

# The Famine Ship



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Cover photo by Cliff Carlson

This stunning memorial to "Famine Ships" is at the base of Croagh Patrick Mountain in Co. Mayo, Ireland

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## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



## Unpicking the Spendthrift Years

"It's an open question now how long the Irish government will last. That Ministers want to stay on is very clear. One of the axioms of Irish politics is that one day in government is worth a lifetime in opposition. The current coalition would echo this sentiment. However, after less than two years the cracks are becoming fissures. 2013 may not be make but it could be break.

With all the low fruit lopped off, December's budget was always going to be difficult, particularly for Labour, the junior partner. The Programme for Government, hastily cobbled together after the election, gave significant incomprehensible economic hostages to fortune. These included the so-called triple lock of no welfare cuts, no cuts in public sector pay and pensions and no increases in income tax.

This at a time when Ireland, unable to borrow money from elsewhere to run the country, was in thrall to the IMF and the European Central Bank for loans to pay wages and welfare benefits. The quid pro quo was an austerity programme designed to reduce the country's borrowing requirement to an acceptable level (i.e. one that potential future lenders would accept) over a number of years by annual cuts in expenditure and/or hikes in, and new, taxes.

This also in the light of some of the legacies of the Spendthrift Years, which had seen welfare rates and public sector pay levels hiked well above inflation, while income taxes were cut and large numbers exempted totally from paying any income tax. Underpinned by this largesse also was the evolution of a culture of entitlement and a failure to grasp that taxes are necessary to sustain a country and pay for

benefits.

The Coalition, since coming into office, has twisted and turned, impaled uncomfortably on its self-constructed petard, and meanwhile borrowing about \$1.5 billion each month just to keep going.

Something had to give, and in December's Budget it did. On the positive side, though not welcomed by those who will have to pay it, a tough property tax was introduced, with, crucially, very few exemptions. Those who cannot pay will have the amounts owing tacked on as a future charge on their estate. Whether this drastic approach will ever be carried through, or survive some type of legal challenge, remains to be seen. But the proposal undercut the various lobby groups queuing up to demand exemptions. The introduction of the tax, by broadening the tax base, will dismantle the last of lunacies with which Fianna Fail bought the election in 1977.

On the welfare side the triple lock was finally broken with cuts, inter alia, in child benefit and the removal of a social insurance (PRSI) part exemption; this last is likely to produce howls of anger when people examine their pay packets in the New Year. The howls up to now have come over the cuts in child benefit and a separate 20% cut in the respite grant for carers, bringing it below \$2000 annually. The carers' cut saw wheelchair protests outside the Dail and a protest vote against by the Labour Party chairman, Colm Keaveney.

The cut in child benefit, including larger cuts for larger families, still leaves the basic rate at €130 (roughly \$160) per month, and the benefit remains completely non means-tested or taxed. The benefit is paid equally to the child of a millionaire and to someone living in poverty. As long as this remains the case the benefit is fair game for further

attention. Part of the emotional argument in favour of the status quo is that it is the only money the state pays to mothers, including those from the coping (and paying) middle classes. But with the state broke and one third of the benefit borrowed, increasing the country's debt by the month, some realism is needed. An obvious solution would be to pay the benefit under deduction of tax at the standard rate, with those on the lowest incomes getting a top-up; while satisfying nobody, this at least would ensure that everybody got something and would remove future uncertainty.

As I write, Labour is in internal disarray and is taking a hammering in the polls, accused of breaking election promises. Labour Senators may even vote to delay the cuts. In vain have Labour's leaders pointed out that the promises made were contingent on Labour forming the government, rather than becoming very much the junior party in the coalition. The notion of hanging together rather than separately appears now very much the glue holding Labour together and continuing in government. As 2013 advances, and as the real pain of the budget measures takes hold, the pressures within and without the party look set to increase.

For Fine Gael also, 2013 will bring problems, and not just those arising from the budget. For a very personal family tragedy in November has thrust the abortion debate into centre stage. When the furore over the budget has died down, the abortion issue is likely to dominate the political agenda during the first part of 2013.

In 1983 a pro-life amendment, acknowledging the right to life of the unborn "with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother" was introduced into the constitution. Not surprisingly this wording was found to be unsatisfactory and vague and a succession of court cases and a number of further constitutional referendums have followed without altering materially the very limited conditions under which theoretically an abortion could be carried out.

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Past debate has centered on what would constitute a sufficient threat to the life of a mother to justify a termination. An attempt in 2002 to strengthen the ban by preventing the risk of suicide being invoked as grounds for an abortion was only defeated by a miniscule 10,500 votes or 0.8% of those voting.

The Irish judiciary have criticised politicians for failing to enact legislation to give effect to Supreme Court rulings and a European Court ruling last summer increased pressure on the government. The matter was approached warily by Fine Gael which was and is known to be divided on the issue; early action did not seem likely.

However, all this changed with revelations concerning the death of a young Indian dentist, Savita Halappanavar, on 28 October in Galway University Hospital. The case has received worldwide publicity. Mrs Halappanavar

was 17 weeks pregnant when she began to miscarry. She is understood to have requested a termination which was refused and the miscarriage lasted three days. She died several days later. Enquiries are on-going, though not the public one demanded by her husband.

A wave of sympathy for the Halappanavars swept the country, with demands for early clarifying legislation. The argument is that, had there been no 1983 amendment, or had legislation been enacted over the last 20 years, clarifying threats to the mother's health and life, this tragedy could have been avoided. The pro-lifers were put very much on the back foot. However, recent weeks have seen them rally. Voices are now urging "Festina lente." 2013 promises to see yet another heated and emotional debate and the timing could be crucial. Hopefully there will be closure this time."

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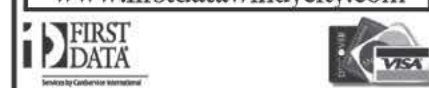
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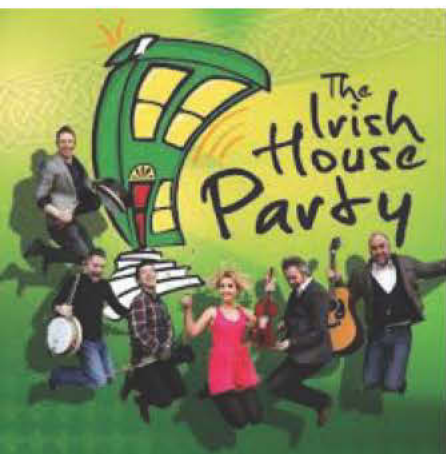
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The show has become one of Dublin's must see events and with fans such as World Cafes David Dye, Irish legends The Dubliners and even International chart toppers The Wanted (with whom they recently performed live with on The Late Late Show) you will find yourself in wonderful company. Inspiring a fun spirit wherever it plays, The Irish House Party look forward to sharing a great night of Celtic celebration in true Irish style.

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## Stevie Dunne on Banjo

Traditional Irish Banjo maestro Stevie Dunne launches his new album simply entitled banjo in 2012 to critical acclaim. Following on from the success of his debut album "About Time" and winning a prestigious Irish American Association award in 2011 Stevie has produced a magical album of mystical banjo playing. Joining Stevie on BANJO are world renowned guitarist Arty McGlynn, Stephen Hayden



of the famous County Tyrone family, accordion wizard David Munnely, The steady rhythm of Michael McCague on guitar and bouzouki, Ryan O' Donnell on bouzouki and tenor guitar, Tracy Ryan on vocals, Eamon Murray and Sean og Graham of Beoga fame."

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I've never really thought of myself as "European", although I did have a moustache for a short time during the eighties. I don't speak any other languages beside English. However, I have been known to sound like I'm speaking Chinese after way too many cocktails.

And I quit smoking years ago, thank God.

So I'm very flattered that my friend, Barbara Scharres, has invited me to premiere our comic documentary film, "Our Irish Cousins", at the 16th Annual European Union Film Festival in Chicago this March at the Gene Siskel Film Center over on State Street.

My sons and I have been working on this masterpiece for over

four years and we're thrilled to be invited with films of the 27 nations of The European Union. We screened a sneak preview of a rough cut of our film last May at the Irish American Heritage Center, the Beverly Art Center, and Gaelic Park. The audiences were great and the response to the film has been overwhelmingly positive.

But how will Europeans respond to "Our Irish Cousins"?

Well one of the things I've discovered since becoming an Irish citizen is that Americans are not the only nation represented by the Irish Diaspora. Irish emigrants and their descendants can also be found in countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Argentina, New Zea-

land, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil and states of the Caribbean and continental Europe. It turns out we are all part of a global Diaspora and we are everywhere.

Since I am an Irish citizen, I'm welcome in any of the 27 countries of the EU. I could actually live and work in Slovenia if I wanted. I'm not exactly sure where the hell that is, but I seem to recall two hot babes with sexy accents who once worked at the front desk of The Chicago Athletic Association who were from Slovenia. So I got that going for me.

I made this discovery while doing some research on the European Union, which Ireland joined in 1973. For more history of the EU, go to their website, europa.eu

Something about that name, Europa, strikes me as very Orwellian. The excitement and apprehension of a futuristic society as limned by somebody like Aldous Huxley.

Walking the streets of Dublin with my sons a few years back struck the very same chord with me as the crowds scurried around us to the syncopated sounds of the ultra modern Irish traffic lights.

I guess that was one of the big surprises for me in Ireland. I was expecting The Quiet Man, but in Dublin it was more like Blade Runner With Brogues.

Ireland today is very much a 21st Century nation, and many of us Yanks don't realize it. Kathleen Ni Houlihan has evolved

from an agrarian society to a high tech industrialized nation. Regardless of Eire's recent contemporary reputation however, their most precious resource and export will always be the people of this island nation. Irish culture is the sizzle that sells the steak.

Learning about other cultures is what enlightens us all and I like to think one of the endearing qualities of "Our Irish Cousins", is the glimpse of not only the Irish culture in Ireland, but here in Chicago as well. And whether you're from Poland, Sweden, Luxembourg, or even Slovenia; you're going to get a kick out of our movie and our message to the global Diaspora, "Come Home!"

So please come see our film at

The Siskel Film Center in March at The 16th Annual European Union Film Festival. It's the largest festival in the nation showcasing films of European Union nations and with Ireland in the presidency of the EU; the festival will have a definite Irish focus.

I'll keep you posted on exact dates and times of screenings of "Our Irish Cousins" and other Irish films as they are announced. Please say hello when you come to the festival. I'll be easy to spot in the lobby.

I'll be the guy wearing the beret, drinking a foreign beer while chatting up the gals with the hairy legs who were smoking their cigs in front of the theatre.

See you at The Siskel!

## European Union Film Festival at Gene Siskel Film Center 3/1 - 3/28

The largest festival in the nation showcasing films of European Union nations, the festival annually presents the Chicago premieres of more than 60 new feature films from 27 EU nations. With Ireland in

the presidency of the EU, our festival will open with a very special Irish film (still under wraps), and Ireland gets additional coverage with *Stella Days* (starring Martin Sheen), *Death Of A Superhero*, and the

## Mary Ellen Considine



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Stephen Rea, Martin Sheen, and David Herlihy in *Stella Days*

Irish-American co-production *Our Irish Cousins* by Chicago director Mike Houlihan.

Whether you long for a glimpse of Greece (check out the comically poignant *Magic Hour*) or a cutting-edge star-crossed romance (*Faith, Love & Whiskey* from Bulgaria), or a whacko feminist comedy (*Perfect Days* from the Czech Republic), we have a film for you. In fact, we have a lot of films for you.

The festival closes on March 28 with Ken Loach's new Scottish-themed comedy *The Angels' Share*, the crowd-pleasing sensation of the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. Be there!

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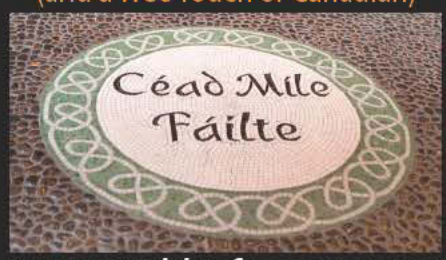
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**Irish Books and Plays in Review**

Frank West



**Iverni: A Prehistory of Cork**

By William O'Brien  
DuFour and the Collins Press

This beautiful book about the archaeology of West Cork is meticulously researched and lavishly illustrated.

This area is the site of thousands of standing stones, passage graves, burial mounds and other remains. Recent archaeological excavations have added much to our knowledge of Ireland's prehistory.

The time period studied is from the end of the Ice Age in Ireland (about 7,500 to 8,000 BC) until the Christian era began in the fifth century A.D.

Iverni is the name of the tribe that lived in this area.

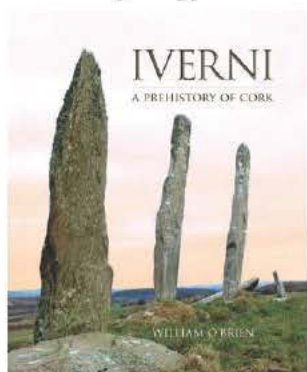
Greek and Roman map makers and merchants used the names of the local tribes as placenames. We are probably the descendants of those tribal people.

William O'Brien speaks authoritatively about Cork's prehistory because he teaches about the archaeology of this period at University College Cork. The topic of his doctoral dissertation was prehistoric copper mining in Ireland. Copper was very valuable be-

cause, when mixed with tin, it became bronze.

Mount Gabriel, in West Cork, has 32 prehistoric copper mine sites. They were worked from about 1700 to 1400 B.C.

The mining of copper had a huge



impact on prehistoric Ireland.

The Notre Dame Spirit By Kristen Lenhart and Julia Passamani, Corby Books, www.corbypublishing.com

A Roman writer observed, "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." To kindle a dream in a child is a wondrous thing.

This children's book is about that. It is illustrated with bright, colorful, easy to understand pic-

tures.

A boy visits Notre Dame University and tries to understand the spirit of the people he sees there.

He wonders if the spirit he is looking for is the happiness and excitement of anticipating an important campus event, or he wonders if it is the willingness of the students to help others. He discovers that the spirit he is searching for is the students enthusiasm for life.

Passamani says, "It is more important than ever to believe in something bigger than ourselves as we face the harsh realities of life." The spirit encouraged by the university is one of hope, faith, excellence, and service."

That spirit is good advice for us adults too.

**The Irish Way**  
By James Barrett  
The Penguin Press

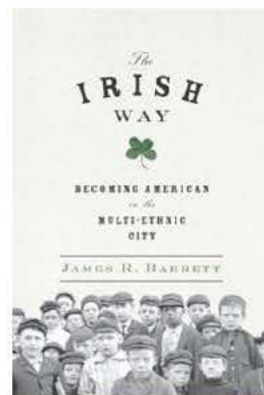
Chicago newspaper reporter, Finley Peter Dunne's columns were widely read during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Dunne created the enduring character, Mr. Dooley, an Irish philosopher saloon keeper.

The author says Dunne's genius lay in his evocation, not simply of Irish American life, but of relations between the Irish and other ethnic groups. Those relations are the focus of this lively

and vibrant book.

More than three million Irish came to the United States during the period 1840 to about 1890. Later immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe found an America that was distinctly Irish. They encountered Irish policemen, politicians, actors, bureaucrats, newspaper reporters, saloon keepers, contractors, teachers, etc.

When immigrants from various backgrounds embraced new styles, behaviors, and values, they were not those of some distant WASP mainstream. Irish culture could offer a trenchant, transcendent view of American society. It shaped much of what it meant to be an



**Michael Collins and the Civil War**

by T. Ryle Dwyer  
Mercier Press and DuFour editions

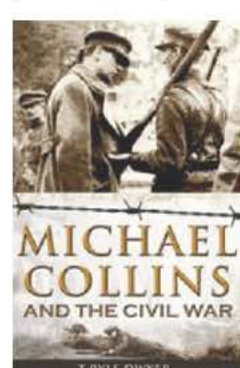
The author states the purpose of the book: "My aim in my three books on Collins has been neither to deify nor demonize the man, but to present a balanced picture."

Dwyer has written over twenty books about Irish history. This is the last of three books about Michael Collins who led the IRA to victory in the War of Independence and created modern Ireland.

The book is about the last months of his life when he desperately tried to prevent civil war. His life ended with his assassination in August, 1922. At the back of the book are many pages of notes for each chapter. Dwyer's bibliography of books and records consulted, printed in small type, covers many pages.

It is followed by a complete index (for the Anglo-Irish Treaty alone there are 69 references!)

The Civil War lasted from June, 1922 until May, 1923. It brought death and vast human suffering to Ireland. Bitterness and hatred resulted. This book is readable, accessible, and very well researched.



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## Coogan Shines Light on Famine's Hidden History

By Sabina Clarke

In this absorbing account of the events leading up to Ireland's Great Hunger, An Gorta Mor, (1845 -1852), Ireland's most celebrated historian Tim Pat Coogan, in his recently released book *The Famine Plot, England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy* compares what happened in Ireland to what happened in third world countries like Rwanda and Somalia.

In disturbingly graphic images and compelling language based on true stories from the Famine archives and peppered with his own perspective, Coogan captures the utter devastation wrought by Ireland's greatest ecological disaster which reduced the population by one fourth.

Coogan describes people being buried in mass graves and workhouses where filthy barefoot children were being taught while sitting on earthen floors in ill-ventilated rooms with barred windows and without books.

His premise is that the England presided over a well-planned conspiracy; aided and abetted by a distant Irish aristocracy and indifferent and irresponsible landlords.

What is particularly difficult to comprehend is that while this was happening at the height of the failure of the potato crop, British troops were simultaneously removing and exporting the abundant wheat, oats, barley, beef, mutton, pork, poultry, eggs, butter, milk, fruits and vegetables produced by the Irish themselves—at gunpoint.

The most sympathetic group during the Famine was the Quakers who collected food and money in America and England. Others who gave financial assistance were the Choctaw Indians and the Sultan of Turkey.

The conclusion one comes to after reading Coogan's well-researched study, is that what happened in Ireland was the closest to genocide as colonialism would come in the 19th century.

What is amazing is that while Famine Commemorations are common in the U.S. in cities around the country, Ireland did not have a National Famine Commemoration Day officially set-up until 2009.

I spoke with Tim Pat over the phone at his home in Dublin about why he was denied a visa to the U.S. for his planned

book tour—a question that has everyone wondering.

SC Why were you denied a visa to come to the U.S.?

TC There was speculation by everybody. At first it was thought that it was

because of the Brits; that they would not want that stuff out that is in my book. Another suggestion put forth for the denial was because of the Israeli influence. I have been upset about how the Israelis are treating the Palestinians. At the time of the murder of the Turkish seamen on the aid ship two years ago, I wrote an open letter to the Ambassador here saying that I was a lifelong supporter of the State of Israel and have spent holidays there and even sent my

daughter there to study in a kibbutz—but I am appalled by the Gaza Strip, the biggest open air prison camp in the world and said that I wouldn't go to the Embassy Independence Day party while they were doing this. So, somebody along the line could have raised an objection to this.

I am the most high profile person to get this kind of treatment from the Embassy in Dublin. Since September, I was denied a visa twice. As a result, my book tour in the U.S., which was scheduled to begin November 26th, was cancelled. Actually, my publisher chickened out and cancelled the tour on November 21st and I haven't heard a word from them since.

SC Who denied your visa?

TC I was not told and was given no reason for it, other than it was denied by Homeland Security. No matter who is behind it, it is McCarthyism. I would like to see Congressman Peter King, the Head of Homeland Security, call for evidence in the case. I have written to my TD here, Eamon Gilmore, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, to look into this but I haven't got a reply.

SC I heard that Senator Chuck Schumer was trying to help with your visa.

TC Three days after Chuck Schumer got involved, I got my visa. Now, I have

a 10 year unrestricted visa which means if I wanted to, I could fly to the U.S. every day.

SC You emphasize in your book that there were many opportunities to foresee the Famine and stem the dire consequences of it.

TC The blight first struck in 1845, so it is hard to think that this was not deliberate.

SC What was the greatest political consequence of the Famine?

TC It created a massive Irish diaspora. Particularly in America, which I have chronicled in my book, *Wherever Green Is Worn*. However, the Irish were not initially welcomed and were often paid the lowest wages; working on the most dangerous jobs like the workers at Duffy's Cut; killed because they had cholera. Even England did not welcome the emigrants; so there was a sense of alienation. When they arrived in cities like Boston, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, they faced anti-Catholic and anti-Irish discrimination. Many died on their journey. Stories like the Willis family and their five children who were leaving Limerick for

Canada, are common. They decided to leave their dying child with typhus behind and on their way their other four children died. Then upon landing, the father John died; leaving Mary the mother as the only survivor. Her story was recorded by the Protestant clergyman for whom she worked.

SC Was there shame connected to the Famine?

TC People survived the Famine and then wanted to erase the survival methods from the folk memory.

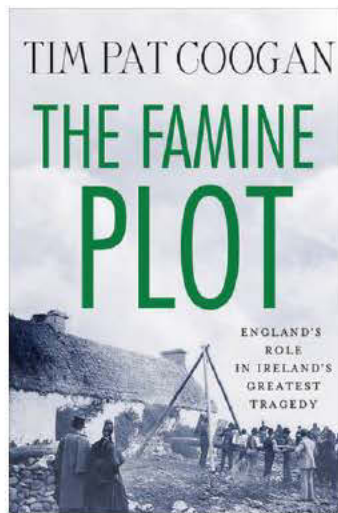
SC Why is the Famine perceived differently in the North than the South?

TC The North regards the Famine as something that happened to Catholics and God's punishment for their feckless improvident ways—so because of this, the Dublin Government has refused to set up Famine Commemorations in the North.

SC You credit former Prime Minister Tony Blair for stunting the growth of revisionism regarding the Famine History.

TC Yes, Blair's apology helped by putting the blame on the London Government at that time saying that it clearly failed the people.

SC What is particularly shocking is the contrast between the poor starving people and Dublin society at the time.



**Planning a Wedding?  
Just Married? Expecting?  
New Baby? Anniversary?**  
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Don't miss our

*Wedding Issue*  
coming in April 2013~



TC The contrast was shocking; in the middle of the squalor and the turmoil, the gilded society was attending splendid balls.

SC What was it like growing up in Dublin?

TC My father died when I was twelve. I remember going down and getting the state's allowance which was about 25 cents in modern money. We lived in a place called Tudor Hall with the roof coming in. I guess people regarded us as aristocrats living in this big house with the ceiling falling in. It was tough growing up but I had good uncles and they put up the money for my education.

SC I read that your mother Beatrice was a Dublin socialite and your father Ned was a Fine Gael TD.

TC My mother was a terrific woman and a Beauty Queen. She was crowned Dublin's Civic Queen of Beauty in 1927. She also wrote for the Evening Herald and participated in various Abbey Theater Productions and Radio Eireann. She wrote a novel *The Big Wind* which changed her fortunes a bit. My father was active in the Volunteers during the War of Independence and Deputy

Commissioner of the newly established Garda Siochana, then he was a Fine Gael TD for the Kilkenny constituency.

# This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks2: Fifty Shades o' Green

## Rock and Read Book Tour coming in 2013!

Mike Farragher is this New Jersey son of Erin with the insight of the Druids, the perspective of a high king and the pen of a major poet. He's a rebel, a poet and a trailblazer.

—Niall O'Dowd

Founder, Irish Voice newspaper and IrishCentral.com

Veteran Irish American entertainment writer Mike

Farragher returns with This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks2: 50 Shades o' Green, the second in a series of essay books with a ribald look at life, faith, an Irish mother's guilt, culture, and family.

After almost fifteen years covering the Irish American rock beat for the Irish Voice and IrishCentral.com, Mike Farragher approached his editor with

are gifted storytellers, I always thought I had an unfair genetic advantage—for a change!"

Farragher devoted half of the page in his column to these stories and the success and broad appeal of the first compendium This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks took the writer by surprise.

"I knew from the feedback I got from readers of the paper and blogs that the experiences I had with my parents wasn't unique in the Irish immigrant community," Farragher says. "What caught me by surprise was when Italians, Jamaicans, Jews, and Baptists confessed that they saw themselves in the upbringing I described in the book. I got a huge charge from that!"

Included in the Shamrocks sequel is the bonus book, "50 Shades o' Green," a hilarious short story that finds a few Irishmen comparing notes on their barstools while their wives are at a book club discussing the merits of a certain book that has a young girl and a fellow named Grey



Mike Farragher

as the main characters. "These dominant men are confronted with how the temperature of the bedroom has changed since

that book showed up on the nightstand and they are coming to terms with their new reality. That book was a hot topic of conversation this past summer at barbecues, and this story is a response to the hysteria. All names were changed to protect the not-so-innocent!"

Farragher will be embarking on a "rock and read" book tour that pairs him with Irish American writers and musicians in the New Year.

www.thisisyourbrainonshamrocks.com

Mike Farragher, 732-539-7497 or irishwriter@optonline.net



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Circuit Court Judge of Cook County Maura Slattery Boyle gave the oath of office to Commissioner Patrick Daley Thompson for his first six year term at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Pictured is Commissioner Patrick Daley Thompson and Judge Maura Slattery Boyle.



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### Raise the Roof With Us

Come out for the first annual Raise the Roof fundraiser at the Center. We're raising funds to assist with our capital improvement budget and help pay for our new roof. The fundraiser includes a silent and live auc-



tion, raffles, free food and a cash bar. Join us for a day of music, food, dance, friends and fun.

The Raise the Roof Fundraiser is Sunday, February 17 from 1pm to 8pm in the Erin Room and is free.

### Celebrate St. Brigid

Celtic Women International and the IAHC Cultural Committee celebrate St. Brigid's Day.

Come and learn more about this early Irish saint and the ancient Celtic goddess who predated her. Often referred to as the "Mary of the Gaels," St. Brigid is one of the most venerated saints in Ireland, with churches and holy wells named for her found all over Ireland. This multi-media program will include

lectures, history, poetry, music, stories, reflections, and readings from Patricia Monaghan and Michael McDermott's new *Brigit Anthologies*.

The Celebration of Brigid's Day is Saturday, January 26 from 1pm to 4:30pm. Tickets are \$10 for IAHC or CWI members and \$15 for general admission. For more information, contact Maureen Smith at editor@celticwomen.org.

### Have Tea with Agatha Christie

Warm up in the Fifth Province with our ongoing Saturday morning monthly teas.

More than 65 attendees enjoyed the December Christmas Tea and the event was sold out. The January Tea, Tea with Agatha Christie features tea, scones and sandwiches. Attendees can relax and enjoy a performance by WomanLore's Betsy Means, who will portray Dame Agatha Christie.



novels have sold 4 billion copies. Means will bring this fascinating character to life in what promises to be a charming and mysterious afternoon.

Tea with Agatha Christie is Saturday, January 12 from 11am to 1pm and tickets are \$25. Reservations are necessary and must be made by January 5 by calling the IAHC of-

office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

#### NEXT UP!

Tea with Emily Dickinson on Saturday, February 2.

### Murals Feature Peace



The IAHC Art Gallery will feature an art exhibit of its murals this winter.

Murals of Peace and Freedom from Northern Ireland features artwork by Mark Ervine and Marty Lyons, Belfast muralists who created a live mural at the iBAM! Irish Books, Art and Music Celebration in October 2012. It also features a mural created by the Bogside Artists: Tom Kelly, his brother William and Kevin Hasson, who painted a live mural in the Gallery at iBAM! 2010.

Ervine, a Loyalist, and Lyons, a Nationalist, have come together to produce murals to help promote peace, equality and respect in a post-conflict society. Their bold murals are an important examples of historic collaboration.

The Center has one of only three murals the Kelly brothers and Hasson have painted outside of Derry/Londonderry. Another one is in Beijing, China, and a third is in a small college in Texas.

This is a unique opportunity to view these murals that artistically depict the conflict that has embroiled Ireland for generations.

The exhibit runs from Saturday, January 12 through Sunday, February 10 on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4pm or by appointment. There will be an opening night reception on Saturday, January 12 from 6pm to 9pm.

For more information, call Frank Crowley, Art Gallery Director at 773-612-6584.

### Chili Cook-Off Heats Up

Join the Center for its First Annual Pot O'Chili Cook-Off this winter.

Chili categories are Traditional Beef, Set Your Jeans on Fire, Vegetarian or Chicken. Contestants must provide their own method of keeping chili warm and each team must enter chili in one of the above categories. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

The team with the best chili will have team name and photo placed on the Fifth



Province Pub wall for one year. Don't want to enter the contest? Come sample every chili entry and cast your vote.

Entry forms and rules are online at www.irish-american.org or picked up in the office, the IAHC Gift Shop or by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 14.

The Pot O'Chili Cook-Off is on Friday, January 11, and the cost per team is \$20. Set up time begins at 6pm and the contest is from 7pm to 9pm.



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### President's Message

It's hard to believe but it's already time to look back at 2012 and look forward to 2013. I thought I would share with you some of my New Year's resolutions for the Center and suggest a few that you may wish you add to your list.

But first I would like to share a few personal thoughts with you...

2012 was a very important year for me. Early in the year, I suffered a stroke and, with the grace of God and the timely guidance he provided to my wife Mary, my life was saved. Since that time, I have tried to take advantage of every living moment. What originally looked to be what could be the end of life as I knew it, actually became a new beginning to me. The energy at the Center and the prayers of the members helped me through all this and for that I cannot thank you enough. I will do my best to repay your kindness and prayers with hard work at and for the Center.

Also, in 2012, I retired from a long career at Navistar, formerly the International Harvester Company. International Harvester gave me the opportunity to earn an education and develop a business skill set. Growing up in a Chicago bungalow, sleeping in the non-air conditioned attic with three brothers and living in a household of seven with one bathroom does help build character. My father and mother worked their whole lives to send all four of us to Catholic grammar school, Catholic high schools and then to college. All of us graduated from college and most have post-graduate degrees. While we were doing this, Dad worked tirelessly on the assembly line and painted bulldozers yellow so we could be who we are today. And, then he went to his second job selling Sears shoes at night. International Harvester gave me every opportunity to grow and succeed. Playing ball in the Chicago alley, I never dreamed I would see Japan, Europe, Mexico, Canada and virtually every state in the union.

2012 was my first full year as President of the Center. The year has gone fast and what an exciting year it was. I met many new friends and with the

help of our great volunteers and members, we initiated a number of new programs at the Center. We moved quickly to continue to be a transparent organization, fiscally responsible to our members and our mission. We continue in that direction today. We addressed some key brick and mortar issues and installed the brick walkway, laid the foundation for the new roof, rebuilt the Fifth Province floor and implemented new cleaning and organizational procedures inside the building. We continued Town Hall meetings and opened up lines of two-way communication. We staffed the Development Committee and opened the Gift Shop. And, we proactively addressed risk management and sustainability. New technology was embraced. This was all done with the help of our great volunteers and committees. We implemented and continued supporting successful events including iBAM!, Irish Fest, the Hall of Fame, St. Patrick's Day, Christmas Bazaar, Golden Diners and McToberfest. I attended many meetings and events with the great Irish Community partners including the Irish Fellowship, Galway Sister Cities, The Chicago Cultural Alliance, the Shamrock American Club, Galway Fellowship Club, the Roscommon Club, Gaelic Park and numerous benefits. Lots of good things; but lots more to do.

On a somber note, I represented the Center at a number of wakes and funerals. To all of the families, friends, and members of the center who face 2013 without one of their loved ones, our prayers go out to you. Our doors and hearts are wide open. Let us know if we can help.

Now here's a look at some of the resolutions of mine that I trust you will look forward to in 2013.

1) Continue to work hard to build the financial foundation for the Center so we will continue to be in a position to continue to fulfill the mission and the vision

2) Work hard to better fund the Cultural Committee so we continue to offer the great programs we offer and be in a position to add new programs

3) Make every effort to convert more of our volunteers, committee members, guests, neighbors and visitors to be members of the Center

4) Increase the renewal rate of the mem-



bers we have and add more young adults and families

5) Add incremental revenue opportunities while we address cost out opportunities

6) Use technology where

we can to increase our services in an effective and efficient environment

7) Spread the word and work to positively brand the center to more individuals and organizations

8) Seek out new partners and strategic alliances that add programs and excitement to the Center

9) Continue to address and fund building initiatives including new air conditioning in the Fifth Province, new heating and air conditioning in the kitchen, hallway improvements, new roof, new TV's in the Fifth Province, floor refinishing, banquet sales display room, new multi-purpose room 311, parking lot repairs and more

10) Develop and implement comprehensive and documented plans; financial, event rental, Fifth Province

11) Successful implementation of the Center "Raise the Roof" Fundraiser on

Feb 17

12) Initiate Phase 3 of the Brick Walkway Project

13) Continue to refine how we manage Irish Fest and St. Patrick's Day, to provide more culture, more fun and earn more revenue

14) Get into the food revenue stream in the Event Rental business that we do

15) Spend more time with the Cultural Committee so that the board can provide the highest level of support to this important group

16) Balance the budget, reduce the debt and fund the future while we keep sustainability and risk management in focus

As you develop your New Year's resolutions, may I ask you to consider adding to your list:

1) Renew your membership or become a member

2) Bring one friend or relative and sign that person up as a member

3) Thank a volunteer

4) Become a volunteer

5) Have a meal or a drink in the Fifth Province

6) Make a personal gift to the Center

7) Join a Center committee

8) Use your members' discount in the Fifth Province and in the Gift Shop

9) Buy a brick

10) Visit the Center's website

11) Visit the library, Museum and Art Gallery

12) Attend iBAM!, Hall of Fame events, the Roof fundraiser, the Genealogy Fest, St. Patrick's Day events, Irish Fest, the Irish Heritage Singers concert, a Shapeshifters play, a concert, a lecture, the Fish Fry, the Christmas Bazaar and McToberfest...to name only a few.

So long 2012, we will miss you. Hello 2013... Bring us and the Center all God's blessings.

Respectfully,  
John Crowley Gorski  
President, IAHC

*Special thanks to Fran Leonard of Nimble Thimbles for her incredible and delicate restoration of our St. Patrick's statue.*

### Writing Classes Capture Stories

Memoir writing classes continue this winter at the Center. The course is taught by Virginia Gibbons, Professor of English at Oakton Community College.

Everyone has a story to tell and this class provides 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.

The Memoir and Creative writing



workshop runs on Thursday nights from February 7 through March

14 from 7pm to 9pm. The cost for the six-week workshop is \$60 per person and **class size is limited to 10 writers**. To register, contact Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057.

Students who wish to continue with their writing and move to the next level can take the Revision Workshop, conducted by Patricia Cronin, who has an MFA in Creative Writing from Roosevelt

University. The class is geared for writers with prior writing workshop experience. While the class follows a similar workshop structure, with in-session writing and reading handouts, keen attention will be paid to developing an existing story with more in-depth discussion and critique. Writers are required to select one particular piece to focus on for the duration of the workshop.

The Revision Workshop runs from Tuesdays, January 22 through February 26, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The cost of the six-week workshop is \$65 per person. To register, call Patricia Cronin at 312-919-6198.

### Town Hall/State of the Center Address

Join us this winter for a Town Hall/State of the Center Address. Find out what we have been working on and what's in store for 2013.

The Town Hall/State of the Center Address is Friday, January 25 at 7pm.



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### January 2013

January 1	New Year's Day	Building Closed	
January 2	Tir Na Nog	Kitchen	11am
January 5	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
	Piobairi	Fifth Province	5pm
	Frances O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
January 11	Pot O'Chili Cook-off	Fifth Province	7pm
January 12	Tea Time With Agatha Christie	Fifth Province	11am
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
January 15	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109	???
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham AmRoom	8pm
January 22	Revision Workshop	TBA	6:30pm
January 25	Town Hall Mtg/State of the Center Address	Room 109	7pm
January 26	St. Brigid Celebration	TBA	1pm
January 29	Revision Workshop	TBA	6:30pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
	Quiz Night	Fifth Province	8pm
Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.	Golden Diners Senior Lunches	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Jan. 12-Feb. 10			
Sat. & Sun.	Murals Art Exhibit	Art Gallery	1-4pm

### Become the Next Center Queen



Represent the Center in events and have fun, too, as our next Center Queen.

You must be a Center member between 18 and 27 years old, and available for key Center events to represent us. The Queen has the highest honor of being on the Center float and will be a special guest with us at all major events.

Interviews take place on Friday, February 15 at 7pm at our Lenten Fish Fry. The Queen will be announced in the Pub after 9:30pm. For more information on how you or a family member can compete to be Queen, contact Deirdre McNulty at [dmcnulty@irishahc.org](mailto:dmcnulty@irishahc.org) or call 773-282-7035, ext. 21.

### SUPER BOWL PARTY

Come out to the big game! The IAHC Super Bowl Party is this February in the Fifth Province Pub.

The ticket includes the game on multiple large screen TVs, buffet style food from Harrington's Catering and domestic drafts, wine or soda during the game. A cash bar is available before and after the game. Available food includes beer boiled brats, chili, potato salad and more. The ticket also includes door prizes, raffles and one complimentary 50/50 raffle ticket.

The IAHC Super Bowl is Sunday, February 3 at 4:30pm. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or at the door.

### RUMMAGE SALE

#### Sellers and Vendors Wanted!

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

Exhibitors must reserve space by calling the Center office at 773-282-7035 by February 10. A limited number of spaces are available.

The charge for one 4x8 table and two chairs is \$20. You can also purchase more than one table, based on a space available basis. Sales and

profits of goods sold go to the seller.

Acceptable items for sale include antiques, books, flatware, household items, clothing, dishware, tools, artwork and more. Banned items for sale include, but are not limited to firearms, fireworks and illegal or offensive items.

The Rummage Sale is Saturday, February 23 from 11am to 5pm and includes food and drink for purchase.

No Cover

Free Parking



## the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### JANUARY ENTERTAINMENT

- 1/4 Ceili Mor
- 1/5 Piobairi, 5pm  
Mulligan Stew
- 1/11 Gerry Haughey
- 1/12 In Spite of Ourselves
- 1/18 Irish House Party
- 1/19 Dooley Brothers
- 1/25 Joe McShane
- 1/26 Johnny Cash Night, 6pm, \$15

All Shows Start After 9pm

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



Don't Miss...

### January Drink Special

## \$5 Irish Coffee

### January Food Special

## \$7.99 Shepherd's Pie

Valid for the month of January 2013 only.  
One per coupon. Original copies only.

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For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Michael Boyle, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, John Gorski, Mary Gorski, Mary Griffin, Rocio Lancaster, Deirdre McNulty, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy, Maureen Smith

4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 • 773-282-7035



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### Land a Hand in 2013!

Volunteers are needed for festivals, concerts, office help and more. Want to join us? Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Carmel O'Kane at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or email [cokane@irishahc.org](mailto:cokane@irishahc.org).

### Cash for Kids!

Chicago's only Johnny Cash Festival and fundraiser for the Gompers Park Athletic Association returns to the Center this winter.

Performers include Hayden Thompson, Iron Horse, Pin Drop Theatre, The Back Forty, Tommy Tuesday, Jen Rockis, Glass Half Empty, and Lil Red and the Howlin' Wolves.

Cash for Kids is from 6pm to 1am, Saturday, January 26, and the suggested donation is \$15.

### St. Patrick's Day at the Center

Festivities are some of Chicago's Largest Events: All Under One Roof!

The Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2013 at the IAHC.

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

On Saturday, March 16, join us at the St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This

The Genealogy and Cultural Fest has been postponed until later in 2013. Stay tuned for more information on tracing your roots at this day-long fest.



March 14. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets go on sale February 1. Come back for more on Sunday, March 17 for our St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Fifth

### Annual Appeal Continues

We need your help with our ongoing Annual Appeal.

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

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

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

The below names are those who have donated from November 14 through December 6. We will continue to list donations through the February 2013 issue of *Irish American News*.

To donate, call 773-282-7035.

#### Advocate (\$100-249)

Jerry M. Burke  
Kevin and Katherine McDonough  
Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Meade

#### Friend (\$1-99)

Teresa M. Rupprecht  
Marianne F. McGlynn  
Bill McGovern  
P. Frank McManamon  
Mary McNamara

large-scale, family-oriented event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on

Province Pub. The party is from noon to midnight and features food and drink for purchase, face painting for children, live music and dance. Tickets are \$10 at the door and children 12 and under are free.

For more information and to purchase select tickets, call 773-282-7035 or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

### 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:

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**\$500 - Bard**  
 5-year membership  
no annual dues  
**\$1,000 - Chieftain**  
10-year membership  
without 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 • 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.

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!





# Tradition In Review

**Bill Margeson**

part 1

## Top Tier Awards 2012

Welcome to the 2013 Top TIR Awards. Best of the best! So much to say this year that we are splitting the Awards over two months. So, here we go. Congratulations to all:

**Song of the Year - Seamus Begley**  
Seamus is a busy boy and an Irish national treasure. His current album is with Jim Murray. It is called Eiri Go La.

From that album, Tir n n-Og is the perfect song sung in Irish by the perfect Irish singer. Seamus has been a presence on the scene for years, and this man from the Dingle Peninsula is as popular in the States as he is in Ireland. He was a major factor in the greatest Irish album we have ever heard, Beal Tuinne. To most people, including us, he exemplifies the best of being a traditional Irish tenor. As we said, a treasure of a talent who could win this Award every year. If you would hear Ireland, listen to Seamus.

### Male Musician of the Year - Kevin Crawford

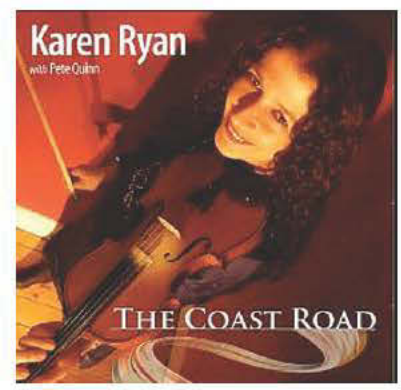
Many trad fans say that Lunasa's flute player, Kevin Crawford, is the best in the tradition. You would be hard put to find anyone who would disagree with that. He, too, has been a force in the music since his days with the iconic, Moving



Cloud. One of the most prolific of all Irish flute players, everything he touches turns to aural gold. A master. We are lucky to have him. You can hear him best in his



most recent outing with his solo album, Carrying the Tune. He could and should win this for every album he has ever been on.



### Female Musician of the Year-Karen Ryan

This gem, Karen Ryan, gave us The Coast Road, which was released as a solo project. She is normally found in her brilliant work with The London Lasses. With apologies to Pete Quinn, the London Lasses are the best female group in the business, and Karen Ryan is one of the absolute top fiddlers in the world. She helps run a great festival every year, Return to Camden Town. This album could serve as a "how to" lesson of instruction to play the Irish fiddle perfectly. This woman is the real deal. Stunning. Wow!!

### Female Vocalist of the Year - Norah Rendell

Norah Rendell won last year's Female Vocalist Award for her work with The Outside Track. This year, she again came to the fore as we heard for the first time one of her past albums, Wait There Pretty One. She recorded it with her



husband Brian Miller, of Bua. It seems as if everyone is following Outside Track and joining the parade in salute to that band. This album is a lesser-known treat of massive proportions. It is pretty rare that any artist wins any Award two years in a row. That is reserved for only the best, and no one right now is better

### than Norah in the tradition. Rock on, girl! New Group of the Year- We Banjo 3

We Banjo 3 will sweep the boards in



2013 as the hottest thing in the tradition. Get on board early, as they are a stunning example of current brilliance in trad. The addition of Fegal Scahill to the group, along with his brother, Enda, plus Martin and David Howley means that they will



continue to reach across all tastes in Irish music. Every few years there is a massive explosion of a new group on to the scene. Get ready and put on your sunglasses. This one is occurring right now. Fantastic stuff from young, master musicians.

### Male Vocalist of the Year - Len Graham



Len Graham has won just about every major award in Irish music, and rightly so. The beauty of his voice and his contribution to Irish music is impossible to describe. He is THE master of Irish singing and one of the great gentlemen in the tradition. His brand new album is I'll Sing You a Story, a collection of children's songs, except when Len sings them, they are not children's songs at all. Over his many years in the business and recording hundreds of songs, he has never put a foot wrong, or sung an ungracious note. He is the master. Simple. Impossible to describe. The closest we can come is to simply say that he is the best, and this album is the current one we like best.

winter storm  
Kansas City winterstorm.net

## The Pipes & Drums Concert

January 12, 2013 7:15 P.M.



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Community Christian Church, 4601 Main, Kansas City, MO  
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# Morley Receives Journalism Award

The Irish Freedom Committee™ inaugurated the First Annual Frank O'Neill and its people. Honorees received the P. Michael



Irish American News columnist, Mike Morley, received the P. Michael O'Sullivan Award for Journalism from the Irish Freedom Committee™

Awards Dinner honoring the memory of Frank and his life-long dedication to the Nation of Ireland. Dinner was held at the Irish Times Restaurant in Brookfield, Illinois; a suburb of Chicago. Awards were presented to individuals for their life dedication to the Nation of Ireland

O'Sullivan Award for Journalism, the Frank O'Neill Award, and the Irish Freedom Award was awarded posthumously to Mary Ó Dochartaigh of Derry, Ireland. Deirdre Fennessy received the Mary Ó Dochartaigh award for exceptional female. Mike Morely receiving the P. Michael

O'Sullivan Award from Don Johnson, co-author of "Patriot Graves" with P. Michael O'Sullivan.

The P. Michael O'Sullivan Award went to a very deserving Mike Morely, an Emmy Award TV Journalist and film maker, founder and owner of The Irish Journal TV show, and a current columnist for the Irish American News located in Chicago. Mike's monthly columns are infused with his biting humor and are a joy to read. We were very fortunate to have someone of Mike's character to be a part of Irish American community in Chicago. The award is in honor of P. Michael O'Sullivan, who began his photo-journalism career in Chicago following his service in the 82nd Airborne Division, Special Forces. His powerful photographs of urban conflict are legendary. His work appeared in Time, Life, Newsweek, Paris Match, The Chicago Tribune, and other publications. O'Sullivan's first major assignment was the Detroit riots, and his photograph was chosen over thousands of others to grace the cover of Life. But his most passionate work was spawned by the Northern Ireland conflict and the injustice he witnessed on "Bloody Sunday". His proudest achievement was the publication of his, and Don Johnson's, book, "Patriot Graves, Resistance in Ireland". Known for 'grace

under fire' he once managed to capture on film the firing of a rubber bullet, directed at him by a British soldier, narrowly missing him. He took the photo as the soldier fired his weapon.

The Frank O'Neill Award went to George McLaughlin of Rhode Island for his lifetime of support for the prisoners and their families. George distinguished himself throughout his life and was a co-founder of the H-Block Armagh Committee who on many occasions personally arranged demonstrations at the H Block in support of Bobby Sands and the rest of the Hunger Strikers.

Mary Ó Dochartaigh and her husband were active very early in the fight for civil rights. Her son, Fionnbarra is the author of "Ulster's White Negroes" and "Ireland - England's Vietnam". He is a co-founder of the Northern Ireland Civil rights Association, whose most famous march culminated in the events of "Bloody Sunday" where the British Paratroopers murdered in cold blood, 14 people. Mary was active her entire life and more recently at the age of 93, she sat next to Marian Price on a panel discussion for political prisoners which took place in the Derry AOH Hall. The Ó Dochartaigh family has a long history of fighting for civil rights and the right of Ireland to live free of British molestation.

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# Maura O'Connell Farewell Tour

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Creative developed by Celtic Chicago, Inc.

## Wexford Invites You to the Gathering 2013

Located on the most southeasterly tip of Ireland, is a gem best known as the 'County of Wexford' the home of the ancestors of John F. Kennedy and 'Father of the American Navy' Commodore John Barry, the county is offering an invitation for you to join in their celebrations of U.S. and Irish links for the Gathering Ireland 2013.

Wexford boasts 137 miles of coastline featuring golden sandy beaches, rocky headlands, cliffs, more beaches and nature preserves. The county is dotted with historic towns, amazing natural beauty and is rich in heritage and culture.

Celebrating the unique links of the county and the U.S. a series of events and festival have been organized for 2013.

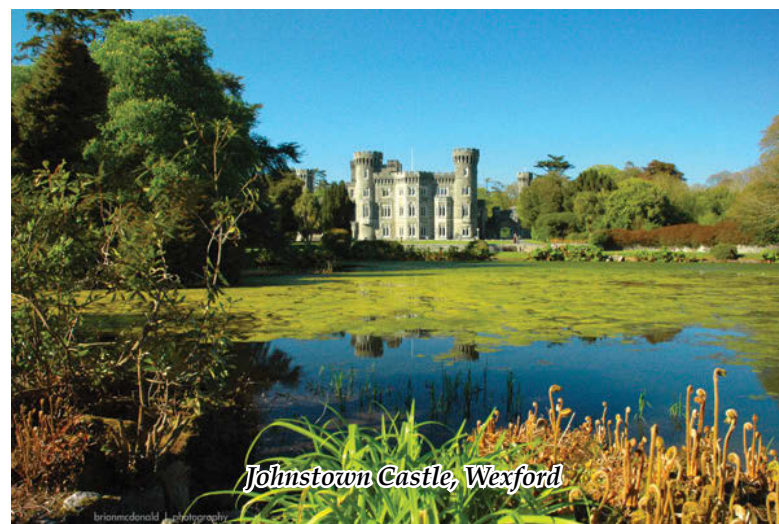
In June 2013 the memory of Wexford man Commodore John Barry known as 'The Father of the American Navy' will be honoured in his hometown at the second annual John Barry Maritime Festival in Wexford town. And from June 24 to July 3 in the town of New Ross the memory of President John F. Kennedy will be honoured and remembered

particularly important. John F. Kennedy's great-grandparents, emigrated from New Ross, as did the grandparents of playwright Eugene O'Neill and thousands of other immigrants who left from the quays of New Ross, and their journeys have been immortalised by the Dunbrody Emigration History Centre. The wonderful 62nd international Wexford Festival Opera will take place from October 23 to November 3 in 2013 and thousands of visitors will make their pilgrimage to Wexford Festival Opera in search of buried operatic treasure.

The 2013 festival will include three major productions and a packed programme of morning events, lunchtime concerts, afternoon short works and recitals, and late night revues. As if this wasn't enough, a vibrant fringe festival will offer everything from art exhibitions to singing and swinging pubs. The

in a new state of the art exhibition. Also opening is a dramatic new Quayside development adjacent to the Dunbrody Famine Ship in New Ross, which will include a boardwalk linking the JFK statue to the ship and a sculpted podium marking the spot where JFK delivered his homecoming speech in 1963.

A packed programme of U.S. style events are in the pipeline for the second annual 'Irish America Day' on July 4th. The day recognises the strong ties between Ireland and the United States. For New Ross, those connections are



physical beauty of the Wexford landscape is also something not to be missed; the pretty coastal villages speckled with thatched cottages are a sight to behold.

Visit the peaceful fishing village of Kilmore Quay and take a short trip to the Saltee Islands, taking in the sea life whilst gaining an alternate view of the rugged coastline. If Curracloe Beach looks familiar, it is, as it served as the spectacular Omaha Beach in the film Saving Private Ryan. There is probably no better place to begin in Wexford than with its rich and varied history, it's a county filled with heritage featuring some of the finest castles and historic sites in Ireland.

The recently restored Enniscorthy Castle in the heart of Enniscorthy town has been home to Anglo Norman royalty, Gaelic Irish lords and English gentry down through the centuries.. Enniscorthy town is also home to the 1798 National Rebellion Centre a centre. The battle of Vinegar Hill is now re-enacted every August, providing an insight into the famous battle, which marked a turning point of the 1798 rebellion.

From Enniscorthy take a short hop to the remains of Ferns Castle and Tapestry, a 13th century castle, which even though a shadow of its former glory now, features a uniquely intact fine circular chapel which original cornices and features. A guided tour will bring amongst others the story of the resident King of Leinster 'Dermot McMurrugh' who brought the first Normans to Ireland.

Continue through the county returning to its ample coastline and take in a visit to the world's oldest operational lighthouse 'Hook Lighthouse'. This magnificent building was recently awarded the title of the 'World's Flashiest Lighthouse' by Lonely Planet.

A short spin from Hook Lighthouse is Tintern Abbey a magnificent example of a 17th century Abbey now home to the wonderful restored Colclough Gardens and a variety of great walking trails.

Heading to Wexford Town, the county opens up further treasures- on the outskirts of the town sits The Irish National Heritage Park, to which a visit is like no other imaginable. Surprises wait around every turn as you explore 35 acres of this remarkable heritage trail. From campsite to Ringfort, mill to Fulacht Fiadh, Crannog to Viking house, every activity is an unexpected adventure into 9,000 years of ancient Ireland. The world you enter is an authentic recreation of Ireland's heritage.

Wexford town is the county's center of heritage offering a 4km heritage trail pinpointing key sites and buildings from Wexford's colorful past. The trail ends at the 12th century Selskar Abbey, attracting many genealogists as this site houses an array of interesting names on the many ancient graves surrounding the abbey.

Having taken in the heritage sights of Wexford a vibrant cultural rich and varied experience is waiting to be explored. Wexford is home to the wonderful Wexford Opera House hosting the world famous Wexford Festival Opera, annually since 1951. The county has produced some of the world's finest musicians and singers including the notable wonderful Irish tenor Michael Londra. Chicago based Michael is one of Ireland's great musical exports, Michael is lauded at home and abroad for his talents, in particular his rendition of 'Danny Boy' garnering 6 million views on Youtube.

Within a short distance of

the town is one of the finest examples of gothic architectural splendor, Johnstown Castle is an absolute must for your list. A marvelously pompous pile rebuilt in full gothic glory in the 19th century is open year round and houses the most wonderful array of gardens, 20 hectares originally laid out by the famous Daniel Robertson in the 1830's.

Heading south into the county New Ross hosts a body of Irish history and heritage, visit the homestead of President John F Kennedy and the JFK Arboretum which houses over 4,500 varieties of trees and shrubs in a 252-hectare estate of pure peacefulness. The Arboretum is part of the exquisite and varied Wexford garden trail, featuring in excess of 21 gardens of all varieties and sizes of, well worth a visit! New Ross hosts the Dunbrody Experience and replica Emigrant Ship on the Quays, the characters of the ship bring the story of the Irish Famine and emigration to the 'New World' (America) to life in a gripping tale taken from the annals of the ship reflecting on the experiences of real passengers.

Leaving New Ross and again heading towards the coastline there is a wonderful example of a fort, Duncannon Fort, built in 1588 in the expectation of an attack on the area by the Spanish Armada. The Fort is surrounded by a 30 foot high dry moat; this fort was active until the 1920's it now houses military memorabilia and artifacts from the many ship wrecks of this section of coast.

The county of Wexford offers a wonderful variety of accommodation from pretty cottage rentals, bed and breakfasts to five star destinations spas. The tales of hospitality are legendary, the county is home to several wonderful traditional Irish pubs the type that will draw you in and encompass you in an atmosphere that will make you feel more Irish than the Irish themselves.

For everything you need to know about holidaying in Wexford, Ireland see [www.visitwexford.ie](http://www.visitwexford.ie)

## Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones

Nominated in 2009 as Ireland's Best Traditional Irish Folk Group, touring over 400 concerts in 2010 and 2011, throughout 10 different countries, Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones are known throughout the world for their quality musical presentation of Irish Patriotic Songs & Traditional Irish Music with top class fiery introductions from their lead singer, song writer and storyteller, Derek Warfield. "This band will have you clappin' your hands, tappin' your feet and shoutin' till your voice is hoarse!"

An outstanding singer, stage personality, composer of songs and historian of the song and music tradition, Derek Warfield is a legend wherever Irish roots have been put down. He has enjoyed phenomenal

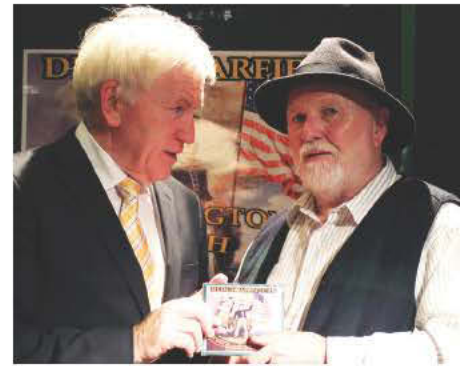
success for some 40 years with the Wolfe Tones, with 13 best-selling albums, number one hits, television appearances and shows in Carnegie Hall in New York and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

He's also been prolific as a solo artist since the Old Wolfetones broke up in 2001 with eleven albums to his credit the most successful being "On the One Road" "Bonnie Blue Flag" and "A Nation Once Again" and the most recent CD a production of pioneering research with a 44 page booklet of the songs, music and literature of the Irish in Colonial America "Washington's Irish" all in just over a decade.

Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones will bring the real Irish spirit of music and song to their legion of fans across

many venues in 2013 with many shows already planned for January, February & March 2013. In anticipation for their February & March Tour Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones will be also releasing their new CD entitled 'Let Ye All Be Irish Tonight' this new and exciting album from the band has been in the pipeline over the last year and is a mixture of classic and historical ballads and music both old and new and some even penned by Derek himself.

The band will be making their way across the USA and will be appearing on The Andy Cooney's Caribbean Cruise of Irish Stars Hawaii, Florida, Missouri, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Indianapolis, South Carolina, Georgia ad



*Ireland's Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, and Derek Warfield*

finishing up at no other than Las Vegas, Nevada at The Mandalay Bay Casino St Patrick's Weekend Festival.

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

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

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Pictured is the World's Oldest Operational Lighthouse 'Hook Lighthouse' in county Wexford, Ireland.





# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

I would like to extend my wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all IAN readers. The start of a new calendar year affords us a chance to turn over a new leaf, not just on the calendar year, but also on what is important to us in our journey through life. Sadly, 2012 was the year that Gaelic Park lost some of our most wonderful volunteers and while we mourn their loss we know that one of their most fervent wishes would be the continued strength and well-being of Gaelic Park. Gaelic Park's Board is comprised of 30 Directors who volunteer their time and skills to promote and maintain our great Irish Centre. All Directors are nominated from a pool of members and shareholders, and once elected serve a three year term; every year an election is held when membership can re-elect directors who are running again or elect a new board member. Men and women who have been members of Gaelic Park for three

years are eligible to run. The life blood of any organization is its ability to renew itself. Gaelic Park is a wonderful legacy and gift to future generations of Irish-Americans and others who desire to maintain our Irish culture, and the election process allows all members the opportunity to identify and elect individuals who can help keep Gaelic Park a vibrant Irish Centre. The nominating papers are in the mail, and I ask all members to participate and encourage all readers who are not members of Gaelic Park to contact the office at 708.687.9323 for details on becoming a member. Join us on January 6 for Women's Little Christmas or January 7 for the Notre Dame game. Our Sunday Movie Matinees followed by discussions are scheduled for 2pm on January 13 and 27. All these events can help you beat the winter blues and I look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year.

**John Devitt, President**

## Chicago Gaelic Park

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## CGP Coming Events

Sundays	<b>Celtic Sunday Supper</b>	3:00pm
1/2 & 2/6	<b>Monthly Musical Luncheon</b>	NOON
1/6	<b>Women's Little Christmas</b>	7:30pm
	<b>(canned goods collection at the door)</b>	
1/9	<b>Ladies Auxiliary</b>	7:30pm
1/13	<b>Sunday Mass/Irish Breakfast</b>	10:00am
1/19	<b>Irish House Party Band</b>	8:00pm
2/3	<b>Sunday Super Bowl Party</b>	
	<b>\$35 for open bar, hot food buffet, snacks, raffles</b>	
2/10	<b>Annual Convention Dinner</b>	



**Celtic Sunday Supper.** This is the perfect way to gather family and friends to celebrate the New Year. Doors open at 3pm (reservations required). Hot food buffet, music and dancing, \$16 adults; \$8 under age 12. Call 708.687.9323 for reservations.

### Pub Trivia Tuesday evenings 7:30pm

Quizmaster Tim Tobin challenges your knowledge of everything! \$5 per person - max of 5 to a team.

### Musical Luncheon Doors Open at NOON, Lunch at 1pm \$13

For group reservations 708-687-9323. Phil & Amy in January!

Monday Evenings	<b>Set Dancing</b>	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	<b>Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm</b>	<b>Ceili</b> 7:30pm
Thursday Evenings	<b>Family Music Sessions in the Pub</b>	7:30pm
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	<b>CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM</b>	7-8pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323

[www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)

## SUNDAY MOVIE MATINEES

- Mark your calendars to come out and spend a few Sunday Afternoons at Gaelic Park and enjoy three great Irish films and participate in a lively discussion of the movies led by Linda Phelps. The movies begin at 2pm and beverages are available for purchase.
- **For Mature Audiences Only.**
- **January 13 *The Magdalene Sisters***  
A story about three young women, whom, under tragic circumstances are cast away in an asylum for supposedly being "fallen" young women in 1964. The girls are imprisoned indefinitely and undergo harsh punishment which leaves them physically and emotionally drained. As the girls bond together, it soon becomes clear the only way out of the Magdalene Asylum is to escape.
- **January 27 *Veronica Guerin***  
Based on a true story, this is about the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, a reporter for the *Sunday Independent*, who exposed some of Dublin's most powerful drug lords in 1996. But later that year was gunned down by assassins hired by the drug lords.
- **March 3 *The Commitments***  
Based on Roddy Doyle's debut novel, the film follows a cobbled-together band whose vision is to bring soul music to Dublin.



Gaelic Park can be found on  
**FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**  
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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## Family Friendly Options at the Park!

Over the past 18 months, Gaelic Park has made a concerted effort to provide affordable family friendly options to our community. A growing calendar of events for all seasons has transpired where families can gather with loved ones and friends in a safe and social setting. There are games and activities for the children while the parents can catch up and have the craic. Here is our typical (and growing) line-up:

- Southside Sunday**, St. Patrick's Week
- Easter Egg Hunt**
- GAA Games** for all ages in the Spring and Summer months
- Heritage & Harvest Day** in September with field games for children
- Halloween Party** with games and a haunted hay ride
- Christmas Tree Lighting** with carols and reindeer games
- Family New Year's Eve Party** from 4pm - 8pm



Admission is **free** to the Easter Egg Hunt, Heritage & Harvest, Halloween Party and Christmas Tree Lighting and associated activities is free. A nominal fee is charged for Southside Sunday & the GAA games. Tickets are required for the Family New Year's Eve Party. Food and drinks are available for purchase at all events. In addition to the events above, Gaelic Park hosts a Mass and Irish breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of the month starting in November and ending in May and Irish Fest each Memorial Day weekend. All events are affordable and kid friendly and would be a great tradition to establish with your family. Our Special Events Committee has done a great job adding events to our calendar. We are open to other suggestions to further expand our line-up of Family Friendly events - please contact the office with any questions or suggestions.

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## the wolfe tones

Brian Warfield, Noel Nagle & Tommy Byrne  
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- Sat Jan 12 Coco & Fancy
- Fri Jan 18 Pat Smillie
- Sat Jan 19 Rhythm Futur
- Fri Jan 25 John Dillon
- Sat Jan 26 Safe Haven

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## Bridie Gallagher – The Girl From Donegal

Bridie Gallagher was born near Creeslough, Co Donegal, on the 7th September 1924. She was the second youngest child of James and Bridget Gallagher, with six sisters and three brothers, and lived for most of her childhood years in Ards at the foot of Muckish Mountain.

The Gallaghers were a hard-working family, of modest means, but all active in local sports and music. There was little to

suggest in 1924 that this little dark-haired girl would one day become one of the most famous and glamorous singers ever to come from Ireland – one of its most successful recording artists, performing in many of the great theatres of the world and on TV and radio shows.

As a child, Bridie had two great passions, camogie and singing. Along with her sisters Maggie and Grace, she played for the Creeslough

camogie team and was widely admired as a fast and talented forward player. But it was her singing that captured most peoples' attention. She sang on her way to school two miles from home at Massinass National School; she sang at home when helping with household chores; she sang in the choir at Doe chapel. Even when she left school at 14 years of age to work in the post office at Doe, she would sing as she worked; sometimes suffering the postmistress's sharp tongue. When she was about 15 years of age, a Franciscan priest called Father Andrew in the nearby Franciscan Friary at Ards noted Bridie's singing talent. He invited her to sing on one of the many concerts in Creeslough Hall. She was immediately acclaimed locally as 'a good wee singer' and soon was singing regularly with the local band.

Just at that time the O'Shea travelling troupe visited Creeslough setting up their show in a tent for a week. The owner saw Bridie sing and realised this was more than just an ordinary talent and invited her to join the show. So off she went on her very first 'show-business' tour around Donegal and Sligo as part of the O'Shea troupe with its musicians, dancers, actors (performing short one-act plays) and even jugglers! But a few short weeks later she went back to Creeslough. She returned to work at the post office but she had been smitten by the 'show-business bug'. She took every opportunity to sing on stage and dreamed of singing in far-away exotic places, just like her idol Vera Lynn.

Like so many young Irish men and

women in the late 1940's, jobs were hard to come by, and all too often emigration was the norm. Bridie and her sister Grace went to Belfast to live with their Aunt Mary on the Donegall Road and work as 'domestics' in the grand houses of the rich on Belfast's Malone Road. She continued singing, but now in halls (Parish, Orange and Town) in Belfast and around counties Antrim, Down and Armagh.



*Bridie in 1958*

The singing was initially for fun, but soon she was offered money to sing. Not large fortunes of course, but for a young 23 year old in 1947, a couple of pounds to sing 4 songs on a local variety show was an extremely attractive supplement to the small earnings she had doing domestic work. She was soon contracted to a Belfast show-business agent called Harry Baxter and found

herself in growing demand. At that time her repertoire included the 'chart-toppers' of the times, mainly songs by Vera Lynn, Rosemary Clooney and Doris Day. In 1948 Bridie met Bob Livingstone, a Belfast boy who took the same bus to work every morning as her. They fell in love, and married in September 1951. While he worked as a coachbuilder, Bridie stopped the domestic work but continued singing occasionally in local concerts, and they settled down in a small flat on University Street in Belfast.

Her popularity was spreading and she was still singing the 'pop-songs' of that time until one fateful night, waiting to go on stage in a concert at St Columb's Hall in Derry, other singers performing before her sang every song she had planned to sing. She was desperate. What could she do? Then the Belfast taxi-driver who had brought her to Derry for the concert said "Bridie, give them all those lovely Irish Ballads you sing in the taxi – they'll love it". And so she did; the first being *The Whistling Gypsy*, followed by *Glenswilly*. The response was amazing! Here were songs long out of fashion but yet clearly not forgotten, with meaning and pathos every member of the audience in Derry that night could understand.

That was the night in 1953 Bridie Gallagher became an Irish ballad singer. It changed her life. In the following months

she changed her repertoire and became the girl singer who was different from the rest, with a voice that was unique, often described as "having a tear in her voice" and ideal for Irish ballads. Her popularity grew and suddenly she was in real demand, being paid (a little) better money, placed higher on 'the bill', and getting offers of work with big names of the time to perform in their variety shows.

Then a London talent scout, Dick Roe, from DECCA records came to Belfast to audition singers, one of whom was Bridie. When she sang he immediately heard a voice that was different, a style that was unique, a young woman of great beauty, and recognised a potential star. Bridie signed a recording contract there and then and was soon in a studio recording her very first record *A Mother's Love's A Blessing* which was released in 1956.

The record was an immediate hit – in Scotland! Sales around Ireland were good, but in Scotland, with its large Donegal emigrant population, she became a big success. Demands for her performance rocketed. She also signed with her first professional manager, Nelius O'Connell, based in Dublin and was soon singing in concerts, increas-

played almost daily on Radio Eireann.

Performances in theatres like the Theatre Royal in Dublin and Empire Theatre in Belfast became the norm. She was the 'Top of the Bill', and more recordings followed. In 1957 she released *The Boys from Co Armagh* and it established her immediately as Ireland's top recording artiste selling internationally as well as in Ireland. In 1958 she recorded one of her first albums under the title *The Girl from Donegal* (one of the tracks). Thereafter on every concert poster and billing she became known as "Bridie Gallagher – The Girl from Donegal".

By 1958 her career was really reaching a crescendo. She was touring England and Scotland playing more and more of the great theatres. In that same year she changed management to one of London's top agencies - Solomon's. Phil Solomon, originally from Belfast, was a major influence on how Bridie was presented on stage, and in the media. He introduced glamour to her styling. He insisted on only the best stage gowns, musicians, musical directors – everything had to be top class. Phil told Bridie "In two years I'll have you at the London Palladium, and I'll bet you a new car I do it!".

Bridie continued touring and recording under Solomon's expert guiding hand attracting more and more praise from critics, fans and promoters. Appearance fees rocketed. The crowds attending were enormous by the standards of the 1950's and indeed even today, 60 years later. Every promoter recognised Bridie as 'the big draw' where audiences numbering thousands were not unknown. She started Summer Seasons in seaside theatres in Dungarvan, Bundoran, Butlins Mosney, and Isle of Man.

In 1958 she made her first of 14 tours to the USA working for Harry McGurk and Bill Fuller in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, San Diego, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Boston. Life was becoming a hectic whirlwind of travelling, rehearsing, performing, recording, and by this time all the while being mother to two little boys, Jim and Peter. Then one day in late 1958 Phil Solomon announced to Bridie "I told you I would do it, and I did. You are to perform on Sunday Night at the London Palladium on 4 January 1959". And she did. And she got her car! A red Singer Sunbeam convertible!

The London Palladium was the pinnacle of her career. Every artist in show-business around the world dreamed of being on that stage. Very few ever lived



*Bridie with Margo and Daniel O'Donnell (2000)*

ingly theatres rather than parish halls, all over Ireland. Her popularity soared further being a recording artist with records being

# Once Nominated for Grammy

*Once*, winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, has been nominated for a 2013 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. The production was also named Best Musical by the New York Drama Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Drama League, Outer Critic Circle and Lucille Lortel Awards.

*Once* will begin a US national tour the summer of 2013.

The cast features Steve Kazee as 'Guy' and Cristin Milioti as 'Girl.' Also in the company are David Abeles, Will Connolly, Elizabeth A. Davis, David Patrick Kelly, Jillian Lebling, Eliza Holland Madore, Anne L. Nathan, Lucas Papaelias, Andy Taylor, Erikka Walsh, Paul Whitty, and J. Michael Zygo.

Featuring an impressive ensemble of actor/musicians who play their own instruments on-stage, *Once* tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs. As the chemistry between them grows, his music soars to powerful new heights... but their unlikely connection turns out to be deeper and more complex than your everyday romance. Emotionally captivating and theatrically breathtaking, *Once* draws you in from the very first note and never lets go. It's an unforgettable story about going for your dreams and the power of music to connect us all.

The 2007 Academy Award-winning film was written and directed by John Carney, and starred Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, with original music and lyrics by Mr. Hansard and Ms. Irglová.

*Once* was made for \$150,000. Shot in 17 days, it went on to gross \$20M worldwide becoming a critically acclaimed international smash. It stars Glen Hansard, from the popular Irish Rock band The Frames, and Markéta Irglová. Glen and Markéta won the 2007 Academy Award for Best Original Song for "Falling Slowly," the Los Angeles Film Critics Award for Best Music, and the soundtrack was nominated for two Grammy

Awards.

*Once* was originally developed at the American Repertory Theater (Cambridge, Massachusetts) in April 2011; Diane Paulus, Artistic Director; Diane Berger, Producer.

A developmental run of *Once*

at New York Theatre Workshop (James C. Nicola and William Russo) began performances on November 15, 2011 and opened December 6. The production broke box office records and concluded a sold out engagement including a

two week extension through January 15th, 2012.

*ONCE* is produced by Barbara Broccoli, John N. Hart Jr., Patrick Milling Smith, Frederick Zollo, Brian Carmody, Michael G. Wilson, Orin Wolf, The Shubert Organiza-

tion and Executive Producer Robert Cole, in association with New York Theatre Workshop.

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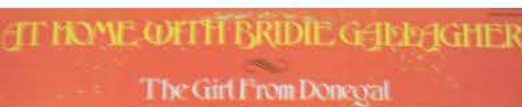
# Bridie Gallagher

*Continued from page 22*

that dream. But Bridie sang 3 songs that night to critical acclaim in the London newspapers. The televised show was hosted by Bruce Forsyth and also starred the

parties, and her earnings and fame grew ever more.

More coast-to-coast tours of the USA, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland followed during the early 1960s, more recordings like "At Home with Bridie Gallagher" (produced by the Beatles' George



Martin) selling in vast numbers. More great venues were in her itinerary such as the Albert Hall in London to record audiences of over 7,000, and at the other extreme an open air concert in Killmanham Wood in Co Meath singing on the back of a lorry with her pianist to a crowd estimated

to be over 6,000 people. Every promoter knew "Bridie pulls in the biggest crowds". As she toured internationally she met many major celebrities such as

Pat Boone, Ginger Rodgers, Jim Reeves and his wife Mary, and shared great stages with The Bachelors and Petula Clark in London, and Johnny Cash in San Francisco. Her tours of the USA were particularly special. She became very much the singer from Ireland who brought 'a touch of home' to many Irish emigrants, far from home, often with little contact with family in Ireland.

As the 1960s and 1970's passed by Bridie continued performing, including annual trips to the USA. In 1977 she achieved a long-held ambition to appear at the Sydney Opera House in Australia which only opened four years earlier and was one of the very first Irish singers to appear on its stage. Traveling, however, was beginning to take its toll and, as she passed her 60th birthday in 1984, she began to slow down the hectic pace.

Her last trip to the USA was for a concert at New York's Lincoln Centre in 1992. She continued with records, recording 12 albums and 32 singles in total and produced two videos in the 1990's. But

eventually, on 14 August 2000, she performed her last show at the An Grainnan Theatre in Letterkenny during the Letterkenny Reunion



Festival. That night, just three weeks short of her 76th birthday, she performed with just as much style and flair as many years earlier, with a slightly weaker voice, but still expressing sentiments in song just as strong as when much younger, accompanied on guitar by her son Jim and on piano by her granddaughter Teresa. She told no one other than Jim that it was her last performance. She told him "Tell no one, but that's the last. I'm too tired".

She never sang publicly again – but still never announced her retirement. In July 2000, a few weeks before her last performance, the people of Creeslough paid her an immense tribute by erecting and dedicating a sign in the town to her memory, welcoming people to Creeslough the home of Bridie Gallagher, The Girl from Donegal. It was one of

her proudest days, and she cried heartfelt tears of thanks. A few months later Bridie suffered the first of 5 strokes she was to endure over the next five years.

Of course, Bridie had her share of tragedy and sadness. Her marriage to Bob ended in 1965 and she never remarried. Most tragic of all, her youngest son Peter was killed in a motorbike accident in 1976. The loss broke her heart and she was never to fully recover from the shock and loss for the rest of her life.

Bridie's health gradually deteriorated until on the 9th January 2012, following a short illness, she died, in a Belfast hospital, peacefully and with her family by her side. She had lived most of her life in Belfast, but by an amazing coincidence, a water-colour painting hanging on the wall across from her hospital bed, was a view of Muckish Mountain from the White Gate at Ards - one of Bridie's favourite places in Creeslough. So Bridie Gallagher, the Girl from Donegal, who sang in Massinass School Choir and Creeslough Hall, the girl who went on to sing on the stage of Theatre Royal Dublin, Albert Hall London, Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Centre New York and The London Palladium, and became known to millions of Irish people across the world, left this world in sight of Muckish Mountain.

Her son Jim, who still lives in Belfast, is writing a biography on Bridie's life. He is particularly keen to learn of his mother's early tours of the USA and would welcome any readers' memories.

©Jim Livingstone - Send info to editor@iannews.com

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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### Illinois 2nd Congressional District

Former Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.'s., Congressional seat is up for grabs. So far there are about 15 candidates lining up. The latest being Illinois State Senator, Donnie Trotter, who "forgot" he had a gun in his garment bag when he tried to board a plane at O'Hare Airport. Now who is going to believe that lame excuse? He will probably turn out to be the front runner since the competition includes the likes of Mel Reynolds. So far, the candidates for the 2nd Congressional District just don't measure up. What else would you expect

Hold the presses! State Senator Donnie Trotter has withdrawn his name from consideration. It is reported he muttered something about his racist colleagues.

New Year Resolutions

Oh the Hell with it!

SEIU O'Hare Janitors

Organized labor takes a beating. Who got the gold mine and

who got the shaft? Mayor Rahm Emmanuel has been branded as a job killer. He signed a contract which replaces all the janitors at O'Hare airport with non-union help. His timing couldn't have been worse, just two weeks before Christmas. "I'm going to be carrying food stamps, you get it judge? I'm going to be indebted. That's not funny, huh?"

Another political insider contract? Organized crime connections? AAHHHHHHH, That's the stuff Chicago's made of!

### Sandy Hook School

Little children, first graders. Murdered by another wacko, Adam Lanza, one look at this guy would tell you something was wrong with him. How about the guy with the orange hair, James Eagan Holmes, who shot up the theatre in Aurora, Colorado wearing a Batman costume, and the psycho at Virginia Tech, Seung-Hui Cho. There were early warning signs as to the mental stability of these

individuals.

The door is open and the debate begins anew. "Gun control!" Why didn't Congress renew the automatic weapons ban? Why do we allow the sale of clips or magazines that hold 30 rounds of ammunition?

Now everybody wants to get into the act. Jesse Jackson Sr. has weighed in, and although his concern over the loss of the children is sincere, his primary concern is the African-American community where the senseless slaughter goes on every week, with guns that are bought as far away as Mississippi, and as close as Gary Indiana. Invariably the guns found on Chicago's streets are not legally owned weapons. Most are stolen. Eighty percent of the murders in Chicago are gang related.

We have always defended the right to bear arms, and no doubt we will continue to do so. First and foremost, remember, the people who committed these crimes are mentally deranged. Police departments should be doing a lot more profiling as part of their crime prevention programs. Meanwhile, say a prayer for those 20 first grade children and those six adults who tried to save them.

### "None of the Above"

When asked what church you belong to, and given a list of the widely recognized churches, many people would answer, "None of the above." Has organized religion failed to keep pace with societal trends? The CBS Sunday Morning Show reports that church attendance across the board is declining. Even the mega-churches are seeing the decline. Have the various Faiths lost sight of their mission? It would be interesting to conduct a poll. One of my good friends left the Catholic church when the Latin Mass was discontinued after Vatican II. Another woman I know left the church when the parish priest kept harping about cigarette butts carelessly discarded at the entrance to the church. She was there for her spiritual needs and no longer interested in

hearing about a seemingly trivial problem, decided that she wasn't going back to church anymore.

Old St Patrick's Church in Chicago seems to understand that people need to have an "uplifting" spiritual experience, not fire and brimstone or eternal damnation, but rather a real connection with their God as they understand Him.

### Corned Beef

St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraiser is Thursday, 1-17 at Plumber's Hall, 1340 W Washington St, Chicago. The traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner will be catered by Harrington's. Doors open at 6pm., dinner at 7pm. Tickets \$75. The Shannon Rovers Pipe Band will lead the dignitaries into the hall. Dinner co-chairs are Martin J. Healy Jr. and Lollie McKeown. Reservations email: tward@plumberslu130ua.com.



(L-R) Jackie Avila, Quinn Avila, Sherry Avila, Commissioner Frank Avila, and Audrey Avila display Commissioner Avila's "2012 Citizen Engineer of the Year" plaque.

### Avila Honored

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Frank Avila has been named "2012 Citizen Engineer of the Year" by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Illinois Section. The ASCE awards local engineers and members of the general public for their contributions. The award was presented during the ASCE's annual dinner meeting recently held at the Union League Club in Chicago.

Leo X. Morand, PE, is the Chairman of the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers Awards Committee. "It is with great enthusiasm that we honor Commissioner Avila this year," said Morand. "He has em-

bodied the engineering profession in a public agency that provides a vital service throughout Cook County. We are proud that he has served in an admirable fashion and is a credit to our profession."

"I am deeply honored by the tribute," said Commissioner Avila. "I hope that my work has contributed to the improvement of water quality, aquatic life, and the lives of everyone living in Cook County," said Frank.

He is Chairman of the Engineering Committee and the Committee on Maintenance and Operations. Commissioner Frank and his wife, Sherry, have been long time volunteers and supporters of the Irish American Heritage Center, and are producers at CAN TV, Chicago through Avila Media, NFP.

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**All Aboard for iBAM!**







## Rave Reviews for Faith Healer at Den Theater

By: Brian Friel  
Reviewed by: Frank West

The main character, Frank, the faith healer, has made several dramatic cures in his career; the high point was when he cured ten invalids. However, his power to cure is unpredictable and because of this he questions his skill and gift as a healer. He asks himself, "Was it all chance?-or skill?-or illusion?-or delusion?" Faith healing is a deeply puzzling human mystery. John Dominic Crossan is a noted anthropologist and historian of early Christianity. After visiting several Christian and Pre-Christian sites he says, "miraculous healings recorded at these sites were remarkably the same."

The play is composed of four monologues by the three actors. Each monologue presents a different view of the same events. Thus, the themes of this unforgettable play are: How do we perceive reality? And how do we perceive, or view, ourselves?

The monologues demand the careful attention of the audience. There is no fast action here. It is a play of transcendent, almost mystic, introspection. Faith Healer

is filled with potent insights. It was written in 1979 by Brian Friel. Friel was born in 1929 in County Tyrone in Ulster. He was educated in Derry, married in 1955, he and his wife have five children.

He has written 34 major plays. Among them are such iconic plays as "Philadelphia, Here I Come, Translations, and Dancing at Lughnasa." In 2005, he wrote "The Home Place." I saw this at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. It received a standing ovation. In 2008, he adapted Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler." Friel is one of the greatest dramatists writing in English. In 1995, he received the Nobel Prize for Literature.

I didn't realize that it had been 17 years since I saw Faith Healer. Scenes that I created then in my imagination, I still vividly remember. Thanks to the original director, J.R. Sullivan, for reuniting the original cast. Brad Armacost is Teddy; Si Osborne plays Frank, the Faith Healer; and Lia Morteuseu is Grace. These award winning actors have all spent years perfecting their profession on Chicago stages. Add to that their years of human experiences, the performances of these superb actors

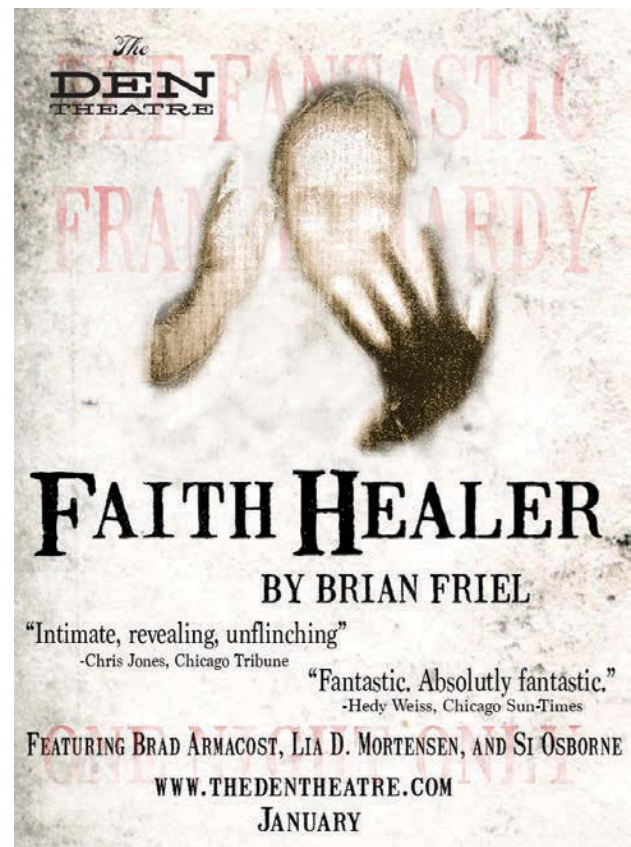
make the evening a great theatre experience.

Strong and visceral plays and performances that I have seen in 2012 are: "The Iceman Cometh," "Moon for Misbegotten," and now "Faith Healer." I strongly urge you to see this production of "Faith Healer."

Belief is a major theme of the play. Belief by the audience is crucial for a successful theater experience. The audience puts belief or faith in the actors and then can surrender to the magic of their performance. The play encourages "an examination of the artist's likes and evokes such questions as, What is faith? What binds us together? And what is the limit of human power?"

*Faith Healer* will be presented thru January 20 at The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. The show times are

Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 3:00. Tickets are available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

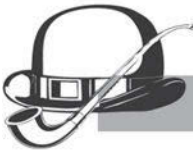


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# Mick

## Mike Morley



### "This Report Is A Sham"

Pat Finucane was a good lawyer; good enough to successfully oppose the British Government in several important 1980s human rights cases. Doing so showed lots more heart than most Irish lawyers cared to exhibit. His best-known client was IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands. But Finucane didn't discriminate; he represented Loyalist prisoners as well.

He was shot 14 times. Two gunmen knocked down the front door to his home with a sledgehammer and ran into the kitchen where Pat was at Sunday meal with his family. They shot him twice, bringing him to the floor; then one gunman stood over him, firing another dozen magnum bullets directly into his face. This was beyond murder; it was British Protestant retribution. Pat's wife Geraldine, a Protestant, was wounded in the attack. She and their three children who crouched

beneath the table had to witness this horror.

The Ulster Defense Association/Ulster Freedom Fighters (UDA/UFF) ultimately claimed responsibility. Fourteen years later in 2003, the British government's Stevens Report stated officially what was long known "by the dogs in the street"- that the killing was carried out with the collusion of police. (The Anglo-American media, ever sensitive to nomenclature, have always substituted that less familiar word "collusion" for "conspiracy".)

In 2001 retired Canadian Judge Peter Cory was appointed to investigate. Cory's report in April 2004 recommended public enquiries be established. And former policeman and UDA member Ken Barrett then pled guilty to murdering Finucane (after his

taped confession, "lost" since 1991, suddenly "re-surfaced"). Barrett was given life with no possibility of parole for 22 years.

Calls for an independent inquiry grew louder. Britain enacted a convenient new law, the "Inquiries Act" which received



*Geraldine Finucane with her children John, Katherine and Michael in London December 12, 2012.*

the Queen's assent in April 2005. It granted the government power to block any investigation into actions by the state. (This act finally affirmed in law the centuries old doctrine of British infallibility in matters of torture and murder of Irish Catholic citizens.)

In June 2005, Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern told a US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland that "everyone knows" the UK government was involved in the murder. But it wasn't until May 17, 2006, that the US House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the British government to hold an independent public inquiry into Finucane's murder.

Six days later, in a further insult to the Finucane family, to justice and to Irish Catholics, the Sentence Review Commission endorsed the shooter, Barrett

for early release, and he exited Northern Ireland for parts unknown.

On October 11 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron invited the Finucane family were invited to meet at 10 Downing Street and issued them an official apology for state collusion in Pat's murder. But Michael Finucane said he and the family were "genuinely shocked" to learn that Judge Cory's recommendation for a public inquiry, accepted by Tony Blair, was out. Instead a simple "review" of the Stevens and Cory case files was planned. Mrs. Finucane labeled

the proposal "nothing less than an insult...a shoddy, half-hearted alternative to a proper public inquiry".

On December 12, 2012, the government released results of this "Pat Finucane Review", conducted by Sir Desmond de Silva, Queens Counsel and Knight of the Most Venerable (Protestant) Maltese Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. Cameron read excerpts of the report in Parliament: 'DeSilva was asked to review whether the state was involved. The answer is simple: yes, it was'.

DeSilva describes FRU handler Brian Nelson, hired to streamline the UDA killing machine, as "to all intents and purposes a direct state employee". MI5 used him to orchestrate arms shipments from South Africa to loyalist gangs. (While US judges were aiding

Britain by jailing Irish Americans for daring to help those at home with funds and arms, the British state was feigning peacekeeping while re-arming the Protestant paramilitaries.)

De Silva insisted that ministers could not have known who was being targeted because "no records have been identified" of ministers being briefed. Yet he records a security policy meeting attended by the Northern Ireland secretary and the heads of the security forces, called precisely to discuss the traffic in information.

Cameron continues: 'Sir Desmond describes - and I quote' - "an extraordinary state of affairs... in which both the Army and the RUC Special Branch had prior notice of a series of planned UDA assassinations, yet nothing was done by the RUC to seek to prevent those attacks".

Why would Sir Desmond or Cameron think this "extraordinary"? It's obvious that if British security provided virtually all the intelligence for the murder squads, and knew in advance of planned assassinations based on those files, and also supplied weapons and cleared getaway

routes, then the British government was de facto in charge of those gangs. The UDA, UFF, UVF, Red Hand Commandos and other Protestant gangs killing Irish are (with 'plausible deniability') allied with, if not run, by London, Westminster, #10, and the Royal Family. And Pat Finucane is one horrific murder. What of evidence that Britain was behind the most atrocious mass murders in modern Ireland, the bombings of Dublin-Monahan and Omagh?

Cameron focuses blame on "that terrorist group" the IRA, and pays tribute to all those officers "who defended democracy and the rule of law". He disagrees with the Finucane family's call for a public inquiry: "Indeed, the history of public inquiries in Northern Ireland would suggest that had we gone

down this route, we would not know what we know today."

Does Cameron mean that had there been an actual inquiry, his government would have ensured that documents allegedly viewed in secret by Sir Desmond could have gone permanently missing, like those rifles used on Bloody Sunday, held under tight security by the Ministry of Defense, and "accidentally" destroyed before they could be examined by Lord Saville's Inquiry? Britain's vaunted "rule of law" is exposed as farce, a drug potion for the gullible.

Cameron ends up with a most vomituous demonstration of the fine British art of the big lie: "If we as a country want to uphold democracy and the rule of law then we must be prepared to be judged by the highest standards. And we must also face up fully when we fall short."

One can dream that Irish-Americans might just this once take a moment to assess these events in their ancestral island, and express some outrage to the London government. A line or two from those practicing the law, including some who regularly troll these pages for fresh client income, might prove helpful.

Mrs. Geraldine Finucane: "I regret to say... yet another British government has engineered suppression of the truth of the murder of my husband... It is clear that this report has done exactly what was required: to give the benefit of doubt to the state, its cabinet and ministers, to the army, to the intelligence services, to itself...The dirt has been swept under the carpet without any serious attempt to lift the lid on what happened to Pat and so many others. This report is a sham. This report is a whitewash. This report is a confidence trick dressed up as independent scrutiny and given invisible clothes of reliability. But most of all, most hurtful and insulting of all, this report is not the truth."

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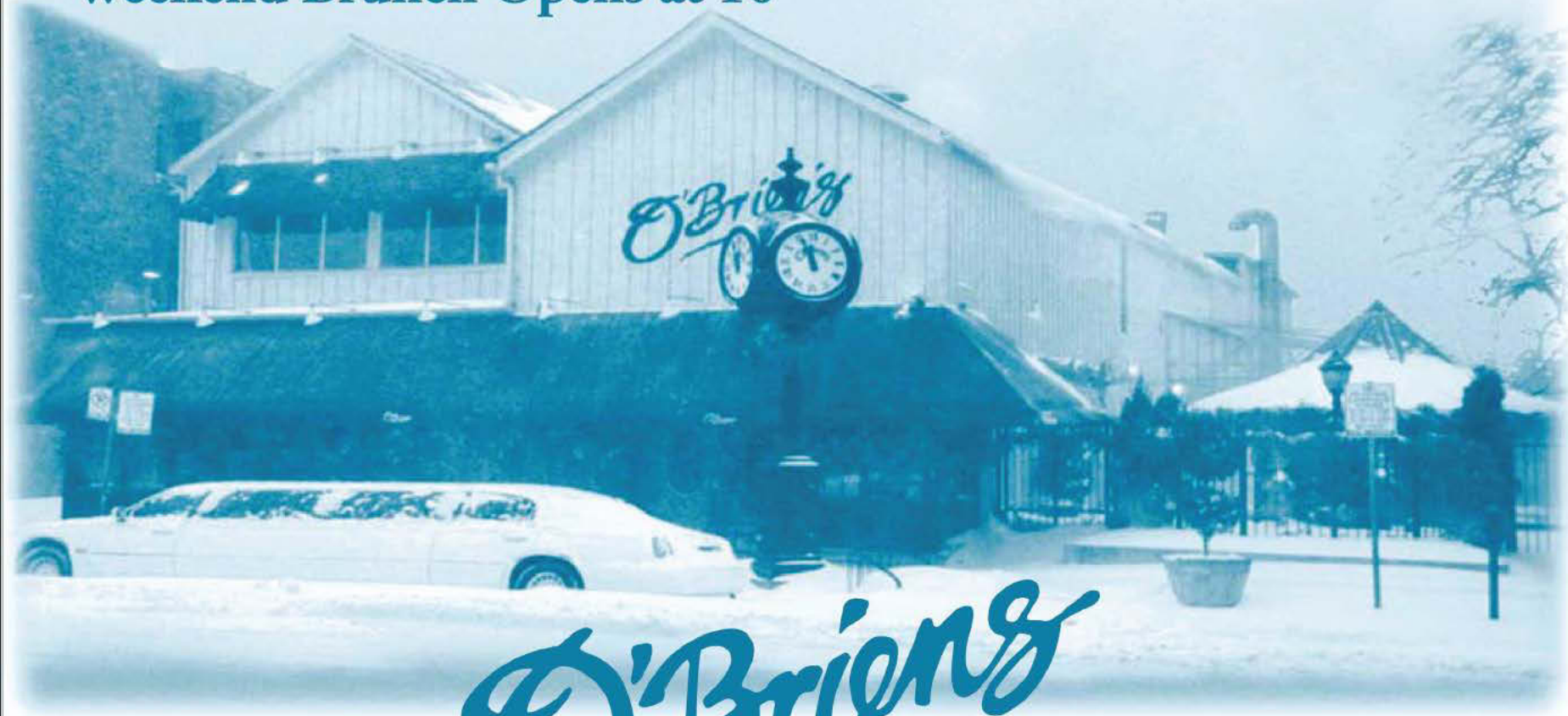
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# For The Republic



**Chris Fogarty**



THE FAMINE PLOT, ENGLAND'S ROLE IN IRELAND'S GREATEST TRAGEDY is an important new book about 1845-1852 Ireland. It's by well-known Irish historian Tim Pat Coogan, author

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of MICHAEL COLLINS and THE IRA, and long-time editor of THE IRISH PRESS, funded by Irish-Americans in 1920-1923.

INTRIGUING, that THE FAMINE PLOT was attacked by our State Dept. (by twice-denying Coogan a U.S. book tour visa) while hyped by Niall O'Dowd. The former works for Britain (and Israel), and O'Dowd for the Anglo-Irish Smurfit family, funders of his IRISH VOICE newspaper in NY. O'Dowd, more than anyone else, convinced Irish-America that the Good Friday Agreement is a victory despite mandating the sign-over of the disputed Six Counties to Britain, the largest surrender of national territory in history (some 18%) absent catastrophic military defeat. Here's hoping that O'Dowd's support indicates that Coogan will be spared the decades of smears that BritIrish academia hurled at Cecil Woodham-Smith's ground-breaking 1962 book; THE GREAT HUNGER.

COOGAN'S FAMINE PLOT accuses Britain of genocide despite omitting the evidence that proves it; the at-gunpoint Food Removal. While contending that it was not famine, Coogan nevertheless refers throughout the book to "famine," Britain's cover-up word that we were all taught in school. He also weakens his claim by regurgitating BritIrish academia's false attributions of "laissez-faire" and "free markets." There is nothing "laissez-faire" or "free-market" about the robbery of a nation's agricultural output. Throughout he refers to Ireland's people of the day as "peasants" as if that status were intrinsic rather than externally-inflicted. "BY THEIR FRUITS..." Promoters of Irish "Famine" (rather than the truthful "Holocaust," "Artificial Famine", or "Extermination") all cover up the following;

- 1) The British army's at-gunpoint removal and export of Ireland's food crops. (For the past two decades my map at www.irishholocaust.org shows each regiment in the Irish district it was assigned to starve.)
- 2) The consequent murder of approximately 4.8 millions.
- 3) The hundreds of resultant mass graves.

4) Ireland's landlords were English.

5) Britain bought out those landlords (routinely at above-market prices) and repatriated them to England.

6) Britain divided those latifundias into typically 28-acre farms and forced their recipients to amortize the sum paid to the landlord (though the landlords' "title" was genocide-, not market-based).

7) Ireland's farmers were still paying that annual "rent" well into the 1960s.

FACTS 1 THROUGH 4 comprise evidence of genocide; but Coogan omits all seven of them. His case for genocide is based upon his contention that the British gov't failed to provide adequate charity food. Ignoring the Food Removal, he refers to "help," "lack of help," "needed assistance," etc. On page 52 Coogan exhibits his lack of knowledge of potato cultivation by quoting B. Coogan's *The Big Wind* in which a Holocaust-era farmer referred to his "drills" instead of "ridges" ("iomri" in Gaelic) Drills are the sole form of Irish tuberculture today, but labor-intensive ridges were still nearly universal in 1953 when I left Ireland.

RIDGES VS DRILLS. Coogan repeatedly uses the British slur; "lazy beds," and falsely posits "Irish laziness" by indicating that cultivation is complete when the seeds ("slits") are sown. He omits mention of the massive energy-expenditure of the first and second mouldings which, in a typical crop, entailed moving hundreds of tons of soil by shovel to provide a matrix for the crop; and again during harvest, the flattening of those ridges by spade or graip.

THE U.N. and genocide. In Appendix 4 Coogan lists the U.N.'s nineteen articles that comprise U.N. CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE. Its Article 2 lists five different acts that constitute genocide; but the UN enacted that entire body of law on December 9, 1948, nearly a century after those acts and omissions occurred. Coogan anticipates this; "To them I end by saying that there is another, even older command on which

the UN declaration draws, and it is not disputed: Thou shalt not kill." Touching; emotional, but Coogan's accusation of genocide based upon inadequate provision of charity food will fail. *The Accusation That Will Prevail Is That Ireland's Food Was Violently Removed By 69 Regiments Of The British Army. That Full Truth Must Be Told; The Food Removal Proves The Genocide.*

PERHAPS the Irish gov't's partial support for Coogan derives from the inadequate evidence he marshals to support his accusation of "genocide." His evidence is the correspondence written by Trevelyan & co. that reveals murderous malice toward the Irish. This evidence is powerful but circumstantial, not dispositive; like using only Mein Kampf to prove Nazi genocides. To claim genocide while covering up the British army's removal of Ireland's food is analogous to claiming genocide against the Nazis while omitting the round-ups, the transports in box-cars, and the existences of Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, etc.

THE FAMINE PLOT informs. Other than it and Woodham-Smith's in 1962 and three novels; O'Flaherty's (1937) *FAMINE*, Gallagher's (1982) *PADDY'S LAMENT*, and Enis' (2010) *WHEN IRELAND FELL SILENT* nothing truthful on this subject had been published since Davitt's (1904) "The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland...". Coogan fails to support his accusation but does reveal important documents.

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# View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Mountjoy Prison. The Perrin case has created a very needful precedent that rocks elitism in our society.

Judge Ring, who handed down the

sentence, maintained that the legal profession relies on trust and that any violation of it was serious indeed. The Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter, made out that Perrin's crime was extraordinary and that he would have impeached Perrin if she had not resigned from the bench.

What is extraordinary is that she was found out—Perrin's crime is of a piece with the ethos of her gilded class. It is notoriously difficult to prove when 'inducing' has occurred. If solicitors and judges behave criminally, they too can be punished for their transgressions. But in Ireland that code is more honoured in the breach than the observance. The overarching problem with the nest-feathering that Perrin engaged in is that it creates a culture of organised crime quicker than you can say Al Capone. If trust is broken where it is most required, you can forget about expecting fair dealing elsewhere. Solicitors who wobble create tenfold incidents of grease and greed in their wake. Perrin's sentence is a strike for ordinary Irish people who, risible as it sounds in retrospect, were paying her a bloated salary.

Rewriting dead people's wills and attempting to 'influence' elderly and vulnerable clients is endemic in Ireland, although the practice is seldom punished. Consider the case of the disgraced solicitor Ruairi O'Ceallaigh. He was rumbled in 2010 for acting in just as bare-faced a manner as Perrin. O'Ceallaigh embezzled over 1.5 million euro, quite a sum of money for one man to snatch, against the will and the bequeathals of his clients who intended to leave the money to the Catholic Church. O'Ceallaigh funnelled the money into a considerable portfolio of property; he has not yet been stripped of it. He has been pursued even after being removed from his profession by Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin. Martin secured a judgement last year against O'Ceallaigh's brother who still runs the practice (the O'Ceallaigh family have practiced law for generations).

Why do they think they can get away with it? The first aspect that should be flagged about the bizarre world legal professionals live in (get a load of the wigs) is the way one rises in the ranks. Senior members of most professions ascend the ladder through their talent and hard work; judges rise through political connections. Take core appointments to the bench last November. Former senator Patrick Durcan, Enda Kenny's four-time running mate, duly got his sinecure within a year of Kenny's becoming Taoiseach. Eamon Gilmore nominated Attorney General, Máire Whealan (and a lot of egg has wound up on his face due to her lacklustre form). Other appointees, Nessa Childers and Michael Coghlan, both feature high up in the Fine Gael and Labour Party firmament. If judicial positions are given as gifts, a sense of entitlement threatens to take hold from the very start.

The Constitution ensures the independence of the judiciary from the government. That appears to be an attribute of a genuine republic. Yet judges are still

political appointees in our 'republic', which is a deeply reactionary facet of the power structure in the country. The hubris of judges' insisting that their salaries be ringfenced from austerity measures last year is symptomatic of the position that Perrin and her ilk have arrogated to themselves for too long.

And so to another important court case. The ill will that prevails in the country due to December's crushing budget has made the government unstable; dissent and division is rife. The last thing Irish leaders need now is a high profile court case that flies in the face of the wishes of their European masters. So bring it on. Luckily someone has been preparing such a brief. The stars seem now to have aligned for him, and for the movement he founded. His name is David Hall, head of New Beginning. Made up of concerned citizens, New Beginning's day-to-day business is to challenge writs that the government/banks pass off as legal.

Hall's major assault on the government, however, will properly begin on January 22nd in the High Court over the issue of the promissory notes. Hall's argument will run as follows. Payment to holders of promissory notes, as with senior bondholders, was not agreed during a sitting of the government, still less by the Irish people. Secondly, documentary evidence shows that the European Central Bank leaned on our former Minister for Finance to agree immediately to make the payments. That pressure breached Article 15.2 of our Constitution, which forbids bodies other than our government to legislate for Ireland. Will the High Court rule to condemn a violation of our Constitution even though such a ruling would be against the preference of Irish politicians who strive to please Europe? Either way the government will be damned. Judges, despite the jockeying that surrounds their appointments, are not politicians. They should stand with the Constitution.

## Thrown Out of Court

On November 28th, Judge Heather Perrin was jailed for two and a half years for a deception she committed while she was a solicitor. She is guilty of attempting to induce a client, Thomas Davis, to leave half of his estate to people Perrin thought were very deserving of it—namely, her children. It is the first time in the history of the state that a judge has been jailed. The fraudster judge, well known for her bling and flashy cars, will now have to slop out alongside working class prisoners in

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## The Irish Rover

By James McClure

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### Circle of Life

"This too shall pass," my mom used to say. She'd add with an Irish wink and a nod to my many years as a news broadcaster, if the personal disaster du jour was bad enough..."Just think of it as a pause for station identification. Ha ha!"

A few pauses too many in 2012, which if you read this column with regularity contained some of the most horrible twists and losses imaginable. Much as I enjoy the life of fun and adventure it seemed I was constantly being dragged back to reflect on whatever the terrible circumstance of the month was. Pets dying in excruciating

pain, jobs gone south or for the most part, just gone. An engagement called off, bouts of ill health and finally the anticipated but no less devastating death of my dad just a few months ago.

As the hearse pulled away from the senior living facility I headed wearily up to his room after a 36 hour vigil. En route I found a crying nurse's assistant. Everybody in the place loved Dad-O, a towering Irish six foot four of dry wit, droll humor and economically expressed intelligence. Thomas Jefferson cloaked in Walter Matthau lovable sarcastic grumpiness.

"It's the cat," the nursing aide said. "When they took his body away she ran after them cry-

ing and it got louder when they wouldn't let her go with him in the elevator."

"I don't know what I'd do without her," Dad-O wrote a few years back of his red-orange tabby that kept the stately widower happy and healthy for the better part of five years of solitary living. "Perhaps your sister will slip her in with me when The Final Great Journey comes."

He thought he would outlive Kitty but the feline had other ideas, as Poppa would write "prowling my digs like the hunting lioness she is, hunting, protecting and jumping about from desk to ledge to bed to chair and various places of inconvenience." A genteel way of saying she landed full force and foursquare literally on the McClure family jewels. That's gotta hurt at 94 or any age.

When I entered his room it was like walking in on a blurred starburst of gray and black. It was if visually and emotionally all life and color had left the room. An empty stage with the participants long moved on. Scraps of paper here and there, all vibrancy gone

with the life extinguished. And yet at the center of the room, low and to one side there was a lava orange glow of radiated energy. Kitty, in the classic lioness defensive position. Tense. Shivering. Shocked. Cowering. Green eyes wide with the deepest, most forlorn fear I have ever seen in any living being.

I walked over to the colorful mass and the eyes looked up at me. And she spoke. Believe me, with every fiber God puts into every hair of every creature he creates and knows, she spoke. A little haltingly at first, but with terror

unknown to me from this fierce and protective little one.

"WHERE DID HE GO? WHY CAN'T I GO WITH HIM? I'M SCARED...WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ME?!"

Questions we all ask at times in our life. Questions I myself have asked more than once in the past year of loss and regret.

I reached down and picked her up and held her as close as I could. It probably wasn't close enough. "That's easy. You're coming home with me! You took care of my Daddy through the end of his life. How about I do the same for you Honey? Deal?"

She wasn't so sure. Five years



of quiet indoor post-octogenarian living and travel in general would be a challenge for a feline with a three hour journey south to the Illinois Wisconsin border from Green Bay.

MEOW...MEOW...I'M SCARED MEOW...I'M SCARED!

One expert suggested the overnight travel was best but beware the Dawn. Another graveyard shift co-worker said music would soothe the formerly savage beastie.

Sure enough some Vivaldi on the satellite radio somewhere south of Sheboygan did the

trick. By Milwaukee, Kitty was wrapped around my neck and purring inbetween leaping to the dash and being fascinated by the cars and trucks in the early morning pre-dawn.

When we got to my apartment I rushed up to the second floor above the Celtic gift shop with the cat accoutrements of litter box, toys, food and cloth pyramid playhouse. I carried her up the stairs as she whimpered a bit.

Inside the apartment the striped tail tabby began an immediate prow, with detective work in just three minutes that would envy Sherlock Holmes and reveal every hiding place, defensive position, vantage point and listening post.

I plopped on the bed, not quite sure if this arrangement would even work. Kitty had been tolerant but not particularly attentive to my overtures in the past. All her love was focused on my father.

I never felt more alone or more tired. It was Sunday morning and I hadn't slept since Thursday morning when I finished a 12 hour overnight security shift.

As I unlaced my shoes a heavy red-orange PLOP landed Kitty right next to me on the blue cloth and golden threads of my bedspread. When I swung into bed wearily she snuggled to my hip and the green eyes stared right through me.

She then knelt down and took one side of her head and stroked it up the length of arm from the wrist to the shoulder. Then she tilted the other side of her head and stroked it up the other side of my arm.

I then remembered how she would leap into bed every night as Dad untied his shoes.

It's called "marking" by animal behaviorists, among them my Dad's big sister Muriel Beadle who wrote the authoritative book The Cat in 1977.

Kitty said it out loud, and without any chance of misunderstanding: YOU'RE MINE NOW.

She curled up next to me and was still there the next morning. I'm not sure who's taking care of who.

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### A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

#### Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



## Catholic Charities Today: "Now More Than Ever"

"Wishing to lend every assistance practicable to alleviate the suffering and ameliorate the condition of the widows and orphans, the feeble and infirm, the weak and faltering, the abandoned and cast-off..."

So began the letter from concerned Chicago businessmen to His Eminence Cardinal George E. Mundelein in 1917, urging the formation of a central fundraising mechanism to help parishes struggling to meet the needs of the poor.

On November 29, 2012, in our 95th year, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago held the Annual Meeting of our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors. As 370 board members and staff convened at the Hilton hotel in downtown Chicago, we reflected upon the nearly ten decades of growth, change, adaptation and dedicated service to the needs of the poor that this social service agency has provided to the people of Cook and Lake Counties.

Since the First World War, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has pursued our mission of service to poor and struggling families and individuals, using every available resource to reach our most vulnerable neighbors during challenging times.

Today, faced with increasing diverse and complex requests for assistance from individuals and families throughout Cook and Lake Counties, Catholic Charities continues to remain aware, flexible and adaptable to the evolving needs of our one million neighbors who come to us for assistance each day, year after year.

Here is just a sampling of our 157 programs that serve or impact people 24 hours a day.

\*1 a.m. Our Mobile Outreach

telephone hotline dispatches a van to meet a young adult on the street and provide free transportation to a safe shelter.

\*2 a.m. A Chicago mom quiets the cries of her baby daughter, who will now sleep through the night with a full tummy because the young family visited one of Catholic Charities' 16 Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Centers.

\*3 a.m. For the first time in more than a year, a mom, dad and their two children safely rest at one of Catholic Charities Interim Housing facilities for homeless families. Recently selected by the City of Chicago to expand its transitional shelter services, we provide more beds at night, and during the day offer numerous services such as counseling, access to available benefits, transportation to school for the children, and employment training for their parents.

\*5 a.m. A 62-year-old man finds security and privacy in his Section 202 apartment in one of Catholic Charities' 20 Affordable Housing Residences for low-income seniors, including two new buildings completed this year. He will make himself breakfast before heading downstairs to a meeting of the Building Resident Council, followed by an information program on smoking cessation and a quick conversation with the site's social worker.

\*6 p.m. In the early evening, Madonna House, Catholic Charities' renovated shelter for women and children in Wrigleyville, welcomes young adult volunteers from Catholic Charities' Junior Board to read a story, share a snack, and work on a craft with the children, while the parents pursue goals of generating savings and finding employment.

\*Last year, Catholic Charities' Senior Services and Health Care helped 102,210 older adults and their families, especially those with low incomes, to maintain quality of life and independence for as long as possible, with in-home and community-based services that kept them grounded in familiar settings. Homemaker and Elder Abuse Services, as well as Senior Centers, assisted and protected these seniors with a range of programs and improved their quality of life.

At all hours of the day or night throughout the year, Catholic Charities embraces each opportunity in our 157 programs to assist, protect and encourage the families, seniors, children and individuals we serve, especially those who are most in need.

The heart of our mission is service to the poor, because in serving our struggling neighbors, we serve Christ Himself. For many decades, our time-honored maxim has been: "Caritas Christi Urget Nos - The Charity of Christ Impels Us!"

Our Mission Statement sums up our purpose and our vision: "Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and com-

munities based on the value and dignity of human life."

Now, more than ever, as we embrace and continue our 95-year tradition of serving our most vulnerable neighbors in ever more challenging times, we receive increasingly diverse and complex requests for assistance. Strengthened by faith and hope, our tradition of professional excellence, the outstanding support of our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, and our generous volunteers and donors throughout Cook and Lake coun-

ties, Catholic Charities gratefully looks forward to serving families and individuals in need for years to come.

From all of us at Catholic Charities, a grateful prayer for you and your families during the New Year:

*The LORD bless you and keep you!  
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!  
The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26*



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## An Immigrant's Musings

By Fr. Michael Leonard



### New Year - New Hope

As we prepare for the inauguration of President Obama for a second term, we do so with a renewed sense of hope, that what Mr. Obama promised in his first post election press conference will be delivered.

"My expectation is that we get a bill introduced and we begin the process in Congress very soon after

my inauguration. And in fact, some conversations, I think, are already beginning to take place among senators and congressmen and my staff about what would this look like," Obama told reporters at the press conference.

We have since seen movement from the Senate, with Senators Schumer and Durbin on the Democratic side meeting with Senators Graham and McCain on the republican side. Others are also said

to be keen to have an input such as, Rubio (R) and Flake (R) as well as Leahy (D) and Menendez (D).

On the House side, we see some positive signs coming from the Republican leadership with Boehner, Cantor and Paul Ryan all quoted as saying they want to move the issue forward. On the Democratic side, the Hispanic Caucus will again have a major input. Luis Gutierrez supported by Zoe Lofgren and others will work tirelessly to make it happen.

As I go to press, the talking signals are good. The reality, though, is that before anything begins to move, we will first have to see a deal reached on the so called, "fiscal cliff." The post election signals from both parties on that topic

were very positive, but alas, the action has been lacking thus far. Most people on the street can't understand why it is so difficult for our elected officials, to do what we sent them to Washington for. We elected these folks to find practical and workable solutions to move our country forward.

My ask of our elected representatives is this; can you please move beyond the nice "sound bites" and begin to take serious steps to producing results. My personal hope is that 2013 will produce an immigration bill that we can all be proud of.

### The House With the Golden Windows

The little girl lived in a small,

seniors on very low incomes lost this vital benefit in Chicago alone.

In response to this crisis the National Council in Aging asked the city of Chicago to reach out to these seniors to ensure that they are enrolled in other assistance program that are available to them. CIIS works closely with the city of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) to serve and protect vulnerable older adults. We are currently entering our third year of providing community based support services to at risk seniors in partnership with the DFSS.

They have again approached us to help with their efforts. We are currently undertaking an extensive outreach project to those low income seniors that no longer receive help paying for prescription drugs. In order to have the greatest impact and reach as many seniors as possible we need the help of dedicated volunteers who are willing to work with us to make a difference in the lives of seniors.

Our outreach is largely phone based and will be run for our office at the Irish American Heritage Center. There will be a brief but comprehensive training give to all volunteers before they join our outreach mission. Volunteer hours are flexible and this is also a great opportunity for groups who want to contribute to a worthy cause. To find out more or to offer -your services call our office on 773-282-8445 and speak with me - Paul Dowling,

very simple, poor house on a hill and as she grew she would play in the small garden and as she grew she was able to see over the garden fence and across the valley to a wonderful house high on the hill - and this house had golden windows, so golden and shining that the little girl would dream of how magic it would be to grow up and live in a house with golden windows instead of an ordinary house like hers.

And although she loved her parents and her family, she yearned to live in such a golden house and dreamed all day about how wonderful and exciting it must feel to live there.

When she got to an age where she gained enough skill and sensibility to go outside her garden fence, she asked her mother if she could go for a bike ride outside the gate and down the lane. After pleading with her, her mother finally allowed her to go, insisting that she kept close to the house and didn't wander too far. The day was beautiful and the little girl knew exactly where she was heading! Down the lane and across the valley, she rode her bike until she got to the gate of the golden house across on the other hill.

As she dismounted her bike and lent it against the gate post, she focused on the path that led to the house and then on the house itself...and was so disappointed as she realized all the windows were plain and rather dirty, reflecting nothing other than the sad neglect of the house that stood derelict.

So sad she didn't go any further and turned, heart broken as she remounted her bike ... As she glanced up she saw a sight to amaze her...there across the way on her side of the valley was a little house and its windows glistened golden ...as the sun shone on her little home.

She realized that she had been living in her golden house and all the love and care she found there was what made her home the 'golden house'. Everything she dreamed was right there in front of her nose!

Comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: sliabhanoir@yahoo.com or 773-282-8445

## Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



January 2013

This month's group meetings

Senior groups take place at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details of senior group meetings this month. All senior group meetings begin at 10am. There is no cost and refreshments will be served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call our office on 773-282-8445.

Irish American Heritage Center

Thursday, 17th January 2013 - Finding Balance

Hearing loss can create all kinds of challenges but did you know

that hearing problems can affect your balance? Today we welcome Dr Bridget Kane, a licensed audiologist with over 20 years' experience, who will help us to develop a better understanding of hearing loss, the issues it creates, and how it can be treated so life can be enjoyed to the fullest.

Thurs 31st January - Fraud Alert

It's time for our annual fraud update. Every day, scammers are coming up with new ways to try to trick people out of their hard earned money. If we are to avoid becoming the victim of their scams we must stay well informed. To

give us all the updates, we welcome back James Hennley from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department. James will teach us about the new tricks being used by con artists so we can better protect ourselves from fraud.

Gaelic Park Wednesday, 23rd January 2013 - Fraud Alert!

This is the same program as that scheduled at the Irish American Heritage Center. See above for full details of what you will learn at this important event.

Wednesday, 6th February 2013 - Who Ever Heard of a Docent on an Amtrak Train?

Jim Carr spent four years as a docent on the Amtrak train between Chicago and St Louis. Jim shows up in full costume and teaches us about what an Amtrak docent does. He will also share with us some stories about the fascinating people he met while travelling the tracks of the Midwest.

Volunteer for the New Year!

As the New Year begins we know that you are all busy making resolutions and looking for ways to grow both personally and professionally. CIIS has a great volunteer opportunity that may help you on your way.

In an effort to plug our state's fiscal deficit the Illinois Cares Rx program was eradicated in its entirety last July. This program assisted low income seniors to cover costs related to their prescription drugs. The discontinuation of this program meant that over 35,000

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## A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar

### The Irish Mill

Open 365 days a year, Lake County's oldest continuous establishment, "The Mill" has been serving excellent spirits to the community for more than over 88 years. Established in 1922, it was legally licensed the day the Volstad Act (prohibition) was repealed in 1933. It has been dedicated to providing a warm and friendly Irish Pub



Tommy the Bartender and Justin McGrath, the Owner of the Irish Mill

experience; with an authentically designed pub interior found in every town in the "Old Country."

Justin McGrath and his parents, Patrick and Denise purchased the well known, local favorite six years ago. His heritage is Irish and Russian with his Irish ancestors being from Claire, Donegal and Waterford, Ireland. Since purchasing the Irish Mill, Justin and his parents have completely beautified the interior and exterior of the building. Without losing any of the original charm and décor, the McGraths added gorgeous hardwood floors, updated the bathrooms, added seating and wait until you see the

welcomed somewhere they had never been before. New customers were being offered a pint and a smile by someone they

had never met. His decision was easy. It was meant to be. The friendliness is contagious at the Irish Mill and has brought together many new friends, engagements and marriages. Justin said it best, "It's the place you'll meet friend's you didn't know you had."

At the Irish Mill, you will enjoy bags or bocce on the courts or listen to great live music acts four days a week; Thursday through Sunday. If you are lucky enough you will catch one of my personal long time favorites, the very talented, Whitey O-Day. There are always local sports, pro and college as well as World Cup and international sporting events, all on the three big screen HDTVs. Wednesday night is the pub quiz's and the talented Windy City dart league is always welcoming competition. No worries for you corporate people, if you want to have a pint with a fish fry in the afternoon, because the WiFi is free.

You will have a hard decision choosing what to have for lunch or dinner. Justin is a Kendall College culinary graduate and his touches are obviously on the menu. Some favorites are the appetizers such as the Irish Bridie which is a classic Irish lunch pastry or Basque fries which is two fried eggs served over French fries with melted cheese. The must have is the Diamond Laker- Mill burger with added fried egg on an onion roll or the County Claire Combo-1 # Shepherd's pie with bangers and Irish soda bread. Lake County's Favorite Fish Fry served on Wednesdays and Fridays is a wild Icelandic

fried cod dinner in a harp beer batter or the incredible cod sandwich. Justin also runs daily specials and gladly obliges any carry out or catering order.

When it comes to Whiskey the Irish Mill takes highest honors. There are 32 choices of Irish whiskey's, 18 varieties of Scotch and 14 American Whiskeys. They will amaze you with the rare whiskeys such as 12 year and 15 year Red Breast-single pot still malt or the 1608 Bushmills-400 year anniversary crystal malt or the 21 year Bushmill's-rare reserve to name only a few. The one thing I did learn is that even though, since 1661 in Ireland it is banned to own or sell Potcheen (homemade whiskey) it doesn't mean you can't purchase and sell it in the United States. If you have never tasted Potcheen, come on in and ask Tommy the bartender for a Bunratty Potcheen from County Claire. As the bottle states drinking Potcheen helps all Irish eyes to keep smiling.

The Irish Mill has a reputation for helping the community and some of the ways they do that is by sponsoring fundraisers for the Orphans of the Storm- animal rescue and donating clothing and food to the Battered and Abused Women's Shelter and the Children's Summer Burn Camp. As one of the oldest businesses in the area it is important to them to support local sports teams or

steel tip dart leagues. They also host private parties and will assist in planning any of your gatherings or celebrations.

So come on into the Irish Mill and enjoy some great food, prepared by the talented Chef, sing along with the various incredible musicians, toast with the house Irish whiskey-Tullamore Dew and become part of "The Mill" community. "It's the place you'll meet friends you never know you had."

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## A Budget Devoid of Compassion

The feelings of disgust towards the perpetrators of last week's (as I write) uncaring, arrogant budget will only deepen as time goes on until we finally—finally—must recognise the enormous chasm that lies between us and our heartless political masters.

And they shouldn't be our masters at all. They certainly should not feel that they are; and yet they do. And this despite the fact that they are supposed to work for us, something that seems to have been long forgotten. Despite many of them being half-educated at best, or even worse, just plain ignorant and insensitive, they really feel that they still have the right to represent us.

Of course I will hear some saying that they were voted in to make the decisions that we thick peasants can't make for ourselves; but this is completely wrong. When a politician or the party he represents has lied to our faces prior to an election; when they have failed to honour a single promise that they made; when they continually reward themselves for failure and hit the poorer in society in order to continue to fund their reprehensibly lavish lifestyles, salaries, expenses and pensions; when they are guilty of all these things then they surely have lost all claim to any mandate they may

have been given when voted in.

If a worker, in any other industry, were to have behaved as shoddily as our present government then they would either be out of a job or have lost their company.

It's as simple as that.

Why should a politician be any different? If anything, I would maintain that due to the great privilege they have been given—namely, to try to improve life for the people they represent—that they have an even greater responsibility on those shoulders of theirs.

They should all along have been worrying and working themselves towards making this a better society for each and every one of us to live in. But you cannot work selflessly for those more vulnerable than you if the first thing on your mind is how to get through the months and years until you can get your hands on that honey pot that will keep you in luxury for the rest of your life, even if you're only in your fifties when you retire.

You cannot be concerned with people dying on the streets and queuing at soup kitchens when uppermost in your head is working out your expenses for getting to the Dail on the days when you feel like bothering to turn up. Can you imagine it? These creatures actually demand to be paid for the journey to work. Are

any of you out there able to do that? No, I didn't think so.

If you are too busy swigging down ludicrously subsidised alcohol in the Dail bar as if it were a working man's club; if you are stuffing your fat faces with subsidised food in the restaurant; if, as we know from this week, you are moronic enough to think that it's funny to be sending prank calls from the Dail itself—prank calls, in the week that saw a nurse in Britain allegedly take her own life because of one, which just about shows your level of intellect; if you find it appropriate to turn up at the Dail yesterday as did Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny, grinning like a Cheshire Cat after his latest adventures swanning around Europe and seemingly oblivious to the depth of feeling against him; if you are this divorced from the person in the street then you have no business representing us anymore.

Grand concepts are thrown around: we listen to talk of bondholders and bailouts and are constantly lectured on our duty to cut back in order to help out the banks. If the truth be known these are now simply abstract ideas for most of us. The reality is the homeless man dying outside the supermarket on the street in the town of Bray last Friday night, frozen to death where he sat. This is so far divorced from anything that our wealthy politicians can even begin to understand as to be utterly heartbreaking.

The reality is the man in Dublin on the previous day who died beneath the wheels of a bus. Tragic as that was, even worse was that it was two days before he could be identified.

People vanish frequently these days, having become for whatever reasons the victims of broken dreams, broken hopes, broken lives.

We are all so busy simply trying to survive and protect our own little section of turf now that we rarely have time to wonder how the next fellow is doing. It's not that we are uncaring or wicked; it's just that whatever compassion we once had is swiftly being knocked out of us.

And if we are waiting to be led through example by those who deem themselves our betters then we can prepare for a long wait as we turn more and more into a casually cruel society.

Those people felt nothing yesterday as they sat in the comfort of Leinster House (a building that is supposed to be for the people, for crying out loud!) whilst carers once again demonstrated to no avail against the savage and barbaric cuts to their already meagre expenses.

There, in the freezing cold of a pre-Christmas week were many in wheelchairs who were demanding the return of the €325 that was being stolen from those who, out of sheer love, look after them; and inside were the likes of Taoiseach Kenny, having the bad taste to swagger and smile, secure in the knowledge that on €200,000 a year and with a pension pot of €83,900 to look forwards to, will never feel the aching raw pangs of want. And just as much as Kenny is the pet lackey of Angela Merkel there is his own pet, the turncoat and traitor Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore—a man who never made a promise he couldn't break—happy with his €184,405 a year salary and his pension of €78,442.

I could go on and print the outrageous money that the rest of this appalling group of creatures pull down, but really what would be the point?

I do wonder what Kenny felt as he looked out of the windows at his fellow Irish men and women who have been so terribly and unfeelingly spat upon. Did he think about the one-off payment of €100,000 that he is 'entitled' to from his teaching days? And is that why he has spoken of deferring it until he retires from politics?

Deferring it? Dear God, that somehow makes it even worse.

With such greed-driven men and women as these to 'lead' us how can we ever again hope to regain a caring and compassionate society?

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## pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



*"Studs Lonigan, on the verge of fifteen, and wearing his first suit of long trousers, stood in the bathroom with a Sweet Caporal pasted on his mug. His hands were jammed in his trouser pockets, and he sneered. He puffed, drew the fag out of his mouth, inhaled and said to himself: Well, I'm kissin' the old dump goodbye tonight."* **Studs Lonigan Trilogy James T. Farrell**

## Any Boy in the Mirror

James T. Farrell's three novels commonly known as Studs Lonigan opens with a boy posing and contorting his face into the toughest guy in long pants. A cigarette always helps. This boy like too many boys dies without ever having much of a purpose. He absorbs consequences of his own fears, sloth, anger and gluttony like an old man's Depends.

Studs Lonigan is a boy and boys are nothing like girls, not to belabor the obvious.

Boys are hard-wired at conception to do weird and wonderful things – light fires in garbage cans, roast ants with the magnifying glass that Aunt Maeve gave him with a starter stamp collection, bite the feet off his sisters' (older and younger) Barbies, fling peas at the wedding Uncle Jack's bride-to-be thought he'd make a 'darling ring-bearer.'

Yep, we is bad as Mammy noted about Rhett Butler's purchase of the scandalously red drawers with which he gifted her. Boys are distinguished, gifted, or cursed with an Adam's Apple and also a set of Adam's Tackle. Boys are aware that this particular gender manifestation dispenses furiously, at first merely distilled fluids and later the little propagating swimmers. While apparatus remain tucked up tight in the under carriage he utilizes the wee waggler is a corporeal offensive weapon good for putting out fires, or hosing

messages on walls and sidewalks. When the seed bearing pods drop and their owner now sports downy whiskers hither and yon, adopts sloth as his creed and eats heartier than a reporter at a free lunch, more attention must be paid to the

consequences of ownership. Yep, Bad from the get go!

My sister-in-law Gail is a lovely and sweet-natured girl for St. Louis. While I was blessed with two beautiful little girls at the Alpha and the Kappa, my robust and amiable son wedges in at Epsilon. Gail was showered with two pure 100% boys.

I recall phone chats with this mild and generous woman reduced to tears by the Irish Twins Pat and Danny. Pat is now a Romeoville Fireman and Danny a chef in Colorado. Both were my kind of guys. Gail would call, "You have it so lucky to have two girls (sob). . . Oh, God, all they do is shoot me with whatever they can pick up – brooms, candy canes, a crucifix even and everything that they jabber about is pee and poop (sob)! I WANT GIRLS!!!! Can I have the girls??? I want to play princess. . . (sob) Just once!"

When my late wife Mary was in Loyola Medical Center, Gail took Conor (5) and my parents the girls, Nora (10) and Clare (1.5). My Dad, like his son, was huge baby sap and my Mom worked on my oldest child's shopping skills. Gail had not only her 14 month separated Romulus and Remus, but my young Hector. Conor is older than Gail's Danny by 8 hours and younger than Patrick by a year and change. Gail begged for the girls. Not a chance, the old man has the baby up at TR's Pub teaching the old Nazi and Jap killers Eentzie Weentzi Spider and Ginny has her older sister at Orland Square 8-5 every day.

I called Gail to check on the gents. Again she was reduced to sobs. "I was giving them a bath together and they all stood up and pee'd on me! (sobs) Laughing like idiots and peeing on me and the more I cried the more they

laughed. (sobs) They were horrible laughing peeing and shouting out threats to do worse."

I counseled patience, but secretly high-five-ing the trio of little louses and wishing that I could have been there.

Women, I must warn– we get no better with age, only more aware of consequences.

Merry-hearted Boys make the best of old men. Merriment to males is no where near madrigals or maypoles. To be Merry is a male domain – jocund, jolly and gay. Robin Hood is merry, because he is frolicsome –gets into broils and troubles. The word itself is Old German murg, which means brief or as it further evolved brave. Girls use the term and imagine that men actually care about feelings.

Oh, we know hurts, slights, grudges and also the warmth of companionship, or the glow of righting wrongs. We are not stone. . . stone is permeable . . . water gets through stone.

Boys have a tougher time in school than girls, because ever since the 1970's education czars have insisted upon gender neutral curricula and school districts have self-gelded any male friendly activities. Recreation time became as endangered as the buffalo that once roamed our fruited plains. PE classes became experiments in self-esteem. Whiners and weenies became the overlords of achievement – 'We are All Winners!' Physical exertion was all but eliminated, as well as the salty snacks and sugary drinks, when these children of Eve's self-esteem dictates, became little lard-asses.

Boys are now curtailed from being what they were born to be.

More fat-headed than this sequestering of impulse and exercise was the serial killing of authors and historical events by feminist Marxists who wrote books and articles about racist, patriarchal war-mongering white devils and their culpability in causing peoples to have very hurt feelings –universal! Goodbye, Dickens, Kipling, Thackeray, Livy and Homer; hello, Laura Kasischke, Judy Blume, V.C. Andrews, and Toni Morrison. History classes spend more time talking about Jane Addams, than the Foundering Fathers, WWI &

WWII are covered in a single unit eclipsed by Sojourner Truth.

Here in Illinois, 76.9 % of teachers are female, women. This leaves boys with a mere 23.1% as role models. Some of these very role models are just . . . precious.

Boys are taught exactly the same way as girls. That is not working. Here at Leo High School and our sibling single gender Catholic schools, boys and girls are taught according to how boys and girls learn – for the most part. Catholic secondary education gets it –boys and girls learn differently. K- \* Catholic Education tends to be as hostile to boys as public education, because few males teach at that level. Even so, too many male teachers trained in gender-neutral educational expectations hold expectations not unlike my darling sister-in-law Gail who plunked the three lusty gents most aware that they are equipped with God Given super soakers into a common tub! No surprises, there. Boys will pee on one and all; nothing personal. I have seen young male teachers reduced to tears, when willful, proud and by-God Mannish Boys refuse their treacle teaching.

Boys, need it loud and proud.

Boys learn differently than girls. Girls have much more acute hearing from birth on and the 76.9 % of their teachers' voice commands and lessons sound off with just enough force; most boys don't hear. Period. Then they are humiliated for not listening.

Boys see differently; boys see in verbs, while girls visualize nouns. Girls score high!

"Great bowl of peaches, Greta. You have sensitive eye. Festus, can't you draw anything without explosions, mutilations, crashes or massacres????? Nope. !

Boys get humiliated and get low grades in Art and come to believe that the arts hate them too.

This particular instructional paradigm shifts when it comes to math: boys do numbers and girls do word problems. Boys get A squared + B squared = C squared – Girls comprehend that "Joanie buys two sweaters that cost \$15 each and two scarves at the low price of \$7.50 and that the Total Purchase = \$ 45.

Boys grab-ass, fidget, day-dream

and pester, unless they are presented with a purpose. They must see themselves taking part in a great adventure to keep America safe from crumbs and Commies, by committing his full attention academic, athletic and societal to meeting goals and beating St. Michaels in Orland, or St. Albert the Great in Oak Lawn. That is where he shall be tested and not found wanting.

Boys will read when can have context for what they are reading and visualize themselves within the plot and allow themselves to become immersed in the action. Of course, this would require that a text have something in way of action – a raft trip, a fence painting, a dog to rescue, a game to win, a cause to fight for. Modern kiddy and t'ween literature has all of the salt and snap of Melba toast – Jimmy becomes aware.

Heroism, bravery, physical courage, moral turpitude and purpose are eschewed for empathy. No wonder an entire generation is fixated on video games. That sedentary outlet is that is allowed boys, until Ms. Mannerborn discovers the lad killing zombies during a discussion of Margaret Sanger's contribution to American culture.

The group, the squad and the team are vanishing out existence – football is too violent and gender specific.

Our boys will make faces in the mirror that match the purpose taught to be important, for without purpose they remain lazy, filthy, messy, sexist, foul-mouthed and given to all manner of larceny, or worse written off and ignored.

Boys need men to point to that purpose, or even better women who actually understand and like boys.

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## Piping It In

Jack Baker



work has long deserved but seldom gotten. His new recording, "This New Morning", should tickle his fans and add many

Well I trust we all made it through New Year's unscathed and healthy with only a wee bit of clanging in the back of the skull. Now we can face this New Year that is so full of promise and hope and, please God, music.

We'll start the year looking at some of the remainders from last year though by no means the least of last year's offerings. Compass Records continued to release some of the best music around and two of the recordings I want to tell you about are their last two releases of the year.



It seems that the big names go to Compass these days if they're not doing their own production. Luka Bloom released his last CD on Compass, "Dreams in America", in 2010 and it got the kind of promotion his

new fans as well.

It is a nice blend of original pieces and "reinventions" of tunes by a bevy of diverse songwriters. On this recording he has invited a bunch of talented musicians to join him and the likes of Glen Hansard, Donal Lunny, Iarla Ó Lionaird, Steve Cooney, Rita Connolly and others give him a "wall of sound" that is new and delightful. I think I've enjoyed this recording better than any of his previous work. Especially engaging is his rendition of "You Couldn't Have Come at a Better Time", one of the best versions I've heard. A good example of the quality CDs that Compass Records releases.

Compass cranks out another winner with John McSherry's new work, "the ollam". The title is an old Irish word referring to a master of a particular trade or skill and this recording features a collaboration of three masters, John, of course, on uilleann pipes and whistles, and Detroit-natives Tyler Duncan on uilleann pipes, whistles and guitar and Michael Shimmin on drums and percussion. Together they have created an instrumental fusion of styles that really interests me. I've listened to this one a lot and there's some bits that I still haven't wrapped my head around but others that are among the best I've heard. I like to see artists take some chances, let their music run



to see where it will go and John MacSherry has never disappointed me in this regard. He has had a tremendous run of successful and highly interesting CD releases, "At First Light", "Tripswitch", "Soma" and "Idir", all unique and interesting. One thing I can guarantee about John MacSherry's work, you won't listen to it once, say "That's nice" and forget it. It won't let you.

I was thrilled last year, before Milwaukee's Irish Fest, to hear that Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly were going to be performing there. Naturally I was too busy to get away from the booth and see them but I did get one of their CDs from a good friend who picked it up for me. Such sweet music! These two guys are legends in Irish music and masters of the Sliabh Luachra tradition of playing. Their CD, "The Living Stream" is

a feast for the ears of any lover of traditional music but more so, it's an education for any of us who think Irish music is limited to the "Irish Rover" and the "Unicorn". As my mentor and Senior Traditional Irish Music Editor Bill Margeson would say, "This is the real deal" and, by golly, it is. The liner notes take you thru an explanation of the Sliabh Luachra tradition and the histories of the tunes they play. This is one of those CDs that go straight to your heart, remind you of where you come from and make you proud of the fact.

Last of last year's CDs is something rather different from one of Chicago's host of talented musicians. Andy Young is a very talented young man who really makes the hammered dulcimer reveal it's range. He's also a talented arranger. A year or so ago he put out a beautiful Irish CD, "L'Accroche-Pieds", that I, and everyone else who heard it, enjoyed immensely. Now he has released his latest, "Swing Marteaux" and it's not Celtic in any way, shape or form but you'll love it none-the-less. Swing and dance and music for quiet nights with a glass of wine and someone you love, yeah, this is the album for you. Joined by Alfonso Ponticelli, who makes magic with his guitar, Andy also has Farley Masterson on fiddle, Al Tauber on guitar, Mike Choby on bass and Bob Tamborrino on clarinet. This group of excellent musicians is joined by Andi Tauber whose vocals smolder and add just the right amount of heat to get the whole affair cooking just right. They rock on the fourth track with a steamy rendition of "Les Yeux Noirs" (Dark Eyes) and do right by Gershwin with a sweet rendition of "Oh, Lady Be Good". If this one doesn't make you want to grab someone you care about and dance, you need help. Another nice thing is that, since Andy is from this area, we get to see him perform, which is a treat, believe me. You can find out where he'll be performing at by checking out [www.andyyoungmusic.com](http://www.andyyoungmusic.com).

You can find me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or on line at [pipingitin@comcast.net](mailto:pipingitin@comcast.net) Slainté

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Photo by Keith Nolan Photography [www.keithnolanphotography.ie](http://www.keithnolanphotography.ie) 12/12/12 ..A very cold river at Carrick-on-Shannon was the venue for a demonstration of Stand Up Paddling or SUP as it is known. David O'Hara demonstrated the art along with some hardy supporters on the day! For more information go to [www.supforall.ie](http://www.supforall.ie)

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# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell



Maureen has given Chicago so much and I hope she will be selling Tayto's for many years to come. Ha! Ha!

That special time of the year has come and gone again, a special time for all of us, "Christmas Time." Every year I try to get more in touch with what Christmas is really about and I must admit I feel closer each year. The birth of "Jesus", that little baby, the reason for it all. I try not to stray too far away from that reason. All that I have and all of you who are so special to me is because of what happened all of those years ago. My decorations are still up until little Christmas and the trees all aglow, I still have a candle in each window which I feel is very important just to light the way. All of my concerts are done for another year. I will be doing some more concerts for 2013 including the Irish American Heritage Center on October 26. Just before Christmas, near my home in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan I sang for the elderly, in our local nursing home. I really enjoyed that. If we all try to reach out a hand to each other and love our fellow man things in this world could be a lot brighter.

I lost a very dear friend in December very tragically, Ray O'Gara R.I.P. He was one of the most talented men I've ever known. He was a phenomenal guitarist and just a wonderful human being. When I first met Ray, we spent many happy hours talking about music and I give him a CD of some Celtic guitar picking that I had. A week later Ray played me one of the tunes from the CD on an acoustic guitar. I would have thought that impossible if I hadn't heard him play it right there in front of me. I feel very honored to have shared a friendship with Ray but he left us way too soon. In one of the saddest funerals I've ever been to, Father Smyth paid him a great and fitting tribute. December 2012 will be long in everyone's memory. There are no words, just a deep sadness.

Even though Christmas is over, Margo and I thought our song for this month should be one that we released as a duet last year. It talks of peace and seems to be fitting right now.

Until next time be good to each other.  
Happy New Year!  
Margo and Joe

I hope you all had a safe and warm Christmas and the New Year brings you joy. I also want to thank you all for your love and friendship. I feel so blessed to have you in my life.

Over to you Joe,  
Love always,  
Margo  
Thank you Margo and a Happy New Year to all in Ireland from Chicago.

Well, I'm getting ready to play at the Irish American Heritage Center along with Kara Eadie and Gerry Carey, for their New Year's Eve party. After a trip to Disney, I will be performing Friday, January 11 at the Shamrock Club in Lake Worth near Boynton Beach, Florida. I've performed there for a few years now. I really enjoy playing at the club and I know a lot of people from Chicago will be there. They are one happy bunch and really love their dancing. And of course it will be great to see Mickey a Minnie Mouse again.

Hundreds of people went to visit the new store in the Irish American Heritage Center mid December, to celebrate their 1st Anniversary and also to pay a special tribute to that precious lady Maureen O'Looney. So I swung by with my guitar and sang the song that Margo and I wrote in Maureen's honor. We had it put in a frame for her and she was delighted.



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## "Christmas Spirit"

Written By Joe McShane, Margo O'Donnell and James Thacker

1st Verse  
 3 years old sittin' at the table  
 Talking to an empty chair then she began to sing  
 Its a lovely Christmas party, thanks for sitting by me  
 You look so beautiful today and I love your angel wings

2nd Verse  
 Me and Mom were so confused wondering what our girl was doing  
 As we watched our little daughter smiling at an empty chair  
 An imaginary friend my love, is that what you are seeing  
 She said no it is my angel and he sitting down right there

1st Chorus  
 He didn't ask this world for much just to love each other  
 Is it so very hard to love your sister and your brother  
 She pointed into emptiness then her face began to frown  
 My angel looks so sad today, I think we've let him down

3rd Verse  
 I believe a gift from God was sent to show each of us the way  
 We should listen to our children at that very tender age  
 Oh the pureness of a 3 year old so simple and true  
 Sent to teach us all oh lord to be a little more Like you

Spoken  
 In a stable in bethlehem so much love was born that night  
 A baby opened up his eyes and filled our world with light  
 We still love you baby Jesus and we're so sorry that we've sinned  
 Please help us walk out from this shadow and live in peace and joy again

Last Chorus  
 He didn't ask this world for much just to love each other  
 Is it so very hard to love your sister and your brother  
 Now that emptiness is gone lets fill the world with peace again  
 Feel the love of Baby Jesus through eyes of all our children  
 Lets open up our hearts and let our baby Jesus in.

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## Real Ireland



By Rachel Gaffney

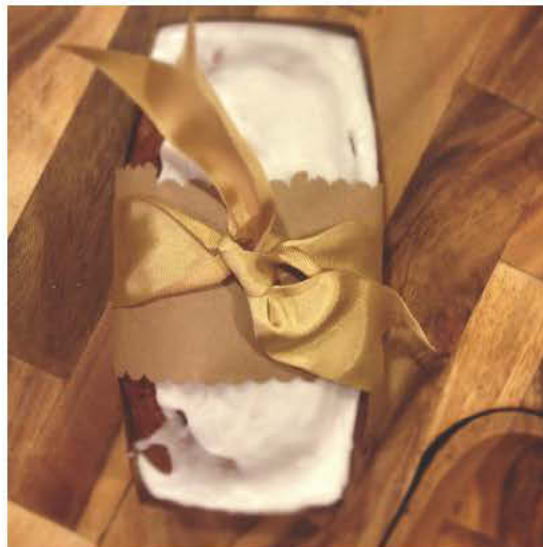


Once I peeled them, the juicy flesh oozed between my fingers. Growing up, nothing ever went to waste in our home and to this day I cook and bake with the same eager frugality as my mother and grandmother.

Quite some time ago I had found a recipe in 'Bon Appetit' magazine for Apple Spiced Cake. It was time to make

some substitutions and these pears would foot the bill.

I have yet to see bruised fruit displayed as a centerpiece in someone's home. Yesterday my husband asked me if I was keeping rotten pears for a reason. They were not rotten, they were bruised. Bruised fruit is delicious fruit.



### INGREDIENTS

3 cups all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
1/4 teaspoon allspice  
4 pears, peeled & chopped  
1 1/2 cups unsalted butter (I use Kerrygold)  
2 cups soft brown sugar  
3 large eggs

Preheat Oven to 325 degrees F. If you are using loaf pans, spray them or grease them with melted butter and flour. I purchased 4 disposable loaf pan cartons and they did not need to be prepared.

Sift flour and next 6 ingredients into bowl. In an electric mixer cream the butter and sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time. Next add flour mixture. Mix in chopped pears.

I added some Mexican Chocolate pieces to my loaf but this is, of course, optional. Pour your batter into prepared pans and bake for 1 hour or until tester comes out clean. Using brown paper and ribbons, you can decorate as you like and deliver to friends... I hope you enjoy!

You can now watch Rachel online on AT&T UVERSE, 'The Irish Kitchen'

<http://uverseonline.att.net/tv/show/the-irish-kitchen-with-rachel-gaffney>

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## Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



### The Cross

The purpose of the decorative elements of the Book of Kells is to add stunning visuals to Christ's



life and message an illustrate the principle moments of His life. The scribes/artists' images illustrated and enhanced the text. Scholars who have studied the text and images have discovered the depth of spirituality of the Book and connections to 8th century liturgical beliefs. Not surprisingly, there are many different layers of meaning and open to wide interpretation. The Book's decoration is so imaginative that scholars believe it is not meant to be read and used for daily use. It could have been used by selected readers for meditation and spiritual free-association, which could lead to apparent paradoxes about what some of the images mean. The Book has been described a fascinating enigma.

Last time, we started a new series of the images that are directly related, not to the symbols of Christ's divinity, but to His teaching, life, death and resurrection. These include the images of books, crosses, angels, the four Evangelists and their symbols. We covered images of books and now we move on to crosses.

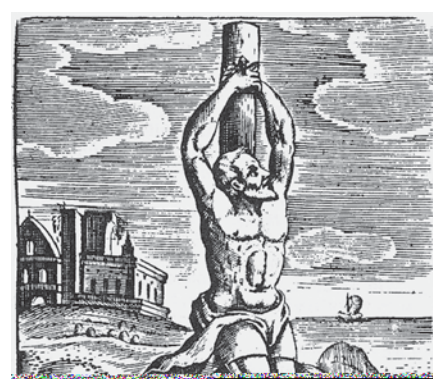
Throughout the Book, crosses are a continual, constant reminder of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. On very many pages there are crosses of various shapes. However, not all images

of crosses were meant to represent the cross of the crucifixion.

A cross shape that is depicted often is called the Greek cross, with four arms of equal length. The Red Cross Organization's red symbol is an example of such a cross. A variation of this cross has the end of each arm flared out. There is also a cross in the shape of an "X," often called the St. Andrew cross or the saltire shape, named the "crux decussata."

On a historical note, for punishment or crucifixion, the Romans used a fixed vertical pole or timber sharpened on its upper end. Its was called a crux simplex. Prisoners were tied or nailed to it. Later, a transverse bar was added, on or near the top. This was called a crux fixata.

Other additions to this style cross were a kind of seat or a



ledge to help support the prisoner or a ledge to support the feet. These were not for comfort but to prolong the suffering. Sometimes a small board was attached to the top most part and the name of the prisoner or crime was added.

In the original Gospels the Greek words used for the crucifixion method were stauros and xylon. These words have more than one meaning in translation and describe no exact shape. Scholars have debated the possible shape of the Biblical cross for hundreds of years. At this point, there is no definitive an-



swer, but there is the tradition which we are all familiar.

The cross shape we see in almost all Western art is called a Latin Cross. It has become the traditional and accepted shape of the crucifixion cross. It is the shape used in the Insular Gospels and would also be the kind depicted in the Book of Kells. Folio 123v, which is blank, was most likely intended to be the image of the crucifixion. For an unknown reason it was never included. Good evidence that a crucifixion image was planned is the facing folio, 124r, includes text that reads, "Then were crucified with him two thieves" and images of 15 men, like witnesses, facing toward f123r. This is the folio with a design that included a head of a lion, symbolizing God the Father, as I described in earlier articles, enraged and breathing fire. One of the most powerful images in the Book.

## Billboard's Top World Music Artists Celtic Thunder Launch CD and DVD TV Special in February and Cruise in May

The awesome power of world music and live performance will be taken to the next level when Verve Records launches *Mythology*, the new CD and companion DVD project from global Irish Show Celtic Thunder, due on February 19th, 2013. The world-renowned supergroup – comprised of vocalists Emmet Cahill, Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly, George Donaldson, Neil Byrne and Colm Keegan – continues to astonish audiences, traveling as easily across the genres of folk, traditional Irish, adult contemporary, rock and classical crossover, as they travel the world, performing for an ever-growing number of fans.

*Mythology* presents the perfect blend of entertainment, ideology and Gaelic spirituality, providing a modern twist on the old Celtic storytelling tradition. The new show was produced by Sharon Browne; the *Mythology* album was produced by David Munro,

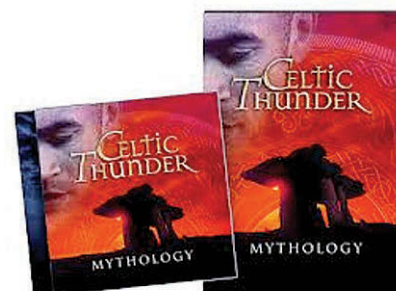
## Johnny Cash Fest - Cash for Kids 1-26

Cash for Kids! Chicago's only Johnny Cash Festival and a fundraiser for the Gompers Park Athletic Association. All proceeds from the event will help sustain boys baseball and girls softball programs enjoyed by over 550 children on the Northwest side of Chicago. Artists scheduled to perform include Hayden Thompson, Iron Horse, Pin Drop Theatre, The Back Forty, Tommy Tuesday, Jen Rockis, Glass Half Empty, and Lil Red and the Howlin' Wolves.



Musical Director and Composer.

The release of *Mythology* will be backed by a major North American tour, which will travel to 65 cities coast to coast in both Canada and



the U.S. During the tour The Celtic Thunder Cruise will sail for five days throughout the Caribbean, departing Miami on November 2nd, 2013. In addition to the six main vocalists, the tour will also feature strings, guitar, percussion, whistles, pipes, guitars and more in the eight-piece Celtic Thunder band. The tour's musical director is David Munro, who also plays keyboards in the show.

Saturday, January 26, 2013  
6:00 PM – 1:00 AM  
Irish American Heritage Center  
4626 N. Knox Ave Chgo 60630

Performers:  
Hayden Thompson  
Iron Horse  
Pin Drop Theatre  
The Back Forty  
Tommy Tuesday  
Jen Rockis  
Glass Half Empty  
Lil Red and the Howlin' Wolves

Suggested donation \$15.  
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# Vote for Irish Music Awards

The Irish Music Association announced today that online voting for winners of the 2012 Irish Music Awards is now underway through January 12, 2013.

The awards recognize the Irish music industry's most accomplished artists and performing groups in 18 categories, from "Best Irish Tenor" to "Top Celtic Rock Band Worldwide." Recipients will be determined through a global website voting process on the Irish Music Association website which began Dec. 1, 2012.

Members of the Irish Music Association are encouraged to participate in the voting process. Last year, more than 10,000 people voted, and thousands more are expected to participate for the coming award process. To vote, visit: <http://www.irishmusicawards.com/>

"We're urging all of our members who are devoted fans of Irish music to participate in our online voting process for these outstanding groups and individuals. These awards recognize the fantastic achievements of our most talented musicians and



So another Oireachtas Season has come and gone. And just like last years it has been filled with some disappointments but that's ok because guess what? I'm GOING TO THE IRISH DANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!!!! Since this year it's in Boston, my dance school is sending my choreography team to compete. I know it will be a lot of work but I get to go with all of my teammates and who knows? This may be the only chance I get to go to World's. (Hopefully that's not the case.)

Whenever Oireachtas season passes, it always motivates me to become a better dancer. I know that I can always be improving on something. This year I may not have recalled but I placed 24 places higher then I did last year, which I see as an accomplishment by itself. My plan is practice extra hard to start getting first at feises, which will qualify me to go to Nationals. This year it's in Disney Land and who doesn't want to go there?? I'm so determined this year. I'll keep you posted on my upcoming feises. I have high hopes for the New Year.

In other news, I had my first cheer competition a few weeks ago. Its so similar yet so different

from feises. The funny thing was that one of my teammates from dance was on another team and that was the first time we ever competed against each other in something. We're so used to being on the same team so that was an odd experience for us. I am a flyer so I was really nervous because I've never done anything like this before. I'm only used to Irish dance competitions. It was a great experience and so exhilarating. We ended up getting 8th place, which is really good compared to the past Ignatius JV teams. I have a really good feeling about this year. Our main goal is to qualify for state in February so fingers crossed.

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. I know I had a blast! One of the highlights of the season was going to see Ed Sheeran in concert at the Chicago Theatre with my friend. He was amazing live and I had an awesome time!! I'll never forget that night. I had a great Christmas with my family. I hope Santa brought everyone everything they asked for. I have a great feeling about 2013. This is going to be my year for school, dance and cheer. Good luck to everyone with their New Year's resolutions.

artists and the magnificent Irish music they create," said IMA Executive Director, R. T. Reeder. The IMA Awards "recognize, promote and support Irish music and musicians from the U.S., Ireland, the European Union and the United Kingdom." Winners will be announced on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at 3 PM

CST in the historic brewery cellars of the 1842 Royal Brewing Company at O'Malley's Pub in Weston, Missouri.

The Irish Music Award Nominees for 2012 are as follows:

**Top Solo Performer in Concert (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

George Donaldson, Christy Moore, John Doyle, Tommy Fleming

**Top Solo Performer in a Pub Venue (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

Ian Gould, Luka Bloom, Tony Cummins, Mickey Coleman

**Top Duo in a Pub, Festival, Concert (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

The Ryans Irish Band, Lilt, Switchback, Siusan O'Rourke

and Zig Zeitler

**Top Group (US, IRE, EU, UK)**  
Cherish The Ladies, Lunasa, Gaelic Storm, Altan

**Best New Irish Artist(s) (IRE, EU, US, UK)**

Burning Bridget Cleary, The Rovers, The Fighting Jamesons, Ciorras

**Best New Irish CD**

Lilt - Onward, The Mickey Finns - Prayers and Idle Chatter, The Ryans

- Songs of Irish Freedom, Mairi Morrison & Alasdair Roberts - Urstan

**Top Celtic Rock Band (IRE, EU, US, UK)**

Barleyjuice, Roger Drawdy and the Firestarters, The Clumsy Lovers, Scythian

**Best Irish Tenor (individual)**

Paul Byrom, Anthony Kearns, Daryl Simpson, Tommy Fleming

**Best Female Vocalist (individual/trad.)**

Katie McMahan, Chloe Agnew, Méav, Shannon Lambert-Ryan of RUNA

**Best Sean-nós Singer**

Brid NíMhaoileoin, Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill, Aine Meenaghan, Len Graham

**Top Traditional Performance Show**

The Fureys, Celtic Crossroads, The Henry Girls, Fidil

**Top Traditional Group in a Pub, Festival, Concert**

Vishten, Guidewires, Slide, Dervish

**Tommy Makem Award**

The Irish Rovers, Máirtín de Cógáin, Mick Moloney, Jimmy Crowley

**Top Uilleann Piper (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

Diarmaid Moynihan, Cillian Vallely, Barry Kerr, Paddy Keenan

**Top Harpist (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

Seana Davey, Chad McAnally, Triona Marshall, Sibohan Owen

**Top Fiddle/Violin (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

Martin Hayes, Alasdair Fraser, Máiréad Nesbitt, Kevin Burke

**Top Button Accordion (US, IRE, EU, UK)**

John Williams, Liam O'Connor, Paddy O'Brien, David Munnely

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Patrick Healy, Patsy Whelan, Carmel Quinn, Joanie Madden

Reeder, who founded the organization in 2003, said that this year has seen a record number of nominations and votes to date. "This outpouring of support reflects a growing appreciation and love for the music of Ireland," he said.

Reeder also said the awards ceremony will take place again at O'Malley's Pub, January 26th 3 PM CST USA. O'Malley's Pub is the host of the annual O'Malley's Weston Irish Festival. The pub is also home to the Weston Brewing Company and the American Bowman Restaurant.

Promoted as the "Oldest Brewery West of the Hudson" in 1842, the brewery sponsored the first Kansas City Royals baseball team in the early 1900's. <http://www.westonirish.com/OMALLEYS.html>.

For more information, contact R. T. Reeder by email at [rtreeder@irishmusicassociation.com](mailto:rtreeder@irishmusicassociation.com) or by phone at 816.699.9950.

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## Young Chicago

By: Sarah McDonough

Out of all the months in the year, I view January as being the most optimistic. Aside from surpassing the "End of the World" expiration date a few weeks ago, we're all walking with an extra pep in our step as the year in front of us holds endless possibilities. Everyone I know has at least one New Year's resolution and it's also the one month the vast majority of us set goals of where we want to be, come the following year. Regardless of the two categories in which your resolution falls, our Irish community has ways to make 2013 a memorable one!

### "Health Kick" Resolutions:

Well big shot, you just had to outshine your other co-workers by stating you would work out six days a week, EVERY week, in 2013. Come January 7th, you immediately realize that was a bit extreme but regardless, you are going to try and stick it out for at least the rest of the month. Instead of doing the same mundane routines, spice it up a little bit! There is strength in numbers so join a pilates class, or more specifically for the gentleman, join the South Side Irish Rugby Club (SSI)!

If their name didn't give you a hint, majority of these men hail from the Beverly and Tinley Park neighborhoods. Dependent on the position played, each teammate has a different build and skill set, which makes this sport ideal for anyone. Although varied, take one glance at a rucker and you know their workout regimen takes dedication.

For those unfamiliar of the sport, rugby originated in the United Kingdom as a form of football in which the ball may be kicked, carried, and passed (hand to hand while in possession) to score a try; the term used to describe the team scoring in their favor. Rugby has grown – both in teams and fans – all over the world since it's induction in

the late 1800's. The International Rugby Board, which is the governing body for the rugby union, is headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. Despite the United States having left its mark internationally in 1920, and again in 1924, when our national team won gold at both Summer Olympics, the US – in my opinion – still has some growing pains in terms of gaining attention here at home. This will hopefully be resolved now that rugby has been reinstated as an Olympic sport, set to debut Rugby Sevens' in 2016.

Work hard, play hard; the phrase that can be heard over the air waves thanks to Wiz Khalifa but long before that was the mantra within SSI's athletic social club. SSI proudly holds the title of the Western League #4 seed after defeating Chicago northsider's Lincoln Park Rugby Club in November. Beginning January 4th, SSI will resume their 2012-2013 season with practices taking place at Mt. Greenwood Park (off the corner of Pulaski and 111th St.) in preparation for the Midwest Rugby Union's MW Division II Championship Playoff this spring.

Chicago's rugby community always looks forward to the Whiskey 10's, a tournament hosted by SSI in March every year. This year it will take place in the Dan Ryan Woods on March 9th. Spectators are welcome!

If there's any time to jump on the SSI bandwagon, it would be now. What started with 15 players in 1975 now proudly yields over 400 current and past ruggers, according to SSI's Director of Recruiting, Jack Sullivan. Check them out at



South Side Irish Rugby Football Club (pictured) mid-scrum. (Photo by Brianna Hughes of Breezy Photography; <https://www.facebook.com/BreezyPhoto>)

[www.southsideirishrugby.com](http://www.southsideirishrugby.com) for further information.

### "Stop Being a Hermit" Resolutions:

Lounging in your living room, catching up on your favorite TV shows while enjoying a glass of wine is a great pastime – but not when it's every weekend. Break out of your shell by exploring what your fellow Irish folk are up to!

I've said it once and I'll say it again, join Young Irish Fellow-

ship Club of Chicago (YIFC)! For only \$10 a year, you'll receive members-only perks and be in the know of upcoming fun open-to-all events; the type of shindigs your friends will be begging to attend with you! Example one: BAR CRAWL! On January 28th, YIFC is hosting their Division Street Bar Crawl! Further details and tickets sales can be found at [www.youngirish.com/purchase/tickets/](http://www.youngirish.com/purchase/tickets/).

If my first example wasn't rea-



Members of the Young Irish Fellowship Club enjoying a pub crawl, and each others company!

son enough to join, I present you with example two: FOREVER GREEN 38! You do not want to miss out on this event as you will immediately regret your decision once you see the recap photos of hundreds of people having fun while enjoying live music and drinks – all of which is included in the ticket price. This 21+ event will feature The Larkin & Moran Brothers, with the Shannon Rovers and Irish dancers making an appearance as well.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.youngirish.com/purchase/tickets/](http://www.youngirish.com/purchase/tickets/).

YIFC donates a portion of their event proceeds to the charities they sponsor, so enjoy a night out meeting other local Irish while supporting great causes! This year the two charities they are raising funds for are: Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and My Mary Cate. More information can be found at [www.youngirish.com](http://www.youngirish.com).

Until next month, stay forever young Chicago!

Tweet me at @SarahMcDonough\_

Additional Upcoming Events:

JAN 11th: Irish American Heritage Center's Pot O'Chili Cook-Off

## Donegal and Sam Maguire Cup Comes to Town!

*Dignitaries and players from the Donegal team brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Chicago, and around the USA to share the celebration of their victory over Mayo in the All-Ireland Finals, 2012. They visited both Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center in December.*



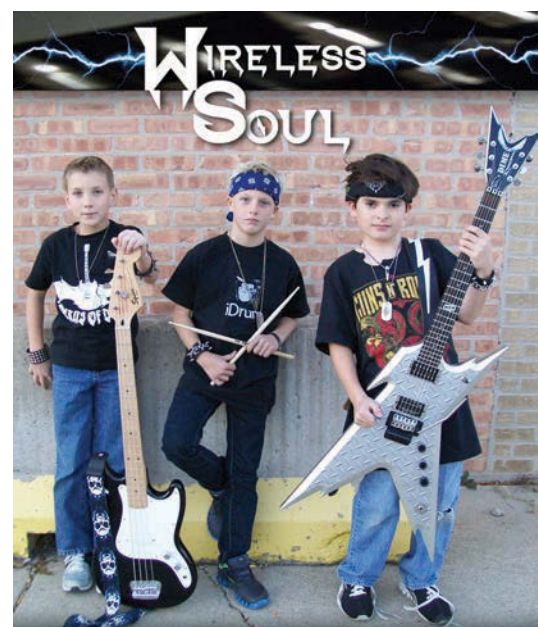
## Young Soul Band Rockin' the Hood

Wireless Soul consists of band members Vince Minogue (10 years old) of Northbrook on guitar and vocals, Gino Dini (9 years old) of Northbrook on bass and vocals, and Liam Cummins (9 years old) of Kenilworth on drums. The boys are fourth and fifth grade students and attend Meadowbrook Elementary school and The Joseph Sears School.

Wireless Soul was a two-time winner at this year's Rock The Green Battle of the Northbrook Youth Bands. They have performed live at Cubby Bear North, Winnetka Days, and the Geneva Concours to name a few. They recently performed at the IL/WI Fair Fest Expo and at the Glenview Holiday in the Park and Parade last Saturday.

They have just been booked to perform at Allstate Arena in Rosemont IL, The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights IL, The Lake County Fair in Lake County IL, and again at next year's Glenview Holiday in the Park and parade 2013.

Wireless Soul has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, The Northbrook Star, The



*Wireless Soul from left to right Gino Dini, Liam Cummins, and Vince Minogue*

Northbrook Tower, The Glenview Lantern, The Winnetka Current, The Wilmette Beacon, and What's Happening newspapers. They can be seen in the current edition of The Glenview Lantern and in a featured article in last weeks edition. Please go to [facebook.com/wirelessoul](http://facebook.com/wirelessoul).

## Allegiance Stars Chicago's Aidan Quinn

DVD & Blu-Ray Release Date: January 15, 2013

Aidan Quinn stars at Lt. Colonel Owens in Allegiance, a military thriller about a young Army officer who helps a desperate soldier go AWOL from their base on the night before their unit deploys to Iraq.

It's the fall of 2004 and the Iraq War is becoming more violent and bloody by the month. Thousands of National Guard soldiers have been called to active service with orders to deploy to Iraq. Lieutenant Danny Sefton, a Wall Street trader and part-time Army officer in the New York National Guard, has just received a questionable transfer that will keep him safely stationed back home while his unit deploys to one of the most dangerous cities in Iraq. As Sefton voluntarily helps the men get ready for war on their final night,

is denied a compassionate reassignment to stay home with his terminally ill son. He appeals to Sefton, the unit's cagy executive officer for help. Conflicted and still wracked with guilt over his own transfer, Sefton decides to help the more deserving Reyes return to his son. In the process, Sefton must choose between his loyalties



*Aidan Quinn as Lt. Colonel Owens*

he has to bear the brunt of their resentment for not deploying with them.

Specialist Reyes, the unit's best medic,

to Reyes, his unit, and his fiancé – as he ends up embroiled in the dangerous last minute escape attempt.

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### Is This A Good Time To Be Back In The Job Hunt?

It seems to me that many people have been hunkering down in their jobs for months waiting for the employment market to improve. Has that been your feeling also? As we begin the New Year and a "new" political administration in Washington, I am hearing some indications that the job market is turning around. Some people say that American business has been waiting for something to give it the impetus to hire. Perhaps it is the belief that the "new" administration has the answers. Perhaps it is the feeling that continued hunkering down has not proved to be a desired answer to the job market woes. Perhaps it is the pent up demand that has been building for the last three or four years.

I gave a presentation last week to a high level job support group of technology leaders. They advised me that the level of unemployment in some technology fields might be as low as 2-3%.

I am NOT suggesting that you pour a cup of water over your boss' head while dropping your letter of resignation on his desk. But you might want to rethink your current employment situation. For example, there are tons of job support groups in Chicagoland. They could be a great source of intelligence on the reality of the local job market for someone with your skills. Typically these job support groups (many of them are listed on the Job Ministry web site) meet in early morning or evening to encourage participation. Attendance and the resultant networking will help prepare you for the job market in your locality. It will likely tell you what skills or abilities that you are lacking. Better to find out your weaknesses early in the process; it gives you a chance to correct them.

The changing world of work and the associated skill sets sometimes require an expansion of your skill

set. Today, unemployed workers are finding a paucity of jobs identical or even similar to the ones they had. We all know that the jobs of yesterday are disappearing quickly. Think of a telephone repair man or an installer. Automotive mechanics has become computer specialists. Telephone Information operators. Human toll collectors. The list goes on and on.

It might be time to learn how to cross sell the skills that you have developed over a period of years to another employer. But that's not easy. You have to convince another person that you have a set of skills that does not seem to be part of your job title. You must look clinically at yourself and distill the essence of the skills you have developed. Concentrate your evaluation on skills that you have not only in your work environment, but also through outside or volunteer activities or possibly the military.

We usually think of ourselves by job title, not job content. Change that mind set now. Dissect the various elements of the jobs that you have had; regardless of your job title. Do you have good presentation skills? Can you write well? Are you a good manager? Do you have any unique organizational skills? Ask your peers what skills they think you have or what skills you should develop. Solidify your thoughts by writing down your most important skills. Do you have a solid, well developed understanding of technology? What about marketing or finance? You don't have to discard the skills you have learned already, but rather you want to add to them.

Relate your skills and interests to what you want to do at this stage of your career. One of my clients, a high level bank executive, successfully and profitably ran a Laundromat/car wash by using his superb financial and organizational skills. Another client left a career in public accounting; he then bought and operated a successful specialty

shoe store. Another client who had been a human resources executive bought a franchise which provides intensive exercise programs.

You need to remember that those skills that you have honed over the years will serve you well in whatever business you may choose. But you need to do a thorough inventory of your skills so that you know what you are selling. You can't persuade others that you have a skill if you aren't passionate about it. As the former Executive Director of the YWCA in Oklahoma City said to me, every experience and skill of your past life can be useful in whatever job you pursue.

If after reading this far you say, I simply can't make a change at this time of my life, for whatever reason, that's okay. But, perhaps you might want to consider how you would convince your current boss that you are ready for more and expanded responsibilities. At least engage the boss in a discussion that will help you understand what it would take to have him consider you a promotable person. As I have stated before in earlier columns, Marianne Williamson says "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

It's a new year. Some would say a new beginning. Are you willing to take some steps, perhaps the ones above, to move your talents forward? There may be some pressing circumstances holding you back; if so, revise your target dates to accommodate them and press on. In my experience, I am convinced that the lack of urgency is a formidable obstacle to our success. So, "get after it." What do you think? Will you allow yourself to be a successful person in the New Year? Carpe Diem.

**For Your Consideration:** *Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.* Goethe.

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

### Lord Of The Dance by Michael Flatley to Play at Akoo Theatre at Rosemont March 2 Only

Generations of audiences - more than 60 million people from 68 countries - have seen Lord of the Dance created by Michael Flatley ([www.lordofthedance.com](http://www.lordofthedance.com)), the world's highest grossing Irish dance show. Presented by MagicSpace Entertainment and Global Entertainment Group, Lord of the Dance will play the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont on March 2 for two performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are now on sale.

Creator and Artistic Director Michael Flatley, who added fresh costumes, a visually stimulating set featuring an LED wall and revised lighting and set designs this year, still oversees all aspects of the production.

"I've always dreamed of creating an Irish Dance show that touches the hearts of millions of people worldwide," says Flatley. "I am so proud of the cast and crew who bring this vision to life on stage each and every night."

Lord of the Dance is a classic tale of good versus evil based on mythical Irish folklore that brings a romantic and passionate love story to stage. Don Dorcha, Lord of Darkness challenges the ethereal lord of light, the Lord of the Dance. "Battle lines are drawn, passions ignite and a love story fueled by the dramatic leaps and turns of dancers' bodies begins to build against a backdrop of Celtic rhythm," says Flatley. "Fans can expect 21 scenes of precision dancing, dramatic music, colorful wardrobes and state-of-the-art staging and lighting."

Along with Dance Director Marie Duffy-Pask, Flatley hand-picks the cast of over 40 dancers; each has achieved individual recognition as a national or worldwide dance champion. Lee Marshall, CEO of MagicSpace Entertainment, the tour promoter and veteran of blockbuster entertainment events agrees. "These championship dancers have captivated a new generation of fans, and manage the impossible every night. Their collective spirit and energy takes

the audience to a time and place that is as imaginative as it is inviting."

Flatley conceptualized and staged the show in a mere 16 weeks but also paid particular attention to the costumes, lighting



and staging which are cinematic in scope. "Irish dance lovers and music fans alike will experience the engaging, rhythmic adventures that has helped catapult Celtic dance mania and Irish dancing into the global spotlight," says Flatley. No wonder Lord of the Dance ticket sales exceed more than \$800 million worldwide. Described by the New York Post as "fascinating, rewarding and above all, entertaining," and by the Los Angeles Times as "a showpiece extravaganza," Lord of the Dance is a mesmerizing blend of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance.

Presented by Magic Arts & Entertainment and Global Entertainment Group, Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance" performs at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, for two shows on March 2 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit [akootheatre.com](http://akootheatre.com) or call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Akoo Theatre box office and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Contact GroupTix for tickets for groups of 10 or more at 773-327-3778.

## O'Neill Clan Meeting May 2013

Irish Americans are being encouraged to go back to their roots as plans are unveiled for a major clan gathering in Ireland.

One of Europe's oldest and most celebrated clans – O'Neill – have



(l to r): Sean O'Neill, Nora Keohane Hickey, Prof. Eoin O'Neill.

announced details of a four-day long celebration of their culture and history.

The event, which takes place between the 22nd and 26th May 2013, is designed to bring together O'Neill family members from around the globe to share stories and celebrate an incredibly rich and diverse clan history.

Sean O'Neill of The Association of O'Neill Clans said: "The O'Neill Dynasty history dates back to the 10th century and one of the first High Kings of Ireland. Since then our clan has played prominent roles in the development of Ireland, Europe and latterly the United States of America.

"O'Neills span across the globe and we're hoping this international gathering will bring many of them together to learn more about their roots and the stories that chart the incredible highs and lows of our clan history."

O'Neill clan members last met in Paris, France in 2010 where a decision was made to hold future gatherings. In 2013 the family is going back to where it all began with a series of lectures and musical and dramatic performances across the emerald isle.

Sean added: "I would urge all O'Neills in the USA to come to Ireland in 2013 and join the celebrations. In return we'll offer our famous hospitality and a real opportunity to strengthen clan family ties and make lifelong friends."

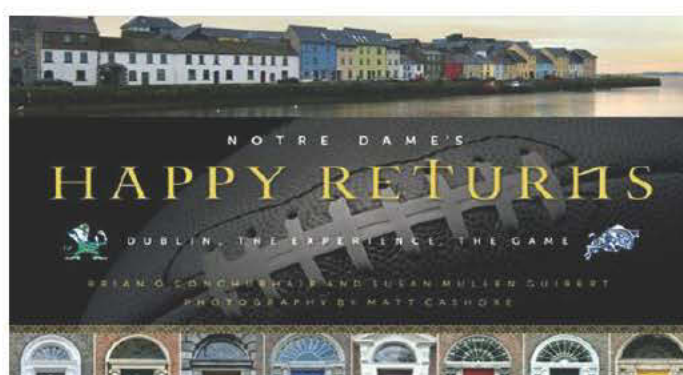
The four-day long event will take in visits to various historical O'Neill sites including The Hill of The O'Neill in Dungannon, County Tyrone; the coronation site of The O'Neill in nearby Cookstown; walking tours of Armagh – a city with a rich O'Neill heritage; and a trip to Ireland's capital city Dublin. To assist US tourists with the journey home to Ireland, The Association of O'Neill Clans is offering a full package in partnership with holiday operator Brack Tours.

The package includes transport from Dublin Airport, hotel accommodation, meals and access to the full programme of entertainment on offer at the gathering.

For information or details on registration please email [sinead@bracktours.com](mailto:sinead@bracktours.com) or call 855-338-4339. For information on The Association of O'Neill Clans please visit: [www.oneillclans.com](http://www.oneillclans.com)

## Relive Notre Dame Trip to Ireland 2012

Relive the trip to the Emerald Isle that started the Notre Dame Fighting Irish's 2012 winning football season. University of Notre Dame photographer Matt Cashore traveled to Dublin, Ireland, and took nearly 200 color photographs of the city and of Irish life that are available in the book Notre Dame's Happy



Returns: Dublin, the Experience, the Game.

The text for the book is written by Brian Ó Conchubhair, associate professor of Irish Language and Literature and a fellow of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and Susan Mul-

len Guibert, assistant director in Notre Dame's Office of Public Relations.

A travel guide, a sports book, and a lush photographic essay all in one, Notre Dame's Happy Returns is a must have for anyone who attended the Notre Dame-Navy game in Aviva Stadium in Ireland as well as for all Notre

Dame football fans.

Matt Cashore's photographs capture the sights, historic places, and cultural riches that make Ireland special for fans of the Fighting Irish.

Photographs feature spectacular views of Ireland's capital city, Dublin Castle, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, Casino Marino, Saint Stephen's Green, shops, pubs, and many more notable landmarks. Cashore's photographs also highlight the extraordinary beauty of the countryside beyond Dublin.

The book explores the introduction of American football in Ireland and Notre Dame's role in elevating the sport there, and also includes a section on the 2012 Notre Dame vs. Navy game played in Dublin.

View the book trailer at <http://undpress.nd.edu/book/P03030>

## Clare Appoints Executive Director

James Kneen has been appointed Executive Director at The Clare at Rush and Pearson in downtown Chicago. Formerly a resident of Michigan, Kneen has more than 30 years of experience in health care management in a variety of hospital, continuing care retirement commu-

Clare," said Mick Feauto, Vice President/Senior Director of Operations Management for Life Care Services.

Kneen, said that he is delighted about the position and about being in Chicago. His focus will be on enhancing programs and services at The Clare. "We're going to make living at the Clare even more special. I want our programs and services at The Clare to equal our wonderful location. The Clare is going to be known as one of the best continuing care retirement community in the country. I am a huge proponent of going from 'good' to 'great' and that's exactly what we will do here," he said. "Our building, residents and staff are such a tremendous asset to the community. We look forward to building upon that."



James Kneen of the Clare at Rush and Pearson

nity (CCRC) and vendor settings. "This breadth of experience has enabled me to develop a board base of skills and gain perspectives that will help ensure our continued success at the The Clare," said Kneen.

"We selected Mr. Kneen from a large field of very well qualified candidates after an extensive national search. He is extremely knowledgeable, has great leadership abilities, and will bring his energy and creativity to The

The Clare is a 53-story luxury Chicago retirement living community at Pearson and Rush, in the heart of the Gold Coast. The Clare provides a full continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory support. The staff is dedicated to offering world-class senior living complemented by the active, social lifestyle its residents are accustomed. [www.theclare.com](http://www.theclare.com).

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Sylvia's Irish Inn has long been a favorite of visitors to the University of Illinois and the area in general



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### Genealogy Introduction

By Jason Coleman

Genealogy, or the searching for family history, is commonly documented to be one of the most popular hobby past-times, and particularly with the Irish Diaspora. Everybody is captivated by Ireland Heritage, whether searching into that of President Obama or Muhammad Ali, to The Fitzgerald-Kennedys, to many beloved artists and writers, or to ones own migration trail.

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD recently inaugurated the "Reverse Genealogy" initiative, wherein the Republic of Ireland officially endorses actively reaching out, on a community and parish level, to former residents and their descendants. The Tourism industry in Ireland has for some time been thoroughly engaged in catering to and encouraging such homeland travel visits. "There are few human instincts stronger than the need to belong," said Mr Kenny. "And it is not surprising that for many people, tracing their genealogy becomes a personal and emotional journey."

In this light, and to prepare you for the conference, this series of articles and interviews, sponsored by the new website IrelandAncestors.com will explore some of these topics, show you specific approaches, and hopefully assist you as well on your personal family quest. Basic beginning genealogy starts at home, and is country independent, because the same logical methodologies and standards of practice in history research apply to any heritage.

Many attempting such work use commonly-formed tools and information organizers which are readily available, and quickly learn some of the topical nomenclature that any new knowledge-area bandies about.

It is often said that: before you do any research in Ireland, it is highly rec-

ommended that you gather as much information as you can about your family from your current place of residence. In the case of Irish-Americans, all history after the day of immigration should be fully explored first.

In Genealogy, it is suggested that to construct a family pedigree that one should think from the known to the unknown, from the recent, to the past, and in a reverse chronological fashion.

Before you jump into exploring a historic goal, you should exhaust all in-



formation you can from living relatives. By coordinating the process itself, you will be surprised at what clues and facts the collective group will come up with.

Genealogy is much more difficult as a solo pursuit, and a group interest and networking will spread the effort and facilitate gathering details from all sides of the

family -- which will add different pieces, that together will map a path to success.

The collecting may take some time, or certain information may fall in place quite unexpectedly. Many people have tried all their life with little result. Others soon find out that another person(s) has, or is already aware of, much more than you had originally imagined, or wanted to find, or has a very important perspective to build upon.

Stick to the facts, and document your discoveries, but don't discard those 'family traditions', rumors, hearsay, or previous understandings -- they may still be useful as you do your detective work in uncovering the truth.

Unfortunately, many sincere 'family historians' are really unknowingly 'junk collectors', so beware of the many online share postings, the majority of which are undocumented, recirculated, and unsubstantiated lineages. Even antique looking publications, printed biographies, and descendant societies need to be verified for sources, proofs, and likely outdated acceptance levels.

Only you can determine how critical an approach you feel comfortable with. History scholars as still debating what the general public takes for granted. But in either case, try not to do someone else in the future a disservice by spreading outward your information without commentary on the nature of the data or theories.

With that in mind, also remember

that your new findings, as well, may be subject to someone else's previous error -- and your interpretation. Don't let slightings in spelling, ages, or politics/religion, etc., stand in the way of weighing the reliability on a scale of conclusions.

Flesh out your discoveries with the lives and challenges of your people, their parallel histories to the world of time and place. Even if you do find your family described accurately somewhere, you would hope for more facts than just a birth, marriage, death and burial day.

Start with yourself, your parents, your grandparents. One of the most amazing aspects of describing family is that with each generation we learn of twice as many individuals and additional surname heritage. In like manner to the growth of computer memory, the potential exists for 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 528, 1024 unique history trails.

Surprisingly, most people will never learn beyond 7 generations, where available documentations quickly disappear. However, with a little bit of Irish luck, perhaps you will link into the life of a well written about person, or their cousin, or their spouses family, or a local enterprise, or their renter tenant -- with the potential of really becoming a familiar part of history.

If you can document the 20th generation, about 570 years, your hands would be full with trying to manage the facts and figures and verification of 524,288 ancestors. That is quite a slice of Ireland.

**john plunkett**  
INTERIORS DIRECT

*Welcome*

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Refresh

#### Row 1 Generation

#### Row 2 Ancestors

#### Row 3 Years back

Average 30 years per Generation

1			2013
2	2	30	1980
3	4	60	1950
4	8	90	1920
5	16	120	1890
6	32	150	1860
7	64	180	1830
8	128	210	1800
9	256	240	1770
10	512	270	1740
11	1024	300	1710
12	2048	330	1680
13	4096	360	1650
14	8192	390	1620
15	16384	420	1590
16	32768	450	1560
17	65536	480	1530
18	131072	510	1500
19	262144	540	1470
20	524288	570	1440

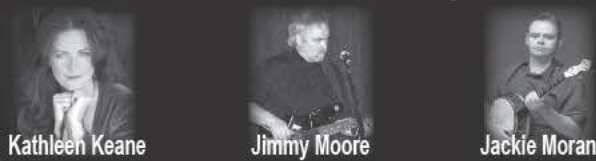
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