



Have a Happy Irish Christmas!

Weaving Tradition into the Fabric of Modern Life

For over thirty years, Triona Design, located in the heart of Ireland's North West, has specialized in producing genuine Donegal tweed garments by traditional means.

Started by fifth generation weaver Dennis Mulhern, the tweed company has gone from strength to strength. By offering customers the traditional native cloth of Donegal with a contemporary twist, Triona Design, has amassed a large following of loyal customers across the globe.

Mulhern also established Donegal's

first and only Tourism Ireland approved tweed centre to cater for visitors wishing to learn about traditional hand weaving.

"I learnt everything the hard way," the Irishman says with a chuckle.

Dennis grew up in the small village [pop.731] of Ardara located in the South West of Donegal. During the fifties, the region, famed for both its captivating beauty and equally unforgiving terrain, was the epicentre for production of the world renowned Donegal homespun tweeds.

Reminiscing Dennis says "Back then you either were a farmer, a fisherman, or a weaver..."

"My father had reared us on the money he made from weaving, his father had reared him and that's the way it was"

And so Dennis joined the family business.

"I turned 14 on the Friday," Dennis recalls in a deep Donegal drawl, "And on the Monday, I went to work in the "old mart" where all the weaving was done in the village."

The teenager was a natural and soon graduated from winding the yarn onto bobbins to operating the wooden handlooms.

As was another tradition in the area, Dennis emigrated to London at age 19. It was to be a brief flirtation with city living before he soon returned to his native land in the late seventies.

In his short absence, Ardara, a once thriving village had changed. Its indigenous garment industry had been disseminated thanks to the automation of production and the rise of cheaper fabrics easily produced in bulk.

Despite an uncertain future, Dennis, returned to his weaving and in the backdrop of the family's living room, Triona Design, was born.

"I suppose you could say I always had a thing for it [tweed]," he shrugs.

A strong desire to hand craft Donegal tweed fated the weaver to years of struggle however sheer doggedness and an entrepreneurial spirit soon ensured the fortunes of Triona Design would change.

For years, Dennis, had walked past the "old mart" where he first started his weaving career. The building once at the heart of the village's thriving tweed industry now stood empty and in ruins.

"I always had an eye on the building," the weaver recalled, "It was such an important part of our neighborhood."

Dennis's innate business savvy mixed

with a bit of Irish luck soon found him in talks with the national tourism board to open up a centre in Ardara to showcase the craft of Donegal tweed.

"We knew we had a good idea....." he said. Tourism Ireland agreed.

In 1984, the Mulhern's welcomed their first visitors and thirty one years later, the "old mart" has once again become a thriving centre of Donegal tweed production.

"Not bad for a boy who left school at 14" Dennis jokes as a glimmer of pride lights up his dark nut brown eyes.

He estimates that nearly 70,000 visitors have come through the doors since the centre opened. A large majority of those visitors are Americans who travel around Ireland with CIE tours.

"They [Americans] love that we are a 100% Irish production. There is a certain prestige to owning a piece of Donegal Tweed. Americans have a deep appreciation for their Irish heritage."

Now in his sixties, Dennis is most proud of being able to ensure that weaving remains a family business. His wife



For more information, please visit www.trionadesign.com or join us over at Facebook/TrionaHouse

In the spirit of thanksgiving, Triona Design, is offering all Irish American News readers a special 10% discount to use on all purchases made at their online store: www.trionadesign.com.

Not only will you have exclusive access to the Triona Design range of Donegal tweed garments like jackets, capes, and



Dennis Mulhern working the traditional wooden hand loom

Ann welcomes the visitors, his son Kieran is the Director of the company, and his two daughters Patricia and Catriona both work on the front face of this ever expanding business. His two grandchild, Holly and Daniel, regularly delight and entertain visitors to the centre

"I think my father would be very proud of all of this...", he says surveying the revived "old mart." "He always had a great thing about tweed."

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Governor Martin O'Malley Democratic Presidential Candidate (C) in Chicago recently. Billy Lawless Jr. and Billy Lawless Sr. pictured.

Bridie Gallagher The Girl from Donegal

by Jim Livingstone

'I always say Bridie was the first to pave the way for all of us that came after.' Daniel O'Donnell

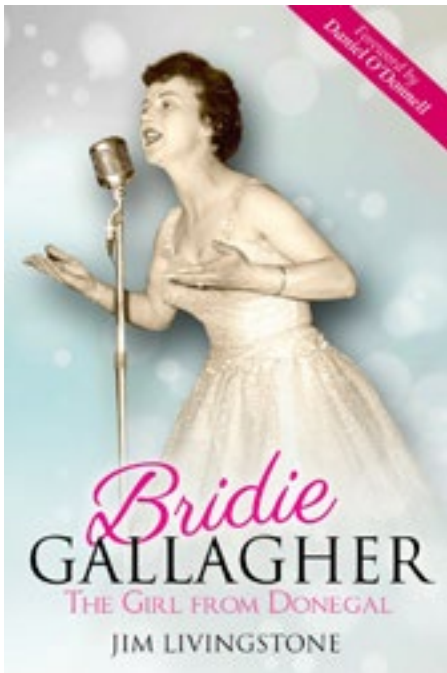
Known as 'the Girl from Donegal', Bridie Gallagher was Ireland's first truly international pop star. Over a 50-year career she sang at sell-out concerts everywhere from small halls across Ireland to leading venues such as the London Palladium, Royal Albert Hall, the Lincoln Centre in New York and Sydney's Opera House.

She brought glamour to show business in Ireland, and gave new life to forgotten Irish ballads. Her rise to fame began in the mid-1950s and was marked by enormous crowds wherever she appeared as she won the hearts of legions of fans loyal ever since. But as well as phenomenal success, her life was marked by tragedy and loss.

This biography by her son, Jim Livingstone, draws upon Bridie's own hand-written memoir, interviews with friends, fans and professional colleagues, and Jim's own personal insights, having worked closely with her as manager and musical director for 25 years.

This is the story of a young, beautiful and talented girl from humble beginnings in Donegal who established a career in show business that was to endure for 50 years.

Jim Livingstone is the only surviving son of Bridie Gallagher. A qualified psychologist, after a career in the NI civil service, he retired in 2012. From 1974 he



was his mother's business manager and, for a period, musical director until she retired in 2000. He toured with her in Ireland, Britain and North America and, more than anyone else, knew and understood the woman who won the hearts of millions of Irish people around the world during a career of fifty years.

Price €19.99/£17.99 • Hardback • October 2015 978184882576 • 234 x 156 mm • 224 pp • Biography

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On Our Cover:

The Irish Times is a true destination pub; the perfect place to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Owner Martin Lynch, a native of Athenry, Co. Galway, Ireland, brings a big slice of his homeland to Chicago. The Irish Times was previously owned by Lynch's uncle Martin Cosgrave, who created the pub in 1991. Lynch took over the business in 2008 determined to expand the premises while remaining faithful to his vision of the quintessentially "Irish" pub – a place that people would travel to from miles

around; a place for friends, music, food and good times.

You'll find genuine Irish whiskeys, ales and beers (and faces) behind the bar, and also a business with a big recycling programme, commitment to efficient gas and electric usage and a dedication to sourcing as much local produce as possible (including beers from local craft breweries). These ingredients are used in classic, home-made favorites such as corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie and fish & chips, all from family recipes.

708.485.8787 | 8869 Burlington Ave; Brookfield, IL

Doolin Writers Competition 2016

Entries are now being invited for short stories and poems ahead of the closing date of February 5, 2016.

Dave Lordan will judge the poetry competition and Anthony Glavin will judge the Short Story with €1000 and publication in Banshee Literary Journal up for grabs for the overall winner of each category.

Meanwhile, Hotel Doolin has confirmed the weekend of the 4th-6th March for the 4th annual Doolin Writers' Weekend, which will again play host to some of the country's leading writers. Joseph O'Connor will launch this year's Writers' Weekend with the final line-up of participating poets and writers will to be announced in early January.



"This festival presents a great opportunity for aspiring writers as well as literary fans and established authors to get together and mix," explained Donal Minihane, Event Organiser and Hotel Doolin General Manager.

He continued: "Anne Enright, Ireland's Laureate of Fiction, has previously said there is no VIP room in Irish Literature and this is especially true for the Doolin Writers' Weekend. One of the key aspects of the Festival for us is that it has the feel of a community. It's early days yet, but there is already a great sense that people will join us here every year and just pick up where things left off with audiences and artists feeling at one and just enjoying the communal spirit of the weekend."

"Doolin has long been associated with the arts, providing inspiration for musicians, painters & writers," added Mr. Minihane. "Many of the greats spent time in Doolin, including JM Synge, George Bernard Shaw, Dylan Thomas, Augustus John and Oliver St. Gogarty. Post-crash Ireland is on the cusp of a new literary boom and we look forward to welcoming a new wave of bold and original writers to Doolin."

Visit www.doolinwritersweekend.com for further information or to enter the Doolin Writers Competition 2016.

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ANNIVERSARY



Frank & Sherry (née: Hooste) Avila Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Frank met Sherry who was from Peoria at Esther Hall, a Methodist Girls' Club, Chicago. Frank & Sherry married November 27, 1965 at Broadway United Methodist Church, Chicago. They are blessed to have 3 wonderful children & 2 grandchildren: Frank (Rachel) & 19 yr Clarence & 4 yr Thalia; Quinn (Jackie); & Audrey. Frank serves as Commissioner of the Water Reclamation District. Frank & Sherry celebrated their 50th with a trip to Belgium & the Netherlands. They attribute the success of their marriage to sharing an intense love of family, laughter, education, the world, travel, & the fine arts. Frank & Sherry thank everybody who has touched their lives in the last 50 years.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

We're just past Thanksgiving, and I send my most recent thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 Carraig Challenge 5K in support of Gaelic Park charities, and my congratulations to all the winners and everyone who finished the run. Thanks also to the Gaelic Park Players for entertaining us with nine performances of *Troubled Bachelors* in November, and thanks to all who supported our Super Fundraiser.

The Willoughby Brothers are coming back to Gaelic Park on December 12th to perform an Irish Family Christmas Concert. These five brothers from Wicklow put on a great show for us in 2013, and we eagerly anticipate their return this year. For those who can't make

the concert, there are other opportunities to include Gaelic Park in your Christmas and New Year celebrations. The Carraig Pub will have a full line-up of entertainment, and the Mingle and Jingle Christmas parties and the family New Year's Eve party are great ways to celebrate. There is also an opportunity for sharing, as we are once again participating in a Giving Tree in partnership with St. Damian Parish.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Chicago Gaelic Park, I wish you and your family a Happy Christmas, and safety, freedom, health and prosperity in 2016.

Slán go fóil,
Bill O'Sullivan, President

2015 CGP Calendar of Events 2015

DECEMBER

12/2	Monthly Musical Luncheon Joe Cullen *RR	1:00pm NOON
12/6	Classic Carvery	3:00pm
12/9	Gaelic Park LADIES AUXILIARY meeting	7:30pm
12/13	Mass & Breakfast	10:00am
12/13	Classic Carvery - Richie Z	3:00pm
12/20	Classic Carvery - Bernie Glim	3:00pm
12/27	Classic Carvery - Ray Gavin	3:00pm
12/31	New Year's Eve DJ - Champagne Toast - Buffet - Party Favors	

*RR = Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Monthly Musical Luncheon Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm for just \$15 per person. *RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

Set Dancing Monday Evenings 7:30pm

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

*** Winter Break December 15 - February 16, 2016 ***

Pub Trivia Tuesdays 7:30pm

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



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Fri	Dec 4	Kara and Jerry	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 5	Joe McShane	8:30pm
Wed	Dec 9	Frank Rossi	
Fri	Dec 11	Rhonda Lee and Jimmy O	9:00pm
Sat	Dec 12	Billy O'Donohue and Larry Nugent	8:30pm
Fri	Dec 18	Kieran Byrne	9:00pm
Sat	Dec 19	Bernie Glim	8:30pm
Sat	Dec 26	TBA	

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Halloween at Gaelic Park Moments!



Chicago Gaelic Park's

FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

On New Year's Eve, Celebrate Ireland's Midnight Hour at Chicago Gaelic Park's Family New Year's Eve Party!

Thursday, December 31, 2015

4:00pm-8:00pm

Buffet Dinner 5:00pm

Kids Sparkling Juice Toast 6:00pm

Adults Champagne Toast 6:00pm

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Saturday February 06, 2016

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THE WILLOUGHBY BROTHERS APPEARING AT GAELIC PARK

Gaelic Park is proud to present An Irish Family Christmas featuring The Willoughby Brothers in concert on Saturday, December 12th, 2015. Doors to the show open at 7pm and concert starts at 8pm. The five brothers, with a passion for singing and performing from a very young age, hail from Co. Wicklow in Ireland. Their repertoire features a blend of Irish ballads, popular classics and contemporary songs. They have just completed a very successful Irish tour and have made several appearances on RTE television and performed at the Rose of Tralee festival.

Des Willoughby, the second eldest of the group, is already prominent in the music industry as a successful tenor. He has performed

in the U.S. both as a soloist and as a member of the Three Irish Tenors. The highlight of his career so far has been performing the Irish National Anthem at Croke Park for a number of All-Ireland finals in front of audiences of 80,000 plus.

Tickets for The Willoughby Brothers An Irish Family Christmas concert are \$25.00, and can be reserved by calling Gaelic



Park at 708-687-9323. For more information on Gaelic Park and its activities please visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org.



Thanks to the Dublin Gaelic Football players for bringing the Sam Maguire Cup to Gaelic Park. Congratulations to them for their 2015 victory and for looking so good in their Gaelic Park scarves.

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For Tickets, Please Contact:
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cswasey@gmp.org

A huge thank you to our wonderful audience for making our fall show *Troubled Bachelors* by AJ Stanley a success! Our fall production showcased familiar faces as well as new ones and we would like to thank them all for their wonderful performances. We look forward to sharing our spring production of *Shadow of a Gunman* with our loyal audiences.



If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at Gaelic Park. Anyone who is interested in either auditioning for our spring production or being a part of the crew please join us for a meeting or contact us via the website gaelicparkplayers.org. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!



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Maureen O'Hara Laid to Rest

By Cliff Carlson

Maureen O'Hara was laid to rest yesterday, November 9, 2015, beside her husband, Charles Blair, in Arlington National Cemetery.

One of Maureen's best friends in Ireland, Sally Ryan, made the trip over as well as a contingent of Irish from Glengariff in County Cork, the town she loved so well. The owner of Casey's Hotel in Glengariff, Donal Deasy, was there as well as the Lyné's



"was like an aunt to me. She came to all my children's weddings, she said."

Her manager, Johnny Nicoletti, and Charles Blair's family were in attendance as well, paying respects from all corners of America.

Maureen, who passed away in her sleep October 24, 2015 at her grandson's home in Boise, Idaho, was given a grand send off by Chicago's Shannon Rovers, who were honored to perform at this mostly private event at the invitation of Maureen's grandson, Conor Beau FitzSimons.

and the O'Sullivan's. Margaret O'Shaughnessy of the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum also made the trip from County Limerick. "Maureen helped us launch the opening of the museum," she said.

Catherine O'Connell sang beautifully at the wake, the Mass, and the funeral.

Others who made the long trip to honor Maureen included John Wayne's daughter, Melinda Munoz, who appeared as a child in "The Quite Man." "Maureen

Brian Downes, Executive Director of the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, and his daughter Katie traveled from Winterset, Iowa, and were a big reason the Shannon Rovers were there. Brian had invited several members of the band to play at the opening of the museum and Maureen was on hand to help with the launch. Miss O'Hara loved the Rovers so much that her grandson Conor invited them to be a part of the funeral.

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The wake, the Mass, and the funeral were held in Washington D.C., with rain holding off as if by divine direction until the ceremonies were well over.

Long time Shannon Rovers Band manager Bill McTighe was

able to gather 45 band members in six short days to make the trip to Washington D.C. "We were truly honored to be invited and to make the trip. I believe even more of our band members would have liked to go if they

could!"

Irish Times reporter, Simon Carswell, was on hand doing his usual fine job, but I saw no other Irish press.

I wonder if Ireland knows what a treasure they have lost?





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Is Your Day Too Long, or Too Short?

One of the songs that many of us remember fondly was sung by that great songstress Dinah Washington (1924-1963): "What a difference a day made...Twenty four little hours...Brought the sun and the flowers...Where there used to be rain...."

A friend of mine sent me an AGE calculator; you enter the date of your birth into the web site and it tells you how many days you have lived. I was really struck by its calculation. It showed me that I was XX years old and that I had lived for XX number of days. (I am not trying to be mysterious, but as my beloved mother used to say, you don't need to know how old I am.) As an extra treat, they will also advise you the day of the week you were born.

Let's just say that for discussion purposes, I have been alive more than 20,000 days. As I read the actual number of days that I have been alive, higher than 20,000 of course, I found myself wondering where all those days went and how well I used them. As the TV commercial says, "the days are long but the years are short", before you know it your life has past you by.

I am not going to try to compare my/your daily life to the trials Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote of in A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, about daily life in a Russian concentration camp. But think about it, how do you spend your days? Do you organize your days? Do you follow a daily routine? Do you accomplish some significant task every day?

Many of us procrastinate, putting off doing things that should be done NOW. Our excuse is commonly, oh well, there is always tomorrow (or another day). But none of us get a "do over" day. With the passage of every moment, our lives leave that mo-

ment in our past, never to be visited again in our lifetime. What would you do if you knew that today was your last day on earth? Would you perform great acts of generosity, bravery or prayer? Obviously people would react differently to that realization. I once heard someone say that a person questioned St. Francis of Assisi on this matter and he reportedly said, I believe I would finish planting this next row of beans.

Hopefully we all come to recognize that tomorrow can impact on us and change our lives forever. Imagine for a moment, the death of a loved one today, that event might affect you for the rest of your life. Don't you occasionally hear people say that "I think of or pray for some dear friend or relative every day?" The loved one was alive yesterday but has moved onto another dimension today.

You can claim that you did something of importance at work today. The truth is it is easy to "think" you have accomplished something on any given day, but are you just blowing smoke? Do you hold yourself to a standard of performance? Do you step back at the end of the day and survey your day's results? You can find studies that say many people only perform the bare minimum of work necessary to fool/impress their supervisor. Whereas other people work very diligently to give their employer a fair day's results for a fair day's pay. How would you rate yourself TODAY? Would you be comfortable standing up and sharing your achievements for the day with your fellow employees?

How many days do you really remember? Perhaps your college graduation. Likely your wedding day. The day your first child was born. But I am not sure that many of us really remember when our first child spoke their first word; that awesome day has slipped away from our mind, we couldn't retrieve it under any circumstances. Maybe the answer to our forgetfulness is to focus our attention on the importance of daily events. As they say, be there in the moment. Hopefully that would help us to remember the day/the event with much more detail and specificity.

When you reflect on your life, do you recall more good days than bad ones? If that is not the case maybe you need to examine how you are spending your life. Maybe you are racing through your life without savoring any of it. Perhaps you are always looking forward to some future

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



day, like when we were kids, "my birthday party is only 8 days away...now it's 7 days and so forth."

Life, including our work, could be more enjoyable if we established some priorities and met our goals. Don't you feel a bit of a high when you finally complete a specific task, whether it is painting the porch or washing/waxing the family car or bringing in a new client?

How about making a decision that you will focus your attention on enjoying one, maybe two, days per week in particular, as a gift to yourself? If you do, I am willing to bet that you will enjoy your job and your life even more than you do now. CARPE DIEM.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based senior executive coaching and outplacement firm. Jamesfitz37@hotmail.com. Web site: Jamesfitzgerald.com



Dear Jim Fitzgerald

I am fortunate to be on your lists. The insight to sales and employee training are right on. To run a great company, you need great employees.

And the continuous "Thank You" are the best words to improve morale and to have a great staff. More importantly, it gives me great ideas to pass on to my children and grand children. We have had wonderful results with improving their career choices.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Masters of the Fist

In the John Ford classic "The Long Grey Line," an Irish immigrant gets his chance at American life by taking a job as a waiter for the dining mess of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Martin Maher, played by the always wonderful Tyrone Power, soon learns that he can become free of mounting debt, due to his breakage of plates, cups and saucers, while serving the cadets, if he joins the Army. That he does.

Maher finds a place in life as an athletic manager for West Point's Master of the Sword, the anachronistic term for Athletic Director, played by the always wonderful Ward Bond. We no longer have 'always wonderful' actors anymore, it seems to me, because Hollywood, like politics, academics and the law is dominated by jerks whop take themselves way too seriously. That said, John Ford's wonderful movie about West Point (Honor, Duty, & Country) and its impact one Greenhorn should be required viewing - for anyone.

West Point is place where young Americans and young immigrants to America continue to learn honor, duty and country and take those lessons into harm's way for all of us.

In one of the more delightful scenes in this film, Martin Maher is asked to give boxing lessons to warriors. The bantyrooster Irishman is decked seconds upon entering square ring, the Master of the Sword. He takes his licks and learns to dish out portions of his own, but more so the genuine love he bears for the cadets under his charge.

These cadets will go into the trenches of France during WWI and global killing fields of WWII and eventually Korea, in Ford's film. These heroes learned the tri-pointed lessons not only in the classroom and parade grounds, but on the basketball courts baseball and football fields, tracks and boxing rings of West Point. Boyd Melson (Class of 2003) who fought with the Star of David on his boxing trunks would go on to the welter-weight Championships of US ARMY and World Military Championship in 2004, as well as the quarter finals for the World Amateur Boxing Championship. Melson knows

Honor Duty and Country.

Honor, duty and country. These are words cause media anchors to smirk and academics to dismiss as justification of genocide, racism and classism. Warriors are as anachronistic to the craven sophisticates of our society, as the term Master of the Sword.

Leo Alumnus and United States Army Master Sergeant Marvin Carey captained the Army's Boxing team, as well served in Iraq and Afghanistan with ground combat units. Marvin Carey knows Honor, Duty and Country. The corner stone of Leo High School laid by Cardinal George Mundelein, a fierce American, is engraved with Latin motto Pro Deo et Patria - for God and Country. I have yet to see that on any public school.

Leo High School on 79th Street, like every Catholic high school I know of, holds honor, duty and country to his heaving chest. Leo High School has conducted a Veterans Observance at the Leo War Memorial for more than twenty years. Many Leo graduates died in the service of our country and more than a few are graduates of America's service academies.

West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force and the Coast Guard Academy have welcomed Leo Men for the last eighty years and now it is our turn. The West Point

Society of Chicago will partner with Leo High School in showing inner city youth the West Point Way. West Point Boxing Club will join the Leo Boxing Club and the Celtic Boxing Foundation of Chicago in demonstrations and exhibitions of the manly art of self-defense.

Leo Boxing Coach, Mike Joyce was contacted by the West Point Society to help provide assistance in bringing the vales of Honor, Duty and Country to boxing rings here at Leo High School and at a yet to be determined venue for an evening of boxing.

When Irish American News hits the stands in September, I will provide more details about this great partnership between schools and more specific information like ticket prices and the exact location for this event listed below by West Point Society -

"On Saturday, September 19th, the team will conduct a boxing clinic in Chicago for middle school to early high school students, and that evening will be putting on a boxing exhibition consisting of eight bouts, complete with announcers, officials and local youth boxers from Chicago that evening. Eight cadets will match up with local boxers, with the goal of highlighting good sportsmanship and awareness. Proceeds from the event will be used in veterans' programs"

The Master of Sword might belong to the mists of memory, come out and see the masters of the fist offer lessons in duty, honor and country.

Call me at Leo High School for updates at (773) 224-9600 extension 208.

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The Flood Brothers were recently honored in Chicago with the Order of St. Patrick for their major role in the promotion of Irish Heritage. They also recently received the Loyola Family Business of the Year award.

AOH Swears In New Members

At the November 4th monthly Ancient Order of Hibernians meeting nominations were taken for the 2016 slate of Officers and Trustees. It was also announced at this meeting that the Thanksgiving feed-

to America in the 1950s.

Two new brothers were sworn in November 4th, and they are Bill Resch (pictured left) and Marty McDonough. Bill is a construction manager with Toparius, Chicago and a Board Member of Special Olympics and of Catholic Charities in addition to being Director, Physical Plan-



Bill Resch and Marty McDonough.

ing of the less fortunate will be November 18th while Christmas dinners will be served Dec, 16th to the same group at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Chicago.

At the meeting brothers were given passes for the November 11th Chicago premier of the movie Brooklyn from AOH friend Mike Shevlin of Windy City Irish Radio. Brooklyn is about the trials and tribulations of an Irish lass who moves

ning for Misericordia. Marty is in property management, and is a Board Member of The Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago.

For details on all Division 32 AOH activities and a membership application to our 179 year old organization based on Friendship-Unity- and Christian Charity, please review our website of AOOH.ORG.

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



A Million Refugees- And More to Come!

2015 has seen much of the empty rhetoric surrounding the "European Project" and the falsely labelled "European Union" put to the test and found wanting. As the year ends fissures are becoming evident which have the potential to derail the slow groping progress towards a federal Europe. One issue dominates.

Who now gives a second thought to Europe's early 2015 preoccupation with Greek debt? The Migrant Crisis – ongoing and threatening to get much worse in 2016 – has very much upset Europe's apperance and now occupies centre stage with its separate elements of the numbers and types involved, the destinations actual and desired, the disarray and disagreement over burden sharing between countries and the dark spectacle of a terrorist threat.

A million plus people have flooded into Europe in 2015, most in the second half of the year. I wrote in my June column "Europe's Rio Grande," about the rising flood of migrants along the traditional route into Europe, across the Mediterranean to the Italian islands via traffickers operating leaky vessels from the Libyan coast. Even then this route was being supplanted big time by a new wave of migrants, many from war-torn Syria and Iraq, arriving on the Greek islands of the Eastern Mediterranean after making the shorter and less perilous sea journey from Turkey. What started as a trickle became a torrent within a few short weeks.

As with the USA there is constant migration into and out of Europe. Much of it is legal and regulated. But a lot isn't, representing the efforts of desperate people, overwhelmingly poor, simply born in the wrong place, to gain access to the zone of prosper-

ity, peace and stability represented by the First World.

There IS an avenue in, sanctioned by the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, which guarantees sanctuary to those fleeing political or social upheaval or a well-founded fear of persecution. For some, claiming asylum is relatively straightforward and easily established. For many others verifying the claim can be lengthy and complicated, with some left for years in residential limbo, their circumstances and opportunities limited. The convenient collective name for these is "Asylum Seekers."

Others will simply never meet the criteria and, are dubbed, again for convenience, "Economic Migrants." In practice this has become a pejorative term confined to people from the Third World trying to enter the First World but lacking the qualifying criteria for political asylum. Thus the undocumented crossing the Rio Grande into the USA, plus many of the Africans and Asians seeking to enter Europe by whatever route.

And there's the rub. Economic Migrants (which includes those refused political asylum) have no rights of residence and are liable to be deported at the individual whim of countries. In practice most have been allowed to stay up to now for one or other humanitarian reason. In some countries – like the USA – it's having a child a citizen; in others it could be family circumstances, or hardship, or what could await at home, or even demographic factors producing a local demand for immigrants. Worldwide the system is a mess, with lines blurred and inconsistencies in plenty.

But here's the other rub. Most of the current Asylum Seekers or Economic Migrants arriving at Europe's borders are not just poor but of different racial, religious or cultural backgrounds to the Europeans. A process of adjustment is

needed on both sides. The balance is a delicate one and, as the numbers of immigrants have risen, so also has opposition, particularly in Northern Europe, manifested by sporadic attacks on immigrants and the rise of political parties opposed to immigration. Think the "Know Nothings" of the 1840s transmuted to a European canvas. To their credit the mainstream political parties have held the line – until now.

Enter 2015. One million migrants should be easily manageable in an EU of 500 million (Ireland, for example, absorbed 45,000 in five years at the turn of the Millennium). However, the million has arrived in four months, is adding to migrant numbers already here and has impacted disproportionately on several countries, with only token burden sharing, so that Germany, Sweden, Italy and Greece are struggling to cope.

Moreover there are forecasts of three times as many preparing to come, with fears that Europe may close its doors adding to the migrant surge.

Refugee children trying to enter Europe have been drowning by the score in the Mediterranean for years with token sympathy but not much else. However, the striking images of a drowned toddler washed up on a Greek island in September provoked a qualitatively different reaction, coming hard on footage of an abandoned truck off an Austrian motorway containing seventy one suffocated migrants.

A wave of sympathy and desire to help surged through European public opinion, one which continued and intensified as the boats arrived on islands like Kos and Lesbos, disgorging tens of thousands, including many whole families, all claiming to be fleeing war and persecution, from the Middle East, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Their destinations of preference were Germany and Sweden, both countries with a reputation for welcoming refugees (not wholly altruistic – Germany needs immigrants to bolster its numerically declining workforce).

When Germany declared it would accept all refugees from Syria, and the responsible Government Minister suggested that 800,000 could arrive in 2015, the flows intensified and are continuing as I write, often exceeding 10,000 a day. Stunning daily TV coverage showed thousands on the march to Germany via Greece, through the Balkans, Hungary and Austria, bypassing, incidentally, EU border controls at entry.

As the transit countries tried to cope separately with the multitudes passing through, Hungary was the first to break ranks, building a fence to regulate entry and exclude migrants. As Germany filled up, with officials struggling to manage the flow, bottlenecks built up elsewhere with border controls reintroduced within the theoretically borderless Schengen zone. Sweden faces 190,000 new arrivals this year, in a country of under ten million. The latest arrivals are being housed in tents as winter beckons.

Public sympathy for the migrants, while still considerable, has begun to ebb, amid suspicions that a large percentage are economic migrants rather than refugees and fears that unregulated entry may have allowed some terrorists in. With no end in sight there is also growing public concern at how to absorb and cater for

possible future flows on top of coping with those already arrived. Attempts to agree burden sharing among European countries have met with very limited success. Ireland will take 4,000 over time, Britain 20,000. Several countries have refused to take any or to take any non-Christians. Collectively and nationally Europe is in disarray, with friction developing between neighbours. The European Union is nonplussed on the issue of what to do, with no consensus in sight beyond suggestions that those found to be economic migrants be rapidly deported.

And still they come. I wrote last June that, in the age of the smart phone and the internet, the world's poor and less privileged were not going to remain spectators at the feast, particularly those just outside the banquet hall. They want in. This is now happening. 2016 promises to be interesting.

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Roving the Galaxy: Star Trek Continues

My most recent non-guilty pleasure is an absolutely fantastic show that most of my late Baby Boomer generation never forgot, and a unique few of our fifty-something band (along with a few people over 30 who it turns out can be trusted) have brought back to life, just as we first saw it on NBC, in living color.

It took all of 10 seconds for me and most boys my age to have

Captain Kirk on Star Trek as our instant hero. It's taken Vic Mignogna through his early 50's as he painstakingly recreated the look and feel of the original show to a dead-on accurate and artistic writing tour de force of action, adventure, morality play and science fiction found right on our computers, tablets, smart phones as the YouTube and internet sensation, Star Trek Continues.

This fantastic voyage, which in one sense has lasted 50 years

come September 2016, began with the three year long show which featured a five year mission that ended all too early in 1969, just short of man landing on the moon and Horatio Hornblower-esque Kirk guiding his 430 starship crewmembers home (give or take a few dozen mostly red-shirted casualties).

Like the indomitable Irish, Kirk (a Scottish name with more than a few émigré's to Ulster) didn't give up the Star Trek dream of traveling to places unknown by "Boldy Going Where No Man Has Gone Before." In popular syndication reruns, a mid 70's animated series and a Star Wars-ignited science fiction movie dynasty, Kirk would continue his 23rd century silver screen adventures into the 1990's and present day "reboot" films Star Trek and Star Trek Into Darkness.

Thanks to Mignogna our original love is back, taking us at warp speed back to the same multicultural and extraterrestrial explorations sprinkled with enough familiar Irishmen (ship's doctor McCoy, academy upper-class wag Finnegan, friend with a grudge Finney, and I'll Take You Home Kathleen -singing Lieutenant Kevin Riley) to make even a Vulcan like Mr. Spock green, white and orange with envy. Along with Mignogna's real-life fiancé and USS Enterprise ship's counselor Dr. Elise McKenna, played by Michele Specht with red-haired Irish vim and vigor.

"I decided if I was going to do this, I was going to do it right," says Mignogna, a highly successful voice actor for over 200 animated series & video games, along with stage, screen and music accomplishments. He personally funded the first episode of the new series as it seamlessly picked up where the original series left off. "I handpicked actors, writers, directors and production experts who would not only match the look and feel of the original show but also raise the bar of online fan fiction," says Mignogna, adding "After



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



I had skin in the game creating the first episode, (Pilgrim to Eternity starring original series star Michael Forest reprising his role as the Temple striding giant god Apollo dealing with his newfound mortality, aging and misplaced focus on receiving worship rather than serving others) and felt we could then ask others to contribute to what we had created."

A bit preachy? Not for preacher's kid, former beat cop and church music worship pastor Mignogna, a Liberty University grad who through prayer, faith and fate soon found himself heading a non-profit Enterprise presented with care and love in both production and personal values, by a cast and crew made up of believers in both the Creator of the Universe and the vision of the Star Trek creator and Great Bird of the Galaxy Gene Roddenberry. "It's amazing how it's all come together, and how well-received the first episodes have become."

Now funded predominantly by fan contributions in online funding campaigns, Star Trek Continues goes boldly where the original Star Trek never had the chance to- on to the end of the original mission and eventually the start of the continuing adventure in motion pictures.

"Think about that if you will," says the energy-filled Mignogna, whose vision, called the "flagship of fan-funded science fiction" by a recent Wall Street Journal article, includes ending Star Trek Continues with the stars in their original movie genesis as the exploring captain turned desk-bound admiral, the alien science officer returning to his Vulcan world for the purging of all remaining emotion, and Doctor Leonard McCoy retired as a country doctor free of his star voyaging PTSD on steroids.

"Dramatic...and traumatic things must have happened to that core troika...what could they possibly be?" asks Mignogna, who helms both Star Trek Continues as Executive Producer and the Starship Enterprise as Captain James Tiberius Kirk.

While one can currently enjoy the uncanny accuracy, authenticity and flat-out fun of the new show that channels, and many say, surpasses the old show, it takes more than just Federation non-monetary credits to make the episodes. "We can make, through talent, scrimping and saving, an episode for a tenth of what it originally cost in late 1960's dollars."

New episodes are ramping up with two often being shot at a time, but that will be dependent on how fans and new converts respond to upcoming funding drives to launch in the first couple months of 2016.

"Life doesn't always give you perfect endings but we hope and pray we can continue this project through to a conclusion that not only ends the original series we loved in a proper and fitting way, but with a style and substance and message that says a future of love, hope, redemption and peace for all of creation is possible," notes the award-winning actor, director and writer.

May the wind be at his back. Beam into Star Trek Continues at www.startrekcontinues.com and enjoy, explore and fund this wagon train to the stars. It's the logical thing to do! IrishRover-Jim@aol.com

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Culture Corner

Winter is a busy time at the Center for friends and family. We have many activities and programs for lovers of the arts. December and early January programs include:

Christmas Manger Art Exhibit

One of a kind mangers will be on view in the gallery this December. The mangers will feature sets of statues representing the scene of Christ's birth that are displayed during the Christmas season. The exhibit is from IAHC member artists, as well as private collections. They will be of varying design, with many hand crafted from wood, porcelain and ceramic.

The exhibit runs through Sunday, December 20 on Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm.

Christmas Tea



Deck the Halls of the Erin Room with the annual Christmas Tea. The tea features scones, sandwiches and cookies while music of the season is performed by three musicians, who entertain with song, and on piano and harp. Performers include Kathy Cowan on vocals, Aislinn Gagliardi on harp and Mark Piekarz on piano and vocals. Writer Maureen Tolman Flannery will read an original poem. The Tea is Saturday, December 12 at 11am and tickets are \$25. Reservations are necessary and must be made by December 8.

Shapeshifters Staged Reading: *The Shadow of a Gunman*

Shapeshifters Theatre continues its monthly staged readings continue this winter with a trio of Sean O'Casey plays. The first

drama in Sean O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy, *The Shadow of a Gunman* is set during 1920 and centers on the mistaken identity of a building tenant who is thought to be an IRA assassin.

The reading is Monday, January 4 in the Fifth Province. Tickets are \$10. Live music begins at 6pm and the reading is at 7pm. Stay for a post-show Q & A with the cast and director. The series continues with *Juno and the Paycock* on Monday, February 1 and *The Plough and the Stars* on Monday, March 7.

To purchase tickets for all cultural performances and events, visit www.irish-american.org, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or purchase at the door.

During the above events, you can show your holiday spirit by donating to the third annual Holiday Food Drive, benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The drive runs through January 4, 2016.

Thursday Night Music Sessions

This January, gather in the Fifth Province each Thursday night for weekly music sessions, hosted by inaugural Fifth Province Musical Director Kathleen Keane. Each week, rotating session leaders will teach a tune to the musicians and students who gather by the fireplace at 6:30pm. The lively sessions follow from 7pm to 9pm. The Fifth Province will be open for refreshments at 6pm and all sessions are free and open to the public.

January session leaders include John Williams, Jimmy Keane, Dennis Cahill, Katie Grennan, Brendan Bulger, Jimmy Moore, Brendan Bulger, Sheila Doorley and Patrick J. Quinn.



The Thursday Night Fifth Province Music Sessions kick off on Thursday, January 7, 2016 and feature special guests, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band.

Visit www.irish-american.org for the full schedule.

Shop With Us This Season at the IAHC Gift Shop

The IAHC Gift Shop is the perfect way to purchase all of your Christmas gifts, decorations, wrapping paper, cards, candy and tins of cookies, while supporting the Center.

Choose from our brand new stock of gifts, clothing and accessories, jewelry, CDs, food items and more. New items include beautiful hand decorated Christmas ornaments, Celtic gift bags, Celtic mugs, Irish Advent displays, handcrafted light up angels, light up Nativity sets and musical Santas, special edition Guinness pint glasses,

teapots, Cashmere scarves, Blackthorn



Irish walking sticks, Pashmina shawls, beaded Celtic purses and Celtic design iPad covers.

We also carry everything you need for a full Irish Breakfast, Winston's

sausage, bacon, black and white puddings, cocktail sausage rolls and meat pies; Galway Bakers Nana's Brown Bread, Nana's Irish Soda Bread and scones in a variety of flavors; Brennan's Bread: Kerrygold Butter, Barry's Tea, Batchelors Beans and a variety of jams.

Annual New Year's Eve Party



Ring in the New Year with our Annual New Year's Eve Party at the Center. The celebration is in the Fifth Province on Thursday, December 31 from 7pm to 1:00am and features dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and entertainment by Gerry Haughey and Kara Eadie.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by visiting www.irish-american.org, calling 773-282-7035 or at the door.

Annual Appeal Continues

Our Annual Appeal campaign continues this December.

We have received many generous donations from our members and friends and will continue this campaign into Spring 2016. Each year, Pat and Peggy Burke pledge to match up to \$25,000 for the Appeal. We thank you for your anticipated generosity and will list donors through the March 2016 issue.

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Continued on next pg...

President's Message

October and November had the Irish American Heritage Center bursting with events promoting Irish literature, film, music, arts and a little bit of Irish boxing. We were once again thrilled to host another year of iBAM! I have to admit it was my first time ever, and I hope to never miss another. I was amazed at all the things it had to offer. We introduced the lovely Sharon Shannon in the Auditorium on Saturday and the High Kings entertained a packed house on Sunday. I was extremely moved and through the tearfully blurred vision I observed the entire audience sharing a sing-a-long with the High Kings. They sang with the comfort and passion for Irish song as if they were on stage with the group and the microphone mere inches away. I kept quiet from singing so I wouldn't ruin the moment. For I cannot even sing in the shower.

On October 22, we welcomed about a dozen young lads, their families and their instructors from Dublin who took on members from the Chicago Park District Boxing Club. In a wonderful display of youth boxing, about 200 members, neighbors and boxing fans were in attendance in the Erin Room. I've been to baptisms, retirement parties and weddings in the Erin Room but never a boxing match.



That is ironic for I know a few couples who got married in the Erin Room and they have been fighting ever since.

The Salon Concert Series featured concerts with David Power and Dennis Cahill and John Daly and John Shine. These are reminders to all members to take advantage of your Center. You will be surprised at all it has to offer. Take a look around this article at all the upcoming events at the Center and attend them. You will not be disappointed.

We are excited to welcome Ms. Kathleen Keane who will host and direct a weekly session on Thursday nights in the Fifth Province starting January 7. We know her enthusiasm and talent will fill the halls with the wonderful Irish music by some of our great local talents.

Most of the events discussed here were successful as usual because of the many volunteers participating. The behind the scenes people whom forever help with their time and talent. For 30 years this has been the backbone of the Center. I read somewhere that you can be amazed by what you can accomplish when nobody cares who gets the credit. Merry Christmas from the entire Board of Directors at the Irish American Heritage Center.

Eugene M. Cooney
President

Annual Appeal

...Continued from previous page

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McCauley, In honor/memory of John and Kate Coyne
Sheila Coyle, In honor/memory of Anne and James Coyle
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Gloria and William Sedlacek, In honor/memory of George and Clara Brink
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Brenda Fergus
Bill and Margaret Casey
Patrick Kelly
Patrick Forde, In honor/memory of my parents Thomas and Annie Forde
Paul and Helen Odell
Anne Marie Herley
Joseph O'Connor
Thomas King
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Judith M. Petruff
Therese (Terry) Gavin
Mary Keogh
Patricia Sullivan
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DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

12/4 **Ceili Mor**
12/5 **Seamus O'Kane**
12/11 **TBA**
12/12 **St. Patrick Fathers-8pm**
12/18 **In Spite of Ourselves**
12/19 **The Dooley Brothers**
12/26 **Joe McShane**



December Drink Special
\$5 Samuel Adams Oktoberfest Draft
Valid for the month of December 2015 only.

December 2015

December 2	CIIS Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
December 4	Christmas Mangers Exhibit* Reception	Art Gallery	6pm
	Christmas with Makem & Spain	Auditorium	7:30pm
	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
December 5	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
December 6	Christmas Bazaar	Whole Building	9am
	Bazaar Mass	Auditorium	10:30am
	Bazaar Breakfast	Erin Room	11:30am
	Chicago Bears Football Game	Fifth Province	Noon
December 11	Salon Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
December 12	Sham Am Club Christmas		
	Mass and Brunch	Erin Room	10am
	Christmas Tea	Erin Room	11am
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
December 13	Chicago Bears Football Game	Fifth Province	Noon
December 18	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
December 19	Roscommon Club Social	Room 309	8pm
December 20	Chicago Bears Football Game	Fifth Province	Noon
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
	Great Irish Books Club - <i>Of Irish Blood</i>	Library	1pm
December 25	Christmas	Building Closed	
December 27	Chicago Bears Football Game	Fifth Province	Noon
	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
December 31	New Year's Eve Party	Fifth Province	7pm

*Christmas Mangers Exhibit in the Art Gallery will continue Sat. and Sun. from 1-4pm on 12/5-6, 12/12-13, 12/19-20

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Traditional Celtic Art Class	Art Gallery	7pm
Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, Gene Cooney, Elizabeth Ellis, Michael Gibbons, Catherine Kelly, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*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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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Treasure Island

By Robert Louis Stevenson

"Seaward ho!" the voyage to find buried treasure begins

with this cry. The voyage is to be marked by adventure, action, lots of action, and imagination.

Written in 1883 by Robert Louis Stevenson, the story focuses on

the adventures and exploits of a teenage boy, Jim Hawkins.

The press release describes the book and the play: "Adventure beckons when a mysterious blind man delivers a dreaded Black Spot to an aging sea captain, plunging an innkeeper's son into a desperate race for buried treasure armed with only his wits against a dastardly crew of cutthroat pirates."

Treasure Island encourages observation, ingenuity, and resourcefulness. What strong advice for a person, especially for a young person.

This swashbuckling story alerts readers to be aware that people are not always what they seem. Long John Silver, the cook on the ship, seems to be an honest seaman, but he is actually a ruthless killer and leader of the pirates.

An Irish American woman who lived in an apartment next to where I lived as a boy, kindly gave me her copies of Time, Newsweek, and books. One of the books was Treasure Island. Her message was clear: words were beautiful and powerful. An Irish proverb is about that too: "... a word is more lasting than all the wealth in the world."

Thanks to Lookingglass The-

atre and to director Mary Zimmerman for this amazingly inventive production. The stage even sways like a sailing ship would.

I've seen her work before and I am always astonished by her audacity and creativity. Her "... Treasure Island explodes like a cannon ball onto the stage regaling thrill-seekers of all ages."



This is an innovative and unique production of Treasure Island. It will be produced now through January 31, 2016 by Lookingglass Theatre. The theatre is located in the Water Tower Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave at Pearson.

Show times are: Wednesdays at 7:30, and Thursdays-Sundays at 2:00 and 7:30. Tickets range from \$55.00-\$85.00 and the box office number is 312-337-0665 or lookingglasstheatre.org

Inside the GPO—A First Hand Account

By Joe Good

O'Brien Press-DuFour Editions

"When all is said, It was the dream itself enchanted me."

This line from a poem by W. B. Yeats is on Joe Good's headstone. He fought in the GPO in 1916 and that quote could be said of any of the men and women who fought in the Rising of 1916.

In the introduction, an Irish historian says: "In my opinion, the men and women of 1916 were not merely rebels, but people of vision...they were calling for a cultural revolution...the outline of that...is contained in a...remarkable document, the Proclamation of the Republic..."

Joe Good write this account in 1946. He was born in London and grew up there. When he saw preparations being made for the Rising, he left England and went to Ireland.

Good had joined the Irish Volunteers in London. He traveled with others who were returning to Ireland to fight in the coming Rising.

Joe Good's son fondly says of him: "He had intellect, venerated learning...remained always curious, tolerant, questing and open-minded."

One of Joe's observations: "Among the Volunteers there were Protestants who, as always in Irish history, were among the best of the best...Liberal, highly educated and articulate Protestants were in the vanguard of the nationalistic cause."

Actors and theatre people were involved in the Rising: They "worked hard and fought staunchly...Among them was the Abbey Theatre and later Hollywood actor Arthur Shields, Barry Fitzgerald's brother, who was with us in the Post Office during Easter Week."

The first man to be killed during Easter Week was the Abbey Theatre actor, Connolly.

One of Joe's recollections occurred on Thursday of Easter Week. The Volunteers at the GPO were called together by Patrick Pearse. "He wanted to thank us for our gallantry, in case he might not be given an opportunity later. He praised us for fighting for four days and nights without rest or sleep or complaint. The men were told that they deserved to win 'win it they will although they may win it in death!'"

Continued on next page

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Inside the GPO—A First Hand Account

Joe Good was intensely observant of the people he fought with, their characters, personalities, and the events they endured and changed.

In closing, the historian states, "...we should take advantage of the focus created by the anniversaries to examine the Ireland of today, and to questions whether the dreams and aspirations of a truly heroic generation have been fulfilled."

Agamemnon

By Aeschylus

A small orange and yellow light flashes in a very dark night sky. It comes from a beacon bonfire on a distant mountain top.

A watchman on the palace roof knows this is the long awaited news that the city of Troy has been captured.

The Greek army, and King Agamemnon will soon return.

After shouting the good news to the palace, the watchman muses about the future. He says, "Things are as they are now, and all in the end will be done as fated."

That line of dialogue sets the background for the entire play: fate, or destiny, is a big influence on life. We are influenced by fate, but to what extent? Can we change fate? Or, do things happen in life that are beyond our control?

The Greeks of 2,500 years ago believed the Gods could influence our lives. They sacrificed to them, hoping for favorable change.

We use different words today, mainly those of psychology, but our explanations are really no better than theirs. Everyday we see things happen that can't be explained rationally.

Agamemnon was written by Aeschylus and first produced in 458 BC.

Greek drama was produced for religious festivals that honored Dionysus, God of Theatre, mask, energy, and wine. The plays were performed in the Theater of Dionysus near the Acropolis in

Athens. Aeschylus uses the play to show us Agamemnon's arrogance, conceit and overweening pride (which the Greeks called hubris), and shows us what his fate was to be.

This quote from DRAMA

shows us why this play is as meaningful today as it was in 458 BC. "Greek tragedies deal with the fundamentals of the eternal human condition."

This colorful and passionate performance of classic theater is

produced by Court Theatre, its actors and the outstanding director, Charles Newell.

This production of Agamemnon will run through December 6 at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

The schedule of

performances is:

Weds. and Thurs. at 7:30

Friday at 8:00

Sat. at 3:00 and 8:00

Sun. at 2:30 and 7:30

Tickets range from \$45 to \$65. 773-753-4472 or courttheatre.org.

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Remember the IASCW

Scholarship Fund.

This giving season your gifts toward the IASCW Scholarship Fund are encouraged and welcome. Over the past 36 years some 45 Will County high school students have received scholarships to participate in the former Irish Way program, and now the Irish Life Experience program. Student scholars travel to Ireland with the program, spend time with families there, learn about the culture and geography, take in arts and music events, and much much more. These efforts have truly contributed to the cause of promoting our heritage through peaceful exchange. Checks may be sent to IASCW, P.O. Box 81, Manhattan, IL 60442.

New officers Young Dubliners

elected at the Nov. 8th annual general membership meeting. Mic Brophy moves up to Chairman of the Board. Chris Schaal takes over as President. New directors include: Mary Beth Gannon and Brian Conroy of Joliet; Ray Mischia of Coal City; and Jessica Flores of Plainfield. They join existing directors: Mary Kay Campbell and Pete Hegarty of New Lenox; Jim Lawler of Manhattan; Dan Maher of Joliet; and Ryan Stoddard of Plainfield. Other officers include: Sharon Houk, Secretary; Mike McHugh, Membership; Tim Brophy, Treasurer.

play in Joliet. We had a great showing for the Young Dubliners, Sat., Nov. 21 at The Tree in Joliet. Brian Dignan opened the night followed by John Condron. Check out the IASCW facebook page for photos and video. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30pm, when we'll be enjoying The Chieftains at the Rialto Square Theatre, in downtown Joliet.



Mark Your Calendar:

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The IASCW annual dinner in honor of St. Patrick

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We want to make sure members are getting emails for interesting events. To update your membership information, please contact Mike McHugh at mike@mchughinsurance.com.

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.*



Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



First of all, Merry Christmas to you and yours and a prosperous and Happy New Year! Here's an album just in under the deadline for consideration in the 2015 Music Awards. Colin Farrell is out with a brilliant piece of business called Make a Note. No, not THAT Colin Farrell. Our Colin is part of that gang of young, brilliant musicians out of Manchester, England. You know. Think Michael McGoldrick and John Joe Kelly, and so many others. Colin is a master of both flute and fiddle. On this album he has a ton of guest stars joining him, including some of his pals out of Lunasa. Mostly for American tours, Colin is now the fiddle player for Lunasa, as Sean Smyth chooses to stay in Ireland and tend to his medical practice. Now, Lunasa could have just about anybody they want—and they chose Colin. He has been subbing for Sean now for 2-3 years, and we saw him last summer with the group at IrishFest in Milwaukee. Wow! He is a living amalgam of musical styles, having left his home in Manchester and living for two years in Killarney, before moving around the West Coast, including Dingle. While in Killarney, he met and joined forces with Ireland's best guitar player, Mike Galvin. Other guests on this album, besides Gavin include Jimmy "The Sleep" Higgins on bodhran, Alan Doherty on flute, Kevin Crawford on flute and Trevor Hutchinson on bass. There are 11 cuts on the CD. Each one is a stunner. In case you haven't noticed,

there is an explosion in Irish Traditional music lately of extremely talented young musicians. There seem to be hundreds of them who have tremendous technical ability, equal in many cases to the old masters themselves. What so many of them lack is taste, style, refinement, and understanding of the precious



tradition they are picking up and taking further down the road. It would be no insult, but rather a huge compliment to Colin to say he plays with the grasp of an Irish music senior citizen. Not only does he play the music, he "gets it." With the lineup of guest stars in this CD, as well as playing with Lunasa, you can imagine how good Colin has to be. And yes, he is that good! The first time we became aware of him was when he played with the Irish group, Grada. They were very good, but very young. As we listened to their CDs, and saw them early on in Milwaukee, we thought they needed some seasoning, but held enormous promise. Remember the Golden Rule in

Irish music: When members leave a band, or the band itself dissolves, you will never learn the real reasons for the split. You may THINK you know, but you don't. The end result of Colin's departure from Grada is that he is the senior weight master he now is. It is an interesting trip that starts off with him in Manchester, passing through Killarney and Dingle, then ending up in Orlando. Orlando? Yes, Colin is involved regularly with the wonderful pub at Disney World, Raglan Road. This pub has become a major scene of excellence in Irish music over the last several years, and is considered by the musicians as one of the most prestigious gigs in America. Let's just be blunt: We cannot say enough about this CD, and recommend it to you 100%, no questions asked. It would make a fabulous stocking stuffer of a Christmas present, and you can order it by finding Colin's website and doing just that! This is mighty. And something tells us that you are going to be reading about this album next month, in the Awards column here. Good on 'ya, Colin!

Another one JUST in under

the wire was initially recommended to us on a phone call with button box king, Paul Brock of the Brock-McGuire Band. "Have you heard of Tom Byrne, the harmonica player? No? Bill, I am going



to get him to send you his CD, I can't describe it. You have to hear it." As you expect from Paul Brock, he was right. We got the self-titled CD on Irish American News deadline day, and immediately asked editor Cliff if we could have an extra day to listen to it and get hold of it. Wow! Wow! Here is another master of his instrument, born in England, later moving to Ireland. He was born in 1958 in Cheshire, England. He comes from a deeply musical family and it shows. It is not enough to say that he is

as master of the harmonica. He joins Brendan Power in that rare atmosphere of Irish iconic harmonica players. His instruments are mostly Hohner Chromatic harmonicas, as well as a couple of different types or diatonic varieties. That may not mean much to the average punter, but to the real aficionados it tells us that he is a master across the whole frontier. He is ably joined by former Musician of the Year in these pages, Carl Hession on piano, the legendary Frankie Gavin on fiddle and Paul O'Driscoll on double bass. The variety and powerful complexity of all of this is indescribable. This kind of work only comes from a master. Tom Byrne is seriously dedicated to his art, and we are the beneficiaries. This is an absolute keeper, and you must find. Get to his website, cdBaby, iTunes, or Amazon. DO what you have to do. It has been a long time since we have reviewed two albums of this caliber. Both are major additions to the real Irish music library. Did we say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year? We did? Well, let's say it again. Wait! We just did!

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Merry
 Christmas



Guilty Pleasures
 Christine Gallagher Kearney



Many Christmases ago in Belfast, I remember walking into my mother-in-law's kitchen to find a 30-pound turkey on the kitchen table. It stopped me in my tracks. I'd never seen a turkey that large, the aluminum-cooking tray straining to hold in its' fleshy colored body. I glanced down at the

parsnips and Brussels sprouts find their way onto the already crowded table. I eat them all.

When I called my mother-in-law to ask her for the turkey recipe she agreed to share it.

"First you start by opening a bottle of wine," she laughed and proceeded to explain the hours of work that go into the Kearney Christmas turkey.



Against some health rule, the Kearney family stuffs one end of the bird with pork sausage and the other end with a traditional sage and onion stuffing. The bird goes into the oven at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve, but not before being

slathered in butter and covered with strips of streaky bacon. My mother-in-law keeps vigil through the night, because if

small European oven wondering how the bird will fit in the appliance, one that was clearly cut out for smaller jobs. Somehow, my mother-in-law made it work.

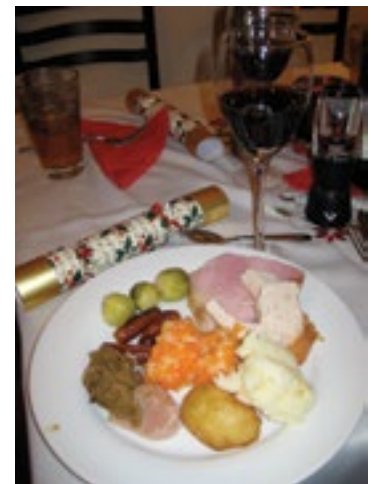
For me turkey and Thanksgiving go hand-in-hand, but in Ireland turkey is the star of Christmas dinner. Because of the turkey's celebrity status planning begins early, sometimes as soon as August. Text messages and video calls shoot across the pond.

"Has the turkey been ordered?"

"Are we having prawn cocktails for starters?"

"How are you cooking the potatoes?"

The answers to these questions are always the same. Dinner starts with prawn cocktails, which are prawns over a bed of iceberg lettuce topped off with Marie Rose sauce (I think it comes out of a jar). It seems potatoes number in the hundreds, but it's only because there are many options: boiled, mashed and roasted in duck fat. Carrots,



you want to cook a 30- pound turkey you must put it in the oven 10 hours before serving it at Christmas dinner.

One of my favorite parts of the meal doesn't even involve food, but something called Christmas crackers. They look like large Tootsie Rolls wrapped in holiday themed paper. Before everyone

tucks into overloaded plates of food you turn to your neighbor, who grasps one end of the roll while you grasp the other, and then you pull...pop! The cracker splits apart revealing a delicate paper crown, a small toy and a joke on a small piece of paper. Almost in unison, the crowns go on our heads and we continue our festivities.


This year my mother-in-law will put up her feet while her youngest daughter and son-in-law prepare the epic meal. The Christmas torch is being passed to the next generation, but Mummy (as I call her) will be nearby to help ease the transition.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you.



Kearney Family Christmas Turkey

- 20-30 pound turkey (preferably from a local farmer)
- half pound of streaky bacon
- butter
- pork sausage
- box sage, onion, parsley and thyme stuffing (make a version from scratch if you prefer)
- 1 large aluminum tray (found at most supermarkets)
- aluminum foil
- 220 C for 1 hour then decrease temperature to 180 C for remainder of cooking time

Place the turkey in one of the large aluminum trays breast-side down. Mix the sage, onion, parsley and thyme stuffing according to the instructions on the box. Place the pork sausage in a bowl. Once both stuffing types are ready, stuff pork sausage in the bottom and the sage and onion, etc. in the neck. Slather the bird in butter and lay streaky bacon across the top. Once the oven reaches 220 C, wrap the turkey in aluminum foil and set the tray in the oven. Check the turkey every two hours to baste it with the juices that accumulate in the bottom of the tray. For the last hour of cooking, turn the turkey breast-side up and remove all the aluminum foil for the final browning of the bird.




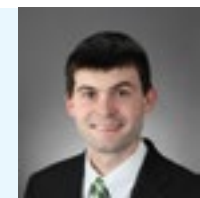
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From the Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins

changes are being implemented by the two main sponsor agencies CIEE and Interexchange.

Obama's Action on Immigration

On November 9th, we received the unfortunate, although not surprising, decision by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The panel ruled 2-1 stating that the lower court did not "abuse its discretion" when it stated that the President's executive action on immigration did not comply with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The APA is a law that states how federal agencies can establish regulations. In exact wording which was written by Judge Jerry Smith he states that "Reviewing the district court's order for abuse of discretion, we affirm the preliminary injunction because the states have standing; they have established a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of their procedural and substantive APA claims; and they have satisfied the other elements required for this injunction." This court ruling came after nearly 5 months of deliberation. This delay was very strategic, as the longer that the decision is delayed, the closer the outcome is to the 2016 presidential election. The Obama administration and the Department of Justice have appealed the recent decision to the Supreme Court. The Department of Justice spokesman Patrick Rodenbush stated "The Department of Justice remains committed to taking steps that will resolve the immigration litigation as quickly as possible in order to allow DHS to bring greater accountability to our immigration system by prioritizing the removal of the worst offenders, not people who have long ties to the United States and who are raising American children." The Supreme Court ruling, and ultimately the final outcome of the case, are expected toward the end of summer 2016

J1 Policy Changes

CIIS and our national partners were recently informed of new policies to the Irish summer J1 program. The summer J1 visa program is a summer working holiday visa and is a program that has been ongoing for decades. This program is a rite of passage for many young people growing up in Ireland. Each year, between 7000 to 8000 Irish young people come to the US each summer for a working holiday. This exchange of young people traveling to the US is an integral part of the US maintaining close ties with the Irish people and Irish culture. The policy

The new policy that the sponsoring agencies are implementing is a pre-employment placement before the visa is issued to the student. CIIS and our national partners are very disappointed with this decision as it will be very difficult to sustain the program at its current levels if all 8000 students will now be required to have a job offer in hand before the visa is issued. This policy raises many issues for students. First, it will be very difficult for a student to find employment in the US when at the time of their application they would not have a valid visa and right to work in the US. A second major issue with this policy is that students are supposed to find temporary employment months in advance without a face-to-face interview with the employer. Thirdly, many students do not have the contacts in the US to find summer work months in advance.

This new policy will have a major impact on the outcome and future of the program. It is the overall goal of CIIS, our national partners, and the Irish government that the program continues to operate at its current capacity. Taoiseach Enda Kenny has stated that he is "very concerned" about the new regulations and the future of the program. He also stated that the reduction in participants could see the visas being issued to Ireland down 60% to 80%. In order to achieve the goal of sustaining nearly 8000 J1 students each summer, there will need to be a lot of help from the Irish community in Chicago and other major cities. CIIS is currently working on establishing a database of potential J1 employers that we can refer students to prior to their arrival. If anyone knows of a business that is open to hiring J1 students please contact our office at 773-282-8445.

CIIS Update

CIIS is continuing to host legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are currently being held once a month by appointment only. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with a fully qualified immigration attorney. Our next legal clinic is being held on Thursday December 10th from 5:30pm-8:30pm. We host these clinics on the second Thursday of each month. Please call (773) 282-8445 or email mcollins@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment.

An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



example of how out of step our politicians have become with the immigrant population and

New Speaker

So the Republican House Caucus finally came to agree on Paul Ryan, our neighbor from Wisconsin and have voted him in as the new speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ryan has given a good first impression on the Sunday morning "meet the press" shows. He has vowed to take a more inclusive approach as Speaker and to use the committees system in the House as the best way to develop legislation. This approach by Speaker Ryan is to be applauded. The lack of consultation in the approach to passage of large bills proved to be one of the main reasons for the ousting of John Boehner as speaker. It remains to be seen as to whether this will be enough to keep what has been a very divided Republican Caucus in step.

The announcement that Speaker Ryan is not going to attempt comprehensive immigration reform, while Obama

is President, comes as no surprise. His reason for taking such a stand is in his words: "The president has proven himself untrustworthy on this issue, because he tried to unilaterally rewrite the law himself. Presidents don't write laws. Congress does,"

In reality, immigration reform was never on the agenda for the final two years of Obama's term. The Republican controlled House has decided not to hand a victory to the President on this issue, which would enhance the Democrats position with the Hispanic community. Again, this is not fresh news but it is another

their real needs.

I did have an opportunity to meet with Paul Ryan (on Ash Wednesday of all days) I was accompanied on that occasion by Billy Lawless, and Billy remarked that the Congressman had a larger cross on his forehead than I did! Paul Ryan did

The Handwriting On The Wall

A weary mother returned from the store,
Lugging groceries through the kitchen door.
Awaiting her arrival was her 8 year old son,
Anxious to relate what his younger brother had done.
"While I was out playing and Dad was on a call,
T.J. took his crayons and wrote on the wall!
It's on the new paper you just hung in the den.
I told him you'd be mad at having to do it again."
She let out a moan and furrowed her brow,
"Where is your little brother right now?"
She emptied her arms and with a purposeful stride,
She marched to his closet where he had gone to hide.
She called his full name as she entered his room.
He trembled with fear—he knew that meant doom!
For the next ten minutes, she ranted and raved
About the expensive wallpaper and how she had saved.
Lamenting all the work it would take to repair,
She condemned his actions and total lack of care.
The more she scolded, the madder she got,
Then stomped from his room, totally distraught!
She headed for the den to confirm her fears.
When she saw the wall, her eyes flooded with tears.
The message she read pierced her soul with a dart.
It said, "I love Mommy", surrounded by a heart.
Well, the wallpaper remained, just as she found it,
With an empty picture frame hung to surround it.
A reminder to her, and indeed to all,
Take time to read the handwriting on the wall.

Speak to us of his Irish connections and he is proud of his heritage. My own hope and prayer is that Speaker Ryan would follow the example of the last Speaker of the House with Irish ancestry, namely, Tippi O'Neill. O'Neill proved to be a man who had the ability to reach across the aisle and work with Republicans in the best interests of the country and pass meaningful legislation.

A blessed Christmas to all our readers.

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

Remebering Nora Sweeney

I remember the day I first learned about Nora Sweeney.

I was visiting with friends at the Irish American Heritage Center when we began talking about being Irish, what counties we came from. Or, in my case, what counties my family had

come from. Judy Moloney then told me of a woman she had learned about who came from county Donegal, and was born over a century ago. That woman was Nora Sweeney. I was excited as I listened, and began to think of all the history that woman had lived through, as well as the history of her own life. Nora had been alive during the 1916 Rising, women's suffrage, and the vote both in Ireland and in America. She'd been around during the sailing and the sinking of the Titanic, both World Wars, the first Irish Woman President. My brain ran wild with all that history.

I wanted to learn more and add in her own history.

Born on November 25th, 1912, in Glenswilly, County Donegal, Nora was the 3rd of 17 children, raised on the family farm, helping with the household and younger children while her

parents tended to the farm. As a child growing up in Ireland she received the highest education available to her at the National School, which she attended through the eighth grade. Then at 16, she and her sister came to America under her uncle's spon-



sorship, by way of a ship called the Cameronia, which launched from Derry.

Nora and her sister worked for prominent families in Chicago, looking after children, as

nannies, while still managing to stay connected to their uncle and his family. She later married and raised six children of her own, eventually growing her legacy with twenty-one grandchildren, and forty-three great-grandchildren.

I happen to be one of the very lucky people to meet Nora during her life. Judy Moloney took me to Wisconsin, where Nora lived with her daughter Margaret, on September 18th of this year. As we entered the house I was surprised to find it so full of life and light, not a place you typically think of when considering where elderly people live. This was a home of celebration and life. Margaret was wonderful and glad for our visit. She and another member of the Sweeney extended family, Ann Gallagher, introduced me to Nora.

One of the first things I noticed about this remarkable woman was her light and her spirit. She told me about her life in Ireland and America, speaking of her travels to a different country, her experiences working as a nanny, and the story of how she met her husband. She spoke of raising her children in the States, and imparted a few of her



cooking secrets as she took me through the journey of her life. I was so honored to meet such an amazing woman. She'd lived a life I'd only read in books!

I left her home feeling like I had touched history, and meeting her had touched my life. One of my favorite sayings is "When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground. When an old woman dies, a school burns to the ground." This saying made

more sense to me when I thought of all the many things Nora had shared with her children, grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, the wisdom she had carried with her.

How wonderful it was to have met her and share moments of her life..

Nora died on the morning of Monday September 21, 2015 one month and four days before her 103rd birthday.

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



Hello, again. Up for sharing a pint?

A little more than six years have passed since my words last appeared here. Just typing that seems strange. It really doesn't feel like that long ago. But before you get on me for slacking, I do have a proper excuse. I was off working for ESPN all that time and contractually couldn't write for anyone else. As much as I missed this, Cliff Carlson doesn't pay what ESPN pays. Still love ya, Cliff.

My employment status has since changed. I recently parted ways with ESPN. Like many journalists before me, I got a taste of the cruel business side of my industry. That's the reality of journalism these days. I'd certainly never advise an aspiring journalist not to pursue this field, but it's a profession on shaky ground and doesn't appear to be headed toward stability anytime soon.

With that being said, I do have to say that working for ESPN was a dream come true. It provided me a massive platform, and I pretty much wrote whatever I wanted. I began as ESPN Chicago's preps and college reporter, spent a season on the White Sox beat, helped out on the Bears and Bulls beats and finally was the Blackhawks beat

writer for the last three seasons. I covered 65 Blackhawks playoff games and two Stanley Cups in that time. Altogether, I wrote nearly 6,000 stories for ESPN in six years, appeared on television and was a frequent radio guest locally and throughout North America (you know how those Canadians love their hockey).

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't going to miss it. Your name has a bit more power when it's followed by "I'm a reporter for ESPN." But, honestly, this is probably a good thing. It came a few years sooner than I had expected, but I couldn't see myself covering hockey forever. I want to do more and be more. I am going to still occasionally write for ESPN, but I am finally free to write for whomever I like again. And, the Irish American News is among the places I'd like to write again.

There's something comforting to me about how the IAN isn't all that different since my last column was published in 2009. Still being able to share these pages with Frank West, Chris Fogarty, Tom Boyle, Mike Houlihan and the many other long-time columnists makes me feel like I never left. It's comforting, especially with so much else in life always changing.

For those who are still reading this and don't know who I am

or simply can't place me, well, first, you should be commended for making it this far. Secondly, the column I used to write was called "Sharing a Pint." I would sit down with notable people in the Irish-American community and interview them while sharing a pint (Guinness is still my preferred choice). I made some lifelong friends through that column.

Writing it was a lot of fun. At the time, I was freelancing for the Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald and some other publications to get by financially. Writing for the IAN was what I did for me. I enjoyed getting to know people in the Irish-American community, having a few pints and writing about it. The column seemed to have a decent readership, and it was always neat to be recognized at an Irish fest or wherever else a pint could be had.

It's why I'm back now. I will write in other publications to support my rock 'n' roll lifestyle with a wife, two cats and my book-reading habit, but I still want to write again here. I'm not sure what the format will be. I'd still like the column to be named Sharing a Pint. I like the name. I can still remember emailing Cliff in 2004 about a column idea I had and he said, 'Let's give it a try.'

Whether it's through this column or just during my day-to-day interactions with other people, I'd also like to figure out how to get younger people more involved in the community. I recently dropped by iBAM! – which again was thoroughly impressive – and was struck by the fact that I was easily one of the youngest people in attendance. I know the Easter Rising may not be every 20-something's cup of Irish tea, but there has to be other ways to get people 35-and-younger involved.

If you have suggestions about that or for how I should go about my column — or if you just want to suggest I go away again — feel free to email me at scottpowers1979@gmail.com.

It's good to be back. I feel like my words are at home again.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Both Sides of the Border

"Oh dear—the losers are losing again", thus tweeted MP Gregory Campbell in response to a poll on the reunification of Ireland which found that majorities on both sides of the border would vote to keep the border if the motion were to remove it now. So the status quo and the border, such as it is, remains. To a long-standing elected representative of the Democratic Unionist Party like Campbell that heralds an occasion for glee and goading—his extraordinary political maturity and vision never let him down. But what does the poll really tell us, and have those who live in the Northern Irish State without identifying with it lost in any sense?

Only 13% of citizens in Northern Ireland desire reunification if it were on offer today, according to this cross-border poll organised by the BBC's Stephen Nolan Show and RTE's Prime Time. Put a referendum ballot sheet in front of the electorate and support for it would likely dwindle to less than double figures. Remember that, as George Mitchell stated on the occasion of the signing of The Good Friday Agreement, "it is the people of Northern Ireland who decide, democratically, their future". So Campbell and co are right: the majority is behind staying in Northern Ireland, and those who attempted to dismantle the state for over thirty years, some through violent means, have lost?

Not so fast. Campbell's mistake is what often happens when politicians spend more time drooling about television polls than on clear-headed analysis of the evidence.

Alter one crucial dimension in this equation, money, and you might have a very different result. Currently, the British Exchequer shovels 10 billion pounds (\$15 billion) a year to keep the North-

ern Irish State functioning, a very considerable injection of cash given the size of Northern Ireland. The subvention filters down into state jobs, quangos and all manner of pink elephants. Yes, it works to preserve the state, up to a point, for as long as the cash flows.

But what if the right-wing and inherently treacherous Tory Party in Britain were to start to wave some of the blandishments available to the Northern Irish electorate at its core constituency on "the mainland"? How long can it be before a British leader realises that the political gain available for instigating an end to the union with Northern Ireland could outweigh the political risk of being responsible for ceding part of the United Kingdom? Maybe, since he is fond of talking about losers, that is a loss to which Gregory Campbell might address himself.

The nationalist parties in the North had divergent responses to the poll. The issue of reuniting Ireland is so hardwired to Sinn Féin's make-up that it has been struggling to make even this dismal result from their perspective sound positive. It is building block, we are told. At least they did not imply that it is any more than one block. With general elections both north and south of the border and the 1916 Rising centenary due to happen in the coming months, a symbolic step towards ending partition is essential to Sinn Féin's programme. Yet only 13% of citizens in Northern Ireland want to end partition. Maybe the 66% of the Southern electorate who claim to want a United Ireland will provide a boost to Sinn Féin's support base? But read the small print. Less than half of that number want it now, and how many of those really see it happening anytime soon? The main trick in Sinn Féin's repertoire is to harp on a United Ireland, but judging by the number of people on either side of the border who

are unequivocally in favour of that policy, their election manifesto could do with enhancement.

The SDLP's party statement on the poll read: "The Scottish referendum demonstrated the scale of swing possible in a few short years when the public becomes engaged in a discussion about their future." Scotland seemed far from ripe for any form of constitutional change, still less full independence until a few years ago. Yet the rise of Alex Salmond led, last September, to Scotland coming close to disengaging from the union. Terrified British Prime Minister David Cameron, resorted at the last minute to begging the Scottish electorate to "stay with us". Would he, or future Tory Party leaders, be as quick to beg the Northern Irish electorate?

On the contrary, conditions whereby it becomes financially less attractive to remain in the UK will likely be created to alienate the overwhelming consent to remain in the union that exists today. When that alienation happens the British government, rather than staunch the haemorrhage of Northern Irish Unionist votes and support, will be only too happy to wave goodbye to the most troublesome colony it ever had, and one which has long since ceased to be profitable.

It is likely that some form of tokenistic confederation system would remain after a British government pullout. Consider the incremental way in which sovereignty in the South was achieved after 1921: the return of the Treaty Ports, the end of the Oath of Allegiance to the British crown and the formalising of the Republic. In many ways Michael Collins' dictum that the Anglo-Irish Treaty was "a stepping stone" to freedom was borne out. It took half a century for it to happen though, and during that time Northern Ireland remained in rut of intransigence. But The Good Friday Agreement (1998) was the beginning for a very new dispensation in the North of Ireland and it will look quite a different place half a century after that historic agreement. By 2048, the border could well be a memory. So triumphalism is hardly warranted, Gregory.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



An Embarrassment of Riches

There have been several times this year when I had next to no CDs to review and I was worried. This month I need not worry because I have enough to review and to spare for January and possibly February. This kind of overload I can take. So let's get right to it and start at the top.

I was pleased to be invited to the CD release party for Aislinn Gagliardi (www.aislinnmusic.com). I'm embarrassed to say that while I had heard of her, I had never heard her play and let me tell you that was my loss.

Aislinn is a harper of no small talent, who has released her first CD, "The Thin Place" and for a first CD it's a winner. Joined on the recording by no less than Liz Carroll, Teresa Shine and John Williams, Aislinn weaves webs of finest music to trap and hold your attention. The entire recording is as fine as can be, there are no tracks to skip but two tracks are among the finest I have ever heard. The third track, features her composition of the title track, plus "Pady Fahy's" and finishes with the best rendering I have heard of "Mason's Apron". The fifth track "For Teresaa" another original piece is one of the prettiest harp tunes you could imagine, and one that keeps me from my work because when the shuffle hits it, I stop and give it my full attention. This album is stunning, a monumental piece of work from a very talented and driven harper. One of the best recordings to be released this year and I kid you not.

Second CD to look at this month is the only new Christmas release I'll be talking about. Laura MacKenzie, multi-talented musician from Minnesota has assembled a crew of performers, including Dáithí Sproule, Brian Miller and 10 others, to record

"Heigh ho, The Green Holly", a Celtic Christmas collection from New Folk Records that jumps to number 2 in my Christmas list



(Bohola's "Bo-ho-ho-la" is still the best). This CD has Laura on flute, whistle, concertina, border pipes and Scottish smallpipes, see why I call her "multi-talented", and is completely instrumental with her renderings of 15 or so popular seasonal songs, including the most enjoyable version of "Jingle Bells" on tin whistle that you've ever heard. This is the kind of CD you can put on the day after Thanksgiving and leave it play till January and not be bored. Get this CD and Bohola's and you're set for the season.

Another fine release this month also comes to us from New Folk Records(www.newfolkrecords.com) and that is Todd Menton's newest, "Rosie In The Stars". Todd started out with the celtic rock band Boiled in Lead, one of the few such bands that I really liked. Happily, he has returned to a much more traditional style, rather like Damian Dempsey and Christy Moore. His solid voice easily handles such songs as "The Banks of the Roses" and "Molly Bawn" but his version of "Hog-eye Man" steals the show, it is a must-hear! The cover art is poor but the music inside will grab you. Damned fine job of

singing.

Temple Records (www.templerecords.co.uk), the popular Scottish label has released "Beg & Borrow" the thirtieth recording by Battlefield Band. It features music that has been shared between Scotland and Ireland over the years and includes 12 special guests, stars in their own right in Scottish and Irish music

To help the band explore the conjoined traditions that have shared so much. This is probably the most ambitious project Battlefield Band has tackled in quite awhile and it scores, bigtime. If you're interested in examining our common musical heritage, grab the new Battlefield Band CD, you will not be disappointed.

You're probably most familiar with Oisín MacDiarmada's work as the rock solid fiddler in Téada, now you get to see him shine in a new almost solo recording, "The Green Branch". I call it almost solo because he's joined by Samantha Harvey on piano and the two of them are perfect together. Oisín developed an interest at an early age for the Sligo style of fiddling and he has the hand for it, to be sure.

Samantha adds just the right touch of piano to the mix to make this a thoroughly delightful recording. There is something magical to a fine fiddle recording and this is a fine recording. These two talented young people have created a true work of art and I hope you will share the enjoyment of it with me. It would make a lovely Christmas present.

Speaking of Christmas, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and I trust that you will spread your shopping around to the small stores and businesses, you'll note how few of us there are left.

Meanwhile I'll be in the store, 630-834-8108 or online at store@rampantlion.com

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Sports and Politics Shouldn't Mix

November has become a somewhat curious month in recent years on the world sporting calendar. Let's start on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

Every year in the UK, the television channels do an annual three week run-up to celebrate what is now generally known as Remembrance Day. The date was

for many years more commonly known as Armistice Day, which marked and celebrated the ending of the First World War on the 11th hour of the 11th Day on the 11th month in 1918.

One of the lessons I was taught growing up in school was that Armistice Day was to mark the passing of all those who had died in World War I, which is estimated to be approximately 11 million military personnel and seven million civilians, and that the importance of recognizing this date was that it signified and highlighted the futility of war. After the Second World War, it was renamed Remembrance Day in Britain, as it was changed to encompass the soldiers who died during the Second World War.

In the last few years, there has been a noticeable shift in how British television, particularly the BBC, marks this event, perhaps, due to the

**David McDonnell:
Our Sports Man
on the Irish Street**



present time being 100 years out from when it was being fought on the fields and in the trenches. On news and entertainment programmes, every presenter, reporter, chat show host and guest is required to wear the red poppy, a flower which in Britain symbolizes the blood spilled on the battlefield during World War One.

This was an important time in history and one that deserves to be remembered; the soldiers who lost their lives in the fighting of the World Wars deserve to be remembered. That for me is not an issue.

What I do have a slight struggle with is people being obligated to wear the poppy as the insistence of broadcasters. But where I have considerable difficulty is where any political agenda gets pushed

into the sporting arena. Let me illustrate this point.

Globally, soccer is the biggest sport in the world and the English Premier League is its most watched league. Especially over the last 25 years, it has grown and transformed into a substantial global entity, so much so that it currently has players from 64 different countries playing in the Premiership this season.

Over the last two years in the run up to Remembrance Day, the jersey of every player on every team in the league has a poppy badge woven into shirt. Although this may seem a small and uncontroversial move, this seemingly minor decision has politicized the Premier League and has become a divisive issue for one Irish footballer, James

Continued to page 31

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



Conscience

"We've lost our conscience Chicago." So said Fr. Michael Pflieger, at the funeral of nine year old Tyshawn Lee.

Tyshawn Lee was executed, lured into an alley with a basketball and then shot several times in the head. This was in retaliation against Tyshawn's father by members of a rival gang. To date no one has stepped forward to help the police find the killers.

In 1969 Elvis Presley had a hit song, "In The Ghetto." This song would make a fitting "anthem" for Chicago. The song is described as a narrative of generational poverty. Here are some of the lyrics.

*And his hunger burns
so he starts to roam the streets
at night
and he learns how to steal
and he learns how to fight
In the ghetto*

*Then one night in desperation
a young man breaks away
He buys a gun, steals a car,
tries to run, but he don't get far
And his mama cries*

*As a crowd gathers 'round an
angry young man
face down on the street with a
gun in his hand
In the ghetto*

*As her young man dies,
on a cold and gray Chicago
morning,
another little baby child is born
In the ghetto*

The code of silence is numbing! Whoever knows who killed this child and doesn't speak up, they are no better than the savages who killed him.

Chicago PD

Chicago police department is looking to hire 500 new officers with an eye to "more diversity." This means hiring more minority

officers, presumably African-American. Down the road such a move would lead to more law suits if there is discrimination in the hiring practice for new police officers.

In my column (January 2015), the question was posed "Do we only have Black police officers in Black neighborhoods, Latino officers in Mexican neighborhoods, or Chinese police officers in China Town. As a society we will never be color blind. It's too deeply ingrained in our psyche.

Politically Correct

Political correctness and Cultural Marxism are one and the same. It begins with the rejection of all forms of religious faith and worship. In a recent survey 26% of young people claimed they had no religious beliefs.

Although our country was founded by men and women who had strong Christian values, and had the motto "In God We Trust" printed on our currency, and they included religious freedom in our Constitution.

Now we can't have prayer in public school. No Christmas displays in public buildings or on the grounds of those buildings. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.."

We allow no prayers before football games, we can't display the 12 commandments on public buildings. At the rate we are going it will be the statue of St. Francis in your back yard they go after next.

Sheriff Lott

When deputy Ben Fields Sr., a school resource officer, was called to remove a disruptive, belligerent young black woman from a classroom, the events that unfolded were totally unexpected.

She held on to the desk she was sitting in, and when Deputy Fields tried to remove her, the

desk tipped over and the deputy slid her and the desk along the floor before she could be separated from the desk. Two teachers and a school administrator lookin on, had no problem with his actions.

The problem began when the episode was described as "racist" and when the video went viral it turned into a black and white event. The sheriff of Richmond County, South Carolina, Leon Lott, decided to throw Deputy Ben Fields Sr., under the bus and

fired him. Political correctness reigns supreme.

Nollaig Shona Duit

Translation "Happy Christmas!" if you are speaking to just one person. It becomes Nollaig Shona Daoibh if you are speaking to more than one person. In Ireland it's Father Christmas who delivers the toys, not Santa Claus. On Christmas day families will sit down to traditional meals. the McCarthy's in Lixnaw, Co. Kerry will roast a goose, and the Boyle's in Causeway, Co.

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, please call our office on 773-282-8445.

Wednesday, 2nd December at IAHC AND Wednesday 9th December at Gaelic Park - - Things to Know When Selling your Home

Whether downsizing or moving somewhere with better weather, many seniors find themselves thinking about selling their home. This, however, is just the start of what can be a long and trying process. Join us today for some insider information that could make for a much smoother process, as a senior's real estate specialist provides some tips on how to plan a successful sell.

Wednesday, 16th December 2015 - Christmas Celebrations! This year it is the turn of the Gaelic Park to host our annual Christmas party. As always there will be great food, live music, and plenty of craic! If you would like to find out more about jointingteh festivities call Paul on 773-282-8445. More details will follow as we approach the festive season. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

The Killeshandra Nuns - Giving Back to Those that Served

Recently, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support was delighted to have the opportunity to host a joint fundraising event with the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, affectionately known as the Killeshandra Nuns. These nuns have a long and distinguished history serving as missionaries throughout the developing world. Together, we organized a very successful pub quiz that raised much needed funds for both organizations. At this event I had the great pleasure of speaking with some of the Killeshandra Nuns and learned more about the fascinating work their order does and their current predicament.

The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary were founded in Ireland in 1924 by Bishop Shanahan who was concerned that the needs of the native women in missionary countries were not being afforded the same attention as those of the male population. Since that time the Killeshandra Nuns have been heavily involved in providing primary, secondary, and vocational education to women and girls. In addition to their educational missions the nuns have expanded their focus to encompass healthcare provi-

Kerry will roast a turkey. There will be plenty of food for all and the day will be spent with family.

"Here's to our roof, may it be well thatched, and here's to all under it. May they be well matched."

Newsworthy

Ohio voted "no" to marijuana, and Houston voted "no" to transgender use of opposite sex restrooms. Please note, Houston has a transgender Mayor.

The body count in Chicago stands at 400 on November 23rd.

sion, agricultural development, and human rights and refugee programs.

Many of the current sisters have spent over 50 years working with local communities across the world, often in very challenging situations and in regions ravaged by disease and war. Following a life of services and very hard work, and no longer able for the gruelling demands of missionary life, the sisters began to retire back to Ireland. However, all of the funds raised by the Sisters throughout their missionary years were used to support the missions, not thinking of their own future needs as they entered into old age. With inadequate accommodations available to the Sisters, it was necessary to build a facility that could comfortably house them in retirement. In 2014 the construction of Shanahan House was completed and at last the sisters had a place to call home. However, the money that funded Shanahan House had to be borrowed and now the Sisters have embarked on a fundraising campaign to pay back these loans.

Today, a new, vibrant generation of mostly African Holy Rosary Sisters continues the work started by the Irish nuns that preceded them. Years of dedication and selflessness has created a lasting legacy that will enrich and empower vulnerable people for many years to come.

If you would like to support the Killeshandra nuns please call their Philadelphia office on 610-272-2727.

80 Years On - The Arranmore Disaster

Written by
Fr. James Shiels C. C.
Submitted by
Michael Boyle-Arranmore Island

Emigration - Ireland's curse, has long haunted the Rosses. Migration is less often attended to. Yet, the effects on family life, the social fabric and tradition are apparent in every townland. Migration

The previous days saw migrant workers from all over Scotland arrive at Glasgow's Broomielaw. There on the banks of the Oyde, chat was exchanged, friendships renewed and new plans made. On boarding the Burns and Lairds boat, the groups made the arduous, uncomfortable journey via Paddy's Milestone to Lough Foyle around the Heads of Inishowen and on to



1, Paddy O'Donnell, Leabgarrow; 2, Anthony Coll, Illion; 3, Ellen Gallagher, Aphort 4, Oney O'Donnell, Dungloe; 5, Nellie Gallagher, Tarries; 6, Nellie Gallagher, Plohogue 7, Maggie McNulty, Plohogue; 8, Mickie Eamon Gallagher, Tarries; 9, Madgie O'Donnell, Aphort; 10, Sgt. Griffen, Burtonport; 11, Manus O'Donnell, Plohogue; 12, Maire Molloy Leabrannagh; 13, Una O'Donnell, Plohogue; 14, Una Gallagher, Aphort, and her husband 15, Mickie Mor Gallagher, looking down on the remains of their sons, Donal twentyeight years, and Manus seventeen years; 16, Gracie O'Donnell, Aphort; 17, Rev Bernard Gallagher, C. C., Arranmore; 18, Bridget O'Donnell, Aphort; 19, Dinney O'hara, Pollawady 5 & 8, Nellie and Mickie Gallagher, looking down on the remains of their son Johnny, twenty years of age. Scene at the Life Boat House on Tuesday 12th November, 1935

becomes a necessity - it was never an option or free choice. It brought its own tragedy. The events of November 9th 1935 were such a tragedy.

Nineteen people lost their lives by drowning less than a mile from the nearest lifeboat station. They were within shouting distance of their own island homes. They were migrant workers returning home to Arranmore from the potato-fields of Scotland. Edward Gallagher with six others left Aphort Pier at 2 p.m. that fateful day. Their destination was Burtonport- to welcome family members and neighbours and to ferry them home. In all, twenty people made the return journey on the 24ft yawl. It was equipped with sail and provision for four oars. Edward Gallagher was an experienced seaman.

Derry Quay.

They disembarked to the porter's call "Sweeney's or Molloy's". After a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs in Waterloo Street, they took the train westwards for Burtonport. The train experienced a few delays en route, eventually arriving in Burtonport at around 5 p.m. Disaster struck around 6 p.m. when Edward Gallagher's boat struck a rock at Beal an Eilinn - a turning point on the south-east side of Arranmore Island. The channel here is about 24ft. wide at high water and safe in the centre. The events that followed have never fully been described. It was dark when the yawl entered the channel, darker still when the clouds thickened and a sudden wintry shower occurred. The channel is only negotiable

at more than half full tide -it had been approaching high water when the boat passed that way. Even a small deviation from mid-stream could be dangerous. The sickening thud of wood against rock, the cries of panic-stricken people, the roar of water can only be imagined. Cries from the boat and from those overboard went unheard. No alarm was raised. Uneasy islanders decided that Edward and his passengers would remain on

(20; and John "Paddy" Rodgers. From Aphort were Edward Ward (53), Anthony (17) and Ned Gallagher (15), Manus "Mid" (17) and Dan "Mick" Gallagher (27). Peter Leonard, aged 61 years was from Ballintra and Paddy O'Donnell aged 44, hailed from Leabrannagh.

The impact on the island is indescribable. The people were sustained in their grief by the strength of their Catholic faith and by the spiritual guidance of Fr.



1 -Maggie Rodgers, Leabrannagh; 2, Eddy Boyle, Leabgarrow; 3, Paddy Gallagher, Torries; 4, Annie Gallagher looks down on the remains of five of her family; 5, Peggy Gallagher Tarries. 6 Sgt. Griffin, Burtonport; 7, Maggte O' Donnell, Tarries; 8, Paddy Rodgers, Clochcor 9, Hughie Coll, Tarries; 10, Johnny Boyle, Ballintra; 11, Rev. Bernard Gallagher, C.C., Arranmore.

the mainland for the night. This was not unusual. There was no telephone link anyway.

Alas, the full impact of the terrible events unfolded as Sunday November 10th dawned. Charlie Ban Gallagher of Plohogue, foddering cattle before early mass in St. Crone's, noticed the upturned hull of a boat with a person clinging to it. Calling his neighbours Anthony Rua O'Donnell and Michael McNulty, he launched a flat and the three men discovered Paddy Gallagher waging a losing battle for his life. He was the sole survivor -nineteen people had drowned. The bodies of nine people were recovered and laid out at Aphort boathouse. Later another seven were recovered. Two bodies were forever lost--45 year old Kitty O'Donnell of Leabrannagh and 21 year old Hannah "Mick" Gallagher of Aphort. The other seventeen were Edward Gallagher (61) from Torries, his sons Mick (29), Edward (24), John (22) and Charles (18); his daughters Madge (26) and Hannah who was only sixteen. Also from Torries was John "Mick" Gallagher

Bernard Gallagher C. C. Photographs in the "Derry Journal" and the "Irish Press" of the time, can still evoke the sense of numbness, the terrible loneliness, distress and shock. Donegal Man of the Year 1995-Sean O'hEochaidh, collecting on the island for the folklore commission a few months later, worked in vain. No one would speak, he said, of anything other than the Disaster.

The mortal remains of the victims were buried together. There was a tremendous outpouring of compassion from all over Ireland and from abroad. The priests of the Rosses to the grief by praying with the bereaved. Fr. McAteer (An Sagart Mor), led the obsequies. Seventeen bodies rest at Chapel Strand beneath a tall Celtic cross; they wait for the resurrection when all bodies unite with the soul to be glorified with Christ. The cross was recently restored on behalf of the bereaved by the present island priest.

Paddy Edward Gallagher, the sole survivor, lived until 1987. He rarely spoke of the disaster. However he did tell the tale

Continued on next page

Sports and Politics Shouldn't Mix

Continued from page 28

McClellan. McClellan grew up in a Nationalist/ Republican area of Derry, where wearing the poppy has significantly different connotations to what it represents in England. Although Remembrance Day is officially observed in the North, it has historically tended to be associated with unionist community. However, during The Troubles, from a nationalist perspective, it also became associated with the British Army.

In November 2014, when McClellan was first required to wear a poppy emblazoned football shirt, he penned an open letter to the Chairman of Wigan Athletic, his club at the time, Dave Whelan, to explain why he wouldn't wear the poppy. (<http://bit.ly/1u7nUK0>).

In this letter he stated he had complete respect for those who fought and died in both World Wars' and 'that if the Poppy was a symbol only for the lost souls of World War I and II, I would wear one. But the Poppy is used to remember victims of other

conflicts since 1945 and this is where the problem starts for me. 'For people from the North of Ireland such as myself, and specifically those in Derry, scene of the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre, the poppy has come to mean something very different.....for me to wear a poppy would be as much a gesture of disrespect for the innocent people who lost their lives in the



James McClellan

Troubles - and Bloody Sunday especially - as I have in the past been accused of disrespecting the victims of WWI and WWII. It would be seen as an act of disrespect to those people; to my people.

'I am not a war monger, or anti-British, or a terrorist or any of the accusations leveled at me in the past. I am a peaceful guy, I believe everyone should live side by side, whatever their re-

ligious or political beliefs which I respect and ask for people to respect mine in return. I am very proud of where I come from and I just cannot do something that I believe is wrong.'

Again this year at his current club, West Bromwich Albion, he explained his reasoning for refusing to wear the poppy and in spite of his explanations, he has been routinely booed and jeered by supporters at every ground he has played at, just as he was 12 months ago.

The lesson: James McClellan stands 5' 11" in height and has two heavily tattooed arms and doesn't have a reputation for being the saintliest of players on the pitch. All he wants to do is ply his footballing trade to the best of his abilities and enjoy the game he loves.

Whatever your viewpoint on the rights or wrongs of James McClellan's stance, he was put in a difficult position not of his own making that he should have never have been put in. Why is has continued to go on I have yet to wrap my head around. His case is just one instance of how even a small politicizing of sport can have negative consequences for a player and subsequently for the game itself. There have

been other recent examples.

Last year in a pre-world cup friendly, the Argentina soccer team unfurled a banner which read 'Las Malvinas son Argentinas,' which translates to 'The Falklands for the Argentineans.' It was seen in the UK as highly inflammatory and the Argentina Football Association was fined for the stunt.

Whether you agree with the banner declaration or not, political standpoints shouldn't have a place in the international sporting environs. Sport should

always be a place where people of every creed or affliction can compete without national prejudice or political influence.

On the Western side of the Atlantic, as popular American sports such as the NFL, who also boast a strong military presence during the month of November, continue to grow into larger global entities, perhaps there is a lesson in here that can be heeded to stop a player getting caught up in a whirlwind of a future political issue.

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DOUBLETREE

80 Years On - The Arranmore Disaster

Continued

to Kevin O'Donnell of Chicago a second generation American from the island. Kevin took Paddy's words and made them into a song. It brings a stunned silence, and many's a tear, to audiences, when performed by Kevin's band "Arranmore". The song was sung by Niamh Byrne at the recent 60th anniversary commemoration on the island. In 1985, a polished granite plaque bearing the names of those who died was erected at the porch of St. Crone's Church. The donors were the Donegal Association in Dublin - this association owes its origins to the response of Donegal people

living in

Dublin in the aftermath of the Disaster. The plaque was recently re-located in a more prominent position in the church. It is now surmounted by a lifesize statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, presented from Scotland. At Aphort Boat-House, a large wooden Celtic cross made by the writer Jimmy" Annie" O' Donnell - author of the book "The Arranmore Disaster" (1993). It is erected over a plaque bearing the names of over sixty people who were drowned 3 around the island's shores over the last 150 years. The Disaster victims are included on the list. In June 1995, Coiste Arainn Mhor Beo had a simple driftwood cross erected at the Mass Rock at Plohogue - overlooking Beal an

Eilin. It marks the 60th anniversary and also commemorates an Gorta Mor and all those who kept the faith on Arranmore in Penal Days. A most moving moment of commemoration in June 1995, when Nora "James" Flanagan- the first ever women crew-member of Arranmore Lifeboat, placed a floral cross on the waters of Beal an Eilin. Fr. James Shiels led the prayers and blessed the Arranmore fleet. It is apt that the island's historian, Patrick Bonner N.T., Meenmore quoted the words of Padraig Pearse "when he put down the Disaster story. "But I will speak their names to my own heart in the long dreary nights, Those names that were familiar once around my dead hearth."

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



People We Stood With and Danced With.....

It is, of course, too soon to attempt any kind of serious, objective article on the Paris outrage; but on the 16th of November, as I write this, I'm already over the deadline.

I'm also, like most thinking people, still both stunned at the ferocity of the attacks and hampered by the sheer angry helplessness that I feel in the wake of them. And much of that anger is directed at our Western leaders who for years now – and in particular since the rise of Islamic State from local power to global threat over a mere 18-month period – have shown

themselves to be unwilling to address in a realistic manner what has been unleashed upon us.

I'm not going to get into the argument that keeps being thrown at me, which says that I don't get so upset over the loss of lives in Syria. I've talked about that elsewhere.

I'm not some paragon of virtue. I don't have an endless well of compassion to draw on as regards every single injustice in this world. And no one has; not even those who seem to have taken on the role of professional bleeding hearts for every single cause. You know -- the ones who bedeck themselves in some inane symbol to be worn on the lapel and God help you if you choose the freedom to NOT wear one.

So it's only human of me to feel more empathy towards those in the streets of

Paris than those in Iraq. Our enemies have hit at us through our love of life's simple pleasures, the Paris attacks make that obvious: they don't want us to enjoy music or sports or a chat in a café. It's no accident that venues catering for these things were the places hit. And since music or movies or a meal out are the things that I care for myself, then yes -- I'm going to feel more for poor innocent folk who die because of their simple enjoyments.

I was reminded recently that the very first article – well over a decade ago – that I did for the 'Irish American News' warned of the dangers of how soft we were in our response to the growing threat from militant Islam. I went to look for it recently only to discover that it was on floppy disc and I couldn't retrieve it. 'Floppy disc': it seemed like some weird and ancient archaeological artifact that I had come upon. How the world has changed since then and seldom for the better. And we have continued to be relatively complacent as long as what happened didn't happen on our doorsteps.

Just prior to Paris last week I listened in bafflement to arguments saying that if we only made the effort to understand these people who hate us that it would be better: if we could make sure that all have jobs or live in nice surroundings then maybe they would stop being quite so darned beastly to us. It was like listening to a '60s nostalgia-head reminiscing about being at a peace-and-love Mamas and the Papas concert.

Are we STILL not getting it? Peace and harmony and that enjoyment of innocent pleasures are the LAST thing our enemies want. And why in Hell's name are we still talking about our attackers as if every one of them is some poor impoverished victim? Look at how many of these fanatics have come from extremely wealthy families.

We could hand them everything on a nice big silver platter and they would still hate us. Accept that. And as if that were bad enough, President Obama tells us the day BEFORE the Paris murders: "What is true is that from the start our goal has been to contain and we have contained them."

That anyone at all could come out with such simplistic and naive nonsense is worrying; that the President of the United States can do so is terrifying.

Let's have a look at some things that John R. Bradley (author of *After the Arab Spring: How Islamists Hijacked the Middle East Revolts*) had to say this week. After pointing out that the area they control is about twice the size of Ireland and with a population of six million, he wrote:

"Governed by Sharia law based on a literal interpretation of the Koran, it is defended

by a fanatical army that may be 200,000 strong. They are fired up by a fantasy of returning the world to how they imagine it was during the lifetime of their Prophet, more than 1,400 years ago.

"Their motivation for unbridled violence is as simple as it is portentous: to eradicate, or enslave, all of the world's population that does not subscribe to their extremist interpretation of Islam.

"And that includes Muslims of other sects, who until now have borne the brunt of their notoriously savage acts of slaughter – recorded and broadcast for the entire world to witness." By attacking westerners on a Tunisian beach and in Paris, these Islamic State assassins have launched the opening salvo in a new and terrifying kind of war that is aimed at everything we value.

"Most chillingly, it will likely last for years, if not decades." And if you feel like opening an 'honest and transparent debate' with that lot then you're a more optimistic person than I am.

I was one of those who opposed our involvement in Iraq and remain convinced that it was an insane response to an insane situation. In a twist of that old World War I comment, we sent in lions led by donkeys who knew there were no Weapons of Mass Destruction. The sight of the now permattanned, mass murdering outright liar Tony Blair still freely roaming the globe, amassing more and more wealth, makes me nauseous. Yet I wonder would our current mess all have developed thus eventually in any case?

And in unison with something I wrote elsewhere only a couple of months ago, Bradley again this week:

"And then consider the breathtaking hypocrisy of our continued support for that atrocious human rights abuser Saudi Arabia, which continues to funnel money and arms to preposterously called 'moderate rebels' in Syria in the name of bringing about democracy."

But let's not leave the last words to the murdering terrorist pigs in our midst. Let's hear from Katie Healy, who was at the concert in the Bataclan Theatre and whose boyfriend David Nolan was the only Irish man to be shot, though thankfully only wounded:

"People we stood with and danced with died; and we watched them die as we just lay there and played dead. We're beyond lucky." Katie described how David threw himself over her as they twice went to the floor. How nice – in this warped world where fools bandy about the word 'hero' and go into raptures because some reality TV star has changed his sex – to for once be able to use the word HERO in its proper context.

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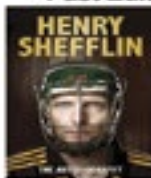
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A Word With Monsignor Boland
 The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago
Reverend Michael M. Boland
 Administrator, President and CEO



Starting December 8, Catholics around the globe will have the opportunity to participate in the special Holy Year, the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The Holy Father proclaimed the Jubilee because our world today desperately needs the transformative power of mercy.

It is hoped that during the Holy Year, we will come to a deeper, more inspired understanding of the mercy of God the Father, who is eternally filled with love and forgiveness for each one of us. If we let it, mercy can be a compassionate, healing force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with renewed optimism. Accepting the love and forgiveness of the Father, and in turn showing that love and mercy to others, can change our own lives and the lives of people we encounter.

Jesus revealed the power of the Father's mercy, and taught us in words and actions how we are to show love and mercy towards one another—we are to "love our neighbor as ourselves." Jesus always showed compassion, especially toward sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering. The Church and all of the faithful are called to transmit His compassion and love to those who need it the most.

I love the Holy Father's image of the Church as "field hospitals." During war, field hospitals are situated right on battlegrounds—close to the wounded who need help. Similarly, the Church is situated on the battlegrounds of life—in local neighborhoods where people need help. Pope Francis tells us that the first job of the Church is to show mercy to God's people, to heal wounds that life has wrought. Whether these wounds are spiritual, mental, or physical in nature, "the Church must be merciful, taking responsibility for the people and accompanying them like the Good Samaritan who washes, cleans and raises up his neighbor."

As part of the Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Catholic Charities' 164 service locations are very much like field hospitals, helping those who

are suffering, and are often located in neighborhoods that sadly have become like real battlegrounds, plagued with violence and despair. On streets littered with shuttered

storefronts, Catholic Charities' bright and well-maintained buildings are welcome reminders that these communities have not been abandoned.

Catholic Charities' program locations have become safe havens in desperate areas, and our staff and volunteers are truly ministers of mercy, providing help through a hot meal, a bag of food, a place to live, the care of a child or elderly relative, job training, or job placement. We

offer specialized counseling and treatment for substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, and grief therapy. In total, more than one million people each year, including seniors, children, teens, veterans, immigrants, refugees, and anyone needing a helping hand, rely on Catholic Charities in neighborhoods throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Pope Francis has asked us each of us to participate in the Jubilee through prayer, reflection, reconciliation, and making greater efforts to be witnesses to God's mercy, especially where brokenness and harm have affected people's lives. He has called us to rediscover the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and to "reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty."

During this Holy Year, I hope you will consider participating in the great mercy of the Church by volunteering at Catholic Charities. You can find many volunteer opportunities at www.volunteer-bridge.com. With your help, we can "raise up" so many people in need, providing love, compassion and concrete support to propel them to a new life, one filled with hope and dignity.

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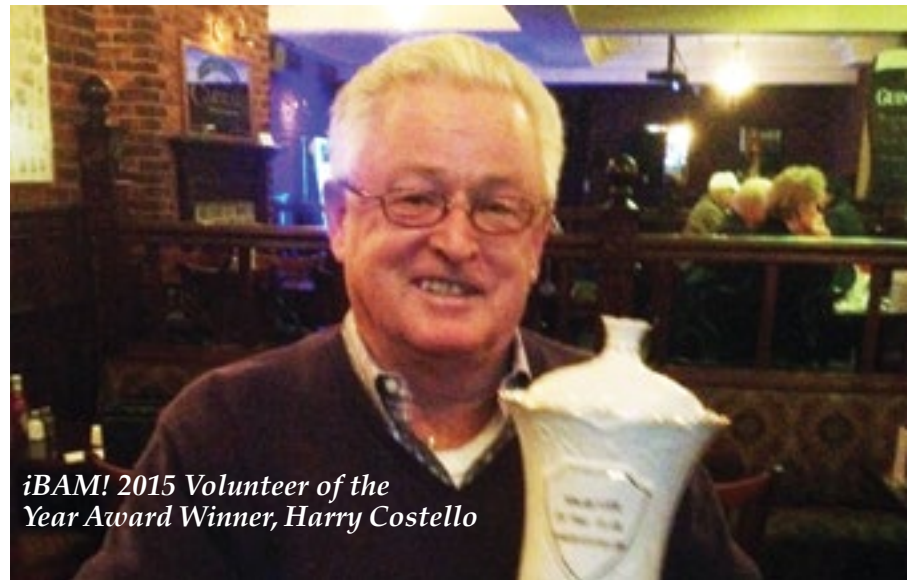
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Hello 2016**



Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



her bag. The advertisement continues with the young man, out of breath, sitting at a bus stop. A bus pulls up to the

stop, and the same woman who lost the bag exits. The young man hands the bag back to the woman. Having restored our faith in human kindness, a third portion of the advertisement was later included, in which the police call the young man over to their car and reward his random act of honesty with a doughnut.

While the purpose of the three segment advertisement is to promote 'human values', it clearly demonstrates a very powerful point. If we only see a segment of an event we may misinterpret the whole thing incorrectly. Without further examination, we will

invariably arrive at a false conclusion.

In other words, to simplify the truth is to distort it. Fundamentalists of any sort thrive when they speak authoritatively about the simplicity of truth. Ideas such as Muslims are all extremists, or Israel is an illegitimate state, or all Irish people are good humoured drunks, are a distortion of the truth. Not every Muslim is supportive of the extreme fundamentalism so often depicted by the media. The formation of the State of Israel is a very controversial topic that continues to plague both Arabs and Jews. And, while even Irish people might want to propagate the fun loving drunk, we would not want to endorse it as a national symbol of the Irish character.

All of us have an angle; a way of seeing things that often obscures our ability to embrace a viewpoint that is at odds with ours. Whatever our angle, it can serve as a blind spot when it comes to an understanding of the truth. A partial view is a restricted view, and as such can only be corrected by another perspective.

A good friend of mine told me of a little exercise he would conduct while teaching. Standing in front of the class, he would have them describe what was behind him, and he likewise would describe what lay behind those facing him. The point of the exercise was to show that everyone has a perspective, but nobody has a complete view of the truth. The truth is often hiding between the angles.

Hiding Between the Angles

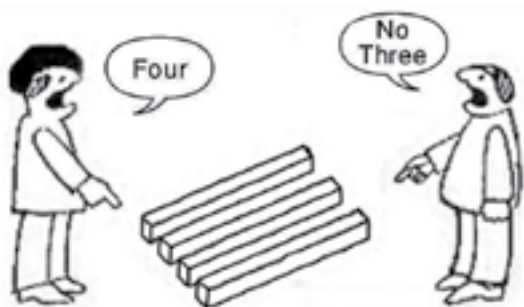
There is no doubt that regardless of what one believes to be true, perception rather than truth seems to continue to play a role in our decision making. Whether it be buying a washing detergent, or voting in the next election, we are likely to be persuaded by the 'spin cycle', pun intended, of the media. Since moving to the United States, I am more aware of how easy it is to simply go for the easiest and most convenient truth.

The lead up to next election and the constant barrage of raising to crucify, or

anoint, is without doubt the worst expression of trial by media. What seems to be of more importance to those in the media is the 'news worthiness' of the story rather than the facts; if, indeed there are any facts to be gathered. For the most part, people want a simplified version of the event.

I remember when I used to teach groups of American students who came to Northern Ireland to study the effects of conflict, and how they were led to believe the Troubles were the result of religious differences: Catholics and Protestants. Obviously, it's easier to think this way than to discuss the formation of the Northern Irish State. Of course, this mentality works both ways. Whenever George W. Bush was elected, twice, I was often challenged by Irish people who believed Americans were all conservative, bible believing, fundamentalists. These blinkered positions occur whenever we fail to 'question the source'. Politicians and their campaigners would love us to buy into the slogan led concepts of their spin, and their artistry lies in being able to distill the complicated truth to a mere ideological statement.

The hardest thing to do is think, and I don't mean the process of thinking, but to deeply examine what is a perceived truth. Recently there was an advertisement on television in which a woman, while waiting for a bus, forgets to take her bag. A young man snaps up the bag, and starts running. Of course we're led to believe that he's snatched



Walsh Appointed Commissioner

Governor Bruce Rauner recently appointed David J. Walsh as a Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The appointment fills the vacancy of former Commissioner Patrick Daley Thompson who was elected earlier this year to serve as Alderman of the Chicago 11th Ward.

Commissioner Walsh stated that he is excited to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Since 2011 Commissioner Walsh has worked as head of Business Development at Mark J. Walsh & Company, a Chicago based commodity trading advisor.

Commissioner Walsh was born in Chicago. He attained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois at



Commissioner David J. Walsh

Urbana-Champaign in 1985. While at Illinois he served as an elected member of the faculty-student Senate. After graduation he served three terms as a director of the University of Illinois Alumni Board. In 2000 he successfully completed the General Management Executive Education program at Harvard Business School in Boston, Mass.

The American Writers Museum Opening in Chicago 2017

The American Writers Museum (AWM) has leased a prime space at 180 North Michigan Avenue, one of Chicago's busiest blocks, for its early 2017 opening.

Showcasing the personal stories and literary works of diverse American writers, from Mark Twain to Dr. Seuss, the interactive, high-tech museum is expected to draw up to 120,000 visitors annually. The museum's esteemed curating team and National Advisory Council are working closely with internationally renowned museum and exhibit companies in the museum's development. AWM is also collaborating with 50 authors' homes and museums around the U.S. – now AWM Affiliates – that will support its mission with author-specific knowledge and expertise and foster an exchange of ideas and experiences.

"I enthusiastically support the efforts to place a national writers museum in Chicago," he says. "Such a museum will complement the rich offerings of the city's theaters, museums, libraries, and musical activities and adds significantly to Chicago's vitality." said Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The museum's themed galleries, interac-

tive exhibits, educational programs, and special events will change regu-

larly to continually surprise and engage visitors of all ages. They will come face-to-face with great writers using their zip codes in Writers Hall; accompany roving writers such as Kerouac and Steinbeck on their literary travels; and "visit" writers' homes and fictional sites, such as "Tara," "Cannery Row," and "The House of the Seven Gables" in Nation of Writers. Exhibits such as The Mind of a Writer, A Writer's Room, and Word Play will de-mystify famed writers' lives and methodologies and invite visitor creativity with games and other immersive offerings. Readers Hall will host films, talks, readings, and presentations to schools and other groups.

"We are thrilled to have found the perfect space in the heart of downtown Chicago, just steps from the city's major attractions," says AWM founder and President, Malcolm E. O'Hagan. "The American Writers Museum will become a beloved attraction for Chicago residents and visitors from all over the world, and will provide an exciting and unprecedented opportunity to showcase true Americana in one of the nation's most culturally rich cities."

www.americanwritersmuseum.org



Malcom O'Hagan

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



worry you've peed enough"

Happy Holidays!

On that note, over to you Joe.

Love always, Margo

Thank you Margo, Hello everyone,

And I'm so happy that you had such a very special year Margo. Everyone I talk to has some wonderful memories of dancing to you and I guess a lot of people met their wives and husbands from attending your shows. I know your career had its up's and downs and when I say that, I mean the people in managerial positions. I remember you telling me about the recordings you did in London for a very large record company. You were recording in one room and the Beatles were recording in another and you said, you didn't really know who they were Ha! Ha! I guess the world soon found out. You actually out sold them in record sales at one stage. The reason I mention that is because your records were sold wherever the Irish would be and that would be all over the world. I can only hazard a guess from my

experience that they made a fortune out of you, while you made a decent living.

I to, in my own small way can relate to that and a lot of it started at school. I remember writing a composition, as they called them back then (short story) One of the sentences I wrote was - the sea came crashing into the rocks and it sounded like a lions roar - I was accused of cheating and taken to the head master, where I was interrogated and found guilty. I was then bent over a chair and had my butt beaten by a leather strap, because Quote "I wouldn't tell the truth" unquote. I was eight years old. That was my experience of school from start to finish. I was taught to think very little of myself. I left school with very low self esteem at the age of 14 and became a plasterers laborer and at 16 went to work in the tunnels.

Later I tried to show my musical talents to a lot of publishers/managers and looking back now I can see that a majority of people in the music business, have the ability to detect the low self esteem in someone like me. So in their own way they made me feel like my school days did. Cruel but true. I come from a hard working family, so I never really gave up on myself or my faith. Although it has taken

a lot of years for me to appreciate the gift that God gave me. I have been writing songs and music since around 14 years old and singing since around five. I'm sure God has explained to the head master and all those teachers who tried to make little of me and are all passed on now R.I.P. "Joe didn't cheat".

On a lighter note, Margo and I had a conversation a few years back about the possibility of a child being very much in the spiritual world till maybe around three maybe four years old. Then I told her how my son had a friend that he used to talk to until he was almost four. He doesn't remember it now. Anyway, we started to write a song and involved James Thacker, a good friend from Nashville. Jim and I have written quite a lot of songs together. So we will include it for this months song It's called "Christmas Spirit". I love the song and I hope you like it. Its on YouTube and itunes from Margo's record company and can be downloaded. I take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support all year and wish you a very joyous and peaceful Christmas.

As always be good to one another.

Merry Christmas! from Joe, Margaret, Declan, Christopher, Tracey and Joseph.

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Peaceful Christmas and a
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Christmas Spirit

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

1st Verse

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

2nd Verse

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

1st Chorus

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

3rd Verse

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

Spoken

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

Last Chorus

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

For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



Merry Christmas!

A salute to Publisher Cliff Carlson for his courage in reporting on Portlaoise Prison conditions. Ireland frames its patriots and, in further violation of international law, imprisons them in toilet-less cells and denies them adequate medical treatment. Why? Ireland's gov't is a successor to King George V's Royal Dáil; not the Dáil created by the Irish people on January 21, 1919. The fact of Ireland's Royal Dáil also explains why international banksters can loot Ireland and have their losses foisted onto the Irish people, and why Ireland's soil has been contaminated by the use of Shannon Airport for torture flights and other Crimes Against Humanity.

Ireland's people are not as stupid and as criminal as this indicates. They have no more control over their Royal Dáil than Americans have over the Israel-First Neo-Cons who lie the U.S. gov't into its criminal wars.

As I write this the news media are full of yesterday's massacres of 127 in Paris. "Je Suis Paris" is everywhere. Many world capitals and American cities are bathing their public buildings at night in France's blue, white, and red. (No more "Freedom Fries" and "Surrender Monkeys?") Our gov't and corporate media correctly inform us that the murder of 127 in Paris is intolerable. Meanwhile, the media conceal the similar atrocities that our forces and proxies perpetrate routinely in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Syria, and also conceal the fact that we are financing and munitioning Israel's genocide of Palestine. The news media spread the notion that such massacres are the sole prerogative of the US, Britain, and Israel who kill and destroy to "deliver democracy" or "in self-defense."

The following events in France yesterday exemplify the danger that blind racism poses to us all. Within hours of the Paris atrocity, three other events occurred.

1) Set aflame were all of the plastic-covered shelters of refugees jammed into 10,000 sq. meters near Calais. The camp was destroyed leaving its hundreds of families shelterless; many without possessions. Fire departments proved "unable" to douse the fire, and the next morning

gov't bulldozers obliterated the remnants. It is tacitly admitted that revenge for the Paris atrocities

prompted the arson attack and the fire department's "inability." The vast majority are fleeing American death and destruction in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Palestine, etc., similar to that of Paris.

2) The French gov't announced a "tightening" of its borders. Thus officialdom's response to the Paris attack is to attack equally innocent families fleeing similar murderous attacks in other countries. No gov't or news media proves willing to examine why the refugees are refugees. Instead, VICTIMS of Crimes Against Humanity are treated like perpetrators.

3) "After Paris Attacks, Parisians Offer Shelter;" (Wired, 13Nov2015) This hypocritical offer of shelter was for fellow-Parisians exclusively; not for actual refugees.

The vast majority in all countries but one opposes genocide; so how did the world's predatory One Percent get such power again? We can better grasp the dangers threatening Americans by analyzing the insane response by the usually-rational French. It is important to grasp the issue: the French reacted to the Paris atrocity by attacking refugees fleeing greater atrocities. Why? The complexions of many of the refugees resembles those of the murderers. Another reason? What is it?

Why do our leaders fear to ask ISIS leaders to communicate their grievance against the West? We know why we murdered some 1.4 million Iraqis and terrorized millions of them into fleeing, mostly into Syria. About half of Americans believed President W. Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, the New York Times' Judith Miller, Hillary Clinton, and many others, that Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction threatened us. They also claimed that Saddam was affiliated with Al-Qaeda. They paid more than \$100 million to "Curveball" Chalabi and others for the lies that the Bush gang needed to "justify" their criminal wars.

Many of us knew they were lying; because their rationales for war changed nearly daily. Some 15,000 of us on Lake Shore Drive on 19March2003 knew they lied. So far, the continued silence of the corporate media signals their complicity in these vast crimes.

The criminal One Percent now possess most of the guns, nearly all of the wealth, essentially all of the news media, and have bought the governments in most countries including Ireland. Governments needn't heed the people now that we can be stampeded by TV ads to vote however the One Percent want.

ISIS is not only barbaric; it is wrong. Its legitimate target is not the French though French bombers are wreaking havoc in Syria. ISIS also ought not target Americans or America; though approximately half of the American population did favor Bush's wars due to believing his lies. They are not culpable; they were disinformed. Nations are not culpable; are not the perpetrators. The One Percent are the perpetrators, and they are in all nations acting in criminal concert. We must bring

them to justice before they destroy us all and the entire planet.

My brother Luke, after decades in Asia, will be in Chicago in mid-December and happy to meet old friends (312/664-7651).

DON'T MISS www.justiceforthecraigavontwo.com.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS? See www.terrorismireland.org.

GFA BENEFICIAL? See www.michaelmckevitt.com, www.billymcguire.com

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your ancestors? Read "Ireland 1845-1850; the Perfect Holocaust, and Who Kept it 'Perfect'."

MI5/FBI CRIMES. See www.chicagomole.org.

WRITE TO IRELAND'S PATRIOT/POWs. For details contact maryosullivan-paa@gmail.com or 312/664-7651. Same Tel. for me, or fogartyc@att.net.



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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I am taking a holiday break from the presidential history time-line. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, soon the bells will start...This month I want to detail Irish Christmas traditions. Christmas is in the decorations, Christmas is in the jingles, Christmas is in the smiles...The meaning of Christmas as we know, is universal, Christ's miraculous birth and the time for celebrations. A time of giving, sharing and spending time with our families. Maybe a time to a review our year. Ireland definitely has a magic all its own at Christmas. Our lives are normally going 100 miles an hour but at Christmas things just get more hectic. Let's start with Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, people would whitewash (low cost type of paint) their houses. (a spring

cleaning for the holidays) Next, we have the placing of a candle in the window on Christmas Eve, it's a symbol of welcome to the Holy Family, as they traveled looking for shelter. The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform Mass as during Penal Times this was not allowed. After the Christmas meal the kitchen table was again set, a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk, candle and the door unlocked to welcome Mary and Joseph. On St. Stephen's day (Dec. 26) They celebrate the day of the Wren, or La an Dreoilin, a group of boys dress up in masks and colorful clothes accompanied with a ceili band. They go house to house carrying a pole decorated with a fake bird, ribbons and flowers on it. (Ancient times an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole) They sing a rhyme about the wren, "The wren the wren the king of all birds on St. Stephen's day was caught in

on issues like immigration reform, between what we've been seeing from the Republicans, and our Democratic field."

One way to keep working to change things is to keep people meeting and talking about it. The Ethnic Coordinating Council has regular calls and they are always organizing events. They also rely on community leaders to keep them going. Dacey says they are working to do this at both a state and a national level.

Dacey also spoke about the importance of using all mediums to reach people, since there are so many forms of media that are out there now. "We need to go where people are, so we're trying to have a robust outreach in the ethnic press, (as well)," she adds. To volunteer or donate to this cause, you can contact your individual state parties to be commented within your state, and locally.

CEO Dacey Speaks on Immigration

Recently, Amy Dacey, CEO of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), was invited to speak with the Ethnic Coordinating Council about immigration outreach.

Since coming on board with the DNC in January of 2014, she has been passionately working with the Ethnic Coordinating Council, a group that strives to foster support within immigrant/ethnic oriented communities for the Democratic party. At the meeting, which has grown extensively since last year, they discussed organizing in individual communities to get established and activated, and to build a strong outreach network for the general election of 2016.

With immigration being a hot-topic button for this election in particular, she's hoping to change the rhetoric that's out there right now, making it more positive for immigrants. "I'm looking forward to our candidates in the primary. I'm really looking forward to the debate (on Oct 13), because I think you're really going to see that stark contrast, especially



Amy Dacey



Billy Lawless, a strong advocate for immigration, makes a valid point during a recent meeting.

the furze, so up with the kettle and down with the pan and give us a penny to bury the wren." Legend has it that the wren was hunted because he betrayed St. Stephen, the bird was making loud noises above St. Stephen's hiding spot which resulted in St. Stephen being found and stoned to death.

On Christmas day some people partake in a swim in Co. Dublin off the 40 foot rock, they claim it's a great hangover cure. On St. Stephen's day they also have Horse racing in Dublin. (St. Stephen is patron saint of horses), Another Christmas tradition is they have Readings of James Joyce's short story (has been turned into a musical) "The Dead". It's about a group of Dubliners gathering together for a post Christmas celebration, it's about magic in Life and Death. Another tradition in Ireland is watching shows/pantomimes of fairy tales where the female and male switch roles. A special day for the ladies is Women's Christmas, Nollaig na mBai, on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6. Women get together with their friends and the men stay home and take care the chores. Traditionally, decorations in Ireland were simple, holly, stockings over the fireplace and candles in the window. One sign you know it's Christmas in Ireland is the migration of people going home to be with their families for the holidays. Midnight Mass, on Christmas Eve, which of course is a tradition in America and around the world. The Christmas dinner might include: turkey, goose, spiced beef, ham, potatoes and turnips. Desserts might include Christmas cake, plum pudding, brandy butter, trifle, treacle scones and a tin of USA biscuits. Christmas is truly a beautiful time of year with a lot of meaning attached to it. I hope this Christmas you can be with the ones that you love but if you can't then send a Christmas card. Some non-material Christmas gift ideas, to your enemy, forgiveness, to an opponent tolerance, to a friend, your heart. I don't want much for Christmas, I just want the person reading this to be wrapped in joy and good health this

Christmas, I wish you snowflakes, friendship and winter cheer.

"The light of the Christmas star to you, The warmth of home and hearth to you, The cheer and good will of friends to you, The hope of a childlike heart to you, The joy of a thousand angels to you, The love of the Son, And God's peace to you."

Christmas in Killarney, song by Irish Rowers or Bing Crosby

Gaelic for the month:

Christmas-Nollaig

St. Stephen's Day-Lá Stiofáin

Happy Christmas to you-

Nollaig Shona dhuit Present-bronnantas

Midnight Mass-Aifreann Meán Oíche

Seanfhocail for the month:

Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin (there's no home like your own home)

Lá Nollaig go péacach is Lá Féile na Stiofáin ag iarraidh déirce.

(A showy Christmas Day and begging on the Feast of St. Stephen)

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Mick

Mike Morley



Necessary Truths

I once watched a TV interview of a group of girls in a Middle Eastern country. They all detested America, its values, its actions. But what struck me was their dreams for the future included immigrating to America and enjoying its prosperity.

Loving the good life, yet hating the values. That theme was echoed in the recent Paris attacks. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, alleged "mastermind" behind the murders, was raised in an immigrant family that prospered after migrating to Europe. He attended a prestigious private Belgian school, then became radicalized and traveled to Syria to enjoy the thrills of jihad. Footage showed Abdelhamid and his new Muslim friends piling bloody corpses into a pickup and trailer. He grinned for the camera saying: "Before we towed jet skis, motorcycles, quad bikes, big trailers filled with gifts for vacation in Morocco. Now, thank God, following God's path, we're towing apostates; infidels..."

There it is, consumption vs. consecration. The kid's family rose from poverty to a 'good life' yielding truckloads of gifts to bestow on relatives. But he found that far less appealing than loading trucks with gifts for Allah- the broken bodies of unbelievers. And like Boston bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev, he persuaded his brother Younes (13) to join him in Syria. Younes gained instant fame when media labeled him "the youngest jihadist in the world."

The "mastermind" had barely enjoyed a week of spotlight glow before French police raided his hideout, facilitating his journey to paradise. Abaaoud's cousin Hasna Aitboulahcen also died in the raid. (More on that in this column's online version.)

The family emerged from a very restrictive society into one that makes a religion

of permissiveness. While progressively being marginalized in the West, religion is central to Muslim societies, where life is strictly regulated around daily calls to prayer. The West instead enforces laws banning religion from public life.

Christmas traditionally involved big celebrations in downtown areas across the US. Now "Christmas" is seen as an 'offensive' word and banished from holiday displays.

Even our own St. Patrick's Day celebrations, held the USA since colonial times, are headed to the operating room. Surgery is needed to remove three ugly blemishes from the event: Catholicism, Irishness and St. Patrick Himself. It's reported a NY parade board faction under John Lahey proposes trashing parade bylaws requiring that parade leaders be practicing Catholics and AOH members and also requirements tying the parade to the Archdiocese of New York and Ireland's patron saint, Patrick. The issue has been taken to court.

If religion is out, then so is constitutional protection. A rainbow of groups could lay claim to marching rights. Sponsors, including those great supporters of Irish and Catholic causes- Sam Adams, Guinness and Heineken- would offer carloads of cash for naming rights to a Spring version of the Macy's parade.

If Patrick is out, I'd suggest renaming the March 17th event for Gwydion. Like Bud Billiken, this trickster is mythical, so no one could claim blood ties. And Gwydion has an advantage- he's Celtic and also a

god. He's an excellent PC substitute for the regressive and offensive Irish and Catholic tone of the traditional parade.

It must appear to Muslim societies that westerners are pretty slow. Soon after the toxic dust settled from 9/11... after Mayor Giuliani rejected Prince Al-Walid's check-with-strings... after whatever could be found of some 3,000 innocent American citizens murdered in the name of Islam had been waked and buried- Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf founded the Cordoba Initiative, a group aiming to tear down a damaged building near Ground Zero and build a Muslim center or mosque. It was touted as a Muslim gift to promote friendship among



Is Patrick Apprehensive?

religions. Or was it meant as a Trojan victory horse? Cordoba was capitol city of the Spain's 8th century Caliphate established after the Muslim conquest.

New York Mayor Bloomberg strongly endorsed the project and President Obama defended the right for it to be built; although polls showed most Americans, and most new Yorkers opposed. The debate continues. Though no synagogue or Christian church would be tolerated in Mecca, those in favor of the project say

it would "show the world who we are". That argument is also used to support acceptance of mass migrations, legal or illegal into the US.

Immigration from Europe has been more restricted since the Democratic Party launched The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. That law may demonstrate "what we are about", but mandates ever increasing change to "who we are".

The big difference between western government terror and Islamist terror is that Islamists are proud of any "victory over Satan" and quickly claim responsibility for their murders. By contrast, "democratic" murderers feign innocence and go to great lengths, sparing no expense to paint their homicides as legal and justifiable.

45 years- nearly half a century- has passed since Ballymurphy, Bloody Sunday and a host of other state murders; yet the British government continues spending millions to deny justice, foil inquiries and destroy evidence, until every witness to those events has died from the wait. Even the passage of 170 years has not altered Britain's insistence on labeling genocide "famine". Once again Britain shows its love of 'democracy' and its compassion to living relatives of its murder victims by appointing yet another judge, Sir Declan Morgan, to yet another inquiry; one which promises to drag on decades longer.

The Families of those murdered by British state terror are, like the character Joseph K in Franz Kafka's 'The Trial', forced to wait beyond the point from which there is no turning back. They are forced to submit to what K called "a melancholy conclusion"-one which "turns lying into a universal principle"- the conclusion that

"it is not necessary to accept everything as true; one must only accept it as necessary."

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NOTE! The 1916/2016 commemorative pin is being offered to defray the cost of bringing you Irish music and entertainment on cable television and the internet. This is our 28th year.

The Commemorative 1916/2016 Easter Lily Pin

Easter Lily pins are worn throughout Ireland to honor and commemorate the men and women of 1916 who gave their lives for Irish Freedom. This high quality 100th Anniversary Irish Rising Pin is 16 to 18 carat gold plated, inlaid with oven bonded hard enamel and is available now for only

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



The spirit speaks louder in Ireland.

Every trip to Eire reminds me that the spirits are leading me back. Like embracing a woman who tells you, yes, you are loved and cared for and all will be well. Kathleen ni' Houlihan is her name and we've been carrying on this mad affair for the last 67 years but it's just started to get passionate in the last half dozen.

I reported for this year's "Druid's Call" at O'Hare on October

strike like a thunderbolt or ease onto you like a favorite blanket.

We prepared for our séance with plenty of drinking, on the plane, on the train from Dublin to Galway and then in Headford in the home of our Irish cousins, Mike Monaghan and his wife Cindy. Mike and Cindy and their son Kevin, and Mike's brother Joe entertained us as we adjusted to being "home."

We went on a piss-up through the pubs of Headford and traded

back as we came upon the guy playing the whistle. His tune was crystal clear and the melody wafted through the gentle wind over the salmon stream. He was mythological in his look and we complimented him on the music. "Oh, I'm just practicing."

Well keep it up, you sound great!

We walked down towards the stream in search of the Salmon of Wisdom and Puck started playing again. I know that song! I know that melody! What is it? Danny Boy!

I turned to Denny, "Do you hear what he's playing?"

The thunderbolt!

I felt the spirit and my heart leapt. My brother Danny was suddenly there with us in Ireland. Just saying hello.

The next morning my old friend Michael Quinlan picked us up at the castle for a trip to Mayo. We were on a mission to discover whatever we could about James Ambrose Kearns, Denny's grandfather who had left Ireland for Chicago and would later become Alderman of one of the Southside wards. In Chicago he was known as "Weeping Jim Kearns" because he made a habit of attending every wake in his ward.

All we had to go on was his birth certificate from 1871. Weeping Jim had emigrated to Chicago when he was about 9 years old, with his mother Catherine Quinn and his father James Kearns Sr. The birth certificate gave Kilmeena, Inishscuttle, County Mayo as his birthplace.

We knew Kilmeena was just outside Westport so we just started driving around looking for it and finally found a little road that we followed and discovered the tiny town. We found the church, St. Brendan's, where Weeping

Jim had been baptized and sent Dennis in to say a prayer for his grandfather.

School was just getting out next-door and mothers were arriving to pick up their kids. We chatted with a few ladies who asked what we were up to and we told them the story of Weeping Jim Kearns.

"And what was his mother's name?" Catherine Quinn.

"Sure Willie Quinn is just above there in his car, picking up his grand daughter."

The lightening bolt again!

Denny and I walked over to Willie's car and knocked on the window. Willie had just undergone surgery and chemo for tongue cancer and I thought he had the thickest brogue I'd ever heard until he explained his trouble speaking. His granddaughter Abigail arrived, the sweetest child with red hair and

freckles about nine years old. Willie turned out to be one of the finest gentlemen I have ever met. He explained that "Inishscuttle" is the island where he was born and said he would take us there. He got in his car and said, "Follow me!"

And so we did, and Willie took us into his home and we met his wife Mary and he broke out the whiskey for a toast with his long lost cousin Dennis Kearns from Austin, Texas by way of Chicago.

As Willie passed the bottle around he said, "God bless the givers and the willing takers!"

We all felt the spirit of Weeping Jim Kearns right there in Willie's home and now it was Dennis' turn to weep as his emotions took over and he proclaimed his everlasting gratitude for his ancestors and their Catholic faith.

The spirit speaks louder in Ireland.



Willie Quinn and family with IAN Columnist Mike Houlihan

1st. My brother on this journey was my old pal Dennis A. Kearns, both of us wisecracking our way through life since first grade when Sister Therese Marie went batshit on him as he stood at the blackboard and pissed his pants, green corduroys if memory serves me right. I'd witnessed Dennis's aplomb and subversive humor during this horrifying experience and we've been pals ever since, meeting at least annually to compare notes on the comic absurdity of getting older.

We've danced with the spirits of this island before and we did it again this October.

We were in search of the usual: the Celtic connection that can

crummy jokes all along the way. Theirs were better. "Didja hear about the midget who got married? The lads had to put him up to it!"

On Sunday Padraic Walsh drove us to the Ballynahinch Castle in Connemara. Walking through the woods by the castle at dusk, we met an Irish lady, Mary Rooney, who had been visiting the Castle with her husband every October for the last 26 years. She was beguiling. As we parted ways with her we suddenly heard the sound of a tin whistle in the midst of this forest. I'd been talking to Dennis about my late brother Danny, who had died just a couple years

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Celtic Women Christmas December 4

The Celtic Women Lecture series will celebrate Christmas with a "show and tell" session. Please bring a treasure or special hand-me-down from your ancestors and tell us its history and why it is special for you. It may be a photo, stuffed toy, crystal piece or jewelry. Anything that belonged to a great-grandsomeone who's story you can share with us at this time of Christmas memories. In lieu of an admission, if you have a sweet treat on hand, bring that too. Our traditional Christmas program is always a highlight with treats and stories. 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the ICHC. Everyone is welcome. Merry Christmas!

Dec. 4, 2015 Topic: "A Christmas Celebration with Show and Tell"
Audience bring a treasured keepsake for our admiration. Do you have a precious item from your ancestors, a



hand-me-down or a simple item that is meaningful in the family? Please bring it along and share its story with us. This is a special annual Christmas celebration that continues in its 19th year. Bring a yummy treat or a keepsake, or both, and enjoy the Christmas Celtic spirit.

Admission us free

Irish Christmas Market Spreads Cheer

This Christmas season, Montgar LLC and Big Buzz Idea Group proudly present the 2nd Annual Chicago's Irish Christmas Market. Enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience as Northcenter Town Square is transformed into a family-friendly, European-style outdoor marketplace that features Irish products, artisan gifts, seasonal fare and festive entertainment along with a tree-lighting ceremony, Santa, Christmas Tree Parade, crafts, activities and more. So bring your family and friends to celebrate the spirit of Christmas at this three-day event. Santa Claus will be in attendance,

and he is ready to collect those lists! Bring the little ones to meet Santa on: Saturday, December 12, 10AM-2PM and Sunday, December 13, 10AM-2PM.

The Market will also be collecting donations of shelf stable foods, toiletries and seasonal clothing to benefit the Common Pantry and The Lincoln Square Friendship Center. Your support of Chicago's Irish Christmas Market will help spread the Christmas spirit to families in need.

4100 N. Damen Avenue (Northcenter Town Square), Chicago. For more info, visit irishxmasmarket.com.

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The Fairy doors and the website promote imaginivie play in boys and girls visit the website:

TheIrishFairyDoorCompany.com.

Cooney & Keane Kick Off Irish American Heritage Center Radio Show 12/5

Irish American Heritage Center President Gene Cooney and Irish entertainer Kathleen Keane will kick off the weekly Irish American Heritage Center radio hour on Saturday December 5th at 8PM on WSBC 1240AM. The one-hour program features music and community news for the Irish American community of Chicagoland. The show is produced by Hibernian Transmedia, a not for profit producing organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Irish and Irish American culture.

Cooney, a local funeral director and long time supporter of the Heritage Center was elected President of the Board of Directors last July. He's a popular figure in the Irish community and continues to perform stand-up comedy at a variety of community events.

Kathleen Keane is an international performer on Irish fiddle, tin whistle, flute, button accordion and a handful of other instruments, who has performed in Ireland and all over the world with her signature style. She has recorded several CDs and performed with Gaelic Storm, The Drovers, and The Keane Machine among other groups. Kathleen was recently appointed



musical director of the 5th Province Pub in the Heritage Center.



Cooney & Keane will pre-record the show in the 5th Province Pub in the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago. The show will begin recording before a live audience on Thursday nights starting January 7th, when Keane will be programming a weekly Thursday night "session" with a variety of world-class Irish entertainers. Tune in every Saturday night from 8-9PM to hear Gene Cooney and Kathleen Keane for The Irish American Heritage Center on WSBC 1240AM. Contact: Mike Houlihan, 312-431-8700, hiberniantransmedia@gmail.com



Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



(3) non-profit organization before 2015 ends? In most cases, these gifts are partly tax-deductible.

You must itemize deductions using Schedule A to claim a deduction for a charitable gift. If you donate appreciated securities you have owned for at least a year, you can take a charitable deduction for their current value and forego the capital gains tax hit that would result from their sale. If you pour some money into an education savings plan on behalf of a child, you could claim a full or partial state income tax deduction (depending on the state).

End of Year Money Moves

What has changed for you in 2015? Did you start a new job or leave a job behind? Did you retire? Did you start a family? If notable changes occurred in your personal or professional life, then you will want to review your finances before this year ends and 2016 begins. Even if your 2015 has been relatively uneventful, the end of the year is still a good time to review your finances and see where you can plan to save some taxes and/or build a little more wealth.

Tax loss harvesting. This is the art of taking capital losses (selling securities worth less than what you first paid for them) to offset your short-term capital gains. If you fall into one of the upper tax brackets, you might want to consider this move, which directly lowers your taxable income. In fact, you could even take it a step further. Consider that up to \$3,000 of capital losses in excess of capital gains can be deducted from ordinary income, and any remaining capital losses above that can be carried forward to offset capital gains in upcoming years. Tax loss harvesting does have some rules you must adhere to so it should be done with a financial professional or trust.

Itemize deductions. End of the year is a good time to get the receipts and assorted paperwork together. Besides a possible mortgage interest deduction, you might be able to take a state sales tax deduction, a student loan interest deduction, a military-related deduction, a deduction for the amount of estate tax paid on inherited IRA assets, an energy-saving deduction... there are so many deductions you can potentially claim, and now is the time to meet with your tax professional to strategize to claim as many as you can.

401(k) or 403(b) contributions. Try to maximize your 401k or 403b contributions before year end. This will lower your taxable income for 2015. If it's too late to maximize contributions for 2015, revisit your contribution percentages and try to increase them for 2016. Note that contributions to Roth 401(k)s and Roth 403(b)s are made with after-tax rather than pre-tax dollars, so those Roth account contributions won't lower your taxable income for 2015 (they will still help to build your retirement savings).

Gifting. Are you thinking about donating to a charity or some other kind of 501(c)

Of course, you can also reduce the value of your taxable estate with a gift or two. The gift tax exclusion is \$14,000 for both 2015. So as an individual, you can gift up to \$14,000 to as many people as you wish this year. A married couple can gift up to \$28,000 to as many people as desired in 2015. (Unfortunately, the IRS prohibits a current-year income tax deduction for the value of a non-charitable gift.)

While we're on the topic of estate planning, why not take a moment to review the beneficiary designations for your IRA, your life insurance policy, and your retirement plan at work? If you haven't reviewed them for a decade or more (which is all too common), double-check to see that these

assets will go where you want them to go should you pass away. Lastly, take a look at your will to see that it remains valid and up to date.

I hope this helps you finish 2015 on the right note and get 2016 off to a great start. Merry Christmas and Happy

New Year to everyone. John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. 180 N. LaSalle St Suite 3700 Chicago, IL 60601. Phone: 312-239-1317 www.dalyinvestment.com Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Call or email for a free consultation.

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Lauren Corry-2015
St. Patrick's Day Queen

Looking for the New Parade Queen

James F. Coyne, General Chairman of the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Parade, announced plans for a city wide search for Chicago's fairest Colleen. She will represent the Chicago Irish community as the Queen of the 2016 Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Entry Information

Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, 18-28 years old, is eligible to enter the contest.

Contest finals will be held Sunday, January 17, 2016, in the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60607. **Deadline for entries** is Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

For more information see our website:

www.chicagostpatsparade.com



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The Graves are Walking

By John Kelly
Henry Holt and Co. Amazon
Reviewed by Frank West

"The relief policies that England employed during the famine—parsimonious, short sighted, grotesquely twisted by religion and ideology-produced...hundreds of thousands of needless deaths. The intent of those policies may not have been genocide, but the effects were."

Government officials in England "believed free trade to be a natural law—that is a law of God..." They believed that the Irish crop failure was not a natural disaster, it was a Visitation of Providence. God had destroyed the potato crop to punish man for violating His laws on food tariffs." Absurd and crazy-but at least a million Irish died because of that ridiculous belief.

The Great Famine (1845 to early 1850's) caused a million people to die. It caused untold human suffering. Two million fled on the notorious "coffin ships" to Canada, England, the United States—to anywhere they could go to.

The memory of this human suffering was powerful and personal. In 1916, one hundred Irish Volunteers occupied the South Dublin Union. This was near the Dublin workhouse—the scene of horrible suffering during the Famine. The Irish soldiers knew of the obscure suffering that had taken place there. Their own parents were survivors of the Famine.

How else can we explain 100 soldiers held off two battalions of battle hardened British soldiers for a week!

The Volunteers didn't retreat an inch. And at the end of the week refused to lay down their arms. Padrig Pearse finally had to send a handwritten note (they knew his signature was genuine) ordering them to surrender.

I keep six reference books about the Famine. And I have read pertinent parts of many others. The effects of the Famine on Irish history and on Irish people throughout the world are deep and lasting.

But this book, *The Graves are Walking*,

is uniquely powerful. Author, John Kelly provides a fresh look at that profound event. His book is filled with new insights and the reader is quickly immersed in it.

That's That: A Memoir

by Colin Broderick
Broadway Books/Random House
Reviewed by Frank West

"Tell the truth and shame the devil."

This was said to me often when I was a child. The message conveyed was that I couldn't tell the truth.

That's That is a superb memoir written by Colin Broderick of growing up Catholic in Northern Ireland. He is in his early 40's and about twenty years ago he moved to New York City. He lives there today and has a four year old daughter.

Broderick's remembrances of growing up in a Catholic family during the sectarian war, called the Troubles, are vivid and moving. The war created constant tension in society and in a compelling way he tells us about it.

I found particularly pertinent to me, painful really, was his description of his relationship with his mother. I was amazed at how similar he was raised in Ireland to how I was raised here in Chicago, and I believe, to many who were raised in Irish American Catholic families.

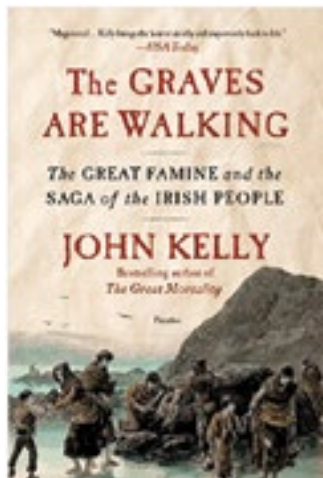
There quotes are about that.

"A child will eventually accept anything, that is the nature of innocence."

"Every night I prayed and prayed to God to make sure that He knew I was sorry for all the bad things I did before I was born."

He was about seven years old when he made his First Confession. "No Father, that's it. I have the sudden urge to burst out crying because I realize suddenly what a horrible little boy I am..."

He believed this was normal: "that this



was life for all other children. I had no evidence...to suggest otherwise. The true extent of my mother's phobias would be more apparent as I got older."

"My other was deeply concerned with how we were perceived by our neighbors. There was a certain ideal of what a perfect little boy should look and behave like...I would grapple with the ghost bars of Mother's psychic cage for a lifetime."

"When his mother refused to permit him to attend a dance for teenagers, where he had agreed to meet a girl he liked: 'I hated my mother with a hate that was as pure and sharp as a razor blade...She would never stop until she had destroyed me.'"

He mother said about the girl: "She's no good...and you'll have nothing more to do with her if I have anything to say about it."

"Whatever psychic or physical bruising she sustained as a child ran so deep that no amount of common sense would deter her from uttering those two dreaded words: 'That's That.'"

About a beautiful teenage girl: "A girl like Erin, a girl men found irresistible, was to be feared in a small community... this was still a time in Ireland when sex was very much a taboo subject. Women were still expected to be virgins or, better still, sexless. When my mother had been young, girls like Erin were bring locked away over Ireland in the Catholic Church run by Magdaline Laundries, the Vatican answer for wayward girls. The Magdaline Laundries were still open for business when I was a teen."

Broderick struggled with doubts of self-worth that resulted from these attitudes. He suffered from a poor self-image but

later was lucky to discover "what it means to be a man-and more important what it is to be an Irishman."

Irish Mystery Books

A huge number of mystery books are set in Ireland and are written by Irish authors. The number of these outstanding books has just exploded in the last twenty years.

They can be called police procedurals, crime novels, crime thrillers or noir. They are well written, tightly drawn, and have great descriptions of characters and places.

Mystery fiction provides great pleasure. It has a clear goal: the mystery is a challenge, and we look for clues to help us solve the puzzle. Mystery fiction is personal with people of Irish heritage. Our colonial past made us painfully aware that there are two realities. They are: the world we see, and how that world can be really very different.

I have read the work of each of these authors, and think you might like their work too. Their books are all available from Amazon:

Ken Bruen, Benjamin Black (pen name of John Banville), Brian McGilloway, Adrain McKinty, Philip Freeman, Conor Brady, Maggie Hamand, Paul Charles, Tana Frenca, and many others.

And remember, all this incredible creativity comes from a combined population of both parts of Ireland of about 1,500,000!

Frank West is a retired teacher and has written book and play reviews since the paper's inception in 1977. Many are online at irishamericannews.com

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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.

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

Recent Trial Demonstrates Perils of Highway Driving

Earlier this year, we had a two week trial in the Daley Center which showed some of the serious risks of highway driving. If you have recently been driving on an interstate highway, you may have been surprised by the number of tractor-trailers you see using the roadways. Currently, there are over 2 million big trucks on the highways. The case focused on the considerable responsibility of driving these vehicles, weighing up to 80,000 pounds, on our highways. The case brought to light the differences in licensing, regulation and size and weight of the vehicle, when comparing it to an ordinary passenger car, and the additional responsibilities that must "come with the job."

Commercial Driver's License Requirement

If you drive a truck over 26,000 pounds, any vehicle which transports 16 or more people, or any vehicle which transports hazardous waste, you must have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Similar to a regular driver's license, to get a CDL you must pass a written test and a driving test. However, both the written and driving tests are much more exhaustive when you are attempting to qualify for a CDL. The study guide itself put out by the Illinois Secretary of State for CDLs is over 160 pages in length.

Federal Regulations

Once you qualify for a CDL, if you are driving a tractor-trailer commercially you are subject to many federal regulations beyond what is addressed in a normal CDL course. Many truck drivers carry what is known as "the Green Book." It is a pocket book of just the regulations a truck driver needs to know. The current edition is over 660 pages.

These heavy regulations are necessary because of the inherent differences between driving a tractor-trailer and a normal passenger car. A tractor-trailer can be over 70 feet long and weigh up to 80,000 pounds. A

typical passenger vehicle is a little over 15 feet long and weighs about 3,000 pounds.

Limitation on Hours

As anyone who has attempted to drive cross-country knows, the longer one drives, the harder it is to pay attention to what you are doing. This is especially true for professional over-the-road truck drivers who have to drive for many hours everyday. As such, federal regulations limit how long a driver can be on duty in a given day and week. A driver can only be "on duty" ten hours without taking a full eight hour break. "On duty" time includes driving time, plus truck inspections, paperwork, loading/unloading and other work related tasks.

In addition to the daily limit, there is a weekly limit which prevents a driver from driving ten hours a day every day. A driver may only drive 70 hours in any eight day period. As such, a driver cannot drive 10 hours a day if he intends to drive every day, and if a driver drives seventy hours in a seven day period, he is not eligible to drive on the eighth day.

Truck driver fatigue is always a serious concern for the regulators, carriers and drivers and for those in other vehicles using the highway. After a number of deaths of children from fatigued truck drivers, an organization - Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT) - was formed to advocate for stricter regulation of truck drivers.

It is the responsibility of both the motor carrier (or trucking company) and the driver personally to ensure that these hours of service rules are being followed. A driver is required to keep a log book which indicates when he is on duty, when he is off duty and when he is using the sleeper berth of the tractor. The trucking company must make an effort to confirm the times indicated in a driver's log. The company must check fuel receipts, trip tickets and other information available to it to confirm that the information provided by the driver is accurate.

Many trucks are now equipped with on-board computer or satellite tracking equipment which records information, including when the truck is running, what speed it is operating at, and when fuel stops are made. These computers also have a "black box" or event recorder capabilities, that make special records of when the truck brakes suddenly, such as during an accident.

A trucking company must use all of the information at its disposal to confirm a driver is staying within the hours of service rules and operating safely. Even if a carrier

On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Founding Partner



Plaintiffs argued that the truck driver was speeding (50 in a 40) and was fatigued (exceeded the 70 hour restriction) (and was not observing the in-

tersection as he approached it (he admitted he did not see the car before he hit it). The truck struck the car in the intersection and pushed it west over 300 feet, killing all three teenagers. Probably the most crucial evidence against the driver was that he, based on readings from the truck's black box, did not apply his brakes until 3 seconds after he hit the passenger car.

The original trial ended with a verdict for the families of the three teenagers and against the truck driver and the carrier awarding \$20.2 million. After two appeals to the Illinois Appellate Court and one to the Illinois Supreme Court, the case had to be retried. While the jury was deliberating after the two week second trial, the motor carrier and truck driver offered a confidential amount to settle the claims of the families of the passengers. It brought the case to final end for all parties after over 13 years of litigation.

(by Martin Healy, (left) and Dennis Lynch)
The attorneys and staff at Healy Scanlon Law Firm extend their best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays and for a safe, healthy new year.

Chicago Rose Traveling to Chernobyl

Maeve McSweeney, the current Chicago Rose of Tralee 2015, is planning on traveling to Belarus to volunteer in Vesnova Childrens Mental Asylum with Adi Roche's non-profit organization, Chernobyl Children International. This United Nations accredited organization works with families and communities that were affected and are still being affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986.

It will cost about €1,650 to cover her flights, transport to Belarus, visa's, translators, food and insurance. However, the first €1000 she raises will be given to the children in Vesnova, and any money raised after her goal will also be given to the children.

Maeve has volunteered at two children's hospitals over the past five years, and is en route to becoming a Pediatrician. Through attending a Jesuit secondary school, St. Ignatius College Prep, and Marquette University, she has been taught just how important it

is to give back, be a woman for others, and work for the greater good.

This cause is not well known in the States and Maeve only heard about it while in Ireland for the Rose of Tralee International Festival in August. There will be a group from the Rose of Tralee International going on this mission, as this is one of their main

causes that they support annually. The moment Maeve heard about this charity, she knew she was being called to go to Vesnova, bring attention to this cause, and inform those in the States of this organization. With your help, she will be able to bring these goals to fruition. Please consider donating, as it

means so much to Maeve and the countless children who need our help.

If you could please go to Maeve's "Go Fund Me" page to help raise the needed funds for her trip, it would be greatly appreciated! <https://www.gofundme.com/chicagoroseccifund> Please share this to spread awareness of Chernobyl Children International!



The 2015 iBAM! Poetry Contest Winner

You Bring out the Irish in Me

by Maureen Connolly

You bring out the Irish in me.

The close to the edge of crazy.
The cascades of shining speeches.
The wild laughter.
The Guinness and Harp thick
on the tongue bittersweet
excess in me.

You bring out the Parnell in me.
The Black and Tan freedom fighter.
The Daniel O'Connell, the Maud Gonne.
The pure anger.
The Dublin post office on Easter Sunday
cigarettes in a back room.
The take no guff in me.

You bring out the Lady Gregory in me.
The salons in the West country
desolation and bogs
writing at all hours.
The Connemara ponies running loose
through Yeatsian dreams of other
worlds.
The Joycean babble of a new language.

Sweet one.
You bring out the melancholy in me
deep in the core of genetic memories.
Families starving for food.
Brothers and lovers lost at sea
the watery dead

known only by the knots in their
sweaters.
The sadness too old to be spoken.

You bring out the selke in me
the seal-woman on slippery rocks

blinking dark eyes of allurement.
The little boy dressed in a skirt
to keep back the fairies.

(no stanza break)

The black Irish keening
when Spanish ships foundered
off the Galway coast.
The music wailing
through the Innis Islands.

You bring out the Celtic warrior in me
fierce
come to the battle naked
with only a sword
and a shield that changes form.
I am Cuchulain lying down with Emer.
I am Emer too
strong as a goddess
summoning my lover.

I bless you. I curse you.
I invoke the names
of all the old saints and seasons
of the priestess mating with the horned

god
Beltane fires, Imboloc and Lughnasa.
Love me if you can.



Poet Des Egan accepting the 2015 iBAM! award for Literature October 9. Mr Egan, along with author Dan Moran judged the 2015 iBAM! Poetry Contest.



Knights of Columbus Charity Fish Fry Advent 2015

Friday's in Advent 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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Come join us at the Knights of Columbus Charity Fish Fries. Bring family and friends. Meal includes beer battered Cod, potato, coleslaw, bread, dessert and a soft drink. We also have salads, pizza and mac & cheese.

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2015 Dates

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December 11th

School Hall

December 18th

West Chicago

Choral Ensemble

Christmas Concert



Have a Jar with a Star!

Night at the Crossing

Original Painting by Thomas Joyce

All Prints signed by the Artist

image area 12.5 h x 25 w



The Cast: (l to r): Flann O'Brien, Gabriel Byrne, Brendan Behan, Liam Neeson, Seamus Heaney, Edna O'Brien, WB Yeats, Oscar Wilde (painting), John Phelan, Samuel Beckett, James Cagney, James Joyce, Thomas Moore (statue), Maureen O'Hara. Copy of paintings within by Sean Keating, Paul Henry & John Lavery.

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