEneaney as a last name – of course Gallagher will be a middle name!

John: Another really good thing, is most of the service providers we are hiring in Dublin were the people Imelda's sister hired for her wedding: the photographer, videographer, DJ.

Imelda: I think we've agreed that once we have made all the plans we can, we need to enjoy the day! Of course, I want it to all go well, but if it's not perfect, you just go with it.

Don't be afraid to negotiate with your venue. Go in there and negotiate the heck out of it. All they can do is say, 'No.'



to get all of our paperwork, our baptismal certificate, confirmation certification, all of our forms signed and witnessed by notaries. We had to take a Pre-Cana course here, which was a blast! We had to take our FOCCUS compatibility test with the Catholic church, which consisted of 156 multiple-choice questions. We discovered that we were extremely compatible! John

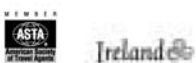
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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

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Park was to be constructed with only the finest materials and with special attention to the smallest details. This dedication continued over the years as Chicago Gaelic Park has grown into what is now a premier banquet and meeting facility in Chicago’s great southland area.

CGP is the perfect setting for

weddings, receptions, business meetings, seminars, baby showers or any banquet need. There are three beautiful banquet rooms which are ready to accommodate nearly any size event. The Emerald Room can accommodate up to 500 guests. As guests enter the Emerald lobby, they are impressed with a large collection of museum quality Waterford Crystal and Belleek China. Once inside, elegance abounds with two stately oak bars with etched mirrors, beautiful crystal chandeliers, elevated stage








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and a large mahogany dance floor. The Tara Room is equally impressive and the Celtic Room for more intimate events up to 125 guests. Audio/video equipment is available if needed.

The outdoor covered patio, surrounded by the newest addition of a waterfall and pergola, is the perfect setting for outdoor wedding ceremonies, cocktail receptions and wedding receptions. Also outside, is the volunteer garden, a beautifully landscaped grove which

abounds with seasonal flowers and is a beautiful on-site photo stop for weddings, or, other occasions.

A truly unique fixture at CGP is the traditional Irish pub called the Carraig which was imported piece by piece directly from Ireland. Stepping into the Carraig is like stepping into Ireland – without having to board a plane. The pub features traditional Irish pub food, a large selection of imported liquor and the best poured beverages in the area. For these and so many more reasons, Chicago Gaelic Park is a premier spot for banquets and events in the Chicago’s southland. Come and visit us at 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest. Call 708-687-9323 or online at www.chicagogaelpark.org



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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

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IRISH WEDDING SECTION

Brian and Fiona

Continued from page 30

and brought all the guests straight to the pub.

Brian: Sunday we just kind of relaxed. Sunday night we went back to Johnny O'Hagan's for a traditional Irish kind of session. We had musicians and a sing song.

Fiona: My dad plays the accordion, there were a lot of really good traditional Irish singers, who were friends of ours that were really amazing. Everyone kind of got up and did a little something.

Brian: Monday, we had to wake up because we had 2 buses to take us out to Arlington for the races. Fiona's parents are part of a horse racing club in Ireland. A lot of the people that came from Ireland, like 30 or 40, were part of this club. We didn't know, but we ended up getting one of the names of the races was named after us.

Fiona: The best advice for planning a wedding here, with people traveling from over seas. Definitely try to get people to commit as early as they can. So you have an idea because the amount of people dictates the venue and so much. So you should kind of have an idea of that if you could. I think a long engagement is key. Everyone is happy with it because they need time to save up, if they're going away, and vacation time and all that stuff.

Each table at the reception was a different landmark in Ireland and landmarks here so there was a mix there. Like the Molly Malone (a famous statue of a flower peddler, referred to as "the tart with a cart"), we tried to put the American's at the Irish landmarks and the Irish at the American ones. We tried to mix the tables as well, as much as we could. So it's a nice talking piece as well. We did put all the singles together. I always thought that a wedding would be a great place to meet people.

A tip that somebody told me, just for wedding planning in general: when you're trying to organize table places, you write everyone's name on a Post-It and lay them all out. That was

probably one of the most difficult things, trying to figure out who would be sitting at what table. Obviously there's people that have to sit together and then there's people that don't want to sit together. So you get Post-Its to shimmy everyone around until it's perfect.

Brian: I think that the website was a good idea too. You know, people kept asking, 'What's going on, what can we do in Chicago?' All we had to say was 'Go to this website.' and it was all there. They could also RSVP on the website for all the



different events, we knew how many tickets to get in advance and everything.

Brian: We also had a photo booth at our wedding. We actually went back and looked at all of the photos. What happens is you get 2 sets of photos. One you glue in the book and you write a comment and then you get to keep the other.

Fiona: It was like our guest book, kind of. It's so much fun. Just looking through the photo pictures is so fun. The most random people are in the photos together. It was a mixture of ages.

Brian: One guy was able to successfully undress in within the 4 sessions of pictures.

Fiona: You can see him in the different stages of getting undressed. Those photos are just hilarious. We also had a band and a DJ. The DJ takes over when the band finishes. Brian always thinks that I'm horrible at keeping secrets but I proved him wrong. I got the Cubs Dixieland Brass Band. They are these older gentlemen that walk around playing trumpets and horns in these cubs uniforms. They play old time 1930's music and stuff. They played during the cocktail party before we went into the actual reception.

Brian: Oh yeah. Even the groom's cake was shaped like Wrigley Field.

Fiona: Oh, and it isn't an Irish tradition for the Maid of Honor to make a speech. In Ireland, it's more of just the men, I've been told. So here, my Maid of Honor, my best friend, who I have known just as long as Brian has known Dave and on Christmas Eve, I sat her down, asked her to be my Maid of Honor and I said, 'You don't have to do a speech if you don't want to and still be my Maid of Honor.' I think she probably, for the whole year and a half, didn't sleep. Honestly, she was waking up in cold sweats and when it came to the wedding, she was amazing. In the speech,

she said, 'I remember when you were little, you'd say you wanted all of your bridesmaids in sailor dresses. So I know I speak for everyone when I say, we're so thankful you changed your mind.'

Transcribed by Cathering Gallagher,

All photos by Jeffrey and Julia Woods Photographers

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



JUSTICE FOR CULLINANE? You’ve long read here of the blatant Crown crimes against Limerickman Patrick Cullinane in London; how Britain’s Inland Revenue (its IRS) fabricated income tax claims against him, robbed him of his house, and evicted him from it. Ireland’s ambassador and London’s Irish newspapers proved to be, in effect, accomplices while honest IR employees provided Cullinane with the evidence of their bosses’ crimes against him. Ordinary Irish people and those of Irish descent were supportive; but only to the extent of their non-connection to the Irish gov’t. Cullinane informed law enforcement and all levels of gov’t, British and Irish, to no avail. When all doors to justice were closed against Cullinane, out of nowhere an honest reporter, Phillip Inman, of The Guardian newspaper, stood up. Repeatedly, his reports informed people of the crimes against Cullinane. Though Cullinane hasn’t yet seen justice, Inman, and now the Guardian’s Editor, Alan Rusbridger, are exposing systemic Crown crime so thoroughly that it is now targeted by the Leveson Inquiry Team headed by Lord Justice Leveson. One of the targets is Rupert Murdoch’s subversion of parliament and the corrupt practices of his media outlets with Britain’s public institutions. In a widely-publicized open letter, nearly unprecedented in England, Editor Rusbridger exposed London’s Metropolitan Police’s role in the corruption and cover-ups. So there is hope for Cullinane and the thousands of similarly gov’t-swindled Britons. May their integrity and courage spread to the U.S. England’s three local gov’t ombudsmen, posturing as independent, are all former local gov’t Chief Executives! (You could not make this up.)

HELP FREE MARIAN PRICE. Britain plans to imprison her permanently. Unlike other political prisoners, she hasn’t been tried or sentenced. No release date. No date for Parole Commission review of her case. Unless courts intervene,

she’s releasable only by order of Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Marian’s health was permanently damaged by 400 force-feedings during her hunger-strike in a British prison Husband Jerry McGlinchey told Radio Free Eireann the force-feeding-caused tuberculosis required re-treatment last year. She has such severe arthritis she cannot open her hand, yet remains imprisoned and abused. Let’s all eMail Owen Paterson at paterson@parliament.uk demanding; “Free Marian Price Immediately.” Diaspora Irish are potent; the British government fears international condemnation. See freemarian.co.nr.

THE BALLYMURPHY MASSACRE. With Articles 2 and 3 of Ireland’s Constitution gutted, and recent maps showing the Six Counties as undisputedly British, justice is scarce there. Nevertheless, families/survivors of the 1971 Ballymurphy (Belfast) Massacre demand justice. British soldiers shot dead eleven innocents including Fr. Hugh Mullan while he knelt in the street administering Extreme Unction. Like the fourteen human rights marchers murdered by British troops on Bloody Sunday and the thirty-three murdered by car-bombs on 17May73, the known perpetrators were never prosecuted. Meanwhile, Ireland’s gov’t has abetted these crimes. The Ballymurphy relatives/friends have organized. They demand: 1) Independent international investigation of the circumstances of each death. 2) A British government acknowledgment of innocence, and 3) A British government public apology. For more info see <http://ballymurphy-massacre.com/>. (From John, son of murdered Daniel Teggart, for the Ballymurphy Massacre Relatives, via Sandy Boyer, NY.) Unprosecuted massacres?

CELEBRATE 1916 with the real Clan na Gael. 7 p.m. April 14th. The Irish Legend; 8933 So. Archer, Willow Springs. Music by Fast Eddie. Cash bar, raffle. Snacks donated by owner Vince. BILLY McGUIRE SOVEREIGNTY. Google it! View and inform

others! CHICAGO CAREYS. A great genealogical site about the Careys of Ballingarry, Co. Limerick. Posted by Alice Boyd. Google it or contact aliceb@boydhouse.com.

THE CRIMINAL 1% are running The West. Their entirely fraudulent Collateralized Debt Obligations and Credit Default Swaps had destroyed the world’s pension funds until Bush, to preclude WW3 of World vs. U.S., gave them the \$trillions that largely flowed through AIG and banks to their foreign victims. Though their crimes cost us \$trillions, instead of in prison, they are in gov’t or giving themselves gigantic bonuses from the bail-out money given them. A major part of that 1% is the military/industrial complex about which Ike warned us and in whose pockets are Obama and all three leading Republican presidential contenders. Sez Jay Leno; “If God had wanted us to vote, He’d have given us candidates.” But we shouldn’t blame the pols exclusively; they reflect an American blood-lust so strong as to happily squander \$one trillion destroying Iraq and its people; a nation that had given us no reason to attack it.

HOW DID a majority of Republican-voting Alabamans and Mississippians become so disinformed as to condone Obama’s war crimes and other Unconstitutional policies while opposing him for “being Muslim”? S Whence came the stupeficient that causes 71% of Americans to believe that Iran poses an existential threat to us - the same percentage that believed that Saddam Hussein had WMDs and was involved in 9/11? It was that gullibility that enabled Bush/Cheney’s Supreme International Crime. Was satiating our blood-lust worth the \$trillion cost? And the 1.4 million Iraqi dead, and the few thousand Americans dead?

THERE IS HOPE. It’s coming from Europe and Middle-East whose peoples are finally rising against crime. How humiliating, to see the English cleaning their stables before we clean ours. In Ireland villages oppose the banksters. Let’s do likewise. All four current presidential candidates pander to blood-lust, but will the blood-lust continue? Grace arrives unexpectedly. GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, beneficial? See www.freegerry.com.

www.michaelmckevitt.com, <http://www.freemarian.co.nr>. <http://www.ballymurphy-massacre.com/>. Contact fogarty@att.net or 312/664-7651

WHICH BRIT REG’T starved your relatives? See www.irish-holocaust.org.

Jean Burns Passes

Co-Founder of *Irish American News*, Jean Burns, passed away on March 26, 2012 after a battle with pneumonia. She was 86 years old.

Memorial services will be at St. Huberts Church in Hoffman Estates on April 14th at 11 a.m.

Jean and her husband, the late Bob Burns, were strong supporters of this paper, and were gratified to see its evolution over the years. Bob passed



in 1994. Jean was a wonderful cheerleader, and we will miss her.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Do you have a coin to toss? That's because you can have it either way. Either Kevin Crawford is going to be Male Musician of the Year for 2012 with his new solo flute album, *Carrying the Tune*, or fellow flute wizard, Brendan Mulholland will be with his debut solo album, *Jean's Hill*. If Kevin wins it for Male Musician of the Year, Brendan will win it for

Instrumental Album of the Year. Or vice-versa. Take your pick. Either way. They both are stunning musicians with wonderful, brand new offerings for you. Kevin Crawford got John Doyle in to back him up on guitar. You could not possibly find two Irish traditional musicians more hip to trad music and what is going on currently in the scene. Both are masters of their in-

struments and at the top of their games. Also appearing on *Carrying the Tune* is Brian Morrissey on bodhran and the ubiquitous Mick Conneely on bouzouki.

Meanwhile, back at Jean's Hill, Brendan Mulholland is cookin'. This cd is loaded with traditional favorites such as *Pigeon on the Gate*, and the slow air, *An Chuilfhionn*. There are also tasty treats that are rare such as *The Tin Wedding*. One of Brendan's own is *Sean's Reel*. We have discovered that *Jean's Hill*, itself is in clear and near view as you step out from Brendan's back door in Co. Antrim. Who is *Jean's Hill* named after? Nobody knows, reports Brendan with a laugh. On the other hand, what everybody does know is that this is a master artist at work. Brendan joined his pal, Brendan Hendry at last year's Milwaukee Irish Fest. Hendry on fiddle and Mulholland on guitar tore it

up and their performances are still being talked about in trad circles.

What is the difference between the two albums? Since they are both traditional flute albums, do you actually need both? Yes. First of all, can you ever have too much of great wooden flutes and whistles being played by the best in the biz? That's right. We immediately rank Mulholland in the same league as Kevin Crawford himself, and other iconic players such as Michael McGoldrick, Kevin Henry, Catherine McEvoy, Kieran Munnely and a host of others at the top of the mountain. *Carrying the Tune* is, as you would expect, nuanced and balanced. Perfectly engineered. Very current. Spot on. *Jean's Hill* is a more traditional straight ahead foray. Where Kevin's playing simply stuns in its variety and excellence, Brendan's will knock you over with its elegance. Brendan Mulholland is a very elegant musician.

Taken together, these two represent an encyclopedic look at today's traditional flute scene. They are brill, and you will be, too, if you get them. You know what to do. Go find them. Get to work. Wow!

We're going to have a bunch of cd reviews coming up for you next month in one of those eight cd-type review thingys

where each cd can only get a couple of sentences. But we want you to know about them.

Let's take the opportunity now to flog our two programs. Do tune in every Monday night at 8pm for *Ireland Tonight* on WDCB at 90.9fm. Co-host Maryann Keifer tries to establish some sort of decorum in the show, but usually fails. Someone said to me at Old Town School the other night at the Lunasa show, "She is class. You are sass." Correct. Hopefully the result is great music and great craic. You can also listen online at wdc.org. Then, you can catch two hours of fabulous traditional music Sundays at 1pm on liveireland.com. This is by far and away the largest Irish music website in the world. It is based out of Dublin, Ireland. It is all-Irish 24/7/365. *Ireland Tonight* Producer, Imelda Bhroga, co-hosts with me on the weekly *Bill and Imelda Show*. You can chat with us at both shows by going to the *Ireland Tonight* facebook page on Monday nights, or joining the chat room on *Liveireland* on Sundays at 1. If you love the real Irish music, both of these shows are the place for you to be.

At the risk of groveling ad nauseum, Maryann wisely reminded me to take the opportunity in this column to thank all of you for your record-setting support of public radio and WDCB during our latest fundraising night. Holy moley! Going in, we were really worried that it was going to be one slow night, due to the economy and all that. Instead, over 45 of you called in during the two hours of the Irish fundraiser, making significant contributions. Maryann, Imelda, and I are all planning now to go to the bosses at WDCB and demand a doubling of our pay. If they agree to it, guess what that total will be! *Ta!

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A typical working class regiment of the period, the 30th Foot in 1790 was comprised of 25% Irish, to upwards of 50% in later years. The books "REDCOATS AGAINST NAPOLEON", "INSIDE THE REGIMENT", and "NAPOLEONIC LIVES", examine these soldiers. <http://irish.filmstuff.info>

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

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The Voice of Catholic Charities. Rev. Msgr. Michael M. Boland, Administrator, President and CEO

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As you read this, the Church throughout the world is celebrating - or preparing to

celebrate - the Feast of Easter: The resurrection of Christ from the dead, and the promise of eternal life for all.

This truth and this hope is what drives the work of Catholic Charities as we serve all people in need. Christ invited all to come to him. He fed the hungry and taught the multitude: “Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice.” The hope of resurrection, of a new life of dignity and justice for our neighbors who are poor or struggling is our goal and

our mission.

And through the grace of God, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has lived Christ’s mission for the last 95 years. As we celebrate, we look back in gratitude and we look forward with anticipation to the future.

April 10, 1917. On that historic day, as the United States prepared to enter the Great War raging in Europe, 300 representatives from Catholic parishes in Chicago met with Archbishop George Mundelein of Chicago for one purpose: to increase financial assistance for the growing numbers of poor families and individuals living within their parish boundaries - of all faiths. The result was the founding of the Board of The Associated Catholic Charities and its coordination and service arm: the Central Charity Bureau. The nucleus of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago had been formed.

April 2012. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrates our 95th Anniversary.

The men who met with Cardinal Mundelein on that historic day in 1917 were members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the charitable organization named for its 17th century founder.

For decades, they had served as the parish-based “safety net” for poor families and individuals, the elderly, and the indigent. But they acknowledged the great need for the creation of a formal archdiocesan agency “to lessen the suffering of the widows, the orphans, the sick, the friendless and the penniless,” and the Catholic Charities was founded.

Today, Catholic Charities serves more than a million people in Cook and Lake Counties with 157 programs at 162 locations that are administered by more than 2,000 staff members. Our mission is to people of all races and religions who are in need: those who are poor, hungry or unemployed. We assist elders and spouses who suffer abuse. We care for the children of low-income and formerly homeless working families, and assist immigrants as they strive to achieve financial independence, and education for themselves and their children.

“Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me!” These words of Christ in the Gospel

of Matthew sum up the first 95 years of Catholic Charities’ service to the poor. Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, welcoming the stranger, strengthening families, protecting children, safeguarding seniors, offering recovery to the addicted, lifting up the discouraged, speaking up for the poor, the helpless and the unborn to the public

and to presidents, restoring the human dignity of all the children of God. ...This remains our mission.

As we observe this historic milestone, we do so with great gratitude to God for the privilege of serving His people in need. Please keep Catholic Charities and all whom we help in your prayers. God bless you and your families! Happy Easter!

Iceman Cometh

Continued from page 18

terms of its theme, that we all hide from the things that frighten us most. We find ways of coping, but don’t want to break the spell, and we all have spells.”

Actor Patrick Andrews studies O’Neill’s Irish-American experience to ready for role

Learning about the spells, shattered myths and dreams of playwright O’Neill has been part of the preparation Patrick Andrews has been doing in advance of playing the pivotal role of Don Parritt, a young man who betrays his mother, resentful of her lifestyle and her involvement with radical politics.

Soaking up knowledge beforehand, Andrews has been reading O’Neill biographies, which has “been fascinating and insightful finding out how brave he was in baring what he did in such emotionally autobiographical works,” he says.

Shaping those works, Andrews says, were O’Neill’s relationships with his father James - an Irish transplant who came from abject poverty, reached heights in America as renowned touring actor, then fell into a money pit and fell back on playing the Count of Monte Cristo to make fast cash; with his mother, Ella, whose drug addiction shattered O’Neill’s Irish Catholic faith; and a youth spent either on the road in hotel rooms, in boarding schools or at the family’s modest summer home in Connecticut.

“There’s a story that (as a teenager) after he learned of his mother’s drug addiction, O’Neill defied his father and refused to go to church. He eventually found refuge in writers who were exploring personal freedom including Oscar Wilde, Nietzsche, and anarchist Emma Goldman,” Andrews says.

While O’Neill never visited Ireland, Andrews notes that in the 1930s O’Neill set out to write a sweeping series of plays about an Irish family and its immigrant

experience, in America which grew too unwieldy. Failing that, O’Neill turned his attention to creating works that included “Long Day’s Journey,” “Hughie,” and “Iceman.”

“He certainly explores the American Dream and how where we come from affects us,” Andrews says of O’Neill’s writing.

Andrews’ role as Parritt in “Iceman” is an 18-year-old pulled in two directions by salesman Hickey, who sees Parritt as a younger, kindred spirit, and jaded anarchist Larry Slade, who very well might be his father.

With Lane as Hickey and Dennehy as Slade, Andrews will be performing toe-to-toe with the formidable stars of the ensemble.

“What Chicago is teaching me is that people show up to work. They leave everything else outside and are willing to get their hands dirty,” Andrews says.

Andrews, a Texas native, came to Chicago about six years ago with a national tour of Broadway’s “Fosse” and wound up staying to hone his craft.

He also notes that the city’s myriad companies are not afraid to tackle tough works and heady topics. As but one example Andrews is just back from Washington, D.C., where he performed in a Falls-directed, Goodman co-production of “Red,” a 90-minute piece concerning abstract-expressionist painter Mark Rothko and an assistant helping him with a project commissioned to provide murals for the Four Seasons restaurant in New York’s Seagram Building.

“I think when work is real, honest, and visceral it gets people’s attention. I think audience’s are up for it when given a challenge,” Andrews says.

And that’s not his pipe dream. “The Iceman Cometh”

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



John Godfrey Saxe's (1816-1887) version of the famous Indian legend:

*It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),*

*That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.*

*The First approach'd the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"*

*The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, -"Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"*

*The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"*

*The Fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he,
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"*

*The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"*

*The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"*

*And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!*

MORAL.
*So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!*

The Spirit of which we speak cannot be contained by the universe and we with our limited intelligence and meager words and dogmas pretend to have the answer(s) to the God question!

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

DOUGLASS & O'CONNELL

A friend of mine who is based in Washington D.C. is spearheading a new venture aimed at celebrating the extraordinary link between Fredrick Douglass and Daniel O'Connell.

"The Frederick Douglass - Daniel O'Connell Distinguished Lecture Series honors the contributions of these two men to the cause of human rights around the world. The project is a living legacy to Douglass and O'Connell on both sides of the Atlantic, and plans are under way to establish exchange relationships with several colleges and universities in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States and a shared programming and hosting of the lecture series in future years.

The project's first phase will site a statue of Douglass and establish a lecture series which will be launched in Ireland. The statue of Douglass will be the first in Ireland honoring an African-American in Ireland, and the first known monument to Douglass outside of the United States.

In 1845, as Ireland was descending into the despair of the great famine, Frederick Douglass arrived for a four-month lecture tour of the island. Douglass had escaped slavery in Maryland seven years earlier, and had recently published his autobiography Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave. Douglass was greeted in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork by enthusiastic crowds and formed many friendships on his trip, most significantly with Daniel O'Connell, a figure still revered in Ireland today for his role in Catholic emancipation and his fierce opposition to slavery. O'Connell and Douglass shared the stage just once, in September 1845 at a rally in Dublin, but retained a mutual respect and affection until O'Connell's death less than two years later - and Douglass acknowledged O'Connell's influence on his philosophy and worldview for the rest of his life.

The Frederick Douglass - Daniel O'Connell Distinguished Lecture Series honors the transformative role that the country and people of Ireland played in Douglass's life, helps teach future generations of Irish and American young adults about the lives and leadership of Douglass and O'Connell, and celebrates the special bond and affinity between Ireland and the United States. "

www.douglassoconnellmemorial.org



GOLF

Calling all Golfers! Please come and join us for our annual Golf outing. This year we will again swing for fun at, St. Andrew's Golf & Country Club, West Chicago. June 10th is the date, so please mark your diary and plan to join us for a fun day!

Our Take on Social Services

Paul Dowling, Director of Social Services

THIS MONTH'S SENIOR GROUP MEETINGS

Senior groups take place at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details of senior group meetings this month. There is no cost and refreshments will be served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call the office on 773-282-8445.

GAELIC PARK

Wednesday, 4th April 2012

This week we will be joined by Conor Cunneen. As well as being a proud Cork man, Conor is an author and professional key note speaker. He will be telling us a little about his book and sharing with us some of his unique humor and wit. Conor never fails to entertain so be sure to join us for what promises to be a morning of fun and laughs.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH APRIL 2012

Sometimes as we age we become less steady on our feet and are more likely to experience falls. For seniors a fall can have very serious consequences and lead to a number of other health complications. This week our guest will be a representative from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal who will teach us valuable lessons in staying safe and preventing falls and fires.

IAHC

Thursday, 12th April 2012

Our guest this week will be a representative from the Secretary of State's office with the 'Think Smart - Be Safe' program. The presentation will offer tips and advice on how to be alert, plan ahead, be visible, attract attention, and handle situations that occur when leaving the house, walking to and from the car, and while driving

Thursday, 26th April 2012

Following Easter - the celebration of the resurrection of Christ - we take a look at the life of Jesus Christ through the medium of visual art. Sherry Avila joins us to explain a little about some significant artistic depictions of the life of Christ.

Adult Children of Aging Parents Workshop

Aging in America raises some very complex and confusing issues. Throughout the year we offer a wide range of informational programming at our Tara Club and Emerald Club senior group meetings at the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park. The seniors who attend gain invaluable information on a host of senior related topics that promote safe aging and provide practical assistance in planning for the future. Topics covered have included housing options, elder law and estate planning, and dementia care. It is common for seniors to become overwhelmed when faced with the challenges of preparing for the future. There may come a point when seniors are no longer able to make decisions for themselves and need the help of family and friends. Because of this, not only is it vital for seniors to have access to quality information but it is also very important that their loved ones have the right knowledge to ensure that they are properly cared for.

In order to help with this, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is holding an informational workshop for the adult children of aging parents. The event will feature a panel of experts in senior care who will discuss retirement housing options, elder law, hospice care, community resources, and senior medical care.

The work shop takes place on Saturday, 28th April, 2012. Registration begins at 8.30am and the work shop will run between 9am-12pm. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event. To register for the work shop please call the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support office at 773-282-8445. We look forward to seeing you there.

Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do You Know How To Start Your New Job?

Many of my past columns dealt with the job search process. Obviously a lot of people start new jobs virtually every day of the year. This column focuses on what that new employee should do in order to succeed in the new environment.

Some time ago, a former colleague and accomplished outplacement consultant, Fred Gittinger, shared with me his thoughts on what a person should do when s/he starts a new job. Fred developed a list of ten things that he felt a new employee should do to facilitate and enhance their assimilation into a new corporate environment. As I reviewed Fred's recommendations, I am convinced that all of us could improve our current employment situation by reviewing these same 10 suggestions as though we were new employees.

1.) Meet with your new boss for purposes of defining what your role is in the organization and what goals are important to your boss. Too often, new hires want to please the boss without really knowing what s/he wants them to accomplish.

2.) After meeting with the boss, write a memo of your understanding of the focus points for your first three to six months. Provide a copy of the memo to your boss; ask for a three to six months review to seek any additional clarification that may be needed.

3.) Do a complete assessment of your strengths and weaknesses as you start your new job. It will help you understand what help you might need to fulfill the expectations of your boss.

Write down the reasons why you were hired; keep them in the front of your mind. Remember to focus on those reasons with your colleagues so you don't get trapped into fulfilling their agenda rather than your own.

4.) Develop a self improvement plan. As you take stock of your strengths and weaknesses, you will most likely decide that there are things whether skills, style or behaviors, that need to be modified or totally changed. Let your boss know that you are vitally interested in constructive criticism. Many bosses are uncomfortable criticizing people directly and honestly, so make it easy for them. Once you have completed this self improvement plan, determine if there are some people who could help you by mentoring you as you strive to implement this plan.

5.) Solicit feedback. How can you improve if no one tells you when you

are doing something wrong? Make it clear not only to your boss but to others you respect, you would welcome their feedback on your performance. Many surveys say that the lack of feedback is one of the biggest complaints that people have.

6.) Meet as many people in the organization as possible in your first month. It will help you to feel more thoroughly connected than if you only met a person or two. Meeting more people, from different parts of the business, will also help to expand your understanding of the total company. It could open some doors for you in the future. Keep your mouth shut about the "great" company you just left; remember, you are trying to assess this culture, not educate them on your former culture.

7.) Keep track of your accomplishments. Start a CAREER file. Every time you succeed in a major project put a note in your file. Every time you receive a written compliment or endorsement of your latest achievement, drop a copy into your file. Believe me; we all forget our accomplishments as the years go by. After a while, some of your earlier achievements will lose their glow; but they can still be helpful when you are explaining your background to someone else in the organization. And, of course, even a genuine accomplishment can become lost in an organization. Why? Perhaps because the individuals that were involved have all moved on, been promoted or transferred, quit or been terminated.

8.) Be thoroughly prepared for your performance review. If need be, insist on a review. A lot of managers don't

like to discuss a person's background in detail. Perhaps they don't really feel that they have command of the details. Develop your own written agenda for the meeting. Be prepared to defend your records and/or refute items when you believe your superior's information

is incorrect. But do it with style; do not get belligerent or unpleasant; this person will still be your boss tomorrow.

9.) Ask what it will take to be promoted to the next level of responsibility. Are there one or two suggestions that your superior has for you?

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**



Frank West



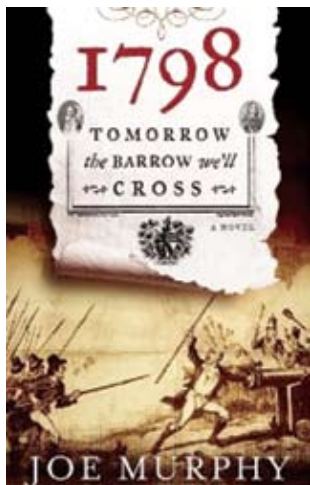
Recent Books About Ireland

The idealized picture of Ireland is of a peaceful land of fields dotted with sheep. True, there is a lot of peacefulness. But, Ireland has experienced much violence and war. Ireland has often felt the terror and horror of war.

These three books are about two of those titanic events - the Rebellion of 1798, and the period of the Irish War for Independence.

The first is a historical novel about two brothers living during the Rebellion of 1798.

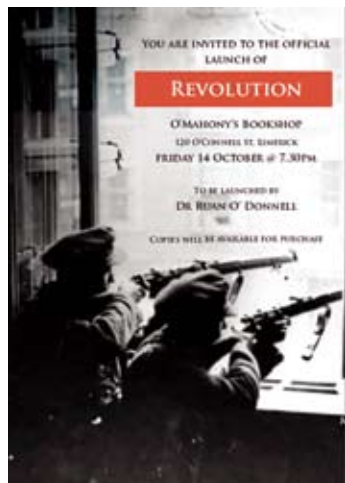
1798: Tomorrow the Barrow We'll Cross by Joe Murphy. Liberties Press and DuFour Editions.



The second book about 1798 is a novel about Michael Dwyer. He fought in 1798, and after the rebellion was smashed by the British, all prisoners were killed. He became a charismatic guerilla

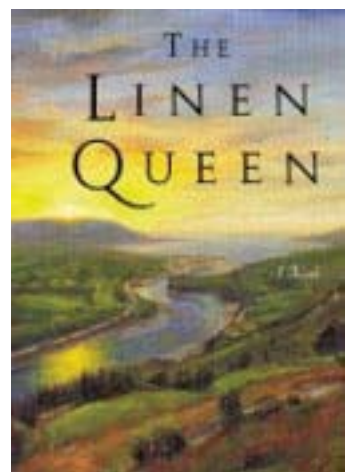


leader. Citizen Dwyer by Sean McCarthy. New Island Press and DuFour Editions.

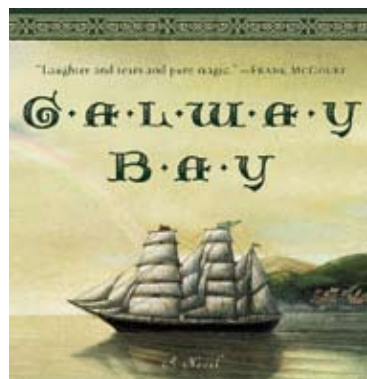


The third is Revolution: A Photographs History of Revolutionary Ireland 1913-1923 by Padraig Ruairc. Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. More information about these books can be found at info@dufour Editions.com.

Two other marvelous books about Ireland - both beautifully written - are now available



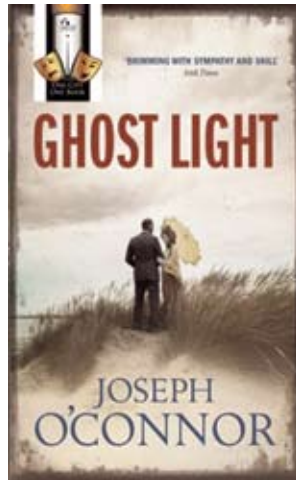
in paperback editions. The Linen Queen by Patricia Falvey Published by Center Street, and Galway Bay by Mary Pat Kelly. Published by Grand Central



Publishing, both are available from Amazon.com

Ghost Light: A Novel by Joseph O'Connor.

This book is so beautifully written that it has taken me several months to read. This is because I read and reread



many of its pages. Ghost Light is a triumph in the use of language. Joseph O'Connor is a master user of beautiful words and sentences.

The New York Times Book Review praises his writing as "A jagged lyricism redolent of Seamus Heaney."

O'Connor tells the story of the attraction and love between the playwright, John Synge, and the actor Molly Allgood.

The 1960's: Ireland in Pictures compiled by Mary Webb. O'Brien Press and DuFour Editions. More information is at info@dufour Editions.com.

I first visited Ireland during the late 1960's and these photos bring back a flood of good memories. These are some unusual photos that intrigue me.

The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem in suits! Bing Crosby, an avid golfer, was a regular visitor to Ireland to play on its great courses. President Kennedy sitting in the traditional place of honor next to the fireplace in his ancestral home.

In the early 1960's, then Prime Minister, Sean Lemass, kneeling to kiss a bishop's ring. I can't even imagine today's Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, doing that.

Several photographs of John Charles McQuaid, archbishop of Dublin: I hope his fine robes weren't paid for with money squeezed from the women in the Magalan Laundries.

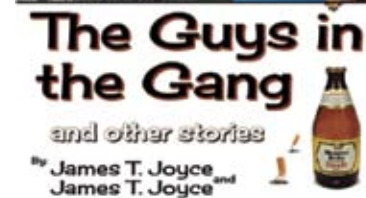
James Joyce Lives

Alas!

James Joyce's death has been greatly exaggerated. He's alive and well....and even writing again.

Look it up! My father and his old running mate from childhood (another guy with the same name) have written a book about growing up on the south side.

The book they co-authored is called *The Guys In The Gang*. Published March 1, 2012.



An Irish Catholic neighborhood of the 1960s on Chicago's Southside that nurtured camaraderie, religion and racial



James Joyce

fury; the frequently illegal antics of teenaged boys; the broadening experiences of college and the Army; an assortment of jobs from brutally boring factory work, to business in foreign embassies, to fighting fires; people met and befriended from the super-rich to inept Korean golfers who feared tigers; religion, and how confusing it can be.

Editorial Reviews About the Author

James T. Joyce (Carpenter Street) is the retired commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department. Throughout a thirty nine- year career, he held every rank in the department. James T. Joyce (Ada Street) was born and raised in Chicago and then moved away. He is a psychoanalyst, a newspaper columnist, an author, and an international business owner.

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http://www.amazon.com/The-Guys-In-Gang-Stories/dp/1469777681/ref=sr_1_12?ie=UTF8&qid=1331423220&sr=8-12



Meeting concerning the Irish E-3 Visa Bill in the Presidents Room at Capitol Hill are: (l to r): Billy Lawless, Senator Brown, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, and Manus Cooney.

Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



For those who need an immediately accessible gun, a proper holster is essential. However, design and manufacturing defects can make them unsafe in use. Our office has been involved in cases where defective holster design caused accidental discharge. In one case, a sheriff's deputy was injured when he holstered his service weapon. He

carried a Glock handgun which, rather than having a conventional safety lever, relies upon a secondary trigger mechanism. The holster was equipped with a retention strap that was narrow enough to enter the trigger guard on the gun, causing the gun to fire. The manufacturer was aware of the problem for approximately one year before the injury and had issued a recall of the holster. However, the manufacturer did not locate defective holsters in the field or contact owners. The case settled after the manufacturer's representative was deposed.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued warnings and there have been voluntary recalls of several holsters that, because of the design of retention straps or release buttons, can cause the handgun to unintentionally discharge. These defects usually injure the wearer of the holster, but pose a major and unforeseen danger to anyone in the area. **Drop-Fire**

In another case, a police officer was involved in a case involving a "drop-fire" which occurs when a gun discharges when it is dropped. The officer stored his off-duty weapon, a Smith and Wesson .357, in a gym bag in his locker while he was on duty. When he took the bag out of his locker and put it on the floor, it discharged, striking him in the knee. Inspection of the gun that was bought used showed that the gun had been repaired and a part of the trigger mechanism was replaced with a slightly mismatched part. The shop that did the repair failed to test the gun to ensure that the substituted part did not pose a drop-fire risk. The case settled after expert depositions were taken.

Safety Must Be Primary Focus

There is no substitute for formal training in the use, carrying, care and maintenance of handguns to ensure safety. There is no question that even with careful handling and training, mishaps and unintended outcomes occur.

In deciding whether to purchase a handgun, a review of statistics may be enlightening. National statistics indicate that in 2009, the US had 31,347 gun deaths. Gunshot wounds are the third leading cause

of death behind motor vehicle crashes and accidents. Carriers of handguns were 4.5 times more likely to be shot than unarmed persons. Having a gun in the home increases the murder risk 2.7 times greater than not owning one. According to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine, only about 3.5 percent of homicides are committed by stranger home invaders.

Conclusion

When an individual chooses to own or carry a handgun, basic steps must be taken to ensure the safety of the owner and others. Proper training in the use, maintenance, storage and carrying of the gun is the first place to start. Selection of the appropriate gun and holster for the intended use with safety in mind is crucial. Also, careful consideration of the benefits weighed against the personal costs of gun ownership and use, should be undertaken.

By: Martin Healy, Jr. and David P. Huber



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.

Safety Considerations For Handgun Ownership

There has been much recent news about the use of deadly force and carrying concealed weapons. While this column will not attempt to address all the questions involved with these issues which have sometimes been emotional and polarizing, we will address some threshold issues involving the use of handguns and safety.

For certain security or protection purposes having a gun on person or immediately accessible is very important. Anything that is carried all the time is subject to damage and dropping. On at least three occasions, our office has represented police officers and users who were seriously injured by dropped or damaged handguns that discharged unexpectedly.

Second-hand Guns

Handguns are meant to be durable. The infrequent use means that often, there is no appreciable wear on moving parts on guns that are decades old. For this and other reasons there is a vigorous second-hand market for handguns. However, the repair history is often not known. Parts substitution or inept repair may result in guns functioning normally to the casual inspector, but being subject to accidental discharge because a part is worn or slightly mismatched to the gun. Having a gun thoroughly evaluated by a competent gunsmith is crucial for safety.

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New President Takes Reigns of Young Irish Fellowship Club

By Bridget Fitzgerald

As of St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2012 Frances "Frannie" McMahon has begun her one year term as the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago President. "This is a great group of people and this will be a great year", McMahon said.

McMahon who received a B.A. in International

Affairs from George Washington University acquired her law degree at the Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology. As a current Assistant State's Attorney at the State of Illinois Cook County State's Attorney's Office she is appreciative of the club's professional diversity; "We have lawyers, nurses, and people from almost every industry; yet we are also all volunteers."



Philanthropy not only plays an integral role in The Young Irish Fellowship Club mission but also with McMahon. "One of the causes we support is the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation" she described "it's a deserving cause that I first presented to the club and truly care about".

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that is "dedicated to honoring the lives of our fallen heroes". The Foundation's Mission Statement continues, "The Foundation provides support and assistance to the families of Chicago Police Officers who were killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty."

McMahon has a personal connection with the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, "I spend time with and see members of the police force every day" she explained, "it is a cause that I nominated to the club a few years ago and am thrilled to see supported by my fellow members".

With McMahon's new responsibilities, the previous YIFC President Tim Sullivan serves as Chairman of the Board advising and counseling the group. Sullivan trusts McMahon, "she will do a tremendous job; she is very organized and determined."

McMahon sees a bright future for the fellowship, "We had such a great year last year, that 2012 looks very promising, that I hope to keep the momentum".

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Horoscope



Theresa Castro

ARIES: This is the only month all year where the full moon is directly opposite your sign! It is truly a treat to have the planets so aligned to assist you in you in life! Now the emphasis is on wrapping up all the loose ends since your last birthday and beginning on a fresh slate for this year. Higher learning or training for your work is in the spotlight now!

TAURUS: Planet Jupiter is in your sector of the zodiac now in the high part of your chart! This means that you are pretty high viz right now in a good way! At work or in public you are viewed in a positive manner! Those of you who are vying for a promotion or a job in public office should find the month of April 2012 especially gratifying!

GEMINI: Planet Venus, the goddess of love and beauty has sailed around to your section of the zodiac to help you enjoy life and indulge yourself a bit! This is nice because Venus is also coinciding with some warm weather as well. This might be a good time to look for a sweetheart if you are unattached! All personal relationships are favored under the Venus' watch!

CANCER: You have gotten serious of late in making sure things get done in an effective no nonsense manner! At work, home, and in life you are determined to get things done! The planetary weather of April 2012 will assist you in all of your organizing capacity. This year will make a big difference for you!

LEO: You're going to be on your toes with a lot of correspondence this month! There could be lots of errand running and things to attend to regarding home and work matters! Your neighbors and or siblings could also need attention this time around! Hopefully there are few tensions in these areas!

VIRGO: Planet Mars is stirring your pot around the full moon of April 2012! Try to keep control of your emotions as others may try to project their drama onto you! Your patience could be short with such things! Hold on because this phase will move on as do the planets and their influence! Count to ten, and take a deep breath!

LIBRA: The full moon of April 2012 is in your face and has brought planet Saturn along as her enforcer! You need a long vacation from all of this! Be aware that these influences will pass and move on to the next sign so do not worry about the future! Saturn has a way of helping you buckle down and getting the dull but necessary stuff out of the way.

SCORPIO: This April is a time when you are consolidating your personal relationships in a way that will fit the needs of all in your life! Some of you are building significant relationships while others are ending associations that are not working out for all concerned. Don't worry about a thing while planet Jupiter reshapes your world!

SAGITTARIUS: Your friends will be instrumental in your progress this month! Your load can be much lighter just for the asking! Others will not deny your requests because they care for you like family! Your faith in the future is also strong and your planetary ruler, Jupiter, is there to guide you! You could also be the one helping others as well!

CAPRICORN: Your career and public standing is foremost on your mind this month! This is a big issue with you anyway! Whether you are working or not! Career, job, and income sources are always the first concern in your world! Even those of you who are retired still wonder what you want to do when you grow up!

AQUARIUS: You could be in the mood for a new relationship! If attached, you might want to tie the knot with that special person! Yikes! The planetary weather of April 2012 will bring these things to mind! After all, you cannot live in a vacuum! You don't want life to be boring do you?

PISCES: Your financial world is now grabbing your attention! You are uncharacteristic in your preoccupation with inheritances, taxes, insurance and your own mortality! How morose! Some of you might want a spouse and children, or grandchildren! How about some pets? You are in the mood to share!

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Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



Obadiah and Grampa’s Special Water

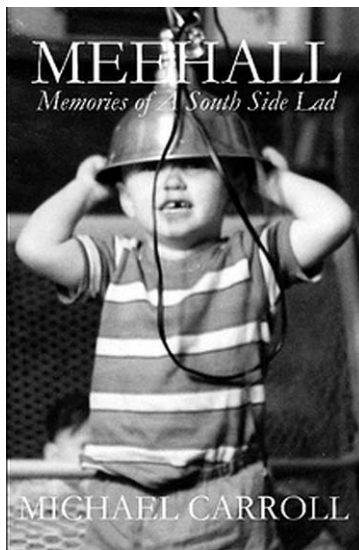
Sunday dinners at my grandmother’s had always been a longstanding tradition in our family, and while she didn’t host big suppers every Sunday, we were guests at least once or twice a month. Gram and Grampa owned a big yellow brick two-flat apartment in the neighborhood known as the Back of the Yards. My grandfather was always a Back of the Yards man, while we lived a bit farther south, my dad being a 79th Street man. On muggy summer evenings with the aroma at its most pungent, my grandfather Francis J. McDermott (known to all as “Derm”) would stroll the sidewalks and greet his neighborhood pals, discussing the affairs of the day and politics in the ward. People listened, when

Frank spoke on such matters. For years he’d been an 11th Ward precinct captain and an old friend of Mayor Richard J. Daley. He learned to wear the Chicago political uniform, the tan khaki overcoat; how to get out every vote in his precinct on Election Day, and to keep his mouth shut unless he had something to say that would benefit the 11th Ward Regular Democratic Organization. But he was no ward heeler; he never bragged or used his influence against anyone, and to his friends remained simply Derm. He always dressed sharp, never without his best suit, shirt and tie at Sunday dinner.

Sunday dinners at Gram’s were legendary as well as obligatory. Gram always put

her best Irish linen tablecloths out on Sundays, even with us kids making messy spills. Grampa would say grace, and then, oh boy...Gram’s rich, dark gravy in its sterling-silver boat would slowly make its way down the table, followed by the roast beef. Murmurs of pleasure, lively talk and clinking glasses would mix with the street sounds outside, floating in through the lacy white curtains on the warm summer breeze. By this time we’d become used to the stockyards aroma, and hardly noticed it at all.

Late one Sunday evening,



the faucet, carefully capped it and placed it in the refrigerator until ice-cold, just right to quench a man’s thirst on a hot summer’s night in the city. It was just tap water, ‘Special’ only because it was reserved for Grampa. No one else was allowed, so to be invited to imbibe made it in my eyes only slightly less sacramental than Holy Water. Carefully retrieving the quart glass jar with its glittering pebbled surface and molded grip, I poured myself a glassful of Special Water at the kitchen table by the light of the open fridge. The room was still dark, as befitted my grandfather’s custom of sitting in the window at night, keeping his watch as the Mayor of 51st & Morgan.

I raised the glass to my lips as if it were a chalice. Already sparkling beads of silver had gathered to trail down its outside. The Special Water lapped at my tongue in waves: fresh, sweet, ice-cold and infinitely better than the tap water everyone else drank.

“Didja see Obadiah in there? Was he sleeping?” Grampa grinned at me.

By the time I was eight or nine, I was already wise to Obadiah, but still young enough to be not altogether sure he wasn’t real. My grandfather had claimed for years that he was and the evidence seemed convincing, for many of my cousins whispered that they’d actually seen Obadiah, if only for a second or two. For years, we kids firmly believed he was real. Obadiah remained a deep, dark mystery, as Grampa rarely let us view him for more than a moment. If we spotted Obadiah he’d surreptitiously snatch him away, chuckle to himself and keep the drama alive, year after year. He sometimes used him as a boogiemanager to elicit better behavior: “Watch out and be good to your mother, or Obadiah’ll get ya!” Grampa named Obadiah after an obscure Old Testament prophet, and ever obscure would he remain: a McDermott family legend. As each grandchild grew older, this little character’s true nature would eventually be revealed: just a green, stuffed-toy beanbag frog. “But don’t tell the little kids!” our grandfather would warn us, in a conspiratorial whisper. Once

in awhile if Grampa was in a good mood he’d let us older kids pet Obadiah’s little green head. In a way Obadiah could rightly be called the original Kermit, and yet he really was the anti-Kermit: unlike the friendly, banjo-playing Muppet, Obadiah remained dark, omnipresent and somewhat dangerous. He was a toy, yet not one for children, and so even more mysterious.

“You didn’t see Obadiah, eh?” Grampa asked as I finished my Special Water. “He likes to sleep in the fridge when it gets hot outside.” He swung his leg over the chair, stood up and stretched. I carefully gripped the glass jar of Special Water and dutifully replaced it in the fridge, like an altar boy returning the monstrance to the tabernacle after Benediction. Grampa guided me out of the darkened kitchen, one hand gently resting on my shoulder.

“C’mon, let’s get you back to your Mom and Dad before they leave without’cha. We can look for Obadiah next time.”

I have no idea where my grandfather got Obadiah, or why, or from whom, and I don’t know whatever became of him. One day long after I had reached the age of reason, Grampa finally allowed me to handle the little frog. Holding him in my hand at last, I felt a bit let down. Just an old, frayed green cloth frog with button eyes you could feel the last of the dried beans inside squish between your fingers. It looked as if Obadiah had seen better days. By the mid 1970s, he was leaking at the seams and Grampa put him away in the drawer for good. After Derm died in 1978 and Gram followed fifteen years later, the little frog disappeared and became merely an old family legend. But for many, many years, to be granted a drink of Grampa’s Special Water and allowed to pet Obadiah...ah, that was to be deemed special oneself: a gift from on high and a benediction from one very special, kindly old gentleman.

These stories are excerpted from Celtic artist Michael Carroll’s books “Meehall” and “The Trouble With Meehall,” available at www.lulu.com. Michael’s artwork may be viewed at www.mccelticdesign.com.

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after most of the dinner company had departed, I wandered back into the darkened kitchen to get a drink of water. Suddenly I stopped in my tracks, startled by the unexpected sight of a large man in the shadows. He was at the window, elbows propped on the sill, sitting straddled across a kitchen chair. I must have jumped a little or gasped, because he heard me and turned his head, his classic Irish profile silhouetted in the rectangle of blue moonlight. In lieu of his suit and tie, he now wore only boxers and a sleeveless T-shirt.

“Meehall? How’s it goin’, kid-do?” Grampa chuckled. “Looking for something? A drink? Nah, don’t use the sink, open the icebox...sure, you can have a drink of my Special Water, that’s all right, go ahead.” He waved toward the fridge. “But watch out, Obadiah might be sleepin’ in there, so don’t wake him up!”

Grampa kept his Special Water in an empty orange juice jar. He filled it nightly from

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Republican Folly

Too much time was spent on foolish debates about abortion and birth

Corruption Wins!

Illinois Representative, Derrick Smith, Democrat Chicago. Several years ago Smith was fired from his job as ward superintendent of the 27th ward where he allegedly used city equipment and personnel to do private landscaping work. Smith was appointed to that job by Alderman Burnett, and Secretary of State, Jesse White.

Smith was just indicted for bribery after accepting a \$7,000 cash bribe, and still he gets elected by a wide margin. Only in Illinois! Only in Chicago! How in the world could his constituency vote for him! Corruption reigns!

The question now arises. Why didn't Mike Madigan, Speaker of the House, ask him to withdraw? The answer is they can "appoint" his replacement, who I'm sure will be another, upright honest citizen. Believe me. It's true! Crook County Democrats need to overhaul the multi-ethnic Machine. Ethical defined: Pertaining to morals or principals of morality, pertaining to right and wrong in conduct. . .

Chicago Corruption Continues

President Obama, and Nancy Pelosi endorsed Jesse Jackson Jr. even though the House Ethics Committee enquiry is still hanging over his head. He was being challenged by Debbie Halvorsen who unfortunately was a real bantam weight in a middleweight fight, and her corner men don't measure up to Jacksons. She had a better chance of winning the lottery! The outcome, Jackson wins. So sad!

Blago

The melodrama continues. How can anybody believe anything he says? He has delusions of grandeur. Do the words narcissistic and psychopathic come into the equation?

As the former Governor, Rob Blagovich headed to jail the local media, NBC 5 Chicago spent 40 minutes on his ramblings on the five o'clock news. In his ramblings he said, "my conscience is clear." He boasted of the free passes for senior citizens on buses and trains, free health-care for children, and free medical exams for women. He rambles and drones on.

Everybody is sorry for his family. The bleeding hearts are everywhere. I'm sorry for his children, but somehow the memory of "Potty Mouth Patty" remains too strong. The shopping sprees, her job at the Christian Industrial League, the real estate deals. There is way too much dirty laundry in her basket. No sympathy here!

control, and we won't delve into that issue here.

Newt Gingrich may have too much baggage for the Christian Right, but he is the only candidate who talks about the real issues. The National debt, the National Healthcare Act which has devastating consequences for the elderly. St. Patrick's Day

The day began with Mass at Old St. Patrick's Church. The beauty of this church cannot be reduced to words, especially in the eyes of an Irishman. All of the dignitaries were there. Enda Kenny, Ireland's Taoiseach, Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel and his two daughters Ilana, and Leah, the Irish Consul General, Aidan Cronin, Sister Rosemarie Connelly RSM, Senator Richard Durbin, Brigadier General Alton D. Berry, his aide, Lieutenant Colonel R. Dalton, and Sergeant Major of the Army, Raymond F. Chandler. We also had the Grand Marshall, Fr. Cletus Kiley, and Fr. Jack Clair Guest of Honor, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen, Sara Collins and her Court, and the Shannon Rovers Pipe Band.

The Irish dancers pranced down the center aisle, and the dignitaries marched in. Finally, the clergy, led by Auxiliary Bishop Francis J. Kane, Fr. Thomas Hurley, Fr. Jack Wall, Fr. John Cusick, Fr. Patrick McGrath, Fr. Paul Novak, Fr. William O'Shea, Msgr. Kenneth Velo, Fr. Michael Boland, Fr. John (Jack) Clair, Rev. William Corcoran, Fev. John Pollard, and Deacon, Mr. Bob Ryan move down the center aisle.

The choir lifted their voices to the Heavens and sang the songs that tug at Irish heart strings on this, our, very special day.

The moment of truth, Pastor Tom Hurley's homily, in a word "uplifting!" Fr. Tom is blessed with a great sense of humor and knows how to deliver his lines. No fire and brimstone. When you leave this church you leave happy and bursting with pride in the fact that you are Irish. I warn you now, that feeling is infectious.

When the Mass is over the shout comes from the back of the church, "The Shannon Rovers Pipes and Drums." They march down side aisles, merge at the center aisle and form the vanguard that leads the way out to a day full of sunshine and blue skies! "Sure a Little Bit of Heaven!" Senator Durbin

I spoke to Senator Durbin at the breakfast at Old St. Pat's, and I told him, as one of your constituents I said, "get

the hell out of Afganistan." His response was, "I totally agree with you."

The Shannon Rovers

This past year the Rovers lost two members. John Fallon, a piper in his forties who died of cancer, and Luke McCabe, a drummer with the Rovers for over fifty years. The band wore black ribbons to honor their memory, and hung two black ribbons on their colors.

Chief Francis O'Neill's Story to be Told in Spring Production at Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant

Music Mad, a musical drama celebrating the life and times of Chief Francis O'Neill, is currently in production and set to premier in May 2012 at Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant at 3471 North Elston, Chicago. Stefan Brun directs.

The show premieres at Chief O'Neill's and is produced by Chicago Treasures in association with the Prop Thtr. The production follows the success of Chicago-centric Prop productions, such as *Busted City* and *Hizzoner*, a production recounting the career of Richard J. Daley, which

"The Minstrel Boy to the war has gone." by Thos. Moore

"He heard while he sang and dreamed a piper piping away and never was piping so sad and never was piping so gay But he heard high up in the air a piper piping away and never was piping so sad and never was piping so gay"

by William Butler Yeats

we are looking to present," says Stefan Brun, "It is a new play which tells a very 'Chicago' story. Formatted as an interview which is colored with dramatic and musical breaks, I believe the show will be a positive contribution to Chicago's theatrical landscape."

"It is our goal to both educate and entertain", says playwright Adam Whiteman. "O'Neill was truly a renaissance man. He was a gifted leader who navigated life with a warrior's skill, a poet's incite and a musician's heart. I believe his story will resonate with people on many levels."



ran for more than 400 performances. Prop has become a respected incubator for innovative shows about Chicago.

Music Mad combines dramatic content with traditional Irish tunes, song and dance in an exploration of Chief Francis O'Neill's relationship with the music of Ireland. He served as Chicago's venerated Chief Superintendent of police from 1901 to 1905. He was revered for his bravery in the field and his upstanding character in the office. O'Neill was also a respected Irish historian who dedicated his life to the preservation of traditional Irish music. His publication, "O'Neill's Music of Ireland" is considered one of the leading reference sources on the subject.

"Music Mad is just the kind of show

Respected and talented Irish musicians and actors have been cast in the various roles, including, Brett Tewell, Mike O'Brien, Vera Kelly, Kathy Cowan, Tim O'Sullivan and Deirdre Kozicki. In addition, Laurence Nugent will be displaying his expertise on the Irish flute throughout the show and will be accompanied by Jim DeWan (guitar), Farley Masterton (fiddle) and Joe O'Regan (bodhran).

Music Mad opens at Chief O'Neill's on May 6, 2012 and runs through June 28, 2012. Performances are 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm and Sundays and 7:30 pm on Thursdays in May and June. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.musicmad.net or at the door.

For more information, contact Adam Whiteman at 312.655.1000.



Piping It In

Jack Baker



I'm sitting here, still buzzing from the concert I was at last night. Slide performed a house concert at Kathy & Cary Brown's house and it was a fine night. If you like Irish music played with passion & fire, there are few that do it as well as Slide. If you get a chance to see them live, don't pass it up. Life's too short to miss out on Slide. In the meantime you can pick up one of their CDs and check out what you've been missing.

While talking about great concerts, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention "The Keane Machine". A couple of weeks back I was privileged to watch the debut of Kathleen Keane's "Keane Machine" at the Irish American Heritage Center. First of all, the IAHC is a great venue for watching music, I was able to get there early, have a nice dinner and a couple pints and by the time the show started, I was comfy and ready. Well, Kathleen didn't disappoint, she never does, and I was treated to a stage full of the finest musicians and dancers. A wonderful night! Highpoints were, for me, Jackie Moran working out on the bodhran and singing (yes that boy can sing!), wonderful dancing by Marieke Van der Maelen and Kim Bigler, the heavenly voice of Catherine O'Connell and, of course, Kathleen herself. Sixteen musicians and dancers kept our rapt attention all night with all sorts of musical surprises. I was sorry to see it end. The good news is the "Keane Machine" rides again on Saturday, May 19th, 8 PM again at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Come early, have dinner and get ready for one of the finest evening's entertainment

you can imagine. See ya there!

One more quick note of an event taking place on the 5th & 6th of May in Lowell, Indiana, the WWII Tribute at Buckley Homestead. This WWII reenactment is one of the best I've seen with lots of soldiers, equipment and



tanks. You can learn more at www.lakecountyparks.com/WWII.htm

Now for some new music. New CDs have been showing up at an impressive rate and I've got a couple to tell you about. The first came to me in the mail from a young lady named Tina Jordan Rees. Tina is a traditional musician, feis musician and Irish dancer based in Glasgow, Scotland. She plays piano, keyboards, wooden flute, tin whistle and button accordion and plays them all very well. She studied Irish Music and Dance at the University of Limerick before transferring to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow to complete her degree. Tina holds two All Britain Comhaltas Senior Traditional Piano Champion titles and in 2011 she was a finalist in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of The Year competition. Tina's latest accomplishment is her first CD, titled "Féistastic, Music for Irish Dancing". A huge collection of 20 tracks of reels,

slip jigs, heavy jigs, hornpipes, light jigs, hop jigs and "funky reels" just right for choreography, this CD has a lot of fine music. While it's a great resource for dancers, it's fun to listen to too. I've listened to many dance CDs, too many to be truthful, but this one's a joy to listen to. Matter of fact, all my sales of it so far have been to non-dancers who heard it playing in my shop, now that's an endorsement. I sincerely hope that Tina Jordan Rees will be coming to this area in the future to demonstrate her considerable skills, but until she does, we've got this féistastic new recording to listen. Okay that was corny, still it's a good CD.

The next new CD popped up in the mail and has really sparked a lot interest in everyone that's heard it. I've got a waiting list of customers who want a copy as soon as I get some stock in. The House Devils is the name of the band and "Crossing the Ocean" is the name of their CD and I'll tell you right now, this is one you want to hear. The band is made up of Matt Fahey, whose vocals are absolutely riveting and whose guitar and bouzouki work are not to be sneezed at either; Mat Walklate, who wails on harmonica, flute, whistles and uilleann pipes; Andrew Dinan, playing a very respectable fiddle and Anthony Haller on double bass tying the whole lot together with a solid backing. The whole group is solid and smoking but I have to say I was especially impressed with Mat's harmonica, a sound we don't get to hear enough and Matt Fahey's vocals, this man can sing. This is a group that I'm eagerly hoping will be touring in the US soon, this good of a CD usually means a fantastic live show. Let's hope some of the local promoters will contact them on their website, www.thehousedevils.co.uk and book them into some local shows.

You can reach me at the shop most days at 630-834-8108 or online at pipingitin@comcast.net Slainté

A Moon For The Misbegotten

By Eugene O'Neill. Directed by Ensemble member Kevin Theis

Long celebrated for producing contemporary Irish works, Seanachai journeys back to explore two early 20th century revolutionary masters, the now classic voices of Irish and Irish/American theatre.

Following its Jeff Recommended fall production of Sean O'Casey's tragicomedy The Shadow of a Gunman, Seanachai continues its 2011-2012 season - Classic Voices: The Revolutionaries - with iconoclast Eugene O'Neill's emotionally searing A Moon for the Misbegotten.

Directed by Ensemble member Kevin Theis, A Moon for the Misbegotten runs March 23rd to April 29th, 2012. Ensemble actors Brad Armacost (Phil Hogan) and Carolyn Klein (Josie

a window of happiness in the moonlight, and approach the coming dawn with hope and apprehension.

Seanachai is the Gaelic word for Storyteller.

The people's stories were at the very core of ancient Irish culture. It was the duty of the Seanachai to keep these stories alive. The mission of Seanachai Theatre Company is to return theatre to this origin - by creating compelling productions and programs that focus the energy of artists towards the common goal of exceptional storytelling. To achieve this end, Seanachai Theatre Company strives to provide an atmosphere where all theatre artists - actors, playwrights, directors and designers - have the support and assurance to collaborate openly. That is at the heart of all ensemble companies, and



Hogan) are joined by renowned Chicago actor Steve Pickering as Jim Tyrone. Pickering played Tyrone as a younger man

in the Goodman's production of Long Day's Journey into Night opposite Brian Dennehy, directed by Robert Falls. Andrew Nowack (Mike Hogan) and Stuart Ritter (T. Stedman Harder) round out the Seanachai cast.

The design team comprises new Ensemble member Ira Amyx (Co-Set and Props), Merje Veski (Co-Set and Props), Julian Pike, (Lighting), Victoria Delorio (Original Composition & Sound), Beth Laske-Miller (Costumes) and Barbara Zahora (Dialect coach.)

The companion piece to Long Day's Journey into Night, and O'Neill's final play, A Moon for the Misbegotten is a tale of humor, vulnerability and passion as two lonely souls find

Seanachai has proven itself a major player in Chicago's ensemble-driven theatrical community.

Seanachai Theatre Ensemble Ira Amyx, Brad Armacost, Jeff Christian, Erin Diener, Jeff Duhigg, Barbara Figgins, Jacquelyn Flaherty, Jeri Frederickson, Coburn Goss, Michael Grant, Robert Kauzlaric, Shane Kenyon, Carolyn Klein, Mary Rose O'Connor, Anne Sunseri, Kevin Theis, Dan Waller and Sarah Wellington.

www.seanachai.org. In the Seanachai space, 3rd floor theatre, Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox.

Through April 29th 2012. Thu, Fri & Sat @ 7:30pm, Sun @ 3:00pm.

Tickets: \$24* Thursday/Friday and \$28* Saturday/Sunday. *plus a \$2 service fee. For tickets, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.seanachai.org.

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