



Inspiration: Ireland

Bill Margeson's Top TIR Awards . . . p 25

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Free At Last! – Well, Almost

With considerable fanfare Ireland has exited the Troika bailout programme after three years. The programme, which provided cheap credit to run the country when no other institution would loan us money, has had a bad press. It became identified with assertions that Ireland had "lost" her economic sovereignty. At best an oversimplification.

Following years of economic and fiscal mismanagement and a banking collapse, a crisis developed in the country's finances, with a yawning gap between tax revenues and the cost of running the country, including a bloated and expensive public sector and an over generous welfare state. The alternative to savage politically and socially unacceptable cuts to balance the books was the Troika arrangement. Under it – thanks to it – public finances have been stabilised, the tax base has been sensibly extended and our economic and social structures have survived. All this with negligible public discontent and unrest.

Opinion among commentators is divided on whether Ireland's exit has been a trifle premature and whether we should seek a line of credit "just in case." The instinct of the government is "No." The reasoning is that the political plaudits to be claimed for "restoring our sovereignty" – assuming it was ever lost – far outweigh the risk of needing a further bailout. If the need arises, not only can it be blamed on external factors, but does anyone doubt that we would not be accommodated – and with the real economy in far better shape than in 2010? The government is on a winner on this one.

So where does Ireland stand now? The picture is somewhat murky. Very few have been left

untouched by the crisis since 2008. Even for those with jobs or still in business disposable income is down substantially. Domestic demand has suffered grievously and serious structural problems remain. The mortgage crisis remains to be tacked in any definitive way and its effects extend far beyond those directly affected. The banks – what remain of them – carry the albatrosses of distressed mortgages and overvalued property portfolios, inhibiting any genuine recovery of the banking system and restricting severely the availability of credit to the domestic economy.

Unemployment remains stubbornly high, with the annual natural increase from school leavers and immigrants a constant to be factored in. Reducing the minimum wage to a more realistic level, which would facilitate hiring additional workers, appears a lost cause with Labour in government. Certainly wage costs have come down considerably, improving the country's competitiveness, but little action has been taken to reduce upward only rents. The retail sector remains in distress with long established businesses continuing to go to the wall. Shortage of credit from the banks is now chronic. And, when recovery comes, the debt legacy will remain for years to come.

But suddenly there are Green Shoots everywhere – in the media and among politicians at least. And optimism is catching. A good summer; a mild autumn. The public mood is definitely more positive amid hopes that the worst of the recession may have passed. Several economic indicators are showing improvement. Not only is unemployment down, something that could of itself perhaps be

explained by emigration, but employment is up, very definitely, with new, permanent, job announcements weekly. There is a mini boom in house property prices around Dublin and hopes that it will spread. Small, and new, businesses are opening.

Whether this is a temporary blip or whether recovery is actually on the way remains to be seen. Partly it may be the seasonal factor with pubs and restaurants in the cities full again. However, for most people things have stabilised and even the prospect of increased property taxes and water charges to come are being contemplated with equanimity. There is a growing feeling that, to quote Churchill, while this may not be the beginning of the end, it is certainly the end of the beginning.

Not surprisingly politicians on the government side are talking things up for all they're worth. There is cautious optimism that, politically as well as economically, the corner may have been turned. The latest opinion polls show Fine Gael continuing to perform relatively strongly, while for Labour, post-budget, the slide seems to have been halted.

The fig-leaf Labour has clung to, that it helped keep the economy from collapsing while simultaneously maintaining core welfare payments, suddenly seems to be acquiring substance. While Labour has a long way to go to regain the ground lost, its leadership received an added unexpected bonus in early December when one of its most trenchant internal critics left to join Fianna Fail.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny appears to have that quality Napoleon regarded as essential in generals – luck. He was in opposition when the economy collapsed. He – and the government – were presented with the Troika as a convenient fait accompli. Moreover, and often overlooked, much of the heavy lifting to get the finances straight was actually set in train by Fianna Fail, with the present government now beginning to reap

the benefits of the knock – on effect of emergency measures taken in 2009 and 2010 – before the Troika arrived.

Then, strict adherence to the Troika's terms, the harshness of which could conveniently be lumped at the previous government's door, began to pay off. The result was some wiggle room come last October's budget, which proved less severe than feared, with the relatively harsh cuts of \$3 billion passed off as some sort of easing of austerity. Fianna Fail were – and are – hamstrung, since the Troika deal was theirs, while the Left, including Sinn Fein, has, despite everything, been unable to make serious inroads. The population as a whole, while increasingly leery of politicians, has shown stoical acceptance of what needed to be done to get the economy straight.

There is still some way to go. 2014 will provide some answers. On paper another harsh budget is required to bring borrowing down to the 3% mark. But politicians are politicians. There remains the danger that, with European elections scheduled for next summer, the politicians will cut and run by offering, or

promising, sweeteners for the electorate. As I write the prospect of tax cuts is already being floated by some government ministers, though the Taoiseach has emphasised that there can be no return to the profligacy of the past. This is something to be watched. Short of an amendment to the 2014 Finance Act unlikely – any changes in taxes will not take place until 2015 but the very fact that the notion is being peddled now is worrying.

For 2014 potential banana skins remain, none more so than in the black hole of Health. The 2014 budget target of cuts of \$3 billion was achieved by introducing a balancing figure for cuts in health spending amounting to €666 million (\$1 billion). Some commentators have suggested that, factoring in elements left out – including the overrun for 2013 – the "true" figure for cuts in 2014 could be close to €1 billion. If implemented this would mean a double digit cut in the health budget – both unsustainable and unacceptable, and probably also unachievable given the HSE's track record to date. Any cuts at all in health are politically sensitive. Watch this space.



Our good friends, P. J. and Mary O'Dea celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 26, 2013. We wish them every happiness, and many more years of wedded bliss. P. J. has kept the O'Dea flag flying in Chicago, and while not as active as he once was, he still works to promote the O'Dea Castle and the O'Dea clan.

"Jump" Director Keiron Walsh Talks to IAN

By *Ryanne Johnson*

With much success at International film festivals, and receiving a slot in the Gathr Preview Series for independent films, U.K. director Kieron J. Walsh's most recent theatrical feature *Jump* has already made a name for itself here in the U.S.. The film, which follows four twenty-somethings whose lives collide on New Year's Eve, takes viewers on a comic crime thrill ride full of what directors are calling "fast talk, wild coincidence, and intrigue." Recently, Cliff Carlson, publisher of *Irish American News* was able to sit down with Walsh to discuss his latest movie, and talk about what's next for the indie director.

Originally studying Fine Art sculpture in Dun Laoghaire school of Art and Design, Walsh subsequently received a British Council scholarship to study film at the Royal College of Art in London (Screen Directors Guild of Ireland Bio page). Since his graduation films *Goodbye Piccadilly* and *Bossanova Blues*, and his following films for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Granada and RTE, as well as a number of television commercials have all won numerous awards and prizes, the status of "award-winning director" is nothing new to him. It's no surprise, then, that his first theatrical feature film, *When Brendan Met Trudy* (Ireland, 2001), was nominated for awards at the Rennes Film Festival (Winner Audience Award), Sydney Film Festival (Rinner-Up Audience UIP Audience Award), and Irish Film and Television Awards (Nomination Best Film/Best Director). And now, with his most recent film, *Jump*, the theatrical feature is following suit.

With excellent reception in New York, Palm Springs (winner of Cinema Without Borders' Bridging the Borders award), Ireland's IFTA event, and L.A., *Jump* is now touring with the Gathr Preview Series, which gives audiences in select cities the chance to sneak peek screenings of the best independent cinema in theaters before

anyone else (gathr.us/previews). *Jump*, which was adapted from a play written by Lisa McGee, takes place over 8 hours on a fateful New Years Eve. It begins with crime boss daughter, Greta, standing on a bridge in Derry, Ireland, intending to commit suicide. But before she jumps, she meets Pearse, who rescues her from her attempt, and together they discover the strange way they are connected, and how it will change their lives forever.



Kieron Walsh

"When you watch it, it'll open a door into the mind of (Greta), and the experience of near death changes her mind about life..." Says Walsh. "I was hoping that

Jump, although there are some serious things in it... would reflect reality to young people when it comes to New Years Eve... stuff happens (on that day) that wouldn't normally happen on a regular Saturday."

Taking 24 nights of intense shooting straight through until morning, on top of 17-18 weeks of editing, and more shooting after that, *Jump* was a rather labor-intensive film to make. "It was a bit of a job, the editing..." Walsh jokes. The opening scenes were shot on the Foyle Bridge in Derry, the biggest bridge in Ireland, as well as a well-known suicide spot. The decision to film on that particular bridge was also made in an attempt to promote suicide prevention, as the heroine ultimately realizes that there are too many reasons to continue living, and chooses not to end her life.

Jump is currently playing L.A., and will go wider throughout the U.S. this month.

Walsh, who is based in Ireland, set up BLINDER, a commercials company, in 2005, and in 2006 he founded BLINDER FILMS to develop and produce drama and documentary for both domestic and international audiences.

Most recently, Walsh worked on the television movie "The Psychopath Next Door" for Britain, starring "Pushing Daisies" and *Limitless* actress Anna Friel.

For more information on this award-winning director, as well as his production company, you can visit the BLINDER FILMS website at: www.blinderfilms.com.



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Irish American News **ian** PERIODICAL

(ISSN #1085-4053) USPS #013454
January 2014 Vol. XXXVIII #1

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Irish News, Inc. is published monthly on the 1st of month
SUBSCRIPTION
1 year \$30 • 2 year \$55 • 3 year \$75
Canada 1year \$45 • 2 year \$65
International: 1 year \$85
(Periodicals Postage Paid at Palatine, IL, and other mailing offices)

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Irish News, Inc.
PO Box 7
Zion, IL 60099
847-872-0700
e-mail to:
editor@irishamericannews.com

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of Irish American News.

Distribution
15,013

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Asking For It: A Rockettes Tale

By Joanna Rush, *Heliotrope Books and Amazon.*

This is a profound and amazing book because with great bravery the author, Joanna Rush, tells us her most intimate thoughts. She lets us look into her very soul.

She describes how she dealt with her low self-esteem, guilt and shame that are legacies of a strict Catholic upbringing. She grew up in New Jersey, but the church I went to here in Chicago was also grim: The pastor and nuns were stern, harsh, and uncompromising.

I found the book to be very personal, maybe the emotional turmoil is why I had great difficulty in beginning to write this review.

Webster's Dictionary defines self-worth as a feeling that you are a good person who deserves to be treated with respect."

We develop this feeling of self-worth during the first years of life. Can it be improved or altered? Maybe.

I understand the author's experience because we were both raised in a rigid Catholic environment of rules, shame and guilt.

Intellectually the rules and the absurd expectations can be jettisoned fairly easily, but as children the emotions become part of us and stay with us. The author recounts her struggles with this. I struggle still, and I am over 70 years old!

Joanna Rush describes growing up, her interaction with relatives

and other adults. Success in all of these experiences depends in large part on our feeling of self-worth.

Later in the review, I'll quote some examples that clearly show how we develop this.

Joanna Rush, the gutsy and fearless author, lives in Massachusetts with her husband. And, living nearby are her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. She is very



proud of all of them. And having survived and triumphed over so many difficulties, she now helps other people with their problems.

*Fifteen fifth grade classmates of the author, all only eleven years old, went to a birthday party for a fellow student. While there, they and she, had played Post Office and Spin the Bottle. She had kissed a boy. Remember, they are eleven years old.

The next day, "Without so much as a knock on the door, Monsignor McSorley strode into our classroom as if he were the Pope." He had heard about the birthday

party and made the fifteen children stand so he could chastise them, and then made each child bring a note home to their parents.

The nun who stood next to McSorley had "a face pinched from a lifetime of judging, scolding and fighting sin."

When I was in first grade, the pastor would come into the room with

his unleashed dog. It was a large black dog. The priest didn't look at us. While he talked with the nun, the dog walked up and down the aisles between the desks sniffing us. The subconscious message in both incidents was that the children had no value.

Great for a feeling of good self-worth!

* When Miss Stevens, a former nun and now teacher at the school learns that the teenage author had kissed her boyfriend, she said: "And you, Miss O'Connell, are no outstanding Catholic youth at all! What you are is a square peg in a round hole and I'm failing you in Health so you will not be able to graduate in June."

* When Sister Margaret Rose told our class that only Catholics would go to Heaven I had raised my six-year-old hand, 'What about my Aunt Lucille and Uncle Ralph? They're Protestant.' Sister Margaret Rose was perfectly clear, 'No, they will not go to heaven.' "They were the kindest, most loving people I had ever met. What kind of God would reject my aunt and uncle?"

*Or, When she was an adult, a nun in a hospital elevator sees her crying: "Are you alright dear?" "Yes sister, my friend Alan just died." "I'm so sorry." "Sister, can you tell me how to get to the chapel?" "Was Alan a Catholic?" "No, Jewish." "Oh, you can't go to the chapel."

Hopefully we are going to live in a time when there is less pettiness, nasty comments, small, mindedness and lack of vision.

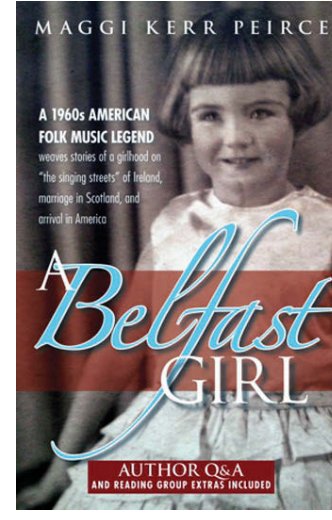
Hopefully, religion will be more about the joy of life and the possibility of happiness now.

A Belfast Girl

By Maggi Kerr Peirce, *Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, University of Chicago Press*

"The way of life I inherited as a child and girl in a city that, within a few years after my leaving would be decimated by sectarian violence. I want people to know that in Belfast, life had not always been violent."

In this book, Maggi Peirce remembers people, stories and events from her childhood. Her early years have a golden haze and



her stories about this period are wistful, charming and intimate.

She grew up in a working class, Unionist family, during the bleak years of the Depression. The family had very few material things, but through frugality, scrimping and sacrifice they had enough to eat and enjoyed a strong family life. About this Peirce says: "Our parents hid the world from us, "and" I was surrounded by love, strictness and total acceptance."

Today, she lives in Massachusetts with her husband Ken. She has performed at many folk festivals in the United States and Canada. At these she sings songs and tells stories she learned as a child. She has a great memory for childhood events and many of these reminiscences are included in the book. Two other attractive and enchanting books about the same period in Northern Ireland were written by Gardiner Weir.

They are: "Voices in the Glen, A Collection of Scots Irish short stories, and A World of Dreams: Scots Irish short stories and poems. They are outstanding and delightful.

About her youthful days, Maggi Peirce says: "Our world of innocent certainty would remain steady and safe by the power of imagination."

Newgrange: Monument to Immortality,

By Anthony Murphy, *Liffey Press?DuFour Editions.*

This book is about Newgrange, the famous structure where on the shortest day with the longest night (the Winter Solstice), the rays of the sun penetrate to its depths.

This huge structure is North of

Dublin in the valley of the Boyne River. It was constructed 5,200 years ago by stone-age people. It is older than the pyramids of Egypt or England's Stonehenge.

The builders were farmers who lived in small communities in the Boyne River Valley. What compelled them to construct these huge monuments? There are only guesses to answer that.

The amount of material used in constructing Newgrange is staggering. The 400 large slabs of stone, each weighing from three to five tons, were brought from 50 miles away! There are only guesses as to how they were moved. Remember, this was done by people who had no metal tools or wheels.

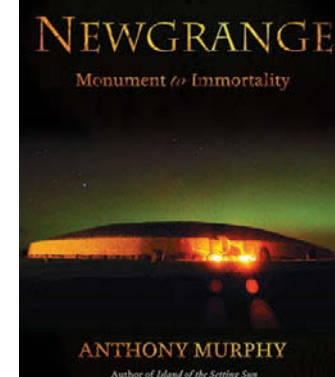
These people worshipped the sun and viewed it as a male deity.

Newgrange is a monument to the female earth goddess. The author suggests that the ray of sunlight fertilizes her so that the new year can be born. The book is lavishly illustrated with spectacular pictures of Newgrange and its carvings of the beam of solstice sunlight, and of the night sky.

These pictures intimately connect us to these ancient people.

The author is a journalist and photographer. He lives five miles from Newgrange and has studied the astronomy, archaeology, and mythology of the Boyne Valley monuments for the past 13 years.

One author suggests that it



was the great earth mother who supplied all the basic needs of humanity, and it was apparent to early man that it was the female who produced offspring.

Newgrange "gave thanks - in a truly spectacular manner - to the earth and the cosmos, to the great female, the great mother who was seen as the provider of all things."

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House Party Back by Popular Demand

The band will also be appearing on WGN Midday News on Friday, January 17th

The Irish House Party is Dublin's No.1 award winning music and dance show and offers the warmest of welcomes to the finest house party in town. Starring All Ireland Champion musicians, fantastic presenters with great interaction and not forgetting some excellent Irish dancing, this amazing multi-talented gathering deliver the best traditional night of musical entertainment the Emerald Isle has to offer!

The musicians will astound with their ability, craft and knowledge and take you on a journey of rhythm, song and dance in an intimate, friendly and homely atmosphere.

The show has become one of Dublin's must see events and with fans such as Louis Walsh, The Dubliners and even International chart toppers The Wanted (with whom they recently played 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.

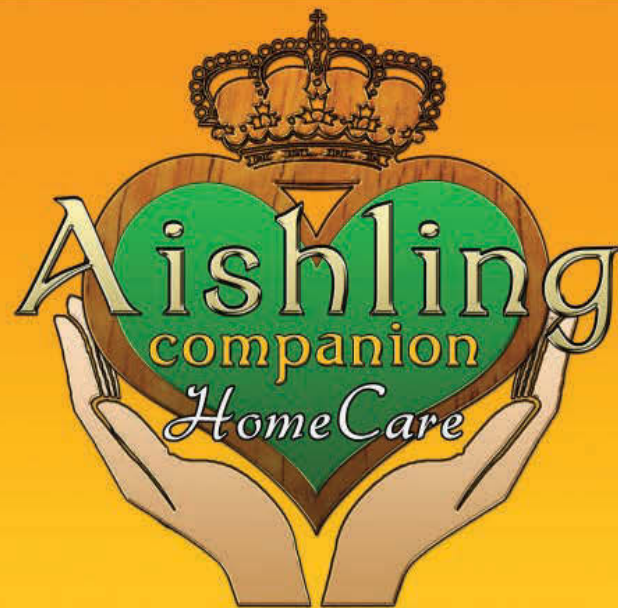
Declan Quinn: Born and living in Dublin, Declan is one of the founding members and producers of The Irish House Party show. He has been immersed in traditional Irish music from an early age with his father playing the button key accordion and his brother Eugene playing banjo. Declan studied Archaeology and History in University College Dublin and went on to study a post grad in Education. Many of Declan's extended family live in the US with four of his uncles and three of his aunts moving there in the 1950's, a period of high emigration in Ireland. Declan started playing the tin whistle at 7 and began performing and touring from an early age. The most successful of these early ventures being 'Whirligig' whom Declan toured and recorded with. Declan has also recently co wrote the soundtrack

for upcoming Irish movie 'Life's a Breeze' While having a great love for traditional Irish music Declan is always keen to experiment with different musical genres and combine them with Irish music. This has led to some unlikely musical collaborations including UK boy band 'The Wanted'. Indeed Declan is often heard knocking out some pop, rock and dance tunes on his tin whistle!

Gerry Nolan: Gerry hails from Co. Carlow but currently lives in Dublin. He is classically trained having completed all grades in pianoforte at The Royal Irish Academy of Music after which he went on to complete a science degree in University College Dublin and a post graduate Diploma in Trinity College. Gerry fronted two trad rock bands while he was in college 'Johnny Jump Up' and 'Sé'. Gerry has toured extensively in Ireland, the UK and the USA and his musical collaborations range from UK pop band 'The Wanted' to traditional music legend Paddy Keenan (Bothy Band). Gerry is the lead singer and guitar player with The Irish House Party theatre show, he is also one of the founding members of the show.

Aedín Martin is from a well-renowned Irish Traditional music family in Dublin. At the age of three she began taking Irish dance and music lessons. Aedín danced for the O'Shea and Sonas Schools of Irish dance and won numerous awards at the All-Ireland and World Irish Dancing Championships. She trained with Riverdance and is currently dancing with the Irish House Party music and dance theatre show. Aedin is a multi instrumentalist having studied Irish traditional, Classical and Jazz music. She completed all Grades in pianoforte at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and has won numerous county and Leinster titles on fiddle, piano and mandolin. Aedin is an All Ireland champion harpist having won first prize at Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann. She was also awarded

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Notre Dame vs Boston College Scheduled at Fenway Park in 2015

It was announced in late December that the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team will play Boston College in 2015 at Fenway Park in Boston - one of the most famous sports venues in the world.

Since BC and ND are longtime rivals and the only two Catholic universities with Division I football status, the meeting is fitting and about time that football has come back to Fenway Park. It will be the first game played at the historic venue since 1968, when the then Boston Patriots used Fenway as their home stadium before their move to nearby Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Fighting Irish fans may never forget the pain BC caused them in 1993 when the Eagles knocked Notre Dame out of the ranks of the unbeaten and the No. 1 spot in the national poll, costing them a shot at another National Championship for the school. The Eagles had a large lead in the game, but the Irish stormed back in the fourth quarter to take a 1-point lead, only to lose on a last-second field goal to a decent, but not great BC team.

While a win at Fenway would not take away the heartache from two decades ago, it sure would be Notre Dame's way of stinging the Eagles in a game that most certainly will be circled on their schedule.

With the game two years away, it's hard to tell what both teams will look like at that point and even who will be favored is still up in the air.

And for all those who say the Irish should join a major football conference like the ACC or Big Ten, this is the reason why they should stay put as an independent. In a conference, the luxury of playing at Fenway, Soldier Field, the Alamodome in San Antonio, Tex. or having a tilt against Navy in Dublin goes away. They would

begin new rivalries, but the age-old ones with USC, Stanford and Navy may go up in the air.

Not to mention, the ability to schedule whoever they want and being able to brand themselves nationwide. Of course there is much dislike for Notre Dame across the country, and on a competitive level, you can't blame anyone for criticizing why the Fighting Irish program gets special privileges as an independent. But the fact is the interest is there. If it weren't, NBC wouldn't air all home game EVERY year.

It's been a long time since the Irish were true national contenders. The 2012 National Championship debacle against Alabama proved they had no business being in that game. But in terms of relevance, it's still hard to top Notre Dame. As long as they continue their tradition as an independent, get high-profile opponents on their schedule year after year, and draw top athletes from across the country and continue to have support from Irish Americans nationwide, they will remain at the forefront of the college football landscape.

The South Side Connection at Ave Maria University

NAPLES, Fla. - Ave Maria University has been around for less than a decade, but can already be referred to as 'The Southside South' due to the strong influence of Irish Americans from the south side of Chicago at school.

"The University would like to embody the kids we have from the south side," said Kevin Joyce, vice president of institutional advancement and former head football coach at Ave Maria. "We offer a great education that shows our students how to be critical thinkers and self-starters when they graduate."

Joyce, a graduate of Marist High School and former member of the Illinois General Assembly in the state's 35th District, is a native of Morgan Park and had coaching stints at Marist and Saint Xavier University before taking what he calls "a leap of faith" at Ave Maria in 2010.

"I was approached by (Ave Maria founder) Tom Monaghan to come down and show kids from the south side that this would be a great place to go to school," Joyce said. "It was definitely a leap of faith for my family, but I'm glad we did it."

He says that working with the school's president, Jim Towey (former lawyer for Mother Teresa) has been a "worldly experience."

Prior to the 2013 football season and after Joyce's promotion to the vice president role, he recruited

Marty Quinn (already offensive coordinator for the team) to be his successor and head coach of the team. Quinn, an Evergreen Park native and Mount Carmel High School graduate, led the Gyrenies to an 8-2 record in his first year at the helm of the program, ending the season on an eight-game winning streak.

After seeing success in his first year with the team that included a game at Soldier Field, Quinn has

Ave Maria extends to the players as well.

"We have kids from St. Rita, Mount Carmel, Marist, Brother Rice, Mother McAuley - and they are all a part of our athletic department," Joyce said. "St. Cajetan, St. Barnabas and Christ the King (south side Catholic parishes) are all represented here too. We all still follow our high schools down here and we have a good celebration for St. Patrick's Day every year."



By Tim Moran
Southside Editor



lofty expectations for the future of the young program.

"We would like to bring a championship to Ave Maria and bring in quality kids that will help do that," he said. "We are alive and well on the scene in the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) and it is awesome to be a part of."

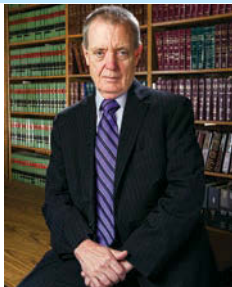
In addition to Joyce and Quinn, the south side Irish influence at

An affordable, Catholic education, not to mention 80 degree days in the winter and being located in close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, has convinced a number of south siders to take a leap of faith of their own, and be a part of something new and clearly on the rise.

"Ave Maria gives our students a chance to be a part of something

Continued to next page

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Continued from previous page

new and a chance to make their own mark and create their own traditions," Joyce added. "From a school standpoint, we are way ahead of Tom Monaghan's vision, going from 600 to 1,000 students in the three years I've been here."

Joyce says the south side will continue to be an area Ave Maria is focused on in terms of recruiting, while noting that Illinois is already second to Florida in the number of student athletes enrolled at the University.

Football players from the south side include Tom Henderson, Frank Kelly, P.J. Dougherty, Nick Dorgan and Patrick Parrilli.

"We are going after kids that love the game and want a great education," Joyce said. "Getting a great degree is what's most important."

Having a Catholic university with a positive atmosphere like Ave Maria would never have been possible if not for the true American success story that Monaghan portrays.

Born in Detroit, Monaghan's father died at a young age and he was raised by nuns in an orphanage. After serving in the Marine Corps, Monaghan began the billion dollar industry that is Domino's Pizza and later dished out several million dollars to open Ave Maria.

"He's an inspiring guy, and pretty humble too," Joyce said.

On the football field, Quinn says "the word is out" on the south side of Chicago.

"Playing Robert Morris (University) at Soldier Field last year gave us great exposure and people from Chicago a chance to see our product," Quinn said. "We offer something that is growing and fun to be a part of. It really is a different way of life."

The school will get an added benefit beginning with the 2014 football season, when they will become a part of the NAIA's Sun Conference.

"It's the kids that make this place unique, and they know there is no place like it," Quinn added.



By Colleen Harstad

pros and cons of the articles. It was his objective to make his article the best he could, and he always appreciated a

little constructive criticism although he would still tell you that you were wrong, but with his Irish charm and humor of course

Once again, record numbers of people were at Gaelic Park to enjoy the beautiful and wonderful Irish Christmas in the midst of delightful decorations and lighting, inside and outside. The Christmas tree lighting was held on December 5th.

McKenna, LCSW

Sr. Marie McKenna, LCSW
Psychotherapist

Mckennalcsw@yahoo.com
Mckennalcsw.com

1038 Sterling Ave 708-446-7276
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Gaelic Park is noted for such family entertainment and has become the favourite meeting place on the southwest side of the city in beautiful Oak Forest. Also on December 14th, Gaelic Park held an Irish Family Christmas featuring Irish favourite entertainers, The Willoughby Brothers who made this a wonderful evening.

A good number of people attended the Gaelic Park's New Year Celebrations. It started at 4pm and at 6pm (Ireland's midnight hour) there was a toast for the New Years. It proved to be another memorable occasion. Slainte, a cairde. (To your good health.)

Congratulations are extended to Gaelic's Park President John Devitt, and his hardworking Board of Directors, Manager, Marian Ryan (grandpa's favourite), Harry Costello, and the hard workers at the Carraig, and the various committees who make many events enjoyable for all ages at Gaelic Park. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

My grandpa once wrote an article called, "A Christmas in Ireland 80 Years Ago," he tried to get it published in the Chicago Tribune, I am not sure if he was successful, however I want to share his article with all of you.

"A Christmas in Ireland 80 Years Ago"

By: Pat Hennessy

Christmas in Ireland over 80 years ago when I was a "Garsoon," young lad, was the most wonderful time of year. Hustle and bustle was the order of the day even then, as home, be it cottage or farm house or even mansion had to be readied for the coming of the Christ Child, the celebration of his birthday, December 25th. The preparation began at least two month before the big event, with repairs, paintings, white-washing, inside and outside of the entire building.

Nothing was left to chance, as the prestige of the family depended on the outcome. Everyone had his or her chores, even the youngest. Even through roaming the woods for holly and laurel to decorate the home was fun, never-the-less it had to be taken seriously in order to bring home the best. The nightly family saying of the roaray was said with much more fervor with every member of the family getting his own decade (part) and woe to him or her if it was not properly recited.

Prior to the coming of the midnight mass to the cities, the first mass on Christmas morning at 6am was con-

sidered the most important mass of all. Flocks of people, young and old made their way to this early mass, hail, rain or shine, most of the time walking in groups along the country "Boreens" (laneways) reciting the rosary and greeting neighbors along the way with the old Gaelic salutation, "Beannacht na Nollaig, a cairde" (Blessed Christmas my friend.) With only the lighted candle in each cottage window to light their way this was a beautiful sight, especially if a flake of snow drifted by.

The overflow attendance in churches, sensed the importance of the big occasion and the prayers and beautiful hymns were recited and sand befitting the big celebration. A family visit to the crib after mass was always a special occasion as the fame gave thanks to the Christ Child for a good year, asking for a repeat in the coming one. Outside the church was another memorable occasion as friends greeted and exchanged best wishes to one another. Even the neighbors who had fought on different sides in a very divisive Civil War that just concluded, had good will to one another. That was a good sign and later this good will would get another chance to be seen as friend and foe played hurling and football games after the big dinners, "Tanum cun De." (Thanks to God, the Christ Child)

The big Christmas breakfast of bacon, eggs, and mothers special baked Irish break never tasted so good as the family arrived home after mass. The big Christmas dinners, later presided over by parents and grandparents and the opening of our humble gifts to one another was an occasion never to be forgotten. Later in the afternoon hurling and football games were always on the schedule as one village compete again another in some great games.

The following day, December 26th, the feast of St. Stephen is celebrated and is named, "The Wren Boys" as men and women dressed in tattered clothing and playing all types of musical instruments roam the country side bringing good cheer and happiness along the way.

Merry Belated Christmas from my family to yours. I know this was late sharing, but it's worth the read, and besides my grandpa knew I was never on time for anything, except when I went to Sunday mass with him, then we would have to leave the house 20 minutes early, even though the church was only 5 minutes away.

In March, I will be in time to tell you the history of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, until then stay warm and cozy.

Beverly Arts Center Received Grant from Prince Charitable Trusts

(CHICAGO, Dec. 13, 2013) – The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago, recently received a two year grant of \$80,000 for general operating support from Prince Charitable Trusts.

"We are delighted with the exciting developments at the Beverly Arts Center, which demonstrates how much the Beverly community values the quality arts experiences the center provides," said Benna B. Wilde, Program Director, Arts and Culture, Prince Charitable Trusts and Director of the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince. "We are grateful to the MacArthur Foundation for its enlightened policy of providing operating support to Chicago

Last Month's iBAM! Chicago Photo Spread

Was compliments of Stacy Reynolds. For more info on the pictures go to <http://stacymcreynolds.smugmug.com/Ibam2013>.

BUSINESS FOR SALE OWNERS RETIRING!

Highly profitable antique mall/Irish store (The Trinity Knot) for sale in Wilmington, Illinois. Owners retiring January 1, 2014. Perfect situation for a couple who wants to make money and have fun doing it. Includes strong dealer base, over 200 consignors. Real estate which will continue to appreciate. Business has been profitable since day one (Nov. 16, 2009). The Trinity Knot is a destination store with solid customer base from Chicago and surrounding states. Financial info available for qualified buyer. Contact Lori Bonarek at Coldwell-Banker Realty in Morris, Illinois at: bonarek@coldwellbanker.com or (phone) 815-325-1760.



arts organizations throughout the city and are proud to be their partner in this work."

The grant was made through the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince and the first \$40,000 was presented to the BAC in November.

The Beverly Arts Center was founded in 1968, and is a not-for-profit organization that serves Chicago and suburban communities with fine arts education and programming. For more information, visit www.beverlyartcenter.org.

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

I want to wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to all the IAN readers and supporters of Gaelic Park. Winter has really settled in, but I am not complaining, it is a personal preference. I can function better in the cold weather whereas the dog days of summer can never end soon enough for me. I always marvel at how our lives mirror the seasons, and while we may all yearn for the spring season occasionally, we realize and accept that every season a change brings with it new joys and occasional sorrows. We do tend to look back with greater frequency as we get older and wonder what our legacy will be. Many of the men and women who have been with Gaelic Park since its humble beginnings must reflect with great pride at the wonderful legacy they leave behind for their children and grandchildren. In the month of January ballots will be mailed out to the members of Gaelic Park to renew or elect ten directors for the upcoming year. This process is designed to encourage

new people to seek election, while we also encourage valued current directors to run for re-election to maintain the continuity which is important to the success of Gaelic Park. We are very fortunate at Gaelic Park to have wonderful volunteers on our Board who always try to put the interest of Gaelic Park first. Many of our directors are active in the constituent groups of Gaelic Park. I am active in the Gaelic Park Players and also the GAA and while the health of these groups is important to me, I know that the well being of the mother ship (Gaelic Park) is of the utmost importance. I would love to see greater participation in 2014 in all that we share, and especially the St. Patrick's Day marches when we are front and center. There is discussion that the theme for the parade in 2014 will be Hurleys, Hockey Sticks and Shillelaghs, and I believe that Gaelic Park would embrace that theme "May the road rise to meet you" and remember that the best is yet to come. John Devitt, President

Monthly Park Calendar

1/6	Women's Little Christmas Night	7:00pm
1/8 & 2/12	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30pm
<i>Welcoming new members, join us for the first meeting in 2014!</i>		
1/12	Monthly Mass & Breakfast	10:00am
1/17	Irish House Party Band	
2/1	Merry Ploughboys Party	
2/08	St. Jarlath's Dancing For Our Stars	
2/16	Bridal Boutique	
2/21	All Ireland Trivia Night	
2/22	Wolfe Tones Concert	

Sunday Afternoon Films at Gaelic Park

1/12, 2pm, **Bloody Sunday - The Long Wait** (BBC Documentary)
 2/09, 2pm, **Da** (directed by Matt Clark)
 3/02, 2pm, **Doubt** (written and directed by John Patrick Shanley)

Sunday Classic Carvery (formerly Celtic Supper) - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Hot Buffet Dinner \$17 Adults and \$10 Children 3-12 years
 Entertainment: 1/05 Gerry Dignan, 1/12 Joe McShane, 1/19 John Dillon & 1/26 Kara & Jerry Eadie

Monthly Musical Luncheon NO LUNCHEON IN JANUARY!

Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings 7:30pm

Monday Evenings **Set Dancing** 7:30pm

Tuesday Evenings **Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili** 7:30pm

Thursday Evenings **Family Music Sessions in the Pub** 7:30pm

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7-8pm



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Fri Jan 3	Gerry Dignan	7:30pm
Sat Jan 4	Coco & Fancy	8:00pm
Wed Jan 8	Frank Rossi	6:30pm
Fri Jan 10	The Chancy Brothers	7:30pm
Sat Jan 11	Richie Z	8:00pm
Fri Jan 17	The Fabtones	7:30pm
Sat Jan 18	Rhythm Futur	7:30pm
Fri Jan 24	Smiley Tillmon Band	7:30pm
Sat Jan 25	Wood Street	
	Bloodhounds	8:00pm
Fri Jan 31	Three Men in Kilts	7:30pm
Sat Feb 1	The Larkin Brothers	8:00pm

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm, Pat Finnegan and members of the Irish Musicians of Chicago with their students, perform a traditional Irish Music Session.

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"I would like to thank all of my many friends and family, for the valued support shown to me over the years, particularly, when I served on the Board of Directors at Gaelic Park. A special 'Thank You' to all of you who have remembered me in your prayers, and sent Mass cards during my recent illness..."

Kay Knightly



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Check the Gaelic Park website for all details and deadlines on the 2014 Essay Contest and Queen Contest.

the merry ploughboys party



Saturday February 1, 2014 - 8:30pm

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"Volunteers are not paid
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—author unknown

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May you glide across the floor with great grace,
May your smile shine bright on your face,
And as you dance faster
Let there be no disaster,
May your wardrobe stay firmly in place.

author unknown... contributor a friend

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Kay Knightly Dies Christmas Day

Knightly, Catherine P. "Kay" Born in Co. Kerry, Ireland; Loving sister of Bob (Bridie) Knightly, Una (late Tim) O'Callaghan, Pat (Maureen) Knightly, the late John (late Eileen) Knightly,

and the late Mary (late John) Sheridan; Beloved aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews. Founding member of Gaelic Park, the Ladies Auxiliary and the monthly mass.

Member of the Kerry, Clare, Mayo, and Sligo Associations; Founder of Our Lady of Knock Celebration; Longtime employee of Palos Hospital. In lieu of flowers, donation to Misericordia Heart of Mercy, 6300 North Ridge Ave., Chicago, IL

60660 would be appreciated. For funeral info www.curleyfuneralhome.com or 708-422-2700 See more at: <http://legacy.suntimes.com/obituaries/chicagosuntimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=168755081#sthash.RIRGMOYo.dpuf>

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New Date Jan 19 For St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest

New Parade Queen Will Be Introduced at Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Jan., 30

James F. Coyne, General Chairman of the 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade, today announced plans for a city-wide search for "Chicago's fairest Colleen." She will represent the Chicago Irish community as the Queen of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Queen and her court of four will be expected to attend civic, neighborhood, parish, and Irish events on behalf of the parade committee. Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, 17-27 years old, is eligible to enter the contest. Entrants should send a snapshot with name, age, address, phone number and brief biography and explanation on why you want to be Queen. To download an application, please visit our website at www.chicagostpatsparade.com. Contest finals will be held Sunday, January 19, 2014, in the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, Illinois 60607. **Deadline for entries is Friday, January 10, 2014.** The parade will be held in Downtown Chicago on Saturday, March 15, 2014.

Contact Tracey Ward at 312-421-1010 or email info@chicagostpatsparade.com applications available online at www.chicagostpatsparade.com) Thursday, January 30, 2014 Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner (for more information contact 312.421.1010 or email info@chicagostpatsparade.com) Saturday, March 15, 2014-Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade 312.421.1010 or email info@chicagostpatsparade.com Email your application to info@chicagostpatsparade.com or mail to Queen Contest, 1340 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, ILL 60607



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



wood handle and can be worn on a G.I. utility belt.

It was any soldier's friend for quickly building a combat foxhole or a last resort

weapon that could even behead an enemy if swung hard enough at the right angle.

My dad found a unique use for it the day before he used a couple Japanese Kirin beers to bribe a civilian train engineer into letting him ride in the engine cab on the troop train to the docks bound for America.

The story of the shovel came up while we were on a passenger train heading out west a couple decades ago. We had just returned to our sleeper day compartment from lunch where the fellow passengers who ended up at our diner table were fascinated by his tales of serving in the advance element of General Douglas MacArthur's occupation force in the Japanese capitol.

We looked out on the Old West far beyond the plains as the train rails clacked beneath us, Dad's quiet reflective nature punctuated only by the occasional wail of the engine horn at crossings.

"Amazing how some people live and how little they have," he said with empathy as we would pass by ramshackle and run-

down trackside domiciles that would barely qualify as an erect structure.

He seemed to be speaking of another age and time. "Tokyo at the end of the war was a lot like this...barren and desolate with not a lot left standing after all the bombing and fires," as he gestured with his hand toward a burned down ranch and farm.

"In the city what few homes or businesses were still standing would be taken over by the occupation forces," he said as he sipped

a couple years ago of the Christmas day he returned shows him with an incredibly weary expression. He and my mom both look tired and hesitant after years apart, reunited with an older brother that was born while my father was overseas, unable to return for either that event or to mourn the unexpected death of his own father due to a stroke at age 61.

I can picture my father's weariness after all he had endured, and can imagine what he felt after years of separation and loss and hardship and regret, with little he could do about any of it.

"So there was nothing you could do for the Japanese woman?" I asked.

"Well I did do one thing," he replied as a slight smile appeared.

On his last day in Tokyo, with his jeep ready to be returned to the motor pool, Dad drove out through the devastated streets with his crammed seabag. He swung by the major's office which had been the woman's former home. In the alley the giant circular glass dining table had

been placed just prior to being packed and shipped to the U.S.

Dad was about to drive away then stopped the jeep. As it idled he unbuckled the top of his bag, reached in and took out the entrenching tool and popped off the green canvas cover with the army "U.S." stenciled on it.

Snapping the sharp steel of the shovel into place, my father, one of the most gentle souls on this earth, swung it high over all six-foot-four of him and brought the edge slamming down on the table top dead center.

"Most amazing thing you ever saw," he related with a somber chuckle. "It must have shattered into a million pieces!"

The table wasn't going anywhere, but Dad was. He replaced the entrenching tool in his bag, hopped back into his jeep and drove off. His war was over.

E-mail: IrishRoverJim@aol.com



his cup of coffee in the compartment arm chair and tapped the top of my hand on the windowsill for emphasis.

He explained that part of his duties was to work for an American major who had taken over a Japanese widow's home. "I still remember her crying as they packed her up and moved her away, leaving some of her best furniture behind," Dad said with a shake of his head.

"The worst part was that scoundrel was going to pack up her prize possession and ship it home when he was done using her home as a headquarters office."

Dad described a beautiful ornate wood table that was a centerpiece of the Japanese woman's home. Its tabletop was a hand-crafted perfect circle of glass.

Most pictures of the era show a smiling military man with a cap at a jaunty angle happy to return home. A picture we found

The Tokyo Table

About this time of year I set out alongside my Charlie Brown Christmas tree a U.S. Army barracks bag stenciled with my Dad's rank, 2nd. Lt. James H. McClure, his serial number and his home address in Chicago as of the end of World War II.

Dad had lugged the bag home arriving just in time for Christmas 1945 and New Year's 1946.

It's a reminder to me of all the servicemen through the years and present-day who hope to be home by Christmas. "The heroes are the ones that didn't make it...who never came back home," my father once told an audience at his Southside Chicago high school, the former Morgan Park Military Academy.

Inside the olive drab bag with its red paint stenciling is one of the last things crammed into it before Dad-O left Tokyo for the States. It's an army-issued entrenching tool--a compact collapsible shovel with a sharp-edged implement that folds back upon the green

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Girls' Night In

This winter, the Center and the Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians host a night of networking, shopping and fun. Girls' Night In is a way for women to network, catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Attendees can shop more than twenty vendors selling jewelry, handbags and crafts in the Fifth Province and 1st floor hallway. There will be activities, such as Zumba demonstrations, mini makeovers and a trivia contest.

Girls
Night In

Vendors include Aqua Salon, Irish Viking Designs, Zumba with Regina, Galway Bakers and Stella and Dot.

Girls' Night In is Friday, January 31 from 6pm to 9pm and tickets are \$10, which includes one drink. Stay for live music with Joe McShane at 9pm and discounted cocktails will be available for

attendees.

For more information, contact Kathy O'Neill at 773-282-7035.

Ceoltóirí Chicago Salon Concert

Ceoltóirí Chicago returns to the Fifth Province this January, as a part of the monthly Salon Concert Series.

Ceoltóirí Chicago is a four piece Chicago-based ensemble that has forged their vigorous and lively sound for more than a decade of playing for set dancing throughout the midwest.

The band features Joe Sheehan on accordion, Seán Cleland on fiddle, John Shine on piano and Tommy Masterson on drums. They will be joined by special guests: Jim DeWan on guitar, bouzouki and vocals, and Jonathan Whitall, from Chicago Reel on keyboard and fiddle.

Ceoltóirí Chicago's music encompasses the windswept polkas and slides

of Sliabh Luachra, the lovely flowing music of Sheehan's home in County Clare, and the great driving music of the City of Chicago, where Cleland, Masterson and Shine learned to play from countless immigrant musicians.

The IAHC Salon Concerts are opportunities to be among friends to listen to Irish music, played by talented musicians, in an intimate, friendly, setting.

The Ceoltóirí Chicago Salon Concert is Friday, January 10 at 8pm. The opening act is musicians from the Irish Music School of Music,

who will be joined by Irish dancers from the community.

Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$12 for adults and children 18 and under are free.



Seán Cleland

Join The Irish House Party

The Irish House Party concert returns to the Center for one night only this January. The group played to a packed house in the Fifth Province last January. For this tour, the performance takes place in the Center's Auditorium.

The concert is hosted by All-Ireland champion musicians and dancers who create a unique Irish music, theatre and dance

experience, while educating on traditional Irish music. The musicianship is complimented with comedy from the

performers who converse with the audience throughout the show to create a real Irish house party feel.

The Irish House Party band is: Tin whistle player Declan Quinn, lead singer and guitarist, Gerry Nolan, dancer and multi instrumentalist Aedin Martin and uilleann piper, flute and whistle player Isaac Alderson.

The Irish House Party concert

is Saturday, January 18 at 8pm and tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035.



Put the Nuns in Charge!

Straighten up and mind your manners as actor Vicki Quade brings her widely popular show, *Put the Nuns in Charge!* to the Fifth Province this winter.

Put the Nuns in Charge! is a funny refresher course with a modern look at the Golden Rule. Mother Superior is in charge and she has her own opinions on just about everything, from the shade of your lipstick to the iPhone in your pocket.

Vicki Quade is one of the creators of the international hit comedy, *Late Nite Catechism*, and has performed regularly on a national tour with her comedies, *Sunday School Cinema*, *Saints & Sinners*, and *Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night*, which all play regularly at the Royal George Theatre in Chicago.

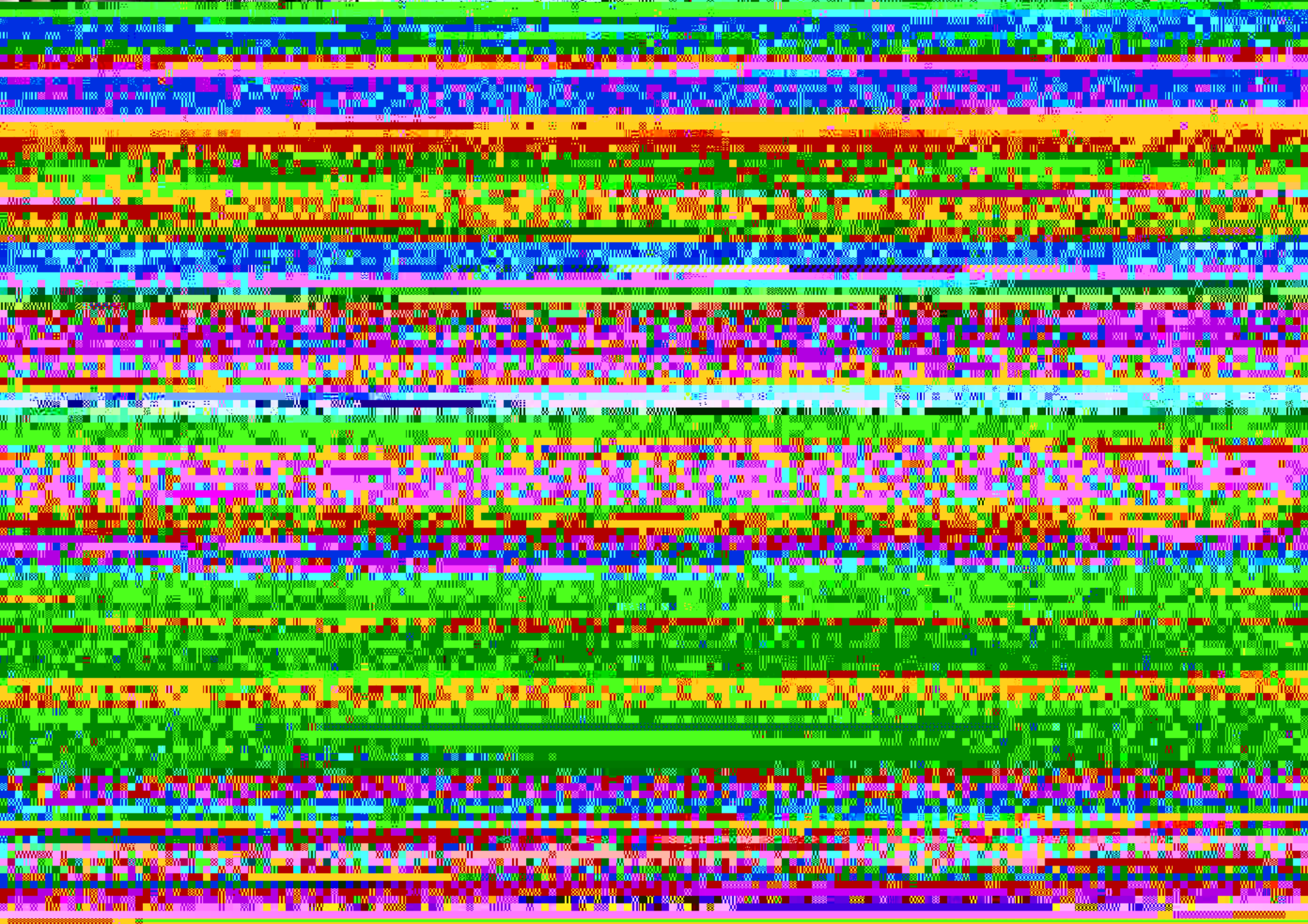


By Vicki Quade

Put the Nuns in Charge! is Sunday, February 9 at 3pm and tickets are \$20. Reservations are necessary. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



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IAHC Annual Appeal

This January, we continue our Annual Appeal Campaign.

The Annual Appeal is a very important element of our overall funding. We thank you for your contributions, past and present, and urge you 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 us.

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.

Help us continue to make

the Center a special place in Chicago. Our children and grandchildren and all who follow after us deserve to enjoy and experience the Center as we have.

The names below are contributors from December 16 to January 1. We will continue to list donor names through the March 2014 issue.

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Save the Date for the Wearing of the Green Dance

Annual Event Kicks off St. Patrick's Season

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

Festivities include dancing and live music, and a sit-down dinner, catered by Harrington's Catering, spot prizes and a raffle. The menu includes corned



beef and cabbage, chicken entrees and more. There will be a cash bar available.

The dance is Sunday, March 2, 2014 from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40.

Reservations are necessary and must be made by calling the IAHC Center office at 773-282-7035

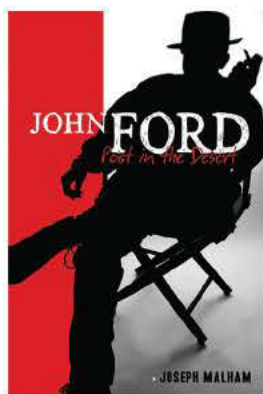
John Ford Lecture

Learn more about John Ford at a lecture and book signing this winter. Author Joseph Malham will talk about the enigmatic Irish American film director and read from and sign his book, *John Ford: Poet in the Desert*.

Ford, who won six Academy Awards, is known primarily for westerns, such as *The Searchers* and *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*. Yet in movies like *The Grapes of Wrath*, *How Green Was My Valley*, and *The Quiet Man*, Ford created timeless classics

as he explored the role of myth, history, tradition and war in epic dramas of the individual, the family and community. This biography reveals how Ford's work ranged over the vast and textured richness of the human experience.

Joseph Malham is an iconographer, writer and speaker, and since 1999, has been artist-in-residence at St. Gregory the



Great Church in Chicago. His book on Ford offers facets of the dark yet towering poetic genius in a fascinating analysis of the artist's personal life.

The John Ford Lecture and Signing is Sunday, February 23 at 3pm. Refreshments will be served and donations accepted at the door.

Art Group Meeting

The IAHC Members' Art Group is calling all artists who are Center members. Join us for a meeting to discuss the extra benefits of IAHC

membership and upcoming opportunities for member exhibits, artists' talks, Irish exchange exhibits and classes in the Gallery. Join us to add your ideas.

The meeting is Wednesday, January 29 at 7pm in the IAHC Gallery. To RSVP, call Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

SAVE THE DATES

for the

2014 St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

March 15, 16 and 17, 2014





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Chicago, Illinois



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January 2014

January 3	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
January 4	Shamrock American Club Social	ShamAm Room	8pm
January 10	Ceoltoiri Chicago Salon Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
January 11	St Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
January 17	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	ShamAm Room	7pm
January 18	Roscommon Club Social	McGinty Room	8pm
	Irish House Party	Auditorium	8pm
January 21	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 304	7pm
January 25	Cash for Kids Benefit	Auditorium and Pub	6pm
January 31	Girls' Night In	Room 109 and Pub	6pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7 30-9:30pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Irish Language Class	Room 304	11-1:30pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm

Quiz Night

Test your trivia knowledge with the return of Quiz Night this January.

The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and



3rd place and food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province Pub

Quiz Night is once a month in 2014 on Fridays at 8pm on 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/25, 5/16.

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Irish American Heritage Center

JANUARY ENTERTAINMENT

1/3	Ceili Mor
1/4	Without U2
1/10	Ceoltoiri Chicago, 8pm, \$12
1/11	Mulligan Stew
1/17	In Spite of Ourselves
1/18	The Dooley Brothers
1/24	Chancey Brothers
1/25	Cash For Kids Johnny Cash Night
1/31	Joe McShane



All Shows Start After 9pm

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January Drink Special
Hot Toddy \$4

January Food Special
Irish Stew \$4

Valid for the month of January 20 14

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Memoir Classes Capture Stories

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

Whether your story is a memorable summer or an incredible life voyage, this writing workshop helps you identify the key turning moments in your life and understand them against a backdrop of time and place.

Students will perform in-class writing exercises, readings and take part in discussion and outside assignments will also be given.

There are three winter sessions; on Tuesdays, February 4-March 11 from 7 to 9 pm; on Thursdays, February 6-March 13 from 4 to 6 pm; Thursday, February 6-March 13 from 7 to 9pm.

The cost of the six-week class is \$60 per person. To register for class, call Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, Frank Crowley, John Gorski, Mary Griffin, Kathy Kelly, Nata ie Miller, Mary Mor is, Sheila Murphy

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Bobby Rush

Millions of dollars unaccounted for, and a one million dollar grant from SBC for a community technology center that was never built. Millions more in campaign funds are missing, no records, no receipts? He has also not been paying rent for his campaign office, and his wife, Carolyn, has earned \$404,000 in salary since 2007.

There is a pattern of abuse in the use of campaign funds and the federal government needs to crack down on these abuses, and tighten up on monitoring these funds.

Everybody knows the last person you can trust in Illinois is a politician.

Bobby Rush got his start as a Black Panther before earning the title of "Honorable" when he was elected to Congress 20 years ago representing the first congressional district in Illinois. Make room for him in the cell next to Jesse Jackson Jr. Our new U.S. Attorney, Zachary T. Fardon should focus on corrupt politicians not gangs. "Chicago that toddlin' Town."

Pope Francis

Rush Limbaugh has labeled the Pope as a Marxist. Probably because of his reference to the distribution of wealth. The Pope's response, "I've known some Marxists who are very good

people, but the Marxist philosophy doesn't work.

Take a look at Chicago, and 30% unemployment in the Black community. What are the root causes? A breakdown in the family structure, absentee fathers, mothers often on welfare, lack of financial resources. Over dependence on public schools to feed, educate, and discipline the children. Gangs and the drug culture cause children to drop out of school, nobody feels safe.

Years ago the Republicans ran their campaign on "family values." Many of us didn't know where they were going with that approach. When family values are restored, all else follows. Marxism, and the redistribution of wealth won't make that happen. As Pope Francis said, "Economic inequality is the problem."

Marching Season

Sunday, January 19th is the new date for the St. Patrick's Day Queen contest at Plumber's Hall, 1340 W Washington St. This is about a month earlier than in years past. Get your applications in early. The experience for young women is unparalleled and the rewards last a lifetime. The queen and her court will be presented at the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on January 30th. Remem-

ber, both events are fund-raisers for the parade.

Immigration

A trip to Walmart will have you thinking you missed the turn, and you are in some foreign land. If you only speak English you can't even eavesdrop on anyone! So where are the Irish immigrants? Australia is the answer. I now have several young cousins living in South Brisbane, Sydney, and Perth. That's Ireland's loss and it could of been our gain!

Happy New Year

Any resolutions? Like voting the Democrats out of office? Or losing 30 pounds? What's the probability of those things happening? Governor Chris Christie is leading Hillary in the polls and I think he's already lost 30 pounds. So, let's celebrate!

Mandela

While at the Irish Fellowship Christmas Luncheon the question was asked, "What's the difference between Nelson Mandela and Gerry Adams?" The answer came back none. No difference at all. Nelson Mandela ended apartheid and Gerry Adams gave us the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

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Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



Creative Colors in the Eight Century

In June of 1885, W. N. Haetley, P. E. S., of the Royal College of Science in Dublin, published a study "On the Coloring Matters Employed in the Illuminations of the Book of Kells." Using the most advanced tool available to him, a microscope, he optically examined the pigments of the Book of Kells and compared what he observed with descriptions and, perhaps, mixed samples prepared by a local artist and friend Mrs T. S. D'Olieo?

Mr. Haetley made three points. He apologized for presenting so unimportant a scientific contribution. Second, he restricted his investigation to colors that were known and used through the seventh century. Third, he favored pigments to that could be made from material found at various locations in Ireland.

Haetley came surprisingly close in identifying the possible sources of the reds, yellows, greens and blues. He is, however, mistaken by choosing ground malachite ore for making what he called emerald green. He also overlooks the use of layering a transparent color over a more opaque color producing a new color. This use of glazing by Book of Kells scribes is unsurpassed by any other early medieval manuscript and is a large part of what makes it the most magnificent Insular Gospel existing.

Due to new restrictions beginning in the eighteenth century, the analysis of the pigments used in the Book of Kells became severely limited. Trinity Collage Dublin began a prohibition against taking samples of the pigments for a lab analysis to scientifically determine its chemical makeup. Specialists were allowed optical microscopes for visual comparisons and in at least one case a spectroscopic examination. This is the reason for the variation in naming the pigments.

The next major study of pigments was 75 years later in 1960 by A.E.A. Werner, who was head of the British Museum Laboratory and H. Roosen-Runge. They also used a microscope to optically examine pigments they recreated using medieval recipes. However, they were using a low-power polarizing light microscope-the latest technology that they were allowed to use. This time the scientists examined the pigments in the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels. They identified white lead, ultramarine, indigo, orpiment, and verdigris green. They also identified egg whites as the binder even though egg yolk is the most widely used part of the egg for use as a binder, and they don't turn the color yellow as you might think. However it might be impossible to distinguish

the difference between them. The scientists added that the Book of Kells' pigments were "almost identical" to the Lindisfarne Gospel.

Roosen-Runge and Werner also identified two new pigments. One was derived from the Kermes insect of the Mediterranean area. It's dried body and, in some varieties, eggs, are crushed to make a deep red. The second was the Mediterranean area variety of chrozophora tincture, the tousnesol plant from the sunflower family, also known

binocular microscope and discovered what they identified as lapis lazuli based ultramarine! In addition, they identified malachite in the green color. They also concluded that the white areas were made from chalk.

During 2004-6, however, a technique know as Micro-Raman spectroscopy was used.

Here is a simplified description of this procedure: A laser is aimed at a minute area of a color that was prepared according to

had limited colors, but they expanded their palette by mixing colors, glazing over one color with another color to create a third hue and painting an opaque color over another to create 3-D effects and stunning visual juxtapositions.

The conclusion of the micro-Raman analysis:

Hue: blue

Pigment: indigo

In a few places the indigo blue was lightened with gypsum

Hue: yellow

Pigment: arsenic sulphide, a residue of tin smelting

Also called yellow gold and used as a gold substitute

Hue: green

Pigment: most green was made by mixing orpiment (yellow) arsenic sulphide and indigo

This mixture is called "Verdigris"

Verdigris

Second most common source of green. Made from copper oxide

Hue: orange/red

Pigment: red lead, made from heating lead oxide

Hue: white

Pigment: predominately from gypsum, also used to lighten blue and purple

Hue: black

Pigment: carbon from soot or charred bones or wood. Also used with Iron gall. Used for drawing and calligraphy

Hue: purple

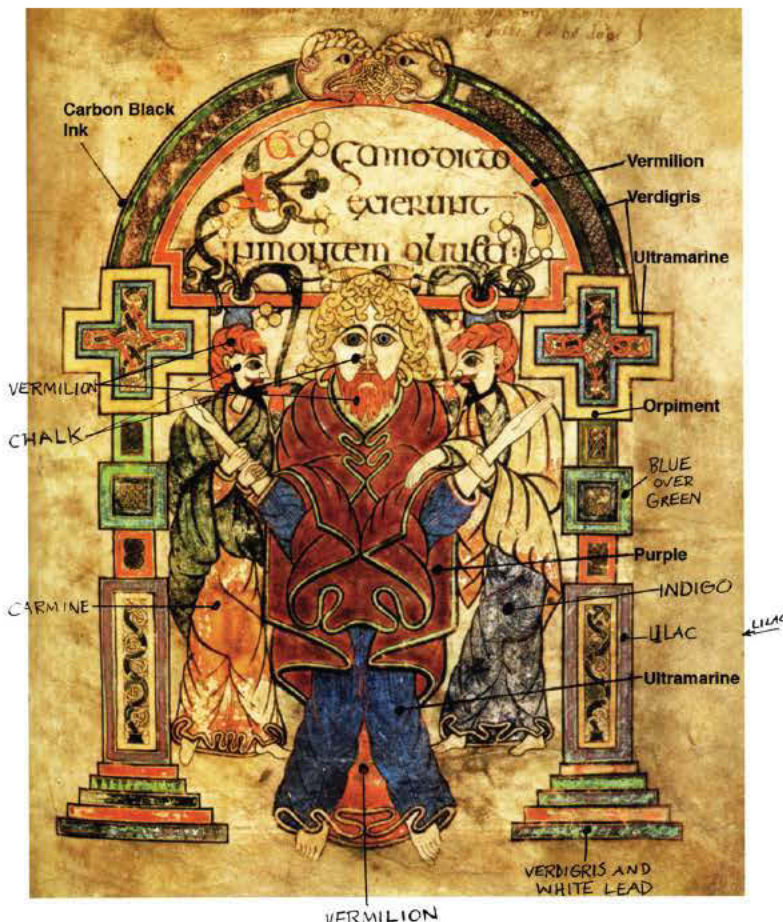
Pigment: orcein, a lichen found in Ireland, also used in glazing over green or blue

Their study is not a complete identification of all the pigments found in the Book of Kells. Not all compounds are Ramam active resulting in no reaction from the laser while some compounds emit fluorescent light that inhibits the laser reflection.

There are certain colors such as pink, translucent yellow/brown and

earth-tones in brown, orange and green that are not reactive to Ramam spectra.

Correction. Last month I described parchment was made from one side of a split skin. That is an error. It is made from the entire skin.



as folium. It was used to make reds, purples and blues. They ruled out another pigment. They found no trace of the very expensive semiprecious gem lapis lazuli. It had been suggested over the years that that nothing else could create the deep ultramarine made from lapis lazuli and came only from Afghanistan.

In 1989-90, Anthony Cains, the Director of Conservation at Trinity Collage Dublin, reviewed the work of Roosen-Runge and Werner. Cains list of identified pigments agrees with some of their findings, but not all.

Another study in 1992 by Robert Fuchs and Doris Voltage used a

medieval recipe. The reflected laser, now distorted by the specific compounds in the sample is analyzed and recorded. Then the laser is aimed at a specific color in the manuscript. The resulting "reflection" is compared to the records of the known recipe. The type and amounts of the mineral and organic compounds are then identified or ruled out.

This was the most in-depth and through analysis of any medieval manuscript. It remains the most accurate listing of pigments used by the Book of Kells' scribes.

In this detailed study, the spectacular creativity of the Kells scribes is recognized. The scribes

Mary Ellen Considine



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1:45pm-Intermission w/ dessert

2:00pm- Act II

2:45pm-Show concludes



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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



"We are pilgrims on the journey, We are brothers on the road, We are here to help each other, Walk the mile and bear the load." These beautiful lyrics are from the Servant Song written by Richard Gillard. Whenever I hear this poignant hymn, my thoughts immediately turn to those we serve at Catholic Charities. For many people who seek our assistance, their path to wholeness and self-sufficiency is not a quick-fix, but rather an extended journey that requires compassionate guidance and professional services to address multiple needs.

Perhaps there is no journey more difficult than coming from a state of homelessness to finding permanent housing and maintaining self-sufficiency. A safe and stable home is the necessary foundation for human dignity and human life to thrive—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When a person or family becomes homeless, all their attention and energy must now go toward sheltering themselves from the elements. Everything else—from employment, to health care, to education—must be put on hold.

A question I'm often asked is: "How do people become homeless?" The major problem for most moderate- or low-income families is lack of any kind of back-up support. For them, almost any emergency could trigger their inability to consistently pay rent or a mortgage, and therefore cause homelessness: a major medical expense, unexpected job loss, loss of child care—things that could happen to any of us. Most middle-class families can bounce back, but for the working poor, or for families experiencing domestic violence, substance abuse, or chronic or serious illness, there is no safety net.

For more than 95 years, it has been the mission of Catholic Charities to be that safety net for individuals and families with nowhere else to turn, walking with them side-by-side, and restoring them to self-reliance and the fullness of their God-given human dignity.

The hundreds of people served each year in Catholic Charities homeless and self-sufficiency programs not

only receive a warm bed and a place to call home, but they also participate in intensive services that strike at the roots of homelessness such as substance abuse treatment and counseling; parenting and life-skills training; budgeting, saving, and financial planning; and education, job training, and job placement into living wage jobs. Our highly trained

professional and wonderfully compassionate staff members help people work through their struggles day in and day out, so that they may begin to rebuild their lives, find gainful employment, and plan for a better future for themselves and for their families.

On January 26, Catholic Charities will host the 13th Annual d'Vine Affair: A Tasting of Fine Wines, which specifically supports our programs that help people transition from poverty to self-sufficiency. At the event, we will celebrate the many accomplishments of struggling families, some of whom were formerly homeless, and help raise funds so that many more people can be served.

In the words of Renee, a recent graduate of our Family Self Sufficiency Program in Lake County, "Sometimes all a person needs is a chance, some guidance on how to make life better, and some encouragement. Forget a hand out, just give me a hand up! I was counted out years ago... but look at me now! I am so proud of me!"

There is no greater gift than to be the helping hand for Renee and other families on their journey from poverty to self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities is privileged to provide the compassionate support and professional services that help our brothers and sisters "walk the mile and bear the load." Please pray for our homeless neighbors during these cold winter months and consider joining Catholic Charities mission to serve those most in need.

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The Irish Connection at Hubbard Inn

During this past year, we witnessed the rebirth of The Hubbard Inn—110 W. Hubbard St., Chicago—and its new Irish leadership. Carmen Rossi (pic right) became an owner/managing partner of this restaurant gem, located in the heart of River North. He proudly explains his Irish connection. His mother's maiden name was Wilson and the family is from County Derry (officially, County Londonderry). Carmen's great, great grandfather was of Irish and Scottish descent. He immigrated to America and the family initially settled in Kentucky where they worked on the horse farms and in the mines. His great grandfather was born there. Carmen also notes that his Dad's cousins and second cousins had a strong Irish background—dark hair, blue eyes, very fair skin, and favoring Irish whiskey. He vividly recalls that when he was young, family gatherings with his grandfather always included Irish music.

Carmen confesses that the thought of owning a multi-floor restaurant in one of the biggest cities in the world, in an area of town where the food scene takes center stage, is intoxicating and intimidating. Chicago is a city where creativity is expressed in many ways. Whether eating at a fine dining establishment or lining up at legendary deli and diner grub-hubs or chasing a coveted reservation at the latest celebrity chef venue, Chicagoan's are a demanding yet appreciative audience. Hubbard Inn channels almost a nineteenth century European tavern and is the perfect spot for lunch, light fare and cocktails after work, or dinner in its spectacular dining room. This warm dining area is outfitted with antique mirrors, exotic art, ancient books, and a library lounge for intimate seating—the perfect perch from which to enjoy the complete ambiance that is Hubbard Inn.

When this project was presented to Carmen in late Spring of 2013, a deep impression was made on him as to the restaurant industry's response to something that was unlike any other venue in the

area. He fell in love with Hubbard Inn and hasn't made eyes at any other since.

Hubbard Inn is a Continental Tavern offering European-inspired small plates and quintessential staple entrées that celebrate the bohemian spirit of dining, cocktail-ing, and design. Set in an intimate interior that draws guests into a distinct dining experience that offers European-inspired dishes, mid-century specialty cocktails, eccentric décor, and eclectic music,



Hubbard Inn has risen to a destination hot spot in River North. The result is a menu crafted for communal dining created by Executive Chef Bob Zrenner.

Bob Zrenner, (pic: left) Hubbard Inn's Executive Chef Extraordinaire, traces his Irish roots to County Cork. He explains, with

unparalleled pride, that his maternal grandfather was a Donnellan and his maternal grandmother was a Sweeney!

Bob fell in love with cooking at an early age while watching Julia Child after Sesame Street and then asking his Irish Grandma to try some of the recipes. His interest did not fade over the years, and when it was time to find a job, Zrenner was drawn to the kitchen. Through the years, Bob has had the great opportunity of being in charge of many renowned restaurants, from a classical French Bistro to a modern Asian/Mediterranean fusion small plate concept. It was his love of technique and straightforward cooking (stemming from his Irish roots) that brought him to Hubbard Inn.

With Carmen Rossi's and Bob Zrenner's leadership, Hubbard Inn has become an exceptional dining experience. The current Hubbard Inn commitment includes a series of promises to the community to enrich the neighborhood by providing distinctive food with its unique space that accommodates groups and events of all kinds, and in particular, those with an Irish connection. Sláinte!



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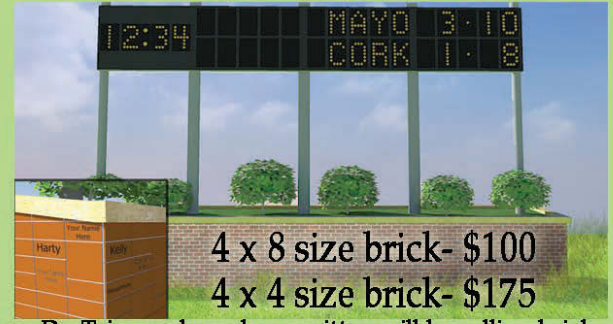



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson

Top TIR Awards 2014

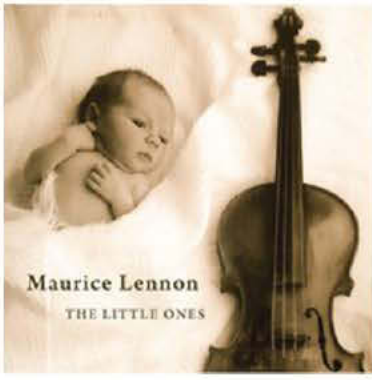
Well it's time for the major market muscle of the 23rd Top TIR Awards. The best of the best. The big Gazoo. Here we Go! (Remember, Top TIR is a clever use of the column title, Tradition in Review. Clever, hey?)

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR: Laura Smith

Laura Smith released her long awaited album, Everything is Moving in 2013. It is a masterpiece performed by the best we have ever heard in the business. No arguments. The best. Get a copy and try to disagree. She has already won several accolades for this in Canada. A national treasure shared with the world, as one Canadian put it.

MALE MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: Maurice Lennon

Speaking of long-awaited albums,



Stockton's Wing founder, Maurice Lennon offered his wonderful album, The Little Ones in 2013. Maurice has moved way past the drum kits and flash that became Stockton's Wing. He is a master musician, and this is a master album.

VOCALS/INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Roots of the Banjo Tree

This album was released by what is



now the hottest group in traditional music, We Banjo 3. The album is a miracle of musical insight.

The only thing that top this album are the band's live appearances. Incredible stuff. We look forward to their next effort, to come out in mid-2014. If you are anywhere near Irish music, you know who this group is. Stunning.

NEW GROUP OF THE YEAR: Socks in the Frying Pan

The group's self-titled first album is simply wonderful. Superior instrumentals meet wonderful harmonies. The



group pointed out to the international trad community how long it had been since fabulous harmonies have been heard in the music, as a regular feature of a group. Socks in the Frying Pan became immediately important in the music

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for reminding groups worldwide how important great singing and harmony should be in a vocal/instrumental group. Socks rocks!

COMPENDIUM ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Masters of their Craft from Tara Records

Irish-based Tara has been a Hallmark of excellence for decades in Irish music so you would guess that any album of their best would be fabulous. You would be right. You must have it. Thanks, Tara.

FEMALE MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: Liz Carroll

You know Liz Carroll has to win this.

Our Chicago musical heroine has produced another stunner, this time entitled On the Offbeat. When any musician has been as excellent as long as Liz Carroll has, you can only wonder how much longer she can continue at this level. Apparently, the answer for this fiddle genius is forever. Wow.

CONCERT OF THE YEAR: A Mighty Squeeze

Jimmy Keane and John Williams performed together at Chief O'Neill's pub in November, 2013. A packed house saw the perfect concert. The best musicians, who also know how to entertain. Two hours of tapping your foot to the very best Irish music, while sharing tons of laughter. A perfect night from two perfect musicians. See how often we are using the word, "perfect"?

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The Paul McKenna band released the album, Elements, in 2013. It is very difficult to get an emotional grip on this album as it is so layered. The one thing that shines through regardless of material is this Scottish tenor's remarkable voice. A truly gifted singer, backed by a wonderful band.

FEMALE INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Niamh Ni Charra

Niamh Ni Charra, the extraordinary concertina and fiddle player gave us Cuz in 2013. The album is dedicated to the memory of Chicago musician, Cuz Teahan. Far more important than any tribute to Cuz is the inspired and gifted musicianship on display here, from one of the hardest working gals in show business. Niamh is a force of nature and her talent leaves us stunned.

MALE INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: As It Happened

From the wonderful Danny O'Mahony, who is a great button box player. He is joined in this masterpiece by the unbelievable Micheal O'Raghallaigh on concertina. Fantastic stuff. This is the pure drop and the real deal from two of Ireland's best. If you don't have this, get it. We listen to this CD over and over and

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have played it a ton of times on our radio show, Ireland Tonight.

FEMALE VOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Portraits by Niamh Dunne

She is the lead singer from Beoga, a terrific musician and a marvelous talent. Portraits is a stunner. Niamh is young with a huge future in front of her. We eagerly await her next album to see how she could possibly top Portraits.

MALE VOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: The Hard Way Home by Paddy Homan

Paddy Homan was our Male Singer of the Decade for the years 2000-2010. We have all waited a long time for this new



album, and it is well worth it, to say the least! There are these incredible talents in this music such as Paddy Homan, for whom we eventually run out of words. All we can say is: Paddy is absolutely the best. And this album is a pure delight. We've run out of adjectives. A magnificently gifted and important artist, and he is right here in Chicago!!

You may have noticed that some of these awards look redundant, such as Female Vocalist and Female Vocal Album of the Year. It is a transparent, but necessary, ploy to get out as much recognition as we can for these artists. It's the best we can do! The best YOU can do is to support these artists, buy their albums, and attend their concerts. Co-host Maryann Keifer and I are going to present these winners to you on our Monday night, January 6th radio program, Ireland Tonight at WDCB 90.9FM/wdcb.org. Let's be repetitious. Support these artists. They have earned your respect and a place on your CD shelf or downloaded file.

Celtic Woman at Chicago Theatre in March

The Chicago Theatre announced today that the music phenomenon Celtic Woman will take The Chicago Theatre stage on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 3:00pm, in their return to North American stages. Make this part of your annual St. Patrick's Day traditions. Tickets are on-sale now.



The unique ensemble displays four young Irish women in performances that combine Irish traditional music with contemporary pop standards. This tour celebrates the Emerald Isles'

musical and cultural heritage and combines longtime fan favorites with new original compositions written specifically for Celtic Woman under the direction of Emmy®-nominated music producer David Downs. The Emerald Tour spotlights the music that has won Celtic Woman a world-wide audience.

Celtic Woman's accomplishments are shown through their widely successful public television specials and their multi-platinum CDs and DVDs. The talented ensemble has sold more than eight million copies of its releases, all of which have debuted at #1 on Billboard's World Music chart.

TICKETS: \$36.50, \$76.50 \$103.50 (include \$3.50 facility fee)

Tickets are available at The Chicago Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster outlets and Ticketmaster phone charge (1.800.745.3000) Online: thechicagotheatre.com and ticketmaster.com.

Connect with us @ChicagoTheatre and facebook.com/chicagotheatre

Bible Bingo: An Act of Charity in Two Acts at Royal George

Late Nite Catechism adds new show times

Vicki Quade and Nuns4Fun Entertainment are proud to announce the return of the comedy, Bible Bingo: An Act of Charity in Two Acts, to the Royal George Theatre, starting January 10.

The show ran for four weeks in November 2013 and got great online reviews from audience members. That paved the way for the opening of Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night, which received rave reviews from audience members and critics alike.

Bible Bingo is a comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, featuring the character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department.

The role will continue to be shared by three performers: Vicki Quade, Kathleen Puls Andrade, and Michelle Renee Thompson.

In this interactive comedy, the parish needs money and Mrs. O'Brien is ready to help! Bring the two together and you have a night of bible trivia, audience interaction, improvised moments, and the funniest quiz about the Holy Family you've ever seen.

Add to that a box of wacky prizes, fun bingo cards, and a lot of Catholic humor. In this interactive bingo show, you'll actually play bingo, and still learn a little something about what it means to be Catholic! The show gets the audience talking about ev-

everything from Adam & Eve to modern sins.

You'll be laughing so hard, you'll have to be careful watching your bingo cards!

"As the creator of Late Nite Catechism, Vicki Quade knows a thing or two about what makes a one-person show successful," states Pioneer Press, Chicago.

Online reviews called Bible Bingo "a masterful insight into the idiosyncrasies of the Catholic Church." Another review called the play, "engaging as well as educational." The interweaving of facts with current events/entertainment was hilarious. The crowd interaction was entertaining. Overall, a great night out."

Go ahead... resurrect your social life in this guaranteed night of divine entertainment!



Vicki Quade and her wacky prizes for Bible Bingo!

More fun than Sodom and Gomorrah!!

So much fun, you'll have to confess it!!!

Bible Bingo will have an open run, starting January 10. Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Late Nite Catechism stays on the schedule, at 5 p.m. Saturdays and has added a 2 p.m. matinee on Sundays.

Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. Tickets are \$30. Group discounts are available. For ticket info, call the box office at 312-988-9000.

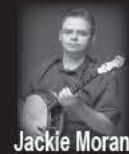
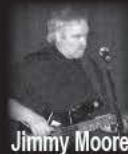
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Piping It In

Jack Baker



A new year and I hope a happy healthy one for all of us. As always at the new year, a little reflection is in order. We saw some interesting developments in 2013 but the Celtic music scene stayed pretty stable. Certainly CD sales are way down but attendance at music festivals is back on the upswing and musical artists are creating new tunes every day. The music schools are strong and seisons are popping up all over. All in all, I'm feeling pretty positive that this year will bring us new music to enjoy, old music to cherish and lots of good festivals to attend.

One aspect of declining CD sales is fewer CDs being produced. The upside to this is that the CDs being produced tend to be better than average and this month I want to tell you about two recent releases that are way better than average and come to us from two of Chicago's greatest Irish musical talents, Liz Carroll and Paddy Homan.

Our ears have been blessed with the sounds of Liz Carroll's fiddle for quite awhile now. My first recordings of hers were on LP, then cassette and now CD and I have loved each and every one. Each new recording of her music has introduced me to more and more complex and beautiful music and each time I feared that this would be her last recording because "How could you ever top that?" Her work with John Doyle and the two CDs they released, "In Play" (2005) and "Double Play" (2009), were some of the best, freshest and most entertaining music released those years as both artists complimented each others style. Liz is alleged to have quipped that if you want to record the best album ever, just get John Doyle to play on it with you. Both releases are classics, as is literally every other thing Liz has lent her hand to. In 2009 Liz was a part of String Sisters, a gathering of six Irish, Scottish, American and Scandinavian fiddlers, who together

created a recording that simply took our breath away, never heard anything like it before or since. 2013 saw the release of Liz Carroll's "On The Off Beat", a brand new collection of Liz's original fiddle tunes. Backed by Seán Óg Graham, doing a wonderful job on guitar, Trevor Hutchinson on bass, Catriona McKay on harp, Natalie Haas on cello, Winifred Horan on fiddle, Keith Murphy on piano,

Chico Huff on bass and Seamus Egan on mandolin, Liz delights the ear with this grouping of her

compositions, getting sound out of her fiddle that most can merely think about. Seamus Egan also produced the album. There simply is no one like Liz Carroll and no music collection is anywhere near complete without all of her recordings. (www.lizcarroll.com)

It was a wonderfully lucky day for all of us in the Chicago area when Paddy Homan landed in town and decided to stay. His pure sweet tenor voice has entertained us and his tendency to sing at the drop of a hat has got a lot more people wearing hats these days. Paddy released his new CD, "The Hard Way Home" last month and it quickly became the most popular Christmas present in many Irish homes. Produced by Dennis Cahill and Victor Sanders, the CD features Paddy's voice accompanied by Dennis Cahill on guitar, bass and mandolin, James Moore on guitar and bouzouki, Maurice Lennon on fiddle, Ben Lewis on piano, John Williams on accordion, Sheila Doorley on accordion, Teresa Shine on fiddle, Steven Houser on cello and Sue Demel doing a lovely job on backing vocals.

The CD jumps to a sprightly start with "The Reel in the Flicker-



ing Light" and mellows out with the title track, "The Hard Way Home" and never loses that mellow introspective feel. This recording holds your attention, each track a gem, recorded and produced beautifully. Paddy Homan knows well the ability of his clear tenor voice and certainly puts his voice thru its paces in this recording. If you didn't get this one for Christ-

mas, do yourself a favor and buy it now. (www.paddyhoman.com)

Something to look forward to in the dark days of February, the Midlothian Pipe Band is having a pub night at the Elmhurst Public House, 683 W. St Charles Road in Elmhurst on

Saturday 22 February. Now that's less than a block from my store, so I'll be there for sure. There will be a solo pipe competition and a very interesting time as there always is when Midlothian comes out to party. They haven't done this in awhile so let's all come out and encourage them to party more often. See ya there.

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It could be the most significant move in political history, echoing the vision of Winston Churchill in the darkest days of World War II. Historians judge leaders by their intrepid actions in crisis, so let me be the first to recognize true leadership in our Chicago Irish American community.

In a moment of inspired clarity, Local 130 Plumbers Union Business Manager, Jim Coyne, has moved up the date of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest to Sunday, January 19th. a full month earlier than usual.

Like the moon in eclipse this change will create positive reverberations around the city.

The most obvious, immediate benefit of this epic decision is the strategic capture of another month of each year's calendar to celebrate our patron saint of Ireland.

From January 19th to March 17th is 76 days that could legitimately be devoted to the approaching holy day. That's more than 20% of the entire year! On top of that, every fourth year, our total days leap to 77!

As our star becomes affixed in the firmament, the rest of the planets divinely fall in line. The annual corned beef and cabbage fund-raiser at Plumber's Hall will be Thursday January 30, a week later than in years past. The new Queen and her court and the Grand Marshall of the parade will all be there as we kick off the holy season together.

See what Coyne is doing folks? He is like a prophet proclaiming an extension of the celebratory festival of St. Patrick in the great city of Chicago.

I don't know if Pope Francis was consulted about this but I have a feeling when he hears about this he will pick up the phone and call Coyne and tell him, "Holy Moly Jimmy! What a great honor for St. Patrick in Chicago!"

No doubt Coyne's political di-

rector Mike Tierney played a role in brokering this deal. The Queen contest will take place on the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday. That way the college gals who want to compete can drop by Plumber's Hall over the three-day weekend.

And what a stroke of genius to combine the start of the Irish holidays with tributes to the martyred civil rights leader Dr. King. The Irish and African American people have both known oppression at the hands of slave masters.

The reason you meet so many African Americans with Irish names is another connection between our races. After slavery was abolished many black children were orphaned and Irish nuns took them into the convent to care for them. Those orphan kids took the last names of the nuns who cared for them when they were children. Generations later we've been blessed with characters like Eddie Murphy, Ella Fitzgerald, and Leroy Hooligan.

A great responsibility comes for all of us with this extension of the Paddy's Day season. Let's do our best to be proud to be Irish, but do it in such a way "sose our fellow man will be proud of us as well.

That means volunteering, helping out, donating, and getting involved with our community to show the world our brightest side. And it all starts with our Queen.

Deadline for entries is Friday January 10th!

"Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married 17-27 years old is eligible."

It might say "any" girl but the Queen is never just any girl. She is "Chicago's fairest colleen"; an ambassador of the Irish American community of our city for the next year and it takes guts for these gals to enter the fray.

Yes they're gorgeous, but they're also poised, proud, tough confi-



Jim Coyne

dent cookies who join the contest undaunted by the competition and embrace the spirit of the season of St. Patrick.

So throw your hats in the ring ladies and let's find the "fairest colleen" on Sunday Jan. 19th. Tell your daughter, granddaughter, sister, or niece to give it a try. It's one of the great Irish traditions of Chicago and a memorable day for every lassie in the field that day.

The Queen and her court of four will be expected to attend civic, neighborhood, parish, and Irish events on behalf of the parade committee, including a traditional appearance on The Skinny & Houli Irish Radio Hour at Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub.

Go to chicagostpatsparade.com to download your application and let's show Jim Coyne he was inspired to kick off the start of the emerald season at Plumber's Hall on Sunday, January 19th.

Drop by Plumbers Hall that afternoon at 1340 W. Washington, and cheer on your candidate as you watch the drama unfold for Her Majesty 'da Queen's coronation.

Many Irish and Irish American bachelors annually make the trek to Plumbers Hall for The Queen contest to look over the fillies making their debut. It's also fun to watch even if you don't have a horse in the race!

So let's salute Local 130 Business Manager Jim Coyne for this great leap forward for all mankind. See you at Plumber's Hall!



Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Smart Ways for Couples to Get More Social Security Income

Planning to collect a strong Social Security income stream is now more important than ever. Due to both longer life expectancies and the continue trend of reduced employer retirement benefits, couples need to plan to make wise Social Security income election choices. There are several smart, creative, yet little-known ways, for couples

to harvest more Social Security income over their lifetimes.

There are compelling income incentives for couples to apply some of these little-known claiming strategies. Depending on a couple's Social Security "vitals" (earnings history, relative ages, anticipated life expectancies) and their goals, they may wish to apply claiming strategies such as the "File & Suspend," or "Claim Some Now, More Later." These techniques involve the combination of timing for filing of benefits, exercising the spousal income benefit option, and maximizing the survivor benefit income stream.

Social Security typically accounts for a portion of a couple's retirement income picture. However, with shrinking investment values (e.g. real estate and stock portfolios) and historically low savings account yields, getting more Social Security income is now more important than ever. Married couples have literally hundreds of combinations when choosing their Social Security income election. The difference between the best and worst possible election can translate into well over \$100,000 of additional income in a couple's lifetime.

A significant portion of pre-retirees and early retirees do not "do the math" to maximize their Social Security income stream. Of course, this is a decision that should be customized for each couple's unique situation. First of

all, many folks are not aware these Social Security claiming strategies even exist. And, if they are aware, many do not take the time or are not counseled by a Financial Advisor, who is familiar with how to maximize Social Security income. Failure to examine and implement these claiming strategies can result in a significant shortfall in lifetime income for many retirees.

Take for example, Bob and Mary Metro (ages 63 and 61, respectively), who are about to retire and hoping to find ways

to maximize their Social Security lifetime income. If Bob had elected Social Security at age 62 and Mary elects when she turns 62, they will get about \$843,000 over their lifetimes. While they might like to receive their Social Security check as early as possible, this may not be the smartest thing to do. For those born between 1943 and 1954, they will receive 100% of their Social Security income benefit at age 66 (source: Social Security).

Bob and Mary can collect an additional \$157,662 of lifetime income by using a technique called "Claim Some Now, More Later." In this instance, Bob waits and begins taking his monthly check off his own earnings record at age 68; he collects this check for the remainder of his life. Mary at age 66 takes a spousal income check off Bob's earnings record. Then at age 70, Mary switches to collecting the check off her own Social Security earnings record. By using this technique, they harvest \$1,000,662 over their lifetime versus the \$843,000 if they had both claimed on their own records at age 62. Keep in mind these projections presume inputs and assumptions unique to their situation, such as each spouse's Social Security income benefit, their relative ages, and their estimated life expectancies.

Planning for maximizing their Social Security income benefit may be one of the most important decisions couples and singles make in their lifetime. The website, www.ssa.gov, is a good starting point. A knowledgeable Financial Advisor can be an excellent resource for helping couples navigate the Social Security income election maze. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your own election options.

John P. Daly is a Certified Financial Planner™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management for individuals and families. 180 N. LaSalle St Suite 3700 Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-239-1317, Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or financial planning. www.dalyinvestment.com



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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Tis the Season:

Winter is a strange time of the year when you find yourself looking backwards and forwards at the same time. As one year recedes to become history, the new one reaches out towards us. It's also at this time of the year that I travel back, not in time, but in space, back to Derry again. This

year, I'm looking forward to seeing the tail end of City of Culture events, and to finding out how the city has risen to meet this exciting challenge. Over the year, I've enjoyed my family correspondence as they've witnessed events take place that they never before experienced in the city.



another sings. Each year, the batteries are replaced, and the red suited men are primed for the yearly circus. And, as tradition would have it, I'm treated to an exclusive audience with each robust, plastic soul. Their little routines are greeted with a beaming smile from my mother, as she basks in the pleasure they give her.

It's also at this time that I re-visit the all too familiar family home. Whereas the city will be decked in its finery, my mother's home will be decorated from the cemetery of Christmas's past. How can one woman stuff so much into to such a small space? The ceiling, sporting lots of glittery objects, is oppressive. The walls, on all four sides, sparkle with an array of colours, and cards. In the corner, shrouded in flashing lights, a tree draped in ornaments, dominates the room. This is not Narnia! This is a memory that haunts my yearly pilgrimage home.

This is no Snow White with her little men. And, while in my sleep-deprived mind, the whole thing appears as a scene in an absurdist play, I will spend the first few days orientating myself to this crippled sense of reality. The heady culture of the arts will suddenly give way to a mutated, grotesque, group of miniature men sneering at my intellectual snobbery. They will revile my desire for aestheticism, mock my refined sensibility with a 'ho, ho, ho', and delight in staring me down. I am to be their prisoner. And, for the next fortnight, they will smile, laugh and dance regardless of my disdain. I will watch them give a hearty performance every time a grandchild, or great grandchild visits. They will lie dormant, waiting, conserving their energy for the next little belly rub that sets them off again.

While thousands travel to Mecca, Rome or Jerusalem, I will find myself in the North West of Ireland trapped in Santa Hell. It is here that Christmas threatens to suffocate me with its silvery chimes, flamboyant sparkles, and octogenarian, hirsute dancing, singing men. I will seek to remind myself that outside this shrine of tinsel, and jet lag, is a city of culture. In the past year, Danny Boyle, of Slum Dog Millionaire fame, came to be a part of the festivities; the prestigious Turner Prize found its home in Derry, and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann had the streets bustling with music and dance. Derry moved onto the centre stage, where it blossomed. Each week brought a new cultural event. Ballet, music, theatre and music shored up the aspirations of local talent. The city was changing. It was moving beyond the stigma of political disenfranchisement, and injustice.

Inevitably, I will contemplate removing the batteries, or accidentally falling on top of a few of them, but it will never come to pass. My elaborate assassination plots will never materialize, despite my resolve to be proactive. In reality, it's a futile gesture, a weak attempt to assuage the growing sentimentality harboured within. I might rail against the pageantry, the crass distortion of art, and yet such distaste begins to weaken after a few days. The smiles of a woman for whom those objectionable ornaments bring joy are enough to break the harden cynic. The culture of the mind sometimes gives way to the culture of the heart, and what lights up the faces of an old woman and her young brood may satisfy both heart and mind.

This must surely be the dream realized, and yet... these images of sophistication will be subjugated by the tin chimes of Santa rocking around the Christmas tree.

The year will close out, the city of culture will be a thing of the past, but the memory of going home will continue to live in my mind. And, those little red suited men will dance in my mind long into the future. In time, the memory of them may even bring a smile to my face.

How can one woman accrue so many Santas? Lined up along the fireplace, several fat men, with the same sinister smile and well-padded clothes leer at me. In various sizes, they each perform a trick. Press his stomach and the battery operated 'Ho Ho Ho' whines out, another walks, and yet

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Mick

Mike Morley



researchers than in getting at the truth. Main-stream journalists know that – even 50 years (!) later — they don't dare go be-

yond the safe confines of 'we'll never know,' or they won't be appearing on 'Meet the Press' any time soon."

"We'll never know, we'll never know, we'll never know. That's the mocking-bird media refrain this season as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of America's greatest mystery -- the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson hijacked a large chunk of her paper's Sunday Book Review to ponder the Kennedy mystery. And after deliberating for page after page on the subject, she could only conclude that there was some "kind of void" at the center of the Kennedy story. Repeating 'we'll never know' "lets the watchdogs off the hook, and excuses their unforgivable failure to actually, you know, investigate the epic crime."

Talbot's conclusions:

The Warren Commission- "the blue-rib-bon panel that was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson -- not to get at the truth, but to "lay the dust" (in the words of one commissioner) on all the disturbing rumors that were swirling around the bloody events in Dallas... the Warren Report was the result of massive political cunning and investigative fraud."

"Warren -- He knew that his duty was not to find the truth, but to suppress dangerous

evidence that -- as LBJ had warned him -- might lead to World War III."

"A growing historical consensus now sees JFK as presiding over a bitterly divided government, with Kennedy and his peace-minded inner circle on one side and a war-hungry Cold War establishment on the other. ...JFK's biggest enemies were not Communist leaders but his own generals and espionage chiefs."

"We need the facts -- as Jefferson Morley, one of the few journalists to devote serious effort to the Kennedy case, has demonstrated. Morley has been pursuing a lengthy Freedom of Information battle with the CIA to pry loose more than 1,500 documents that the agency is still concealing in defiance of the 1992 JFK Records Act." * * *

Where Are The Catholics?

And how could you have missed these headlines? 341 people arrested worldwide, including clergymen and teachers. A giant worldwide pedophile ring broken after a three-year inquiry. 108 people arrested in a child-porn network centered in Toronto, Canada. Another 76 arrested in the US.

Authorities: "The arrests included 40 schoolteachers, nine doctors and nurses, 32 people who volunteered with children, six law-enforcement personnel, nine pastors or priests and three foster parents". 386 children were reported rescued.

A Toronto resident was accused of running this global enterprise which solicited and distributed vast volumes of videos featuring underage and usually naked boys, as well as criminal sex acts. Investigators found hundreds of thousands of images involving toddlers to teenagers, featuring

"horrific acts of sexual abuse -- some of the worst they have seen".

A week later 28 men were arrested in an alleged pedophile ring based in Quebec. Police say it involved at least 40 children as young as five years old. * * *

Troops In? Northern Ireland claims it has won its war with the aid and direction of its world class sponsor, Britain; yet this tiny satellite state still complains that Britain's huge financial and military crutch is not enough, and that British police and perhaps military troops are required to keep this exemplary democracy afloat. In 2013 the PSNI's chief constable, Matt Baggott, called in officers from England, Scotland and Wales to help with loyalist disorder, flag protests and dissident Republican activity. Despite rumors that British troops would soon follow, Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Theresa Villiers, denies it will happen.

Britain's colonial plantation in Ireland now consists of only six counties, the tiniest "country" in the United Kingdom. At 5345 sq/ miles, it is equal in size to places in the US you've likely never heard of: Natrona County, Wyoming or Okanogan County, Washington. Yet Great Britain has spent billions subsidizing this miniscule "country" for nearly 100 years, poured in thousands of troops, killed hundreds in a 30 year dirty war, all to crush a movement by its own UK Irish Catholic citizens to secure democratic civil rights.

Westminster yearly pumps in £5 billion (\$8.18 billion) more than is raised by taxation. A massive third of Northern Ireland's income is subsidized by UK taxpayers, the largest subsidy of any UK region. By contrast, Scotland, which is seeking independence from Britain, requires zero net subsidy.

Over a third of the 770,000 people working (nearly two-thirds of economic output) are directly employed in the public sector. Half a million people are officially "inactive". The private-sector is dwarfed by this huge state economy and the 'black economy' run by paramilitaries. Its deficit is also the largest in the UK, about 40%. David Cameron recently criticized the cost of the "peace lines" dividing Protestant from Catholic communities. He put the price at £1.5 billion per year. But what are those "peace lines"- those walls rising 25 to 40 feet and running for miles? They represent England's traditional and successful formula for power: "Divide and Conquer". That formula is incompatible with Peace.

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Errors and Omissions

Some of you may have joined millions of Americans who watched, as I did, a two-hour production called "The Smoking Gun" which aired on the Reelz Channel to mark the half-century milestone of President John Kennedy's murder. The premise at first seemed plausible: a cover-up was initiated by the Secret Service, embarrassed that the president was accidentally killed by a man sworn to protect him, Secret Service Agent George Hickey, a newbie agent assigned that day only because regular agents had been out partying until early morning.

Yet not one of the hundreds of witnesses that day ever saw Hickey discharge his weapon from a car that carried not only himself and two administration officials, but seven other Secret Service agents inside and out on the running boards, and at least two Dallas motorcycle cops on either side. Kennedy's Special Assistant and close personal friend David Francis Powers said, "Someone a foot away from me or two feet away from me couldn't fire a gun without me hearing it". And behind that car were more cars full of agents and officials.

Photographic evidence shows Hickey holding no rifle at the time of first shot. Only one photograph shows him with the gun, pointing skyward, much farther on, near the underpass.

This theory was first proposed in the 1970s by Baltimore gunsmith Howard Donahue, and was later published in a 1992 book by Bonar Menninger. Agent Hickey successfully sued Menninger and was awarded damages. But Hickey's death in 2011 meant that Menninger could no longer be sued and he teamed up with Australian police detective Colin McLaren to remake the book in documentary form.

In my opinion, aside from being sleazy, opportunistic profiting on America's murder of the century, "JFK, The Smoking Gun" is one more attempt to muddy the waters, misdirect opinion and cover the truth.

"The CIA and New York Times are still lying to us". That's how David Talbot, founder of Salon introduces his piece.

"The New York Times -- a newspaper that rushed to embrace the Warren Report months before it was even completed... is still more interested in ridiculing and marginalizing even the most credible conspiracy

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



New Year— New Hope

As we prepare for another New Year, we do so with a new hope that 2014 will be the year that ushers in the final piece(s) of legislation for immigration reform. For myself, his month marks beginning of nine years travelling to DC as an immigration reform advocate. A friend asked me the other day, "don't you get tired and frustrated, going to Washington time and again and still no change in the law?"

I answered by telling of a recent meeting with someone named John (not his real name) from Ireland and he has been living in the Chicago area since 1995. He came here to find work and a better life; he arrived on the visa waver program and has not been back to Ireland since 2001. In the meantime, John has never been out of work. He has been paying taxes, has gotten married and has two US born children. He is an active member of the community, helps out at his kids sports leagues. He is also a regular church attender and a responsible member of the local community in every way. In the past six years alone, John has missed a number of significant family events in Ireland. He has missed his sister's wedding as well as nieces and nephews communions and confirmations. The

hardest decisions however have been not attending the funerals of two grandparents and his dad's burial.

John is not unique, in the past ten years; I have tried to comfort and console many men and women in a similar predicament. The long wait for a chance to regularize their situation is taking a toll on many individuals like John. John is hoping that 2014 is finally going to be the year when he gets paperwork to allow him to visit his mom who is now in ill health. Let us pray, gentle reader, that the hopes of millions will finally be realized in the New Year.

A New Year Wish

*"May Light always surround you;
Hope kindle and rebound you.
May your Hurts turn to Healing;
Your Heart embrace Feeling.
May Wounds become Wisdom;
Every Kindness a Prism.
May Laughter infect you;
Your Passion resurrect you.
May Goodness inspire
your Deepest Desires.
Through all that you Reach For,
May your arms Never Tire."*

— D. Simone

Should you have any 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



Senior 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 - Tara Club

Wednesday, 22nd January 2014 – Being Smart, Being Safe (Joint Meeting with Tír na nÓg)

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 a representative from the State's Attorney's Office to teach us about the new tricks being used by con artists and how we can better protect ourselves from fraud.

Gaelic Park – Emerald Club

Wednesday, 15th January 2014 – Being Smart, Being Safe

Because personal crime is a common occurrence in our society it is important to know how we can minimise the chances of becoming an unsuspecting victim. Today, a representative

from the Cook County Sheriff's Office will teach us how to better protect ourselves against personal crime and we will learn how being safe is all about being smart.

Wednesday, 29th January Doing Business in Ireland

The Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is responsible for the attraction and development of foreign investment in Ireland. We are joined by a representative from the Chicago office who will tell us more about the work done by the IDA as well as the current economic situation in Ireland.

Keeping the Home Fires Burning while Keeping Safe

The Midwest winter brings many difficulties, perhaps the greatest of which is the challenge of staying warm. In an effort to beat the cold many turn to supplemental/alternative heating sources such as stoves or electric space heaters. Although these sources of heat can work very well they can also pose a greater risk of fire.

Fire spreads fast. And the smoke can quickly overcome victims. If disabilities slow your mobility or you are taking medications that hinder reaction time, your chances of escaping and surviving a fire are greatly diminished. For reasons like these, and others, senior citizens are at increased risk of dying or being injured in a fire. The U.S.

Fire Administration (USFA) says that, on average, home fires take the lives of about 1,100 Americans age 65 and over each year. Another 3,000 are injured in fire-related incidents. USFA also warns that people between 65 and 74 are nearly twice as likely to die in a home fire as the rest of the population, and the risk is nearly four times as great for people between 75 and 84.

Using Space Heaters Safely:
Use heaters on the floor. Never place heaters on furniture, since

they may fall, dislodging or breaking parts in the heater, which could result in a fire or shock hazard.

· Unless certified for that purpose, do not use heaters in wet or moist places, such as bathrooms; corrosion or other damage to parts in the heater may lead to a fire or shock hazard.

· Do not hide cords under rugs or carpets. Placing anything on top of the cord could cause the cord to overheat, and can cause a fire.

· Do not use an extension cord unless absolutely necessary. Using a light-duty, household extension cord with high-wattage appliances can start a fire. If you must use an extension cord, it must be marked #14 or #12 AWG; this tells the thickness or gauge of the wire in the cord. (The smaller the number, the greater the thickness of the wire.) For example, a cord sold as an air conditioner extension cord will have these heavy wires. Do not use a cord marked #16 or #18 AWG. Only use extension cords bearing the label of an independent testing laboratory such as a U.L. or E.T.L.

· Be sure the plug fits snugly in the outlet. Since a loose plug can overheat, have a qualified repairman replace the worn-out plug or outlet. Since heaters draw lots of power, the cord and plug may feel warm. If the plug feels hot, unplug the heater and have a qualified repairman check for problems. If the heater and its plug are found to be working properly, have the outlet replaced. Using a heater with a hot cord or plug could start a fire.

· If a heater is used on an outlet protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and the GFCI trips, do not assume the GFCI is broken. Because GFCIs protect the location where leakage currents can cause a severe shock, stop using the heater and have it checked, even if it seems to be working properly.

· Broken heaters should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center. Do not attempt to repair, adjust or replace parts in the heater yourself.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

The Contemptible Wages of Greed

I couldn't really have had worse timing than with last month's article, could I?

There I was, happy out for a change, enthusing about my new job with Hand in Hand, the only charity in the West of Ireland to support the needs of families where a child has been diagnosed with cancer. No sooner was the piece sent to Cliff at IAN than the really shocking news came out of how the funds of some major charities have been gouged into in order to 'top-up' the very healthy salaries of some already fat cat 'health managers' who should be hanging their heads in utter shame.

I had earlier questioned how it was possible for politicians to have been unaware of what was going on. I myself never believed that they were. And since this has been going on for a long, long time it certainly covers Fianna Fail's Michael Martin and his stint as Health Minister; but as more and more of the characters who were hauled before the Public Accounts Committee (I know, that title makes me laugh too) were seen to have very direct links with FF and —of course— Bertie Ahern, resentment just curdled on my part into pure bloody anger. They should have been dead in the water after the last election but their sick, clammy zombie paws have somehow reached up from the grave to shame us once again.

As what we learned became rapidly more repellent, here (in part) is what I wrote on December 2nd for Hand in Hand:

These revelations have had a truly detrimental effect—and one which can only get worse—on those who are working hard in order to raise money for their various charities. It's an unfortunate fact of life that people will see all of us in the same light and all of us will be tarred with the same brush.

No one ever said that this world was fair, not without sniggering they didn't; but it shouldn't have to get harder either...

It's only fair to see trained professionals being paid what they are worth; but no, as usual this had to be done in a totally and quite despicably underhanded way. It's once again the Mushroom Theory as regards the electorate: 'Keep them in the dark and feed them --'. This is a family site so feel free to fill in the missing word yourselves...

Listening to the government spouting



outrage on the top-ups... well, to say that I find this a bit disingenuous would be to put it mildly. They didn't know it was going on? Really? And if they didn't, don't you think that they should have?

For years now—literally for years—we have allowed the Usual Suspects to stand up there with a straight face (but with fingers crossed behind their backs, no doubt) and waffle on about Openness and Transparency.

Seriously, Openness and Transparency. They actually seem to think that we will listen with all due solemnity to this nonsense and then go away and think to ourselves that Well, this time they have learned their lesson. This time they actually mean it.

Of course there are decent politicians out there—of course there are, and in fact this week has also shown that—but just as all charities are now finding themselves lumped together in one great big mass, so this has happened to our Beloved Elected Representatives as well, many of whom seem to have forgotten that they work for us. It's not the other way around. They work for us; when did we forget this? And why did we let them forget it?

And so, many times in the past week when a politician has spoken of his 'shock' at the top-up figures coming out, I've heard the old joke:

How do you know when politicians are lying? Answer: Their lips are moving.

Don't shoot the messenger. I have no doubt that some (probably with a vested interest) will find my comments unhelpful; but I live in the real world, not in the Ivory Tower that many of them lay down their heads in.

I went on to state what I take home a week for working here. I also, with her permission, relayed what Development Manager Jennifer Carpenter takes home. I doubt that anyone will think that we're overpaid, particularly—considering her work load—Jennifer. Continuing, I wrote:

That is Openness and Transparency. That is why we feel hurt, angry and betrayed by the revelations of the last week: not by what people were being paid, but in the fact that they felt that they had to make up their perceived shortfalls by clawing and gouging extra money from—heaven help us—such outlets as the hospital sweet shop and the car park. How sad is that?

And because of this culture of secrecy so endemic in Ireland we will suffer for that.

It's probably unfair to single out one individual—especially since there are so many involved here—but as we have learned, it's

not a fair world. So step forward, if you will, former Central Remedial Clinic boss Paul Kiely. He's not usually shy about the lime-light so I'm sure he won't mind this time.

In 2012 Mr. Kiely was paid a very acceptable salary of €106,000; but it doesn't seem to have been acceptable enough. So money raised by the Friends and Supporters of the Central Remedial Clinic was used to top up on this by nearly €140,000—more than he was getting paid in the first place! And if we feel angry, I can only imagine what those honest fundraisers are feeling at the moment.

Independent TD and journalist Shane Ross, speaking on RTE's Prime Time, accused the clinic of using charity money to 'line the pockets of its top earners'.

And with even more admirably direct bluntness Ross said today: "Kiely charged a lot to look after sick children. Five grand a week to be precise."

If that doesn't turn your stomach I don't know what will.

At the time of writing that I was unaware that Kiely had also availed of a €200,000 lump sum when he left to go and do other no-doubt charitable works. And yes, of COURSE it was tax free.

Also, to put his €140,000 top up in perspective: that figure would either cover

House Party

Continued from page 6

first prize at the prestigious Keadue, Granard and Nobber International harp festivals.

Isaac Alderson: Issac was born in Chicago in 1983, and lived there until the age of 18. His father introduced him at an early age to records from his favorite artists, and as a young boy he was encouraged to experiment with various instruments and learn to play by ear and from memory. When Isaac was 12 years old, he discovered Irish traditional music, and there was no turning back. In particular, the sound of the uilleann pipes had him completely enthralled. At 14, he met Laurence Nugent, the great flute and whistle



band member with some of the most dynamic and talented performers in Irish traditional music. The Irish House Party are delighted to have Isaac join them on this tour.

The Irish House Party 2014 Tour Schedule

Friday, January 17	Gaelic Park RIVER FOREST ILL	8pm
Sat, January 18	Irish American Heritage Center CHICAGO ILL	8pm
Sun, January 19	McNally's Irish Pub ST CHARLES ILL	4 – 7pm
Wed, January 22	McNally's Irish Pub ST CHARLES ILL	7pm
Thurs, January 23	Ashling on the Lough KENOSHA WISC	8pm
Friday, January 24	Raue Theatre CRYSTAL LAKE IL	8pm
Sat, January 25	St. Brendan's Inn GREEN BAY WISC	9pm
Sun, January 26	County Claire Irish Inn & Pub MILWAUKEE WISC	7pm

www.theirishhouseparty.com

Hand in Hand for an entire year or let us expand from covering eight counties to ten.

Yesterday the entire board of the Central Remedial Clinic were forced to resign. Not because they weren't willing to brazen it out, but because the HSE threatened to withdraw the annual €19 million funding for the clinic.

This one is going to run and run so we had better brace ourselves for even more damage.

In their greed and hubris do these...people even care about the damage they have done to genuine fundraisers? I doubt it.

However, the money being donated to charities is already down an estimated 40%. That means that every time these...people put their little claws in the cookie jar they stole from people who depend on it.

In my book, that makes them thieves. So I'm waiting—without holding my breath, I'm not that optimistic—for them to return the money they took.

And you know that I'll still be waiting for that particular New Year miracle this time next year.

You can email me at chasbrady7@eircom.net or read my blog on www.charleybrady.com Also feel free to check out the charity at www.handinhand.ie

We, you see, really are open and transparent.

player from Co. Fermanagh, who lives in Chicago. He was to study primarily with him for the next four years, as well as with pipers such as Al Purcell, Patrick Cannady, Kieran O'Hare. In 2002, Isaac won the All-Ireland Senior Championships on all three of his main instruments, and that helped him gain the recognition and confidence he needed to pursue music as a full-time career. He did a two-year stint touring with Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, and since going his own way in 2007 he has worked

as a freelance musician and

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Forget About New Year Resolutions, There's Something Else!

Many of us, if not most of us, are in the habit of preparing a list of New Year's resolutions at the end of each year. And we solemnly commit to the notion that this year we are going to be absolutely dedicated to keeping those resolutions. Yes, we are going to lose 22.5 pounds by June 1st of the New Year. And without a doubt, we will read at least one new book per month. We all know that we will be sucking down those cheese laden pizzas before February 1st. We also know we will be glued to TV shows like White Collar Crime, Justified or Blue Bloods and not reading anything of notable value.

Here's what I propose. Let's agree to adhere to some Techniques For Living Life Well. I am indebted to an unknown author who prepared a list of techniques that s/he felt would help us to live our lives well; probably

better than we have been doing. Here are the nine techniques, each with a little commentary.

1. Keep life simple. This three word concept/motto will no doubt lessen the pressure we feel on a daily basis. Many of us, with a strong assist from our iPhones and other technologies tightly schedule our lives and unwittingly overload our bodily systems. In essence, we have written checks that our body simply can't cash. Our ability to schedule ourselves very tightly does NOT mean that we must follow that schedule. Medical professionals are convinced that a very high percentage of hospitalized patients are there due to the stress load they are carrying. Perhaps the expression, KISS (keep it simple stupid) speaks of great wisdom.

2. Practice being satisfied. We have all heard the old expression, "he is just never satisfied." He

wants things to be perfect, but experts tell us that achieving perfection by completing the last 3% of any significant project probably costs nearly as much as the first 97%. I am sure that some readers will argue with the 97% figure. Okay, make it 92%. Seems to me that 92% is an A in most grading systems, so why not declare victory and move on to the next challenge.

3. Be decisive. As my drill instructor would say to me, "Just don't stand there, Fitzgerald, do something." His challenge was not intended to force me to make a bad decision, but rather to make some decision. If my decision was wrong, I would modify it and move on. General Colin Powell said "Once the information is in the 40 to 70% of certitude, go with your gut."

4. Be cheerful. If you are the boss, walking around with a scowl on your face does not motivate most people; rather it bothers them; unnerves them; or possibly even frighten them. Practice being cheerful (aka optimistic) even if down deep, you don't feel cheerful. If you listen, you will hear many motivational speakers tell you to "fake it until you make it." If you accept Optimism as a synonym for Cheerfulness, you understand the tremendous amount of energy generated by Optimism.

5. Live and let live. I have

strong opinions on many (some may say, most) things. Some other person may have very strongly held opinions different than mine. Does our difference really warrant going ballistic with the other person? Thomas Jefferson summed this one up when he said "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." Wouldn't we both be better off if we simply said, "Let's agree to disagree and go have a beer?"

6. Don't take yourself so seriously. Realize that there are a lot of smart people in the world and the person you are arguing with may be one of them. I suggest you work on the operating premise that the other person may be right, so don't bet the farm based upon your point of view. Haven't you found that occasionally your memory has failed you?

7. Have a good sense of humor. I am sure that most of us have found that a good sense of humor can diffuse even a rather unpleasant situation. Believe this concept goes hand in hand with #6.

8. Practice objectivity. Before racing to a conclusion which many do in a discussion, try to maintain your objectivity. Ask questions. Ask for a definition of terms. Are you and your protagonist talking about the same

thing? Many of us belong to the "Ready, Fire, Aim" club. Would practicing #6 and #7 facilitate your practicing objectivity? Does a discussion have to be contentious?

9. Forgive yourself. We all know people who have never forgiven themselves for some past mistake. Some silly incident plagues them for years after it happened. Find a way to forgive yourself for your past indiscretions. There are books about how to do this. Read one or two or more if necessary. But please come to the recognition that what's bothering you was in your past: leave it there.

Perhaps you don't do buy into each and every one of the above techniques, that's okay. I don't claim to have all the answers (read #6 and #7 again). But maybe adopting one or two of these techniques will serve you well during the New Year. Please let me know if the process worked for you. Carpe Diem.

For Your Further Consideration:

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past. Thomas Jefferson.

James F. Fitzgerald is the President of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm. Web-site: Jamesffitzgerald.com. Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com. #630-684-2204



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Friel Translating Irish Identity

If you have been reading this column for a while, you'll be aware that on occasion I put myself through extreme discomfort, uncertainty, upheaval and sleep-deprivation; that I have a deep-seated need for persecution and a wish to immerse myself in tentative conditions, to face the prospect of cancellable plans, dashed dreams, work that may well come to nothing. In short, I make films.

But there is a moment, when the camera is speeding, the lights have been set up just the right way and the contributor or actor is ready to deliver, that makes it all worth it.

I have just finished directing a documentary for the BBC entitled *Translations Revisited*, or *Athchuaire ar Translations* in the Irish language, for approximately 70% of the film was shot in Irish, with the Irish segments subtitled in English. The film tells the story of Brian Friel's magnificent play, *Translations*, the inaugural work of a cultural experiment that sought to 'translate' the terms of the political debate in Ireland, North and South, over thirty years ago, as leading Irish Studies experts Seamus Deane and Declan Kiberd argue in the documentary. *Translations* created a space for dialogue and rediscovery; it attempted to recast Irish identity, independent of former blinkers.

The play *Translations* is set in an improvised rural school in 1833, against the backdrop of four major historical shifts in Ireland: the gradual loss of the Irish language in general use; the mapping of the country by the British army according to the then ground-breaking OS six inches to a mile technique; the transliteration of place-names from their Irish language original into English; the replacement of erratic Irish language hedge school education with the systemic English language national school model.

Friel's humour levens these weighty historical issues at every

juncture. Offsetting the trauma of the famine, for example, which occurred a decade after the play is set, one of his characters opines: 'And sure St Colmcille prophesied there'd never be blight here. He said: The spuds will bloom in Ballybeg, till rabbits grow an extra



Brian Friel

lug'. In Act One, in particular, the contrast between a brilliant schoolmaster and one of his faintly dim pupils always makes an audience laugh; as does the earnestness of the soldiers in discharging their duties set against the laid-back locals.

The play is lifted, at times to the point of ecstasy, by Friel's wondrous use of language. He luxuriates in the rhythms of the Irish language through writing them in English. Irish, one of the characters explains, is a language 'full of the mythologies of fantasy and hope and self-deception—a syntax opulent with tomorrows. It is our response to mud cabins and a diet of potatoes; our only method of replying to... inevitabilities'.

Given that Friel set *Translations* in the northernmost part of County Donegal in 1833, he was faced with a linguistic challenge. He described that challenge in his diary as he wrote the play during the summer of 1979: 'A theatrical conceit will have to be devised by which—even though the actors speak English—the audience will assume or accept that they are speaking Irish'.

Friel was sharply aware of the trauma that the loss of Irish in gen-

eral use had caused Irish people: 'The sad irony, of course, is that the whole play is written in English. It ought to have been written in Irish'. In my film, I drew on translations of *Translations* into other languages, and I interviewed the Irish language translator of *Translations* and leading critic of his generation, Professor Breandán Ó Doibhlin.

The poignancy of the loss of Irish in general use is captured both on the stage, and in the response of Irish audiences to this play; an Irish audience becomes part of the play's meaning in its need to see it performed in English. Friel reminds us, through his sagacious school-master, that 'words are signals, counters. They are not immortal. And it can happen... that a civilisation can be imprisoned in a linguistic contour which no longer matches the landscape of... fact'. Friel's central influence in writing thus was George Steiner's book *After Babel*, and Friel managed to create dramatic situations for his characters—the love scene between Yolland and Maire is an example—to communicate almost beyond language, to reach a cosmic connection in translation.

The film asks many searching questions. Why was the mapping and renaming of Irish parishes and townlands so pivotal in our history? How important was *Translations* for the establishment of the all-encompassing 'cultural state' that Friel believed was necessary to create a stable political state? What role does the dispossession of language have in the conquest of a people? These questions are brought to life in actual scenes from the play, performed by a wonderful troupe in Derry this year. The film illustrates these issues against the Irish landscape—cliffs, the sea, the glens and burns, the bilingual signs of townlands and road signs to illuminate what John Montague described in 'A Lost Tradition':

The whole landscape a manuscript

We had lost the skill to read,
A part of our past disinherited...

Yet that loss is coupled, in *Translations*, with an awareness of new realities available to Irish people as the country modernised. In the hands of a lesser artist, Friel's play,

which deals above all with the psychological effects of the loss of language, may have become a threnody for the Irish language and the culture bound up with it. Friel was too subtle for that. He split the linguistic atom and produced a play that was ostensibly set in the midst of a very Irish turmoil but which manages to return to the Tower of Babel in its search for communal cultural identity. You cannot write fully about the

ebbing of a culture worth preserving without celebrating it in all its beauty and validity. In managing that feat, Brian Friel created one of the most important works of Irish literature ever written. It was an honour to have been trusted to mark its centrality in our cultural landscape thirty-three years after its world premiere in Derry City. *Translations Revisited* was screened on BBC Two (NI) on Sunday December 22nd at 10pm

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



My usual space yields to the following historic letter.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD TO ALL CLUBS AND VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE G.A.A.

It is our intention to make all volunteer members aware of a number of important issues.

Firstly, that the sod on Croke Park was removed on 12th July 2009 to an unknown destination as part of a lucrative contract and replaced with British soil.

Secondly, that on 4th September 2008, the Sovereign Seal Harp and 'Eire' were removed from the All Ireland Medal and replaced with a Corporate G.A.A. Logo.

Thirdly, that Hayes Hotel in Thurles, where the G.A.A. was founded on November 1st, 1884, is in receivership with KPMG and that the G.A.A. have ignored requests to purchase and safeguard this most important Historical Property.

The G.A.A. is an I.R.B. organisation, and the Liam Mc Carthy and Sam Maguire Cups and All Ireland Medals are distinguished I.R.B. Trophies. No permission was either sought from the I.R.B. or granted by it to alter them in any way, nor remove the sacred Soil from Croke Park. As a result, the teams have not received All Ireland Medals for their achievements since 2008 to date, only corporate logo G.A.A. Medals.

It is the intention of the President of the I.R.B. William James McGuire, to present authentic All Ireland Medals to this year's - 2013 Senior Championship winners.

All volunteers are encouraged to play their parts in the replacing of Irish Soil on Croke Park, from every corner of the Nation, all 32 Counties. To lobby the G.A.A. to rescind the three-Serpent Corporate logo medal, reinstate the authentic All Ireland Medal and purchase Hayes Hotel in order to retain our Heritage.

By this means each G.A.A. club is requested to bring this to the attention of all its members, especially

the players.

The Spirit of our Nation is under attack.

Is mise, Anraí O'Raghallaigh, Chairman I.R.B., P.O. Box 12476, Dublin

The stated quid pro quo for the Croke Park topsoil replacement was a British grant of 64 million pounds to the GAA to renovate its Casement Park in Belfast. Such symbolism registers little on me, but Elizabeth II was standing on British soil when she addressed Ireland from Croke Park. The symbolism becomes meaningful upon knowledge that on the first Bloody Sunday the GAA athletes' blood flowed into that soil. Meanwhile, people across Ireland are donating their gold jewelry to be melted and cast into true GAA medals to be awarded to the 2013 All-Ireland winners. The GAA will soon realign itself with its proud, honorable history. GAA members should respond directly to Mr. O Raghallaigh about these historic issues. They go to the core of GAA values and self-identity.

U.S. ENVOY HAASS will have made his big move regarding Occupied Ireland when you read this. Like Palestine/Israel; the Irish are not supposed to notice that the US is not an honest broker. It promotes one side at the other's expense. The real U.S. that fought a revolution to free itself and opposed colonialization on principle, has switched sides in recent decades. FDR's colony-stripping policies have been replaced by the Bush/Obama policies that duplicate Britain's of a century ago. Let's hope that current hyper-aggression doesn't ignite WW3. It is hard to believe that our gov't has sided with Britain against Irish-America and Ireland but a State Dept. official explained it as long ago as 1994. Its "Head of the Britain Desk" denied to UVF leader David Irvine that the US favored the IRA, thusly: "The IRA don't have Buccaneer bombers, they don't have aircraft carriers, and

we (the US gov't) must sew up the British Exchequer so as to use British forces in our upcoming wars against Islam." To free up British forces from Occupied Ireland, available for the US's wars of empire, it arranged the sign-over to Britain of the contested Six-Counties; history's greatest-ever surrender of territory absent catastrophic military defeat.

More surprising than the US gov't's siding with Britain is the "Irish" gov't's taking Britain's side against its own people. We remember the "Irish" Consul General's opposition to the MacBride Principles, his opposition to freedom for Joe Doherty, the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, his silence regarding British murders of Irish citizens, etc. The incomprehensible makes sense only upon learning that the true Irish Constitution and Dail Eireann of 1919 were overridden by King George V and his imposed 1922 "Irish" Constitution.

TO GAIN FREEDOM, Ireland's people must unite. They must restore an Irish Constitution and gov't that works for Ireland not, as at present, for predatory finance and neo-colonialists. Its army must, for the first time since George V founded it in 1922, defend its own nation; and must stop being hit-men for global predators. The gardaí síochana must protect Irish taxpayers and stop being enforcers for Shell/Statoil looters and stop executing bankers' wrongful evictions.

THE FOUR MASTERS. The survival of one of them, Cucogry "Peregrine" O'Clery, was covered here last month. He has descendants in Ballycroy, Co. Mayo, to where he fled in 1653-4. Ex-Castlebar Chicagoan Ciaran McHale phoned to say that he and others are descendants; that Cleary cousin Mrs. Bolton who migrated to Chicago in the 1920s sponsored other relatives; that Chicago pub-owners Murray are O'Clery descendants. How gratifying! Survivors of genocide! Of course all Irish descend from genocide survivors, but how many from so eminent a survivor as "Peregrine" O'Clery? Contact fogartyc@att.net

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Make Your Travel Hassle Free

By: Raia Stoicheva
 Immigration Attorney, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support
 Note: Nothing in this article should be interpreted as legal advice. The content of this article is for informational purposes only.

As an immigrant, returning to the United States from travels abroad can be a confusing and stressful experience. Here are some important reminders to help make your travel as a visa holder or lawful permanent resident hassle free.

If you are in the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa, such as a year-long J-1 or F-1 student visa, you must make sure of three things before traveling. First, your visa

must authorize multiple entries into the U.S. You will find this information on your visa under the heading "Entries." It must say either "M" for multiple or give a number more than 1 in order for you to be able travel out and back into the country on the same visa. Second, make sure that the visa will still be valid on the date of your scheduled return. Without an unexpired visa authorizing multiple entries into the U.S., you may not be able to re-enter after your travels.

Third, make sure that you have a valid passport. Usu-



ally, travelers to the U.S. must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the duration of their intended stay in the country. However,

Irish citizens are allowed to enter on a current passport up to that passport's actual date of expiration as long as it is valid for the duration of their stay in the United States. U.S. authorities will consider an automatic 6 months extension from the passport's expiry date. However, as it is always best to avoid any extra scrutiny at the airport, it is better to travel on an updated passport.

If you are a lawful permanent resident (green card holder), you will need your unexpired green card to re-enter the United States after traveling abroad. If your green card has expired, but you have recently filed a petition to remove the conditions on your green card, to renew your green card, or to become a naturalized citizen of the U.S. and the application is still pending, you can schedule an InfoPass appointment to receive an extension stamp in your passport. Remember to bring your official United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) receipt notice

to the appointment. Be aware that USCIS schedules InfoPass appointments for at least a couple weeks in the future, so plan your travel accordingly.

If your 10-year green card has expired and you do not obtain an extension stamp, it is best to postpone your travels until you renew your green card. Even if the customs officer who inspects you allows you to enter the U.S. with a warning to renew your green card, the airline on which you fly may refuse to board you because you do not have a valid travel document. This would mean that you would have to obtain a travel letter from a U.S. embassy, which may significantly prolong your trip. Traveling on an expired green card is risky. Unless you face an emergency, it is best to postpone your travels until you have extended or renewed your green card, or obtained U.S. citizenship.

In addition, if you plan to be out of the country for more than one year, remember that you need to apply for a re-entry permit before departing the United States. Otherwise, the government may consider your lawful permanent residency abandoned and refuse to admit you back into the country. It is advisable to speak with an attorney or accredited repre-

sentative before departing on a journey longer than 6 months. If you have a pending green card application, you must have obtained an advance parole document before traveling abroad. The government will consider your application abandoned in the event you did not do so.

If you have been arrested or convicted of a crime since arriving to the U.S. or since becoming a green card holder, consult with an attorney before leaving the U.S. It is imperative to understand all the immigration consequences of an arrest or conviction since certain crimes may bar your entry back into the country and even place you in removal proceedings.

Finally, if questioned at the airport or border, do not represent yourself as holding any other immigration status other than the one granted to you, and never represent yourself as a United States citizen if you are not one. Such misrepresentations may have dire consequences on any future immigration or naturalization applications.

If you have any immigration related questions about travel, please call us at 773-282-8445 or email Raia at rstoicheva@ci-is.org.

Safe and happy travels to you all!

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell



Take care of each other. Love Margo, Now, over to Joe! Thank you Margo,

taking a week it takes a second or 2 for an email or chat on skype. We live in some great times.

I am really enjoying working on a new album with Margo. It was recorded live and she talks about the songs and tells a few stories. I'm pretty sure it will be a collectors piece. Her songs and feelings and personality really shine through. Thank you Margo for allowing me to be a part of something so truly wonderful. And I'll take this opportunity to congratulate you on your 50th anniversary in the music business. I hope you will be around for many, many more years.

Songwriting tip - Try not to do what I have done many times and I've heard a lot of other songwriters say the same thing and that is - If you wake up in the middle of the night with an idea DON'T go back to sleep thinking you will remember the idea in the morning. It doesn't happen and I have lost a lot of really good ideas because of my sleepy head. Even during the day if you get an idea go for it. Its always good to have some kind of recording device with you at all times. Most cell phone have them. Plus pencil and paper of course. It may seem like a little thing but its far from little when

you lose a great song. We wish you good luck and health in 2014. Be good to one another, Margo and Joe

Hello Everybody, Once again Christmas has come and gone and I hope you all had a great one. Now as we look forward to a New Year may all your wishes come true in 2014? I have been quite busy all over Christmas getting my autobiography off to the publisher to be prepared for publication. It was foremost on my things to do list. I have just started my 50 years in the music business and it won't be long before the music celebrations begin. My first engagement will be my Cruise on February 8th. I know a lot of my friends from Chigago will join me and I'm really looking forward to it. There is a great line up of entertainers including the country singer Charlie Pride.

I will have quite a lot of recordings released through the year, a 3 C.D. box of favourites and a 16 track C.D. of new recordings. I hope there will be songs there for everyone to enjoy. I am still writing songs with Joe and I know we will continue to write together 'till we are old and grey, 'no hair dye needed with us, ha, ha.'

I wish you all a Happy and healthy New Year.

And a Happy New Year to you and everyone at home in Ireland. From all of us here in Chicago. Well another year becomes a memory (That could be a good title for a song). I hope your memories are good ones. Speaking of memories, we picked a song for this month that was borne from listening to Margo talking about her father. Like a lot of other men, he had to leave home for long periods of time to get work. I think most houses in Ireland can relate to that. Out of a whole year a lot of people might only be able to get home for a week or 2 if they were lucky. So it would only seem like days that you had to spend with your loved ones. Thank God the world has become a lot smaller now and instead of a letter

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"The Years They Seemed Like Days"

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

Verse 1

She recalls just how they met on that wet and windy day
On the way to work that morning he stole her heart away
He threw his coat around her with rough and calloused hand
and she felt the gentle nature of that hard working man

Verse 2

They were meant to be together but she found herself alone
He had to travel far away there was no work at home
But she knew it was true love right from the very start
Because even when he had to leave they never grew apart

Chorus 1

And the days they seemed like years counted in her tears
With little time together she held his memory near
Waitin for that precious morning he'd come through the door again
And she'd look into those smiling eyes of that hard working man

Verse 3

They brought him back one morning, never more he'd have to roam
He seemed to look contented that God had brought him home
His wifes poor heart was broken, as she wiped the tears away
Saying I'll meet you up in heaven on a bright and happy day

Chorus 2

And the years they seemed like days counted in her tears
With little time together she'll hold his memory near
Waiting for that precious morning they'll meet at heavens door again
And she'll look into those gentle eyes of her hard working man

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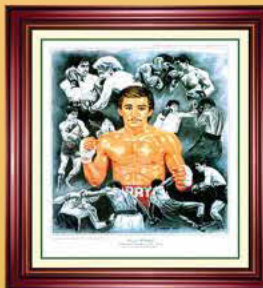
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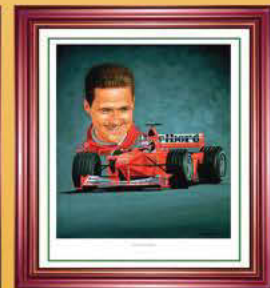
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