

A photograph of Peter Dempsey, an IndyCar driver, sitting in the driver's seat of an orange racing car. He is wearing a black racing suit with 'YOUNESSI' and 'INDY' logos. The car has 'YOUNESSI' and a lion logo on the side. A blue and yellow helmet is on the seat next to him. The background shows a race track with bleachers.

## Peter Dempsey: Life in the Fast Lane!

Story on page 17

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**When:** August 28 and August 30, 2012.

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**Doing Our Bit  
 To Save The Earth**

Ireland is set to measure the carbon footprint not just of its people but of its cattle! No, the silly season has not arrived. Another new contract for Irish Beef destined for McDonalds was announced recently. Currently 20% of Big Macs consumed in Europe are made with Irish beef and new contracts and new investment promise to increase this proportion. Which is very good news for the Irish beef industry.

In welcoming this, the Agriculture Minister proclaimed a world first for Ireland – plans to identify not only the individual animal the beef came from, but also to detail the carbon footprint of the animal, i.e. how much its methane emissions amount to annually! All this as part of the drive to make Irish beef more attractive to environmentally conscious consumers, conserve energy, and reduce Ireland's carbon footprint.

Irish agriculture has escaped much of the recession and food and food related products are booming. Ireland is the fourth largest net exporter of beef in the world and half of the cream liqueurs sold in the world are made here. A concerted drive is under way to stress the quality and healthy nature of food produced in Ireland. The export potential, particularly in markets such as China, is immense. There are plans to expand beef and milk production, to be done in a sustainable way, in order to meet the separate targets set for energy saving and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

It's worth looking at this at a time when we have had a few recent reminders that we are a small country trying to survive and make an impact. The Eurocrisis continues to unfold, but now there is talk of some significant relief on our banking debt, which will be achieved by clinging to the coattails of a much bigger country, Spain. However it is achieved it will be welcome, though given our structural deficit it will not be a case of "with one bound our hero was free." In sport also our soccer team, of whom much had been expected, performed abysmally at the European Championships, clocking up the worst results ever by a qualifier, while our rugby team (expectations ditto) suffered a crushing whitewash in New Zealand.

Jokes apart, the largest single component of our greenhouse gas emissions is agriculture, which accounts for 30% of the total, followed by energy at 22% and transport at 19%. Irish industry is relatively clean at 15%. Hence the concentration on cleaning up agriculture and the carbon footprint of cattle. However, overall, Ireland continues to perform poorly in terms of its international commitments under the Kyoto agreement and the environment lobby has for years



**From the  
 Motherland**

Sean Farrell



been beating up on the Government over this. There have been recent signs that the figures are moving in the right direction, but this is chiefly because of the domestic recession.

And there is one of the rubs. During the years of the Celtic Tiger greenhouse emissions rose sharply as the economy boomed. We are now striving to restore economic growth, the mantra for solving unemployment and restoring prosperity. This will almost inevitably generate more pollution and more greenhouse gases. Sustainable development, the other mantra of most of the first world, is a longer term project and, in Ireland's case, could well involve higher costs, thus inhibiting growth by overpricing our exports. It's not an easy place to be, particularly since Irish energy costs are already among the highest in Europe and there is much local resistance to proposals for sustainable energy projects such as wind farms. There is also the unpalatable truth that if, for example, Ireland was to reduce the size of its dairy herd in order to reduce its carbon footprint, any slack or gap in the market would be filled rapidly by Latin American and other producers.

Should Ireland be making the effort? We are, after all a very small player on the world scene. Ireland is currently No. 66 in the league table of carbon footprint emissions, with 43,604,000 metric tonnes released in 2008, 0.14% of the world total. China led the way with over 7 thousand million tonnes released, 160 times the Irish total and 23.33% of the world total. The USA was second, with almost 5.5 billion tonnes (18%). India and Russia, the next two countries were some way behind, each contributing over 5% of the world total. The total emissions from all 27 EU states came to 14% of the global total, less than the USA alone.

By 2010 China's emissions had increased by 14% to almost 8.25 billion tonnes, India's by 18.7% to pass the two billion mark, the USA and Russia had remained roughly the same. The increase in China's emissions was greater than Ireland's total emissions would amount to over 20 years. The complicating factor is, of course, the per capita figure, with Chinese CO2 emissions less than 5 tons per capita, India's less than 2 tons, the USA over 19 tons and Australia over 20.

Although Ireland's emissions per capita have been declining since 2001, Ireland still had the second highest level in the EU in 2009 with 13.8 tons, second only to

Luxembourg (which has a slightly artificial figure) and well above the EU average of 9.2 tons.

There is definitely scope for action.

The whole issue of climate change has become something of a political football. I've always regarded it as a no brainer. The rapid industrialisation of countries like China and India, as well as the second echelon of developing nations, are generating man made pollutants on a scale never encountered before. Parking for a moment fanciful (and unprovable) notions that the Earth can take it or that what is occurring is just part of a natural cycle of climate change of indeterminate length and intensity, it is at least prudent to sit down and work out a strategy for dealing with a possible worst case scenario. The Hole in the Ozone Layer should have been a warning tap on the shoulder.

There is no doubt that global action is needed on the environment, and quickly. Yet the recent failure of the Rio + 20 Conference to produce anything more than a non-binding declaration shows how difficult it is to achieve concrete results internationally. It's not hard to suggest a reason. Whatever pronouncements their leaders make populations in the developing world want essentially what their counterparts in the developed world have – a higher standard of living; and who can blame them. Those counterparts are loathe to cut back significantly to make space, and have politicians finely tuned to respond. The result is more pollution and a succession of international talking shops that get nowhere.

This is not an area where Ireland of itself can make a material difference. But it is one where we can make a moral point, perhaps begin setting an example, even become proactive in working for effective international action. I have pointed out previously the false premises behind much of our whinging. We are among the world's fortunate. We have no historical baggage. This is an issue which could potentially affect all mankind. Ireland's stance should be unequivocal."


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## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



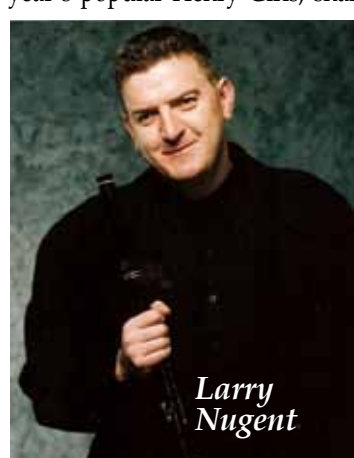
Anyone who reads this column regularly, or breathes air, knows that August is the month for Milwaukee's Irish Fest. The Big Mamoo. How do they do it? There will be sixteen stages of live entertainment going constantly in the most family-friendly environment that you can imagine. As you know, it is situated at the gorgeous Meier Park on the lakefront in Milwaukee. This year the entertainment will run from Thursday, July 16 beginning at 5:15pm and ending Sunday night, July 19, with the traditional scattering at 9:00pm.

For over 25 years, the most frequently asked question we get is "What should we see at this year's Fest?" That answer is always difficult, and this year, impossible. As usual, we won't waste time on anything but the best. When any Festival has this many great acts, it is impossible not to schedule some of them simultaneously. The answer for the knowledgeable Irish music fan is to run between stages. We're going to begin with a couple acts which you must see while you try to build your personal audience schedule around them. These are all tops.

We would not go to Milwaukee this year without seeing the Brock-McGuire Band. The best traditional, all-instrumental Irish group in the world. No question. And, for the trad fan, check the schedules carefully (brace yourselves) for Teada, Slide, Gerry O'Connor (banjo player of the gods), Jackie Daly and Matt Cranitch, We Banjo 3 with the Scahill brothers. Not done yet, Mick Moloney, Irish Male Musician of the Decade Jimmy Keane, and Robbie O'Connell with Bruce Molsky. The Fuschia Band. The Chicago Reel, one of the best groups in the world and in full concert Saturday at noon on the Miller Lite Stage. Nugent and O'Brien. Liz Carroll with Bruce Molsky on Saturday, so we hear. Magic. Watch for The Gathering on Sunday at the Celtic Roots Stage. Special stuff will be going on, for sure!

Brace yourself, Bridgid. All of

that is only the Irish trad component. This year, the festival wisely decided to pay tribute to the popular child of Irish Trad—Bluegrass. There are tons of great Bluegrass acts coming in, led by one of the greatest of all time, The Del McCoury Band, for one appearance on Saturday at the Coors Lite Stage at 6:45pm. Tim O'Brien and 392-time BGMA Musician of the Year, Bryan Sutton will be there joining forces. Look for Bryan Sutton to make an appearance with the Brock McGuire Band, as he is one of the musical guest stars on their current "Green Grass to Bluegrass: award-winning cd. Not to be missed will be the return of last year's popular Henry Girls, shar-



Larry  
Nugent

ing the stage with Fox Hunt, another incredible Bluegrass group. Absolutely not to be missed is the Ebony Hillbillies. This is one of the last African-American string bands in existence. Talk about tradition! Their blending of African, Celtic, and American influences is really what the Festival is all about this year. They are fab. Also, they are joined by Teada in a brilliant piece of business called "High Roads and Rail Roads!" In one act, you will see the center corepiece of what this Festival is about---as well as one of the most entertaining hours you'll ever spend. When we want to hear lovely music played straight ahead, perfectly, we'd love to sit down with a beverage and listen to the Jeff Ward Band, perennial favorites.

See? How do you pick? The first answer that they musically hip among you discovered years ago, is not to plan on just one day. Also, be on time. Wander in around 2pm on Saturday afternoon, and you will have missed Chicago Reel. Trust us, they are stunning. And look at some of the other Chicago stars on parade. The greatest of all time, Jimmy Keane. The greatest of all time, Liz Carroll. Add to that the wonderful Laurence Nugent and you are really flying high. We cannot tell you how to do this, and how to schedule it. All we can do it guarantee you that the acts we have listed are incredible, and you will love them. Undoubtedly, we have missed someone. We always miss someone. Here's the God's truth: we do not remember a year at a Fest where there have been so many great acts. The addition this year of the Bluegrass is genius. Lots of artists will be dashing among stages to appear as guest stars with each other. We will be there emceeding some of the best shows along with our Ireland Tonight pal, Maryann Keifer. There are even rumors that Chicago producer Imelda Bhroga will be making another appearance. Last year, Seamus Begley grabbed her and went around to all the musicians at the Fest, introducing her as his wife. Talk about fun!

We have been writing about Irish music and doing Irish music programs for more years than we will admit (25). The first time we ever went to Irish Fest, we were stunned at how great it all is. We still are. Do NOT sit on your arse and say it's too hot, too cold, too rainy, too whatever. This is it. This is Irish Fest. It has never been more spectacular.

\*Note: Speaking of radio, be sure to join Maryann and me on Ireland Tonight WDCB 90.9 fm Monday nights. 8 o'clock pm. Online at [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org)

\*Imelda and I do a two-hour weekly music program, for the largest Celtic music site in the world, based out of Dublin, liveireland. It is on live Thursdays at 3pm Chicago time, barring technical explosions and off-air profanity, at a degree and intensity you would not believe. We must be doing something right, as Dublin tells us we have 45,000 listeners ever week! [www.liveireland.com](http://www.liveireland.com)

## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



### Chief O'Neill: The Man

By Frank West

Mary Lesch, great granddaughter of Chief O'Neill, generously gave me a copy of the Chief's autobiography, the name of the book is Chief O'Neill's Sketch Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago.



O'Neill's accomplishments during his extraordinary life (1848-1936) are well known. Some highlights are: he was born during the Great Famine, went to sea when 16 years old sailed throughout the world, came to Chicago and became a policeman in 1873.

Thru competence, bravery and honesty he became chief of Police. He was Chief from 1901 to 1905 and during that period he reformed and professionalized the Chicago Police Department.

While he was on the police force, and after retirement, he collected the music of Ireland. It had been devastated by the Great Famine. O'Neill published eight collections of the music he saved.

About the music of Ireland, he said: "traditional Irish music could have survived even the famine if it had not been... prescribed and suppressed" by the English and the church.

This book shows the human qualities of the Chief. He was the loving father of ten children and a kind and gentle family man. He was a lover of nature and the natural environment.

One of his descendants remembers this about him: "I heard about his love of nature and of his vast knowledge of plants and trees..."

Francis O'Neill was much more than the famous, brave and

incorruptible Chief of Chicago's Police. He was also a truly gentle person: a proud father and a lover of nature.

### Chief O'Neill and "Music Mad"

By Frank West

When I saw the musical, Music Mad, I loved it. Yes, it is very entertaining. But another beauty of the play is that it shows the Chief as a real human being.

Chief O'Neill always seemed to me to be a remote, distant, storied figure - a person without emotion.

the playwright of Music Mad is Adam Whiteman. He shows the many aspects of the Chief's character, so that he becomes a real human being.

Music Mad shows the strong qualities that helped the Chief triumph over the many difficulties of his life. But the Chief is also shown as a loving parent. As a father also, I admire this, that this tough Chief of Police could be a kind, loving father. Soft, gentle qualities shown to children are not weaknesses, but great strengths.

Some of the most accomplished musicians of Irish traditional music in Chicago perform in Music Mad. The actor who portrays O'Neill is Brett Tewell. His performance is brilliant.

The life of Chief O'Neill suggests an Irish proverb.

"A tune is more lasting than the song of birds. And a word is more lasting than the wealth of the world."

The Chief preserved the music of Ireland - and Music Mad shows the power of his words and the example of his life.

Music Mad is presented on Sundays at 4pm and Thursdays at 7:30pm. It is performed at Chief O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant, 3741 N. Elston in Chicago.

The run for Music Mad has been extended thru August. Call 312-655-1000 for ticket information.

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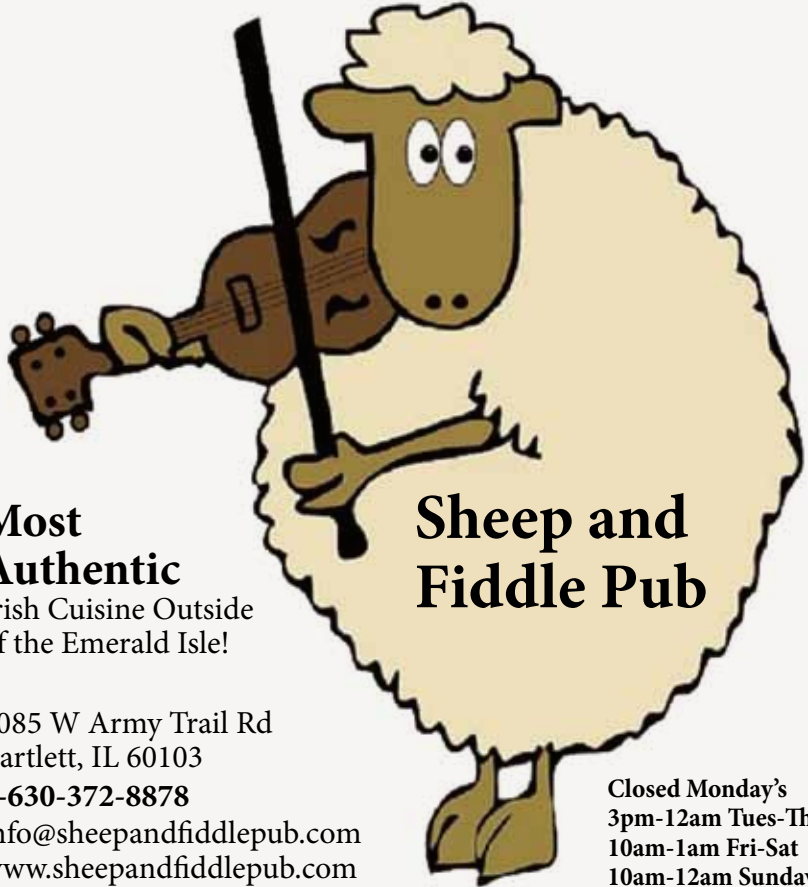
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in accordance with the rules. Hurling is the worlds fastest ground game and the players use wooden hurleys to strike the ball, which is similar to a baseball. The scoring in both games is the same. The goal posts are similar to American football and one point is scored if the ball goes between the uprights above the cross bar, and three points if it goes past the goalie into the net under the cross bar. Contact Chicago Gaelic Park for more information.

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### The County Connection Corner

The Clare Association will host their 5th Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, August 25, 1pm Scramble! This event will be held at the Odyssey Golf Course in Tinley Park.

\$100 per golfer and \$35 after golf dinner buffet!

Contact Brian McMahon at 708 307-0623

—Mary Reilly, President, Clare Association of Chicago



.....  
*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 to make the deadline for publication. Email to cmfreidy5@comcast.net.*  
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Sat	Aug 18	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	8:00pm
Fri	Aug 24	Kara & Gerry Eadie	7:30pm
Sat	Aug 25	John Dillon	8:00pm
Wed	Aug 31	Gerry Dignan	7:30pm

**Check Website for Full Schedule**

**Chicago Gaelic Park**  
6119 W- 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL  
708.687.9323  
www.chicagogaelicpark.org

New expanded pub food and appetizer menu!





# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

I hope your summer is going well, that you have had a pleasant vacation or are planning one. The seasons often reflect our journey through life and summer is a time of plenty when everything is in full bloom and the days are long and filled with activities. Gaelic Park is busy with weddings, showers, GAA games, telecasts and a range of events which keeps staff and volunteers busy. Gaelic Park and our friends north of the border at the Heritage Center have built

and created wonderful spaces where we can celebrate our Irish Culture; this is a wonderful legacy for new immigrants, our children and grandchildren. The big challenge is to engage the youth and it is wonderful to see an abundance of young men and women practicing and playing football and hurling on most days at Gaelic Park. Consider giving the gift of membership as a means of staying informed on all the happenings at Gaelic Park.

Hurling and Football games on Sundays are a great spectacle and an opportunity for young and old to share a love of our national pastimes. Mark your calendars, Monday August 20th is our annual Lady of Knock Celebration on the patio at 7:30, we will march

to The Grotto in candlelight procession while reciting the rosary. The Ladies Auxiliary provides light refreshments after The Celebration. This is a popular event; I hope to see you there or at one many events over the summer. **John Devitt, President**

# Irish Heritage & Harvest Day

Sunday, September 16th, 2012  
Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St.  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

**THIS EVENT IS FREE!**  
AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

- Horse & Sheep Display
- Irish Music Irish Dancing
- Milk Churning
- Apple Bobbing
- Art Contest
- Connemara Ponies
- Threshing Machine
- Guinness Samples
- Psychic Readings

Festivities and Threshing will start at 11:30am Youth Hurling at 12:00pm  
Food and Refreshments will be sold throughout the day  
Games for ALL AGES including ADULTS to start at 12:30pm include: Straw Pillow Fight, Candy in the Straw Scramble, Three Legged Race, Sack Race, Dizzy Stick Race, Barrel Race, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War, Wellington Toss & Gaelic Sports Skills Test (all times subject to change)

For more information call 708-687-9323 or visit [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)

## CGP Monthly Events

8/10	<b>Carraig Annual Sox Outing</b>	
8/20	<b>Lady of Knock Commemoration</b>	7:30pm
9/1	<b>Larkin Brothers on the Patio</b>	8:00pm
9/9	<b>Carraig Open Mic Night</b>	
9/5 & 10/3	<b>Monthly Musical Luncheon</b>	Noon
9/12	<b>Ladies Auxiliary</b>	7:30pm
9/14	<b>Carraig Annual Golf Outing</b>	
9/16	<b>Heritage &amp; Harvest Day</b>	11:00am

**Monthly Musical Luncheon** \$13 per person! Doors open at NOON and lunch (which includes soup, salad, hot entrée, dessert and tea/coffee) is served at 1pm. Make plans for a group outing and call for reservations 708-687-9323.

<b>Monday Evenings</b>	<i>Set Dancing</i>	7:30pm
<b>Thursday Evenings</b>	<i>Irish Sessions in the Pub</i>	7:30pm

**Sunday Afternoons**

<i>GAA Games (LIVE) here at Gaelic Park every Sunday</i>	Noon
<i>GAA Telecast broadcast live by Setanta Sports from Ireland every Sunday. Admission to telecast is \$20.00</i>	

### CGP Sunday Radio Program

Live broadcast 7-8pm WCEV 1450 AM

**CLIP & POST this listing to your weekly calendar!**

phone: 708.687.9323 web: [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)



Gaelic Park can be found on **FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!** TAKE MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!



## Our Lady of Knock

The Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John appeared to fifteen witnesses at Knock, County Mayo, Ireland on August 21st, 1879. Chicago Gaelic Park will commemorate this event on Monday, August

Our Lady of Knock Ireland



20 at 7:30pm. The evening begins with the recitation of the rosary, followed by a procession to the grotto and benediction. This religious ceremony will be followed by tea and desserts provided by the Gaelic Park Ladies Auxiliary.



All Chicago Gaelic Park felt the loss of a good friend, Patrick Quinn, who passed away a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Anne and family. May Pat rest in peace.

# Real Ireland

By Rachel Gaffney



## Beets

When mentioning beets or beet-root to people, I either get one of two reactions. Total disgust or adoration for these beloved root vegetables. The majority of people have memories of them pickled and jarred. Typically they were served from a jar or can and brightened up a dull plate. Thankfully today, root vegetables are enjoying a revival and the key is to learn the many ways of cooking these robust roots.

Just a few weeks ago I served them at a dinner party and did not say what they were until they sampled them. All eight people delighted in this new way of eating beets.

Loaded with folic acid, B vitamins, Vitamin C and iron and even a little fibre, these beets

when roasted with red onions add a lovely caramelized flavor to your meal. They also contain antioxidants which fight against the free radicals that cause cancer. I would love to hear from you, and share your beet recipes with people.

Please email me, Rachel@Rachelgaffneys.com

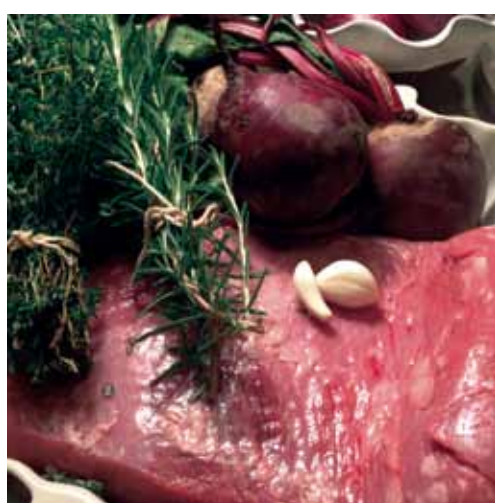
Follow me on Twitter: @Rachelgaffney

Follow me on Facebook: Rachel Gaffneys Real Ireland

Blog: [www.Rachelgaffney.blogspot.com](http://www.Rachelgaffney.blogspot.com)

## Herb Rubbed Beef Brisket Served With Roasted Beets and Red Onions

My mother used a lot of fresh herbs, especially fresh thyme. Enjoy the process of making this



rub and savor the aroma from the rosemary & thyme.

- 5 - 6 lb Beef Brisket
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 sprigs of rosemary with leaves coarsely chopped
- 5 sprigs fresh thyme, with leaves stripped and chopped
- 1/4 cup kosher salt
- 1- 2 Tablespoons olive oil

Beef Brisket  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Mix the garlic, rosemary, thyme and salt in a small bowl.

Line the bottom of a shallow roasting pan with aluminum foil allowing enough to come up and around the sides to parcel your beef.

Place the beef (fat side up). Rub the beef with olive oil.

Sprinkle the rub generously over the brisket and rub well with your hands.

Cover with aluminum foil .

Cook for 1 hour then reduce heat to 275 degrees and continue for a further 6-8 hours.(or until meat is tender)

Set aside and allow to sit.

Carve the meat thinly against the grain.

**TIP FOR BUYING BRISKET:** For this recipe I like to use the 2nd cut as there is so much flavor. If you would like to use a leaner piece then make sure you purchase the 1st cut.

### ROASTED BEETS and RED ONIONS

- 1 bunch of beets
  - 1 red onion
  - fresh rosemary & thyme
  - sea salt
  - 4 tablespoons olive oil
- Line a baking sheet with foil. Preheat Oven to 450 degrees.

Wash and peel beets. I use disposable latex gloves when handling these. Slice thinly using a sharp knife or mandolin.

Slice onion. Toss both with herbs, sea salt and oil and place on baking sheet. Bake in oven for 30-45 minutes or until soft.

### SERVING SUGGESTION:

Slice soda bread, spread with fresh horseradish sauce, top with roasted beets & red onions, chopped brisket .

## Farrelly School of Irish Dance New Classes in Naperville and Aurora

Farrelly School of Irish Dance Co-Directors Sinead Farrelly-Tritschler, TCRG and Karen Farrelly-Trtischler, TCRG announce the introduction of traditional Irish Step Dance classes at locations in Naperville and Aurora.

"The mission of the Farrelly School of Irish Dance is to share our love and knowledge of Irish Dance with all of our students, from beginners to champions," according to Karen Farrelly-Tritschler. "We encourage our dancers to work hard, believe in themselves, and most importantly - have fun!"

Summer camp registration is now open for camps being held at Alleluia Lutheran Church and Airtastic Playland. Workshop dates are August 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Please contact [ftirishdance@att.net](mailto:ftirishdance@att.net) to sign up.

Both are certified teachers with An Comisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha, the largest Irish

Dancing organization in the world. With both instructors having 13 years teaching experience, they have instructed dancers at all levels - from



beginner to championship for both recreational and competitive levels. Their students include Regional and National Champions as well as World Silver Medalists.

For more information, see the Farrelly School of Irish Dancing website [www.farrellyirishdancing.com](http://www.farrellyirishdancing.com), call 708-634-2079 or email at [ftirishdance@att.net](mailto:ftirishdance@att.net).

## Ray Harrington's

### Full Irish Breakfast Meats

Our Corned Beef is the Best - Now Try the Rest!



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# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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Six Flags Great America Presents

# IRISH AMERICAN DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>



TICKETS ONLY  
**\$29.50**

Over \$32 savings off of the Main Gate ticket price.

**IRISH DAY ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PICNIC PACKAGE \$43.50**

Includes admission into the park and an all-you-can-eat picnic buffet from 1:00pm - 3:00pm consisting of: fried chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, pasta salad, chips, pickles, rolls, unlimited soft drinks and frozen juice bars.

This event includes Irish Dancers, Irish music played throughout the park and more! To purchase tickets visit [sixflags.com/greatamerica](http://sixflags.com/greatamerica) and enter the promo code: IRISH



## Irish Fest a Huge Success!



*Wolfhound Visit*



*Fest Family*



*Congressman Mike Quigley and Fest Chair, John Gorski*



*The Killdares*

The 27th Annual Irish Fest on July 13, 14 and 15 was a great weekend for the Center. Thanks to all of our patrons, volunteers, sponsors, donors, committee members, performers, vendors, neighbors and our larger community, who supported this colossal undertaking.

Inclement weather could not keep us down and thousands flocked to the Fest for great music, dancing, children's activities, one act plays, great food and shopping. We were excited to offer some new attractions, such as our Fine Spirits Tasting Tent, Irish Wolfhound visits, Men in Kilts Contest and Irish Soda bread contest. We plan to offer those and more new activities at

Irish Fest 2013, while keeping some of the favorites that you love, such as the Sham-ROCK Stars Contest, performances from local pipe bands, demonstrations and performances in our Folk Tent and the many other activities that make our fest so special.

Irish Fest is a showcase of the very best of what we do all year long and we could not do it without your support.

Thank you again for making the 27th Annual Irish American Heritage Festival a huge success and we'll see you on July 12, 13 and 14, 2013 for the 28th Annual Irish Fest!

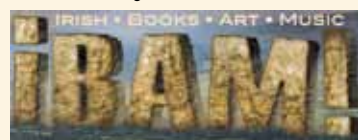
## Save the Date for iBAM!

The fourth annual Irish Books Art and Music celebration; iBAM! comes to the Center this October. This year's theme is *A Journey Towards Understanding through the Arts* and honors Derry, the European City of Culture.

A fundraiser for the Center and its Library, iBAM! is Friday, October 12, 13 and 14.

Co-produced by the IAHC, *Irish American News* and the [irishbookclub.com](http://irishbookclub.com), iBAM! is an Irish cultural celebration that brings together as many as 100 authors, artists and musicians from North America and Ireland. The celebration features art and museum exhibits, panel discussions, poetry readings and competitions, a literary salon with author readings and music, live mu-

sic, theater, dance performances and children's activities, all under one roof. Authors will sign and sell their books on



Saturday and Sunday from noon-5pm. During the day and into the evening there will be live music performances with Irish musicians from Ireland and all over North America.

Some of the confirmed participants include:

Authors Morgan Llywelyn, Colum McCann, Don Mullan, Richard Moore, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Brendan Sullivan, Mary Pat Kelly and Cathal Liam. Musicians include John Williams, Laurence Nugent, Gavin Coyle, Chicago Reel

and Derek Warfield. Artists include Maura O'Rourke and cartoonist and writer Pat Byrnes. We are honored to present two music performances by the legend, Phil Coulter. He will perform on Friday night at 8pm and on Sunday night at 5pm.

Tickets for iBAM! are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door and children 12 and under are free. Two-day passes are available for \$20. Students with valid ID pay \$5 and teachers and professors are free with valid ID. Reserved tickets for Phil Coulter in concert are \$40 or \$90 for IAHC, Ireland Network and Gaelic Park members and \$50 or \$100 for general admission.

To purchase tickets, call *Irish American News* at 708-445-0700, the Center at 773-282-7035 or visit [www.ibamchicago.com](http://www.ibamchicago.com) or [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



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### President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Irish Fest 2012 is now in the history books and in our rearview mirror but certainly not forgotten. Hopefully you joined us and absorbed all of the best of what the Center has to offer. What a great event! What great volunteers! New bands, new ideas, new people mixed in with all the traditional elements that you have come to expect from the Fest. It made for a great recipe for success and a good foundation for the fest for many years to come.



Let's change our view to the front windshield and to the balance of 2012 and 2013. With our new board in place, we will move forward to serve our mission and our members. This is a summary of a number of the areas covered at the June Election Night members' meeting.

#### TRANSPARENCY

Openness and information sharing will continue through Town Hall Meetings.

#### FINANCIAL

Working with our Development Committee and others, we will develop financial plans that will strengthen our financial picture and build a reserve.

#### CULTURAL COMMITTEE AND PROGRAMMING

We will provide our Cultural Committee with a budget that helps the committee bring us programs and events. The Cultural Committee is at the heart of our mission and we must provide this most important committee the resources they need to meet their goals.

#### EVENT AND ROOM RENTAL

We will embark on an aggressive sales and marketing program to profitably grow our business. Profitability from this segment helps fund our building and our cultural and mission-related programming.

#### 5th PROVINCE PUB AND RESTAURANT

We will work on programs and projects to profitably grow the 5th Province business.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

We have completed Phase 1 of the Brick project and will start selling Phase 2. We will work with the Building Committee on the Master Plan and other like-minded projects.

#### UTILITIES

We will begin detailed and focused efforts to reduce our utility expense so that we can divert the savings into areas that better advantage the Center.

#### TECHNOLOGY

We will continue to invest in technology that helps us reduce costs and technology that serve our staff, volunteers, members and guests better.

#### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our Development Committee will develop programs

such as corporate partnerships and planned giving programs to strengthen our financial foundations.

#### VOLUNTEERS

We will work to retain the great volunteers we have, attract new ones, and find new and creative ways to thank our volunteers. We will utilize volunteers in additional areas that will help us reduce cost, increase revenue and increase member and guest services.

#### MEMBERSHIP

We will continue to grow our membership and work to attract new families, young adults, middle-age adults, and seniors.

#### COMMITTEE HEADS/EVENT CHAIRS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

We will continue to gather the heads and chairs at regular meetings to ensure are all working together in as effective and efficient way as possible.

#### BRANDING OF THE CENTER

We will work on projects and programs to drive the Center brand name, logo, mission and value.

#### SUSTAINABILITY

We will continue to be environmentally responsible and to reduce our footprint, which will also help us reduce costs and allow more funds for the mission related programs and projects.

#### NEW REVENUE

We will search for creative approaches to create new and incremental revenue while remaining true to the mission and vision. We will also closely review current operations and events to ensure they are accountable to the budgeting process. We will also look at under-utilized assets as an opportunity to create new revenue.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

We will continue to work to keep the Center and all who come here safe.

#### FACILITY MANAGEMENT

We will work to continue to implement "Best Practices" in the management of our facility so that we manage our Center better.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

We will work to be accountable to the mission and to our members. This is a members' organization and we need to serve the members and the mission.

Did I miss some areas of focus in this article? Yes, there are others.

Join me and the board as we move forward with these and other programs. Thank you for your support. Contact me to discuss the above or any other thoughts and issues you have.

And, with all that said, there inevitably will be unforeseen challenges and setbacks that we will face together and overcome. Isn't that, after all, what helps make us stronger?

John Crowley Gorski, President, IAHC

### WISH LIST

In August, we wish you would...

- Mark iBAM! on your calendars. The Irish Books, Art and Music celebration is October 12, 13 and 14.
- Meet us out at Six Flags on August 12 for Irish American Day.
- Attend the Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series this fall in the Fifth Province.
- Thank one of our hard working volunteers that you see when you visit the IAHC.

COMING THIS FALL TO A PUB NEAR YOU . . .



Following our inaugural, completely-sold-out season, we're doing it again!

This year, we are presenting four Sunday brunch/one act Irish play offerings, four Thursday evening light dinner and a play offerings and a special St. Patrick's Day offering in March, 2013:

**Afterplay by Brian Friel**

September 23 & 27

**Election Night by Donal Courtney**

October 25 & 28

**In The Shadow of the Glen by J.M. Synge**

November 15 & 18

**An Irish Christmas (Various Irish Authors and Composers)**

December 20 & 23

— And —

**A Special Offering for St. Patrick's Day, 2013 (TBA)**

**All Performances in The Fifth Province Pub**

Check back soon for performance times, ticket prices, and details on our new subscription and group rates.

COMING THIS FALL TO A PUB NEAR YOU...



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### Class Captures Memories

Memoir writing classes continue this fall at the Center. The course is taught by Virginia Gibbons, Professor of English at Oakton Community College. Gibbons is the facilitator for the Great Irish Book Club at the IAHC.

Everyone has a story to tell. Here's an opportunity to tell yours. Whether it was one memorable summer or an incredible life voyage, this writing workshop not only helps you identify the key turning moments in your life, but understand them against a backdrop of time and place.

Students will perform in-class writing exercises, readings and take part in discussion. Outside assignments will also be given. In later sessions, time will also be given to discussing markets for publication.

There are two fall sessions. The first runs from Tuesday, August 21 through September 25 and the second is Thursday, August 23 through September 27. Both classes are 7pm to 9pm.

The cost of the six-week class is \$60 per person and class size is limited to ten writers. Advance registration and payment is strongly advised as the sessions have quickly filled in the past.

To register for class, call Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057.



### iBAM! Muralists Fundraiser

Two Belfast muralists are coming to the annual iBAM! celebration this fall. Artists Mark Ervine and Marty Lyons used to be politically opposed, but now collaborate on murals that reflect peace, equality and respect in the post-conflict society of Northern Ireland.

While here for iBAM!, the muralists will paint two murals, present slide shows of murals in Belfast and lead discussions about the role of murals and social justice.

On Friday, August 24, join us for a fundraiser in the Art Gallery to support the participation of

these muralists who will travel to Chicago for iBAM!.

The fundraiser will feature artwork by and discussions with IAHC members from the recent Members' Exhibit, live Irish music and a cash bar.

The fundraiser is Friday, August 24, from 5pm to 8pm. Donations are \$25, which includes one drink.

For more information, contact IAHC Art Gallery Curator, Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

### Matt Lamb Artist Lecture



Bridgeport neighborhood and joined the Blake-Lamb Funeral Home business, run by his parents.

Lamb was an internationally recognized, self-taught painter whose works are represented in public and private collections throughout the world.

Consistently developing new techniques

and a style uniquely his own, Lamb is now considered a great innovator in contemporary art. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, he started the global 'Umbrellas for Peace' movement to help children affected by the attacks.

A Matt Lamb Introduction is Sunday, September 9 in the Library from 3 to 4pm.

Join us for a multimedia presentation on Chicago artist, Matt Lamb (1932-2012).

In anticipation of a November Matt Lamb IAHC Art Gallery exhibit, there will be an a presentation in the Library on Irish American Expressionist artist, Matt Lamb. His great-grandfather came from County Kerry and Lamb grew up in the

### Program Focuses on Yeats' Love of Sound

The Cultural Committee presents *Everlasting Voices: William Butler Yeats and the Practice of Chanting* this fall.

From an early age, poet and playwright William Butler Yeats was concerned with the proper performance of Irish poetry, which he considered an aural art. For more than three decades, he and collaborator, Florence Farr explored chanting of poetry; alone, in chorus and eventually accompanied by a psalter, a zither-like instrument that Yeats had built for that purpose.

William Books and musicians Sound-Weave explore those theories in an entertaining afternoon that features a lecture and



William Books

performance.

Following the talk, Sound-Weave presents Brooks' half hour composition, *Everlasting Voices*, which explores the intersection of Yeats' ideas and with lifelong fascination of his muse, Maud Gonne, drawing from poems, play and

letters.

Books is a professor of Music at University of York and emeritus professor at University of Illinois.

*Everlasting Voices: William Butler Yeats* is Sunday, September 23 at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

### Tee Time For Golf Open



The 24th Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Saturday, September 15. The outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC and is played scramble style.

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

For tickets, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603 or Maureen O'Looney at the Center at 773-282-7035. You can also contact the above numbers to sponsor a hole for \$100.



### Shamrock Kids Club Ice Cream Social

Parents, bring your kids to the Second Annual Shamrock Kids Club Ice Cream Social.

Kids can accessorize their own ice cream, listen to live music and participate in arts and crafts and face painting.

The Ice Cream Social is Sunday, September 9 from 2pm to 5pm. All families with kids

aged 12 and under are welcome. The cost is \$4 for IAHC members and \$5, for general admission, per family.

Reservations can be made by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10 or emailing shamrockkidsclub@irishahc.org.

### Save the Date

for the return of

**Margo O'Donnell in Concert!**

**Saturday,**

**October**

**27,**

**7pm**

**\$35**





# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

## August 2012

August 3	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
August 4	Píobairí	Fifth Province	5:00pm-
August 24	Belfast Mural iBAM! Fundraiser	Art Gallery	5pm
August 26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues., Thurs.,			12:30pm-
Fri., & Sat.	Golden Diners Senior Lunches	Kitchen	2pm
Tuesday	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30pm- 9:30pm
Tuesday	Memoir Writing Class, starting August 21	ShamAmerRm	7pm
Thursday	Memoir Writing Class, starting August 23	ShamAmerRm	7pm

**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

Live music and our pub menu return to the Fifth Province in September. Stop by in August on Friday and Saturday nights for a pint in our air-conditioned pub. Summer hours are 7pm to midnight.

*In August, enjoy \$3 domestic pints and \$4 imports.*



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

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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Dues

##### Individual Membership

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

##### Family Membership

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

##### \$250 - Harper

3-year membership  
no annual dues

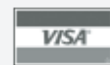
##### \$500 - Bard

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



## 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 the Irish and Irish-Americans to the United States of America. The Irish American Heritage Center supports this mission by maintaining its resources, including the

• MUSEUM • IRISH SCHOOL • ARCHIVES • CHOIR •

ART GALLERY • AUDITORIUM • LIBRARY • THEATRE GROUP

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



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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

**The Heritage Line Staff** Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Mike Boyle, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, Frank Gleeson, John Gorski, Mary Gorski, Mary Griffin, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy



## A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

### Winston's: A Great Family Tradition Serving Irish Specialties for 45 Years

By: Cathy Cooney-Millar

One word...delicious! That's right, the Ashford House Special Gaelic Breakfast. This is the breakfast that I remember eating every Sunday morning after church with my family when I was a kid. This breakfast includes three country fresh eggs, served with Winston's homemade Irish sausage, Irish bacon, black and white pudding, grilled tomato, Ashford potatoes and your choice of toast and jam. Don't forget the Irish tea! I really can't wait to return and have it for dinner!

Michael Winston, Sr. at the age of 18 arrived here from Roscommon, Ireland, where he was a butcher. When he first arrived he worked at the Stockyards. Michael Sr. saw a need for a place where the Irish could shop and get the foods from home. So he and his wife Mary Ellen opened the first Winston's in 1967. The recipes they used then are the same recipes 45 years later that are used today. That is a testament to the quality and taste of their product. The business has grown to a second Market and Deli and the Ashford House, a restaurant that serves delicious, homemade Irish/American food.

Opened in 1996, Winston's Market in Tinley Park is their main retail location. They offer a wide variety of Irish groceries, as well as their homemade Irish Sausages, black pudding, white pudding, Irish bacon and their famous homemade corned beef. The newly expanded deli section includes deli meats, cheeses, and plenty of fresh deli salads. Homemade soda bread, brown bread and white bread are just a few of the items that can be found in their bakery section. The meat department is made up of a variety of prime and choice beef, chicken and lamb. Also available are homemade soups and entrees ready to heat and serve. Don't sweat the details of your next party, call them to the catering!



The proud staff at Winston's.

The homemade rolls and traditional Irish bread are baked fresh daily and you can enjoy the aroma as you shop. The current owner, Mike Jr., has been a part of the business since the age of 13. His brother Jerry also helps him run the business. One of the things that keep them busy is all the out-of-state orders they receive. It has become a USDA processing plant that makes its own homemade Irish sausage, famous corned beef, and puddings and ships to many states across the country. They can ship the Winston's Irish meat anywhere overnight. Universal Studios orders the Irish sausage, bacon and puddings on a regular basis for the Harry Potter Breakfast they host.

The Ashford House Restaurant serves the very best authentic Irish cuisine, as well as the traditional American favorites. The Irish specialties include an Irish breakfast, corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, and bacon and cabbage. The menu includes American cuisine, such as seafood, pasta, steaks and chops, cut fresh daily at Winston's Market. The Ashford House also has a full service bar with daily drink specials and the finest selection of Irish beers such as Smithwicks, Harp, Guinness, Magners and Woodpecker. The friendly staff and warm atmosphere will make you

feel welcome. From the delicious Irish breakfast that I whole heartedly recommend to other breakfast specialties such as the Fried Egg Sandwich that includes two eggs, Irish bacon, melted cheese, served on a hot croissant. If you are skipping breakfast and going straight to lunch, there is an array of sandwiches and chicken dishes.

Served with French fries and your choice of a cup of homemade soup or mixed tossed salad

Friday

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Friday Fish Fry- Fresh breaded and deep fried cod and crispy potatoes

Both dinners include: a cup of homemade soup or mixed salad & homemade bread- choice of potato and fresh vegetable of the day.

Winston's has locations in Tinley Park and the north side of Chicago:

•4701 W. 63rd St. (right by Midway Airport) Chicago, IL 60629 Phone: 773-767-4353

•3440 N. Southport Chicago, IL 6065 Phone: 773-327-6400

Website: [winstonsmarket.net](http://winstonsmarket.net)

Hours: Tuesday-Sat 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Ashford House:

7959 West 159th St. Tinley Park, IL

60477 Phone: 708-633-7600

Open 7 days a week

Mon thru Thursday 7: AM-9:30 PM

Friday & Sat- 7:00 AM-10:30 PM

Sunday- 7:00 AM-8:30PM

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The Pub Grub offers up Bacon & Cabbage which includes Winston's Own Boiling Bacon, served in the traditional Irish style with cabbage and boiled potatoes, or the Homemade Smoked Butt of tender cut smoked pork, boiled and served with cabbage and boiled potatoes. Of course the fresh breaded deep fried Cod and crispy chips will have you coming back for more. Oh, yes, there is dessert! I recommend the Ashford Sherry Trifle with layers of sherryed sponge cake, assorted fresh fruits, jello and custard. If you are like me and enjoy tasting many desserts, go for the Bailey's Irish Cheesecake or the Caramel Apple Granny...yummy.

The Ashford House is the perfect location for your next party or meeting. Whether it's a baby shower, a birthday party or just a family get together let them do the cooking. Their Provinces of Ireland banquet room can accommodate between 25 and 60 guests.

Mike Jr. would like to thank all his customers, friends, the community of Tinley Park and the Irish community for supporting him. It has touched his heart and each and every person means so much to him.

The friendly staff is looking forward to meeting you!

Ashford House Specials are:

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AUGUST

2012

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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### "Welcome City"

Illegal immigrants, the welcome mat is out! Chicago police won't ask for your documents. When the "welcoming city" ordinance is passed, it will protect you.

Listen to the rhetoric of US representative, Luis Gutiérrez, "In Chicago we do things a little differently because we put public safety above political stunts, and we put presenting a united cohesive society over trying to draw dividing lines or driving political wedges." Gutiérrez mumbo jumbo, wazzup with that? If this ordinance isn't a very transparent, liberal, political ploy, then the sheep are in the meadow and the cows in the corn. Election year politics!

### Children's Hospital

Can you believe that 40% of the patients at Lutheran General Children's Hospital are from welfare families. They do not pay for services. Parents are allowed to stay with the children, and out of Christian charity, two meal vouchers are given to the parent who stays with the patient. If there are more family members they often "demand more vouchers" for free meals. The hot dog stand is right across the street.

If they are not happy with a doctor or nurse, they can demand a different doctor or nurse, and the hospital must comply with the request. They are often very abusive to the hospital staff. It's gotten to the point that the financial burden may bring things to a halt. One woman whose husband was in jail for running a meth lab, thought the hospital should help her raise money to get him out! Yes, truth is stranger than fiction! Obamacare won't fix this problem. Doctors have the option not to treat medicaid patients.

### Irish Fest

The annual Irish fest at the IAHC Chicago is always a cal-

culated risk. Weather, a down economy, and competitive events like the Taste of Chicago, all effect the outcome. Since this has long been the biggest fund raiser for the Center we count on it to keep the doors open. Mother Nature was not at all kind with a couple of thunderstorms and high temperatures, along with high humidity. In spite of it all the fest was a great success thanks to the fest committee, and our president, John Crowley, Gorski. Well done to you and all the great volunteers.

### Jesse Jr.

My first thought was possibly a nervous breakdown. Then, inquiring minds found out that it was more likely that he would be facing the house ethics committee, where, if he were to perjure himself, he could end up in federal prison. Fund raiser, Nayak Raghuvver, has been arrested. He was the man responsible for paying the airfare of Jesse Jr's girlfriend to come to Chicago, and may have been involved in the senate seat controversy. Is Jesse's marriage in trouble?

A close friend of Jackson's, told NBC, "this has all come down on him like an avalanche and there is a good possibility he will have to resign." This was reported by NBC's Kelly O'Donnell. Of course he will resign in order to dodge the bullet. Then he can sit back and collect his congressional pension. In 2009 Jackson was named one of the 15 most corrupt members of congress, by the Liberal Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington for his role in the Blago scandal.

### IAHC Plaza

The front stairs of the Irish American Heritage Center were replaced a little over a month ago. Finally, the old concrete plaza has been ripped out and is being replaced with engraved paving bricks. If you would like to honor a family member you can purchase a brick for them. 773-282-7035.

Presidential Campaign Attacks on Romney. Petty crap! Name calling and accusations, Obama's camp is avoiding the real issues. Swiss bank accounts, Cayman Islands, financial subterfuge? Doubtful! The machine democrats know that president Obama never had any private sector business experience and the stimulus program flopped. Fyi, foreign bank accounts must be listed on your tax return.

Walnut California

English please! The city council has proposed non-english speakers provide their own interpreters for all council proceedings which would be conducted only in English. Some fear the move would violate civil rights. Two-thirds of Walnuts residence are Asians, and three of the five council members are Asians. My old friend, John Katsikas, the Greek used to say, "Good country America."

### Middle Class

If the median income in Houston, Texas was \$59,838 in 2011, the eighth highest in the nation. How then do politicians define an income of \$250,000 per year as middle class? Catherine Reidy Boyle

My Aunt, Catherine Reidy Boyle passed away peacefully on June 30th she was 92. She was born Nov 1st 1919 in Cleandries Causeway, County Kerry, Ireland. I visited the thatched cottage where she was born, one of my many visits to Ireland.

It remained as it was, since she left as a child, no modern amenities.

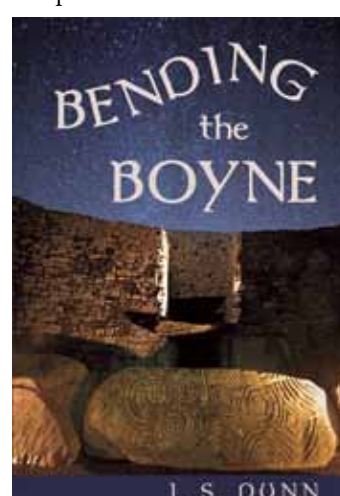
The iron crane hung over an openhearth fire, and bread was still being baked in an iron pot buried in the coals of the turf fire. On one visit I remember arriving late in the day, and we sat near the fire until the Sun went down. The only light in the room was the glow of the fire and a candle. We had a sup of tea and a cut of bread, then sang a few songs until it was time to leave. It's one of my fondest memories of Ireland.

Catherine did many kind things for my sisters and I, We all have our story's. She left us a great legacy. Her children, grand children and great grand children. God bless.

## Who Were The Celts?

A groundbreaking novel shows the new model for the origins of "Celts."

Bending The Boyne takes place when the north Atlantic rocked with changes. The Isles held copper and gold, and seafarers arrived to exploit those metals.



Most images of "Celts" are Iron Age. But what does "Celt" really mean? Does that term mean big warriors with chariots and iron swords, who suddenly appear in the Alps and sweep west across Europe in waves? Unfortunately, that is the picture painted in the late 19th century by fledgling archaeologists. The term Celt persists like a nasty computer virus. "Celtic" is used to explain vastly different tribes in different areas, separated by millennia. They can't all be Celts, for that term to mean anything.

The bang-on, new model to study the origin of Gaelic culture and languages has formed in the past decade. According to the eminent Barry Cunliffe (emeritus, Oxford) and William O'Brien (UCC-Cork) and linguist John Koch, among others, the old model and the old label "Celt" don't fit with the evidence. These scholars focus now on the third millennium BCE, not the Iron Age, and on Atlantic sea trade. That is a major paradigm shift.

At 2500—2000 BCE, Troy was a few huts, Greek cities and Rome didn't exist. The Egyptians were figuring out how to make beer and wine and build bigger Nile boats. But in the north Atlantic, oceangoing boats already crossed the mighty waves: breadboards,

loaded with brave lads. Seafarers moved from ancient Spain up the arcing coast of what is now France/Brittany, and on to Cornwall, Wales, Ireland, the Isle of Man, and Orkney. One of these brave lads was your ancestor if you're of Galician/Basque or Breton or Irish/Cornish/Welsh/Manx/Scot descent.

Copper smelting developed in ancient Spain and traveled to the Isles with traders. Marauders, if you will, because those new lads introduced new weapons: copper daggers and long bronze knives. The intruders vanquished the natives who built the great Boyne passage mounds, abandoned by around 2000 BCE. No doubt the first Irish tales began of hidden gold and wee folk who lived inside the mounds, as Eire's natives tried to protect their valuable gold and copper. The Tuatha de Danaan myths might refer to the copper smelting invaders.

Bending The Boyne encourages the reader to do a little thinking, shift the old paradigm. "...Bang on with the latest archaeological debates," according to Peter Clark of the Canterbury Trust, Kent, UK

The past decade has seen erosion of the misused term "Celtic". "Celtic" is no longer appropriate as a unitary label stuck on everything. By way of analogy, the fact that most persons now use a computer doesn't make anyone genetically related to Bill Gates nor does it make our time period "Gatesian". Likewise, the fact that one speaks English doesn't make one genetically or culturally Anglo-Saxon.

Start a fire in the head, as the poet Yeats would say, with Bending The Boyne.

Winner historical fiction, 2011 Next Generation award; listed for a Foreword Review Award 2011. ISBN 978-0983155416 ; 350 pages. Amazon, B&N, and via Kindle/apps/Nook.

The excellent narrator, Irish native Tim Gerard Reynolds, and Brick Shop Audiobooks, are producing the audiobook scheduled for release September, 2012. Audiobook version: Audible.com and others.

See also: Celtic From The West, Cunliffe and Koch, ed., Oxford Press, 2010.

Links to Bronze Age sites and objects: www.jsdunnbooks.com



# Peter Dempsey, Also Known As PDQ!



## Spóirt

Maggie O'Leary



Irish American News recently sat down with Irish racer, Peter Dempsey. This charming twenty-six year old is the only Irish Indy Lights driver competing in North America. Dempsey took time from his hectic travel schedule to discuss his goals, his passion for the auto racing world and to also let us in on the politics and sacrifices that inevitably occur within the racing world.

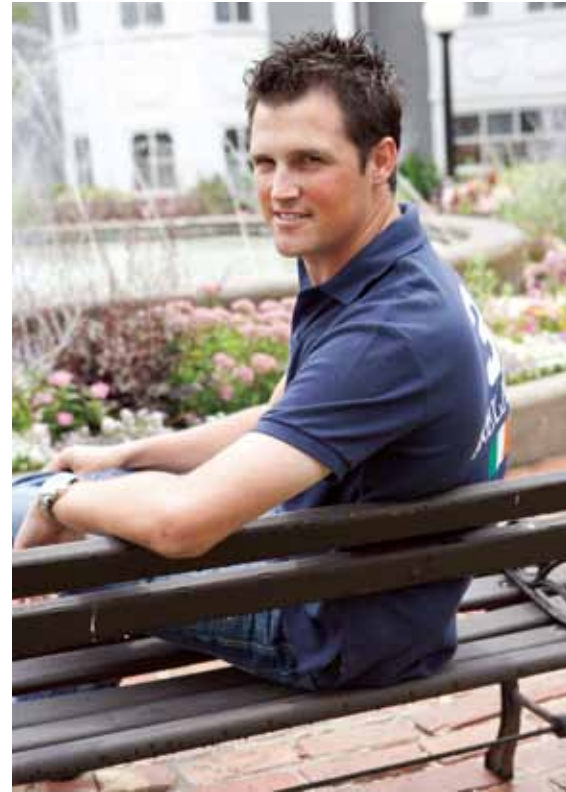
Indy Lights is the feeder system for Indy Car, which is the highest level of open wheel racing in North America. Open wheel cars are designed specifically for racing and have one seat with the wheels jutting outside of the car's chassis. The driver is exposed to the elements and the majority of racing takes place on an oval or road course.

Different than most Indy Car drivers, Indy Lights drivers do not have long-term contracts; the drivers usually race year to year or sometimes may race a shortened schedule depending on team and financial backing. Because the sport is costly, sponsors usually pledge a driver year to year, and it is not uncommon for sponsors to back out last minute or completely drop out during the season. Sponsors are the lifeblood of auto racing; they pay for the driver's salary, cars, travel expenses and ensure the team has the best crew and equipment. Without sponsorship there is no racing.

The drivers sacrifice much and make very little in comparison to the risks involved with each race. The sacrifice for committed race car drivers begins at a young age. Many young drivers forgo a normal childhood and friendships in order to race. Typically, drivers will begin go-karting on weekends and involve a great deal of travel. The elite go-karters often leave home when they are teenagers to race in junior open-wheel circuits including England, France, Germany and the United States. If they win their karting leagues, the drivers will get "rides", which is when they are paid to race.

Sacrifice is something all racers must accept. Drivers are expected to bulk up for pre-season weigh in, then drop weight to make the car lighter in hopes of decreasing race times. Understandably, their life is on the line with each race, and one mistake by one driver could lead to everyone's worst fear — car and driver both destroyed. Dealing with the politics involved in the sport plays a role within a team's structure and is

a fact that every driver must accept. The relationship a driver has with sponsors, team owner and crew members can determine the pecking order, the lower you are the worse your car will be and the more likely you are to lose "ride". Dempsey however seems totally unconsumed by the obvious unpleasanties of the sport because to



Peter Dempsey, visiting Paddy's On The Square, Long Grove IL photo by Cathy Curry

Dempsey, racing is a way of life.

Peter was born in Dublin, and raised in the town of Ashbourne, County Meath. Born into a racing family, his father Cliff had a successful driving career of his own in the late 1970s and in 1989 started his own racing team, Cliff Dempsey Racing. His uncles also raced and built their own race cars, so from a very young age Peter has been soaking in and retaining this racing culture. Following in the footsteps of his older brother Keith, Peter started racing go-karts.

By 8 years old, Peter was competing and winning races. In 2004 he made the switch and started racing Formula Ford and between 2004 and 2007 racked up various race wins throughout Europe. During the Formula Ford years, Dempsey was a two-time Motorsport Ireland Young Driver of the Year recipient. Between 2008 and 2010, Dempsey won nine Star Mazda races in two years, an accomplishment that no other driver has yet to match.

"My family has always supported me and my racing. My family let me know that I'm too good to not be racing. If I couldn't race cars I'm not sure what I'd be doing, but no matter what I'd always be involved in motor sports in some way. I'm born and bred into it—I will always be involved." At 21, after honoring his mother's request to complete school, Peter made the decision

to move to the United States to further pursue his racing dreams. Since his arrival in the United States, Dempsey has certainly made a name for himself within the racing world. This year, Peter has focused his Firestone Indy Lights career racing in the Freedom 100 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix in Detroit, MI with Younessi Racing. His most recent race in Toronto was with his new team, Belardi Auto Racing and he will be driving the Red No.9 car for the rest of the season.

Peter obviously misses his family and friends in Ireland, but right now what he says he craves most is "a good Irish breakfast." It should only be a short while before Peter finds a great Irish breakfast in Chicagoland. \*For more information on Peter Dempsey visit [www.PeterDempsey.com](http://www.PeterDempsey.com) follow him on twitter @PeterDempsey or add his fan page on [www.facebook.com/peterdempseyracing](http://www.facebook.com/peterdempseyracing).



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# Amazing Mayo Stories Volume 1

Best-selling Mayo author Terry Reilly, former Managing Editor of The Western People, has just released his latest book. It's called Amazing Mayo Stories (Vol 1) and

features fourteen chapters about people and events, and the author says he was inspired to write this first volume to show Mayo people in recessionary times what has

been achieved by those who have gone before us.

"We can draw great inspiration from the past. Many of the people featured overcame great challenges to make their mark, showing that there is never a bad time

to step boldly forward and follow your dreams," says Terry Reilly.

Featured: President Mary Robinson of Ballina, our mould-breaking first female president; Edward Whelan, one of the Fathers of Canadian Confederation; Monsi-

gnor James Horan and Dame Judy Coyne of Knock Shrine; Erris-born Eileen Kato and her place amongst Japan's Imperial family; Jack Feeney, the great Swinford-born tenor; Matthew Webb, first to swim English Channel swimmer- his Mayo links; Jack Judge, composer of 'Long Way to Tipperary' and his Ballyhaunis roots; The story of the Mayo Peace Park which honours our fallen and the persistence of



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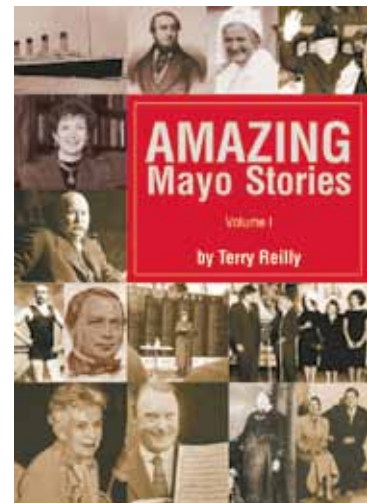
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one man; Mayo Coffin Ships and Famine days; Knox D'Arcy, The JR Ewing of Mayo; Mayo Orphan Girls sent to Australia in famine years; The Remarkably musical Wallace family, rock stars of the 1800s; and the iconic Delia Murphy Mayo's singing blackbird.

Also featured is the incredibly sad impact the sinking of the Titanic had on a small Mayo parish.

All chapters are fully illustrated. **New DVD On Ballina History**

Terry is also releasing his DVD: Ballina - The Town We Love So Well. It brings to life the history of Ballina as the historian walks the streets and uncovers people and events who made the town what it is today.

[www.terry-reilly.com](http://www.terry-reilly.com)

\*Terry Reilly has also published Dear Old Ballina; A Rambling Tour Through Dear Old Ballina; The Green Above the Red, featuring Mayo GAA triumphs up to 1985; The Goal of Victory, the history of Ballina Stephenites GAA Club; and On A Wing and a Prayer, the story of Monsignor James Horan's struggle to build an international Airport at Knock. This book has now become a musical, written and adapted for stage by Terry Reilly and Tommy Marren, raising over 200,000 euro for Mayo/Roscommon Hospice.

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# Piping It In

## Jack Baker



The wonderful month of August when the proliferation of Irish music rolls over us like a tidal wave. Thanks to two of the largest festivals in the world, Dublin Ohio on the first weekend of the month and the grandfather of all Irish Festivals, Milwaukee Irish Fest on the third weekend, we get all the music we can handle this month.

Granted there are some "Irish" bands that should have their electric guitars confiscated and burned. Luckily I learned a long time ago to concentrate on the positive and this month the positive music far outweighs the negative.

In what I consider the bravest stance a festival could take, Milwaukee Irish Fest has chosen this year to feature bluegrass music as their theme. Much of bluegrass traces its history to Ireland and Scotland. A year or so ago the Brock McGuire Band, one of the finest Irish bands to draw breath, put out a CD called "Green Grass, Blue Grass" which attempted to show this connection. Personally I think it was one of the best recordings of all time



and quickly jumped into my top ten personal favorites. The Brock McGuire Band will be in Milwaukee this year along

with a who's who of cutting edge bluegrass performers AND a raft full of the best Irish performers. You can see them yourself. Some of the don't miss acts this year, in addition to Brock McGuire, are the always awesome Liz Carroll, Fuchsia Band, Slide, Gaelic Storm, Scythian and way too many more to list here. Go to IrishFest.com and plan out your time at the fest, August 16th thru the 19th. If you only go to one festival this year, this is the one to go to.

New CDs are still not being released in great numbers but the few that are being

wonder what we're talking about when we say "real", give James Keane a listen and you too will understand.

One of the quiet "superstars" of Irish music is a lovely lady by the name of Norah Rendell. She has recorded with a number of people and groups and has consistently produced the loveliest music. She is now a part of one of the grandest collection of talent ever assembled, the group Outside Track. Joined by Mairi Rankin on fiddle, Fiona Black on accordion, Cillian Ó'Dálaigh on guitar and my favorite harper, Ailie Robertson, Norah shows her vocal talent in their latest recording "Flash Company". Lest I forget, she also plays a delightfully mean flute. They play a refreshing mix of traditional tunes and original stuff and their original stuff is pretty darn impressive. Everyone in the band gets more out of their instruments than your average musician but Ailie Robertson's harp is my personal delight. She plays harp unlike anyone I've ever seen. See them if you can, but for sure listen to their CDs. Their first is called "Curious Things Given Wings" and it is a delight too, having on it Ailie's original composition "Swerving For Bunnies". It's as much fun listening to the tune as listening to Ailie explain the circumstances of its inspiration.



produced are pretty spectacular. First in the hamper this month is a treasure on the New Folk Records label, "Heir of the Dog" by the incomparable James Keane. Not to be confused with Chicago's Jimmy Keane, James play button box and now lives in New York. It's been three years since James had his battle with throat cancer, which he won, and this recording shows the master at his best. His smooth flowing style, like water flowing in a brook, carries you away. Absolutely lovely stuff and "real" Irish music, if you

Finally, got a CD in the mail from a family group, The Willis Clan, and it's sure worth the listening. Eight kids from the same family performing original music on violin, piano, guitar, banjo, flute, whistle, accordion, bodhran and bass. Most interesting music they produce. I was unsure from the lean liner notes as to what it would sound like but I enjoyed it. The band is slated to perform at Dublin Ohio's Irish Festival this month and that's one performance I will certainly try and get away from the booth to see.

Look forward to seeing you at the festivals and seeing what new music pops up.

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## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### Are You Personally Responsible For Your Station In Life?

I have been thinking about this subject for a long time. I am convinced that we live in a world where no one is responsible. That's right; it is always somebody else's fault. The Democrats are always complaining that the Republicans are at fault about this or that. But not to be outdone, the Republicans are always ready to blame the Democrats for the foul ups in the system.

While on vacation last week, I saw a perfect example of this pervasive tendency on the part of Americans. Our car was in the farthest left lane of traffic, fourth in line from the traffic light. As we waited for the light to change, a car whizzed by us in the right lane alongside us. When the light changed, the car in the right lane made a 90 degree turn and tried unsuccessfully to pull in front of the second car in our lane. The driver in our lane had no chance to stop before crashing into the line breaker's car. The offending driver literally bolted out of the car, screaming at the driver of the other car while spouting obscenities at the "innocent" driver. The door of the offending car fell onto the ground as the driver exited the car. Certainly being in a car accident can unnerve any of us, but clearly the rage expressed by this driver was focused on the perception that the accident was caused by the innocent driver. Incidentally, this accident was witnessed by 6 or 8 people in our three car caravan and everyone was convinced of the guilt of the aggressive driver.

Perhaps the offending driver saw the 1949 movie, Knock on Any Door, when the lawyer, Humphrey Bogart, tells

his client, John Derek (aka Nick Romano) we are going to blame everything and everybody but you for this killing. Let the jury dwell on all the possibilities except you.

It seems to me that blaming someone else for our mistakes has reached epidemic proportions. But obviously many of our troubles are created by our own decisions. We simply didn't think about the consequences of our decisions.

It would behoove parents to realize that this tendency starts in the home when we are mere children. Children need to be educated that there are consequences attached to their decisions. I made the decision to go to a parochial high school even though my brothers had all gone to the fine nearby public high school. Due to that basic decision my parents allowed me to make, I experienced a different high school environment than my brothers. I became acquainted with students who lived in a wider geographic area and came from several different ethnic neighborhoods that did not feed students to the local public high school.

A student decides to go to the University of Illinois or Benedictine University. Obviously the experience that any one student would have will vary from one fine school to another. The experiences are a direct result of the person's decision to go to their chosen school. I have always felt that going to Loyola University, a Chicago school, was quite beneficial for me. Even as a kid I knew my future was more likely in Chicago than any other place. Shouldn't we as parents help our children understand the

implications of their choice of a specific school? Rather it seems to me much more likely the decision is made on the proverbial "I REALLY like their campus", whatever that means.

Have you taken the time to really think about your life's path? Do you have enough goals to fill your bucket list? Or would you prefer to blame someone else for the holes in your shoes? Bad decisions can create mountains of debt.

If you have been downsized or laid off, have you seized the opportunity as a chance to improve your technical skills or competencies? If you have been unemployed for several months, shouldn't you use some of your "free" time enhancing your skills?

When someone else gets the promotion you anticipated, perhaps you have a right to be annoyed. However, wouldn't it be a better use

of your time and energy to determine what other skills, capabilities or talents would make you a more desirable candidate for the next promotion?

Many people surrender to the whims or wishes of their employer. If not, why do so many people "hate" their jobs? Do a little research the next time you are with a group of friends; ask each of them if they are happy with their job. Surely some of us have a bad day occasionally and blame the world for all of our problems. Commonly that feeling passes fairly quickly. If you are a person who truly likes your work environment, consider ways you can make your job more interesting. Make a "game" out of it; try to inject some fun into the job itself. If you are a happy worker, you are probably more productive than the normal "bear". You won't

feel like a prisoner when you walk into the office or job site.

I fully recognize that there are circumstances in the lives of many that prohibit them from changing jobs or companies. But for those of you who can improve your conditions, you owe it to yourself and your employer to do so. The next time you walk past a mirror, take a moment to see if you look like a happy (and contributing) member of your employer's team. Carpe Diem.

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:** In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock. Thomas Jefferson

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



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## Flavors of Ireland

By Margaret Johnson

Margaret's newest book, *Flavors of Ireland*, (Ambassador International), invites readers – cooks and armchair travelers alike – on a culinary tour of one of Europe's fastest growing food destinations.

Ireland has a distinctive food culture thanks to the geography, climate and history of the people who settled here centuries ago. Part recipe collection, part travel guide and part history, the book offers an insightful look into the ingredients that shape the country's cooking; a rich array of vegetables and

## Edward Collins, Our Greatest Irish-American Composer: Music Now Available On Ten CDs

May 2012, Albany Records (AlbanyRecords.com) released the complete recorded anthology of the music of American composer Edward Joseph Collins, 1886-1951, as a boxed set of ten CDs. The anthology set includes a booklet with a new guest essay placing Collins in the context of his 20th century contemporaries, as well as a chronology, a complete list of works, reviews, and discography.

Much of Collins's music was never performed during his lifetime, much less recorded. All the extant works was only recorded and released during the last 12 years, on 10 single CDs. Now that musicians and reviewers worldwide have been able to perform or listen to the music of Collins, it's clear that he was one of the finest 20th century composers based in the United States.

Collins arguably is also the greatest Irish-American composer ever. The late music writer, Chicago radio host, and Collins biographer Erik Eriksson wrote:

Collins was born in Joliet, Illinois on 10 November 1886 to Irish-American parents. Edward was the youngest of nine children born to Peter and Bridget (McIntyre) Collins, both of whom came from Ireland - he from County Meath in the north, she from Belfast...

Although he ... composed his orchestral works with a pervasive Celtic melancholy, he did not sentimentalize the Irish or even regard them as altogether admirable people. In a diary entry on St.

Patrick's Day, 1939, the composer wrote: I have had several very disagreeable encounters with Irishmen. The Irishman is by nature "tough;" he is not warm-hearted as people think...

To this it should be added that the Collins also drew on the Irish traditions of engaging melodies and a puckish humor, both often marked by compelling rhythms.

After studies in Berlin and concert tours here and abroad, Collins

ducted the CSO in performances of other works that he composed.

Much of Collins' music was composed during summers in Wisconsin, at Cedar Lake or in Door County, where the Collins family eventually moved to a rural log home near Fish Creek. Declining health in his final years may have contributed to the undeserved neglect of Collins's music after his death in 1951, following his third heart attack.

The May 1st release of the complete recorded anthology of this neglected composer will be one of several events celebrating the 125th anniversary of the composer's birth year during the 2011-12 season, including:

- In April 2012, Roosevelt University hosted and presented an expert panel and recital of chamber music, in celebration of Collins as well as some of his USA and European composer contemporaries

- In November 2011, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra gave three performances of Collins's *Tragic Overture*, conducted by Marin Alsop. The recipient of many international cultural awards, and a MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellow, Maestro Alsop also led all six of the orchestral recording of Collins in the soon to be released 10-CD anthology.

- In October 2011, the composer's only opera, *Daughter of the South* was given its first stage performance by the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, in a concert abridgment by conductor George Stelluto.

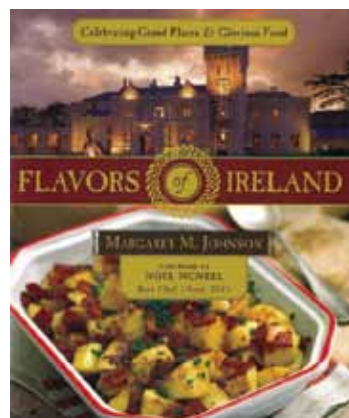


married Frieda Mayer, the daughter of Oscar, the food magnate. Edward and Frieda, who eventually had four children, made their home in Chicago, where Collins was based in his work as a pianist, teacher, conductor, and composer.

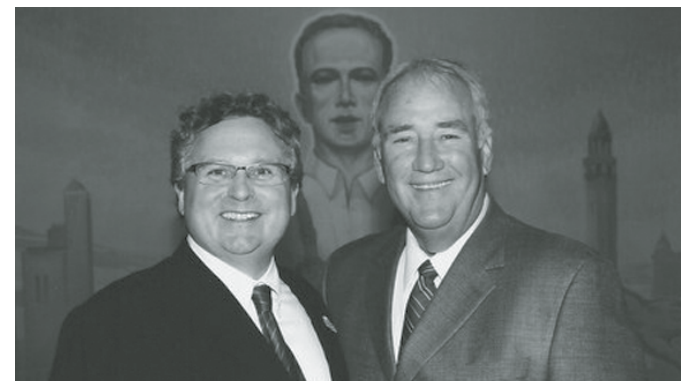
During the composer's lifetime, world premieres of several major works were performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with Collins as soloist for his three piano concerti. Collins also con-

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James F. Coyne, newly elected Business Manager of Chicago Plumbers Journeymen Local 130, U.A. (left) is congratulated by Bill Hite, General President of United Association.

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



## The "Man from Clare" was my muse

I wanted the narrator of my new film, "Our Irish Cousins", to have a brogue and intended to recruit Michael Quinlan from Limerick. Michael had been our guide in Ireland. But when it came time to produce our trailer for the film I couldn't afford to record a narration track in Ireland so I recruited my old friend PJ O'Dea.

PJ agreed to help me out. I figured we could make PJ's voice somehow work because the trailer was only ten minutes long.

We had PJ sitting in a studio while I listened in the control room. Jim, our engineer, took PJ through the script line by line as he laid down the tracks.

The narrator would have to be authoritative and commanding while telling our story and yet still be in on the many jokes that popped up during our adventures. The voice would also have to resonate with knowledge of Irish mythology and a timbre of antiquity to suggest the long history of our nation. The voice would need to sound like Ireland himself.

As PJ read the script into the microphone I started thinking, "He sounds pretty good, this might work!"

Towards the end of the trailer script was a line promoting "the new film "Our Irish Cousins".

Jim the engineer was listening to PJ and stopped to correct him, "No, you're pronouncing it wrong, it sounds like your saying "fill-um".

I jumped from my seat and said, "No, that's perfect, don't correct him, that's exactly how it should sound!"

I should have known at the moment that PJ's voice was destiny calling out to me. The trailer worked out beautifully and helped raise funding on our website. But I still intended to use Quinlan because I had already told him he would be recording his voice over. Months later I recorded Quinlan via Skype as he and engineer Dave Kearney laid down the full narration track at Red Door Studios in Limerick.

But PJ's voice still haunted me. My old pal Pete Nolan called late one night and left a message on my voice mail after watching our trailer online, "PJ sounds great!"

I decided to ask PJ if he would record his version of the complete narration and then I would compare the two and choose the one that worked best.

So I picked up PJ and we again traveled to Hubbard Street Studio. It wasn't until I was in the editing room with our editor Roger Wolski that we decided to replace Quinlan's voice with PJ as our narrator.

It was the smart move too because when I eventually sent Quinlan the final cut, he sent me a note that said, "PJ did a great job and from the first time I heard his fine voice I knew he was the one to narrate. Give him my best regards and compliments."

Classy guy.

PJ's narration is now the star of my film and people continually ask me where I found him. Well I found him right in our backyard.

We've been friends for over 25 years. PJ was born in Kilrush, County Clare and so was my great grandfather.

PJ is a true GAA legend who played with 2 clubs in 11 cities and in four countries. He won his first county medal in 1939 and represented Clare in minor, junior, and senior hurling and also played senior football with Clare and with the Munster teams in 1951 and '52. He won an All-Ireland hurling medal and then emigrated to the US where he played hurling and football in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and in New York PJ played for our mutual friend John "Kerry" O'Donnell at Gaelic Park in the Bronx. By coincidence I was the porter at O'Donnell's bar in Manhattan in the early '80's.

Shooting my film in Ireland I interviewed County Clare Mayor Madeleine Taylor Quinn who told me a story about the day she brought a delegation to Chicago to meet Mayor Daley. She was with her cohorts at the Consul General's Office and one of the dignitaries was alarmed that PJ had stationed himself outside the Mayor's office and was waiting to join them for the meeting. This stuffed shirt was complaining of the audacity of PJ to crash their meeting. When they finally entered Daley's inner sanctum, the Mayor jumped from behind his desk and walked across the room to announce, "PJ, how wonderful to see you again", while the fakers fumed.

He might be breaking into show business at the age of 86, but he's been a star all his life. When we paid him for the film he sent back a check to buy my grand daughter Charlotte a new bike.

PJ's voice brings spirituality to the film with an air of mysticism that reminds us all that it's important to remember who you are and where you come from. His immense pride as an Irishman and "man from Clare" also remind us to hold on to our heritage, it's the one thing they can never take away from any of us.

"Our Irish Cousins" is now under consideration by all the major international film festivals in the world. I'm sure any accolades or honors we might win will all be due to the performance of PJ O'Dea, our new fill-um star!

Read archived columns at [www.mikehoulihan.com](http://www.mikehoulihan.com)  
Hear PJ O'Dea at  
<http://ouririshcousins.com>

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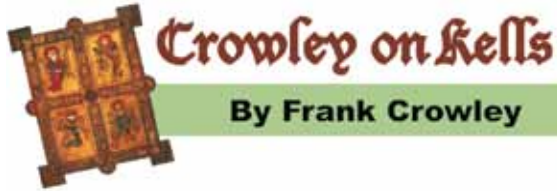
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## Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



### Book of Kells Animal Symbols- Bigger Than Ever in Brookfield IL

By Frank Crowley

Animals like you have never seen before! That's right folks, step right up and see a lion symbol, life size, almost! See

a Book of Kells' fish, four feet long. A Book of Kells' snake two feet long, at least!

Stand close and see a blue lion--is that a flashlight in its

mouth? Here's a lion forming the letter "T" with a peacock in its mouth! More snakes forming the letter "N." And there's more! See a giant lion's head roar--is that fire??

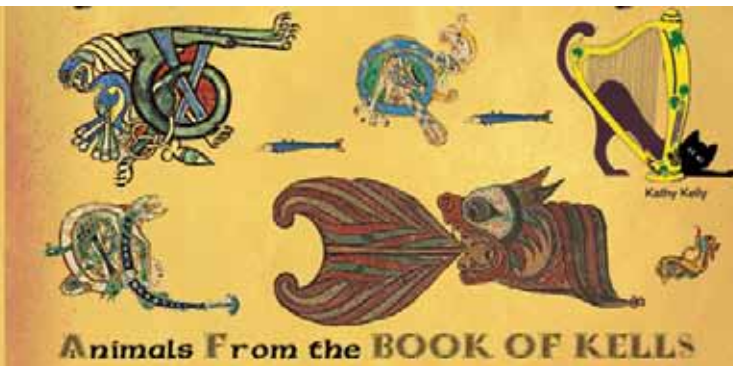
The back story. The Brookfield Zoo did some remodeling and installed new walls they thought would be perfect for murals. The Zoo asked the Chicago Cultural Alliance to recommend organizations to submit artwork of animals in the style of their

cultural tradition. What could be better than the animals in the Book of Kells? I designed a mural of Book of Kells' animals, and included images by Laura Coyle and Kathy Kelly, artists and Irish American Heritage Center members. The mural, I'm told, will be installed by the end of July in the Bear Grotto.

The artwork I submitted was enlarged by about 10 times and printed on a vinyl-like material and attached to

the wall, in the way advertisements are installed on billboards.

*Progress: Brookfield Zoo Mural above.*



### America Getting Hooked on Hurling

With the Irish sport of hurling on the rise across America Journalist, Denis O'Brien, has released his new ebook on the growth of hurling in America.

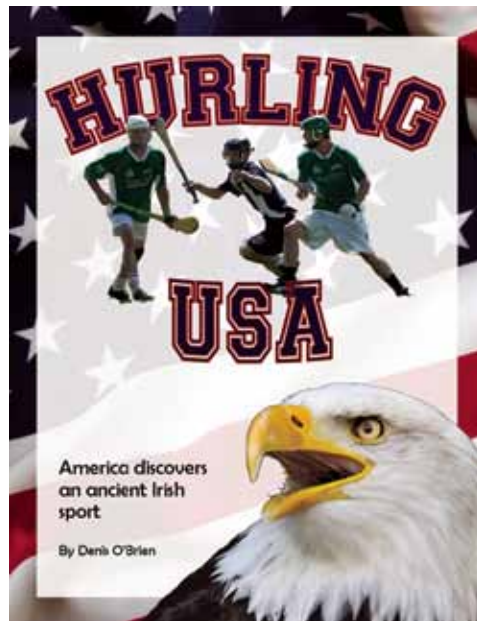
'Hurling USA: America discovers an ancient Irish sport.' is available at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B008FCS51G>

The book examines how to play. It explores hurling's ancient legacy, early American years and what Irish America has been missing for generations. And, why today, from Orlando to Seattle, Americans are getting "hooked" on hurling.

Ireland July 2, 2012. New ebook, 'Hurling USA: America discovers an ancient Irish sport,' by Irish freelance journalist, podcaster, and former U.S. migrant Denis O'Brien, tells how hurling is spreading to American towns and cities that never knew the sport existed. The author reveals why the sport is hooking Americans young and old, and why Americans are 'blown away.'

Readers follow a trail to Mesopotamia, Egypt, across Europe and Canada to sample ancient stick ball games. Hurling's Irish

roots are traced in myth, law, iconography, history, lecture and fascinating first-hand accounts of old matches. In the middle of the 19th century, hurling arrives in America with immigrants and prospers in the big cities until



squabbling, assimilation, depression, war and exclusiveness see it fade into the background of ethnic entertainment in place to this day.

'Hurling USA' goes on to out-

line exactly where, how and why the sport is growing on college campuses and on American public parks. The author brings into focus the hit-and-miss Irish summer player model adopted by older ex-pat clubs in big cities in comparison to steady growth at new hurling clubs.

In the concluding chapter, he examines what hurling's growing presence could mean for the sport's governing body in Ireland, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Irish immigrants and the American sporting landscape.

Quotes  
"Maine has a fairly large Irish population, and you know, it's just a shame that the sport never spread north of Boston for the longest time, but we're trying to change that right now."

"The game as we say in America is a gimme. You see it and you can't help but fall in love with this game."

"An end to Irish domination of the sport could make it more popular in America"

About Author  
Denis O'Brien is a Freelance

Journalist based in the North West of Ireland, in the town of Ballinamore, in the County of Leitrim.

He is writer, producer and publisher of the popular podcast, GaelicSportsCast.

GaelicSportsCast reports on Gaelic Sports news around the globe via daily and weekly podcasts as well as written reports.

Mr. O'Brien is a former emigrant himself as he spent almost 20 years in America, where he lived in New York and more recently in Boston.

Since returning to Ireland, he has worked as a Freelance Reporter and later as a Staff Reporter for the former Leitrim Post newspaper.

While in America Mr. O'Brien reported Gaelic Sports news from Boston with weekly blog and local newspapers publications.

He has written for the Boston Irish Reporter, the New York Irish Examiner, and contributed to the Irish Examiner, Leitrim Observer, Anglo Celt, The Sligo Champion, Sligo Weekender, Donegal News, Shannonside Radio and Ocean FM Radio.

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## Irish Fest Announces Gate Promotions For 2012

Families, Military, Students and More Will Enjoy Taste of Ireland at Discounted Rate

The organizers of Milwaukee Irish Fest have made it easy and affordable to enjoy the 2012 festival by bringing back some of its most popular gate promotions. Festival goers can take advantage of free or discounted admission via seven different gate promotions during the four-day festival, August 16

to 19, 2012.

"Irish Fest is one of the greatest values in town," said Donna Brady, president of Milwaukee Irish Fest. "You get access to 16 stages of world-class entertainment, cultural exhibits, family activities and so much more with your admission. We even make it easy for you to enjoy the festival for free or at a highly-reduced rate."

There are a wide variety of

on sale now at [www.irishfest.com](http://www.irishfest.com))

College Day – \$3 off admission Sunday, Aug 19, 2-7 p.m. with college student ID

Sunday Promotion – Free admission with food donation before the 9:30 a.m. Mass for Peace and Justice

To learn more about discounts and special gate promotions, visit [www.irishfest.com](http://www.irishfest.com) and click on the "Festival Info" tab. General



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special promotions and discounts that guests can take advantage of, including discounts for college students, seniors, military personnel and their families. In addition, the festival offers free or reduced admission during special promotional periods on Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Gate promotions include:

Children's Discount – Kids 12 and under are always free

Senior Citizens Discount – Seniors (60+) get \$5 off general admission (regularly \$15)

Military Day – Free admission for active, reserve, retired, and guard military service personnel plus one guest, with valid military ID

Thursday Promotion – Free admission with donation of school supplies

\$5 Buck Friday – \$5 admission 4-5:30 p.m. (Advance tickets are

admission for the festival is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors 60+ and free for kids 12 and under.

### About Milwaukee Irish Fest

Milwaukee Irish Fest is North America's largest celebration of Irish music and culture. The four-day festival showcases more than 100 entertainment acts on 16-stages at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. The annual festival occurs every third week end in August. The 2012 festival takes place August 16 to 19.

More than just a festival, the Milwaukee Irish Fest organization is passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people. Milwaukee Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities and genealogy through year-round programming. For more information, visit [www.irishfest.com](http://www.irishfest.com).

# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



## Supreme Court Rules

As I have stated in the past, my musings in this space are often a response to what has already happened. I do, however, respond to questions from my gentle readers. One such question I recently received was: "Now that the supreme court has struck down most of Arizona's immigration law, where does that leave us?"

In answering this question, first I'd like to quote from Justice Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion:

"The National Government has significant power to regulate immigration. With power comes responsibility, and the sound exercise of national power over immigration depends on the Nation's meeting its responsibility to base its laws on a political will informed by searching, thoughtful, rational civic discourse. Arizona may have understandable frustrations with the problems caused by illegal immigration while that process continues, but the State may not pursue policies that undermine federal law."

So, here is how I read the Supreme Court decision, it changes nothing. It importantly clarifies that responsibility to regulate our immigration laws resides with the federal government. This clarification is important because a number of other states have also tried to fix the problem of illegal immigration in ways that are similar to Arizona's efforts. To allow the individual states in the union to have a multiplicity of immigration laws would make no sense whatever.

This decision also points out something that has been blatantly obvious to most people for a long time, namely, that the Nation (The Federal Government) has failed in its responsibility to exercise its powers to mend a broken system. Arizona's frustration is understandable and whatever side of the isle our elected officials sit, they are the people with whom the blame lies.

Also, Justice Kennedy's pointing to the Government's responsibility that it form laws based; "on a political will informed by searching, thoughtful, rational civic discourse" is a clear reminder to our elected officials and national commentators, of the urgent need, to return to a genuine process of consensus building legislation that is based not on the whims of looking to the next election cycle, but to the long term and common good of the Nation.

The one part of the law that survived the Supreme Court, "the show me your papers" provision, is worrisome. The question that most sensible people are asking is; how do police officers know who is here legally or not by simply looking at a person? If this is not an invitation to racial profiling, then let someone please explain that to me! Surely, we are capable of writing better laws than this.

### ENCOURAGEMENT

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the famous 19th-century poet and artist, was once approached by an elderly man.

The old fellow had some sketches and drawings that he wanted Rossetti to look at and tell him if they were any good, or if they at least showed potential talent. Rossetti looked over them carefully. After the first few, he knew that they were worthless but Rossetti was a kind man, he told the elderly man as gently as possible that the pictures were without much value and showed little talent. He was sorry, but he could not lie to the man. The man was disappointed, but seemed to expect Rossetti's judgment. The old man then apologized for taking up Rossetti's time, but asked him to look at a few more drawings. Rossetti looked over the second batch of sketches and immediately became enthusiastic over the talent they revealed. "These," he said, "oh, these are good." "This young student has a great talent. He should be given every help and encouragement. He has a great future." Rossetti could see that the old fellow was deeply moved. "Who is this fine young artist?" he asked. "Your son?" "No," said the old man sadly. "It is me - 40 years ago. If only I had heard your praise then! For you see, I got discouraged and gave up - too soon." Author Unknown

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

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# For The Republic



**Chris Fogarty**



GOV'T PREDATORS. How? Here's one way: the gov't forces motorists to pay insurance premiums but doesn't force insurance companies to pay claims. Motorists once merely had to prove financial ability to reimburse for any damage they'd do to others. In recent decades, supposedly to reimburse victims of negligent motorists, Illinois requires all motorists to carry liability insurance or face prison. But that same gov't abets the "substandard" insurance companies' nonpayment of claims. Thus, Illinois' gov't is robbing its motorists. The loot extorted from motorists is not paid into the State treasury, and isn't used to pay claims, but is split between the fraudulent insurance companies and the criminal pols who organized the scam. As the fraud's authors, the pols decide how much of the loot goes to their subordinate accomplices, the insurance companies.

MY INSURER, State Farm and All-State have good histories. Rated "substandard" are three locals; Unique Auto Insurance, Safeway Insurance (CEO Bill Parrillo), and the publicly-traded, Oak Brook-based, (UAIG) United Auto Insurance Group (CEO Dickie Parrillo, Bill's brother. The portion of premiums that pols allow UAIG to keep is partly visible in Dickie's yacht, plane, and recently-built, 20,000 sq. ft., \$50-60 million house on seven lots on Chicago's 1900 block of No. Burling. Its lower-level kitchen reportedly seats 500. My Mary and I occasionally stroll past it. It's magnificent; a Mediterranean French chateau. Being somewhat familiar with Dickie, it is painful to cite the following reports: One is headed "Where Your Premium Went." The New Times' Wyatt Olsen referred to Dickie's UAIG as "The Bad Hands People," and reported that "UAIG has developed a

unique and lucrative business plan: declare all insurance claims fraudulent to avoid paying claims. Critics describe UAIG's motto as 'Deny, delay, and don't pay.' Some customers find themselves hounded by bill collectors or facing bankruptcy; many spend years in court trying to get their benefits." Further; "And now, it's clear why United Auto felt it had to stiff so many of its policyholders in their time of need. Parrillo, it turns out, was saving it up to build a real 'love nest' for his wife, according to Chicago Sun-Times columnist Stella Foster." Olsen concludes; "Well the Pipe sure hopes that as Parrillo settles in, he'll remember all the little people (cheated claimants) who sacrificed so greatly to help build his dream. They'll certainly never forget him." UAIG itself reports: "Mr. Parrillo has led UAIG to the forefront of the automobile insurance industry, writing over \$350 million in premiums in 2004, predominantly in Florida and Illinois." UAIG's web site lists its eMail address; stoppifraudnow@gmail.com; claiming that it, UAIG, is a fraud victim! Obviously, Dickie "donates" to pols, to both Governors Ryan and Blagojevich at least one of whom Dickie regularly flew to his Bahamas retreat. He led legal defense fundraisers for the now-imprisoned ex-Governors. These discoveries of politically-abetted auto insurance practice were prompted by recent experience.

WE WERE HIT; rear-ended on Lake Shore Drive in May. No injuries; \$5,000 damage to my car. The offending driver's named insurer, Unique Auto Insurance Co., shirks responsibility. Attorneys reject my case, saying that nothing can be done; that litigation would cost more than the \$5,000 I'm owed. And that the profits of Unique, Safeway, and UAIG have

caused State Farm and All-State to imitate them. This is tragic; fraud is the new norm. Ethical, claims-paying companies cannot compete with politically-abetted companies who Deny, Delay, and Don't Pay.

IT'S A PATTERN. Electricians, carpenters, custodians, etc. of Chicago's schools were once middle class; but couldn't make huge political donations. So the pols made changes. They privatized much of what were secure jobs. Costs to the taxpayer remain about the same, but the workers are paid pittances while their bosses, the new contractors, get \$millions. The contractors are chosen if they "go along to get along." Thus, until we restore traditional fairness to Chicago and the U.S., the wages on which families once lived decently will continue to be funneled to crooked pols via contractors whose actual workers receive poverty wages.

MORE FOR THE 1%. The massive wealth transfer from America's producers to the idle one-percent was planned - to enrich pols and their criminal accomplices. They insist that a top tax rate increase from 35% to 38% will crash the economy. They ignore history. The top tax rate was 91% during Eisenhower's prosperous era when I started business, and they ignore the fact that the Crash of 2007-08 occurred during the second-lowest rate in our history. BOSTON COLLEGE was entrusted with the "Troubles Tapes;" the oral history of its participants, to be released upon their deaths. But the Brits got a compliant judge to order their release to its RUC/PSNI; to investigate possible IRA involvement in one murder. Meanwhile, Britain refuses to prosecute its named RUC, army and spook perpetrators of the bloodiest atrocities of all; Bloody Sunday, the Dublin/Monaghan bombings, the Ballymurphy massacre, the Omagh bombing, McGurk's Pub bombing, the near-one thousand Catholics murdered in ones and twos by Britain's Ulster Volunteer Force, etc.

Many Congressmen have written to SoFS Hillary and AGUSA Holder asking them to ensure that the BC tapes are kept secure - until Britain prosecutes its mass murderers. Cong. Mike Quigley is expected to similarly write. We'll inform you regard-

ing his performance and that of Chicago's other congressmen. IRISH HISTORY. Clan-na-Gael invites the interested public to its monument in Mt Carmel cemetery, Hillside at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26. Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651.

## Heather A. Begley



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# The Irish Rover

By James McClure



## On Loan from Heaven

It seems ages ago in the December chill that I rushed to my fiancée's house alternately studying my automobile clock and my usual dead and de-charged crappy Cricknet cell phone, almost mouthing out loud in desperation, "Please don't give him up! Please don't take him away!"

Who Him? Him was a tiny kitten, yet unnamed, that we had found abandoned among a group of feral cats on a farm in Door County, Wisconsin. The roughly three-month old

door prize was no treasure in the traditional sense. The mushed, matted and blinded gray and white cat looked like roadkill when Ginny dug him out of an icy cell of wires and metal, clawing with feces-soiled fur and an open sore on his paw raw and bleeding toward food it couldn't see and a barn shelter it couldn't reach.

What started as a grand last visit for our 15-something Red Siberian Husky to her puppy farm ended up as a rushed ambulance ride back to the Illinois-Wisconsin trying to save the pathetic little creature. After administering gobbled up food and water, wiping away the crusted-over eyes and treating their infection with eye drops and leaving Little One overnight in a side bathroom with warming pad and light on for comfort, our initial hope was that a foster parent would take the orphaned baby boy kitten and find him a home with love and comfort he had never experienced.

No! That's my Baby Boy I decided overnight, and a day later my heart opened as wide as my carburetor speeding the engine on the highway to make sure he hadn't been given away yet. I arrived overjoyed to find he was

still in the side room, his pointed ears perked up and his eyes almost fully opened, the gorgeous white fur beginning to shine out from under the softening brown poopoo patina.

He reached up to me with both



paws and held my face with his eyes wide and trusting. My baby boy.

A visit to the doctor had found many problems but all treatable—a barnyard mix of worms in the belly, mites in the ear, an infected mucous in the eyes and a constant kitty cat KER-CHOO! of stuffy nose and sneezy phlegm.

Within days the adorable bundle, with searching blue kitten eyes turning to green, and black and gray dots covering its white as snow fur, was now clean and fresh smelling. Ever night a fresh hug and nuzzle fest, he Knew. Our Little One, our rescued Baby Boy knew. We had saved him and he was determined to let us know how much he appreciated it. A common gesture, at first from shivering desperation to gain warmth, then from instinct or intent to bond close and repay a grace, was to bury his face in the crook of your arm and nuzzle close...soon to close his young and healed eyes and fall into a deep and angelic sleep I nicknamed The Sleep of the Just.

He seemingly fell from Heaven into a terrible existence, and now was safe and warm with a long life ahead.

Horatio, whom I named for a favorite naval officer literary character who himself was once likewise starved and near-frozen in a bitter Northern Winter, grew from little baby cat to Our Little Man as winter turned to spring. By March he was in that interesting adult transition phase of boundless energy, zooming about the house like a rocket, a gray-black white streak of energy and feisty playfulness. By April he was the life-filled and limitless bundle of love that countered a devastating unexpected job loss. Two weeks later he was the ageless antidote to the

inevitable passing of the aged Husky who died peacefully in her mistresses' arms after overnight vigils. A month later he was the shining bright star that though life was filled with risk and loss, a growing young creature saved by love

would be with me for ten or fifteen years to come.

That quickly changed. One day he suddenly began breathing incredibly fast, and his temperature rapidly dropped. Two separate doctor diagnoses indicated a fatal virus, Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), that filled his strong abdomen with fluid that couldn't possibly be cleared up or drained. He had only a few hours if that, we were told.

As the May day darkened and the vet's clock moved sixty minutes past an early evening closing hour, three heroines tried desperately to save him. Alternately holding and comforting Horatio, who was now gasping and crying, they gazed anxiously at a live sonogram while they attempted a risky near-impossible removal of body cavity fluid.

"Move to the right...just a bit...hold it! Okay..there..now—left!" A false move or wayward poke would sever an artery or pierce his strong bold heart. "There...steady...Got it!"

But the sample only confirmed there was too much to save him. And too thick to fully drain.

Faced with the choice of leaving him in the hospital to die alone,

or trying another vet's natural method to clear the virus...I faced a terrible decision (since euthanasia is not an option in my book). Die in comfort breathing extra oxygen alone in a dark lab, or risk certain death traveling to another vet and then home, perhaps increasing pain and agony?

The decision was mine. Ginny, the Vet and her two assistants looked at me for a moment, all sharing my weariness, regret and despair, and dreading a no-win scenario.

I thought of his love. I thought of how Horatio would fight for his food from the other cats in the house, and his feisty nature that no doubt kept him barely alive when near death on the farm.

Sudden clarity came.

"He's a fighter. Let him fight to the end...he's coming home with us." I declared.

Horatio hung on another 6 hours...making it back home...only to die reaching up toward Ginny. His eyes wide...saying, asking, pleading..."Mommy! MOMMY! MOMMY?"

"Please don't take him back!" Oh God...no!" I cried out loud.

He stared on unanswered. Lifeless. I've never felt a greater or more shocking loss. My boy. My baby boy. Our little one from Heaven.

From Heaven?

"Mommy! MOMMY! MOMMY?"

"Yes, Dear One?" The woman's voice answered.

"Are you my Mommy?" Horatio asked the woman who appeared as his vision cleared, the blue and white of the sunny sky transforming into her silken blue and white cloak that surrounded the now gleaming cat.

"Well...let's just say I had a Son a lot like you...born alone in a dirty barn."

"Oh Mommy it was so scary just now!" Horatio told her as he nuzzled in the crook of her arm. "I could barely breathe!"

She stroked his fur. "My son, your brother, died the same way, gasping for air."

"Why?" said Horatio as he closed his eyes and drifted almost off to sleep, feeling himself lifted into the gentle arms of a strong workman with rough carpenter's hands.

"Out of love, the kind that conquers death forever," the man said, his beard warm on Horatio's forehead.

"I loved those people down there so much. I miss them already. They saved me!" Horatio declared.

"Perhaps you saved them," Jesus said. "Whomever cares for the least of my brothers, and my Father's Creation, cares for me."

Horatio opened his eyes wider than ever, and suddenly knew and understood. He reached up both paws lovingly. And touched the face of God. IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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## A Word With Monsignor Boland

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### Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

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### President, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

"We offer the kinds of services people deserve to receive!"

This statement by Kate Mulvaney, Catholic Charities' Regional Director for the City of Chicago and Director of Special Projects for Health Initiatives, sums up Catholic Charities' attitude toward the many hundreds of infants, children, teens, adults and seniors served by Catholic Charities' Annual Health Fairs.

Each spring and summer for the past 11 years, Catholic Charities has offered an average of five free Health Fairs in various parish centers in Chicago and suburbs. These Health Fairs serve children, families and seniors in low-income areas of the city and suburbs, especially those who may not have health insurance.

Organized and staffed by medical professionals and organizations donating their time and services, this largely volunteer effort has reached thousands of people over the last decade who would not otherwise have had access to medical care.

Kate and the medical professionals organize the Health Fairs from the patients' perspective: honoring and respecting them and their human dignity. Volunteer doctors and nurses from Catholic hospitals collaborate with Catholic Charities.

According to Kate: "We want to honor them with the same kind of services everyone deserves to have. We want everyone to have a respectful experience, whether receiving immunizations for children from birth through age 19, dental and health examinations, or various medical screenings provided free of charge for all ages.

"Everyone deserves to have health care. Our goal is to find a medical home for

the people we serve. We do this through one-on-one consultation with a physician at the last stage of each health fair."

Loyola University Medical Center provides an attending physician and a team of resident medical students to perform medical exams, and a team of nurses to provide immunizations and lead screenings at each Health Fair. They offer a wide range of services, including diagnoses that can alert and lead people to a healthier life once they have appropriate medical treatment. For example, bone density tests at these health fairs have found a significant number of people with osteoporosis, who can begin appropriate treatment and avoid more serious complications. Podiatrists can diagnose seniors' foot problems; and memory loss or depression can be diagnosed by a physician.

Families are encouraged to bring their elderly parents or neighbors to the Health Fairs to take advantage of the various geriatric screenings provided.

And in the beautiful spirit of charity, all

the doctors, nurses, dentists, podiatrists and other medical professionals generously donate their services at each Health Fair.

Good health depends on good food, so we try to hold our Health Fairs and clinics in both "food desert" medical services shortage areas of the city. Those who are most in need in our society also appear to be the most neglected in terms of health care and healthy foods. Poor nutrition and cholesterol-heavy foods lead to hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, all of which are outcomes of poverty and the lack of access to fresh, healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables. As a result, mental health also suffers. To prevent these negative effects, the Health Fairs provide nutritional information along with culturally sensitive cooking recipes and alternatives to less healthy ingredients.

One of our goals is to encourage and assist parishes to become interested in holding their own Health Fairs. Health is an everyday concern and responsibility for everyone: whether youth, middle-aged or senior; parent, grandparent or child. Help regarding a healthier diet (a necessity for everyone) is available.

Catholic Charities also provides ongoing food services or pantries at many permanent locations throughout the year. Our efforts to feed the hungry as Christ commanded remain an essential part of

our daily mission of charity.

Since our founding 95 years ago, Catholic Charities has been feeding the poor, the homeless and struggling families and individuals; and providing supportive services such as our Health Fairs. Christ healed the sick and fed the hungry. It is an honor for Catholic Charities to participate in this effort to feed the hungry and house the homeless as Christ did, and to help our brothers and sisters in need to sustain and improve their health.

May God bless you and your families for your concern for Catholic Charities and your neighbors whom we help.

To volunteer or participate in the mission of charity through the Health Fairs, please call Kate Mulvaney, (312)655-7441, at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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### Ireland XO to expand in the Shannon Region

In partnership with Shannon Development and the local LEADER groups, over 376 mid-west parish communities throughout the Shannon region are being targeted to take part in an innovative programme to identify and reunite their local parish diaspora abroad.

Loughrea, Ireland, July 13th 2012 The Ireland Reaching Out programme is stepping up a gear and rolling out into the whole of the Shannon Region in the coming months. Following a successful pilot in East Galway, the Shannon Region will be the first region in Ireland to be mobilized under the initiative. With the support of Shannon Development, there is the potential for over 376 parishes to participate in the programme. In the last two months, Shannon Development has facilitated numerous meetings to put structures in place to enable community involvement.

Working with the LEADER groups across the Shannon region, the Ireland XO programme will engage with all interested parishes. In the coming weeks, John Joe Conwell, Parish Liaison Officer, Henry Healy, Community Activation Leader and members of the Ireland Reaching Out team will be holding information sessions in the Clare, Limerick, Offaly, and Tipperary county areas.

Paul Ryan, Shannon Development's Tourism Marketing Manager, said: "The expansion of Ireland XO into the Shannon Region is the beginning of a new chapter in heritage tourism with the potential to deliver additional international visitors to the Shannon Region in 2013 and beyond. It will generate a renewed sense of community among the Shannon Region diaspora abroad and complements the work we are doing on 'the Gathering' which will bring over 325,000 additional visitors to Ireland in 2013."

Anyone with an interest in their community, its history, tourism, business or genealogy, is encouraged to get involved and learn more about the project. While

Ireland XO parish volunteers are reaching out around the world, the website [www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com) provides a landing point in Ireland for people abroad who have some detail about where their emigrant ancestors hail from in Ireland. By joining any parish community online, they can seek direct genealogical research assistance from local people in the area who also volunteer to meet them on their return.

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For further information on upcoming parish meetings or on getting involved, please contact [info@irelandxo.com](mailto:info@irelandxo.com) Tel: 091 842 013 or Paul Ryan, Shannon Development Email: [ryanp@shannondevelopment.ie](mailto:ryanp@shannondevelopment.ie) Tel: 086 2259728

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# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane  
and Margo O'Donnell



Hi Everybody  
Hope all is well with you on that side of the pond. I am at present doing my Irish concerts, and I had a wonderful show in the I.N.E.C. Killarney, Co. Kerry on July 14th, meeting up with the fans and friends is so special to me, its like the air that I breathe. This year I am doing a concert in Donegal Town in my native County Donegal, I was born in the hospital there 61 years ago. It's 30 years since I sang there so that will be a very special night for me.

My brother Daniel O'Donnell was made "A Freeman of Donegal" on June 22nd last, It is the highest honour you can receive from your home county. So we are all delighted for him.

I visited the "Doagh Famine

Village" in Inishown, Co. Donegal last week and it is a must for anybody who is thinking of coming to Ireland on vacation, it is truly a wonderful experience and brings all of our heritage to the forefront. I am so glad to have had the chance to visit. Please put this in your diary, it amazes me how many people come to Ireland and never make it to the northern part of our beautiful country.

I am hoping that in October at my concert for the St. Patrick's Father's, I will have some of the readers of this column at the show and we can meet, remember and have a chat. Friends are what life is all about, till

next time, over to you Joe and look out for each other

Love always

Margo  
Thank you Margo

Well I went out on my bike this morning (before the sun started doing its thing) through the beautiful forest preserves, that we are so lucky to have here in Chicago. I put on my head phones and pedalled away, listening to Margo's new cd - Margo "The World Through My Eyes". I was enjoying it so much that I decided to cycle twice as far as my usual routine. I wish you great success with it Margo and thank you for giving me the honor of being part of its creation. Five of the fifteen tracks are originals. I love writing songs with Margo and I feel pretty certain there are a lot more songs to come.

This months song is one we wrote, about 2 months back. Its about the beautiful county of Wexford. Margo was telling me about some of the great nights she spent performing there. I have some dear friends there also. I had the pleasure of performing with one of them at the Irish American

## My Dear Wexford Home

Written by Margo O'Donnell and Joe McShane

I left you many years ago, we've spent so long apart  
On nights alone I feel it still, that aching in my heart  
Memories come rushing back as thoughts begin to roam  
To the place I love in Ireland, my own dear Wexford home  
In dreams I visit Curraclloe, Enniscorthy's Strawberry fair  
I cross the river Barrow, how I wish I could be there  
The famous Rosslare Harbour, as the ships rest in the bay  
I see a vision of New Ross and lovely Kilmore Quay  
Chorus

To the ceali at the weekend we'd head off down the road  
And when the dance was over we'd all sing Boulavogue  
How I wish for just a moment in those hills I used to roam  
The place I love in Ireland, my dear Wexford home  
I can smell the turf fire though it burned out long ago  
These pictures in my mind are engraved upon my soul  
Someday I will return again to my dear native shore  
My lovely Co Wexford where I'll live forever more

Heritage Center "Irish Festival" in July. That person being Chicago's No1 songstress Kara Eadie, who we are so very lucky to have in the Silverbridge Band.

I hope you are all managing to stay cool in Chicago and dry in Ire-

land. Next month, I would like to tell you about a coat, a song about a coat and my dear Mother, Bridget.

Till then be good to each other.

Slan Anois

Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell

## A Sudden Sun

By Grainne McCool

Donna Bradley is the heroine of Duggan's latest fictional work. Not only is she a survivor, she is also a mother, daughter, activist and writer. Bradley is dealing with the loss of her daughter Teresa, from stillbirth and in doing so faces many challenges in life and overcomes the same.

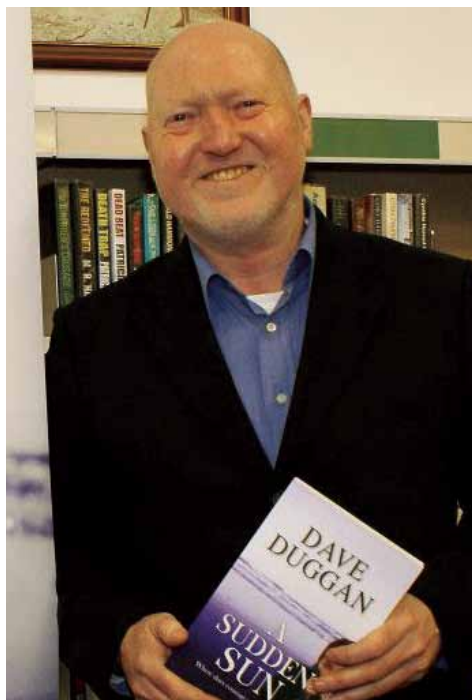
Dave Duggan is a novelist and dramatist. His first novel, *The Greening of Larry Mahon*, was described by *The Guardian* as an engrossing study of shifting rootlessness. His writing for film and television includes the Oscar-nominated *Dance Lexie Dance*. His stage plays include *Gruagairí*, which won a Stewart Parker Award. Plays in a *Peace Process* is a collection of his work for Sole Purpose Productions. His radio plays have been broadcast by BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and RTÉ. He was awarded a Major Arts Award by the Arts Council of N Ireland in 2010. Originally from Waterford, Dave lives in Derry. *A Sudden Sun*, published by Guildhall Press, is his second novel.

In *A Sudden Sun* Duggan has successfully written in the female voice and says 'Donna has been

with me for fourteen years now. It's great to finally get her voice heard. I have five sisters to whom the novel is dedicated. I have a wife, a daughter and a mother. I have a lot of female friends so I suppose I arrived at Donna's voice via all of them in some ways'.

Duggan uses the experience burying a still born child for Donna to tell her story and discover her true self. I wondered why he used this instead of perhaps a divorce or separation. He tells me 'there's a long and a short answer! The short answer is I don't know. The long answer is that although I've never experienced this loss myself a number of my friends have, and it seemed the right experience to use in Donna's story. The matter impelled me and I felt I had to write about it.'

Duggan has worked at many jobs which have included bar work, laundry van driver, college lecturer, primary school teacher and various more. He was double jobbing for a long time and it's only in the past 15 years that he's writing full time. 'I was always writing and finding ways of making a living. I



enjoyed all my jobs and now I've reached a position where I can enjoy writing on a full time basis.'

Having worked as a primary school teacher where care and devotion is required at all times must surely have helped Duggan in his writing in the female voice and as a parent. 'I have two children myself who are now grown up and I was fully involved with them growing up. Myself and my wife Diane job

shared when the children were young so I was a full on parent in every way.'

Donna Bradley returns to full time education after her still born child is buried and divorces her husband. The novel opens on her graduation day, 'I'm a graduate in a black robe, a roll of paper bound in a red ribbon clasped in my hand'. Duggan says that Donna 'uses her quest for knowledge as a means for recovery. She wants concrete answers.' She has to go through a divorce and a period of very dark days. When she eventually begins to move forward she discovers that her baby's organs were retained by authorities and she has to face the past

once more.

This detainment of organs will awaken in the reader the real life experience of many parents who experienced this very real issue in the past. Donna's story may help and reassure parents who have experienced and survived this ordeal.

There is a real sense of place in this novel. It is very much rooted in Derry. Duggan agrees with this but he says 'it's also reaching

further afield'. This is very true of this novel. It reaches much further afield yet remains primarily rooted in his adopted city of Derry.

The motifs of earth, wind and fire are ever present throughout this novel. Duggan successfully incorporates these into every section as well as awakening our senses throughout. We can smell the bluebells and almost taste the mother's cheesecake. Duggan allows us to experience many sensations through his writing.

Donna Bradley creates her own recovery by campaigning against the toxic-waste incinerator, then by becoming a scientist and finally by writing the story of her own personal journey in life as the challenges of her past catch up with her future.

Bradley is indeed an ordinary woman of extraordinary courage who finally faces her future with strength and wonder. Duggan hopes that by the end of the novel, we, the reader can believe that Donna is 'in a new place and may well take up even more new possibilities'.

What's next for Dave Duggan? 'I will continue writing and currently have a stage play underway'. *A Sudden Sun* is available from [www.ghpress.com](http://www.ghpress.com)



By Maurice Fitzpatrick

# In Another Pattern



## Sinn Féin's brinkmanship

The Belfast Telegraph, the biggest newspaper in the North of Ireland, has been carrying an interesting pair of photographs on its website over the past few months. One photograph shows a bespectacled swarthy man with a surly expression on his face. He is dressed in a combat jacket and is bearing a machine gun. The man photographed opposite him is a woolly-headed man who is cocking a pistol and standing ramrod straight. Both men are young and the sepia resolution of the photographs gives a sense of decades past.

The caption reads 'Northern Ireland's First Minister and Deputy First Minister'. You've got that right. Peter Robinson, looking like a gobdaw in military attire and Martin McGuinness looking intense were caught by candid cameras: the one fighting for a lasting union within the British empire and the other for a united Irish republic. A lot of water has passed under a lot of bridges for both men who have left down their weapons and sit together in parliament as First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Northern Irish Assembly. Famously, over the past decade, they have accepted the modalities of politics, dialogue, agreements and gentlemanly handshakes.

On June 27th Martin McGuinness, the man who formerly ran the IRA, shook hands with the Queen of England and spoke a few words of Irish to her. This gesture garnered praise from advocates of reconciliation and denunciation from republican purists who never believed that McGuinness would 'sellout'.

Only last March, McGuinness urged people not to protest the Queen's visit to Dublin, but admitted he had a problem with her coming that he was working out: These are tricky situations to deal with. Consider my own city [Derby] for example. In the aftermath of the murder of 14 people on Bloody

Sunday, The Parachute Regiment was rushed up to Buckingham Palace and decorated by the Queen. If people think that doesn't present a problem for me, quite apart from our view that Ireland should be free and united, then they are mistaken. Neither did Gerry Adams welcome the Queen's visit to Dublin last year, using the timing of the visit, which coincided with the anniversary of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, as a fig leaf for dissenting.

Still, what a difference a year makes in these men. You have to respect Martin McGuinness' change of heart about all this—but you do not have to respect it much. The move rubs him closer to the echelons of power of which he has shown himself to be very fond. Neither McGuinness nor Adams argue, nor will they ever argue, the obvious point that celebrating a monarch is incompatible with the classical ideals of the republicanism which they claim to represent. They have long since removed themselves from the concerns of ordinary people and become entranced by power, pomp and high office: they are closer to the elitist monarchies than they would have us believe.

Ingratiating himself with her nibs is part of McGuinness' ploy, in concert with Sinn Féin members elected in the south, to play the long game towards unifying Ireland's institutions. Hence Martin McGuinness' failed attempt to be elected president last year. If he had been elected, McGuinness would have had a good argument to make regarding the largely symbolic office of president: already Northerners who want one have Irish passports; if it is possible for them to run for and to hold such offices as president, or to be an Irish ambassador, the denial of voting rights on such issues is archaic. Sinn Féin ever tries to grease the situation towards eliminating the Northern Irish State. Sinn Féin is an astute party with strong grassroots and it will concentrate in the coming years on lobbying for 'deepening' or 'widening' institutions North and South.

The second tranche of Sinn Féin's objectives is to realise a cultural unity in advance of political unity. That old reliable, the Irish language, is mobilised to this end, but so is a very skewed rewriting of history. For many the self-invention of senior Sinn Féin figures has been nauseating. As a senior Orangeman, Edward Stevenson, stated recently: 'We are now in a cultural battleground as republicans attack our traditions, our parades and everything we hold dear. And they want to change the way history records the evil that they carried out'.

Fear, always the animating principle of Orange politics, has caused



the Orange Order to make remarkable (by its standards) excursions in the South. Drew Nelson, Head of the Orange Order, addressed the Irish Senate in Dublin on July 3rd. In attendance was Martin McAleese whose wife did much during her presidency to extend the hand of friendship to unionists. Nelson's speech played up the victim status of Protestants in the Republic—and Protestants schools in particular. Not a whit about the systematic oppression of Catholics by the Order he represents which was traced back over two centuries in Andrew Boyd's remarkable

study, Holy War in Belfast. Neither did Nelson hint at any concessions regarding Orange marches through Catholic areas which this July, as ever, entailed dancing and hooting around Catholic churches and petrol bombs being lobbed over the Walls of Derry into the Catholic Bogside.

McGuinness' belated handshake with the Queen, acknowledging the killing of her cousin, Mountbatten, and few words of Irish give a verisimilitude of a process towards 'maturity'. Yes, all is process. And behind it the calculations are being made.

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## Postcards From The Past

There are stories about Ireland that only DNA can tell, and these are stories about her sons and daughters, a people's history of migrations and beginnings, of deep ancestry lost in the darkness of the past. It is a different sort of history, not the usual identity parade of the usual suspects; kings, queens, warriors, poets and saints. But as with much in Ireland, it turns out that there is a paradox rumbling around inside that approach to a shared past. The shadowy dynasties of Celtic kings and their feisty queens are more than usually important - to the DNA of ordinary people. Prof. Dan Bradley of Trinity College has likened the discovery of DNA markers, what

identifies distinct lineages, to postcards from the past. But in the case of Irish men in particular, these postcards often carry a stamp with a chiefly head on it.

In the past powerful men expected to have a great deal of sex with many different women, a prerogative that hasn't entirely disappeared. Pre-Christian (and sometimes post) Irish kings were often polygamous and had a commendably relaxed attitude to issues of legitimacy. Perhaps the most spectacular royal progenitor was Niall Noigiallach, the first High King and a figure on the half-lit edges of recorded history. He reigned towards the end of the 5th century, his power lay around Donegal but his genetic reach extends far further. Around 20% of all Irish men share close ancestry with Niall and the frequency of the Ui Neill marker, M222, is highest in the north and much less in the south. It follows that Niall's children walk the streets of the cities of the USA, Canada and wherever else the great Irish diaspora settled. Their surnames are likely to match their DNA marker; O'Rourkes, O'Connors, MacLoughlins and O'Donnells may well be the sons of Niall Noigiallach. His name means Niall of the Nine Hostages, and these many thousands of descendants all over the world are his hostages to the future, battalions of princes of the Ui Neill.

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



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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Think Carefully: Do You Really Need Those Fillings in Your Teeth?

There is never a shortage of slimy political figures to choose from when I start casting around for my own personal winner of Loathsome Creep of the Month; but certainly Justice Minister Alan 'Cash for Gold' Shatter is a leading contender this time out.

God help us, but he does tend to get things pear-shaped. If he's not casually insulting nationalists by referring to the city of Derry as Londonderry then he's lecturing our elderly on how they should sell off sentimental old rubbish such as engagement or wedding rings before they start whining to important, busy men like him about how broke they are.

Well, that's part of what he was spouting out of him as he introduced his Personal Solvency Bill. Completely lacking in self-awareness and with the politician's usual detachment from reality he lectured not only the elderly but indeed all of us on how we could do so much better before we moaned that we were in financial difficulties. So I'm now looking at that gold frame where I have a photograph of my late dad and myself. I guess I could have it melted down when I get the next electricity bill. Hell, why didn't Shatter go all the way and tell us to sell off those old spectacles that we could probably just about live without. How about our gold fillings? Get those yanked out. Who needs them? When you think of it we're only selfish irresponsible bastards to have such luxuries in the first place.

Look, Shatter, I just find you a vile joke of a man but you do represent a society that cares nothing for our oldest citizens. And that's not nice. I think that they have the right to keep the memories of a life lived without listening to a prize pillock like you and your advice.

Oddly enough, I don't hear you lecturing crooks like Sean Quinn and family, Seanie Fitzpatrick or

Fingers Fingleton. All of them owe millions and yet they can still blatantly swan around enjoying a life that we peasants can only dream of. Look at that watch that Fingleton sports. €11,500? Uh, shouldn't he be having to cough that up, in keeping with your own ideas?

How about your own compadres? What about fellow politician, the independent Mick Wallace, another chancer and tax avoider, with a neck as hard as a jockey's ballocks? This guy, like you, has absolutely no sense of self-awareness or of irony. I mean, he owes millions to the banks and €1.4 million to the tax man and yet what does he announce in the Dail last week? Well, he reckons that taxes should be raised! Yes, that is right: a proven tax dodger says that some people aren't paying enough tax! Quite apart from the fact that this guy should be not just booted out of the Dail but be in jail, this typifies how deeply they know that they will never be held accountable for anything.

The family of Paul Begley, who was sentenced to six years for importing garlic, for heaven's sake, whilst avoiding tax on it, were understandably puzzled at the difference in treatment between Begley—who was already repaying the state at €33,000 a month—and one of our politicians...you know, those guys who are supposed to lead by example.

Or since Shatter is pointing the finger and tut-tutting those who aren't paying their bills then how about the comedy capers of this week, concerning none other than our own Health Minister James Reilly? He has just earned himself the extraordinary distinction of becoming the first TD in the history of the state to find himself named in *Stubbs Gazette* for his involvement in a debt of 1.9 million euros.

Now it's not as if he can't afford it. I mean, this guy lives on 7 acres

in Rush, North Dublin. That's while he rents out an 86-acre farm close by in Lusk. Then there's the stately home (if you don't mind), Laughton House, which sits rather comfortably on no less than 150 acres. Of course he makes this available for the odd bit of an old wedding so that he can avail of a—you guessed it—tax break.

Then he also owns Lusk Town Centre itself and...oh, you know, I can't be bothered. I'm just making myself mad. His spokesman put all our fears at rest, however: "The judgement of the court, namely that Dr. Reilly and four co-investors buy out other investors in this property, is not disputed. It was agreed with the court. Therefore it is clear that this judgement will be honoured. [Isn't that great to hear, all the same? The Minister for Health is honouring his debts.] That's not at issue. The work now involves the precise methodology [do you like that? The precise methodology if you don't mind!] by which that will be done. But a way will be found to resolve the matter.

I'm behind with electricity payments. I'm now all for running this precise methodology lark with them and seeing what kind of an answer I get!

Hilariously, Reilly is the same guy that was lecturing thus: "The message to the HSE is very clear: they have to get their books in order. [Oh, more irony! You couldn't make this up!] but we have put in place a high level group involving people from the Department of Health and the HSE. We have also engaged the services of an expert from the UK for a number of weeks to help in that process."

Now that's the part I love. Bring in the advisors from outside, especially as there are absolutely no unemployed in this country.

That particular one to whom O'Reilly refers is Mark Ogden, who is costing them €12,000 for four week's 'advice'. Then we also have Dr. Martin Connor. He's sorting out the Special Delivery Unit emergency Department. He's a snip at €160,000; but here's the best part: he only spends six months here and the rest in California so at least we know we'll have lots of good ideas being imported. Or how about Lis Nixon, former British consultant

who is on a €500,000 three-year contract. She'll be sorting out the overcrowding. I don't know about you but I feel very comforted by all of this.

Well, except for one thing: it's being organised by a guy who has been named and shamed for not paying his debts. Seriously, you have to love this country.

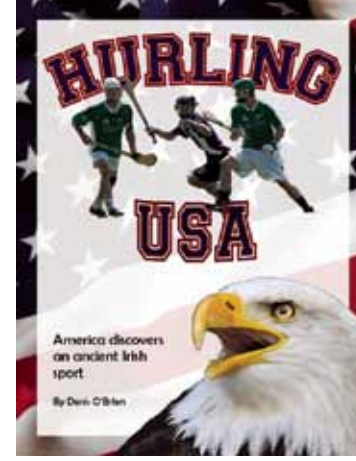
Now to finish on an even more

## America Getting Hooked on Hurling

With the Irish sport of hurling on the rise across America Journalist, Denis O'Brien, has released his new ebook on the growth of hurling in America.

'Hurling USA: America discovers an ancient Irish sport.' is available at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B008FCS51G>

The book examines how to play. It explores hurling's ancient legacy, early American years and what Irish America has been



missing for generations. And, why today, from Orlando to Seattle, Americans are getting "hooked" on hurling.

Ireland July 2, 2012. New ebook, 'Hurling USA: America discovers an ancient Irish sport,' by Irish freelance journalist, podcaster, and former U.S. migrant Denis O'Brien, tells how hurling is spreading to American towns and cities that never knew the sport existed. The author reveals why the sport is hooking Americans young and old, and why Americans are 'blown away.'

Readers follow a trail to Mesopotamia, Egypt, across Europe and Canada to sample ancient stick ball games. Hurling's Irish roots are traced in myth, law, iconography, history, lecture and fascinating first-hand accounts of old matches. In the middle of

serious note. I've just heard that Katie Holmes has registered with the Catholic Church in New York. I can only hope that Tom Cruise will do all in his power to stop his daughter from falling into the clutches of this weird and dangerous cult.

Heh. Sorry, I couldn't resist that. You can contact Charley on [chasbrady7@eircom.net](mailto:chasbrady7@eircom.net).

the 19th century, hurling arrives in America with immigrants and prospers in the big cities until squabbling, assimilation, depression, war and exclusiveness see it fade into the background of ethnic entertainment in place to this day.

'Hurling USA' goes on to outline exactly where, how and why the sport is growing on college campuses and on American public parks. The author brings into focus the hit-and-miss Irish summer player model adopted by older ex-pat clubs in big cities in comparison to steady growth at new hurling clubs.

In the concluding chapter, he examines what hurling's growing presence could mean for the sport's governing body in Ireland, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Irish immigrants and the American sporting landscape.

**About Author:** Denis O'Brien is a Freelance Journalist based in the North West of Ireland, in the town of Ballinamore, in the County of Leitrim.

He is writer, producer and publisher of the popular podcast, GaelicSportsCast which reports on Gaelic Sports news around the globe via daily and weekly podcasts as well as written reports.

Mr. O'Brien is a former emigrant himself as he spent almost 20 years in America, where he lived in New York and more recently in Boston.

He has written for the Boston Irish Reporter, the New York Irish Examiner, and contributed to the Irish Examiner, Leitrim Observer, Anglo Celt, The Sligo Champion, Sligo Weekender, Donegal News, Shannonside Radio and Ocean FM Radio. email: [gaelicsportscast@gmail.com](mailto:gaelicsportscast@gmail.com).



## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



It was a Thursday morning and I was in the middle of getting on my wig. Today was the day that my team and I had been practicing so hard for, the team competition at the North American Irish Dance National Championships. It was a little hectic trying to get out the door that morning. I wasn't used to going to a major competition like that the day of. I usually stay in the hotel the night before but this year Nationals took place in good old Chicago. It was downtown at the Sheraton and the results took place at the Hyatt. A lot of people were complaining that you had to travel to a different building but for having a big competition downtown like that, I think they did a pretty good job. (I mean the other hotel was literally a half a block away.)

I got there a few minutes late but it was alright. My first dance was my ceili which consists of 8 dancers. My team ran it a few times and then we checked in back stage to perform on stage. I don't get nervous until right before I dance, so my nerves were kicking in a bit but talking to my team always makes me feel better. I tell myself not to be nervous because when I am nervous, I forget the dance. Ceilis are less nerve wracking then choreography for me just because I have been doing the same ceili since I started dancing. We went on stage and the music started, my nerves went away. Before I knew it, I was bowing and walking off the stage. I thought our team did pretty good but we ended up not recalling. I was disappointed but what more can you do? If you danced your best that's all you can do. You never know what the judge saw that day. I wasn't going to let that spoil my mood and ruin my attitude for my next dance, the choreography. My dance is called Belles of Belfast City and I really like it. I think it's a really cool dance and I felt really excited to perform it onstage. When we went backstage for that dance we always give a pep talk to each other. We try to keep each other calm and tell each other to remember our

lines and things like that. Pretty soon it is time to go on. This is the moment we have practiced so hard for. I take deep breathes and soon, I'm dancing. Our team is doing really good and before I know it, we were halfway done. I didn't see it but I hear it. There was a big pound on the floor coming from behind me. As I turn around I see that one of my team members is running to catch up to her place in the dance and then I realize she had fallen. I was worried about her but it seemed like she would pull through. We finished our dance and I think besides the fall our team did really well. I knew there was a good chance they might take off for the fall. I'm not mad at my team mate or anything because

you can't control the fact that you fell but sadly the judges do take off points for that. It was time for the result. I was anxious to see how our choreography placed but at the same time I was exhausted. It had been a loooong day and I was very hungry. After what seemed like an eternity, they finally called my choreography. There were 7 teams. We ended up getting 6th place. I was disappointed. This just only made me more determined to work even harder to do well at Oireachtas next year. One exciting thing that happened was my sister's team ended up getting first so CONGRATULATIONS to the u11 choreography team National Champions!!! Also congrats to my former teammate Orla Godly for becoming a National champ!! Great job you guys!!

I hope everyone had an amazing 4th of July. I had a great one. My family won the golf cart parade we enter every year. I had a blast dancing the night away with my

family and friends to my all time favorite band whom I love, One Direction. Hope everyone has a fantabulous summer.

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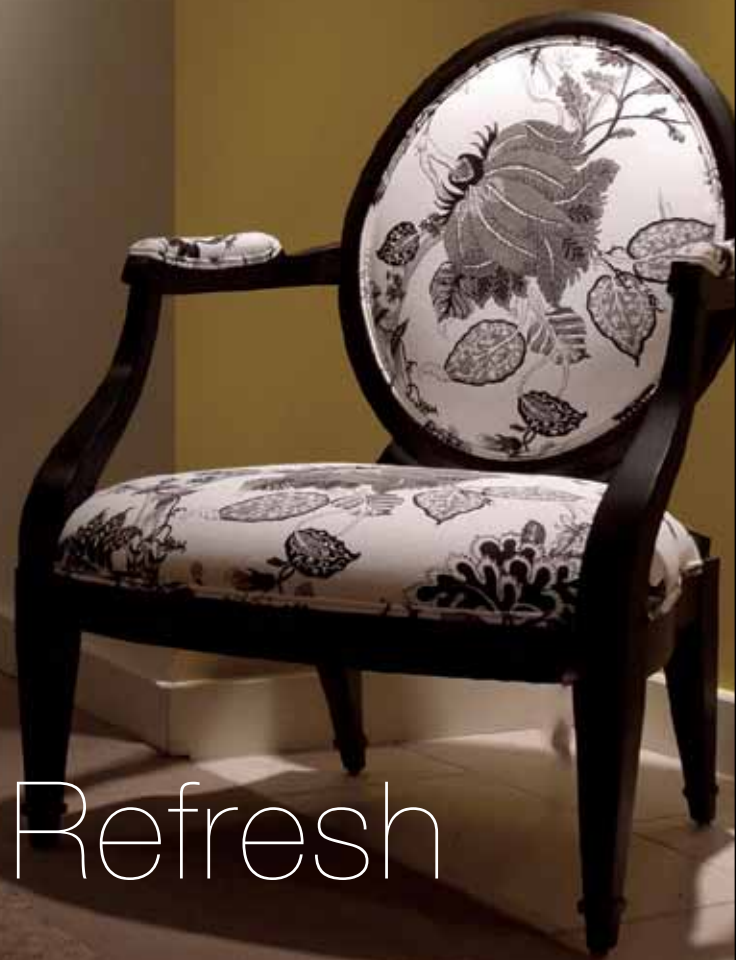
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# Refresh

# Safe Home

by Heather Begley



## Enjoying Life

I recently visited the west of Ireland. It was one of my best trips ever. My daughters (aged 7 and 4) were at great ages for traveling. (There were no diapers or formula to pack!) We enjoyed a ferry trip the Blasket Islands and several trips to the beaches on the Dingle Peninsula. We saw Fungi the Dolphin. Had a pint at Dick Mack's pub on Green Street in Dingle. We attended the wedding celebration of Rose of Tralee presenter, Dáithí Ó Sé and his lovely wife, Rita. I caught up with all of my in-laws and our niece and we visited extended family and friends. To sum it up, it was a fantastic trip.

For me, spending over two weeks on a vacation with my

husband and daughters was a gift. Our day-to-day lives are so busy with school and work, that it was nice to reconnect as a family. On our last night in Dingle, I was already a bit weepy from saying my good byes to family and I was teary-eyed telling the girls how we should be grateful for our wonderful trip. We had made some great memories and really enjoyed ourselves. As I nodded off thinking about our early flight the next morning, I quietly wished us "safe home."

As a trial attorney, I am very familiar with jury instructions, which are written instructions given to jurors to follow as they deliberate in a trial. There is a jury instruction in Illinois that is read to jurors in civil trials which states, "When I use the expression 'loss of a normal

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life', I mean the temporary or permanent diminished ability to enjoy life. This includes a person's inability to pursue the pleasurable aspects of life." A diminished ability to enjoy life. Sadly, many victims of negligence are unable to enjoy their lives as a result of their injuries. For this loss, they are compensated. It is our society's way of righting a wrong.

The subject matter of this column is usually about safety and personal responsibility

issues, such as, the need for wearing a helmet and the perils of drunk or distracted driving. As a personal injury attorney and mother of two small children, I am conscious of safety; however, I am equally aware of the dichotomy of how wonderful, happy and miraculous life can be and how it can take a dreadful turn in an instant. Life is full of unexpected twists and turns. We have to enjoy life. Slán Abhaile.

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# Mick

## Mike Morley



## An Alien Species

The trial of Heriberto Viramontes for brutally beating Natasha McShane and another woman with a baseball bat during a purse snatching in Bucktown two years ago, is reportedly set to begin this August.

Natasha now remains in a wheelchair, unable to walk, talk or look after herself. In July 2010, as she left Chicago, bound for home by air ambulance, she had begun to eat again, walk with help, and speak a few words. But she contracted a serious infection at Belfast's Musgrave Park Hospital where she underwent surgery to replace a section of her skull. Bouts of seizures followed, along with a build-up of fluid around her brain. Natasha's father, Liam told the Belfast Telegraph then he "feared the worst". The Belfast Health Trust issued a statement saying it had reduced infections associated with health care by 30 percent over time, and that it is impossible to totally eradicate them.

It was discovered then Natasha had sustained a broken hip—perhaps an injury she sustained during Viramontes' attack, later reinjured during a seizure. Hip replacement surgery led to another two month stay in hospital.

While Natasha was being treated at Chicago's Rehabilitation Institute, I spoke with her aunt

Rose who told me: "She was always clever. From when she was a little girl she picked things up very quickly. She was head of the posse the whole time". She



**Natasha McShane**

was skilled in art and headed for a career in architecture. Before attending Queens University, Belfast, Natasha studied Environmental Planning in Manchester, England; then spent a summer in the Dominican Republic as a volunteer, building schools for children.

After graduating Queen's, She was offered a US visa from the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh and took an internship at the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development.

Returning home, Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Brian Cowen personally awarded her a two-year scholarship for architecture and urban planning at Trinity College, Dublin. She then made the decision to accept an opportunity

to finish her master's degree in Chicago as an exchange student at the University of Illinois.

Natasha loved her time in Chicago, easily made friends, and worked hard waitressing at Butch McGuire's Pub in trendy Old Town. Natasha was planning to travel around America before returning home to continue her brilliant career. It was then the bright young girl and her friend Stacy Jurich crossed paths with two of those thousands in Chicago who are like an alien species, living a primitive, predatory, hyena-like existence—Viramontes and his girlfriend, Marcy Cruz.

How can any person living in an open society have a clue as to who shares the sidewalk with them, or of what things they are capable?

The night of the attack, Viramontes, from Humboldt Park, a reputed member of Spanish Cobras street gang, along with his girlfriend Marcy Cruz, was searching the streets for a few dollars to buy another high. Natasha was out with her friend Stacy, celebrating her success at completing her masters and landing an internship allowing her to extend her visa and stay in Chicago awhile longer.



**Viramonte and Cruz**

Viramontes' past is filled with convictions: possession of a stolen vehicle, burglary, domestic battery, possession of a controlled substance. He's been jailed 19 times before.

It seems his ex-wife is Tina (Towana) Viramontes who has allegedly been involved in telemarketing scams and kiting bad checks throughout the metropolitan area. She's lived in Carpentersville, Algonquin and Belvidere, and been charged with crimes in Kane, DuPage, McHenry and Boone Counties.

And it appears Heriberto shares a parent with Margarita "Flaca" Gonzalez. Back in 2008, he wrote a letter to federal court in Chicago (where he himself would soon be facing charges) on behalf of this half-sister, urging leniency in her case. Gonzalez was charged

and convicted with torching another woman's car, then setting her apartment alight, horribly burning the woman's two children. Gonzalez, 26, along with Rafael Polanco, 27 pled guilty to the charges in federal court.

Perhaps the most galling, but all too routine revelation following the savage beating of Natasha and her friend was a report by ABC7 that Heriberto Viramontes had recently been awarded several thousand dollars by both Cook County and the City of Chicago for "police abuse".

In 2006 sergeant Kevin Farrell of the Cook County Sheriff's Police rushed to La Margarita De Las Flores bar in Schaumburg after a fellow officer who had responded to a call about a fight between Viramontes and a bouncer, called for backup. She said Viramontes hit her when she attempted to cuff him.

Later, Viramontes sued the Sheriff's Office claiming to be a victim of excessive force. Said the officer: "For him to sue me was like getting punched in the face again because I was the victim," But the judge threw out the charge, aggravated battery to a police officer, saying Viramonte's punch could have been "accidental". The county settled with Viramonte for \$2,000.

"If he had been convicted like he should have been for the charges we put on him, battery to a police officer, he wouldn't have been on the street to commit those attacks," said Sgt. Farrell.

Following that, Chicago Police again arrested Viramontes for drinking in public, and while in a Northwest Side lockup, his lawyer

claimed he was "viciously and unjustifiably assaulted and beaten" by an officer, suffering a broken wrist. Police say Viramontes was the aggressor, but the charge was dropped when the officer missed a court appearance. The city settled a lawsuit, awarding Viramontes an additional \$16,000.

When she was awarded her master's degree, Natasha lay in a coma in Chicago. Lately she has said 'yes' and 'no'; although her family is not sure it means Natasha understands. Her parents, Liam and Sheila, cling to every gleam of hope that their brilliant daughter will somehow recover. They are beyond broken-hearted that Natasha's bright world, once open and overflowing with possibility is now reduced to the confines of their living room, where Natasha spends day after day sitting in a chair by the window.

Says her father, Liam McShane: "It's very hard to watch her like that. You think she is going to get better, but it actually gets worse." On a good day she might smile, but on bad days "she just cries".

(Read the full-length version of this column online)

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