



Rose of Tralee
page 6

2014 Rose, Colleen Nolan

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Second, avoid Banana Skins – or, if slipping, minimise the damage asap. The handwringing over Irish Water,

Known Knowns And Unknown Unknowns

It's almost Rumsfeld territory.

The Government, battered after its annus horribilis, is trying to pick itself up and undo the damage in the year and a bit before the election. Few give it much chance. It is eight months since Labour showed in double figures, almost a year since Fine Gael got 30%.

However, the earliest opinion poll of 2015 offered some solace with slight increases in support for both Coalition partners to 24% and 8% respectively. While any recovery has a long way to go, some Fine Gael supporters are grasping at the straw that only six months before the last election their support was similarly languishing but recovered strongly. True; but then they were in opposition, not in government with a record to defend. This applies also – in spades – to Labour, who are under sustained attack from the Left over broken election promises.

Pundits argue that the unpopularity revealed in the polls has been too long in the making and cannot be reversed in the short time available, citing the difficulty of regaining the electorate's trust once lost. Some see a post-election scenario in which three parties (FG, FF, and SF) would each have broadly similar levels of support, in the mid-twenties, with a further twenty-odd percent going to a Macedonia of independents, new parties and those of the hard left, the balance going to a Labour party rump.

Whether this or some other new political landscape will emerge remains to be seen. A year is a very long time in politics and there are different factors at play. Strategists of both government parties are fairly clear on what must be done – or avoided – to give them a reasonable chance. First there must be an act of faith – that the pendulum will swing back, not fully but just enough. Voter disenchantment can be volatile as well as enduring, particularly if there is no readily available viable alternative on offer. This probably saved the skin of several past Fianna Fail administrations. Still to be resolved is whether and to what extent the two parties will present jointly.

the bleating defence of the indefensible over medical cards, cost the Government dearly last year. Cop outs like trying to blame a quango, or an unelected Regulator, or whinging that legislation ties the Minister's hands, simply will not work where the public is seized of an issue. A government is elected to govern, not deliver excuses. Tough decisions may on occasion be necessary and the electorate tends to understand; wrong decisions, or no decisions, they will not.

Third, take on the opposition on the economy. The budget deficit remains huge, even factoring out interest payments on Ireland's bailout. Borrowing continues. We are still living way beyond our means to sustain current levels of welfare and to run the state. The opposition have been coy on alternatives, beyond soaking the rich. They should be pushed on specifics.

It is not enough to point proudly to seeing off the Troika. An achievement, certainly, but one that has already been oversold. There is speculation that a new Greek government may, as threatened, reject or seek to renegotiate with the rest of Europe the terms of Greece's economic bailout. Merely an election promise or a nuclear option? Should the Greeks secure a favourable deal by acting tough, the Government's Troika boast would be rubbish. While Fianna Fail can be largely discounted on this, since it negotiated the Irish bailout terms, the potential boost to Sinn Fein, the hard left and independents could be considerable at the worst possible time.

Fourth, above all: Be Alert! Known knowns like Irish Water and medical cards have been identified – painfully – and attempts to cope with them put in train. This appears to have worked for the medical card issue. However the anti – water campaign is still very much alive and two significant dates are looming. The first is the early February deadline for registration, which will demonstrate whether the disaffected middle is satisfied with the government's compromise climb-down. The second is Easter, when the first water bills issue (and shortly after the property tax has been extracted).

The government has been playing up the tax cuts from 1 January, pointing to taxpayers having more money in their




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pockets. These savings, however, look set to be cancelled out by the water bills, while the estimated 40% who pay no tax will feel the charges even more. The hyped €100 for registering with Irish Water won't arrive until much later in the year. Watch this space!

There is also what could be waiting in the long grass. After years of cutting and trimming there are several potentials and it behoves the strategists to keep an ear very close to the ground – or at least to the daily radio talk shows. The plight of the homeless flared up before Christmas and there is currently the annual waiting-on-trolley scandal in hospital emergency departments, which seems worse this year. There could be legacy issues regarding past scandals – though these could affect all parties – and it will be interesting to see how the government handles the imminent report on the direct provision regime for asylum seekers. One other unknown is the extent of the rising tide of house repossessions and what effect these will have politically. On this issue the can-kicking appears to have reached a cul de sac. None of these are critical as yet.

There ARE positive factors. One which the pundits, the population and the politicians seem to have woken up simultaneously to is the spin off from the dramatic fall in oil prices. Lower prices for

petrol and home heating have provided a welcome cash boost – rivalling that of the budget and with a multiplier effect. How this will play out in terms of a general feel good factor is a big unknown. Some of the benefits could be offset by the downward drift in the exchange rate of the Euro. There could also well be public ire should the lower fuel prices not be reflected in terms of cuts in electricity and gas prices. Irish consumers pay dearly for electricity in particular and a forensic examination of the feather-bedded companies is long overdue. This one is a slow burner (ouch!).

With the most recent economic trends there is some leeway to placate public opinion, by rowing back or reversing some of the austerity measures over the next year. A start has already been signalled with for example overtures on pay to the public sector. There will definitely be at least one giveaway budget and a good chance of a second. The Spring Economic Statement may prove to be more than just words if the polls remain unfavourable.

Nothing will prevent massive seat losses for the Government parties in the next Dail. Yet the strongest card it has may well prove to be the electorate's reluctance to endorse Sinn Fein or to court the possibility of a government in thrall to a disparate group of independents. Now that WOULD be an Unknown Unknown!



Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



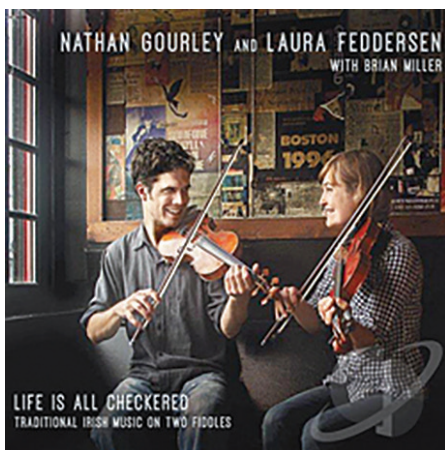
our two favorite writers on Irish music, John O'Regan, and asked for a collection. Here it all is! It has been a long time since we could really, truly recommend a compendium album. There

Oh, there is mighty stuff aplenty this time! Very diverse lot for you. First, a wonderful new singer to us.

Kate Crossan is out with *Away*. Lovely. Ontario, Canada to now living in Derry for a good while, we believe. She has released other albums, but this one is the deal, all right. Great variety in the songs. Here it is: *My*, how her voice grows on you! Very interpretive. A great deal of depth of understanding here. Excellent side musicians include former Male Musician of the Year here, Kieran Munnely on flute and bodhran, and Matt Griffin on guitar. Lots of others. This is all about Kate's taste in songs, styles, musicians and production values. First rate. We listen to this one. A lot. So should you. *Away*. Find it. Find her. Lovely.

Speaking of talented gals come from away, here is Anna Falkenau with *Feileacan na Saoirse* (The Butterfly of Freedom). She is a wonderful fiddle and viola player. Very traditional in approach, with a real modern day feel to her stylings and own compositions. She is one of thousands over the years who have come to Irish music from outside Ireland, become conversant in it and really become a part of it. She is part of the German contingent that has made Ireland home in reality and musically. Ged Foley is a

Pan and We Banjo, this group earns a place in your collection. They are really young, and really good. We like this more and



more. And more. (Listening to this for the 14th time as I write this.) Superior. Wow! Oh Boy!

We want to remind you of a wonderful blast of songs on tunes in an album entitled, *The Ultimate Guide to Irish Folk*. ARC Music apparently linked up with one of

are VERY complete and authoritative notes here, written by Johnny himself. Fab. A great selection of music. Like all compendiums, we like some of the selections more than others. But, that is the point of a compendium album. These kinds of albums serve as an excellent introduction for those just coming into Irish music, if they are excellently done. This one is. The liner notes alone are worth the price of admission. If you have been in the music a while, you will probably still find some new treasures here. Two cd's full, ranging from Luke Kelly to John Spillane. Great work, Mr. O'Regan! A must have, really.

The album is *Life Is All Checkered*. The main musicians are fiddlers Laura Feddersen and Nathan Gourley. Brian Miller is on guitar, and as soon as we see Brian Miller involved in anything new, we figure it is quality. The Minnesota boy knows his talent! So it is here. This is a very traditional album. To the bone. Nathan and Laura know their ways around each other's styles and approaches. These albums rise

and fall on the depth of shared understanding and the native talent of those involved. Give this 100%. For the real trad fan. Great, altogether!

Don't forget to listen to Imelda Bhroga's and my Sunday, noon show on LiveIreland.com out of Dublin, Ireland. (Hard to believe it is the biggest listenership in the world, I know.) All of these cd's will be featured, along with our favs each week. Two hours for the true trad fan. Every Sunday. Then, join us on Monday nights at 10:00 pm for House Party on WDCB, 90.9 fm and wdcb.org. Bluegrass meets Irish meets Cajun. Lots of fun! See, Maryann Keifer hits you right before our show with a blast of tasty trad each week, and then we bring it all together. Hers is 9:00-10:00 p.m.--Ireland Tonight. Preceded by Shay Clarke's show at 8:00, Blarney on the Air. The musical waterfront covered, altogether.

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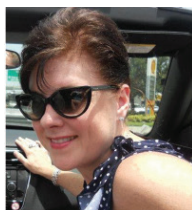
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Calling All Past Chicago Roses!

By Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo
 The Chicago Rose of Tralee Center has been around a long time. Since 1960 to be exact! For many years the Chicago Center was run by Pat Daly and Kay Knightly. These great ladies ran the Chicago Center until 2001 and after all those years, retired. The Chicago Rose started back

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Colleen Nolan, 2014 Chicago Rose, Michele McCormack, 1985 Chicago Rose and Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo, Executive Director, Chicago Rose of Tralee Center.

up in 2008 and is back with the hopes of making it as strong of an organization as it was back when Pat & Kay ran the Center.

We have found a few of you wonderful ladies, but it would be so great to connect the Past Roses with the Present Roses. The new young ladies would love to hear your stories regarding your time in Tralee as a Rose.

Here is a list of names of all the Past and Present Chicago Roses

- 2014 Colleen Nolan
- 2013 Bridget Conway
- 2012 Margaret Rose Keating
- 2011 Siobhán Carroll
- 2010 Julia Rose McDermott Polk
- 2009 Deirdre McNulty
- 2008 Shaylin McNamara
- 2001 Claire O' Connor

- 2000 Moira O'Connor-Curran
- 1999 Kathryn Anne Killackey
- 1998 Alison Davia
- 1997 Amy McCarthy Supak
- 1996 Noreen Cunnie
- 1995 Frances Sheehan
- 1994 Maura Farrell
- 1993 Maureen Finnegan
- 1992 Tamara McDonough
- 1991 Kathleen Zeng
- 1990 Linda Scannell
- 1989 Anne Marie McGarry
- 1988 Jean-Michael Conroy
- 1987 Larna Canoy
- 1986 Maureen Hickey
- 1985 Michele McCormack
- 1984 Mary Moran
- 1983 Sheila Ryan
- 1982 Katherine Ann Feeney
- 1980 Julie Ryan
- 1979 Angela Mannion
- 1978 Kerry Lyman
- 1977 Cathie O'Connell
- 1976 Maureen Payne
- 1975 Moira Byrne
- 1974 Roseann Finnegan
- 1973 Teresa Gilmartin
- 1972 Eileen Hennigan
- 1971 Kathleen Sheehan
- 1970 Katherine Hughes
- 1968 Kathleen Casey
- 1965 Mary Brosnan
- 1964 Mary Kavanagh
- 1963 Eileen Lynch
- 1962 Kathleen Brosnan
- 1961 Nora Reidy
- 1960 Theresa Kenny



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It is important to find our past Chicago Roses. We would like to have them join us for our 2015 Chicago Rose Selection at Gaelic Park on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Contact the Chicago Rose of Tralee Center Executive Director - Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo at 773-729-0811 or info@chicago-roseoftralee.com.

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Maureen O'Looney: Guiding Force

By Maureen Callahan

Our path in life can be difficult to navigate. Just finding it can be a tall task. Ask Megan Johnson. She had earned a B.A. in English from DePaul, later returning to seek a Masters and be on the road to teaching. But something didn't feel right. She started to rethink the Masters route. "It was close to the same time that Maureen started winding down," Megan told me.

Though there were sixty plus years between them, they were best friends. "My mom met Maureen O'Looney at the Irish American Heritage Center when I was little. She was judging an Irish dancing feis. I had lost my grandmother early in life. Maureen took on that role. We did so much together. It kind of just seemed like she was always around."

Timing is everything. When Maureen got sick, Megan was right there. She had been looking for a job after leaving grad school, but put that on hold to care for her old friend. Shutting Maureen to doctor appointments and listening to medication instructions made Megan stop and think. "Staying with Maureen around the clock and caring for her at the end changed my perspective on life. I wanted to be sure she was comfortable and okay. It became my life at the end. It kind of hit me somewhere along the line that this is what I want to do," Megan told me. "I recently reentered school for a Physician's Assistant program. It dawned on me one day that this is what I want out of life. I want to help people. It was truly all because of Maureen. Kind of life her parting gift to me; 'by the way, girl, here's what you should do with your life. Now go do it.'"

Sometimes life throws us into unexpected circumstances. How we react makes all the difference. It can be life altering, if we're willing to listen. Maureen helped so many people get back on their life's path or find it in the first place. So many unsure pregnant women at The Women's Center

on Chicago's north side where she volunteered countless hours sorting clothing, supervising

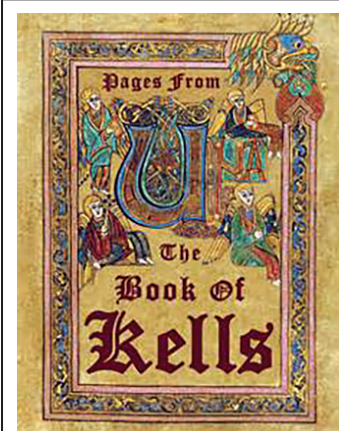


Megan Johnson and her mom, Mary Johnson Gorski.

donation drop-offs, and dispensing encouragement to women unsure of their often unexpected predicament. She was the organizing force behind raising funds for hundreds of families faced with an unexpected illness or hardship. A reassuring hand on a nervous shoulder; a strong arm to lean on or a gentle nudge forward in the right direction; this in who we should all aspire to be. This is Maureen O'Looney.

I know many of you readers knew Maureen. I encourage each and every one of you to contact me with your stories, memories

and anecdotes. I promise to reference all of them. I may be reached at misscallahan@hotmail.com. *Maureen Callahan is a Chicago writer and frequent contributor to the Irish American News.*



The History and Art of the Book of Kells Seminar

Led by Francis Crowley Seminar Description:

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The cold days of winter have certainly been warmed up for me by the release of three extremely hot traditional CDs. I was worried that we'd seen the last of CDs but, thankfully, they continue to be released, mostly by way of independent releases by the artists themselves but also by a few labels like New Folk Records in Minnesota.

One recording that came to me from the artist is "The Waylaid Man" by Michael McCague (www.michaelmccague.com). You probably know Michael best from his work with Teada, he's the bou-



Piping It In

Jack Baker



zouki player, Irish musicians know him as a guitar/bouzouki player that follows like a double-axel trailer, no matter who he's playing with. This CD opens up another side to Michael, that of musical composer and arranger. He composed and arranged all the tunes on this instrumental album and then assembled an all-star group of musicians to play them. Joining Michael are Dónal McCague,

McGrath on banjo and keyboards; Nollaig Casey on fiddle; Darragh



Murphy on pipes and low whistle and Ryan O'Donnell on banjo. A pretty stellar cast I'd say. The music is solid and enjoyable with inspired playing and tunes that will be popping up in sessions before we know it. Michael McCague certainly knows how to turn a tune and you'll find yourself, like me, hard pressed to name your favorite. Truth told, they're all beautiful, well crafted, and a fine new scattering of stars for the universe of Irish music.

The second CD on my list this month is yet another gem from New Folk Records (www.new-

folkrecords.com). Led by Ken Onstad, New Folk has been releasing a steady stream of top-notch traditional Irish music recordings for some time now and, despite declining CD sales, it looks like they're going to continue doing so for folk like me, and others, who like their music in that format. I may be jumping the gun a bit on this CD since it won't be released till next month (March) but I got my review copy and it's just too darn good for me to be quiet.

The CD is "Bright and Early, Something to Crow About" and boy, is it ever. Coming together on the album are the combined talents of Paddy O'Brien on button accordion, Dáithí Sproule on guitar and Nathan Gourley on fiddle, three giants of Irish music. The CD features 16 tracks of reels, double jigs and hornpipes that will keep the dancers moving and the non-dancers tapping at least one toe. No vocals, all instrumental, this CD will introduce you to a bunch of tunes that Paddy has collected over the years and trots out now to let us enjoy the musical magic to this talented trio. I love this stuff, it flows like water, wraps itself around my soul and makes all the daily troubles go away, exactly what good music is supposed to do. Sorry to say that this one won't be in the store till next month but I can honestly say

that this ne was worth waiting for. Speaking of worth waiting for (like that segue?) I finally got Wendy MacIsaac's new CD in today's mail and the package was fairly smoking with the hot fiddle tracks contained therein.

"On the Floor" is the newest from Wendy (www.wendymacisac.com) and I dare you to keep your feet still when you listen to it. I love Nova Scotia fiddling and Wendy is the finest Nova Scotia fiddler that it's ever been my privilege to watch and listen to. I know I'm biting off a lot saying that in that Nova Scotia is a hotbed of great fiddlers but I stand by my judgment that Wendy is best. There's something about Nova Scotia that brings out the best in fiddlers for dancing and that's what this CD is. Recorded live at a dance with Tracey Dares MacNeil on piano (always wonderful to listen to!) and Patrick Gillis on guitar you can sometimes hear the dancers pounding out a beat with their feet in the background. Wendy states that the pounding feet on the floor can give your playing an extra lift and you can sure hear it here as she works that fiddle putting out the liveliest of tunes for the dancers. Impossible to sit still when Wendy MacIsaac starts bowin'.

That's it for me this month, you can catch me at the store, 630-834-8108 or online at store@rampantlion.com. Slainté



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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Of Irish Blood by Mary Pat Kelly. TOR and FORGE Books
Of Irish Blood is a masterpiece of historical fiction! It is a historical novel that once begun, cannot be put down.

The background *Of Irish Blood* is the colorful and dramatic epic of Ireland's modern history.

That history is the triumph of larger-than-life Irish who overcome the brutal condition of being colonized by England.

In this novel, Mary Pat Kelly, tells the extraordinary and exciting events of modern Irish history that led to the revolution of 1916 and the subsequent War for Independence (1919-1921).

The main character is Nora Kelly. She's from Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and is intensely proud of her Irish heritage.

The author uses her to describe life in Chicago in the late 1800's. Nora gets a job at Montgomery Ward's, and is promoted to being a clothing designer. She has a bright future. However, a boyfriend

becomes possessive and violent. This causes her to leave Chicago and go to France, where she has a contact in the world of fashion design.

There she meets many historical Irish figures. Mary Pat Kelly adds fictional characters too. They all interact seamlessly, and use dialogue that is relaxed, unforced and sounds like people talking.

Kelly's enormous erudition is used throughout to make those characters come to life. But she uses it so gently and naturally, that I was unaware of it.

I greatly applaud Mary Pat Kelly for praising throughout the book, the persons who are generous of heart, kind and resourceful.

As you can see, I immensely enjoyed reading this book. These quotes suggest the great power and beauty OF IRISH BLOOD.

* The main character says that as a girl it was "Drummed into our heads, politics would save us. The Irish died during the Great Starvation because they didn't

have any political power. If our people had been in office all that food would not have been sent out of the country. One million people would not have been murdered."

* A relative "is deep in sorrow, three miscarriages already, and now a seven month term boy who



lived for an hour. I went with her to arrange a funeral mass for the poor little guy, but Father Sullivan said no funeral because the child hadn't been baptized, I told him that his parents had baptized him in the hospital and that the child would be welcomed into heaven by every angel in the place. Still he refused us.... Priests!"

* Nora's parents explain the reason for Irish pride: "Generations

of your ancestors stood against the oppressors and refused to die....so that you could live."

* A kind priest at the Paris Irish College says: "How sexual morality became the be-all and end-all of so much of Catholicism I don't know, It's been made more important than kindness or honesty or mercy."

* A young priest talks about the first pastor he worked for: "The blight would come again. God would show them. Now, this was one of his favorite themes - the Great Starvation as retribution. The Almighty killed one million Irish people. Such preaching wasn't uncommon."

* How did Irish manuscripts get to Paris? "Most of the great books of Ireland were destroyed. Cromwell's soldiers cleaned their boots with the pages. Monks and exile families....risked their lives to save some."

* Speaking of soldiers in the 1916 revolt: "Maybe their military strategy was wanting but their nobility is unquestioned. They won a moral victory..."

* Holy wells are revered in Ireland. They "are older than Christianity. A holy place of the old Celtic religion..." The one I visited in Galway had a large Christian statue looming over it. But I saw that the stone steps leading down

to the well were so worn, that pilgrims must have used the well many centuries before Christianity arrived.

* A sound psychological practice of the Celts to rid the person of guilt, shame, remorse and worries: Each person takes three pebbles, then "Walks around the well three times, dropping a stone in the well each time."

"The first stone represents past worries, bad memories, remorse." "The second...stands for the present. The third is a wish for the future."

* "I drop the third pebble, circles form on the water's surface, 'Circles and spirals...Life is circles and spirals.' "

* "In Celtic spirituality the material world's only one part of reality. We're surrounded by the world of the spirit. Powerful. Eternal. In some stories the other world is called Tir na nog, the land of the young....But I believe this other world is really inside us. And so can be accessed through our own imagination."

* Irish pride: It is "the Ireland of the mind and heart that exerts such pull on anyone of Irish blood."

Frank is a retired school teacher, and has been writing book and play reviews since March, 1977!

Words With Melody

By Melody Gallagher



All That is Solid Melts into Air

Darragh McKeon's novel *All That is Solid Melts into Air* is a raw look into mid-1980s Soviet Union and the nuclear meltdown that impacted the lives of millions and numerous future generations. When an explosion at the Chernobyl power plant causes massive amounts of radiation to pour into the air, families are evacuated from their homes to escape the poison that's rapidly spreading. As whole forests begin to die and animals bleed from their ears, a population that knows close to nothing about this invisible assailant is left to fix itself.

Although described as "an end-of-empire novel", the beauty in *All That is Solid* does not come from a wide view of the politics and details of the key players involved but instead from the smaller, everyday characters. McKeon's story weaves together the lives of those impacted such as the young children evacuating with their family and the infected victims whom even nurses do not touch.

Grigory Blovkin, a surgeon called in to help clean up the mess, at first believes that those in charge will finally be forced to answer for their mistakes and a

methodical, organized cleanup can start. However as evacuation plans for surrounding cities are ignored and safety procedures abandoned, he becomes tormented struggling to work under a government more concerned about its international appearance than its own people.

"...no one sees to anything, Grigory. We'll have to clean this up with our own bare hands."

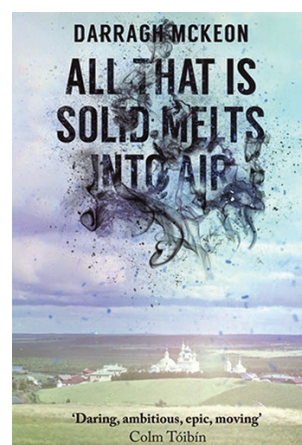
Unable to do much more, he buries himself in his job at the hospital. He witnesses first hand the damage and the sickness left behind: infants born only partially developed, organs of exposed workers

breaking down and turning to mush, cancer and tumors forming in children and adults.

Meanwhile back home in Moscow, people continue on with their lives, the danger that surrounds them nothing more than gossip. Here, the novel's focus shifts away from the power plant to those lives who are seemingly untouched by the explosion. Families struggle to feed themselves, and laborers suffer through abhorrent working conditions for fear of losing their job or worse. Yevgeni, a child piano prodigy, is more concerned by the bullying that plagues him than

the nuclear disaster not too far away. His aunt Maria, a factory worker living in fear of her past, struggles to decide if taking part in a workers' strike will better their lives or merely place those she cares about in danger. All the while rumors circulate of mutated animals, children losing hair, and a cover-up by the government to ensure that everything is fine.

All That is Solid is a powerful story about the Soviet Union just before its end. It's a shocking look into those impacted by the tragedy of Chernobyl and those consequences that still exist today. The book explores the hope of a future out of the sins of the past, and the mistakes for which future generations will have to pay. McKeon is the kind of writer who gives his story the quiet yet powerful voice that will echo for years to come.



My Dear Old (Book) Galway Bay

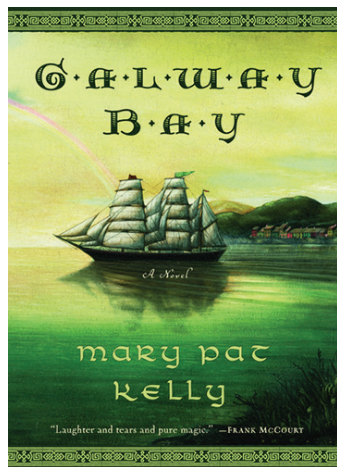
Book Review
by **Katheryn Morley**

Though it was released in 2009, Galway Bay by Mary Pat Kelly has remained by far one of my favorite books. The tears in the cover, worn spine and wrinkled pages attest to the number of times I've read the book and the amount of people to whom I've lent it. I always recommend Galway Bay to anyone who asks me for a book suggestion. While I feel that people with Irish roots or interest would be especially inclined to dive into Galway Bay, I think that there is a universality about the story. Yes, it revolves around an Irish family dealing with famine, war, and emigration. However, America was built by all sorts of people who faced adversity and sought a better life. It is a story of humanity told through an Irish scope. The Kelly's story of emigration echoes the story of all the people that fled their beloved homes and embarked on a brave journey to America.

Galway Bay is a novel written by Chicago born Irish-American author Mary Pat Kelly. The story told is based on Kelly's family history, passed down from her great-great-grandmother, Honora. Kelly describes her family's journey beginning with "The Before Times" in 1839 Galway. Honora Keeley begins at age sixteen, preparing to join the convent. Of course, that doesn't work out, otherwise we'd have no story — or grandchildren! Her parents' plans for her are quickly shattered when Michael Kelly emerges from the sea in front of her. The novel draws you into an enchanting love story, drags you through all their pain and makes you want to shout with joy at their accomplishments. You witness their hardships surviving the famine and hope for the best as they make plans to emigrate to America, where only more struggles await them.

Kelly did plenty of research in preparation for writing the novel and it shows. She remains historically accurate while also invoking the mythical spirit of Ireland. There is even a glossary included at the back of the book

with pronunciations and meanings of the Irish words that are woven into the dialogue. Galway Bay immerses its reader in Ireland, allowing one to see all its beauty and grace, even in the worst of situations. The characters are larger than life and you find yourself so



invested in their stories that you will laugh and cry with them.

Additionally, the story moves to Chicago and you get a peek into what the city was like in its early stages. Kelly continues to show an honest interpretation of what life was like as an Irish immigrant during their time in Chicago. She depicts the Irish-American community and how important they were to building Chicago's foundation, along with each other's.

Part of what makes Galway Bay so striking is the detail in which Kelly depicts the events surrounding The Great Starvation. She allows the reader to be a part of the family, which gives a unique perspective. Unlike reading about the famine in a history book, you learn what happened before, during and after the hunger from those who saw and experienced it. I have been interested in Irish history for a long time, but even through the movies I've watched and things I've learned about the subject, I was not as greatly impacted as I was in reading Galway Bay. Kelly has a way of making the conditions that the family faced palpable and forces you along for the ride. It is almost like learning through experience instead of through a history book.

Like Mary Pat Kelly, I am an

Irish-American. I did not grow up during the famine and both my parents are American born. I will never completely relate to the experience that so many immigrants survived. The stories of farms, fear of soldiers and starvation have only been told to me secondhand. Through Galway Bay, I feel that I understand more. Reading this book is like having your own Irish-born grandmother recounting her stories as you sit quietly in awe of her experiences. No matter where you are, Mary Pat Kelly's writing will transport you to Galway Bay. You'll be wrapped in the warmth of a peat

fire as you listen to a wise woman speak of her life. From the start this novel is enchanting. The wonder of Ireland's legends and landscapes is brilliantly captured. If you have had the pleasure of visiting there yourself, you will recognize the beautiful things she describes. If not, you will probably recognize things you've heard about and Kelly's words will let them unfold in your mind. I find that the novel has a little something for everyone. Whether you're interested in Irish history, or simply love a good story, I suggest you read Galway Bay for yourself. You won't regret it!

I have heard that Galway Bay

is intended to be made into a mini series, which I think would be wonderful. Such an epic story would lose some of its enormity as a movie, but a mini series could do justice to the novel. Additionally, Mary Pat Kelly is releasing a new novel called Of Irish Blood this month. This will be a sort of sequel to Galway Bay, depicting Kelly's great-aunt Nora Kelly's story of leaving America for Paris during the early 1900s. I am sure that Of Irish Blood will be another epic work of historical fiction and look forward to reading it!

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Interview With Author Paul Charles

By Frank West

I recently talked with Paul Charles when he was in Chicago. He is the prolific and wonderfully imaginative author of outstanding police procedural mystery books.

I greatly enjoyed the most recent: A Pleasure to Do Death with YOU. It is the latest in the acclaimed D.I. CHRISTY KENNEDY series. DOWN ON CYPRUS AVENUE is a new series set in Belfast.

Charles has written many other novels, including the just published THE LONESOME HEART IS ANGRY. It is about the intricacies and secrets of small town life in rural Ireland.

Reared in County Down in Ireland's North, Charles wanted to work in the music industry. So as a teenager he moved to London, the center of the music industry. He became a music agent and made a life there. He lives in London with his wife Catherine.

*Paul you were raised in County Down. How did that influence your wonderful ability to write vivid scenes? "There was no TV when I was young. People talked

with each other and entertained themselves. They told colorful stories about local people and events."

*How did you learn how policemen think? "I go into the shoes of my detectives. My detective fiction is influenced by Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle and Colin Dexter."

*Policemen are intensely observant. Your descriptions of people they encounter are very detailed. "Policemen can learn a lot about a person even before a word is said."

* How do you approach writing a book? "I don't have the book mapped out. When I meet the characters on the page, they bring their histories with them. I write daily from 6:00AM until 9:30AM."

* Writing is difficult, lonely work, Do you ever get down or depressed? "Writing is joyful work. It gives a pleasure, so that I never feel down."

* As a former teacher, I know how important self-esteem or self-identity is. I'm happy to see how proud D.I. Kennedy is of his Irish heritage. Please talk to that, Paul. "I'm proud of being Irish. I've always related to Irish people: their community, customs and values."

*Mystery novels are becoming evermore

popular. There was even an article last week in the WALL STREET JOURNAL about mysteries in Belfast. "Since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, Belfast has become a new and exciting city. The fears, worries and constant tension of the past are gone."

*Why are mystery books so magnetic? "People want a reason to turn the page. They are always intrigued by three things: Who did it? Why was it done? How was it done?"

* Since the 1990's there has been a great flowering of fiction, non-fiction and play writing by Irish and Irish Americans. Paul, please talk to that. "There is a greater sense of confidence and self-reliance among young people, And unlike past generations, they refuse to accept boundaries to life."

In The Sanctity of Revenge

Native Chicagoan, and former Jerry Springer Show 'Reverend', tackles the Great Recession in new novel

Difficult times often produce great literature from unexpected sources. In The Sanctity of Revenge, a novel of fiction written by native Chicagoan Brian Schnoor, is one of the first of these to come out of the working class neighborhoods of the Windy City. For someone whose career began in 'Trash-Television', Schnoor is surprisingly adept at bringing to the fore the emotional anguish experienced by many during those difficult economic times.

With a cast of characters straight from the Bungalow Belt of Chicago's Northwest side, In The Sanctity of Revenge is a gripping and cautionary tale of corporate greed, anger, betrayal, and vengeance in the time of the greatest economic collapse since the Great Depression.

This story of murder, money, sex, and the powers of both forgiveness and hate will resonate with anyone who's ever been on the losing end of a cheat. As the nation now begins to heal from the wounds of the Recession, In The Sanctity of Revenge reminds us why, as individuals, it is important for each of us to get passed the pain and to heal as well.

In The Sanctity of Revenge is available on Amazon for Kindle for \$2.99 and at InTheSanctityofRevenge.com in paperback for \$12.99.

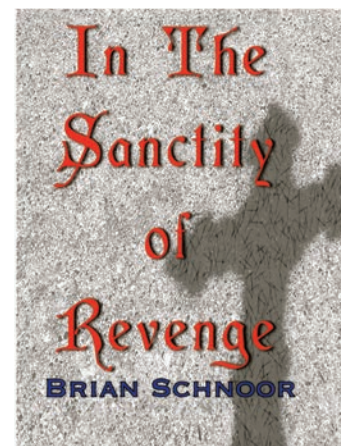
About Brian Schnoor

Brian Schnoor was born and raised on



Obituary for Patrick J. Lynch

Patrick J. Lynch, age 81, born in Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland. Loving husband of Betty; loving brother of Peggy (Billy) Mullins, Mary (Johnny) Murphy, the late Jimmy (Breda) and the late Jackie (Monica) Lynch and the late Kathleen (Brian) Kelly, fond uncle of many nieces and nephews in Ireland and the U.S. Patrick was a longtime insurance executive with Combined/Rollins-Burdick-Hunter/Aon, past president of the Ballybunion Golf Club, a member of the Riverside Golf Club and the Chicago Athletic Club. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org would be appreciated. Funeral Thursday, friends and family to meet at St. John of the Cross Church 5050 Wolf Rd., Western Springs, IL 60558. Lying in state from 10:00a.m. until Mass 11:15a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. 708-456-8300.



the Northwest side of the city. An alum of Saint Patrick High School, he attended Southern Illinois University where he studied Mass Communications and Media Arts. Upon graduation, Brian moved back to his native Chicago and began working at a then relatively unknown talk show, the Jerry Springer

Show. In the nearly decade and a half Brian spent at the Springer Show he wrote over 2,000 promotional spots, over 100 'wrap around' shows, and appeared as the drunken Reverend Shnorr (a character he created while studying Improv at The Second City Conservatory) in 150 episodes.

www.Inthesanctityofrevenge.com Or Contact Brian Schnoor At Inthesanctity@Underthegaslamp.com

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



In the Interest of Co-Existence... Stop Murdering People!

Writing this, I – like many others in the civilized world – am still trying to take in the events of the past several days in France. It has been an extraordinary week, one in which the very principles of free speech were attacked in the most murderous manner imaginable.

For me, this was compounded by having to listen to that increasingly well-known spokesman for Islam in Ireland, Dr. Ali Selim, who has – in the wake of these murders -- been threatening us with our own ridiculous blasphemy laws.

I was intrigued to discover that, whilst I have been following the career of the author of "Islam and Education in Ireland" for some years now, many people appear to have been unaware of how important this man has become as regards quietly spreading the Islamic message throughout this country.

Idiots like our own home-grown extreme Muslim convert, Khalid Kelly, are of course recognised by everybody because they can't keep their fool mouths shut for two minutes. Indeed, this vile excuse for a human being retweeted in the aftermath of the Paris massacre:

"We will cut every lying rotten tongue and kill every liar that dares to insult our Prophet."

We know all about the father of those lucky children, Muhammad and Osama. And we assume that those whose job it is to keep an eye on such oddballs are doing just that. Me, I'm a little more concerned with guys like Dr. Selim. I don't get suckered by grinning snakes in suits, but some people do.

Apart from endlessly appearing as a spokesman for the Islamic Cultural Centre in Dublin, Selim lectures both at Trinity College Dublin and at the Mater Dei Institute. And boy do I mean

lecture! He's a great man for the auld lecture is the bould Dr. Selim. Very partial to telling us how to behave, so he is. And also very partial to talking of 'long cherished Muslim ambitions in Ireland'. Oooohh, sweetie; sends shivers up my spine, that does.

But not in a good way.

This time around, as he has been feted on TV and radio, Dr. Selim has been careful to condemn the killings. Well, he would have to, considering that he has been making noises of late about entering Irish politics. I think that the murder spree in Paris might have put the hammers on that, though. Even Lucinda Creighton, whose newly-formed party he had been making overtures to, has moved very quickly to put as much distance between them and him as possible.

In the past, though, before he had the mask properly in place, he wouldn't be drawn to make definitive statements on such things as the destruction of the Twin Towers or how he felt about Osama bin Laden ("I've never met him", he told us helpfully). He would also make mention of decidedly NON helpful things like Sharia Law in Ireland and of how he did NOT disapprove of the stoning of women in Islamic countries.

If you have by now gotten the idea that I wouldn't trust this guy an inch then you're not wrong. Listening to him is definitely harmful to the health. He's one of those types who if you offer him a hand he'll take the whole arm.

So my ears pricked up when I heard him warning all publications in Ireland against reprinting the offending Charlie Hebdo cartoons. He said:

"In a time when we talk about globalization and co-existence, we

should avoid things that might cause problems like that."

Now, you see, I feel that in the interest of co-existence we should be avoiding the mass murder of journalists, civilians and policemen. I would have thought it much more helpful if the good doctor had stuck to that. Instead he made it clear that he would be prosecuting any publication in Ireland which showed the cartoons – and of course, none of them have.

On prosecuting writers and artists, Dr. Selim says: "If the law gives this right then definitely reproducing these images would be against the law and would be breaking the law."

When I heard that last Saturday, I published two of them – along with some Father Ted humour, in order to make a point – on my own website. Yesterday I added the cover of the first post-atrocity Charlie Hebdo issue to the article. In the course of showing solidarity with our fellow journalists and human beings it is the least we can do.

If Dr. Selim feels that he now has the right to prosecute me, then so be it. But I'll be damned if I ever have some tinpot would-be dictator like Selim telling me what I can and can't do. We've already let this lout use our own media to threaten us with our own laws. Let me tell you: we lie down to guys like this and we will never ever be given the opportunity to get back on our feet again. Never. These guys are in this for the long-haul and we would seriously want to cop on to ourselves.

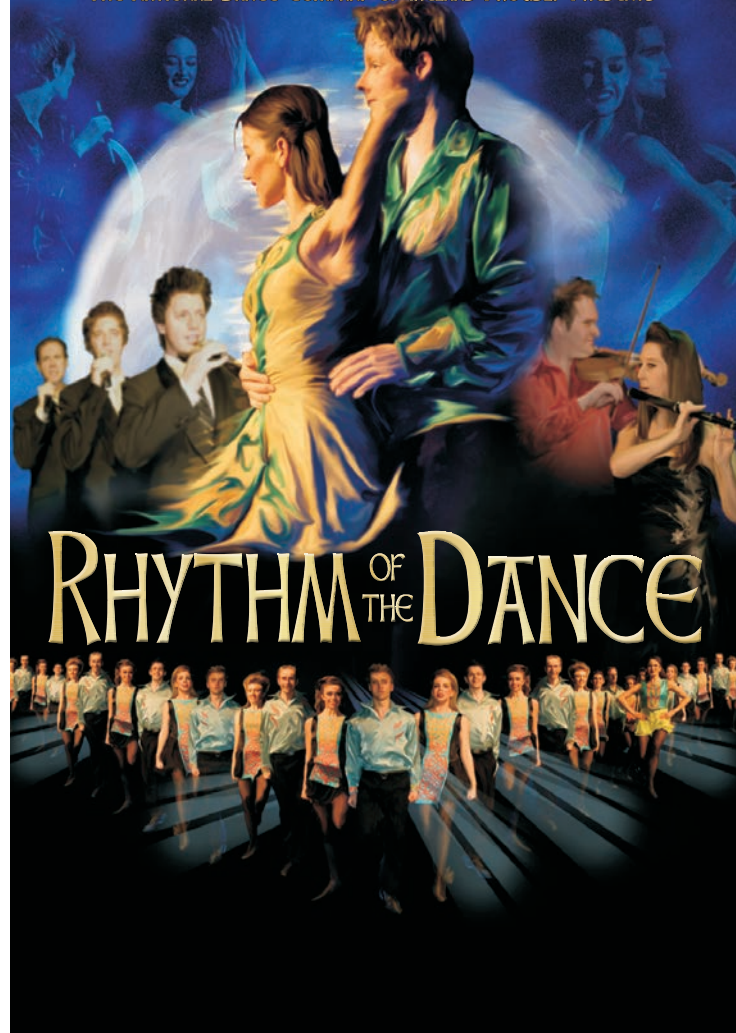
I have already had several well-meaning people ask me if I am not in fact objecting to Dr. Selim's right to free speech. It's not an argument that I understand at all. This is a man who is making declarations as to what Irish writers and Irish publication do in their own country. And quite frankly, since we are – whether it is declared or not – fundamentally at war, then I don't want to see this creepy guy casting a net for the weaker-minded members of society who might think that it is An Awfully Big Adventure to

Continued to page 18

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I thought he was a gangster when I first met him. It was back in the eighties one night at Lino's on Ontario Street after a long night of drinking. Tom Fitzgibbon sat at the bar with his French cuffs and moustache and bought me a drink. He had a heavy New York accent and I had just moved back to Chicago from New York after twelve years of trodding the boards on Broadway.



We started shooting the biscuit at the bar, talking about Gotham and proud to learn we were both Irish. Tommy Fitz offered me a ride home to Elmwood Park and I took it.

Over the years we'd bump into each other in saloons and political events. I found out he was a union big shot and he always greeted me with a grin and bought me a drink. I'm always on the lookout for philanthropists and Tom's name went on my list as a potential patron of the arts.

And that's way it went for the next twenty-five years. Then one afternoon I ran into Tommy at Gene & Geogetti's and he told me, "I keep getting your notes about your productions, keep sending 'em."

I handed him a brochure for my film "Our Irish Cousins", and said, "Here's the latest!"

Two days later I got a check in the mail for several hundred bucks. I sent Tom a rough cut DVD of the film and he called me on the phone. "Your movie made me cry."

He told me of his personal trips to Ireland and his sons asking him on the ferry crossing the Shannon River, "Why are you crying Dad?"

A couple days later I got another check, this one had a lot of zeros on it. We couldn't have finished the film without his help so you want to keep a guy like that close.

We became good friends. He and his wife Yvonne invited me everywhere and when my new book came out last spring they bought tons of copies and gifted them to all their friends. I learned he'd had great success in his life and terrible tragedy as well. Two of his sons died of cancer in the prime of their young adult lives. I learned he was a sentimental ol' Irish-

Tommy' ."

I wasn't sure how to take that, maybe he didn't like it, but my brother's name was Tommy so it just felt natural for me.

It was like he was my older Irish gangster brother from New Yawk.

Tommy died on New Year's Day.

It wasn't a surprise, but it was. I opened the Sun-Times and there he was in the Irish scratch sheet. His photo ran alongside the obit, a tough guy to the very end, God bless him.

Over the next couple days I learned of Tommy's benevolence to all kinds of folks in need of a helping hand or encouragement. They told me, "At just the right moment he was there."

At the wake I ran into John Doerrer. He told me years ago he was in college tending bar at Faddy and Yerkes and Tom used to hang out there. He gave him a real job working for the union and John told me stories of the good old days.

One night after midnight, way after, Tommy dragged John over to Frank O'Neill's pub on North Avenue, pounding on the door til Frank got out of bed and got them a final drink. John had to sleep on the floor of the bar he was so tired as he listened to Tommy and Frank O'Neill talk into the morning telling tales of Irish patriots.

Father Jack Clare gave a masterful eulogy at Tommy's funeral. He told of the family gathering round when Jack gave Fitz the last rites. Tom was semi-conscious through the prayers but finally when Jack said, "I forgive you of all the sins of your entire life." he watched Tommy come alive, stretch out

man, just like me.

He said to me once, "You're the only person who calls me

his hands behind his head, lean back with a smile and say, "Wow!"

"That's faith", said Father Jack, "and what a wonderful gift for a priest to witness."

Alderman Ed Burke then took the pulpit at Old St. Pat's. He told a story of a trip he and Tom had taken to London and on a visit to "Poets Corner" in Westminster Abbey they encountered a bust of Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon and this quote,

Life is mostly froth and bubble.
Two things stand likes stone.
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.

Well that was Tommy Fitzgibbon in a nutshell. His obit quoted his favorite Irish aphorism, "In order to have a friend, you have to be a friend."

My old pal Tommy Finnegan from the Shannon Rovers played the farewell tune on his bagpipes after the mass. Then I mooched a ride from him back to LaSalle Street. "At just the right moment, he was there."

The irony of a bagpiper named Tommy at Tommy's funeral, yeah I know, mystical.

The great ones are going fast, gang. They are the stuff of Irish legends among us.



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



In Praise of Peter Taylor

Last year, the veteran BBC television journalist, Peter Taylor, returned to Northern Ireland, where he has made dozens of documentaries about the Troubles. His objective was to film a documentary about the North of Ireland in a more personal style this time, as seen through four decades of his film-making experience.

An Englishman by birth, Taylor became enthralled, in the late 1960s at the outset of his career, by the Northern Troubles in all its pity and terror, and stayed with events in the North from that point through to the Peace Process. Others of his ilk tended to gain the limelight in the North and travel back to England for a more sedate life once they had made their names. Instead, Taylor stayed the course and cut a compassionate figure, forming extraordinarily close relationships both with senior figures in Northern politics and in the armed struggle, and with civilian victims of violence. He regularly met those people, listened to them and responsibly gave them their voices through his documentaries; the body of work he recorded constitutes an important source for an understanding of recent Northern Irish history.

As leading member of the BBC's Panorama team, Taylor had enormous influence in conveying a fresh message about the Northern crisis. Panorama's impact reverberates across the UK, Ireland and beyond: its viewership numbers more people than the readership of all of English broadsheet newspapers combined. Thus Taylor came to be widely perceived, in England especially, as a reliable interpreter of the North of Ireland. His particular strength is in illustrating the complexities of the situation and steeling his audience against easy one-sided formulations about the cause of and solution to the Troubles, keeping each of the pro-

tagonists—Republicans, Loyalists and the British—in focus.

The personal documentary he made last year, filming for four months in Belfast, is entitled *Who Won the War?* It is clear from the beginning that the title itself poses an unsatisfactory question since, with over three thousand people dead, countless more maimed and psychologically scarred on all sides, what could possibly constitute a victory?

From a loyalist perspective, with the structures now in place for a Northern majority to vote to secede from the U.K., there is the loss of their union guarantee: the status quo upon which unionist politics traditionally fixed its focus to avoid any constitutional reform is gone.

The Republican side is more nuanced in its response to the question of victory. Those who joined the IRA claimed a mandate to fight for a United Ireland and settled for an agreement that comes far short. To use a phrase immortalised by Michael Collins, the current accommodation could be a "stepping stone" towards that goal. Yet it should never be forgotten that such a deal was on the table, and signed by British and Irish governments, in 1973. The power-sharing Northern government established then was sabotaged by, among others, people who today hold high office in Ireland North and South. The vigour with which those who now have absorbed the concepts of gradualism and accommodation, as they revise their original ambitions and deny self-evident facts about their own involvement in "the struggle" down the years, is remarkable.

Another Republican perspective is bitter: we lost the war, our side betrayed the cause by agreeing to a power-sharing arrangement in the state they vowed to dismantle. Or, to adopt a slogan painted on the

gable ends in Derry's Bogside area: 'Sinn Féin Touts.'

Because Taylor has filmed in the North over such a lengthy period, he can use, and did use adeptly in this documentary, his old footage as a story-telling device. After showing testimonies to former terrorists turned politicians, or simply older heads looking back at their inglorious youth, Taylor seeks the views of his interviewees on how they conducted their lives. It is compelling to listen to some participants express contrition on the one hand, and predictable yet disappointing to observe politicians avoid facing the full consequences of their past actions.

One of the sorrows of a depiction of Northern Ireland in recent decades is how little there is to admire in the political protagonists who now hold office. If Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine had lived and had the chance to participate in a power-sharing arrangement, say for ten years, it seems likely that his leadership would have given Northern Ireland's unionist community the stability it required. Shortly before his death, Ervine stated that what he and his PUP colleagues strove to do, which was made difficult by the continuation of the Ulster Volunteer Force's massacres, was "an exploration of the future." His thinking was a necessary and highly desirable manifestation of a new form of unionism capable of balancing the North politically.

Standing at the hustings during his 1983 electoral success in West Belfast, Gerry Adams proudly announced: "Tíocfaidh ár Lá" (Our day will come), a slogan as closely associated with the IRA and its United Ireland objectives as "In God We Trust" is with the US dollar bill. Yet Adams, again in this documentary, denies ever being a member of the IRA. Martin McGuinness, who admits that he was an IRA volunteer until 1974, can be seen in archival footage chanting "the IRA" in Derry's Guildhall after votes were counted in an election in the 1980s. Electorally, even in the warped environment of Northern Ireland, that position was difficult to sustain. That is why John Hume outpolled McGuinness

again and again in Derry and, after his historic electoral success in 1983, Adams failed to consistently hold his seat in West Belfast.

During one of Taylor's earliest visits to Derry, John Hume pointed out Martin McGuinness to him, saying that that was a man to watch. All these years later, Peter Taylor surmises that, with McGuinness having embrace parliamentarianism, the shift towards a new politics is so profound that there may indeed be, in some distant future, a United Ireland.

If that means winning the war and if that was, in the estimation of some people, worth the lives lost, then it nevertheless must be conceded that constitutional politics ultimately succeeded where violence failed.

For a survey of the past two generations in the North of Ireland, Peter Taylor's book and film trilogy—Republicans, Loyalists and Brits—all three essential panels in the triptych, is an excellent place to start. Though it is a galling picture to behold.



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A Brief Timeline Of The Book Of Kells

Compiled by Frank Crowley

The Book of Kells is one of a group of Gospel manuscripts scholars call INSULAR STYLE, produced from the late 6th century through early 9th century, in Irish, Scottish, Northern English and Continental monasteries with Irish or English origins. In addition, they contain similarities in artistic style, calligraphic and textual traditions and were mutually influential.

The Book was written using the Vulgate translation of Jerome from c. 384 C.E., in a calligraphic style commonly described as "Insular Majuscule."

The typical organization of Insular Gospel books contains what are called Preliminaries. These preliminaries consist of:

1. Hebrew Names: A list of names found

in the Gospels. Jerome studied the origin of Hebrew names as written in Greek and translated them into a newer version of Latin which became known as "Vulgate."

2. Canon Tables: A concordance of Gospel passages common to two or more of the evangelists. Compiled by Eusebius of Caesarea in the 4th Century.

3. Virgin and Child with Angels: [Found only in the Book of Kells] It is the oldest existing portrait of the Virgin and Child.

4. Breves Causae: Summaries of each of the Gospels. Argumenta: Characterizations of each of the evangelists.

6. Symbols of the four evangelists: A full page: Man: Matthew; Lion: Mark; Calf: Luke; Eagle: John.

7. Portrait: A full-page image of each evangelist introducing his gospel.

8. First word or phrase: A full illuminated page at the beginning of each Gospel using the first word or phrase. Of 680 existing folios, 33 are full-page illuminations and only two have no decoration at all. A few leaves are not completed and some of the scribes' techniques can be seen.

Legends record that around 561 C.A., Columba (Latin for Colum Kille D. 597) led a group of monks to the Island of Iona off the coast of Scotland to establish a monastery and scriptorium. After a long period of peaceful life, Viking raids in c. 795 and c. 802 made life for the monks dangerous. In 807, many of



Crowley on Kells

By Frank Crowley



the folio margins that were originated in the 13th Century by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury.

1621: Each folio was numbered by Bishop-elect

of Meath, James Ussher.

1653: Oliver Cromwell's army was quartered in what was the badly damaged church at Kells.

Governor of Kells, Charles Lambart, Earl of Cavan, sent the Book to Dublin for safe keeping around 1657.

1661: Book "presented" to Trinity College Dublin by Henry Jones, later, Bishop of Meath and former scoutmaster general to Cromwell's army in Ireland.

1741: A folio discovered to be folded the wrong way was corrected and reinserted.

1821: Manuscript was cropped from 14 1/2" x 10 1/4" to 13" x 9 1/2", damaging some of the images, then rebound and edges were gilded. All pages are not exactly the same size and the original size is not certain.

1821: Victoria and Albert visited Dublin and signed a blank page.

J. H. Todd, Trinity College Librarian (1852-69) numbered the leaves in lower left corner.

1895: Rebound-didn't last.

1920's: Several folios kept loose.

1951: Publishers Urs Graf-verlag, Bern, Switzerland made black and white facsimile plus 48 pages in Color.

1953: Bound into 4 volumes by Roger Powell.

Signed page of Victoria and Albert was removed.

1974: Book of Kells Study by Francoise Henry published.

1990: Color facsimile published by Fine Art Facsimile Publishers of Switzerland.

2000: St. Mark gospel sent to Australia. Some pigment damaged.

2012: City of Kells petition Trinity College for their book to be returned.

Present: Gospels rebound into four volume, two open volumes on view at a time.

the monks left for Kells, the site of an ancient hill fort in Co. Meath, Ireland, and again built a new monastery and scriptorium.

The Annals of Ulster, one of several chronicles of medieval Ireland, recorded that in the year 878 more monks arrived from Iona with valuables and relics. The description in the Annals suggests that the Book was among their valuables.

MEDIEVAL ERA

Reliable documents record:

9th century: Book of Kells at Kells Abby.

1006 (1007, modern calendar): Viking raid. Book stolen and recovered. An entry in Annals of Ulster reported "Great Gospel of Colum Kille (not yet called "Book of Kells"), chief relic of the Western world, was wickedly stolen during the night from the Western sacristy of the great stone church at Cenannas (Kells) on account of its wrought Shrine." Most of the bound folios were discovered... "two months and twenty days"... later... "under a sod." Scholars surmise the pages were ripped from its covers and discarded because they were not considered valuable. Sacred book covers and their containers, called "shrines" were often decorated with precious metals and jewels. This could explain the estimated 10 bifolios (double pages) from the beginning and 12 bifolios from the end of the Book that are lost.

11th and 12th century: Land charters regarding the Abbey of Kells were copied on blank pages of the Book: 6 v (left side) and 7r and 27r (right side).

MODERN ERA

15th Century: A poem complaining about taxation on church land was written on 289v, a blank leaf.

16th Century: A Gerald Plunkett of Dublin added the chapter numbers in



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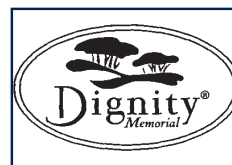
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THE 6-COUNTY IRISH, under British rule for centuries began, in 1968, to demand basic democracy; one-man-one-vote. Campaigners were clubbed and arrested by gangs of Orangemen and the RUC; but the Irish persisted and, in 1973, won the vote.

BRITS REACTED; employers were required to deny jobs to Catholics (indigenous Irish), forcing them into exile and thus off the voter rolls. At that time eleven percent of Occupied Ireland's workers were employed by twenty-five U.S. companies, so Irish-America decided to oppose Britain's job-denial policy. The MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland (modeled on the Sullivan Principles for South Africa) were created. They required US companies in Occupied Ireland to maintain American hiring standards. Irish-Americans across the nation worked for enactment, enabling managers to respond; "Sorry; but U.S. law requires me to maintain fair hiring standards."

IRISH-ILLINOIS ACTS. After abandoning tactics such as leafleting after Sunday Masses, and ordinary petitions, we contacted State Rep John McNamara (R.I.P.). Under his competent direction we wrote MacBride support letters and mailed Illinois pols some 50,000 to 60,000 of them signed by constituents. It took nearly two years but with the generous help of Radio Show Host Mike O'Connor, Cathy Roach McDonnell, Lobbyist Tom Duffy, scores of volunteers, day-trippers to Springfield, and the letters editors of the ChiTrib and Sun-Times, Irish-Illinois won passage of the MacBride Principles by 84-14 in the House and 53-2 in the Senate. That landslide doesn't convey reality; many "testified" against, and saboteurs for Britain did their damndest.

CITY OF CHICAGO. Chicago's \$multi-billion annual purchasing budget caused us to pursue an ordinance mandating that City suppliers and contractors require their branches in Occupied Ireland to adopt MacBride. Schenectady, NY had just passed a strong MacBride ordinance, so I tailored it for the Chicago City Council and asked Alderman Eddie Burke to spearhead it. Within days Mayor Daley asked to lead it. Later, his office informed me that Alderman Pat O'Connor was running against Jack O'Malley and needed an edge among Irish-Illinoisans, so I agreed that O'Connor would spearhead MacBride. We didn't know it immediately, but O'Connor betrayed Chicago, especially Irish-Chicago, by foot-dragging and creating obstructions. Despite MacBride's landslide passage in Springfield O'Connor questioned its popularity and

For The Republic



Chris Fogarty

gave us a telephone No. on which to record support. After thousands had left their support messages, he refused to show the results; telling us to find out via the Freedom of Information Act. He sent me miss-dated letters and scheduled a MacBride vote to preclude its supporters. When O'Connor informed me that he was replacing me with a group of lawyers (led by FBI mole Jerome Boyle, our constant saboteur) to conduct suburban hearings on MacBride, I dismissed O'Connor by letter, resumed seeking an honest Irish-American alderman and soon found one; Thomas Murphy. Murphy promptly introduced MacBride; it passed unanimously. Though O'Connor had betrayed Chicago for a foreign kingdom, under public scrutiny he voted "Yes."

MORE O'CONNOR. Schoolteacher Dianne Daleiden is running for 40th Ward Alderman - O'Connor's fiefdom. "Publius" writes: *I don't know politics, just know Dianne's opponent (O'Connor) worked for K.C. Bae who was convicted of bribing FDA officials & subsequently barred for life from the U.S. pharmaceutical industry. Sentence served, Bae started Foster Bank, and remained a major shareholder until its 2013 acquisition by BBCN Bank. O'Connor was Foster Bank's in-house legal counsel when its Directors violated the Bank Secrecy Act and two were removed by FDIC consent order. He (O'Connor) has taken campaign donations from a dead-beat dad (Cedomir Zuric) who fled country in 2009 to avoid arrest, owing \$500,000 for back child support. He (O'Connor) had no problem voting to approve Zuric's condo developments despite Zuric's status as a dead-beat, an alien, subject to deportation. How can a felon with unpaid child support get a General Contractor's license and Zoning Approvals in Chicago? O'Connor bought an investment condo in a building for which his realtor-wife had an exclusive listing arrangement. The dead-beat developer and his brother also acted as his condo association's board of directors while donating to him. The felon-developer had a fiduciary role with the Alderman to collect his monthly maintenance assessments while donating money to Citizens for Patrick J. O'Connor. Did O'Connor disclose as required? Nope. In 2008, a puff-piece about O'Connor diverted attention from his huge TIF condo project up the street with felon-developer Jacob*



Kiferbaum who, along with Levine, was extorting Edwards Hospital. Media Icon Carol Marin famously did an NBC 5 segment in March 2009 when O'Connor ran for Congress. She dramatically knocked on door of Cedomir Zuric who had already fled the country. Marin, by googling "Cedomir Zuric" would have learned of his outstanding Cook County arrest warrant. In March 2013, Zuric was perp-walked on NBC 5 - finally arrested after being 5-year fugitive. Ironically, Marin doesn't respond and Zuric still owes \$500,000 back child support.

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it is so rare. The corruption of the news media has transferred the entire burden of upholding American democracy onto such brave souls. It is they who are our national heroes; the bravest few.

DIANNE DALEIDEN courageously demands an investigation of the Edgewater Medical Center real estate deal O'Connor pushed through with CA Development, for whom his wife is a broker. Ten years ago Daleiden fought O'Connor's O'Hare Modernization Plan which directs 70% of all incoming O'Hare flights over the 40th ward harming its house values and quality of life.

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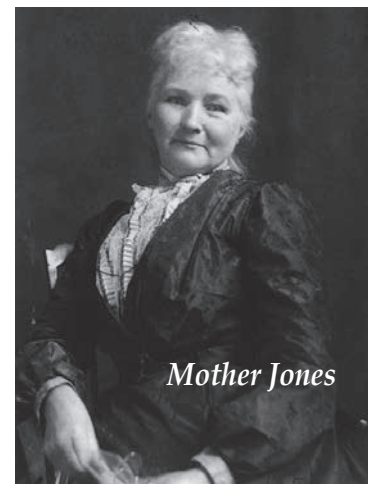
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Swimming Upstream *Continued from page 14*

traipse off to fight the infidel.

There have always been parameters on 'free speech'; and quite frankly, unless you want to end up defending the guy who shouts 'Fire' in a crowded cinema or 'I've got a bomb!' on a mid-flight airplane, then you should be glad of them. That's a lot different to objecting to what some satirists or cartoonists are doing. In fact, I was astonished at how tame the actual Charlie Hebdo cartoons really were. I was expecting something a lot stronger, to be honest. It surely doesn't take much to upset them!

We are so damned soft here, though, so afraid of being called Racist or Islamophobic that we'll be defending Selim and following his orders right up until the day that Muslim extremists have gone on a rampage in the streets of Cork or Galway or Dublin. THEN watch us running around, waving our hands and asking: "How could this have happened?"

Well, come on now: it's not as if they haven't made their long-term intentions crystal clear to us, is it?

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John Power, Vice President, CPA, CFP®

708-460-4854

jpower@emarquettebank.com

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde:

It's springtime in Ireland! Yes, as many of you will remember the grass greens up and the daffodils and crocus can make an appearance in early February. The older generation always maintained that Spring began the day after St. Bridgid's Day, February 1, which was true in the days of the pagan calendar. I always recommend to friends in Chicago to visit Ireland in early spring, the temperature difference can be significant and pricing is very competitive. The Gathering, The Atlantic Way and other initiatives have driven tourism figures significantly higher, as has more realistic pricing in the hotel and restaurant industries. I believe that if the weather pattern of the past couple of years continue, tourism will continue to be a driving force behind Ireland's recovery. In Ireland the locals say if this is global warming "bring it on."

Now that I have covered international matters it is back to

domestic affairs, and as you can see from these Gaelic Park pages, we have a full schedule in February... which includes the Super Bowl Party, our Annual Convention, Dancing with the Stars, Valentine's Dinner in the Pub, the Bridal Boutique, Wolfe Tones Concert and many other happenings. One of these is our Annual All-Ireland Trivia on Friday, February 20, with registration at 7:30pm. This is an event which is near and dear to my heart, I believe is the 8th year of this popular outing, sponsored and ran by the Gaelic Park Players. Down, I mean County Down, are the current champions. They were sporting runners up for several years and finally broke through in 2014. We stress every year that this is not Super Brain. It is designed for fun, but there has to be a winner of "The Cup" and the \$250 1st prize. This year we are accepting teams of 6 at \$60 per team, with Pub grub and Trivia special starting at 6pm. I have always hoped to get 32 teams with all the counties in Ireland represented, so mark your calendars

and call me at 708.710.8591 to enter your team.

Here is hoping we will not have to wait until April, 2015 to see daffodils

in Chicago... in the meantime spring out to Gaelic Park, where a sunny disposition always awaits you.

John Devitt, President

2015 Event Calendar 2015

February

2/4 & 3/4

2/7

2/8

2/11

2/14

2/15

2/20

2/28

March

3/7

3/7

3/6-17

3/14

3/17

Musical Luncheon RR

St. Jarlath's Dancing For Our Stars

Sunday Mass & Breakfast

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

Carraig Pub Valentine Dinner RR

Bridal Boutique

All Ireland Trivia Quiz Night

Wolf Tones Concert RR

NOON

6:00pm

10am

7:30pm

Queen Contest Final

Carraig Pub St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

IRELAND ON PARADE WEEK

St. Patrick Concert RR

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon RR

***(RR) = Reservations Required 708.687.9323**

Monthly Musical Luncheon Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm for just \$15 per person. Entertainment will be Joe McShane on 2/4. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Sunday Classic Carvery Full hot buffet dinner! Entertainment will be Gerry Haughey on 2/22. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Pub Irish Music Sessions Thursday Evenings 7:30pm

Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings 7:30pm

Set Dancing Monday Evenings 7:30pm

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

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



CLIP & POST



CGP Office 708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

- Daily Drink and Food Specials
- Expanded Pub Food and Appetizer Menu - Available Daily
- Pub Trivia every Tuesday, October-May starting at 7:30pm
- Traditional Irish Music Session Hosted by Members of The Irish Musicians of Chicago and their Students every Thursday at 7:30pm

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Fri	Feb 6	Play Your Own iPod	
Sat	Feb 7	DJ Jonathan	8:30pm
Fri	Feb 13	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 14	Bernie Glim	8:00pm
Fri	Feb 20	Kieran Byrne	
Sat	Feb 21	Billy O'Donohue & Larry Nugent	8:30pm
Fri	Feb 27	Gerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 28	DJ Bernie	9:00pm

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



Thursdays Irish Musicians Traditional Sessions

BANQUET AWARD FOR CGP!

Chicago Gaelic Park has won the Wedding Wire Couples' Choice Awards for 2015, as determined by reviews from our clients!



The Couples' Choice Awards recognizes Chicago Gaelic Park as being among the top 5% of wedding professionals nationwide.





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



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

Saturday February 14, 2015

\$70.00 per Couple

Reservations are required,
so call 708-687-9323 and
make yours today.

Your delicious meal includes a
shared appetizer, choice of soup or
salad, your main entrée, a shared dessert
and a bottle of red or white wine.

Your Entrée Choices are:

Half Lobster stuffed with
shrimp and lobster meat with a
champagne butter sauce on the
side. Served over rice or with
a baked potato.

OR

Juicy Beef Tenderloin steak
cooked to your liking with a
burgundy mushroom gravy
accompanied by vegetables
and baked potato.

Enjoy!

The Carraig Pub at Chicago Gaelic Park South Side's Authentic Irish Pub

NEW... The Carraig Pub is now offering a catered affair for your small group parties in the Pub! We will customize a menu of your choice for food and drinks. Give a call to Teresa the Pub Manager

The perfect food.
The perfect pint.
All at the
perfect pub.

at 708.687.9323, and she will be happy to help you plan the **"the perfect party"!**

NEW... DJ Bernie will be playing in the Pub on the last Saturday of every month... Jives, Waltzes and all your favorites!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 nights a week! Monthly food & drink specials!
Weekend Entertainment - No Cover Charge!

Like us on Facebook... The Carraig Pub

Chicago Gaelic Park

The Premiere Wedding Venue
of the South Suburbs

Presents

"The Bridal Boutique"

Join Us On

Sunday February 15, 2015

For a day of shopping at our

"Bridal Boutique"

Featuring 50 of our
Top-Rated Vendors

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres
And 45 Great Giveaways!

12:00-3:00pm

Admission \$5.00 at the door

With a Fashion Show Featuring

"David's Bridal"

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at
6119 W. 147th Street – Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 687-9323 / www.chicagogaelicpark.org



The County Connection Corner

Clare Association 49th Dinner Dance

Date: March 14 Chicago Gaelic Park

Entertainment: Jerry Haughey Band
For dinner reservations, contact Olive Falsey
708.424.0618.

To purchase your \$100 Raffle Ticket, please
call John Curtin 708.828.5224 or John
Donovan 773.445.3756.

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

Share your County upcoming events with our readers....

call the Gaelic Park Office or email your news to dunmaynor12@yahoo.com.





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



All-Ireland Trivia Quiz

Friday February 20, 2015

7:30pm



Adopt a county name for your team.

Approximately 15% of questions are Irish.

Open to teams of 6 @ \$60 per team,
Singles are welcome @ \$10 and will be placed upon a team.

\$250 Cash Prize

Along with Trophies and Cup. Lots of fun and spot prizes.

To sign up, call

John Devitt at 708-710-8591 or email Devittj62@yahoo.com



Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL 60452 - 708-687-9323

Check out the website - ChicagoGaelicPark.org



It's Concert Season at Gaelic Park!



in concert
saturday
february 28, 2015
tickets \$25
doors open at
7:00pm
show starts at
8:00pm

IRELAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMEDIAN GEORGE CASEY



A NIGHT OF
LAUGHTER WITH
THE KING OF BLARNEY

*"Good clean comedy
with deadly timing...
genuine belly-laughs!"*
- The Chicago Sun-Times

Appearing At

Chicago Gaelic Park

Saturday March 14, 2015 - 8:00pm

Tickets \$25

Call 708-687-9323 to get your tickets!

4th Annual Cusack's Leprechaun Dash 5K Run/Walk at CGP

Date: Saturday March 21

Time: 10:30am (kids
one mile dash at 10am)

Location: Chicago
Gaelic Park Grounds

The course is predomi-
nately cross country
style where the run-
ners and walkers will

double loop the grounds of Gaelic
park. This is the same for the kids
race double looped for one mile.

Cost: \$30 for the 5K run/walk
\$10 for the kids 1 mile dash

To register for the race online they
can simply click our club website
<http://www.chicagocusackhurling.com>
and look for the race link or
Cusacks' Leprechaun Dash. Offline
registration is a option too and
that can be done at packet pick
up or the morning of the race.

At packet pick up, you will receive
a shirt and goodie bag. After the
race, participants will enjoy their
pot of gold in the Carrraig Pub!
Every participant will receive one
drink ticket. Both the Kid's Dash
and the Leprechaun Dash awards

Michael Cusack's



Leprechaun 5K Dash
March 22, 2014

presentation will start
after the last runner
crosses the finish line.
Awards will be given to
the top overall male
& female running and
walking finisher. The
top overall male &
female runner will be
excluded from the

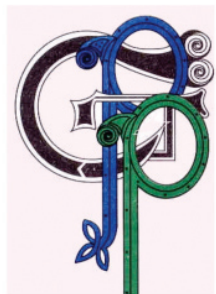
age group categories medals.
Running medals will be given to
the top three finishers in each age
group. Age groups: under 12, 13
- 19, 20 - 29, 30 - 39, 40 - 49, 50 - 59,
60 - 69, 70+.

Official timing for the race is
provided by Main Website: <http://cross-roads-events.com/>. Also
there will a prize given out for the
best dressed leprechaun! If you
know someone who would like to
help as a volunteer, please let us
know. Email us at cusackhurling@gmail.com. Volunteer duties in-
clude course marshalls, registration
and packet pick up, and water
stations. If you have any ques-
tions or concerns please email
the event organizer at [eirecamog-
gie13@yahoo.com](mailto:eirecamog-
gie13@yahoo.com).



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Chicago Gaelic Park Student Cultural Scholarships

Chicago Gaelic Park
Announces
Student Cultural Essay Contest 2015

Topic for 2015:

**"If you were a lottery winner,
what would you do with your winnings?"**

Eligible Student Categories:

This program is open to all students in good standing.

Grammar School

Grades 6 through 8

Maximum of two typed pages (8 1/2 by 11)
Awards in order of merit \$700, \$500 & \$200

&

High School

All Grades

Maximum of four typed pages (8 1/2 by 11)
Awards in order of merit \$700, \$500 & \$200

Random Draw of \$200

To reward effort & give recognition to an additional entrant.

Essay to be returned to Chicago Gaelic Park Office by
Saturday, February 21, 2015

Essays will not be returned
Individual winners will be notified by phone
Awards are issued jointly to student and parent
Independent academic committee evaluates essays

**Winners announced at Gaelic Park's
Monthly Mass & Breakfast in March**

"ENTRY FORM"

Chicago Gaelic Park Student Cultural Scholarships 2015

Student Name _____
Student Street Address: _____
City, State and Zip Code _____
Phone Number: (____) _____ Age: _____ Current Grade _____
School Name: _____
School Principal's Name: _____
School Street Address: _____
City, State and Zip Code: _____
Circle School Type: High School Grade School

I wish to submit the attached essay for consideration to Chicago Gaelic Park and have read
and agree to the stipulations on the Essay Topic page of this entry form.

Student and Parent or Guardian hereby certifies that the essay is the student's own work.

Signed: Student _____
Signed: Parent or Guardian _____
Parent or Guardian Name : _____ Phone Number _____
Street Address: _____
Town, State and Zip Code: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Please Mail Entries to: **Chicago Gaelic Park Scholarship Committee**
6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, Illinois 60452
Phone Number (708) 687-9323 Fax Number (708) 687-0120

Or Email to ESSAY@ChicagoGaelicPark.ORG

The Essay with properly completed Entry Form must be received at the Chicago Gaelic Park Front
Office no later than **Saturday, February 21, 2015** - Office Hours 9am - 8pm, 7 days a week.

Received by: Fax Mail Hand Delivery E-Mail

CGP 2015 Festival Queen Could Be You!

Entry forms are available in the Gaelic Park Main office.



CGP 2014 Queen and Court

Monthly Sunday Mass & Irish Breakfast

Friends and family (adults & children) are all welcome to our Mass & Irish Breakfast on the following dates: **February 8, March 15, April 12 and May 10** (Mother's Day). Masses are celebrated once a month at 10:00am (October thru May) with the Gaelic Park choir performing inspirational hymns during Mass. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, is served after Mass. Call the office at 708-687-9323 to make reservations.

St. Patrick's Parade Season Is Approaching...



Chicago Gaelic Park welcomes you to join our group in the following Irish parades in the month of March... bring your friends and family!

**Oak Forest Parade on Saturday
March 7, step off at 11am**

Tinley Park Parade on Sunday March 8, step off at 2pm

**Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 14,
step off at 12noon**

South Side Parade on Sunday March 15, step off at 12noon



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



12th Annual Ireland Network Black Tie Ball 2-21

Deluxe Grand Prize Raffle Includes Round-Trip for 2 to Ireland!

On behalf of the Ireland Network Chicago, I am delighted to have the opportunity to address the Irish American News readers and to wish you a very Happy New Year!

For those who may not be familiar with our organization, IN Chicago was established in 2003 as a business and social network of Irish people living and working in the Chicagoland area. The IN Charter describes



By Imelda Gallagher, President

members having a "common frame of reference which enables the network to act as a readily accessible and relevant forum for the sharing of individual resources, expertise, industry knowledge, business opportunities, contacts, connections; to share individual experiences, successes and challenges for the benefit of the membership at large; and to support newly-arrived Irish in their efforts to connect with the greater Chicago business and social community". Most importantly, the IN enables these Irish people to become increasing integrated into the Chicago community which they have chosen to call "home" and to create friendships.

On a personal level, I grew up in Galway, lived in Dublin for several years before returning to my native Chicago. I knew few people when I arrived. I heard about the IN and attended the annual 'Ball' that in 2005 and am deeply involved with not only the IN in Chicago, but with other wonderful Irish organizations. The IN provided a welcoming environment for me to meet new people in Chicago. The friendships and business contacts that I have forged through the IN have enhanced my life. IN events are diverse and interesting, ranging from informal social drinks, to political discussions on current events, and of course the **ANNUAL IRELAND NETWORK BLACK TIE BALL** which will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2015 in The Drake Hotel in Chicago.

This year will be the 12th IN Ball and as with past Ball events, we envision starting with a champagne reception in the Palm Court of The Drake Hotel starting at 6:30pm. A four course meal will commence at 7:45pm. There will be a 15-20 minutes keynote address starting at 9:00pm, followed by dancing to a live band, the "Z Orchestra", until 12:30am. This year, we are delighted to welcome our Speaker, Mickey

Harte, the Tyrone GAA Manager who lead his team to many successes.

We welcome you to attend this wonderful event. The Ball tickets are \$200 each for IN Members or \$250 each for non-IN Members. Membership is \$50 annually and there are many discounts given for various events throughout the year.

The Drake Hotel has extended a discounted overnight rate for both the

Friday and Saturday night of the Ball for IN Ball attendees: \$149 for a King Room and \$189 for two Queen size beds per night. If you are interested, please book soon – the rooms are filling quickly!

There are also sponsorship opportunities in the brochure for the night. A full page ad is \$600 and a half page is \$350. There are also combination sponsorships with table seating opportunities. Please visit www.theirelandnetwork.com for more details. Those who wish to take sponsorship will be in the brochure circulated on the night to the 300 people in attendance. Your ad and logo will be displayed on the IN website which is accessed not only by the IN Chicago, but also the other 19 IN Chapters across the USA and the IN-USA group. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about your service or product nationwide to a group of people who have an intimate understanding of what it is to be Irish and to sample Irish products and services. Please consider this possibility for your business.

The IN seeks to provide our Members with events that are of interest and relevance to them. We strive to give back to the community. The **IN BALL RAFFLE 2015** splits all proceeds evenly between Concern Worldwide, and the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Group. Both organizations do wonderful work. Thank you! This year, we are delighted to have wonderful prizes:

Grand Prize: -Return ticket for two to Ireland -Two nights with breakfast in The Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin

-Two nights with breakfast in The Marker Hotel, Dublin -One night with breakfast in Carton House, Maynooth

-Round of Golf in Carton House

Second Prize: -One night in the Princess Diana Suite, The Drake Hotel, Chicago

Third Prize: -Dinner for 4 at Farmhouse Chicago or Farmhouse Evanston

Tickets are one for \$50 or 3 tickets for \$100. Only 350 will be sold. The raffle will occur on the night of the IN Ball, February 21st, however, attendance is not necessary to win. Last year, the IN raised \$10,350 for these organizations. I ask you to consider supporting these worthy causes – you have a fair chance of winning one of these wonderful prizes! Thank you!

The IN Chicago events also include the monthly 'First Friday' informal drinks with an open invitation to everyone to join us in a designated location downtown. Venues change monthly to allow people to become familiar with the numerous wonderful Irish-owned or Irish-managed bars, restau-

rants and hotels in Chicago that have been so gracious in hosting these events. All are welcome!

IN Chicago are delighted to collaborate with other Irish groups in the city, including the Irish Consulate, American Ireland Fund, Irish American Heritage Center, Irish Fellowship Club, Gaelic Park and the Irish American Partnership.

We welcome your participation in IN events and to join as a member. It is \$50 per annum which will give you access to the IN Chicago website and also the IN-USA website to connect with our members nationwide. For more information, please visit our website: www.theirelandnetwork.com.

IRELAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMEDIAN
GEORGE CASEY

A NIGHT OF
LAUGHTER WITH
THE KING
OF BLARNEY

"Good clean comedy
with deadly timing...
genuine belly-laughs!"
- The Chicago Sun-Times

MARCH 13 @ 7PM

DRENDEL BALLROOM
AT PRAIRIE LODGE

Huntley, IL

For Ticket Info:

847.515.7619

MARCH 14 @ 8PM

CHICAGO

GAELIC PARK
Oak Forest, IL

For Ticket Info:

708.687.9323

www.GeorgeCasey.com

2015 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

Bob Newhart, Gene Kelly, John Huston, Ann McGlone Burke, and Mother Frances Xavier Warde Among Class of 2015 Inductees for the Irish American Hall of Fame

Now celebrating its fifth year, the Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) is proud to announce its 2015 class of inductees. Over 400 nominations were submitted from July through September 2014 from individuals all over the world. A specially selected screening group reviewed and culled the nominations into a representative list of candidates. In December 2014, a national body of distinguished individuals representing academia, government, and Irish-affiliated organizations from around the United States selected the winners.

Introducing the 2015 Irish American Hall of Fame inductees:

Arts and Humanities:

John Huston was an American film director, screenwriter and actor. He wrote most of the 37 feature films he directed, many of which are today considered classics: *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948), *Key Largo* (1948), *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950), *The African Queen* (1951), *Moulin Rouge* (1952), *The Misfits* (1961), and *The Man Who Would Be King* (1975). During his 46-year career, Huston received 15 Oscar nominations, winning twice, and directed both his father, Walter Huston, and daughter, Angelica Huston, to Oscar win in different films. Huston died in 1987 at the age of 81.

Eugene "Gene" Curran Kelly was an American dancer, actor, singer, film director, producer and choreographer. He is best known for his performances in *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), *On the Town* (1949), *An American in Paris* (1951) and *Singin' in the Rain* (1952). As a former gymnast, he brought an athletic new dimension to dance that was appreciated by theatre and Hollywood audiences from the 1930s through the 1950s. Kelly received many

awards, including an honorary Academy Award for career achievement in 1952, and lifetime achievement awards from the Kennedy Center Honors in 1982, the American Film Institute in 1985 and the Screen Actors Guild in 1989. Kelly died in 1996 at the age of 83.

George Robert "Bob" Newhart is an American stand-up comedian and actor. His breakthrough 1960 live album, *The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart*, won Album of the Year at the 1961 Grammy awards, and launched him into stardom. Newhart later took up acting, starring in two long-running, award-winning television series, first as psychologist Dr. Robert "Bob" Hartley on the 1970s sitcom *The Bob Newhart Show* and then as innkeeper Dick Loudon on the 1980s sitcom *Newhart*. A native of Oak Park, IL, he attended Catholic elementary and high school, and graduated from Loyola University of Chicago in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in business management. He continues to do live comedy shows and to act on television, most recently appearing in recurring roles on *Desperate Housewives* and *The Big Bang Theory*.

Business & Industry:

Sister Sheila Lyne is the retired CEO of Mercy Hospital & Medical Center. She was born and raised on Chicago's South Side, and joined the community of the Sisters of Mercy in 1953. Sister Sheila began her career at Mercy Hospital in 1970 after earning her psychiatric nursing degree. She rose through the ranks to CEO in 1976, a post she held until 1991,

when she joined Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration as commissioner of the Public Health Department. In 2000, she returned to Mercy Hospital as the CEO to rescue the hospital from the brink of closing. She held the CEO post until her retirement in 2013. Sister Sheila earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, and is senior adviser to Mercy Foundation Inc., the hospital's philanthropic arm.

Public Service:

Anne McGlone Burke, an Illinois Supreme Court Justice, is one of the founders of Special Olympics. With the help of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation, Burke and the city of Chicago hosted the first Special Olympics games at Solider Field in July 1968. In 2003, Burke was instrumental in bringing in the Special Olympics World Games to Dublin for the first time. Today, Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, with more than 4.2 million participating athletes in 170 countries.

Sports:

William Ben Hogan was an American professional golfer. Hogan was noted for his contributions to golf swing theory and his legendary ball-striking ability. He is one of only five golfers to have won all four major championships currently open to professionals (the Masters Tournament, The British Open, the US Open, and the PGA Championship). Hogan's watershed 1953 season, in which he won five of the six tournaments he entered including three major championships (a feat known as the "Hogan Slam"), still stands as one of the greatest

single seasons in the history of professional golf. Hogan died in 1997 at the age of 84.

Religion:

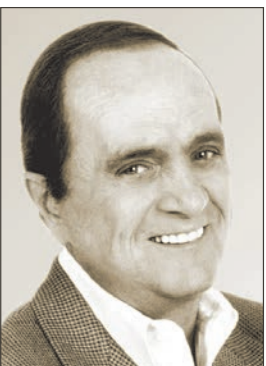
Father John "Jack" Wall is an Irish Catholic priest, educator, community and spiritual leader in Chicago. Father Jack was ordained in 1968 after receiving his Masters of Divinity and STL from the University of St. Mary of the Lake. In 1983, Father Wall became pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church, the second parish founded in the city of Chicago and the city's oldest public building. In 2007, The Holy See appointed Father Wall as President of the Catholic Church Extension Society which strengthens the Church's presence and mission in under-resourced and isolated communities across the United States.

Education:

Mother Frances Xavier Warde was one of the seven original sisters who founded the Sisters of Mercy in the United States in 1843. In 1846, she accompanied a group of five sisters to Chicago to institute the first parochial schools in Illinois. By 1852, the sisters had built Mercy Hospital and Orphan Asylum, the city's first permanent general hospital. At the time of her death in 1884, Frances Xavier Warde had established over 82 Mercy convents, schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other works of mercy in 20 cities across nine states.

Science:

Francis S. Collins is an American geneticist who led the Human Genome Project which succeeded in decoding the human genome. He is currently director of the National Institutes of Health. Born in Staunton, VA, Collins earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from



Bob Newhart Arts/Humanities



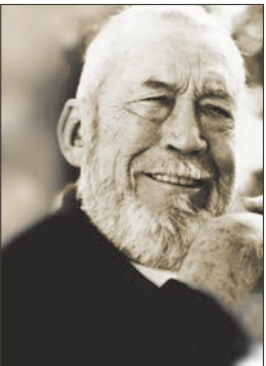
S. Sheila Lyne, RSM
Business & Industry



Ben Hogan Sports



Francis Collins, MD, PhD
Science



John Huston Arts/Humanities



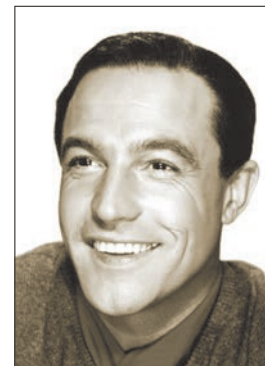
Fr. Jack Wall
Religion



Mother Frances Warde, RSM
Education



Justice Anne McGlone Burke
Public Service



Gene Kelly
Arts & Humanities



Billy Lawless
Hometown Hero

Yale University, using theory and mathematics to discover the behavior of atoms and molecules. After obtaining a medical degree from the University of North Carolina, he and colleagues discovered the genes causing cystic fibrosis, neurofi-

bromatosis and Huntington's disease. In 2007, Collins was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civil award, for his revolutionary contributions to genetic research.

Founded in 2010, the Irish American Hall

of Fame (IAHOF) aspires to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States. The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC). While the Hall of Fame is an organization born of and operated under the auspices of the IAHC, it is overseen by a separate governing committee and has a national

focus. The IAHOF inducted its first honorees in March 2011. A total of 51 worth Irish American have been inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame. To see the complete list of all the prior inductees and learn more about the IAHOF, visit www.iahof.org. Questions? Email info@iahof.org.

The Awards Gala will be held on April 25, 2015 at the Irish American Heritage Center.

Irish American Hall of Fame to Honor Billy Lawless as 2015 Hometown Hero April 25

The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) is proud to announce that Billy Lawless will be recognized as the 2015 Hometown Hero. The Irish American Hall of Fame Hometown Hero Award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves as leaders within their local Irish community and have a consistent track record of contributions and service over many years that helped to preserve or strengthen Irish heritage at a local level. Lawless has earned the distinction of "Hometown Hero" for his contributions to the local Chicago economy and business community, for his tireless advocacy for U.S. immigration reform, and for promoting Irish culture in Chicagoland.

Born and raised in Galway, Ireland, Lawless was brought up in a family long immersed in the hospitality industry. He was a dairy farmer before he moved to Chicago with his family in and helped open the Wrigleyville's first Irish bar, The Irish Oak. This was followed by The Grafton in Lincoln Square in 2002. After guiding both to become local and tourist favorites, Lawless now operates three restaurants in downtown Chicago: The Gage, Acanto, and The Dawson. Lawless first came to U.S. on a visa reserved for businessmen promising to make an investment that employs at least 10 people,

but which doesn't allow for becoming a citizen. He now has an estimated 250 employees. However, it wasn't until his son married a U.S. citizen, became a citizen himself and then sponsored mom and dad that Lawless had his own path to citizenship. Lawless and his wife were sworn in as US citizens in August 2014.

His advocacy for immigration reform began when Lawless and his family were running The Irish Oak. It was at that time he learned of the difficulties his own employees and the larger Chicago Irish immigration community faced related to acquiring driver's licenses. In taking up their cause, Lawless saw it was a symptom of a broader immigration crisis in the U.S.

Lawless became a leader in the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, which eventually won passage of a driver's license law for immigrants and more recently has been at the forefront of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, which has had success in recruiting business leaders to help convince Republican politicians in particular to support immigration reform.

Lawless and the other 2015 inductees will be honored at an Awards Gala on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Irish American Heritage Center at 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL.

Have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day!

May love and laughter
light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful
friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty
bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!
~ Old Irish Blessing



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Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot

Directed By Resident Artist Ron OJ Parson

Court Theatre Artistic Director Charles Newell and Executive Director Stephen J. Albert present *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett, directed by Resident Artist Ron OJ Parson. *Waiting for Godot* will run through February 15, 2015 at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Avenue.

On a country road, beneath a barren tree, two vagabonds wait for a man named Mr. Godot. As the evening unfolds,

a desperate, humorous, and unchanging universe is revealed that has delighted and challenged audiences for over half a century. Resident Artist Ron OJ Parson (Seven Guitars) returns to direct this absurdist classic with an all-star cast featuring Court Theatre favorites A.C. Smith, Allen Gilmore, and Alfred H. Wilson. As elusive as it is illuminating, *Waiting for Godot* offers a haunting meditation on the meaning of human existence.

Artemisia Premieres McCarrick's Award-Winning "Belfast Girls"

Jaki McCarrick's play, *Belfast Girls*, about five young women who travel to Australia by ship in 1850 to escape the Irish Famine, will run as Artemisia's American premiere from May 16, 2015 to June 14, 2015, in Chicago at The Den Theatre in Wicker Park. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 6:00 pm, with an additional matinee on Saturdays at 3:00 pm.

Preceding its American premiere are non-stop accolades for *Belfast Girls* from

overseas. McCarrick has been long listed for the Irish Laureate Award and short-listed for the 2014 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. *Belfast Girls* also received a well-regarded staged reading by Artemisia in Chicago last year, which set the tone for this highly-anticipated premiere.

McCarrick is in talks with a U.S. based production company to develop *Belfast Girls* into a feature film. 832-819-4336. artemisiatheatre.org.



A Wilde Ride at Remy Bumppo Theatre

Chicago is in for a theatrical treat this March as Remy Bumppo stages Tom Stoppard's work *Travesties*. Anyone familiar with Stoppard's work will know how complex and entertaining a playwright Stoppard is. The most satisfying aspect of his work is his ability to bring humour and intelligence together in a play that will twist and turn in the most idiosyncratic ways. Nothing is superfluous, every word and action is riddled with clever subtext.

Travesties centers on the meeting of James Joyce, Lenin, and Dadaist poet, Tristan Tzara in Zurich in 1917. The setting of the play, complete with these icons of art and politics, is skillfully woven around Wilde's drama *The Importance of Being Earnest*. And, to complicate the story further, Stoppard bases the action of the play on the sketchy recollections of an aging British civil servant who is at odds with Joyce.

Playing the character of James Joyce is Irish actor, James Houton. A native of Dublin Houton came to Chicago in 1995 to study theatre at DePaul and has since become a stalwart in many of Chicago's theatrical venues. It was only when I read his impressive C.V. that I realized where I had seen him before. He was Joxer Daly in the musical version of *O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock* at the Timeline theatre. And, I remember thinking how he perfectly embodied the likeable scallywag with perfect comedic timing.

When I asked him about Stoppard's play he had this to say:

Houton: This was a play, which for some reason, I had never read. My first impression was 'oh this is a funny, whacky play'. Then I thought, 'oh I didn't get a fraction of what is in this play' and started to reread it. There were times I'd find myself saying "Oh Tom, where the heck have you gone!" It has so many layers in it. And like any good piece of literature the more you read, the more ponderings, thoughts, and insights come to mind, and all the time entertaining.

I like how Stoppard (through the uncertain memory of Henry Carr) has drawn Joyce as highly intellectual and yet whimsical. And from my research, so far, Joyce was quite sure of his brilliance, his intellect and destiny and yet described by many friends as fun and fond of whimsy. I am looking forward to experimenting with Stoppard's varying artistic forms in rehearsals, the language and the physicality of the comedy/farce. These stretch your muscles as an actor. I know it will be very challenging and rewarding. And I am sure a few frustrations along the way

What is apparent throughout is Stoppard's playfulness with language and form. Is that Stoppard's art, or is it just homage, or travesty?!! The play centres on art and politics, their usefulness, worth, whether one is more important than the other or can one exist without the other. And importantly- what is art? What is art and important to Joyce varies widely from Tzara and Lenin. And throughout this play different art forms are introduced-various forms of poetry, imitation, performance art, musicals - is any one of them more important than another... any one more significant? I am really looking forward to the pre-, post- show talkbacks with audience members, not to mention the cast discussions throughout rehearsals.

The play is set in a time of political upheaval, and artistic innovation. Does it have anything to say to a modern audience?

Houton: I feel it is interesting that our theatre and politics stem from the same place - Greece! So from the beginning they have co-existed!

Personally I feel there is something ritualistic and artistic built into our DNA. One only has to look at an infant instinctively smiling, gyrating and making noise to background music! I think art is important for us as humans. I don't say this just because I am an artist, but because throughout history, examples exist where art and the humanities become very significant in people's lives. It seems to add meaning. It becomes significant at a time where it's not necessary, unless you factor in the human element - Booksellers say there is a large increase in the sale of poetry books when a loved one dies (Tzara's poetry was greatly influenced from the senseless killing during WWI). Many Berliners and Londoners flocked to the theatre during WWII when there was a good chance of being bombed. Huge numbers of survivors of 9/11 changed their professions to the arts and humanities.

The themes of this play resonate with Houton's thinking. Citing the origins of the Abbey, and Derry's Field Day theatre, he believes they are examples of how 'art' attempts to 'heal the divide in communities better than politics'. It all echoes the efforts of Yeats, or Friel, to create theatre that is both entertaining and intellectually satisfying.

Bolstered with rich, quality, acting, I look forward to reviewing this bold effort of Remy Bumppo to bring to life a drama that forces us to think of the role of art in a society where art can tug at the political heartstrings of the day. Think of recent events in France and you see the danger facing the artist who refuses to be forced into silence.



Travesties

by Tom Stoppard

March 25—May 3, 2015

www.RemyBumppo.org · 773.404.7336

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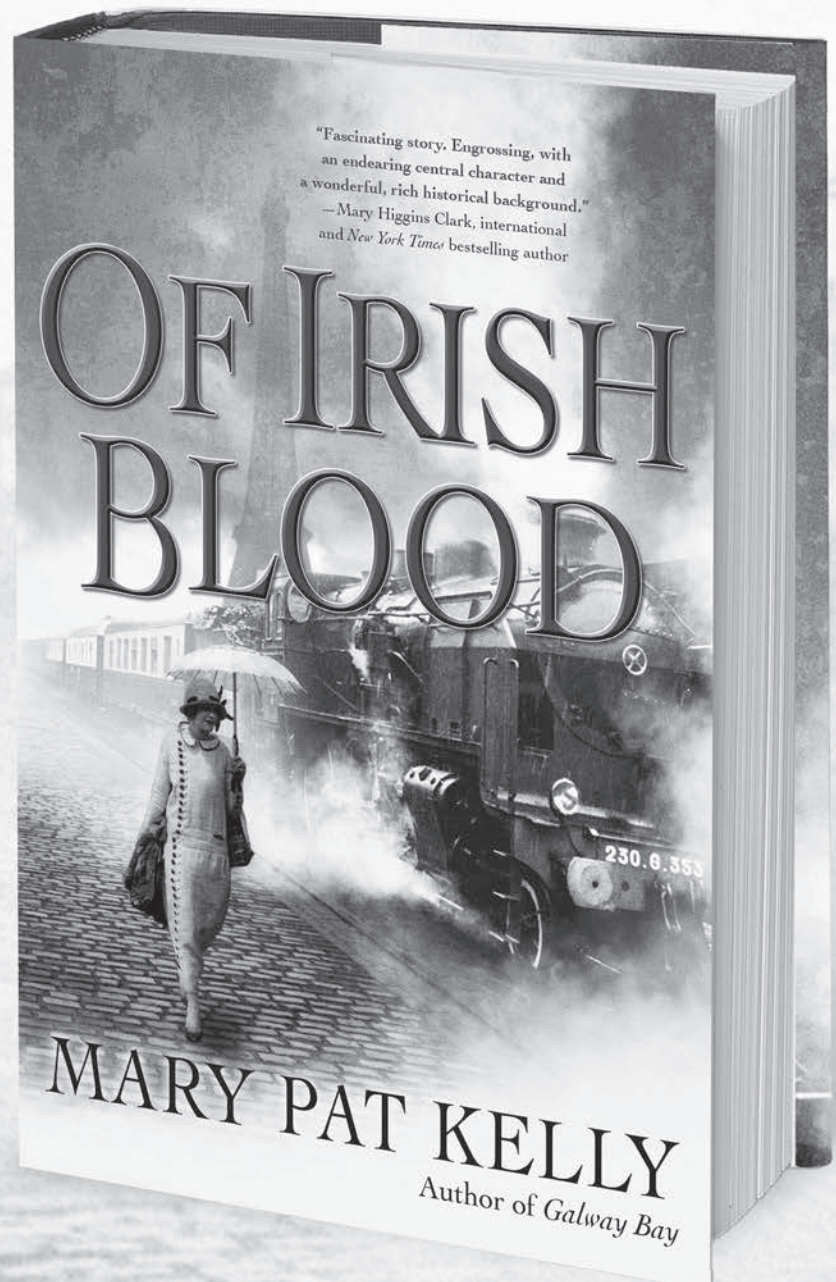
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Hardcover and eBook February 2015

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George Casey Coming to His Comedy Home - Chicago!

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

There are three key endeavors that create possibilities in life, and for Irish comedian George Casey, those are the three things that he has come to take pride in, and have helped lead him to his success since emigrating to the States in 1970. Given the changing times and types of audiences over the decades, comedy in particular may be a difficult field of entertainment to make it in, especially for as long as George has. But it's quite obvious, as evidenced in the breadth of his career and the long road he's taken to reach this point in his life, that

he knows exactly what it takes to make a name for himself.

"Hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance," he reveals.

For George, in the U.S., it started, humbly, with dishes. And a very generous benefactor who gave him just the right push toward opportunity.

Having spent a summer as a J-1er exchange student when he was 18, George enjoyed the U.S. enough to later attempt to obtain a green card. He first worked as a dishwasher, playing guitar and singing during his free time at The Atlantic on Grand Avenue in

Chicago, under the management of Emyr Morris.

"Before I left Ireland, I performed regularly as a singing minstrel at Dromoland Castle. When I began work as a dishwasher at the Atlantic, I had mentioned this fact to Emyr and Lisa (Morris). One busy Saturday night the scheduled performer was a no show, and Emyr had a full house. He ran back to the kitchen and asked me if I could use the equipment on stage and sing a few songs to buy some time, still hoping the scheduled performer was only running a little late. I played all night, winning myself a new position in the restaurant and a sizable pay raise, eventually leading to them sponsoring me for a green card, and longtime friendship with Emyr and Lisa..." George says.

At the time, if you didn't have a sponsor here in the States, it was very difficult to get a green card, but George lucked out at The Atlantic, with Mr. Morris vouching for him and promising to help him with the necessary paperwork and red tape if he'd agree to stay and play on a three-year contract. Morris explained to the immigration office that George was vital to his business, and at the end of the term, he filed the necessary documents, and even paid for George's green card himself.

"At the end of the promised three years, I had offers from establishments around the country, and Emyr was very proud to see me venture out," He adds.

From the start, it became essential that George made his own breaks. People would get him in the doors of different venues, but he was always told that it was up to him to keep himself in jobs. Not allowing a little hard work to deter him, he managed to become a repeat performer at many different places, and made his way over the years. He refers to that time now as "a great learning experience". And a great networking experience too, no doubt.

At one point, George was put in touch with Frank Sinatra's manager, Eliot Weisman, which

lead to Mr. Casey venturing out to Las Vegas. Again he was told, "I'll get you in the door, but you've got to work hard to be invited back." He says that the Vegas venues were the most difficult because



he was working with many other comedians, and the work became competitive, as everyone was clamoring for "more minutes" on stage. But once again, it was a great learning experience for George, and he found his way among all the other struggling artists.

Performances in Vegas eventually lead to the cruise circuit, perhaps the biggest break for a comedian. Both lucrative and time-consuming, cruise boat shows are rewarding for those who are prepared to work hard.

"(Cruises are) most difficult," George says, "For those, you're expected to do two 45-minute sets every few days for 1,000-2,000 people, with new stuff every couple of days."

The travel on cruise jobs is extensive as well. "You go from A to B to C, and that's all you do."

Performing with such frequency not only gave him a little bit of stability, but also taught him that as a comedian with an accent, he needed to learn how to slow his speaking down. "If they don't understand me, there'll be no laughs!"

He also says that at the top of his favorite cruise jobs is Gertrude Byrne Promotion's All-Irish Cruises. He's been doing cruises

with her for a decade, and says "She does the best... I know there's a lot of cruises out there, and they're all competing, but she has to get credit. She sells a cruise out from one end to the other. She's

a real professional... there's no detail that woman leaves out. She's really first class." (She also charters the entire Holland American Westerdam cruise ship and sells the entire cabin every year. www.gertrudebyrnepromotions.com)

Having been in comedy for 44 years now, he and his family are now based in Daventonport, FL (after many years in Branson, MO), with George still making the rounds and doing tours and cruises. In all the time he's spent in the business, he says some of his favorite shows have been in Branson, as he's met a lot of people he likes there.

Over the years, he's worked with many, many other comedians and people in the entertainment industry. He's built up and incredible fan base, which began with hoards of Chicago devotees.

"Before I left Chicago to work full time in Branson, I had over 10,000 people on my mailing list that followed me around Chicago and Cap Cod for almost 30 years. Among my fans were Ed and Virginia McCaskey who over the years became very close friends, as well as Bill Taylor, who owned and operated the largest K9 security company in the city. In media, Michael Sneed from the Chicago Sun Times, Radio talk show personalities including the late Bob Collins from WGN, and nationwide radio host Jim Bohannon were among those in the audience. The Haggerty family, The Daley family, and the Kennedy family round out esteemed 'first' families who I am proud to have had as fans."

His resume of acts he's open for include Rosemary Clooney, Ray Price and Donald O'Connor at the Drury Lane Theater in Evergreen Park, where he was a regular opening act. In addition, he shared the stage with Phil Coulter, Mary and Francis Black, Paddy Reilly, just to name a few.

In general, he's discovered that

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St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the Center

Celebrate all that is Irish at the Center's annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March.

These parties are among Chicago's largest, and this year, we expect more than 10,000 attendees to visit the IAHC in March.

What makes these celebrations different than the many that Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof.

On Saturday, March 14, the Center holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented celebration includes traditional and contemporary Irish

music, dance, food, children's activities and an Arts and Craft Fair, with vendors selling Irish gifts. Visit the Library and Museum for programming and exhibits.

The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups and performers on tour from Ireland. Attendees can park



near the IAHC or be directed to a remote lot and take a free shuttle bus 3 blocks to the IAHC that runs from 2pm to midnight. For a \$5 donation, attendees can also park in the South Lot until the spaces are full.

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

Come back for more fun with the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Tuesday, March 17. The day-long celebration in the Fifth Province includes music, dance and face painting for children. The party is from noon to 10pm and tickets are \$10 and children 12 and under are free. There will be a mass at 11am.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.irish-american.org, calling the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visiting the IAHC Office or Gift Shop.

Want to volunteer? Send an email to info@irishahc.org with the subject line VOLUNTEER.

Pot O'Chili Cook-Off



Join us for our third annual Pot O'Chili Cook-Off this winter.

Each team must enter their chili in one of four categories: Traditional Beef, Set Your Jeans on Fire, Vegetarian or Chicken. Con-

testants must provide their own method of keeping chili warm and an extension cord.

Prizes will be awarded in each category, with a special prize awarded for best table decorations. Don't want to enter the contest? Come sample every chili entry and cast your vote. Entry forms can be picked up at the Center office, the IAHC Gift Shop, by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visiting www.irish-american.org.

The Pot O'Chili Cook-Off is on Saturday, February 28 and the cost per team is \$20. Set up time begins at 6pm and the contest is from 7pm to 9pm.

Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

March is practically St. Patrick's Month at the Center and what better way to celebrate than with the eighth annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance. This dance kicks off a month St. Patrick's Day activities at the Center.

Festivities include dancing, live music with Gerry Haughey, 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 1, from 5 to 10pm and tickets are \$40. Reservations must be made by February 23 online at www.irish-american.org or by calling the Center office at

773-282-7035.

Mead Tasting

Join us for another of our Mead Tastings this Valentine's Day.

Mead is honey wine, created by fermenting honey with water, and frequently fruits, spices, grains or hops. Join us in the Fifth Province to learn about the making of mead, its variety of flavors and what makes it a perfect honey drink for you and your honey.

The Valentine's Mead Night is Saturday, February 14 from 7pm to 9pm and features a flight of 4 flavors of mead and sweet chocolates. The cost is \$10 at the door. You must be 21 with valid ID to participate.



Quiz Night

Test your trivia knowledge with Quiz Night at the Center.

The cost is \$30 per team, with a limit of six players per team. There are prizes for the top three prizes and food and drinks are available from the Fifth Province.

2015 Quiz Nights are February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15 at 8pm.

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



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Irish American heritage center Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

Coming out of a deep and painful recession, faced with a building that needed major work including a new roof, having experienced years of financial challenges; in summer of 2011, the Center elected four new board members and a new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee and the Board felt it was time for a change.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." —John F. Kennedy

The primary change needed was to run and manage the Center as a business, to develop a financial and organizational structure to allow for continued mission initiatives and our future.

Change is never easy and is sometimes not seen as necessary by those who do not have all the insight or facts. Change is rarely universally received and can be difficult and painful short term. Change impacts different people and groups in different ways and can result in personal and organizational attacks on the change makers.

But, for the good of the Center as a whole, change was needed and the team that was elected accepted the challenge and pressed onward.

Some of the changes needed were:

- Increased cultural programming needed to be implemented
- Hours of operation needed to be reviewed
- Financial accountability by all aspects of the Center's organization needed to be examined
- The Center's environmental sustainability program needed to be implemented
- A new roof needed to be installed
- Risk management needed to be addressed
- Accounting and compliance issues needed to be re-examined
- The Walk of Names brick project needed to begin
- Fundraising had to be increased
- Membership needed to grow to address second, third and fourth generations, as well as families and young adults
- The building needed a through cleaning
- New revenue, such as the Gift Shop, and events such as our Bridal Fair were needed to increase revenue
- Expenses needed to get under control
- Partnerships needed to be built
- Collection procedures from room rentals and those who utilize the Center needed to be examined and accelerated
- Technology needed to be implemented
- A capital improvement reserve needed to be started
- A local bank partnership with one who was familiar with the IAHC needed to be found
- Profitability needed to occur to fund the building needs and the mission initiatives
- Increased transparency and communication with members needed to be implemented
- ...and more

Members, donors, partners and volunteers supported the changes and often shared with the team that they were doing what needed to be done to ensure a solid and bright future for the Center.

At the same time, it was no wonder that with the changes needed to build a solid future, that there was, and remains some who have resisted change. This is expected and understandable, but the goal was clear. Despite challenges and roadblocks, we remain focused.

Now we proudly report four years of profitability, a new roof, improved cash flow, an installed brick walkway, new grant opportunities, new sponsors, new computers and technology, record membership growth, newly renovated rooms, best practice accounting practices, record fundraising, new operations, events and more. All of this helps support our mission. Thank you and all the volunteers who have helped us!



Was everything done right, on time and in a manner that pleased everyone? No, but the team made the best effort they could in the best interests of the center as a whole.

Quoting Irish proverbs:

"Face the sun, but turn your back to the storm."

"There is no wise man without fault."

A lot has been done but so much more to do. When the changes began four years ago, members were concerned and asked about the strength of the Center and its future. We didn't know the answer at the time and there is still much we do not know. But what we do know is that the Center now stands on firmer financial footing and has a bright and much more secure future.

Are you a member?

Are you a volunteer?

Are you a donor to the Annual Appeal?

Did you purchase a raffle ticket?

Have you enjoyed a meal or a beverage in the Fifth Province?

Are you a committee member?

Do you frequent our teas, concerts or Salon Series ?

Do you use and visit our Library and Museum?

Do you shop at our Gift Shop?

Have you made a pledge to the BACK TO THE FUTURE Capital improvement program?

Answering "yes" will help us strengthen and move toward our mission.

If you answered no, please reconsider becoming a Center investor and help us, because there is more to do.

You can better help create and implement other positive changes that will be needed and help put your stamp on the future. Help and advice from those invested is often the result of better information, and is then better received.

Thank you to our team and to all who have helped us make the changes we have. It was a team effort.

If there are changes you feel will help further the Center, then become a member, a board member, a committee member, a volunteer, an investor, and help create change.

A few more Irish proverbs:

"No two people ever lit a fire without disagreeing."

"You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind."

"Many a sudden change takes place on a spring day."

"The future is not set, there is no fate but what we make for ourselves."

"As you ramble through life, whatever be your goal; Keep your eye upon the doughnut, and not upon the hole."

"Life is like a cup of tea, it's all in how you make it."

"Need teaches a plan."

John Crowley Gorski
President

Annual Appeal Continues

The IAHC Annual Appeal continues. Each year at this time, we ask our members and friends to help us by making a donation. Your donation is important to the operation and mission of the Center.

We thank you for your contributions, past and present, and urge you to think of us for your planned giving.

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

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

The names below are contributors from December 13, 2014 through January 5. We will list donor names through March 2015.

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Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry



The Center continues its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry in February, March and April 2015.

The Fish Fry begins February 20 and runs through April 3 from 6:30pm-9pm in the Fifth Province.

The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. IAHC Members receive \$1 off of their dinner. Live music begins at 9pm. The dinner consists of fried cod, fries and a vegetable.

Children can watch two movies that will run each week during the meal. Parents are encouraged to bring a video game, book or toy for kids to enjoy and there is free wifi for handheld devices.

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



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Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



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February 2015

February 4	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
February 6	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
February 7	PÍOBAIRÍ	Fifth Province	6pm
February 13	Salon Concert Series	Fifth Province	8pm
February 14	Valentine's Day Mead Tasting	Fifth Province	7pm
St. Patrick's Fathers Social		Room 109	8pm
February 17	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
February 20	Lenten Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
February 21	Roscommon Club Social	Room 309	7pm
February 22	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	Book Club: <i>Rose's Ring and The Man from Kinvara</i>	Library	1pm
February 27	Lenten Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
February 28	Chili O'Cook Off	Fifth Province	6pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues	Creative Writing and Memoir Classes (2/17 thru 3/31)	Library	4pm
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Irish Language Classes	TBA	7pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Creative Writing and Memoir Classes (2/19 thru 3/24)	Library	4pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Classes	Library	11am

Back to the Future Capital Campaign

Our Back to the Future Capital Campaign continues this winter. The goal of this campaign is to gather the community to help raise funds for our Capital Campaign, which benefits such much needed improvements as parking lot repair, tuck-pointing and exterior brickwork, exterior fencing and gates, HVAC, floor refinishing, carpeting and building modifications for energy savings and much more.

The pledge project offers you an opportunity to make a generous contribution to the Center to be spread over an extended period of time.

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For every \$100 you pledge, you will receive one share of non-equity stock in the Irish American Heritage Center.

Stockholders will be welcomed at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting and will receive regular "Back to the Future" updates on the progress of the goal and its projects.

The names below are of donors who have pledged through January 5. We will run this list monthly, and thank you for your continued support.

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the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

2/6	Ceili Mor
2/7	Laurence Nugent and Billy O'Donoghue
2/13	Salon Concert, 8pm
\$15 for adults, children 18 & under are free	
2/14	The Dooley Brothers
2/20	Seamus O'Kane
2/21	Gerry Haughey
2/27	Mulligan Stew
2/28	John Devlin

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The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor
Contributors: *Shelby Baron, Mike Frericks, John Gorski, Catherine Kelly, Kathy Kelly, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy and Sheila Murphy*

Je Suis Charlie

Je Suis Charlie, is French for "I Am Charlie."

How quickly the European community united after the January 7th slaughter of 12 people working at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper in Paris.

When the paper lampooned the prophet, Mohammed, it triggered the attack. The religious zealots that carried out the attack are dead. Thank God!

The world is growing weary of the claim that Islam is a peaceful religion. Muslim, is an Arabic word which means, "one who

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

submits to God." Many Muslims subscribe to the "unification of church and state," exactly the polar opposite of our Democracy which calls for a separation of church and state.

But we are dealing with the Jihadists, the lunatic fringe who only understand an eye for an eye and are hell-bent for martyrdom.

God speed!



Church in Dublin. A gift from Pope Gregory XVI to the Carmelite, Fr. John Spratt, in 1836. People from around the world travel to this church to get married.

Governor Rauner

After listening intently to our new governor's inaugural address the window opened and the fresh air gushed in, as he spoke. He took the gloves off and spoke about the corrupt insider politics that go on inside Illinois. He started by freezing nonessential spending by all state agencies, and all state agencies are to review and report on every contract signed since November 1, 2014. He reduced his salary to one dollar and declined all benefits.

He declared that we have a moral and ethical crisis in Illinois, nobody could argue with that. He spoke of lobbyists writing bills for special interest groups leaving the taxpayers with the bill. He included union bosses who negotiated sweetheart deals from governor's they spent millions to elect.

He declared, "I'm nobody that nobody sent," meaning he can't be bought and he is not beholding to anyone. Next he will sign an executive order that will improve accountability and ethics in the executive branch of state government.

He as much as said it, politicians are corrupt. He should have spoken about term limits and the family dynasties that we have in Illinois politics.

Selma Oscar Snub?

The Black community is very unhappy over the fact that the movie, Selma, was not nominated for the

St. Valentine

Once again I remind you that St. Valentine, (martyr), is buried at White Friar Street

Oscar for Best Director or Best Actor. This movie was however, nominated for Best Picture and Best Song.

The liberal media has been apologetic to a fault. Coulda woulda shoulda, or sorry, but there is a bumper crop of good movies this year!

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Governors is all White based on the pictures that are on their website, hmmm . . . But there are six thousand members who vote. Now the word racism is popping up.

The Kerry Calf

Early one morning Uncle Pat hooked up the cattle box to the VW Beetle and loaded a calf into the box. He said that this calf wouldn't stop suckling the cows, and it was cutting into the milk profits. Now we would have to take him to the cattle market in Tralee to sell him. So off we went through Hackett's Cross on our way to the Ballybunion Road. That road is a boggy road, and we bounced along passing through Abbeydorney, and McElligots Bar where everybody drank from the winner's cup after the greyhound races. It rained like hell that day and the hare screamed when the dogs caught him.

We soon came upon the Vale of Tralee and you could see St. Brendan's Church in the distance. We're almost there. From Rock Street we turned into the car park and the cattle market. The entrance was next to the Long Bar which later became known as the Pig and Whistle. There were dozens of cattle boxes and trucks in the market square, and you could here the cattle bawling. Uncle Pat needed to find out what price calves were bringing and we went into the Ampitheatre where the auction was taking place. Some of the cattle would slip and fall on the ramp which was covered with manure as they entered the arena. We watched for a while and then went back outside where Uncle Pat met a cattle buyer from Cork.

The bargain was struck and we

went into the Hole in the Wall pub to seal the deal. It was in one of the alleys that lead out to Castle Street. After a couple of pints of stout we gave him the calf. We left the market and called into the Greyhound Bar which was owned by our cousin, Hannah Godley. After spending a little time there we took the Ardfert Road back home, passing St. Brendan's Cathedral, and stopping lastly at Dick Keane's Pub when we got to Causeway Village. It was another day in the life of an Irish dairy farmer. Fado! (long ago)

State of the Union

Non-sequitur seems to apply here. Meaning a conclusion that does not follow from the premise. His arrogance leaked out again, "I have no more campaigns to run, I know because I won both of them." He's the cock of the walk! Middle class economics? He's still on the class warfare bent! More freebies! The song, "America" from Westside story tells the tale!

"I'd like to be in America, Everything free in America, okay by me in America!"

Somewhere in the middle of the speech it was nap time.

Reply to Murphy

You read a great deal into my story. Things that were not said. I never said Brittany would not enjoy eternal peace. Rather, I said, "Jesus would meet her at the gates of Heaven."

Then you dragged in political agendas, (pro-assisted suicide group, compassion, and choices). Then you jump on the subject of hospice workers, any fool would know that hospice workers are the most compassionate people and they are there to comfort the terminally ill. FYI, I am a regular supporter of St. Jude's Children's hospital. Would you like to see the cancelled checks?

Last year I had two family members, one in palliative care, and another that was virtually brain dead in the ICU. Both were removed from life support. Both died of natural causes. Next time you pick up your pen leave the wine in the Chalice alone!

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Volatility Has Returned

The end of 2014 marked the sixth year of the recent economic recovery. The US stock market and bond market posted strong gains for the year. But just as many people were starting to think the stock market only moves in one direction, which has been UP the past few years, volatility reared its ugly head. Volatility is a measure of risk and in terms of the stock market is used to describe price movements, both up and down. This recent volatility has caused many investors to feel anxiety, which is a completely natural response to this. Acting on those emotions, though, can end up doing us more harm than good.

There are a number of theories about why markets have become more volatile. Global growth worries, policy doubt, geopolitical risk, and even the Ebola virus had a play in recent volatility. In many cases, these issues are not new. The US Federal Reserve gave notice it was contemplating its exit from quantitative easing. Europe has been struggling with sluggish growth or recession for years, and there are always geopolitical tensions somewhere. This leads many to believe that this is a perceived increase in volatility because volatility has been low for some time.

Markets do not move in one direction. While it can be worrisome, volatility is a normal part of the market and actually

helps with the gains investors have received historically. Here are a few simple certainties to help you cope with volatility.

Don't make assumptions. Remember that markets are unpredictable and do not always react the way the experts predict they will. When central banks relaxed monetary policy during the crisis of 2008-09, many analysts warned of an inflation breakout. Six years later if anything, the reverse has been the case with central banks worrying about deflation.

Focus on the Long Term. Quitting the equity market when prices are falling is like running away from a sale. While prices have been discounted to reflect higher risk, that's another way of saying expected returns are higher. And while the media headlines proclaim that "investors are dumping stocks," remember someone is buying them. Those people are often the long-term investors.

Timing the market is hard. Recoveries can come just as quickly and just as violently as the prior correction. For instance, in March 2009—when market sentiment was

at its worst—the S&P 500 turned and put in 7 consecutive months of gains totaling almost 80%.

Diversification works. While volatility has returned to the equity markets, highly conservative government bonds have done exceptionally well. Diversification helps limit the damage to a portfolio by spreading the risk out and increasing the areas for potential return.

Nothing lasts forever. Just as loading up on risk when prices are high can leave you exposed to a correction, dumping risk altogether when prices are low means you can miss the turn

when it comes. As always in life, moderation is a good policy.

Be Disciplined. Market volatility is scary. But through discipline, diversification, and understanding how markets work, the ride can be made tolerable.

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

George Casey

Continued from page 28
 "the bigger the act, I found the nicer and more confident person."

But no matter how small the venue or show, he says that he's very grateful to still be working in comedy. "I feel like I belong and I know what I'm doing, but at the same time, I don't take anything for granted. Every day I'm learning, and I hope I'm humble, and I hope I'm nice to people."

And, finally, George adds, "I am

unapologetically proud of what I've accomplished since immigrating here in 1970. As the song goes, "Its a long, long way from Clare to Here". I can think of only a small handful of Irish entertainers from the old pub circuit besides myself that made entertaining their full time career and managed to take our craft to bigger stages alongside household names both here in the States and in Ireland."

Information on George, including a list of his upcoming shows, at www.georgecasey.com.

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On the Law

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

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

Snow Falls On the Courthouse

A mild and dry December has given way to the more typical Chicago winter: cold, snow and sleet. To some, especially skiers, snowmobilers and those who enjoy outdoor activities, it can be beautiful. To others who have to shovel their walkways

and driveways, it can be a real burden. But to all, with an accumulation of snow, there can be a risk of injury as a pedestrian and a risk of liability as an owner or occupier of land. At this time of the year, people should be aware of their rights and respon-

sibilities as it relates to snow falls. These include the right to make a claim if injured as a result of a fall on ice or snow, and include the responsibility of the owners of land to keep the premises reasonably safe.

Municipal Ordinances Requiring The Removal Of Snow

Under a City of Chicago Ordinance, there is a requirement for any owner, renter, or any other person responsible for any building in the City to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of the building.

While these municipal ordinances require property owners to remove snow, they are, generally speaking, for the benefit of the municipality. They usually do not establish a separate duty on the part of the land owner for injuries from falls.

"Natural Accumulation" And The Law Concerning Ice And Snow

While, as a general rule, property owners have a responsibility to maintain their property in a reasonably safe condition, property owners are not responsible for the "natural accumulation"

of snow or ice on their property. This also applies if clearing off the snow exposes a natural accumulation of ice beneath the snow. The concept of "natural accumulation" would include ruts or uneven surfaces made by pedestrians and vehicles which result from a thawing and refreezing on a properly maintained surface.

As to business property owners, they have no responsibility to remove water or snow tracked in by customers or even to provide a mat or rug to wipe their feet. And, unless it is an unnatural accumulation, there is no duty to remove water accumulated around a rug or mat.

Injuries From Falls On Ice And Snow

Claims for injuries from falls on snowy and icy walkways or parking lots are often based on an "unnatural accumulation" or negligent maintenance or design of the walkway or parking lot. In the past, there was a recovery because a slopping sidewalk created an unnatural accumulation of ice and snow resulting in a fall. Another recovery for an injury

was made because an improper design of a entry way resulted in an unnatural accumulation. Liability has resulted from leaking gutters or downspouts forming ice on a stairway or a sump pump discharge forming ice on a sidewalk. Liability may also result from a negligent removal of ice and snow if it creates an unnatural accumulation. However, to encourage owners to remove ice and snow from sidewalks, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Snow and Ice Removal Act. The Act provides that residential property owners removing ice or snow abutting their property will not be liable for injuries unless their acts are willful and wanton. As can be seen, the facts of each individual case will determine the ultimate outcome.

Generally speaking, to begin to establish a claim, first, the claimant must be able to show there was an unnatural accumulation of snow which presented an unreasonable risk of harm to persons on the property. Secondly, the claimant must show that the owner knew or should have known about the condition and the risk. Thirdly, the claimant must show that the owner would not reasonably expect persons to discover or realize the danger.

This general discussion of rights and responsibilities relating to snow and ice should not be considered a substitute for individual legal advice from an attorney based on the facts of a particular case.

The law has established protections for owners and occupiers of land for claims based on nature accumulations of snow and ice. However, as discussed, there are exceptions to these rules. The hope is that everyone can enjoy the snow and outdoors without any serious injuries. And keep in mind: Spring is only a few months away.

By:
Martin
Healy, Jr.
pictured
above
Dennis
M. Lynch
(right)



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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



Republican's Take Charge

As I begin to prepare this month's contribution, the GOP is going through the process of taking control of both chambers of Congress. It will be the first time since 2006 that the Republicans will be in charge of both houses. So many who follow politics in the US are keen to know what kind of Congress will the 114th turn out to be.

The first point I'd make is this; I expect that any serious action will happen for the most part this year. I say that because the party leadership will proceed with one eye on the 2016 presidential race.

There is also the intriguing question as to how will the new power shift work out in practice with President Obama. Any legislation will have to be well crafted in order to receive Presidential approval. It is very clear that the Republicans are on opposite sides of the spectrum to Mr. Obama on most if not all issues, therefore, it is going to require a great deal of constructive bargaining in order for any significant piece of legislation to end with the President's signature.

With those obstacles in mind, the most likely areas for action seem to be jobs and the economy. The Republicans are set to reintroduce the Keystone pipeline project, which failed in the last Congress. The next area will probably be an attempt to do something for the highways program that is seriously underfunded. The highways are so vital to the economic wellbeing of the states it should be a "no brainer" for both parties to make progress on that area. One other area where there is a possibility of progress would be according to some commentators, the issue of tax reform. Mr. Baucus (D) and Mr. Camp (R) had drafted many ideas on how the tax system could be simplified and crucially how this country's system could be made more competitive with other countries. The result

of the above mentioned members work would suggest that the new chairs, namely, Ryan and Hatch are in a good position to make a breakthrough on this important area which has the ability to make life easier for corporate America as well as for the individual tax payer.

And so that brings me to my usual topic, immigration, it is too soon to predict what the Republicans will decide to do on this thorny issue. Will the tail of the tea party continue to derail any efforts to find a comprehensive solution to fixing the broken system or will the Republican leadership try a piecemeal approach and see where that takes us.

BENEFITS OF STRUGGLING

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther. Then the man decided to help the butterfly, so he

took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings.

It never was able to fly. What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been.

And we could never fly.

Author Unknown

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

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Irish History Mural at Marty Magee's

By Sabina Clarke

As we move from the Right to the Left of the Mural. We start with our local Irish history.

The gentleman you first see is the one and only Commodore John Barry. Philadelphia's Irish-born naval commander was obscured

aboard the frigate Alliance in 1783.

Right here in our back yard, in Chester County Pennsylvania, 57 Irish immigrants came to work on the railroad for a railroad contractor named Philip Duffy. This area of railway was called Duffy's Cut. All 57 men were



by his contemporary, naval commander John Paul Jones, Barry remains to this day an unsung hero of the young American Republic. As most naval historians note, Barry can be classed on a par with Jones for nautical skill and daring, but he exceeds him in the length of service (17 years) to his adopted country and his fidelity to the nurturing of a permanent American Navy. Indeed, Barry deserves the proud epithet, "Father of the American Navy," a title bestowed on him not by current generations of admirers, but by his contemporaries, who were in the best position to judge. Barry's war contributions are unparalleled: he was the first to capture a British war vessel on the high seas; he captured two British ships after being severely wounded in a ferocious sea battle; he quelled three mutinies; he fought on land at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton; he captured over 20 ships including an armed British schooner in the lower Delaware; he authored a Signal Book which established a set of signals used for effective communication between ships; and he fought the last naval battle of the American Revolution

believed have have died from a wave of Cholera and were buried in a mass grave alongside the railroad. In 2004 a group of brave archaeologist from Immaculata University started digging the remains and of many of the men and found out evidence of blunt trauma in many of their skulls, it is now believed that these men were murdered in a mass exodus. The memorial that you see there is at the grave of a number of the victims in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Moving about an hour north of Delaware County we come into a similar sorry about a group of Irish immigrants who migrated over from parts of Ireland to working the Pennsylvania coal mines in Carbon County, PA. These men were known as the Molly Maguire's. The mollies have dealt with much trepidation and unruly treatment from the mining labor unions and there was a significant about of tension between the sides. Wages were low, working conditions were atrocious, and deaths and serious injuries numbered in the hundreds each year. They were treated like low class citizens, we paid less than other workers of

english and Protestant decent and were convicted of murder, arson, kidnapping and other crimes by the Pikerton detective agency. On June 21, 1877, six men were hung from the gallows in the prison at Pottsville, and four at Mauch Chunk, Carbon County. These men were hung without a fair and just trial.

On this mural you see the leader of the Mollie Maguire, Jack "Black Jack" Kehoe, The Old Jail which still stand today in Jim Thorpe PA along with the hand print left on a jail cell wall by Alex Campbell. Before his march to the gallows, Alex Campbell stated: "I am innocent, I was nowhere near the scene of the crime." Then he slapped his hand against the wall of his cell, and continued, "There is proof of my words. That mark of mine will never be wiped out. It will remain forever to shame the county for hanging an innocent man." The mysterious handprint Campbell left is still there today, although the wall has been washed, painted over, and, according to some versions, even knocked down and replaced. A forensic scientist who examined the handprint with infrared photography in the 1990s concluded that it had never been painted over

Now as we move to the left of the mural we start to get into the troubles in the north of Ireland. On the lower side of the memorial we start at the Bogside where the famous "Free Derry Mural at the corner of Lecky Road and Fahan Street in the Bogside. The slogan was first painted in January 1969 by John Casey. The boy in the gas mask is probably the most striking of the republican murals, and can be found behind, and just to the right of Free Derry Corner. The image portrays a young boy holding a petrol bomb during the battle of the Bogside in 1969, and is wearing a gas mask to protect himself from the effects of CS gas which was fired at the rioters by the RUC.

The We Want Peace wall is a Belfast symbol that is graffitied on many of walls in northern Ireland representing the struggle for peace between the residents of northern Ireland that want their freedom

as an independent nation and the British who still to this day rule and occupy the area.

The gentleman to the left known as the big fellow is Michael Collins. Michael the commander in chief and served on a number of military branches including the Revolutionary Irish Republic, Irish Republican Brotherhood, Irish Volunteers, Irish Republican Army and the national National Army.

He fought in battles such as Easter Rising, Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. He is a true hero for what he has done to fight for Irish independence in Ireland.

This mural serves not only as a connection to our local Irish history, but as a remembrance of the struggles for which the Irish went through and continue to go through as they strive to achieve independence.



Nic Grelli and Eileen Niccolai in Shattered Globe Theatre's production of *The Rose Tattoo*.

The Rose Tattoo at Theatre Wit

By Tennessee Williams
Reviewed by Frank West

The Rose Tattoo is filled with human vitality and the joy of life. The play explores the need for human warmth, the human need for love.

The play is set on Louisiana's Gulf Coast. There lives a very close knit community of Sicilian Americans. The play focuses on the strong-willed and passionate Serafina Delle Rose. Quoting from the press release: she "controls the life of her daughter, Rosa. The volatile Serafina also hides herself in the hazy memory of the husband who was killed smuggling illegal goods on the highway. The earthly eroticism of the play is unleashed as an unknown truck driver pulls into town and disturbs this simple seamstress' life ..." "Serafina is finally delivered from her past memories and grief"

Often people are frozen with an emotional state. They never really live life. They use the fond hope of living forever after death. The only fact we know is that we

have life now. Tennessee Williams is strongly telling us to live life NOW!

The director, Greg Vinkler, says the play "is passionate, primal and funny. It is about life bursting at the seams."

Congratulations to the director for the wonderful performances he gets from the actors. Special congratulations to Eileen Niccolai for her sublime performance.

Eileen is a passionate, proud, fearless actor who "became" the person she is presenting. She exemplifies the Williams quote that "Enthusiasm is the most important thing in life."

Congratulations also to the set design and sound team. The set is exquisite, and the sound subtly adds so much to the 'atmosphere' of the play.

The Rose Tattoo by Tennessee Williams will be presented at THEATER WIT, 1229 W, Belmont in Chicago, now until February 28. Performance times are: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 and Sundays at 3:00. 773-975-8150 or www.theaterwit.org

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Save the Dates

Annual IASCW Members Dinner

March 14th, 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Jailbreak 7's Rugby Tourney

Hosted by Shamrock Rugby Club

June 13

The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:

- * To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- * To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- * To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

IASCW announces Annual Irish Life Experience (ILE) Scholarship Applications.

The IASCW is accepting applications from Will County high school students who wish to participate in the ILE summer program. IASCW has awarded scholarships to over 45 students since 1981, first through the Irish Way Program, and most recently through the ILE. Students are asked to complete an application that includes school work accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, and an essay

explaining why they wish to travel to and study in Ireland. Applications are due February 23, 2015 and awards will be announced at the IASCW annual dinner on March 14, 2015.

The Irish Life Experience is a 25-day cultural academic program offered to American and Canadian high school students. The High School Program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops, and tours based in three locations throughout

Ireland. The goal of the Irish Life Experience High School Program is to introduce North American students to the essential characteristics and qualities of Irish life. By being immersed in Ireland's history and culture, young adults are able to better understand and appreciate a country whose people have played a significant role in the history of western civilization. For more information go to:

www.irishlifeexperience.com.

Calendar of upcoming events

March 6 & 7: Manhattan, Illinois Irish Fest. www.manhattanirishfest.com

March 14: IASCW Annual Dinner, 3-6pm, Knights of Columbus, Infantry Dr., Joliet. Invitations will be sent to members. Non-members and guests are also welcome to attend. For reservations and info please contact: IASCW Vice-President Chris Schall at Schaal.Chris@yahoo.com or text to (779) 279-2305.

March 17 - June 6, 2015: Art Institute of Chicago -

"Ireland: Crossroad of Art and Design, 1690-1840"

April 25: Joliet Brewers Guild Tasting. Contact: Mic Brophy mcbrophy@yahoo.com

May: TBA

June 13th: "Jailbreak 7's" Rugby tournament, Joliet Park District McDonough street field. For information contact Ryan Stoddard at RyanSt_99@yahoo.com

For updated information on all our events, go to www.CountyWillIrish.net

Manhattan Irish Fest March 6 & 7

Here we go again! This time of year is always exciting! Let the planning and preparing begin for another successful Manhattan Irish Fest. This year's festival will be held on Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th. In 2015, we will maintain the mission to preserve and to teach lessons of Irish heritage to the next generations, as well as the community at large.

Manhattan Irish Fest is still one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Festivals in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. In the past 20 years, the Manhattan Irish Fest committee, along with the help of the community and the organizations involved, have raised and donated

over \$160,000. This funding has been given back to local organizations, scholarships, youth sports and many other groups around the area. We will continue to give back those profits to the community.

Organizations we donate to:

IASCW
 Manhattan Park Foundation
 Manhattan Park District
 Manhattan Chamber
 Illinois Celtics
 Operation Care Package
 Manhattan Food Pantry

Cultural Committee Warms Membership for St. Patrick's Day

Mary Kay Campbell chaired the Jan. 25th event called "44/52nds-of-the-way to St. Pat's day" party. The event was held at the William Alexander Wine Studio, 900 S. State, Lockport. This membership social event included a celebration of IASCW Founding President Robert E. Brophy, Jr.'s birthday. "Bob" Brophy initiated this event back in 1984 seeking to fill a void in the social calendar during the cold days of winter. Members first gathered at the former O'Charley's Pub location in downtown Joliet. Brophy (1/25/33-7/28/86) served as the Society's first President in 1981-1982. His son Timothy is a past president, and his youngest son, Michael, is currently President. Entertainment was provided by Allison Flood. A packed house of members and guests enjoyed good wine, good fellowship, and good music.

44/52nds of the Way to St. Patrick's Day Party

Presented by Irish American Society of County Will

WHERE: William Alexander Wine Studio

900 S. State Street, Lockport

3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

WHEN: Sunday, January 25th, 2015

RSVP: marykaye3@gmail.com



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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I am aware and hope that you the readers are as well, that I am covering many years of History in short articles. My goal is to give some insight and highlights of our history not a collegiate account of every decade. You will have to choose a particular century or era of Irish history and study all the time lines, etc... We are in a period of Irish history that is marked by different laws/taxes and acts imposed by England on Ireland. (for ex. Penal Laws roughly that lasted from 1690-1790)

Ireland was ruled by Protestant ascendancy, Anglo-Irish families, they were Irish that had English ancestors that settled in Ireland and colonized Ireland and now owned most of the land. Many were absentee landlords based in England others lived full-time in Ireland and identified as Irish. Ireland was theoretically an autonomous kingdom with its own parliament in reality it was a client state controlled by England.

The majority of the population was Catholic and they were

excluded from power and land ownership under the Penal Laws. These were Laws imposed to force Irish Catholics to accept the reformed faith. Edmund Burke said the, "Penal laws were a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance as well fitted for oppression, impoverishment, degradation of a people and the debasement in them of their human nature itself as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man." That is a great summary for the Penal laws they were horrific and inhumane. Many martyrs came from this period of Irish history. Catholics were barred from any public offices and had to pay fines for not attending Anglican services. Many Catholic churches were converted into Anglican worship services.

Let's continue with a different act that England imposed on Ireland. The Adventurers Act it was created by the English parliament, with the long title "An Act for the speedy and effectual reducing of the rebels in His Majesty's Kingdom of Ireland.

The Irish rebellion of 1641 was months earlier, and the Act was designed to pay the army needed to subdue the rebellion by using borrowed money. Repayment would come from confiscating the rebels' lands and selling them. So the landholders had most of the Irish land confiscated. The Catholic clergy were expelled from the country and were liable to instant execution if found. (God bless these martyrs)

Some Catholic families had one person in the family convert to the protestant faith to hold the land for the rest of the family. (necessity is the mother of invention) By the late 18c many Irish protestants had identified Ireland as their native country and were angered at the neglect and abuse by England. The Patriots led by Henry Grattan was trying for a better trading relationship with England. In particular the end of the Navigation Act, it enforced tariffs on Irish goods in English markets but allowed on tariffs on English goods in Ireland. A leading Irish revolutionary of

this time was Theobald Wolf Tone (hence the Gaelic football teams name, honouring one of our hero's) He was the founding father of The United Irishman. The United Irishmen was a political organization in eighteenth century Ireland that initially sought parliament reform. It's aim was to end British rule over Ireland and for Ireland to be an independent republic. Wolf Tone was captured by English forces he was to be executed on the grounds of treason to the Crown. He attempted suicide to avoid being hanged by his English captures as a convicted traitor. His suicide attempt failed however and he died 8 days later from his wounds.

To be continued...

Gaelic words for this month:

Fight (troid) Stranger (Coimhthíoch) Storyteller (seanchai)

War (Cogadh) Freedom (Saoirse)

Defend (Chosaint) To Steal (Goid)

I have a friend from Co. Wicklow, Aine McGillicuddy, she moved here recently from Ireland. She is teaching Irish at Gaelic Park, I took

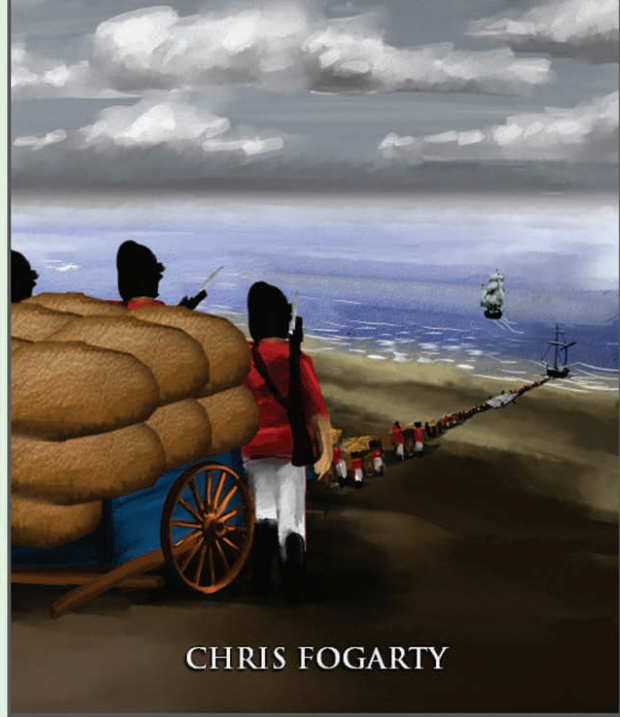
her class in the fall and really enjoyed it. She is a lovely person, funny and very charming. She is fluent in Irish and is a talented teacher. Her next session will begin Feb. 3, and she offers three separate classes: one for returnees, one for beginners and one for kids. The cost of the 10-week class, which will be two hours in length (6:45-8:45pm) is on a Tuesday or Wednesday (cost for the class will be \$150 for new adult students and \$100 for returnees and kids). You can reach Aine through email: ainemac14@gmail.com

If you have any questions or comments please Email me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



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, call 773-282-8445.

Gaelic Park – Emerald Club
Wednesday, 11th February 2015
– Ageless Grace

Ageless Grace is a cutting-edge brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all 5 functions of the brain - analytical, strategic, kinesthetic learning, memory/recall, creativity and imagination - and simultaneously addresses all 21 physical skills needed for lifelong optimal function. This session will include some gentle movement designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements that are natural and organic, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind.

Wednesday, 25th February 2015
– Diabetes: A Modern Epidemic

Diabetes has now become a healthcare crisis in this country that affects people of all ages. The only way to control the rapid spread of diabetes is to have the right knowledge about how to avoid and manage the disease. In this session we are joined by a doctor from Metro South hospital to give us the information we need to protect ourselves and our loved ones from diabetes.

IAHC – Tara Club

Wednesday, 4th February 2015 – Annual Fraud Update 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 victims 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.

Wednesday, 18th February 2015
– Getting to Know Edward Gorey

Chicago born Edward Gorey was a world renowned illustrator, author, and artist. Furthermore, he remains one of literature's most fascinating and mysterious figures. We are joined by our friend Sherry Avila who was a docent for the recent Edward Gorey exhibition at Loyola University's Museum of Art (LUMA) to learn more about the man and his artistic legacy. She also has a year's membership to LUMA to give away at this event!

News Just In! Older Adults are the Happiest of All Americans!

We all know the stereotype – seniors are crotchety, falling apart, and whether it's about the price of milk or 'those kids today', they are always complaining. In a recent write up, USA Today cited several research studies that show that not only is this stereotype untrue, but

seniors are in fact the happiest of all Americans!

One of the most significant research projects was undertaken by University of Chicago sociologists who, between 1972 and 2004, conducted around 28,000 in-person interviews with people ranging in age from 18 years old to 88 years of age. The results were fascinating. Throughout the 34-year course of the study, the happiness level reported over all seemed to rise and fall in tandem with good and bad economic conditions. However, regardless of the economic climate, older adults always polled as the happiest of all. The study revealed that generally there is a 5% increase in the odds of being happy with each 10 years of age.

The study also showed that disparities in happiness between people of different ethnic backgrounds and financial means tended to even out as people aged. Thirty three percent of those aged 88 reported that they were 'very happy', compared with just 24% of those aged between 18 and their early 20's.

Yang Yang, the author of this study pointed towards the correlation between happiness and being socially active. Similarly, another University of Chicago study again challenged stereotypes of older people as being isolated, suggesting instead that those in their 80's are twice as likely as those in their 50's to participate in a social activities such as socialize with a neighbor, attend a religious service, volunteer, or go to a group meeting.

What these two research studies really show us is that we hold great misconceptions about the golden years and what may be in store for us as we age.

Speaking of Research Studies Northwestern University is inviting people ages 65 years or older to participate in a research study about older adults' opinions about their future health needs. Participants will be compensated up to \$100 in gift cards for their time over the course of the study. If you are interested in participating please call 1-844-864-9533.



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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



February Biddy's Month

The serpent will come from the hole

On the brown Day of Bríde,

Though there should be three feet of snow

On the flat surface of the ground

Of the twelve months of the year, February gets very short shrift, which means a light penance and is probably not really applicable to what I want to say; so to avoid a Faulknerian sentence twisting its serpentine way down this page and managing to really piss off declarative sentence fans everywhere, February goes largely ignored.

There, gabby, that was not so difficult.

February is ignored. There are great songs about September, in the Rain, or not, Merry Months of May. April Up the Ying-Yang & etc.

One rarely hears Melville writing about the 'February in the soul' of an over-educated whal-

ing man with Old Testament handle of Ishmael.

February Brides must wear Wellies and Sealskins over their Union Suits.

February is 28 days between January and March with an added bonus of a day during a Leap Year.

February is host to American Presidents Day and St. Valentine Day.

So, why February?

February comes from the Latin word meaning 'purification.' We Catholics call that Lent. Purification is an enema for the soul; not just an absence of stuff and activities we like, but genuine hosing out of spiritual colon.

February makes March a Lion or Lamb, because no really cares how deep the snow, how nasty the slush filled pothole, or how high the Peoples Gas Bill.

February numbs us, toughens us and readies our humors for the good things we share in March, April and May. February is dragged by the nose into the yowling year by none other than

St. Bridget of Kildare..

February 1st is St. Bridget's (Brigid, Bride, & etc.) Day and she holds a special place in the hearts of my children. We have St. Bridget's Crosses in every room of the house. St. Bridget kept homes free from fire and lightning. So far. I have owned two homes, one in Griffith, Indiana and one at 108th & Rockwell in Morgan Park of Chicago - Hickey v. Fire and Lightning; 2-0!

St. Bridget was the daughter of chieftain and a slave woman. One yarn tells of Bridget slaving away for her father which gave her the opportunity to dole out the Ol' Fella's treasure to the needy. You gotta love women! Here is the dutiful girl cleaning and fetching for the drunken old lay-about and all the while looting the miserable old bastard six ways to Sunday!

If St. Bridget could make use of the 28 days of teeth shattering cold, grey, wet and colorless February, there must be something to it. St. Bridget is the ideal woman, as far as I am concerned. Women make miracles happen. Men make messes

Here is swell one of Biddy's Miracles from Catholic On-line: One Easter Sunday, a leper had come to Brigid to ask for a cow. She asked for a time to rest and would help him later; however, he did not wish to wait and instead stated he would go somewhere else for a cow. Brigid then offered to heal him, but the man stubbornly replied that his condition allowed him to acquire more than he would healthy. After convincing the leper that this was not so, she told one of her maidens to have the man washed in a blessed mug of water. After this was done, the man was completely cured and vowed to serve Brigid.

Bridget's miracle is turning man afflicted away from his own ugly self-serving abuse of pity. He did not get the cow, but a good bath and change in attitude.

As a man, I know how vital both can be.

Happy February!

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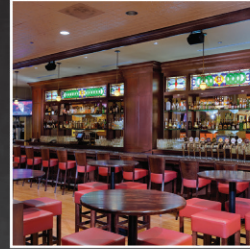
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The Noble Potato

By Katherine Stewart

Childhood memories are both mysterious and revealing. What Kevin Thornton remembers are the potatoes. One of nine children in a Cashel, County Tipperary family, he spent summers at his uncle's house in the village of Dualla, where potatoes were frequently on the menu. When they pulled the potatoes out of the oven, the pale brown tubers would split their jackets like flower-shaped volcanoes and fog up the windows. Thornton's uncle topped them with Kerrygold butter and mint from the garden, producing steam-powered explosions of flavor. Now that was a potato.

The potato has long been Ireland's signature foodstuff. But in recent years, in the hands of creative chefs like Thornton, it has undergone a serious makeover. It has become the stuff of art.

Thornton, the first Irish chef to receive two Michelin stars, is one of the country's most prominent culinary heroes. A slim, energetic grandfather, Thornton is also an accomplished photographer. Images of the Irish landscape and his culinary creations decorate the earth-toned walls of his restaurant, Thornton's, which is located in the elegant Fitzwilliam Hotel of St. Stephen's Park in Dublin. Thornton's approach to his menu reflects his ebullient aesthetic sensibility. Every dish is like a chapter in an illustrated story about Ireland: lamb from Bere Island, off the coast of

Cork, is served on a forest of herbs sitting on a slab that looks like, well, an island; cod fritters on a bed of seaweed and rounded pebbles from the shore; and, of course, potatoes in a variety of extraordinary and unexpected forms.

Ireland's affair with the potato dates from the 18th century, when the hearty characteristics of the spud, combined with economic oppression, led the Irish to embrace it as the staple of their diet. In the 19th century, however, excessive dependency on this single crop

Pomme Maxine
©Kevin Thornton



proved disastrous. From 1845-1852, the potato blight ravaged potato crops, leading to mass starvation and emigration. The famine is thought to have caused the population in Ireland to drop by over 25 per cent.

The potato of today hardly bears resemblance to yesteryear's bulwark against famine. Today the spud is embraced by a new generation, eager not only to

explore the potato's place in the story of Irish identity, but also to celebrate its multiplicity of forms. Ireland produces a large number of regional potato varieties, reflecting the country's natural biodiversity.

The work of chefs like Thornton, who demonstrate the wondrous potential of this once-humble ingredient night after night, has no doubt contributed to the potato's renaissance in all quarters. Urban Farm, a Dublin-based nonprofit organization that supports artisanal agriculture, has launched a project

called Thank Potato, which seeks to educate the public about the large number of potato varieties in Eire. Urban Farm maintains a collection of 160 different heritage potato varieties, dating from 1768 to the present day. A traveling display reveals the breadth of the varieties – purple, red, yellow and white, whose shapes resemble golf balls, twisty tubes, and short, thick braids.

When I visit Kevin Thornton at his eponymous restaurant one afternoon, our conversation quickly turns to potatoes. He tells me of his plan for a potato soufflé, combing coconut yogurt with eggs to explore variations in that flowery-fragrant potato steam from his childhood. Above all, he is interested in exploring the different properties of the many potato varieties he works with: Ratt, Chinese Truffle, Rooster, Golden Wonder, Queen, Black Bog, Maris Piper. As we chat, sous-chefs bring out one exquisitely composed dish after another.

In the same way that an oil painter takes pigments from a few simple compounds and creates a work that inspires and delights, Kevin Thornton does the same with food. His work is closely connected with nature and its cycles. Each potato varietal has special properties of moisture and flavor that make it optimal for different seasons. In the fall, Thornton alternates slices of potato with truffle for a luxuriously savory treat. In winter, he combines potatoes with salt cod to create a beignet. In spring, he uses sweet potato to craft gnocchi, which is then smoked in hay. Summer is the optimal season for new potatoes; in an homage to his childhood, he dresses them with mint.

Thornton's Restaurant is on the leading edge of potato innovation, but others are giving a strong showing. At Fade Street Social, one of Dublin's best new restaurants, purple potatoes are combined with beetroot mousse and dressed with citrus zest; the effect is fresh and so sweet it could almost work as a dessert. At Pearl Brasserie on Merrion Street Upper, baked potato gnocchi is inventively paired with sweet corn, poblano peppers, buffalo mozzarella and basil.

Those who like their tradition with a twist should head to Padraic Og Gallagher's award-winning Boxy House, which serves up variations on the time-honored Irish dish of Boxy – a light potato pancake. Memorable dishes include their Famous Gaelic Boxy, a hearty concoction of Irish beef medallions in a whiskey and

mushroom cream sauce, wrapped in the traditional Leitrim boxy pancake. The restaurant's motto: "The Humble Spud Made Beautiful."

Thornton himself is fond of many traditional Irish potato dishes, but there is one doesn't seem to care for much: French fries, or "chips." While he'll prepare a mean basket of fries for the kids, he expects adults to savor flavors that are more pure and complex. "Putting butter on potatoes is fine for home cooking, but at the restaurant we don't use that much of it," he says. "The potato itself should taste good."

Pomme Maxine ©kevinthornton
Makes 6 portions approx

Ingredients 4-6 Rooster Potatoes
1 packet of butter, see note 1

Method Core the centre of the potatoes with a potato cutter. The cutter should be 30mm in diameter. Slice the top and bottom of the core with a knife to remove any of the skin. Slice the core with a meat slicer to a thickness of 2mm. Drop slices into warm clarified butter.

Take a 100mm metal tartlet mould and line the mould with the potato slices. Pack them close together, otherwise they will fall apart during cooking, don't forget to season between each layer. When you have 2-3 layers built up you can pour a small bit of the clarified butter over the potatoes.

Cook the moulds over a medium heat until you can see that the potato is golden brown on the bottom. Turn the mould upside down and re-insert the pomme maxime. Cook the other side exactly the same as the first. When the potatoes are golden brown on both sides, take out of the mould and set on a baking tray. Cook in an oven at 180°C for 10-15 minutes to cook fully through. Set aside in a warm place.

Note 1 To make clarified Butter Heat a packet of unsalted butter until the butter has melted. Take off the heat and skim off the top foamy layer and discard. Pour the remaining clear layer into a separate container. This is the clarified butter. Stop pouring just before the solids come to the surface. The solids are white in colour and can be discarded.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



Hi everybody We are well and truly settled into the New Year now. Christmas and New Year are as far away as ever.

This is the month of my birth, I was born on February 6th 1951 and I like to mark it every year by doing something special. I am not the kind of person to shy away from the fact that I am another year older. I look at it like if the good Lord grants me another birthday I must be grateful.

This year I joined Susan McCann, another of our country's favorite singers as she celebrates a fan club gathering in Sligo. Although we have both been singing for many years, I only got to know Susan personally last year. When she asked me to be a guest, I was delighted to oblige. It was a very special festival and I enjoyed it a lot.

I am still celebrating my 50 years in show business and that comes to an end in September. I did my touring at the end of last year and my concerts where a great success. It was great meeting all my old fans and friends. I have three concerts during 2015 and I look forward to those. The music business has changed a lot since I started back in 1964, I am glad to say my songs are still in great demand 50 years on. However I feel I want to take a step back from performing after my show in August at the INEC in Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Maybe Joe and I will write some more songs if that is in God's plan, but I will follow his guidance whatever that may be. I have had a great career and I have achieved all that I want to, so I will now follow God's plan as best as I can. As I'm sure everybody knows the word retirement does not exist in the music world.

The good Lord gave me my voice and career and it is him who brings down the final curtain. So hopefully you can expect to see and hear Margo from time to time. I thank you so much for letting me be a part of your life. Now I'll hand you over to Joe.

Love always Margo x
Thank you Margo,

I hope you enjoyed your show with Susan McCann. Susan is a neighbour of mine. She recorded some of my songs a few years back. Happy birthday Margo. I hope you will see many, many more. And hopefully we'll get to write some new songs together soon. I can never forget your birthday, its the same date my mother, Bridget passed away. I wasn't able to travel back to be with her. Like thousands of others, I had

to take it on the chin. I'm sure anyone in this predicament would tell you the same thing "It feels like your heart has been torn out" But with sorrow comes

blessings. And I felt very blessed at that time amidst all the pain. Hundreds of people came to a mass at St. Roberts church here in Chicago. They all came to show their support. If I didn't know then (I did) I was among great friends, I certainly knew that day. One of the many reasons I love Chicago and my many friends here. That was back in 2004. Thank God I am now able to travel.

I'm about to head across the ocean again in about two weeks from now. I'll be doing some shows in Ireland in February, which include -Ti Phlunkett's in Connemara, Kilkenny's in Knock. Then its over to the UK where I'll be doing a night at my brothers festival at the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool. Also Leeds Irish Centre. So I'll be sharing the stage with stars like - Declan Nerney, Lisa Stanley, Stephen Smyth, Limelite and of course my brother Nicky James and State of the Heart band.

Well I was sitting in the house here one day and I started getting all philosophical with myself, as I often do. Anyway I was thinking about how nature is so patient and knows exactly what to do and when to do it. Being human puts me at a disadvantage but having said that. I tried to look at life from mother natures point of view. So I started to write the song (below). I wrote some music for it and nature gave me her song. I've included it for this months song. I hope you like it.

A big thank you to Cliff Carlson for inspiring me to get out and do some walking/running. I've been following his progress on Facebook and I'm walking everyday now. I feel great. Just want Cliff to know, he is an inspiration to us all.

Song writing tip - When you sit down to write your song/s it is a great idea to not set out thinking this has got to be a hit song. Write it so YOU like it. You are probably your own best judge. Don't judge yourself as you write, you can lose a whole song that way. For instance - that little voice in your head saying "I wonder will they like it" or "Should I really be that honest and will it be politically correct" etc. You can do the judgmental stuff later, along with any edits and better sounding vowels that can enhance the song for vocal quality. We think way quicker than we write, so no time for judging.

Till next time be good to one another.
Joe and Margo.

"The River Keeps On Turning"

Written by Joe McShane

Looking at those rolling clouds drift across the sky
A little darkness and the mountain view is hidden for a while
Dreams are like that highest peak at times a little gray
You may walk into a boulder on your way

Pre chorus

So remember to open up your eyes
Its not where you go its how you took the ride
Sometimes muddy water hides the view
All you want could be right in front of you

Chorus

The River keeps on Turning but it never turns away
It knows where it's going even on a rainy day
When it meets a mountain it flows across the ground
Till patiently it finds a way around
So hold on to your special dreams keep them all in sight
Something worth having don't happen over night
Your heart may keep on yearning like the river keeps on turning
But you can see it never turn away
You'll reach your destiny some day



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Administrative Relief is Here!

By Raia Stoicheva

As you may already know, on November 20th, 2014 President Obama took executive action to amend several aspects of our immigration laws. Among these new policies, there are two deferred action programs that may benefit certain undocumented members of our community.

The first is an expansion of the already existent Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The new policy changes three things. First, it moves the entry date requirement from June 15, 2007 to January 1, 2010. This means that future applicants need to show that they entered the U.S. prior to January 1, 2010. Second, it removes the age cap. This means that applicants need no longer have been born prior to June 15, 1981, that is 31 years or younger in June 2012. Now so long as an applicant meets all other eligibility requirements, his or her age in June 2012 or at the time of application does not matter. Finally, it extends approval and work authorization to 3 years. Up until now, DACA was valid only for 2 years.

All other DACA eligibility criteria remain intact. The changes will become effective within 90

days of the announcement, or in late February 2015. DACA applicants lodging applications prior to that time will not benefit from the above.

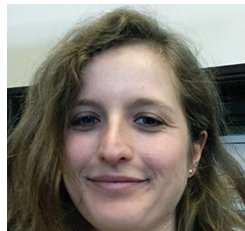
The second is the creation of a new program for the parents of U.S. citizen (USC) or lawful permanent resident (LPR) sons and daughters (DAP). In order to be eligible, an applicant on November 20th, 2014 must

- Be without lawful status, i.e. his or her visa or visa waiver had expired, or she entered without a visa
- Have a son or daughter who is a USC or LPR of any age, married or unmarried;
- Be physical present in the U.S., as well as on the day when he or she applies for this program;
- Have continuously resided in the U.S. prior to January 1, 2010;
- Not be an enforcement priority; and
- Not have any discretionary factors that make the grant of deferred action inappropriate.

DAP approval will be valid for 3 years and potentially entitle approved applicants to a work permit and the ability to travel

with advance permission. The cost will be \$465. DAP applications should be available within 180 days from the announcement, or in late May 2015.

Another of the new memoranda unifies the enforcement priorities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) across all applications. It prioritizes in three tiers the type of criminal and immigration offenses that should receive the most attention when the various agencies that make up DHS (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Patrol, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) decide who to apprehend, detain, or remove from the country. Level 1 includes people involved in terrorist activity or



Raia Stoicheva

who pose national security risk; caught immediately at the border; convicted of felonies or "aggravated felonies"; or convicted of a gang crime or intentionally participated in an organized criminal gang to further the illegal activity of gang. Level 2 includes those convicted of three or more misdemeanors; convicted of a "significant misdemeanor" (e.g. domestic violence, sexual abuse, burglary, DUI); caught after entering unlawfully and came after January 1, 2014; or who "significantly abused" visa or visa waiver systems. Level 3 pertains to people ordered removed on or after January 1, 2014.

If you fall under any of these categories, it is imperative that you speak with an experienced immigration attorney or accredited representative. Even if you do not, but have had interaction with police or immigration authorities, it is advisable that you seek legal advice prior to applying. Remember: there is nothing to apply for right now! So, if anyone asks you to sign any forms or pay them money to work on your application, they are scamming you. Check out our website at www.ci-is.org or call 773-282-8445.

Raia works for Chicago Irish Immigration Support.

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Where is God leading us? That is a question that many of us pray about for our personal lives, but it is also a question that my staff and I pray about at Catholic Charities.

With 150 programs at more than 160 locations throughout Cook and Lake Counties, it is Catholic Charities' mission to bring compassionate, professional, and comprehensive social services to neighborhoods that face multiple challenges. We are constantly taking the pulse of community needs, evaluating our programs, assessing new opportunities, and asking for the Holy Spirit to lead us to the places and the people who need us the most. When we decide to open a new office, we do so with love, ensuring that our services genuinely reflect the hope and light of Christ. This year, Catholic Charities is very blessed to expand our services to four more community-based locations.

The opening of our new Regional Office at St. Gall Parish brings a variety of programs to this community with a vibrant immigrant history. Parishioners and local residents, who are currently predominately Hispanic, can now have easy access to counseling, senior services, support groups, immigrant services, maternal wellness, legal assistance, and other needed programs in a trusted and welcoming environment right in their own parish.

In Uptown, Catholic Charities was asked to take over for an agency that could no longer fulfill its obligation with the CHA. Soon we will be helping public housing residents with "wrap-around" services such as counseling, case management, and job training. This space will enable us to bring our Refugee Resettlement Program into one of the most diverse neighborhoods of the city.

At St. Mary of the Angels, we are partnering with the parish to bring counseling, domestic violence services, drug intervention, adoption, and HIV/

AIDS programs into this thriving West Side community that has a multitude of needs.

Catholic Charities is also very excited about our new collaboration with the Sisters of Casimir in Marquette Park on the Southwest Side. For 100 years, the Sisters have made an immeasurable contribution to the community, founding Holy Cross Hospital (now operated by Sinai Health System), Mother Maria High School (now Catalyst Maria High School), a community center, and many other services. As their numbers decline and the remaining Sisters age, they have been remarkable stewards of their institutions, establishing partnerships that have ensured the continuation of their sacred mission.

Catholic Charities has become one of the Sisters' partners. We will take over the Motherhouse campus, including the beautiful Chapel where Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas, Foundress of the Sisters of Casimir, is buried. The large property will become home to many Catholic Charities programs and hundreds of staff. Homeless and housing programs, teen parenting services, counseling, information and referral, addiction services, and many more programs will be brought to this location. Soon the large buildings will be brimming with life again, carrying on the Sisters tradition to respond to the needs of the time and live the mission of Jesus to care for those most in need.

Catholic Charities is truly blessed with wonderful volunteers, board members, and donors who make service expansions like these possible. Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas had a simple, yet profound saying that I think also describes Catholic Charities' philosophy: "Always more, always better, always with love." It is our honor to always do more, always strive to do it better, and always serve people with love.



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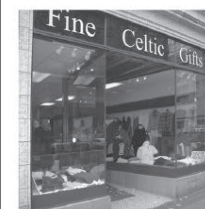
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Burmese Sunset

Near Chicago, the bench trial of a black policeman charged with reckless homicide in the shooting death of World War II veteran John Wrana just ended, with a ruling expected early February.

Michael Brown, Eric Garner, John Wrana- three civilians who died in confrontations with police- but only the first two gained massive national media attention and sympathy. It's hard not to conclude that's because Wrana was a white victim, the others black.

The hate of Ismaiyil Brinsley who coolly assassinated two policeman in New York was certainly fanned by five months of continuous press coverage and protests against police, growing in heat and intensity until December 13 when a large group of "activists" marched through the streets of Manhattan chanting "Whadda we want? Dead cops! When do we want it? Now!" Days later two Brooklyn policemen were ambushed and murdered by an angry Brinsley, seeking to avenge the black man, Eric Garner, of whom he had heard so much

for so long.

Following the assassinations, 'movement' leaders bristled at any suggestion they pause their protests. Al Sharpton's powerful political ally, New York City's rookie Mayor Bill de Blasio, requested that protests cease while families of the policemen bury their dead: "Let's comfort these families, let's see them through these funerals," he said, "Then debate can begin again." Sharpton rebuffed him, calling it: "an ill-defined request."

John Wrana, 95, was one of the last of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation" who rose amid the Great Depression. A decorated Army Air Corps veteran of the US campaign in Burma, he lived at the Victory Center assisted care facility in Park Forest, IL, a postwar suburb nicknamed "GI town", with road names like 'Victory' and 'Liberty', built to house returning WWII veterans and their families.

July 26, 2013. Wrana, likely delusional from a urinary tract infection, wasn't letting anyone lay hands on him when nursing

home staff came to take him to the hospital for treatment. He batted at an ambulance attendant with his walking cane.

Elderly Care 101: Every (non-comatose) attendant at a nursing home or ambulance service should know that Assisted Care means "to help adults live independently in a safe environment". They should also know: "The population most likely to experience urinary tract infections (UTIs) is the elderly... Elderly people with serious urinary tract infection don't exhibit the hallmark sign of fever because their immune system is unable to mount a response to infection... UTIs in the elderly are often mistaken as the early stages of dementia or Alzheimer's... because symptoms include: confusion, or delirium-like state, agitation, hallucinations and other behavioral changes, poor motor skills, dizziness and falling." (National Institutes of Health)

But Victory Home staff opted to call police to force John Wrana into the hospital. When officers arrived, Wrana tried to keep them at bay with things at hand in his room: a shoehorn, then a small knife. The officers called others, and asked a supervisor to bring a riot shield.

John wouldn't come out, so police escalated. Five officers forcibly entered Wrana's room for "a

violent extrication". crashed in. The commander, riot shield in left hand and Taser in his right, tried to shock Wrana, but failed.

Taser use 101: for non-comatose officers: "Some individuals may be particularly susceptible to the effects... (For) the elderly, those with heart conditions, asthma or other pulmonary conditions, and people suffering from excited delirium... (a Taser) may cause or contribute to sudden death."

The Taser missed. Taylor then fired a 'bean bag' round at Wrana from a range of 5 to 7 feet.

"Bean bag" round- the term has the same connotation as "rubber" bullet, suggesting a child's toy; a Bozo's Circus prop that kiddies toss at buckets. But the bags are not packed with beans, rather some 40 grams (1.4 oz.) of #9 lead shot. That's equal in weight to about sixteen .22 long rifle slugs per bag! This bagful of lead shot is fired from a standard 12 gauge shotgun at 230 to 300 feet per second (up to 204 miles per hour) impacting one sq. inch of body area.

Additional Beanbag 101 facts for the non-comatose: The manufacturer's instructions warn that tests by the US Army Land Warfare Laboratory found the round has: "a high probability of producing Severe Damage at ranges shorter than 15 feet". (In fact, these rounds can be lethal at thirty feet; or even at fifty feet if a person is struck in the head or heart area).

'Severe Damage' includes serious skin lacerations, massive skull fractures, rupture of the heart and kidney, fragmentation of the liver, and hemorrhages. This ammunition has a high probability of being lethal or producing Severe Damage as defined above at less than 5 yds." The ammo literature also lists areas restricting the use of bean bag rounds, including Chicago, noting "FOID required for all IL Cities."

Craig Taylor stood at less than half that distance (5 to 7 feet) opening fire on the diminutive, ailing 95 year old war vet. Taylor then blasted 4 additional rounds.

Taylor was the only officer on trial. Something appears seriously wrong with Taylor. But something is also seriously wrong with training, discipline and procedure in

the Park Forest Police Department and also the Victory Center home.

Eckel: "Everybody believes this was a justified shooting". Taylor: "I felt that I did my job... what my superiors wanted me to do". He showed no emotion speaking of the shooting, nor even a word of regret for blasting Wrana into eternity. Instead Taylor used the press conference to appeal for public sympathy: "My youngest daughter- when I told her, she took it to heart. She asked me - she said: 'Daddy, why are they arresting you for doing your job? Why are they arresting you because you were doing what they told (them) to do? And my answer was: 'I don't know.'" Inserting his baby daughter into his defense.

By April last year other officers involved were claiming to have been in fear of their lives. They described Wrana's table or steak knife as "a twelve-inch butcher knife" and claimed they "mistook it for a machete" the shoe horn Wrana was holding. It gets better.

Paramedic Chya Hughes claimed the old veteran (apparently seated when they crashed through his door) "jumped out of the chair with the speed of an MMA fighter". Miracles never cease! A 95-year-old veteran shuffling around with a cane and walker, suddenly morphs into a lightning-quick mixed martial artist, striking cold fear into the hearts of five beefy policemen and assorted emergency workers. A pair or two of undershorts soiled by these panic-stricken police and paras would lend their story a little weight.

Prosecutors claimed Wrana died after refusing an operation to stanch internal bleeding. Wrana's family disputes this, saying the vet long had a do-not-resuscitate order in place, and a doctor told them that due to massive wounds inflicted by Taylor, he would likely not survive surgery. A doctor called his step-daughter, Sharon Mangerson, saying Wrana wanted to speak with her. "He just said, 'Thank you for everything you've done for me'" said Mangerson, "I love you and goodbye." That was it." Five hours after Taylor shot him, the old vet died.



The 16th Chicago Irish Film Festival brings some of the best of contemporary Irish film to Chicago. This year we have an amazing selection of narrative features, documentaries and Irish shorts. Highlights of the festival include Filmbase's charming rom-com *Poison Pen*, Tom Collin's edgy crime thriller *An Brontannas*, Patrick Ryan's tension filled revenge film *Darkness on the Edge of Town* and Brian Reddin's humorous tribute to filmmaker Roger Corman in *It Came from Connemara*. This year's films shed a new light on many aspects of Irish life, history an identity that will surprise, entertain and fascinate: come and enjoy the Féile.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



The Habits Of A Lifetime

My usual Christmas trip back to Derry was delayed this year until after the holiday. Since my mother's 80th birthday was in January, a time when I'd normally be back in the U.S, I planned to return to Ireland later than usual. In the months leading up to my departure, my sisters and I worked on what sort of party to throw this amazing lady. Coming from a family of 8, she had 8 children of her own, over 30 grandchildren, followed by a smattering of great grandchildren. With such a legacy, we were eager to celebrate with friends and family the matriarch's finest hour, or at least one of them with a big party. When the idea was suggested to mother it was crushingly deflated by the honoured one. The large affair was instead to become a small intimate dinner with family members. An easy compromise you might think, but location became almost as problematic as size had earlier. One place deemed too expensive, the other too cheap, and middle option just right.

With the hard work of negotiations over, I flew into Dublin intent to make this a memorable trip. Arriving in homeland with gigantic expectations of the holiday, I was, within a day or two, reduced to a weakling by a cold in the chest. Most of my time was spent buying over the counter medications, and bed rest. I had, it seemed, caught something that was going around. And, lucky me, I was chosen to be one the sickly elite. I tried to minimize my time around family members, especially my mother since this bug might be the very thing to do her in before her birthday. The few brave individuals who ferried me around in their cars seemed unperturbed by the invisible assailant as though bravery were enough to ward off its effects. A foolhardy decision as time would tell.

On the actual day of the party, my fever had reached a pitch that made it almost impossible for me to attend, but I was determined to be there no matter what happened. Mother was greeted with cards, gifts, and attention. She lapped up the hugs and kisses (none from the infected one), and indulged us with a hearty smile of contentment. She

was in her element. Throughout the meal others would wish her well, dropping off flowers and gifts. Everyone ate and drank heartily, except me.

From my vantage point, the whole thing felt as though someone kept turning the heat up. Sweating profusely, I was finding it hard to not want to rush out into the winter's night to cool down. Try as I might to engage in conversation, I was just not myself. Feeling miserable when all around you are partying does not make a dull man happy, so I left. I justified my early departure to my mother from afar (a pointless effort since she's become increasing deaf and my sentiment was echoed by more than one voice as it was carried closer to her) I had to go and get more medication. She nodded, and that was it. Some brave soul again offered to take me home despite the danger. The months of planning had ended in a weak cough of exhaustion.

My guilty, and depressed state was quickly lifted the next day when I found out that having gathered, immediate family, grandchildren, and friends together to continue the party after dinner, mother also went AWOL. Her illness, not detectable thorough the evening, had surfaced at the climax of the night after the blowing out of the candles. And, while everyone drank her health, she got up with my sister and disappeared. Gone, like Bilbo Baggins at the beginning of the Lord of the Rings, without a trace.

It's hard, if not impossible to imagine how a woman who cannot walk without the aid of a three-wheeler walker rushing away into the night without someone catching a glimpse of her. Gone she was, and the party continued, undeterred by the missing guest of honour. There was no search party sent out. No raised eyebrows. It was as if she was never there.

Why, you might wonder would there be such a blatant lack of concern? It's quite simple. Everyone one at that party knew the cause of mother's disappearance. There was nothing suspicious about the escapee. No foul play at work. And, once I had been told of her leaving five letters lit up in my mind like an Irish menorah: BINGO.

Having dispensed of her duty, mother was ready to leave her gift at the gambling altar. Never a slave to convention, this 80-year-old woman was going to her usual place of worship. She had dined, mingled, and entertained with us enough but now it was 'her' time. It was a life long tradition each of us knew well. Mother, a confirmed devotee of the

numbers game with its funny litanies of: two fat ladies 88, key of the door 21, legs 11, top of the house 90, two little ducks 22 etc., was gone in search of bigger gains. It all made sense to me now. The dismissal of the big party, the location of the dinner etc. had been carefully selected to accommodate the bingo gods and their acolyte.

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BALSON BANGERS ARE BACK!

RJ Balson & Son has been practicing butchery since the year 1515, an incredible 500 years. The family butchers from Southwest England are the oldest in Europe. Since 2007, the Balson family has made their award winning English/Irish specialty meats available in the USA through their online store (www.buybangers.com) and through specialty shops across the country.

Starting the first week of February while supplies last, “Balson Bangers” will be stocked and sold at all COSTCO club locations in the Northeast and Midwest (see map below). These traditional sausages are sold in a 2 lb. pack and can be frozen for up to 12 months. The following COSTCO Club Regions are stocking ... **NORTHEAST**; VA, WV, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and Wash. DC; **MIDWEST**; KY, KS, NE, MO, IA, IL, IN, OH, MI, WI, and MN.

RJ Balson USA President Oliver Balson says, “We are thrilled with these placements. We are continually working hard to make English/Irish products more accessible here in the U.S., and we couldn’t think of a better way to do so than work with COSTCO again on our 500th Anniversary! We are encouraging club members to stock up on the bangers, as the price is exceptional and they freeze well. This presents a huge opportunity for shoppers to show COSTCO that there is a strong demand for traditional English and Irish items. We are grateful for the support we are receiving from the Ex-Pat community here in the States, and we are humbled to be a part of bringing these traditional items to U.S. markets.”



