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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The 1916 Diaries of an Irish Rebel and British Soldier

By: Mick O'Farrell
Mercier Press/DuFour Editions

"I believe I was fated to be here today, I could not have escaped it." This was written in the diary of an Irish Volunteer during the Easter Rising. His name was Seosamh de Brun.

"This book isn't an account of the 1916 Easter Rising as a whole...Instead it's a tightly focused look at events as happened by two individuals...

an Irish Volunteer in Jacob's Factory and a British soldier in Dublin's city centre."

Jacobs was one of the positions held by the Volunteers during the Rising. The diary was found in Jacob's Factory after the Rising by an employee who turned it in Jacob's lost and found. Its existence was only recently learned of, "it was re-discovered in the last few years." What an amazing story!

The diary was meant to be pocket size and was only three inches by 2 1/2 inches. De Brun kept the diary from 1915 until the Saturday of Easter week, when the garrison surrendered.

In it he described his union activities, and then joining the Volunteers. Later, he describes his life as one of the soldiers who held the Jacob's position.

The other diary was kept by Samuel Lomas. He was a company Sergeant Major in a British army unit that was hurriedly sent to Dublin. His unit was a battalion of The Sherwood Foresters.

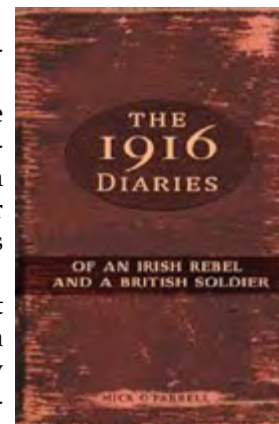
Lomas kept the diary from leaving England on Tuesday, April 25, 1916, and for the next fourteen days. Only "a typed transcript of it now exists that is held by the UK's National Army Museum." About the unknown typist, O'Farrell says: "we can be extremely grateful to him or her for helping preserve CSM Lomas' words."

"Lomas was involved in some of the most intense fighting of Easter Week," as he "supervised the building of barricades

across streets....and then led storming parties to break into buildings..."

For the actions he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The commendation says he received this medal "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty."

Sadly, he was killed a year later during army service in France. Lomas and de Brun were ordinary men "who got caught up in the extraordinary events of 1916."



The Eloquence of the Dead

By: Conor Brady
Minotaur Books: Amazon

This is a powerful and intriguing mystery and the puzzle it presents demands your complete attention. The characters are picturesque and colorful, and we are given a clear look at how the English grandees in the Castle controlled Ireland.

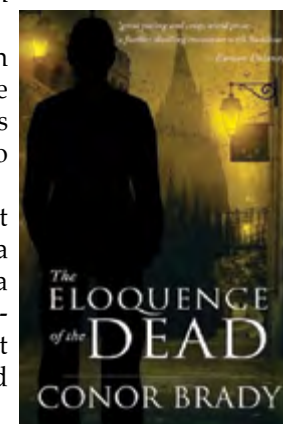
The author of this gripping mystery is Conor Brady. He was a journalist, wrote a column for a national newspaper, and finally became editor of The Irish Times. He is an authority on the history of Irish policing. He lives in Dublin.

This is a "police procedural" set in the Dublin of 1887. A Dublin powerbroker is murdered, his sister, who worked with him, is suspected. However, despite a large police search, she can't be found.

The English authorities in the Castle are fearful that they would be seen as not able to maintain law-and-order. The best police detective is assigned the case. He is Detective Joe Swallow—of the Dublin Metropolitan Police.

During the investigation he discovers stolen silverware and ancient Greek gold coins and corruption among the English officials at the Castle. Ad Detective Swallow investigates, we are shown

Continued on next page



a clear picture of how England controlled Ireland.

The police force, not only fought crime, but it was the "eyes and ears" of the Castle. It gathered information about the political beliefs of every Irish person. Political, social, and national feeling were all observed and recorded.

This system did fine work for the English authorities until it was ended by Michael Collins during the War for Irish Independence (1916-1921).

Beginning in 1919, Collins ruthlessly stopped the police from gathering information. Without knowledge and information, the Castle could no longer control Ireland.

Some quotes about crime and the police. The police force was really used as an occupation force: "The body of officials controlling the country from within the walls of the Castle, and in various government offices around the city, murdered no more than a few hundred."

An escaping jewel robber from England observes Dublin: "He wandered through dirty streets, populated by ragged children... London's East End was no paradise. But these streets were even more wretched looking and the houses more dilapidated than at home."

Swallow's thoughts about criminals: "Not that he had any illusions about the fellows with the stiff collars and the striped pants...The bad ones in the banking offices did not carry knives or guns...Their crimes were effected with dodgy account books, fake signatures, bogus deeds, and the like."

Sounds like the purpose of this column when the author has young W.B. Yeats say: "Ireland must find its own soul...we have to reach back into history, into the spirit of the nation, and reclaim the days when a race of giants and heroes ruled our country..."

Near the end of this marvelous book, Detective Joe Swallow says: "We'll do our best...Isn't

that all any of us can do in any walk of life?"

A Confederacy of Dunces

By: John Kennedy Toole

"Here is Ignatius Reilly, without progenitor in any literature—slob extraordinary, a mad Oliver Hardy, a fat Don Quixote, a perverse Thomas Aquinas rolled into one—who is in...revolt against the entire modern age."

Walker Percy, National Book Award winner and author of several novels about New Orleans, said that about a Confederacy of Dunces. Toole wrote this classic of Irish American literature in the late 1960's. Several years after he died (1939-1969), his mother prevailed on the great Southern writer to read the manuscript. Percy recognized the genius in the book and got it published. The author of this extraordinary book was then posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



The "New Republic" said it was "one of the funniest books ever written. The reader will laugh out loud again and again." I did.

Ignatius Reilly is the main character. His hilarious travels around New Orleans and his adventures and misadventures in that city are recorded here.

It is not just a very funny book, but as Walker Percy says: "I hesitate to use the word 'comedy' thought 'comedy' it is—because it implies simply a funny book, and the novel is a great deal more than that. A great rumbling farce of Falstaffian dimensions would better describe it; 'commedia' would be closer to it."

The New York Times Book Review says A Confederacy of Dunces is a "Master work of comedy. The novel astonishes with its inventiveness, it lives in the play of its voices. It is nothing less than a grant comic fugue."

Theater Review by Frank West Deathtrap

Thru 8-14

By Ira Levin

I thoroughly enjoyed the play, and despite the murders, the many turns of fate and the humorous situations make Deathtrap very enjoyable. The constant surprises and the quick, physical activity of the actors add to the great pleasure the play gives.

The artistic director, William Osetek, says the play is, "considered one of the best thrillers of all time. Deathtrap is a masterpiece - a psychological maze that ensnares the characters and audience with it's intricate construction. With Deathtrap, Ira Levin created a new genre for the theatre by reinventing the thriller."

The publicity sheet describes the action of the play. "Unknown dramatist Clifford Anderson has sent his new thriller, Deathtrap,

to award-winning Broadway author Sidney for comment, without a success, for many years Sidney plots with his reluctant wife, Myra, how to best plagiarize it."

Often the play reminded me of medieval plays. Somebody sells his soul to get fame and money.

Who was this extraordinary playwright, Ira Levin? He was born in 1929 in New York Ditie's Manhattan, and passed away there in 2007. In the years after serving in the U.S. Army, he wrote the novels A Kiss Before Dying, Rosemary's Baby, The Stepford Wives, The Boys from Brazil and Sliver. Many of these novels were made into movies.

He wrote many plays and learned his craft well. In 1978 he wrote Deathtrap, which won a Tony Award nomination for Best Play. And, he won the prestigious Edgar Award by the Mystery Writers of America.

The play ran for four years on

Broadway and had 1800 performances there.

In 1982 it was made into a movie starring Michael Caine, Diane Cannon and Christopher Reeve.

A line from the play is, "Nothing succeeds like success." Deathtrap is about the motives that drive people to that success.

The incredibly gripping murder mystery, Deathtrap, will be produced at the Drury Lane Theatre now through August 14.

100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

Wednesdays at 1:30pm, Thursdays at 1:30pm and 8pm., Fridays at 8pm, Sathurays at 5pm and 8:30 pm., and Sundays 2pm and 6pm.

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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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In Harmony

By Judy Loevy

Everyone knows The Irish Heritage Singers. The concept of keeping our traditions alive through music started with the center's founders who gathered to sing the old songs. The group grew and along the way a formal choir of sorts evolved. I thought it might be interesting to feature not only what we do but to share with you the singers and their individual stories. We are a diverse group of mostly Irish people who love to sing; some of us better than others. I fall into that second group though in my next life I plan to

have Kathy Werning's voice. We range in age from 18 to 84. We sing everything from Yeats to U2. Irish music is so much more than just pub songs. We have a story to tell. Our music was the vehicle that carried the history, the latest news, the good times and the sad times. The choir's director, Paul Matijevic keeps the music true to who we are. He skillfully chooses the music, researches the history of the song's story and works with us to deliver it with integrity. My family knows when we begin rehearsing for the November fund raising concert. I wake up each day humming "Christmas in Killarney". It could be worse.

they took Bob's grandmother's tablecloth.

Bob's father was born in Dublin and came to this country as a young man. He played violin with the New York Symphony part time. When Bob was in second grade he was asked to join The Paulist choir. They sang back-up for Kate Smith when she recorded "God Bless America". He related the story during one of our concerts. A man in the audience later told Bob that he had the record. He sent the record to Bob. Bob was a Marine in the Korean War and was wounded. To honor his fallen comrades he's very active in The Marine Scholarship Foundation. Bob has seven children. Sadly his



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As part of our story I'd like you to meet Bob Healy. Who is Bob Healy? He's that tall fellow who sings "Danny Boy" on occasion which brings many of us to tears every time. He was kind enough to sing it at my son's memorial. My David loved Bob's interpretation of Danny Boy.

Bob's grandfather was a doctor in Dublin during the 1916 uprising. Eamon De Valera who later became the prime minister of Ireland, climbed over the wall and took the doctor's clinic as his headquarters. When it became clear that they would have to surrender they had nothing white to use to signal the surrender so

wife died. He was blessed to meet and marry Peg O'Herron. What a terrific life's story. This Irish American man who is a long-time member of this choir is indeed someone special.

We have so many stories to share with you; stories about people. Stories about the notorious bloopers, stories about our travels. Not everything goes smoothly all the time. Stay tuned. . . .

Upcoming 2016 Performances

July 9, Irish Fest, IAHC, Noon

July 10, Irish Fest Mass, 10:30am

November 20, Annual Concert in the Erin Room at the Center, 3pm

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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



As we were finalizing the details of Catholic Charities' new partnership with Sinai Health System's Holy Cross Hospital, it occurred to me that even though social services partnering with healthcare providers is an innovative new approach to helping people in great need, the seeds of this particular project were really sown decades ago by the Sisters of St. Casimir, who dedicated themselves to bringing help and hope to people living on the southwest side of Chicago, and by Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, a true pioneer in the field of addiction who changed the way we view and treat substance use disorder.

While others saw his clientele as "bums" undeserving of help, Fr. Mac knew his friends living on Skid Row were precious children of God—the very people Jesus called us to help in the Gospel message. Fr.

Mac understood that it was an honor and privilege to help these most desperate individuals who were cast aside by society, and he made sure that every staff member he hired over the years felt the same way.

Fr. Mac was instrumental in changing the perception of alcoholism as a crime to understanding it as a disease for which people need treatment. More than 50 years ago, before he opened Haymarket Center, he started two important programs at Catholic Charities that are still in existence today: Addiction Counseling and Education Services (ACES), which provides treatment and education; and Central States Institute of Addiction (CSI), the first program to ever work with the court system to provide addiction education and drug testing to DUI offenders. Although these programs have evolved over the years, Fr. Mac's tireless commitment to the Gospel message still underpins all we do.

Catholic Charities' expertise in drug and alcohol addiction will be used to continue Fr. Mac's pioneering spirit on the southwest side. You may recall that with their numbers dwindling, the Sisters of St. Casimir carefully chose Sinai Health System to take over Holy Cross Hospital, and they carefully chose Catholic Charities to take over their motherhouse, ensuring that their beloved southwest side community would continue to be served in a compassionate manner.

Now, in a new partnership with Sinai Health System, Catholic Charities will use the former motherhouse to work with patients discharged from Holy Cross Hospital's recently created Crisis Stabilization Unit. This Unit was specifically designed to treat patients experiencing a mental health crisis. Currently, people are taken to emergency rooms where there is often a very long wait and limited access to psychiatric specialists—or in extreme circumstances, they are taken to jail after a disturbance. With this new Unit, patients can be sent to a therapeutic environment where treatment and recovery can begin immediately.

Nationwide, anywhere from a third to

half of all persons with mental illness also suffer from substance use disorder, and early indicators show that roughly 80 percent of those accessing the Crisis Stabilization Unit have addiction issues. Through our ACES program, Catholic Charities will work with hospital staff to identify and treat on an outpatient basis, individuals who face this dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance use disorder. Sinai will co-locate their outpatient mental health treatment at the motherhouse so that patients can have easy access to both addiction and mental health services in one place. Catholic Charities will also "wrap around" other social services such as transportation, utility and housing assistance; nutritious food; and case management. Having healthcare and social services partner together is truly a holistic approach that will dramatically improve overall patient health and recovery outcomes. Catholic Charities is honored to be a part of this unique innovation with Sinai Health System that strengthens the roots of a vine that was planted many years ago by our dedicated Catholic colleagues who truly knew how to put God's mercy into action.

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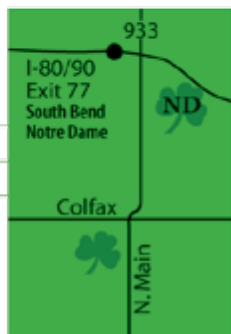
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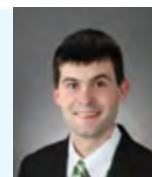
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Ireland's First Diaspora Senator

On May 27th 2016, An Taoiseach announced his 11 appointments for the Irish Seanad. It was a welcome surprise to see two very familiar names on the list of nominees; they were Billy Lawless Sr. and Joan Freeman. Mr. Lawless is a prominent figure in the Irish and immigrant communities in Chicago and across the country. He is an active community member who currently has a leading role in many organizations including the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, the Illinois Immigrant Business Coalition, the Illinois Restaurant Association, and the Galway-Chicago Sister Cities Committee. Mr. Lawless has been an extraordinary advocate on behalf of the undocumented Irish population in the United States. Additionally he is the first foreign based member of Oireachtas (Irish Legislature). This is a highly significant for the Irish diaspora as they now have a genuine voice within the Irish government. The appointment of Billy Lawless is another step in the right direction for a government that has

made diaspora engagement a key part of the administration. Mr. Lawless is an extraordinary advocate on behalf of Irish immigrants in the US, and is, more importantly, also the embodiment of what immigrants can offer to this country. Senator Lawless' influence has been felt transatlantic and will continue to make a huge impact on the lives of Irish people living abroad. The news has been welcomed by Immigration groups and politicians across the country. The President of CIIS, Cyril Regan highlighted Mr. Lawless' excellent work as the Chairman for the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform when he stated that "When the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform was founded back in 2006, Billy was the best person to lead the organization. Since then, he has taken the organization and its message to a much higher level and has been a great leader for the undocumented Irish for the past 10 years." The CEO of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Lawrence Benito, also praised Mr. Lawless' appointment stating "The immigrant community welcomes the announcement of Billy Lawless' appointment to the Irish Senate. Billy has been a leading figure in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform and his new role as Irish senator will give voice to hundreds of thousands of Irish men and women living in the USA." The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, which serves as a national umbrella organization representing Irish immigration and community centers throughout the United States noted "The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers is delighted to hear of our friend and colleague, Billy Lawless' appointment to the Seanad by An Taoiseach. Billy has been a champion for the Irish in America and we look forward to supporting him in this new role." Mr. Lawless' appointment has also been praised by politicians with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle stating "I was pleased to learn of Billy Lawless' appointment to the Irish Senate. Billy has made numerous contributions in the business, civic and immigrant rights arenas, and it is gratifying to see that



From the Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins

his hard work is being recognized at the highest levels of the Irish government." The appointment of Mr. Lawless is great news for the Irish people abroad. We are also thrilled that Ireland's first diaspora Senator calls Chicago home. Everyone at CIIS looks forward to working with Senator Lawless in his new role in the Seanad.

Joan Freeman, the founder of the prominent charity Pieta House was also nominated by An Taoiseach to the Seanad. CIIS is familiar with Ms. Freeman's excellent work in suicide awareness and suicide prevention. Pieta House has been extremely influential in Ireland and has now opened up a branch in New York. Ms. Freeman is deserving of her new appointment as she has helped save the lives of thousands in Ireland and abroad. CIIS looks forward to continuing our fruitful relationship with



Consul General Orla McBreen & new Senator Billy Lawless

Joan Freeman and Pieta House over the coming years. Best of luck to new Senators Billy Lawless and Joan Freeman.

The announcement of the 25th Seanad came just weeks after the appointment of the new Minister of State for the Diaspora. Joe McHugh, TD from County Donegal, was named the new Minister of State for the Diaspora replacing the outgoing Jimmy Deenihan. Mr. Deenihan's work as the Minister of State for the Diaspora has been lauded as a great step forward for the Irish government in the engagement with its diaspora. Jimmy Deenihan launched the Irish government's policy, Global Irish, for diaspora engagement in March 2015. Additionally, Mr. Deenihan oversaw the first ever Global Irish Civic Forum, the Global Irish Economic Forum, and the Global Irish Political Forum. These highly visible events were crucial for the diaspora to feel involved and engaged with Ireland. CIIS looks forward to working with Minister McHugh in his new role.

CIIS Update

I would also like to express my sincere thank you to all of the sponsors and golfers who contributed to our 16th annual golf outing. The golf outing was an enormous success and was one of our best attended golf outings in recent times. The funds raised from the golf outing are essential for CIIS to conduct our operations and serve the Irish community. The support that we receive each year for our golf outing is fundamental to the success of organization. Thank you to everyone who came out and attended our June 5th outing!

CIIS will continue to host free legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are currently being held once monthly by appointment only. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with an immigration attorney. Our next legal clinic will be held on Thursday July 14th 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.

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



Barn Flats. The Flats were the equivalent of Cabrini Green here in Chicago.

Tommy was 13 years old. He was taught how to box by the priest's and Christian Brothers in Ireland. As he and his brothers were unfamiliar with American sports - football, baseball, etc., they decided to keep on boxing. They were coached by none other than the great Tony Zale, one of the best boxer's of the 40's and 50's. He was know as the "Man of Steel," from Gary Indiana. Tony won, lost and regained the Middleweight Championship of the World in his day.

Sex Abuse

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the victim's of sex abuse are trying to get the statute of limitations revoked. A grand jury report in 2005 found institutional coverup of systematic child sex abuse by more than 60 priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The church is lobbying the state legislature not to change the statute of limitations.

Housebill 1947 introduced by Ron Marsico, (R) lower Paxton Twp., would eliminate the statute of limitations for sex crime cases. The House approved an amendment by Representative Mark Rozzi, (D) Berks County, that would retroactively raise a victims age limit from 30 years old to 50 years old for civil lawsuits in sex abuse cases.

This amendment is what has the Catholic Church unnerved, as it would open the door for hundreds of victims to go after financial settlements.

Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, is trying to derail the legislation.

"The problem with [the legislation] is its prejudicial content." Chaput wrote in a June 6 letter obtained by The Morning Call of Allentown. "It covers both public and religious institutions — but in drastically different and unjust ways. The bill fails to support all survivors of abuse equally, and it's a clear attack on the Church, her parishes, her schools and her people."

The only problem is - it's not true.

The legislation applies "equally to private and public institutions going forward. Due to the sovereign immunity protections afforded to state institutions by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it appears that this reform cannot apply retroactively to them," The

Morning Call reported, citing a fact sheet put together by a group called the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse.

The Archbishop chose to list the names of the legislators who voted for the amendment in Parish bulletins. The Archbishop is walking a tightrope by meddling with state government. As you



Brian O'Shea
Chicago lightweight, catches up on late news on trip around Central Park reservoir aboard shoulders of heavyweight Cassius Clay and Jefferson Davis, lightheavy. This will be 33d Inter-City meeting.

know, in this country we have the separation of Church and State.

Three Franciscan Friars are charged with criminal conspiracy and child endangerment for not reporting pedophile priests in Altoona, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania. One priest who went unreported had 100 victims, maybe more.

The victims of abuse are psychologically damaged for life. Many turn to alcohol and drugs, and many commit suicide. Tell me they are not entitled to compensation because of an outdated law, the statute of limitations.

Ali/O'Shea

Back in 1953 the O'Shea brothers, Tommy, Rory, Brian, and Mike moved to Chicago from Dublin, Ireland where they had lived for a time in the Dolphin's

In 1961 Tommy O'Shea won the National Golden Gloves title as a lightweight. His brother Brian won the National Golden Gloves title in 1960 boxing at 135 pounds. In 1962 Rory O'Shea won the National Golden Gloves Championships in the 147 pound weight class. In 1960 their brother Mike won the Novice Golden Gloves Novice Championship.

When Tommy won the title in 1961 he was on the same national amateur boxing team with Cassius Clay who became Muhammad Ali in 1964. Tommy invited Ali to his home where Ali met Tommy's mother, and she served him tea and soda bread, whereupon he proclaimed, "I'm Irish too. My grandmother was Bridget O'Grady." Abe Grady, his great-grandfather hailed from Ennis, Co. Clare.

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In 1989 Tommy started the Matador Boxing Club at 1400 W Augusta Blvd.

In 1989 Northwestern University built him a boxing facility in the basement of its settlement house, and O'Shea hired a full-time coach, Joe Kaehn, to work with the hundreds of local kids who came by for free lessons. To compete nationally it costs money to buy equipment and pay for traveling expenses, and we're very fortunate to have an angel in Jim Sloan, a lawyer down-

town," says O'Shea. "Sloan and I sparred each other in the old days. I met him again at a Golden Gloves finals, and he offered to help."

In the mid 1990's I paid a visit to the Matador Boxing Club with Jim Sloan, and if memory serves me right, I met the boxer,



The Brothers O'Shea

Nate Jones, who went on to fight in the Olympics.

By now Tommy O'Shea was teaching English in Chicago Public Schools and he continued to do so for 27 years.

Along the way Tommy met another lawyer by the name of Jim Foley who helped him navigate disputes with the U.S. Amateur Boxing Association. They won the argument. Chicago sent four boxers to the Olympic Trials. Three were from the Matador Boxing Club.

In 1964 Mohammad Ali was converted to the Islamic faith. In 1970 Ali converted to Sunni Islam, and embraced Sufism, a mystical school of the faith. Mohammad Ali gave himself the title of "The Greatest." I think Tommy O'Shea deserves to share that title.

Campaign Violence

Hillary supporters are becoming more violent. I've seen too many Hillary and Bernie supporters parading in California with Mexican flags while the American flag was burned on several occasions. On June 3rd, Hispanics were physically attacking Trump supporters. This same behavior has been evident at Bernie Sanders rallies. Why are Hillary and Bernie not publicly condemning this behavior?

The best place to voice your opposition for a candidate is at the ballot box, not by physically attacking people that support Donald Trump. We are stuck with two candidates most of us don't want. Hillary or Donald? The two party system has failed us. Wait until you see the platform the Democrats roll out. Freebies for all! Tax and Spend!

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



They Step Out – Then They Step In Again!

Ah, two weeks of straight sunshine!

You know, with all of my moaning and griping I sometimes forget what a great place Ireland is. In fact, if it were only possible to transport all of the venal, money-hungry, principle-free vultures and hyenas of every political hue to an oxygen-free rock on the fringes of cold Lovecraftian outer darkness, then we would have a truly wonderful little country indeed.

Well, it would be a start, anyway. Because after the seemingly endless winter that we've just passed through, it's nice to be reminded of how damned GREEN the countryside is – and how wonderful to have the sun putting a great big cheese-eating grin on the most unlikely of faces.

So, even though I feel duty-bound to reluctantly mention that most useless of institutions; that home for dilapidated, failed trough-snufflers; that place where mainly useless political appointees may normally apply – yes, it's the Seanad, the clip-joint where the ordinary punter has no say on who goes in –, it is really quite pleasant and in keeping with the weather to tell you that at least ONE of them has shown a bit of character. Yes, pass the smelling salts and get out the calendar that marks off once-in-a-blue-moon events, because Taoiseach Enda Kenny has accidentally let through someone for whom it's NOT all about the money.

Indeed, this shows that it IS possible to be a member of one of the most pointless and undemocratic Bastions of B.S in Ireland and still retain some integrity; because the nomination of a senator from the charity sector has given us Joan Freeman. She is the founder and former CEO of Pieta House, which does powerful work on behalf of

suicide prevention. And I'd like to say how pleasant it is to welcome a rare human being as a senator.

As someone who lives just outside of Galway -- which has become a frightening suicide hot spot in recent years -- I think that the work that Pieta House puts in is of inestimable value. And in a city that saw 121 evictions being processed in court a few weeks ago, its work is going to be more important than ever. And of course I am not ignoring Ireland's other counties and their problems; it's just that this happens to be the one in which I live.

Senator Freeman has taken the unusual step of donating the entirety of her €65,000 salary to her old charity after being chosen as Taoiseach's nominee after she was picked by FF leader Micheál Martin. She said:

"I was appointed a senator because of Pieta House so it's only right that Pieta House and the community benefit as a result of this. I'm only reflecting what the people of Ireland have done over the last 10 years by giving so much."

A caring politician like Joan Freeman doesn't come around too often; so let's be happy for once when it does occur.

I can only imagine that quite a few of her comrades are muttering 'well done, you' through Joker-style grins and pained, gritted teeth.

Not that they'll be embarrassed or anything like that. Our politicians don't do embarrassment -- especially not our many failed ones. They know, you see, that even if it is the will of the people that they be booted unceremoniously out of their comfy Dail seats there's always a good chance that Enda Kenny will give them a Seanad one instead, just to piss off the electorate. And cronyism

being what it is, of course.

Embarrassment? Fully HALF A DOZEN of the eleven nominated by Kenny who lost their Dail seats but accepted a Seanad one WERE PREVIOUSLY AGAINST THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE SEANAD.

Sorry for shouting but this does my bloody head in. Their integrity is so damned non-existent that even though they KNOW that they are not wanted they will still accept a 'job' – and I use the term very loosely – in a gaff that they don't even believe should exist! Jesus wept.

OK, OK – sunshine! Get thee behind me, Negativity! I know there are a few decent politicians in there and even your own adopted Billy Lawless has been given a pretty warm welcome.

However...

Out went Joe O'Reilly on the will of the people of Cavan-Monaghan and into the Seanad he went ANYWAY. Voted out of the Dail? So what? As he entered the Seanad he called it 'a most felicitous day'.

Who talks like that? Well, these guys do when they realise that they are not being removed from the Golden Trough after all. Thanks heavens for the Old Boys' network.

Or the Curious Case of...

Ex-Minister for Health James Reilly. He was told by the people that his services were no longer required and out he goes. But not a problem. He is now 'honoured' (his word) to be sitting his backside down in a building that he previously described as 'very undemocratic', a place that has 'very little power' and about which he even moaned that '90% of Senators are elected by existing politicians.'

Ah, but that was back when he had a job. These quibbles went ass over teakettle when the Political Primary Directive kicked in: AT ALL COSTS KEEP THE SNOUT IN THE TROUGH.

Then, in a twist that one would need a heart of stone not to crack up at, it appears that he heard about his sacking as FG Deputy Leader from his wife. And she heard it from the radio.

When Senator Reilly got on the blower to find out what was happening Enda didn't return his calls. Hell, man, you would have thought that he could at least have put him on hold.

For old time's sake.

With some background muzac. But no; nothing. Still, it had me laughing – LOUDLY. And I know what you're thinking. Why didn't he tell him where to shove his Senator's job; but can I refer you back to the Prime Directive of the above paragraph? You know: snouts, pig-troughs and the conjunction of one with the other?

The speculation is that it's payback for Reilly calling for a referendum on abortion – and we know how Kenny feels about that. He needs more time to think, says he; only having had the previous five years. Fierce flustered he gets altogether whenever the 'A' word is mentioned. Remember his lies of last week when he said that the public had voted three times to keep the 8th Amendment? It turns out they weren't lies at all. According to Leo Varadkar, doing some heroic sucking-up and making more statements on Health than when he was the actual Minister:

"The factual position is there were actually four referendums, not three subsequent to 1983. What he said was

incorrect and I understand subsequently he has actually clarified that, or at least he says he has. So I think it's a case of the Taoiseach misspeaking on that."

That would be misspeaking like when he misspoke about meeting a man with two pints in each hand; or wistfully recalling the number of people who hang out of their car windows to congratulate him on the great job he's doing; or the many who phone him to make sure that he hasn't made a mistake (upwards!) with their wages; or when he sat on a bench with the homeless man who never was. You say tomato and I say tomAto; you say misspoke and I say blatant lies. Let's call the whole thing off.

Hey – who switched out the sunshine?

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Congrats Senator Lawless

Last month the announcement from Taoiseach Enda Kenny that Chicago's own Billy Lawless was nominated to become a Senator was greeted with great welcome.

I am particularly pleased to see my friend and fellow campaigner of more than ten years be appointed as the first ever member of the Irish upper house, with specific responsibility to represent Irish immigrants in the US.

Billy, as chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration reform has been a tireless advocate for undocumented members of the Irish community in America.

This appointment was a bold move by Enda Kenny and once more demonstrates his commitment to serving the needs of the Irish diaspora. It is also an acknowledgment of the strong links between our two nations and will I think continue to enhance the strong business connections that are crucial to the Irish economy in the 21st Century.

Billy and his wife Anne, are both natives of Galway and have been strong supporters of immigration reform, both in Chicago and in Washington DC. Billy's appointment will I believe put the issue of immigration reform center stage for President Obama's

successor. While Billy has very close ties with the Obama administration, let me remind our readers, that he played a crucial role in organizing the joint public forum in Chicago of Congressmen Louis Gutierrez (D) and Paul Ryan (R) now speaker of the House. He has built up a very good relationship with some of the most powerful members of the Republican Party in Congress and is in an excellent position to work with both parties. With Billy's passion for the rights of immigrants and his vast experience on the political scene on both sides of the Atlantic, I am confident that he will do an excellent job in the Seanad.

On behalf of all involved with the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform and all who support Immigrant rights, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Billy for his untiring efforts to date. We wish him every blessing and success in this very important role that he has agreed to undertake on behalf of the Irish diaspora.

The World is a Wonderful Place

A true story, happened in 1892 at Stanford University:

An 18-year-old student was struggling to pay his fees. He was an orphan, and not knowing where to turn for money, he came up with a bright idea. He and a friend decided to host a musical concert on campus to raise money for their education.

They reached out to the great pianist Ignacy J. Paderewski. His manager demanded a guaranteed fee of \$2000 for the piano recital. A deal was struck and the boys began to work to make the concert a success.

The big day arrived. But unfortunately, they had not managed to sell enough tickets. The total collection was only \$1600. Disappointed, they went to Paderewski and explained their plight. They gave him the entire \$1600, plus a cheque for the balance \$400. They promised to honour the cheque at the soonest possible.

"No," said Paderewski. "This is not acceptable." He tore up the cheque, returned the \$1600 and told the two boys: "Here's the \$1600. Please deduct whatever expenses you have incurred. Keep the money you need for your fees. And just give me whatever is left". The boys were surprised, and thanked him profusely.

It was a small act of kindness. But it clearly marked out Paderewski as a great human being.

Why should he help two people he did not even know? We all come across situations

An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



like these in our lives. And most of us only think, "If I help them, what would happen to me?" The truly great people think, "If I don't help them, what will happen to them?" They don't do it expecting something in



Senator Lawless

return. They do it because they feel it's the right thing to do.

Paderewski later went on to become the Prime Minister of Poland. He was a great leader, but unfortunately when the World War began, Poland was ravaged. There were more than 1.5 million people starving in his country, and no money to feed them. Paderewski did not know where to turn for help. He reached out to the US Food and Relief Administration for help.

The head there was a man called Herbert Hoover — who later went on to become the US President. Hoover agreed to help and quickly shipped tons of food grains to feed the starving Polish people.

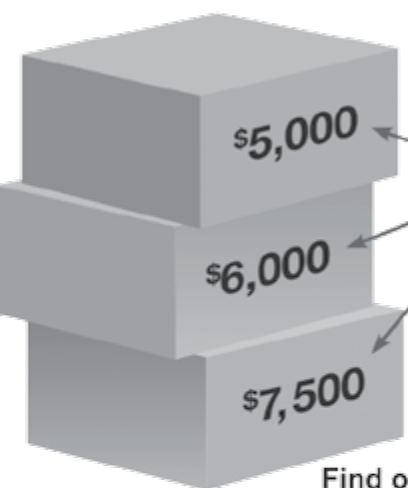
A calamity was averted. Paderewski was relieved. He decided to go across to meet Hoover and personally thank him. When Paderewski began to thank Hoover for his noble gesture, Hoover quickly interjected and said, "You shouldn't be thanking me Mr. Prime Minister. You may not remember this, but several years ago, you helped two young students go through college. I was one of them."

The world is a wonderful place. What goes around comes around!

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

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Fergie's Secrets

The most successful soccer manager in history, Alex Ferguson, has a lot to reflect on, having successfully managed several teams in Scotland before he took the reins at Manchester United, where he triumphed for three decades. Yet what seems to bemuse him most when he ponders all his experiences is: how did the son of a docker from Glasgow's mean streets end up lecturing at Harvard University on his own brand of leadership? Harvard Business School's curriculum examines many of the most the world's most successful commercial enterprises—Burberry, Comcast, Hollywood studios, and of course Lady Gaga—to fill its budding graduate's heads with ideas and exemplars for money-making schemes. 'Fergie', as he is known, wonders how he ever ended up in such company.

Maybe the secret lies in his Glasgow upbringing. Again and again in his new publication on his tactics and techniques, Leading, Ferguson refers to the importance of his background, of his parents, of lessons learned before the age of twelve. And, in turn, on the way in which he sought to learn the backgrounds, both social and familial, of his players in order to best manage them.

Manchester, positioned in England's North-West, has, as with Liverpool, been a traditional port of entry for Irish emigrants. So, when Ferguson first arrived at Manchester United, he inherited the who's who of the Irish national football team: players such as Kevin Moran, Paul McGrath, Frank Stapleton, Norman Whiteside (Northern Ireland, granted). Alcohol indulgence and sloth were two of the ills Ferguson was hired to eradicate—he had acquired a reputation as a tough taskmaster during his previous postings—and all of the above were summarily transferred to other teams.

Ferguson's bitter dispute with arguably Ireland's greatest footballer of all time, Roy Keane, is not dealt with here at any length and we can only surmise why. Keane served Manchester United for twelve years, many of them as captain, and, as he grew older, a tension between he and Ferguson emerged. It was clear that Keane would not consistently hold his place in the team when he was in his thirties and injuries continued to plague him. A dramatic dispute Keane and his manager occurred and Ferguson, whose core determination as manager of Manchester United was that no player would ever rise above him, let him go. Whereas once Ferguson maintained that the only problem he had with Roy Keane was that he did not have ten other players like him, in this publication Keane is an insignificant figure.



Ferguson's careful nurturing of young talent emerges as one of his most admirable traits. His realism and decisiveness are also notable. And, living up to his Scottish stereotype, his managing to do as much as he could with a small pool of money when he managed Aberdeen F.C., shows a respect for the people who gave him access to money. These edifying traits stand in contrast to his Big Dog attitudes which, page after page, are a little hard to endure.

Ferguson's thrift dovetailed well with a creative approach to club management: building, not buying. He ensured that he cultivated grassroots talent, and that his well-honed extensive network of scouts spotted just the right player for his team—he spotted the talent that spotted the talent.

During Ferguson's tenure as boss at Manchester United wages, sponsorship deals, transfer fees and the like multiplied. His default position as manager was to act as a stay against the extravagance that took over the game. And yet Ferguson knew that he had to acknowledge the new highly monetised realities of soccer if he was to survive as a top flight manager. His ability to adapt and still remain in control is very pronounced in this book: control, and not power, is what he sought to have. With time, he learned to delegate substantially and he kept his grip on ultimate control. He learned, for instance, that he could

glean more from training sessions by sitting in the stadium observing players than by being on the pitch training them.

Of the most apt analogies in this book, military history emerges as the most credible. Ferguson's reconnoitring of the football field and surveying of the opposition, his theories of defence and attack, his capacity to marshal players and his determination to win bear a great deal of resemblance to a modern day Napoleon of the round ball. He acknowledges that reading military history is a pastime, but is careful not to give a false impression: Ferguson's life begins and ends with football management, hobbies took little of his time; his debt to his wife, Cathy, for sustaining the home is clear, and he knows that he could not have done it all without her.

Despite the rambley ghost-written structure of this book, despite Fergie's at times overweening ego and the shaky analogies to corporate world (where things are 'probably' the same as in the football one) this book is valuable above all for this reason. Ferguson learned in early adulthood to look and to listen intently to what occurred around him and to form his own judgements accordingly. He trusted his perceptions and honed his instincts. A wealth of experience acquired over

a lifetime can only inadequately be recorded in a book. But this book does give a solid insight into the workings of Ferguson's mind, his faith in looking and listening gives us all something to consider.

Leading by Alex Ferguson is published by Hodder & Stoughton

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About a year ago, a cd from a group in Northern Ireland named, Connla arrived in the mail for review. It was actually an "ep" (extended play), an archaic term for an album of only four selections. In reality, it was simply a self-titled introduction to the quintet, (three men, two women—more on them in a bit). A way for Connla to hold its hand up in a crowded market and say, "We're here." I was, and still am, stunned by it. Having studied and written about Irish music for almost 40 years,



moments like this still remain rare. The last time a musical tidal wave like this hit my desk was 21 years ago when I first heard a new album from the Galway-based, Reeltime. Now comes Connla. They are releasing a full cd entitled, River Waiting in mid-July.

I can certainly tell you that magical feeling has returned after 21 years. River Waiting is very special, and that good.

I eagerly put it on, and was overwhelmed from start to finish. Of course, I received an advanced copy of the album for this review

and a review in Irish Music Magazine, as well as LiveIreland.com. There is a full mix of songs and tunes in River Waiting. Eight of the 12 are original. Now, all albums have a full range of songs and tunes, with many originals. But, not like this. Let's stipulate that writing any review about any piece of music is a fool's errand. How do you accurately convey what a group or an album sounds like? The approach? The taste? Musicianship? Arrangements? Production? Ambience? You don't. What you can do is listen to it repeatedly (about eight times straight through for me as I write this). And, then, you can try to describe the impact.

Here goes. River Waiting is absolutely new, absolutely current and absolutely traditional to its core, all at the same time. It will be widely "accessible" in the best artistic sense of the word. What does that mean? It means that the trad purist who has been involved in traditional Irish music for decades will love this for Connla's profound musicianship, and the grasp and understanding of the music, especially from musicians so young. People who know nothing of real Irish music will be drawn to it because of the clever melodies, the gorgeous song lyrics and the easily open warmth of the music, as well as how Connla plays it.

The group hails from the cities of Armagh and Derry in Northern Ireland: Ciara McCafferty (vocals, bodhran), Ciaran Carlin (whistles, flutes) and Paul Starrett (guitar) are joined by Armagh brother and sister, Emer and Conor Mallon on harp and uilleann pipes, respectively.

There is a 'Northern Sound' to all this. Great, percussive tunes, interweave with Ciara's soaring vocals. She alone is a major new figure on the scene as a great singer. Emer is a deeply nuanced harpist, Conor is wonderful on the pipes, Ciaran is unbelievable on the flutes and Paul is one of the best, young guitarists in the music. All this in just one full album and an ep! The original songs and tunes are very complex, yet easy to follow—as Irish music should be. We don't dare start calling out favorite songs or tunes



Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



here, but the album results in just over 50 minutes of impeccable musicianship. There is a great breadth of selection here and the sequencing of the tunes is wonderful. Almost all numbers feature catchy tempo changes and the arrangements themselves could not be done better. Connla has a lot of sounds, yet each is somehow totally recognizable as Connla and "Northern".

Space does not permit a list of our favorite Irish albums of all time, but River Waiting is now on it. It is Irish music at its best. A stunner. And, it is a must have for you—not if you love Irish music, but if you just love music. A new musical powerhouse is among us. It is from Northern Ireland, and it is Connla. Wow!

My musical partner, Imelda Bhroga and I will be featuring the group and album on our Sunday July 17th, LiveIreland.com radio program at noon, Chicago time. It will be the world premiere for River Waiting. At that point, the fool's errand will be over in trying to describe this. You'll be able to hear it. LiveIreland.com remains the only effectually worldwide release point for new Irish trad albums, and is growing in the number of groups asking for a premiere. It is worldwide, instant and with a huge audience! (The truth is Imelda and I went after Connla directly to make sure they premiered with us!). Tune in and join us. It all comes out of Dublin for 90+ minutes each Sunday. True Trad For Troubled Times! All the best every week. I think it has been five years now, Imelda and I have been doing it. I think. (Oh, and another thing I think I think is that I got the ep of Connla originally from madcap music maven and pal, Maryann Keifer. Thanks to whomever!! We share lots of info on cd's as the new ones come out!) Up Connla!

*Ta!

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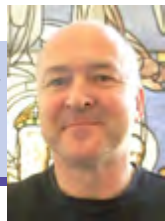
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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Every Facebook Yells a Story

It has become endemic to each of our lives; on social media, we check, re-check, and our emotions swing to the likes and comments, or lack of comments. Facebook in particular has become the calling card to who we are; the virtual doormat to the inner soul, and without it we are made to feel left behind to contemplate our lives in the proverbial cave.

These things are taken for granted. We operate the Facebook app on our phones, automatically salivate with delight at every ping, and indulge our friends with photographs of meals, events, and a host of exciting daily moments.

Whether we think this caricature is too exaggerated or not, there's something of a grain of truth when it comes to how much we have become dependent on social media. Now, I do not want to sound sanctimonious or self-righteous, though it's a human flaw that's not beyond my leanings, but recently I deactivated my Facebook account. As disastrous as it sounds it was not as earth shattering as I thought it would be.

There was no great 'bang', merely a 'whimper' of one more entity falling off the global desire for instantaneous gratification. I didn't announce my departure. There was no great gesture of dramatized affectation. I simply told Facebook, several times...since the social media giant refused to believe that someone would seriously consider leaving the hive, that, yes, I was deactivating my account.

At first the effect of withdrawing from the constant interaction was relief. I no longer had to react, or like, or blankly Emoji someone's inane post, or my own inane post. The multitude of voices that filled my day was silenced, and it felt good. It wasn't the wonderful feeling post-withdrawal leading

to the creation of a support group for ex-Facebookers, but more of 'I have taken back a part of my life' and it feels great.

I realize that as I write this it can sound as if I think Facebook is the enemy of the soul, but it's not. Facebook is a great tool for keeping in touch, discovering new friends, and communicating with those we don't see on a regular basis. I enjoyed some of the witty, informative comments, laughed with the jokes or weird videos, and shared some of the personal moving stories, but it also has the effect of watching a T.V show that never reaches any satisfying conclusion.

When I had finally decided to leave Facebook, the process of deactivation reminded me of the song Hotel California, and the lyrics you can check out but you can never leave. Having stated repeatedly that I was sure that I wanted out, I was let go but not fully. I could always re-activate my account any time. If I didn't uncheck the box that allowed Facebook to email me people's comments and likes, I would be inundated with reminders that I was exiling myself from the virtual hub and was I truly all right with that?

The process of leaving Facebook became as momentous as someone from the U.K being asked to vote as to whether to remain in the E.U or not when in reality, it's not that important. It's a website, a platform for keeping in touch, and the only economic dimension to my leaving affects someone who is not remotely interested in my well being. My leaving was not a political statement, nor even a philosophical one; it was just being tired of having to feel the pulse of a world that was sucking me further into a black hole. I simply wanted to resist its gravitational pull and maintain my own distance.

It's been a month now. Will I go back? Will I take up the gracious offer of Facebook to re-connect

me with the world of trivialities, viral stars, and games? I don't know. My reason for leaving was never about making a protest or else I would have made a more dramatic exit. I needed to get out of the virtual cave and look around at life without feeling the need to photograph or record it for someone else's pleasure.

Someone recently stated that she wanted to 'live in the moment'. My first reaction to that sentiment was to throw cold water on it, and remind her of the impossibility of doing such a thing. Each moment goes whether you consciously live in it or not; at least this was my attitude before leaving Facebook. Now, while I still hate the cliché of carpe deim, I find myself thinking there's something to simply enjoying life in simple ways without being distracted by having to share it with all in sundry.

I still surf the net, people share with me their Facebook moments, and life ticks on. My life is not incomplete because it's not shared on Facebook, my life is incomplete simply because that's how life is. We're rarely satisfied, and it encourages us to want and strive for more.

If St. Augustine is right, our hearts will remain restless until they find their rest in God. Whether you're religious or not, Augustine makes a good point; it's part of the human condition to be restless. Facebook may distract us from this feeling of being unsettled, and that might be a good thing, but it can never fully satisfy. Nothing can, or will fully satisfy, but we can enjoy the daily gifts that life presents to us beyond that which is shared with millions.

Theater review
by Terry Boyle

Divine Dysfunction

The Marvin Gaye Story (Don't talk about my father because God is my friend)

With creative genius there inevitably comes trouble, and mayhem. When this chaos is wrapped in a wonderful display of dramatic disintegration we have a powerful play. Writer, Jackie Taylor,

captures the dysfunction of a man caught in the tentacles of an abusive family background, and drawn to the lure of fame. Gaye's demons torture him with self-doubt, promiscuity, and drug abuse. The spectre of Gaye's father torments the talented superstar, and, ironically, drives him into the line of fire of the killer of his self-worth.

This was my first time at the



Black Ensemble Theater, and it certainly won't be my last. The energy and talent of this highly creative team is dynamic, alive, and vital. The well-known music of Gaye straddles the story of a man evolving, and devolving publically and privately, respectively. Director, Daryl D. Brooks, gives the audience access into the many facets of Taylor's play in a way immerses and involves them in the action of the drama. We clap and we sway to the sound of one of soul's greatest singers as though

privity to one of his performances.

I've never before experienced such a cultural feeling of shared understanding, and solidarity as I have with this performance. Brooks knows his audience and has them eating out of his hand; leaving them with a deep sense of satisfaction. Whether you're a fan of Marvin Gaye's music or not, the sheer humanity of the Gaye's inability to overcome the wounds of his past are relatable. Religion, the tool of much of the abuse, also becomes the redemptive quality to a life taken too soon. Rashawn Thompson as Marvin Gaye takes us on a journey through the 'highs' and lows of a man at war with himself, and does it with complete credibility. Thompson delivers the private and public face of Gaye with touching conviction, especially in the second act when we witness the disassembling of the singer's tentative grasp of reality. Thompson's performance in the second act takes on a deeper, grittier, depth that is previously only hinted at. Yahdina Udeen as Alberta Gay, Marvin's mother, moves us with her passion, especially in her passionate sense of despair.

The subtitle to the work says it all. Gaye's war with his father is not a battle with God, but a struggle with an authority figure's perversion of religious faith.



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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



"When I go see a movie, I want to feel like I'm peeking through a keyhole...just gimme the truth as best you can."

So says first generation Irish American filmmaker and writer Kevin Baggott. The disciple of the late novelist Nelson Algren, is an "enigmatic cat", much like his dead mentor.

Kevin won the "Best Actor" Award at the Winter Film Fest in NYC last February, (for "Why Do You Smell Like the Ocean?"), and he's premiering his film BENEATH DISHEVELED STARS to kick off the 2nd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley on Sept. 30th in Chicago.

Baggott's unique and funny odyssey, about an Irish American guy taking his mother's ashes back to Ireland, is a tough adventure for this Brooklyn auteur, who plays the lead as well as directing this totally original story that walks a wobbly line between melancholy and zany. Baggott's character, Bobby, a Brooklyn tenement super, has enough trouble surviving the wacky New York characters in his life, until he gets to Ireland and encounters Irish men and women of epic personalities and things quickly escalate to a mythical stage.

Starring with Kevin Baggott in "Beneath Disheveled Stars" are Nicole Roderrick, Vic Martino, Danny Gilfeather, and Ireland's own Colin Martin. The film also features a terrific original score by Estelle Bajou that transports the audience to Ireland as well as an Ireland of the mind.

Are they just "having some fun with the yank", or are their motives more sinister? In the best spirit of indie film, Baggott is also the cinematographer of this haunting and comic road movie.

Baggott's film is the cornerstone of a trio of Chicago premieres scheduled for the Hooley in the windy city this fall. The other two masterpieces are yet to be chosen, but will eventually join BENEATH DISHEVELED STARS on the marquee at the Gene Siskel Film Center, once again the home of the Annual Irish American Movie Hooley.

Kevin's dad is from Galway and his mom from Cavan. He grew up in the Bronx, where his mother "used to beat me with the Irish Echo when I wouldn't go to school."

A street kid who could have easily wound up like Rocky Sullivan in the Cagney classic ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES, Kevin yearned for NYU Film School, but "those bastards wouldn't let me in."

He wound up at CCNY, put together his first film on 16 millimeter in Coney Island, The Village Voice raved, festivals clammered, and Baggott's revenge was sweet. "So they had me going down to NYU every year...

to show their students the film."

Shot in West Cork in the village of Kilcrohane, Baggott recruited his crew of three for BENEATH DISHEVELED STARS: his wife and a kid from a local farm they hired to work sound, and himself. Without a script he made it up as he went

along, meeting the people of the town and recruiting them as characters in the film. They turned out to be terrific actors and brilliant improvisers. Kevin told me, "Oscar Wilde says the Irish talk their books away."

"Everybody we asked, 'we're doing this movie, we don't have any money, we can't pay you anything, would you like to be in it?' The response that came back was,



"Sure I can do that!"

He shot for a month with "a camera the size of a box of cracker jacks" and then returned to NYC to film the beginning of the movie with his friends. It worked, it's brilliant, and captures the Irish from a unique and funny perspective; that of

a guy with "Ireland in his DNA" who'd been away too long.

BENEATH DISHEVELED STARS premiered at the Cork Film Festival in 2014 and the entire village of Kilcrohane turned up to see it, and loved it. "It's nice hearing a lot of laughter."

He'll be hearing it again when the film makes its Chicago premiere at the 2nd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley on September 30th at the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Kevin gets diffident when asked what he hopes the audience will get out of BENEATH DISHEVELED STARS, and after a few hems and haws tells me, "I don't know," he said. "I hope they will all move back to Ireland!"

Please join us in Chicago Sept. 30 through Oct. 2nd for the 2nd Annual Irish American Movie Hooley, where you can meet Kevin Baggott and other filmmakers premiering their movies-and of course, you'll likely feel like moving back to Ireland yourself!

The Second Annual Irish American Movie Hooley is sponsored by 2 Gingers Irish Whiskey, The Emerald Loop, IAN, Hilton Chicago, Kitty O'Shea's, and McCann's Irish Oatmeal. For more information and updates about the schedule, go to moviehooley.org.

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler

The next county I will detail is where my beautiful and loving wife Mary comes from, she is from Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. (maigh eoplain of the yew trees) It's a rural and picturesque county with an estimated 140,000 residents. The boundaries of the county were formed in 1585 and the last county to be framed was Co. Wicklow in 1609. Mayo is the 3rd largest county in area of the 32 counties and Co. Cork being the largest. There is a distinct geological difference between the north and south of the county. The north largely consists of poor subsoil and is covered with large areas of an extensive Atlantic blanket of bog peat better known as turf. The south is made of a limestone landscape, agricultural land is more productive for farming.

As far I'm concerned the people of Ireland are especially gifted with charm and friendliness and Mayo tops that list. Ireland is world renowned for its hospitality, warmth and welcome. I was driving on a soft wet day in the Mayo countryside and I got a puncture in my tire. As I was in the process changing the tire 8 people stopped to offer help.

The river Moy to the north east part of the county has been known for its salmon fishing. I spent a day fishing on the banks of the Moy with my 2 sons that live in Ireland. While I had never had a knack for fishing my sons bragged about all the fish they had caught. Ireland's largest island is called, Achill island and it's located on the west coast of Mayo. Mayo has Ireland's 3rd highest cliffs, while the highest is in Donegal. The holiest mt. in Ireland is in Mayo and it's called, Croagh Patrick, named after St. Patrick. They have a yearly pilgrimage on the mountain and it's held on Reek Sunday, the last Sunday in July. This landmark attracts visitors from all over

the world and up to 25,000 visit yearly. There is a chapel at the summit of the mountain.

There is a holy place in Mayo called Knock where the blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1879 witnessed by 15 people. There is a 9 day Knock Novena in August and attracts approximately 10,000 pilgrims yearly. My wife Mary is from 7 miles outside of Knock. The Pope visited Knock in 1979 to mark the 100th anniversary of



the apparition of Mary. A million people greeted the Pope in Knock. The word "Boycott" originated in Co. Mayo. There was an English landlord named Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott, he was unpleasant and hard to please, therefore he couldn't get anyone to work for him hence the term boycott. There was a nun from Co. Mayo named Mother Agnes Morrough Bernard (1842-1932) and she established the Foxford Woolen Mills in 1892. She made Foxford synonymous throughout the world with high quality woolen goods. The 18c was a period of unbearable misery because of the "Penal Laws", Catholics had no hope for social advancement. The English government thought they were helping Mayo during the end of the famine by setting up work houses. However, the work houses had it's drawbacks. While this program was an attempt to be

an alternative to starving to death, the Irish people had to quality for this program. First they had to give up their land and then had to split their family apart. In my opinion, this program was nothing better than a prison. My granddad Patrick was born in 1830 (Kilkenny) and at that time the population in Ireland was about 8 million. When he died in 1910, 80 years later, the population was less than 4 million. Over this span of time a record breaking number of people emigrated to the United States, while sadly many others died and went elsewhere. On the last day that I was leaving St. Brendan school in Muckalee, all of us students received our leaving certs. That day our school master Mr. Tynan asked each student this question, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" as expected there were several different answers. When it was my turn, I stated, " I am going to America and I plan to further advance

my education there. Mr. Tynan replied, "Tom, how can you help your country by leaving it?"

I applaud Mayo for all their struggles and contributions, best of luck to all the people their. Up Mayo!

**In the June issue I gave a brief description and covered some topics of my home place, Co Kilkenny. I would like to add that Kilkenny has a famous brewery named, Smithwicks, located on St. James Street a few doors down from CBS (Christian brothers school) where I attended secondary school. Guinness brewery is in Dublin at St. James gate, the country's leading brewery. You may have seen Smithwicks advertized in local pubs in Chicago and now you know it's a Kilkenny company and exports ale throughout the world.*

If you have any questions or comments please Email me at: Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com Tom Butler

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The Trouble with Henrys

In animal as well as human societies, individuals naturally separate themselves into groups. When danger or overcrowding threatens, migration has always been an escape valve. That causes more tension as the migrants compete with established groups. But groups experience tension even without outside pressure.

I recall years ago watching rather absently a PBS documentary filmed in Africa. At one point a white woman reporter was walking through a village interviewing a local woman guide on the customs and conditions of the area. In the background were a group of children sitting beneath a tree, listening as a village woman spoke to them. At one point the children burst into noisy laughter. The reporter asked her guide: "What's going on over there?" She was told the woman was teaching a class. The reporter asked to be introduced, and was taken over to the open-air class. She asked what the children were laughing about, and was told the teacher had presented her pupils with a riddle. It went something like this: "What is lazy, dirty,



Mick

Mike Morley



and smells awful?" The interpreter told the reporter the answer, an African name. "And what is that", she asked. She was told it was a tribe. Asking further about the tribe, she was told they lived just down the road in the next village.

The reporter didn't pursue the matter further, and continued her interview. But I was astonished. Here was natural human territorial behavior at its most basic level. I'd wager that had the documentary crew moved down the road to film those people in the next village, they'd have been hard pressed to show the TV audience a hair's breadth of difference between the two groups of people. Further, I'd bet they would have heard similar riddles and jokes there about people in the village they had just filmed.

It's human nature. People (tribes, societies, races and nations) develop customs to adapt to local conditions; and they codify them into laws. Adding the force of religion introduces an invisible policeman to insure those laws are observed. In the process, people are bound together, and also set apart, and against, neighboring peoples. The division causes tension, strife, wars.

Societies also create empires that rise, grow and fall; each birth, expansion and collapse attended by war and death. One instance: Ireland and England were getting along fairly well as neighbors until the 16th century when King Henry 8 decided that preserving his dynasty in power was more important than preserving the religious laws supporting his reign and realm. It led Henry to shed six wives and queens by various means, including beheading. Beneath all the pomp and puffery of imperial culture, the mechanics of empire were revealed as no more than variations on themes established in the animal kingdom. Yet the bloody purges of Henry and successor Henrys were celebrated as the dawn of "enlightenment".

Every group seeking "lebensraum" or "the promised land" believes their wants are necessary, even holy. Invasions are believed righteous and supported by the truths of an unquestionable ideology held by a religion, sect, sex, nation, team, or family. Life is seen as a battle between disciples of truth and a pack of fools. Belief fosters strength. You've heard the saying: "you've got to believe in something, otherwise you'll fall for anything". Is there a difference between 'believing' and 'falling'?

Laws are made for keeping; but also for breaking when they interfere with the aims of the powerful. In a Wikileaks chapter dubbed the 'Kissinger Cables', Henry the lifetime Bilderberg invitee is quoted as saying, "Before the Freedom of Information Act, I used to say at meetings, 'The illegal we do immediately; the unconstitutional takes a little longer'."

According to a short press release, the Bilderberg 2015 Conference held in Austria focused, in part, on "American elections". One of the select invitees

was Jim Messina, a chief advisor to Hillary Clinton. Messina also ran Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, and guided a deeply unpopular Prime Minister, David Cameron, to a surprise upset victory in British elections last year.

"I'm coming home tomorrow and it's whatever it will take to get Hillary [elected]," Messina declared on MSNBC. It appears he and Bilderberg's bankers are on track for another win.

Last month Bilderberg #64 convened at the luxurious Hotel Taschenbergpalais in Dresden, Germany. Some 400 movers and shakers of this world, led by their Steering Committee Advisory Group under David Rockefeller, reportedly discussed how to ruin Donald Trump's bid for President (that senior Republican Senator Lindsay Graham was invited supported this claim). The agenda was also said to include: how to handle riots by the poor: the migrant crisis, and insuring that the UK votes to remain in the European Union. As I write, all of those plays are pending.

Empires are cooperative ventures supported by men, resources of arms and other goods, and an information system to keep everyone a believer and on the same page. It even matters who controls the past. A new YouGov survey in Britain found the British public believe 3-1 that the British Empire is something to be proud of; and that despite wars, massacres and famines, former British colonies are better off for having been part of that Empire.

That positive human mindset helps support current schemes of world conquest, visualizing a New World Order led by America, fulfilling the vision of a "golden age" in a verse by Roman writer Vergil which Charles Thomson chose to inscribe on the Great Seal of the US (and on every dollar) "Novus Ordo Seclorum", a new order of the Ages.

Why is Bilderberg backing Hillary and why has Wall Street made huge donations to The Clinton Foundation for a few words of her wisdom spoken at closed private meetings? Could it be rewards for hard work as Secretary of State, greasing the tracks for the TPP express?

Public Citizen, the 'citizens' lobby' founded by Ralph Nader, favors robust corporate accountability and strong government regulation. They warn: "the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would grant foreign corporations extraordinary new powers to attack the laws we rely on for a clean environment, essential services, and healthy communities. Foreign corporations would be empowered to bypass domestic courts and directly "sue" the U.S. and other TPP governments before tribunals of private lawyers that sit outside of any domestic legal system. These lawyers would be authorized to order governments to hand millions of taxpayer dollars to the corporations for laws that frustrate their "expectations."

Welcome to the NWO. The ability to draft women will be seen as brilliant forethought when Novus Ordo Seclorum marches in to "enlighten" what's left of the third world.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Wild Blue Wisconsin Yonder

A favorite pastime of mine is time travel, at least when I'm driving.

No, I don't drive a DeLorean rigged for hopping decades a la Back to the Future, but I do enjoy picturing what used to be by observing telltale signs of a structure that's out of place today but used to serve a very different purpose.

Any fast food junkie worth his overabundant salt intake can spot the telltale signs of a repurposed junk food emporium. The Midwestern landscape is littered with shuttered Pizza Huts serving as a Chinese take out joint or Taco emporium. A keen Baby Boomer eye can eyeball a Brown's Chicken turned dry cleaner or Dog 'n Suds gone native with a different coat of paint but the non-franchise local proprietor still serving frosty mugs under the still-in-place neon Root Beer sign atop the overhang.

Old military installations are a different matter. Some usually maintain a vestige of their former position, for some a museum on the site, for others a greatly reduced military reserve training center clinging on to a small parcel of a once sprawling federal facility turned developer's dream.

So I was more than a little surprised when on a main Wisconsin state highway just outside Lake Geneva I spotted what looked like a still operating military base. There was no mistaking the neat row of four two-story barracks and the ample collection of structures and outbuildings around them, complete with a brick smokestacked power building.

This was no McDonald's with the arches removed, or a 1910 farmhouse incongruously left extant and occupied inside a full subdivision of suburban

split-levels built on the former farmer's planting fields.

Entering the wide-open property seemingly hit by a neutron bomb leaving buildings intact but no people, I found the answer to what this installation was--the



former Williams Bay Air Force Station.

Now before you get the inclination to picture B-52 bombers or F-86 fighter jets leaping into the skies to defend America's Dairyland, I should point out that the property contains no runway and never did. What is clear from the aerial photo on the state historical marker near the entrance is the only two structures that are no longer there: two radar domes that scanned the skies from the highest point in Walworth County.

The station was part of the United States Air Force Air Defense Command, specifically the home of the 755th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

It was part of a nationwide network of 200 early warning radar sites. Their job was to spot incoming Soviet bombers and alert interceptor jets to scramble and knock down the bombers before they could drop their nuclear weapons. Williams Bay was tasked with notifying air force planes based at Madison or in Chicago at O'Hare.

The Williams Bay Air Force Station was operational from 1950 to 1960.

Most of the facility was sold to the state of Wisconsin, which used it as a minimum security prison for transitioning prisoners until 1972.

Today the site serves for the most part as an industrial park, with most of the structures hollowed out and used as storage sites or small businesses. Save for the two radar domes it's pretty much all still there, from the post exchange and the mess hall to the bachelor officers quarters and the motor pool.

Arguably the most functional and reminiscent part of the former air station is a small housing area for families on the southwest corner of the property.

Nine single family houses, all occupied and now privately owned, carry on the small cul de sac court neighborhood once occupied by base personnel. The beige color and relatively non-updated state of the one-story ranch style quarters make them the spitting image of their 1950's cousins that have long since passed into history from Chicago area military reservations now redeveloped like Fort Sheridan near Lake Forest and the naval base in Glenview.

If you ever get the chance to drive by the Williams Bay Air Force Station, stop and pull by the side of the road on Wisconsin state route 67 a mile north of route 50, and take a minute or two for a quick time travel. It's easy enough to squint and picture men falling out onto the parade ground from their barracks and lining up in their olive drab fatigues with blue nametags.

Listen in your mind's ear and ponder what music they heard on their radios at night or watched on a new-fangled device called a television during their off-duty hours.

It was no doubt lonely duty during their round the clock shifts. Their ghost air station recalls not only their time in American history but also their dedication to protecting us and our parents from a horrifying future that thankfully never happened. E-mail:

IrishRoverJim@aol.com

Corkman Paddy Homan Receives Award

Paddy Homan of Chicago was awarded De Paul University's School for New Learning David O. Justice Award at the Annual Student and Staff Excellence Awards Banquet June 4, 2016. Dr. Marisa Alicea, Dean of the School for New Learning, said, "The award is the college's way of highlighting the unusual talent and commitment of our alumni who frequently forge progressive paths in society. It is given in honor of Dean David O. Justice, who for fifteen years guided the School for New Learning."

"This award is granted to recognize your creative talent, dedication to the arts and culture and society as a whole. A graduate of the School for New Learning's Master of Arts Program in Applied Professional Studies [2013] and a well-noted international Irish tenor, you have applied your musical talents in the service of your native country as well as Chicago's



aged population. Your work is evidence of significant engagement in accomplishing your independent research and the development of new and unusual learning opportunities for yourself and others. In summation, you exemplify the spirit and values of the School for New Learning in your musical endeavors, leadership and service."



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Clutter Buster Procrastinate No More

by Rita Emmett

When You Don't Have All the Answers

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a project where you don't know what you're doing and you are not clear how to do the next step ... but you know it is what you are supposed to do?

I'm in the heart of that type of journey. It's fun but I don't know where the path leads and don't have a map showing the way.

How did I get here? Eight years ago, after writing a book for adults to help children who procrastinate, I researched for books that directly help kids break the putting-off habit. There were several for every age child except little ones.

Yet I kept receiving emails asking help for mini-procrastinators. For years, I prayed someone would write a book for young children. Then ... Did you ever have a smack-yourself-in-the-head-moment where you know this is the time and you are the person to do something?

I wrote the picture Book.

And quickly learned two things:

1. I'm not good at it.
2. It's hard. You need a plot with conflict, resolution, interesting characters plus beginning, middle and end - in less than 800 words.

Till now I've been blessed with a terrific agent (who, sadly, does not handle picture books.) So I've sent literary agents my picture book about Patty O'Put-Off, a little girl who procrastinates. No reply yet.

If no luck with agents, I'll self-publish it -- but I've never self-published anything. So I wrote a "practice" eBook. That way, if nobody accepts

my Patty O'Put-Off book, I will already have learned the process.

My "practice picture book" begins with a quote attributed to Einstein: "Everyone is a genius. But if a fish is judged by how well it climbs a tree, it will live its life feeling stupid."

It's a fun and funny book that begins with Sparkle Shark criticizing the way little brother Farkle Shark talks. But when Big Bully Boy calls him stupid because he can't climb trees, Sparkle jumps to her brother's defense. Her advice, plus an adventure, changes his attitude ... and his life.

AND TODAY IT WAS RELEASED ON KINDLE!

"Farkle Shark, You Are Not Stupid" will sell as an ebook for only \$1.99 until July 31, and can be read on any computer, phone or other device. Plus inside is a link to a free audio bonus of me reading it. (Yes, OF COURSE I do sound effects.

Watery ones.)

If you are interested in this book for kids, grandkids, a young friend, teacher or yourself, I'm asking 2 big favors:

1. Please buy it.
2. Write an Amazon review. (I've learned that reviews are super-important for picture books).

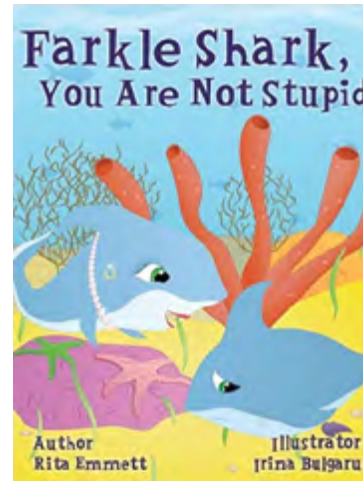
Moral of the story: if you feel driven to do something - start a business, write a book, travel -- but it's uncomfortable because you don't know where to start, begin with the decision: YES, you will do it.

Be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Then do your homework. Learn as much as possible. Get started. Each time you can't figure out the next step, keep learning. Google it. You might stumble across super helpful explanations.

Ask for help, maybe find a mentor. Even if you are a super-capable person who takes pride in being knowledgeable and competent with everything you do, that doesn't mean you can't

seek help. Growth doesn't occur when comfortable. You might be surprised who or what appears to help you.

And if you find yourself feeling stupid because you can't figure out the next step, allow me to recommend a newly-released book where a shark named Farkle will teach you that JUST because you don't know how to do THIS thing, it doesn't mean you are stupid.



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Pictured are President of Environmental Advocate and Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr and MWRD Commissioner David Walsh. Pictured are President of Environmental Advocate and Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr and MWRD Commissioner David Walsh.

For the complete story go online to irishamericannews.com



Continental Youth Championships

Gaelic Park Chicago July 28–31



CYC Returns to Chicago in July



Chicago wins the CYC Under 8 finals in San Francisco CYC 2015

Continental Youth Championships

Gaelic Park Chicago July 28—31

Welcome to the City of Big Shoulders! The CYC Chicago 2016 Host Committee welcomes all players, families and dignitaries to Chicago.

2016 is an historic year for the Irish, marking one hundred years since the brave men and women fought the Easter Rising. Chicago is proud to host a tournament of sport that is so closely associated with the fabric of Irish culture and nationalism.

Our committee has been working for months to ensure that you experience all that Chicago has to offer! The hotels, transportation and amenities have all been carefully selected to ensure your best possible experience! We are proud to offer North America's premier Irish sporting facility in Gaelic Park!

Look for helpful hints on the CYC website for places to see in Chicago as well as transportation options. Chicago is filled with great sites and a strong immigrant history that is celebrated at every turn. Architecture and engineering marvels, world class sports teams, mind blowing museums and parks, top rated restaurants, a

wide variety of nightly music offerings and of course our Lake Michigan shores. The opportunities are unlimited!

Most of all we are excited to provide this unique sporting opportunity to our young athletes. Celebrating the Irish sporting tradition, particularly in this Centennial year in Irish history, is an honor. Here is to another 100 years of Irish tradition - both in Ireland and abroad.

Please feel free to let a committee member know if you have any special needs that require accommodation during your stay. Remember to support and thank our sponsors who have made the CYC possible.

The planning is done!
Let the games begin!

James Staunton
CYC Chicago 2016 Committee Chair



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The Continental Youth Championships (CYC) is Ireland's Gaelic Athletic Association's (GAA) annual tournament of youth gaelic football, hurling and camogie in North America. These national sports of Ireland are enjoyed by both children and adults throughout the world. Each year the CYC attracts over 150 teams with more than 2,000 youth players aged 6 to 18 from cities all over the United States and Canada.

Since the inception year in 2004, the CYC has rotated annu-

ally between San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Chicago is honoured to host the 2016 CYC at Chicago's Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, the premier Irish sporting facility in North America. In addition to the host cities team will travel from Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Milwaukee, Austin, San Diego, Cleveland, Toronto, Ottawa and many more.

The event is the largest youth gaelic games competition outside of Ireland with thousands of spectators drawn to the event

over the four day tournament weekend to be held July 28 - 31. The tournament is open to the public and runs daily from 8 am to 5 pm. Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. Find further details regarding the CYC and Irish sports at www.cycgaa.com.

Chicago is the proud home of three Irish youth teams including the Chicago Celtics in northwest Des Plaines, the St. Jarlath's in Gaelic Park and the Windy City Gaels in Peterson Park on Chicago's north side.



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***Best of Luck
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Welcome to Chicago Gaelic Park!

On behalf of the directors, volunteers, members and staff of Chicago Gaelic Park, céad míle fáilte to all who will be participating in CYC 2016. We are very excited to once again be the host location of the largest tournament of Gaelic Sports outside Ireland, and are looking forward to skilled and spirited competition and a weekend full of fun.

The serious commitment that players and families have made to these games and to the perpetuation of Irish culture always impresses us, and gives us great hope for the future of the Irish and for the future of Chicago Gaelic Park and other Irish cultural centers throughout the world. The CYC Steering Committee, Croke Park, GAA officers, coaches, officials and others also prove their dedication and commitment, and should be proud of their results. Thanks to all who helped make this weekend possible.

The Chicago CYC Hosting Committee has logged countless volunteer hours to ensure that everyone has a positive experience at CYC 2016, and they have been a great partner to us in this undertaking. This prestigious tournament could not happen without them, and we salute their efforts and accomplishments.

We truly hope you enjoy your time with us and your time in the Chicago area. Best of luck to the athletes and thanks to all for keeping Irish culture alive and well. We wish you great memories and a safe journey home.

Bill O'Sullivan
President
Chicago Gaelic Park



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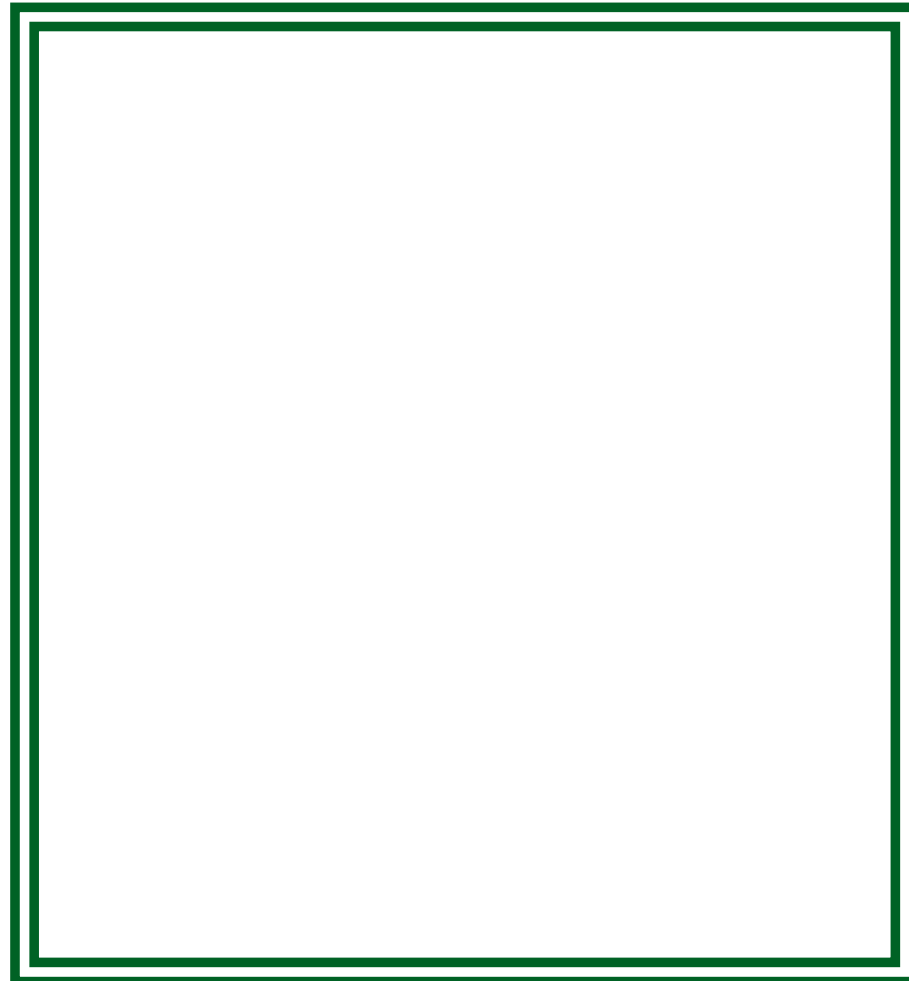
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Failte go Chicago. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Continental Youth Championships to Chicago in 2016. In this, the 100th anniversary year of the 1916 Easter Rising, it is a testament to the powerful roots that were then established, that this weekend thousands of young Americans from far and wide are gathering to compete in the Gaelic games of our heritage.

In the strong tradition of the GAA, you the athletes will represent your towns and parishes, as you compete with skill, heart, and pride. You have worked hard to get to this point, and I wish you all the best in your quest for the hurling and football cups. More importantly, I sincerely hope you take great memories and new friendships home with you from Chicago. The GAA friendships we have all made over the years have endured throughout the ages.

As Chairman of the Central Divisional Board, it is very encouraging to witness the continued growth and development of our GAA games here in North America. The youth of today is the foundation for the adult clubs of the future. Based on your ever increasing numbers and skill level, I have great confidence in the future of the GAA.

Beir bua agus beannacht.
Michael Flanagan
Chairman
Central Divisional Board



Niall Gallagher returns to Chicago with the Championship cup after Chicago's Under 8 championship win at the CYC San Francisco 2015.

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Good Luck in the CYC Emma & Mikey!
 Run Kids Run!! Love, Mom

Go for Goal Nora Calato!



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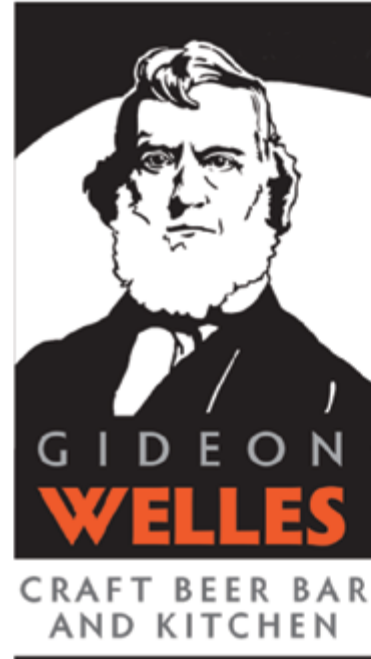
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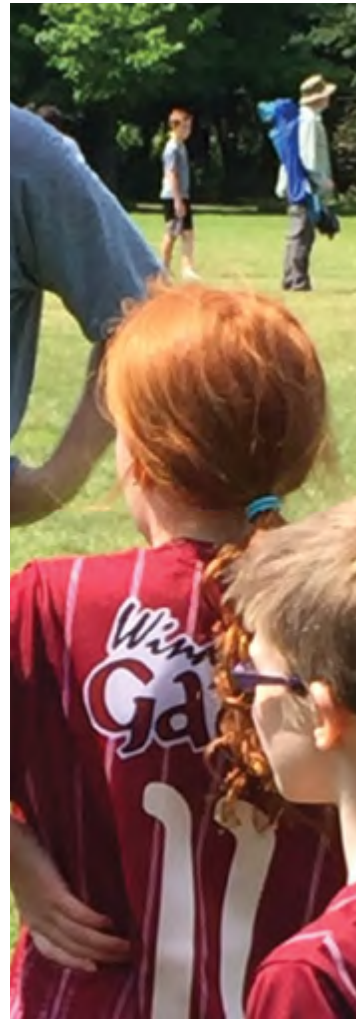
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to the St. Jarlath's
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Go Emma & Mikey!

Love,
Nana
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Papa



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Gaelic Park Chicago July 28-31

About the GAA

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting organisation. It is celebrated as one of the great amateur sporting associations in the world. It is part of the Irish consciousness and plays an influential role in Irish society that extends far beyond the basic aim of promoting Gaelic games.

It was founded on November 1 1884 at a meeting in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, by a group of spirited Irish men and women, including Michael Cusack, who had the foresight to realise the importance of establishing a national organisation to make athletics more accessible to the masses and to revive and nurture traditional, indigenous sports and pastimes. Cusack had been dismayed at the popularity of British sports such as rugby and cricket and the declining use of Irish games. At that time, it was largely only the gentry and aristocracy who were allowed to meaningfully participate in athletics.

Cusack organised the meeting and the GAA was formed under the title: Gaelic Athletic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes. Maurice Davin from Tipperary was elected president and Cusack became secretary. The organisation then asked three of the champions of Irish nationalism to become patrons: Archbishop Thomas Croke, after whom Croke Park was later named, Charles Stewart Parnell, who was campaigning for Home Rule for Ireland, and Michael Davitt, one of the leaders of the Land League, campaigning for improved rights for tenant farmers.

The choice of such leading nationalist figures left no one in any doubt that this was to be a uniquely Irish organisation. GAA members played a part in the Land War, often turning up in numbers, armed with hurling

sticks to prevent evictions of tenant farmers. They were also prominent at political meetings and demonstrations.

Until then all that was Irish was being steadily eroded by emigration, intense poverty and outside influences. Within six months of that famous first meeting, GAA clubs began to spring up all over Ireland and people began to play the games of Hurling and Gaelic Football and take part in athletic events with pride.

The GAA as a body played no part in the Easter Rising but many of its members did on an individual basis having joined other organisations such as the IRB, the Irish Volunteers or the Irish Citizen Army. So many members were arrested and imprisoned after the Rising in 1916 that the GAA almost ground to a halt until they were released.

In 1918 the British authorities, concerned that matches drew big crowds that were difficult to police and control, attempted to require official permits for the Irish to stage games. The GAA openly defied the British authority by staging staging matches involving 50,000 people all over the country. Not one of the games had a permit. The protest was too big to deal with and with little they could do, the authorities backed down.

In 1920, the GAA found itself unwittingly caught up in the most tragic event in Irish sport. The Irish War of Independence was at its height. In what they attempted to justify as retaliation for acts of war on the part of the Irish Republican Army, British soldiers opened fire on the crowd at Croke Park killing 14 people. The day became known as Bloody Sunday.

While politics often influenced GAA activity, its primary function was always to promote Irish sports. It standardised the rules of the main Irish games and as early as 1888 set about promoting Irish sport in America.

The Association today promotes Gaelic games such as Hurling, Football, Handball and Rounders and works with sister organisations to promote Ladies Football and Camogie. The Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. The GAA has remained an amateur Association since its founding. Players, even at the highest level, do not receive payment for playing and the volunteer ethos remains one of the most important aspects of the GAA.

The organisation is based on the traditional parishes and counties of Ireland. As a community-based organisation, it is often stated that it is difficult to determine where the community end and the GAA club starts as they generally overlap and are intertwined. The GAA has over 2,200 clubs in all 32 counties of Ireland.

The GAA has developed abroad amongst the Irish Diaspora. The Irish who emigrated brought their national games with them and both regional and club units are now well established in the United States of America, Australia, Britain, Canada, China, mainland Europe and many other parts of the world. The GAA has put emphasis on growing the games abroad, particularly with the youth. North America's Continental Youth Championships (CYC) is the largest Irish sporting tournament held outside of Ireland.



Good Luck to Ye in the CYC!
Enjoy Chicago

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A Cháirde

The local GAA season got underway on June 5th and will continue through Finals on August 21st. Except for the July 4th weekend, games will be held on all Sunday afternoons and Wednesday nights. Sunday admission charged by the GAA is very reasonable, and the food and drink prices are also reasonable. We hope you can come out and cheer on your favorite side, or just enjoy the atmosphere, the patio, the playground and the craic.

It was great to see the youth GAA competition start on June 12th with the first throw-in of the season by GAA and Chicago legend John Hunt. It was over sixty-five years ago that John settled in Chicago, and over fifty years ago that he was elected as

the first chairman of the North American County Board. The youth season culminates with the CYC (Continental Youth Championship), which Gaelic Park has the privilege of hosting this year. It runs from July 28th through 31st, and our Chicago youth football and hurling teams will compete against teams from throughout North America. We are expecting up to 2,500 children and hundreds of games over the four-day period. The players and their families make a large commitment to their Irish heritage, and I hope you can come out, support our local teams, and enjoy this wonderful celebration of Gaelic sports.

Slán go fóil,
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Fri	Jul 1	DJ John Gill	8:30pm
Sat	Jul 2	Mixed Company	9:00pm
Wed	Jul 6	Joe McShane & Nicky James	6:00pm
		RIB NIGHT on the Patio*	
Fri	Jul 8	Brian Thoma & Nicky Gonzalez	8:00pm
Sat	Jul 9	Ethan Kinsella	8:00pm
Wed	Jul 13	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
		RIB NIGHT on the Patio*	
Fri	Jul 15	Bernie Glim	8:30pm
Sat	Jul 16	Jimmy O & Rhonda Lee	9:00pm
Wed	Jul 20	Gerry Haughey	6:00pm
		RIB NIGHT on the Patio*	
Fri	Jul 22	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Jul 23	Kieran Byrne	9:00pm
Wed	Jul 27	Joe McShane	6:00pm
		RIB NIGHT on the Patio*	
Fri	Jul 29	Vocal Illusion	8:00pm
Sat	Jul 30	TBA	

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



* (weather permitting) **NO COVER CHARGE**

2016 CGP Calendar of Events 2016 JULY

7/6 Monthly Musical Luncheon* with Kara and Jerry

Ladies Auxiliary - next meeting September 14

*Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

Pub Trivia will resume on Tuesday evenings in October

Monday Evenings Set Dancing 7:30pm

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

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



CLIP & POST



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room

Membership

NEW RENEWAL Family \$50 Individual \$30

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Spouse (if joining) last _____ first _____ initial _____

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_____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Donation enclosed \$ _____ (Checks payable to Chicago Gaelic Park)

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership, 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

phone: 708.687.9323 fax: 708.687.0120

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

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Save The Date

Friday September 16, 2016

The Carraig Pub's Annual Golf Outing

The Odyssey Golf Club

Shotgun Start 1:00pm
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Sign Up Now!



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Gaelic Park's Irish Cultural Camp Registration Form

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Size for Shirt _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

City, State, Zip _____

Emergency Contact – Name & Phone Number _____

Any Allergies? _____

E-Mail Address _____

****Please Circle Below 4 Areas of Interest to Your Child****

Irish Language • Irish Sports • Irish Drama • Irish Dance • Irish Art • Irish Music • Irish Song • Irish Calligraphy

Mail registration form to: Gaelic Park – 6119 W. 147th Street – Oak Forest, Il. 60452- Attn. Cultural Camp

Make Check payable to **CHICAGO GAELIC PARK**

Irish Cultural Camp

August 9-11, 2016
9:30am to 3:00pm

At Chicago Gaelic Park

Open for children
ages 5 to 13 years.

Focus will be on Irish sport,
dance, music, art, language,
drama song and calligraphy.

Cost \$80 per child,
\$75.00 each for additional siblings
Includes Lunch & Snacks



We hope you are enjoying your summer! Stay tuned to this page for announcements regarding our fall play.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Gaelic Park Players we meet at Gaelic Park the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Also visit our facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/gaelicparkplayers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gaelicparkplayers) or our web page gaelicparkplayers.org. We welcome all who wish to be involved in acting, directing or working backstage. We always look forward to seeing new faces!



Need a Birthday gift or just want to treat yourself, we have Gaelic Park O'Neills' Jerseys available in the Gaelic Park Front Office for \$60.00



Gaelic Park can be found on FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!





Chicago Gaelic Park

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

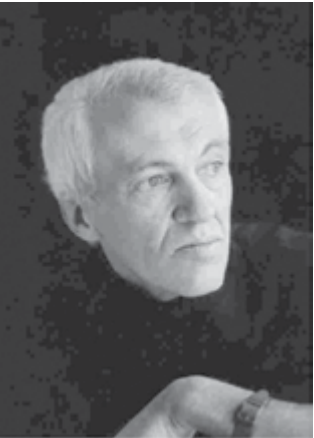


Irish Fest 2016 Photos



Ken Bruen to Receive the iBAM! 2016 Literature Award

It is our pleasure to announce that Mystery writer Ken Bruen is our 2016 iBAM! Awardee for Literature, and will be on hand to receive his award at the iBAM! Gala Awards Dinner, October 14th in the Irish American Heritage Center in the Erin Room.



Ken has written over 50 books and is one of the most prominent Irish crime writers of the last two decades. Born in Galway in 1951, he spent twenty-five years traveling the world before he began writing in the mid 1990s. As an English teacher, Bruen worked in South Africa, Japan, and South America, where he once spent a short

time in a Brazilian jail. He has two long-running series: one starring a disgraced former policeman named Jack Taylor, the other a London police detective named Inspector Brant.

Praised for their sharp insight into the darker side of today's prosperous Ireland, Bruen's novels are marked by grim atmosphere and clipped prose. Among the best known are his White Trilogy (1998-2000) and The

Guards (2001), the Shamus award-winning first novel in the Jack Taylor series. The next Jack Taylor novel, Green Hell, will be released by Mysterious Press/Grove Atlantic in July 2015.

Bruen continues to live and work in Galway.

Praise for Ken Bruen and the Jack Taylor series:

"The things Jack witnesses these days . . . would cause a saint to go blind. And Jack, whose heroism is fueled by 'plain old-fashioned rage, bile and bitterness,' is no saint. Never was, never will be. Amen." —New York Times Book Review, on Purgatory

"Bruen is an original, grimly hilarious and gloriously Irish." —Washington Post, on The Guards

"Bruen's books are known for their dark, brutal humor laced with a crisp dialogue . . . A favorite in Ireland and the U.K., Bruen is threatening to become a mass cult figure in the U.S. as well as a critical favorite." —Atlantic, on Headstone

"A brilliant, lyrical, deeply moving writer. . . If you like

Author Ken Bruen with daughter Grace



Ian Rankin, Dennis Lehane, Pelecanos, and the like, Bruen is definitely a writer to reckon with." —Denver Post, on The Guards

"Bruen's voice is unmistakable: finely chiseled paragraphs that more closely resemble verse than prose . . . Bruen is among the most original and innovative noir voices of the last two decades." —Los Angeles Review of Books, on Headstone

"Bruen's writing is unique, quirky and as hard-boiled as they come." —Cleveland Plain Dealer, on Headstone.

Irish Authors

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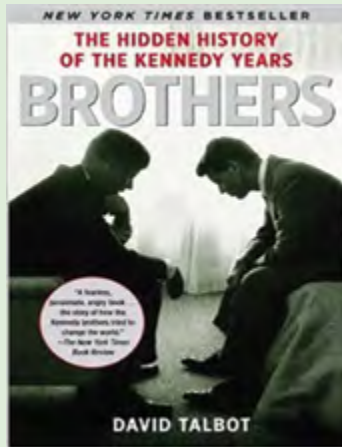
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by L.D. Beyer

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Investors did not exactly "sell in May and go away" – the S&P 500 gained 1.53% last month. Oil prices settled into a sweet spot of sorts; they were high enough to soothe analysts, but not so high as to portend gas price spikes for consumers. Fundamental indicators pointed to an economy leaving its first-quarter doldrums behind; the real estate market looked especially hot. Hir-

ing moderated, but retail sales, personal spending, and inflation picked up. It was enough to stir questions about an interest rate hike, and certain Federal Reserve officials publicly entertained that possibility.

As May ended, there was a real sense that the health of the economy had improved from the first quarter, and three Federal Reserve officials (Janet Yellen, John Wil-

liams, and Eric Rosengren) had made some hawkish remarks about the merits of raising interest rates. In a May 27 conversation at Harvard University, Yellen stated that "probably in the coming months such a move would be appropriate."

Currently, odds do not favor a hike in June (CME Group), but July is definitely a possibility. Historically, data from the St. Louis Fed-



Dally Investor

By John P. Daly



since, it has failed to recapture that level. It's not uncommon for the major indexes to go through periods where gains are elusive or we experience unwanted volatility.

There are a number of reasons, but let's hit on the major

is expected to run its course during the current quarter (Thomson Reuters).

* Oil prices are well off the lows, which loosens the tight screws around the industry.

*The dollar has stabilized.

*Leading indicators are not

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	MTD %	YTD %	3-year* %
Dow Jones Industrial Average	+0.1	+2.1	+5.6
NASDAQ Composite	+3.6	-1.2	+12.7
S&P 500 Index	+1.5	+2.6	+8.7
Russell 2000 Index	+2.1	+1.7	+5.5
MSCI World ex-USA**	-1.7	-1.6	-1.0
MSCI Emerging Markets**	-3.9	+1.7	-7.2

eral Reserve suggests that, by itself, higher interest rates do not lead to bear markets (recessions do). But a second rate hike by the Fed has the potential to create short-term volatility for investors. Even if the Fed goes through with another rate hike this summer, interest rates will remain near historic lows. Undoubtedly, low interest rates have been a challenge for savers who rely on income, but low rates are supportive of stocks when the economy is expanding.

On May 21, 2015, the S&P 500 Index closed at 2,130.82, an all-time closing high for this broad measure of 500 large U.S. companies (St. Louis Federal Reserve). In the year

ones

* S&P 500 profits have declined for three straight quarters (Thomson Reuters).

* An earthquake in the oil industry has rippled through manufacturing, which has also hampered profits.

* The stronger dollar has hurt earnings of U.S. multinationals, because sales incurred overseas must be translated back into the stronger dollar.

* A lackluster U.S. economy is a headwind to revenue and profit growth.

* Lingering worries about global economic growth hamper overall sentiment.

* There is election year uncertainty.

On the flipside

* The earnings recession

pointing to a recession.

For long-term investors, it's important to look past short-term volatility and stick with a disciplined approach. As many of you have heard me say, attempts to outguess the market are frustrating and usually unsuccessful.

Source: Wall Street Journal, MSCI.com

MTD returns: April 29, 2016-May 31, 2016

YTD returns: December 31, 2015-May 31, 2016

*Annualized
**USD

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THE HERITAGE LINE
Irish American
heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

GET YOUR GREEN ON at the 31st IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL
July 8, 9 and 10

Celebrate all things Irish at the 31st annual Irish American Heritage Festival.

Irish Fest is July 8, 9 and 10 and showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The Fest is an indoor and outdoor event; rain or shine, and is one of the Center's largest fundraisers.

Performers include:

the High Kings, Eileen Ivers, Girsra, Tupelo, the Narrowbacks, Rory Makem, Academy of Irish Music, Baal Tinne, Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends, the Chancey Brothers, the Dooley Brothers with Jimmy Moore and Kathleen Keane, Flatfoot 56, Kevin Flynn, Aislinn Gagliardi and Teresa Shine, Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance, Hounds of Finn, In Spite of Ourselves, Irish Heritage Singers, Larkin and Moran Brothers, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Joe McShane, Joe Cullen, Nicky James and Declan McShane,

Three Men in Kilts, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, Mulligan Stew, Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band, Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, CPD, Fonn Mor, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Pin Drop Theatre, St. Stephen's Green, Sheila Tully Academy of

Irish Dance, the Tooloes, Trinity Irish Dancers, Weber Irish Dance, Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers and a comedy showcase with WGN Radio's Patti Vasquez.

The Fest has something for all ages and interests with Irish and American food and drink, Irish step

dancing performances, cultural programs, children's activities and dozens of vendors and artisans selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry.

Attractions and activities include visits from Irish Wolfhounds, the Men in Kilts Contest, Irish Soda Bread Contest, Freckle Contest, Mashed Potato Eating Contest, ShamRock Stars singing contest, Hooley Hook-Up for singles, Bingo, the Young Irish Fellowship Bags Tournament and Sunday Mass and BreakFEST.

Try your luck at our two Fest raffles; the Grand Raffle and the Irish Fest Raffle. Grand Raffle tickets are \$50 and offer a chance to win \$10,000. The Irish Fest Raffle is \$2 per ticket or \$6 for \$10 and prizes include tickets to sporting events, museums, theatre productions and concerts, gift cards to area restaurants, pubs and businesses and autographed sports memorabilia. Both drawings are after 9pm on Sunday, July 10 and winners need not be present.

Irish Fest hours are:
6pm to 1am on July 8,
noon to 1am on July 9,
and 11am to midnight on July 10.

Tickets:
Adults
Friday, 7/8-\$8
Saturday, 7/9-\$15
Sunday, 7/10-\$15
Children ages 4-12-
\$5 each day
Under 4-Free

Fest attendees can pay to park in the North Lot or take the free shuttle bus that runs all weekend between the Knox



Street entrance and the pumping station lot at Wilson and Lamon.

To purchase tickets, visit www.irishfestchicago.com or buy at the door.

FEST CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Irish Fest offers a unique way for festgoers to learn about our cultural offerings and what we do all year at the Center.

Cultural exhibits and programs will be showcased in the Library, Museum, Art Gallery and Room 311 and include language lessons,

genealogy workshops, traditional Irish music performances, readings, music demonstrations, storytelling and film.

Art lovers can visit the Art Gallery for a Members' exhibit and Books of Kells presentation. Want to learn basics of the Irish language? Sit in on the Irish language sampler workshop on Saturday.

Enjoy live traditional Irish music with Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends

and the Academy of Irish Music. Those curious about the Irish harp and Uilleann Pipes can attend workshops and demos to learn more about these infinitely Irish sounds. Singer Aine Meenaghan will perform songs in the Sean Nós tradition.

If the spoken word is your thing, you can listen to stories from the Irish tradition from Seanachai Tim O'Sullivan, Readings from the 1916 Rebellion and tales from the

writers of the Center's Memoir and Creative Writing Classes.

Our Tea Room returns with a respite from the heat. Stop by for a proper cup of tea and sandwiches in our air-conditioned Shamrock American Room on Saturday and Sunday from 2pm to 5pm.

See next page for schedule.

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



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

31st ANNUAL IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

July 8, 9 and 10

FRIDAY, JULY 8TH

MAIN STAGE

Flatfoot 56 7:00pm
The Narrowbacks 9:00pm



FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE

The Boils 6:00pm
Hooley Hook-Up 7:30pm
St Stephen's Green 8:00pm
Hooley Hook-Up 9:30pm
In Spite of Ourselves 10:00pm

ROOM 109

Vendors 6pm-1am

SOUTH LOT

Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society CPD 8:30pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE

Foy Irish Dancers 7:00pm
Comedy Showcase with WGN's Patti Vasquez and Friends 8:00pm

ART GALLERY

Gallery Group Members' Exhibition 6pm-8pm

LIBRARY

Friday 6pm-8pm
Genealogy with Brian Donovan 6pm-8pm

ROOM 111

Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor 8pm-11pm

CHILDREN'S AREA

Arts and Crafts and Bags and Boards 6pm-8pm
Mashed Potato Eating Contest 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

MAIN STAGE

Irish Heritage Singers 12pm
Joe McShane/Joe Cullen/Nicky James and Declan McShane 1pm

Larkin and Moran Brothers 3pm
Girsá 5pm
Tupelo 7pm
Eileen Ivers 9pm



FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE

Academy of Irish Music 12pm
Baal Tinne 1:30pm
The Tooles 3:30pm
Kevin Flynn 5:30pm
Rory Makem 6:30pm
Men in Kilts Contest 7:30 and 9:30pm
Hooley Hook-Up 7:30pm
Pin Drop Theatre 8pm
The Narrowbacks 10pm

ROOM 109

Vendors 12pm-1am

SOUTH LOT

Chicago Celtic Pipe Band 4:30pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE

Trinity Irish Dancers 1:30pm
Weber Irish Dance 3:30pm
McNulty School of Irish Dance 5pm
ShamROCK Stars Singing Contest 5:30pm

ART GALLERY

Gallery Group Members' Exhibition 1pm-4pm

LIBRARY

Saturday Noon-6pm
Genealogy with Brian Donovan 1pm-4pm

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

Anam Cara Storytelling 1pm
Songs and Recitations with Tim O'Sullivan 2pm
Academy of Irish Music Young Group 2:30pm
Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends 3pm
Sean Nós Songs in Gaelic with Aine Meenaghan 3:30pm
Reading from the 1916 Rebellion 4pm
Arthur Cola presents Legendary Tales 5pm
Irish Language Sampler 4:30pm

MUSEUM

Exhibits 1pm-5pm

SHAMROCK AMERICAN ROOM

Tea Room 2pm-5pm

CHILDREN'S AREA

Trinity Irish Dance lessons 12pm
Arts and crafts, sand art and Bags and Boards 12pm-6pm
The Art of Falconry 1pm
Windy City Gaels Demonstration and Lessons 2pm
Irish Wolfhound Demonstration 2pm
Face Painters 2pm-5pm
Wiggieworms 3:15pm
Academy of Irish Music Young Group 5pm

ROOM 311

Trinity Irish Dance Lessons 2pm and 3:30pm
Irish film *Cumann na mBan- Mná na Réabhlóide* 4:30pm

SUNDAY, JULY 10TH

MAIN STAGE

Mass 10:30am
Three Men in Kilts 12pm
Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers 1:30pm
Dooley Brothers with Kathleen Keane and Jimmy Moore 2pm
Tupelo 4pm
Girsá 6pm
The High Kings 8pm



FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE

Whitey O'Day 12pm
Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends 1pm
Aislinn Gagliardi and Teresa Shine 2pm
Fonn Mor 3pm
Mulligan Stew 5pm
Hooley Hook-Up 6:30pm
Hounds of Finn 7pm
Hooley Hook-Up 8:30pm
The Chancey Brothers 9pm

ROOM 109

Vendors 11am to Midnight

SOUTH LOT

BreakFEST 11:30am
Young Irish Fellowship Bags Tournament 1pm
Soda Bread Contest 4pm
Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band 5:30pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE

Mulhern School of Irish Dance 1:30pm
Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance 3pm
O'Hare School of Irish Dance 4:30pm
ShamROCK Stars Singing Contest Final 5pm

ART GALLERY

Gallery Group Members' Exhibition 1pm-4pm
An Introduction to the Book of Kells with Frank Crowley 3pm

LIBRARY

Noon-6pm
Genealogy with Brian Donovan 1pm-4pm

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

Anam Cara Storytelling 1pm
An Irish Harp Talk and Demonstration with Marta Cook 2pm
Patriotic Readings, Songs and Readings of the 1916 Proclamation with Eamonn McDonagh 2:30pm
Uilleann Pipes Demonstration with Patrick Cannady 3pm
Sean Nós Songs in Gaelic with Aine Meenaghan 3:30pm
Readings from the 1916 Rebellion 4pm
Irish Language Sampler 4:30pm
Traditional Irish Music with the Academy of Irish Music Young Group 5pm

MUSEUM

Exhibits 1pm-5pm

SHAMROCK AMERICAN ROOM

Tea Room 2pm-5pm

CHILDREN'S AREA

Arts and crafts, sand art and Bags and Boards 12pm-6pm
The Art of Falconry 12pm
Irish Wolfhound Demonstration 1pm
Trinity Irish Dance Lessons 2pm
Chicago Fire Department Truck 2pm
Face Painter 2pm-5pm
Freckles Contest 3pm
Wiggieworms 3:15pm
Irish Music School of Chicago 5pm

ROOM 311

Trinity Irish Dance Lessons 12pm, 1pm, 3pm
Irish film *Cumann na mBan- Mná na Réabhlóide* 4:30pm

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THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

I am going to take up as little space as possible this month so that you can peruse these pages and read all about all the great line up of Irish musicians, dancers and vendors who are about to descend upon our premises on July 8, 9 and 10 for the 31st Annual Irish American Heritage Festival. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so I ask that you join us and enjoy the many events offered throughout the weekend. A special thank you goes to our



Irish Fest Committee and all the volunteers who continue to make it a success.

The Tug of War competition has been around for many centuries and dates back to the early Olympics. It gained popularity in Ireland and is revered by our youth. So, I am organizing our first annual Tug-of-

War Challenge. See below for details. If you are interested, contact the Center or me at gcooney@irishahc.org.

Eugene M. Cooney, President

Social Scene and Culture Corner

Celebrate The Songs of Irish America with two concerts this summer.

Sláinte: The Faithful Journey of the Irish Immigrant features Chicago native Michael Whelan, star singer of the Glenn Miller Orchestra and opening act for Aaron Neville.



Drawing on quotes from local Irish immigrants and first-generation Irish Americans, Whelan weaves sentimental stories of the immigrant experience with classic Irish songs,

including: *Galway Bay, How Are Things in Glocca Morra, and Danny Boy.*

Backed by some of the top musicians in Chicago, Whelan returns to the Center this summer after his Sinatra Century concerts this past winter. The concerts are Thursday, July 28th and August 4th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at www.irish-american.org or calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Tug-of-War Challenge

Would you be interested in winning \$1000? Gather your friends and neighbors to take the first annual Tug-of-War Challenge at the Center.

Assemble a team for a chance to flex your muscles and win the first prize of \$1000. The fee to register a team is \$125. The combined team weight may not be more than 1800 lbs. There is a limit of 8 men per team, and no more than 16 teams can participate. There will also be a Wellie Toss and bulls-eye tournament.

The Tug-of-War Challenge is Saturday, August 6 at noon. To register your team, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Gallery Group Members' Exhibition

View the artwork of talented members of the Center with the Gallery Group Members' Exhibition, The show features paintings and drawings not previously exhibited in the Gallery, and art from students of the Traditional Celtic Art Class. The exhibit runs from Friday, July 8 through Sunday, July 24. Regular gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, July 16, 17, 23, 24, from 1pm- 4pm, with a closing reception on Sunday, July 24 from 1pm to 4pm. Irish Fest hours are Friday, July 8 from 6pm- 8pm, Saturday, July 9 and 10, from 1pm to 5pm and Irish Fest admission fees apply.

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

JULY ENTERTAINMENT

- 7/1 Ceili Mor 8pm
- 7/2 Joe McShane 8pm
- 7/23 Piobairí 6pm
- 7/30 Piobairí 6pm

Visit www.irish-american.org for local acts appearing on Saturday nights July and August in the Pub!



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: July 7, 14, 21 and 28 7pm-9pm

July 2016

July 1	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	8pm
July 4	Building Closed	
July 8, 9 & 10	Irish American Heritage Festival	Full Building and grounds
July 16	Watercolor Workshop	Room 304 9am
July 19	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304 7pm
July 23	PIOBAIRÍ	Fifth Province 6pm
July 28	Slainte Concert	Erin Room 7:30pm
July 30	PIOBAIRÍ	Fifth Province 6pm
July 31	Genealogy Workshop	Library 1pm

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
Wed	Summer Drawing Class	Room 309 7pm
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 311 7pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208 7-10pm
Thurs	<i>The Craic with Cooney and Keane</i> Radio Show taping	Fifth Province 6pm
Thurs	Thursday Night Irish Music Session	Fifth Province 7pm
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

Library will be closed for the month of August, except for Genealogy on Sunday, August 28, or by special appointment. Call 773-282-7035, ext. 19 to set up an appointment.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Gene Cooney, Frank Crowley, Ellen Folan, Michael Gibbons, Catherine Kelly, Mary Morris, Sheila Murphy

St. Stephen's Green will be playing at the Irish American Heritage Center's Irish Festival, Friday, July 8th, 8-9:30pm. Don't Miss the Craic!

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



A Tale of Two Cities

Chicago is one city, but with two U.S. justice systems. Both systems are run by the same man. Of the millions of non-filers of IRS taxes, fewer than 2,000 are prosecuted annually by all US Atty. District Offices. The policy of "Naming and Shaming" tax-cheats increases compliance.

Chicago's Vindictive US Justice System: For months Chicago's news media, press, radio, and TV have been informing Chicagoans of one case of noncompliance with IRS filings, that of Mel Reynolds, an African-American. Reynold's legal drama is unfolding in the US Northern District of Illinois. Most accounts rehash Reynold's past personal problems as if they were relevant to the tax enforcement policy of "naming and shaming." Tax-payers in Chicago are being repeatedly informed about Reynolds' alleged failure to file IRS taxes. Together, the US Attorney and news media have made Reynolds an official Chicago hate figure. It raises an important question: What motivated that US Attorney to indict Mel Reynolds, and to then issue a press release, or multiple press releases, on Reynolds' misdemeanor charge?

Chicago's Criminal-Coddling US Justice System. The same US Attorney and media persecuting Reynolds for an alleged misdemeanor have concealed felony tax evasion. A major tax-cheat is retired Chicago Police Department (CPD) Sergeant David H. Welbel. On September 4, 2014 Welbel, a 28-year CPD veteran pleaded guilty to willfully evading federal income taxes owed by him and his wife. The US Attorney involved quashed the DOJ-issued news release on Welbel's felony tax evasion plea deal and his sentencing (December 18, 2014)

In the signed plea agreement with that US Attorney, Welbel admitted to filing false income tax returns, after concealing \$5.7 million received by EPSS, the security guard services company he privately owned for nearly two decades. Welbel faced a maximum of five years in prison, but was sentenced by Judge Robert W. Gettleman on December 18, 2014 to three years' probation with six months home confinement (including in Welbel's winter home in Florida). Judge Robert W. Gettleman's sentencing order required Welbel to pay criminal penalties for tax years 2006-2011, totaling \$1,018,760. The plea agreement and government's sentencing position paper contains Welbel's acknowledgement that he evaded federal income taxes while a Chicago police officer. While a police officer Welbel founded, ran, and was sole shareholder of EPSS for nearly two decades. EPSS provided security guard services to major construction companies, housing complexes, factories, schools and warehouses, using both armed, off-duty CPD officers and unarmed guards to provide services to its clients.

Cached versions of the EPSS company website indicate many clients were top construction companies awarded contracts by the Public Building Commission, chaired

by Chicago's Mayor. Advertisements for EPSS lists Mayor Richard M. Daley's Millennium Park construction as a "past" major security guard project (Walsh Construction). Mariano's Grocery, a major beneficiary of City-approved TIF funding, was also listed as a client. City Colleges of Chicago approved EPSS as a vendor for security guard services from 2005-2010. Most were "clout" projects.

Court documents indicate the IRS began investigating Welbel during 2012, seeking records of one account in which Welbel concealed nearly \$1.7 million dollars of skimmed receipts. They indicate that Welbel was uncooperative with authorities until 2013 when he relinquished his EPSS records in his laptop, the laptop he had claimed that Spirit Airlines lost. It transpired that Welbel had two other bank accounts containing another \$4million concealed.

Welbel and his wife were licensed realtors from 1985 to 1996. One real estate partner was Jacob Kiferbaum, the ex-CEO of Kiferbaum Construction Company, who was sentenced to federal prison for an extortion scheme against Mercy Hospital in 2003-2004.

Letters supporting Welbel's request for no jail time included Courtney Rottner, daughter of retired Deputy Chief Bruce Rottner and sister of Jennifer Rottner, Gerry McCarthy's CPD communications manager. Another letter came from Diane Herbstman-Welbel, daughter of influential Jewish Community Outreach leader Dr. Bert Herbstman. Diane told of Welbel's warmth and generosity during her August 2012 wedding to Welbel's son, a prominent tax attorney who previously worked for the US Tax Court in Washington, D.C.

A November, 2010, a Chicago City Council Proclamation honoring Welbel, was sponsored by Welbel's long-time next-door neighbor, 40th ward Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor. It proclaimed that Welbel had provided personal protection to such dignitaries as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Princess (Lady) Diana, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, and Al Gore. In the 2006 PBS film titled "Out of Faith" Welbel appeared as himself

David Welbel, convicted of major tax evasion, was spared the "naming and shaming" now being inflicted on Mel Reynolds for a mere misdemeanor tax charge. Why?

US Attorney Zachary T. Fardon has some explaining to do. Why did he issue press releases about Mel Reynolds but not about tax-felon criminal Welbel? Reynolds didn't live next door to the 40th Ward Alderman for nearly two decades. Reynolds didn't conceal \$5.7M from IRS and evade over \$1M in federal income taxes, while donating large sums to Alderman O'Connor. Reynolds doesn't have a son who worked for a Federal US Tax Court judge when his tax case investigation began.

It's time to pack up and resign, Mr. Fardon. You subverted democracy itself by concealing crimes that would have affected the outcomes of three municipal election cycles. You've disgraced the Office of US Attorney. You have made Chicago two cities; one city implacable toward misdemeanors; the other city solicitous of "wired" felonies. Begone.

Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651 for documentation.



From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



Banana Skins

First hearty congratulations to my old friend the new Irish Senator, Billy Lawless, well known to Chicago's Irish community. I know you'll do Ireland and the Irish Community overseas, including the Undocumented, proud.

How long Billy will serve will depend on how long the current government lasts. The jury is very much out on this as the new administration feels its way in its first weeks. What is clear is that there will be frequent "crises" with Dail defeats for the government on banal populist motions with no legislative or practical effects beyond stoking unrealistic sentiments of entitlement on various issues. And, of course, taking up a lot of Dail time and energy as well as generating publicity for the usually leftist advocates.

Whatever about letting off steam, none of these constitute "confidence issues" which could bring the government down. Banana Skins apart, any crunch is most likely to come on issues involving actual allocations of money especially where there is choice involved or some need either to increase tax or reduce benefits. On this the current outlook is "so far so good." The economic indicators are all positive and tax revenues buoyant, permitting – already – some allocations from the "fiscal space" wiggle room on which the last government, ironically, fought the election. As long as the money keeps rolling in cuts can be restored and even modest improvements made, though nothing sufficient to meet even a fraction of the official wish list. October's Budget should prove manageable and perhaps indicative of the government's life expectancy.

Yet Banana Skins internal and external remain a constant threat. Indeed by the time you read this one major external banana skin could have arisen, with certainly long term and possibly short term effects on politics here. This is the June 23 British referendum on leaving the European Union. As I write it is certainly too close to call, with the polls actually showing a majority in favour of leaving (Brexit). A surge in support for Brexit in recent weeks has caught the Establishment, in Britain, in Brussels and throughout the Union by surprise. What appeared until recently unthinkable could well become reality.

Should Britain vote to stay in the result is likely to be close but settled for several years at least. Should Britain vote to LEAVE there would obviously be particular important implications for Ireland. To name but a few: we are the only country sharing a land frontier, hence the resurrection of cross-border issues thought long

buried, with possible implications for the Peace Process; Britain is our major trading partner and business connections are many; both countries are home to sizeable numbers of expats from the other and we enjoy a common travel area. There could be immediate currency fluctuations (Sterling falling) which could sabotage our recovery.

For Britain the process of exiting would take time (several years), be complex and complicated and involve inter alia negotiations of sectoral agreements across the spectrum of the EU internal market, probably resulting in arrangements along the lines of agreements with Switzerland and Norway. There is universal accep-

sible Minister (Coveney) and the Taoiseach insisting on payment and threatening action on this. And nobody has yet posed the question what happens politically if the commission early next year recommends charging consumers for water.

The last government missed the warning signs over water and political antennae should have been up. Yet incredibly until very recently the July 1 introduction of a new system of charging for garbage removal seemed likely to slip by unnoticed. Anti-garbage-charge protests have a history with over twenty people jailed in 2003. The protests then petered out, and most garbage collection services were subsequently privatised, with charges inching up. The new system, based on weight, backed up by an EU directive and dressed up as preferable environmentally, was presented as being no more expensive. Fears that the garbage companies would gouge consumers with doubling charges or worse have panicked the government. Action is pending to suspend the new regime. Watch this space. Caving in to populist howls on any issue does not augur well for the government's long term survival.

An undoubted looming banana skin relates to the head of steam building up to repeal the Eighth Amendment which in 1983 copper-fastened the legal ban on abortion. Subsequent referenda modified the total ban – by a very narrow margin in 2002 – by providing for abortion where there was a threat of suicide by the mother. The pro-choice lobby are calling for the whole amendment to be revisited. It was an electoral issue, albeit a minor one, and considerable interest has focussed recently on distressing cases involving carrying non-viable foetuses to term (fatal

foetal abnormalities). The Taoiseach's position is that a "citizen's assembly" is to examine all aspects of the issue and report to the Dail, for a promised "free vote", presumably not until well into 2017. As always on this highly emotive issue, the devil will be in the detail of anything put to the vote, with differences among politicians already demonstrable, many too coy to commit and the threat to the government's survival evident.

There are other known knowns threatening. Following settlement in a lengthy dispute involving drivers for LUAS, Dublin's light rail system, the message to unions is that persistence with unreasonable wage demands is likely to be rewarded with an eventual cave in by the official side. Sectoral relativities are prompting a rash of similar claims as well as demands for the restoration of wage cuts in the public sector (a huge headache for the public finances) and action over minimum wage levels. While these are unlikely to bring down the government, the political fallout, in terms of a steady drip of accompanying defeats on Dail motions cannot but be demoralising.

Then there are the true Banana Skins – the Unknown Unknowns. What else is out there in the long grass? Irish politics is never boring!



Senator Billy Lawless with long-time friend David Lonergan outside son's Patrick Lonergan's pub in Galway.

tance here, and in Europe, that Brexit and its aftermath are likely to be disadvantageous for Ireland, possibly considerably so.

The appeal of Brexit to a sizeable proportion of the British electorate has dumbfounded the chattering classes across Europe. As I write an "Operation Stable Door" is being mounted by the "Stay" campaign even involving Taoiseach Enda Kenny urging the Irish in Britain to vote to remain. The final week could be decisive. Momentum has been with the Brexit side; whether the hiatus after the murder of British M.P. Jo Cox could change this remains to be seen.

Little-England nationalism aside, the Brexit movement should perhaps be seen in the context of the sizeable and almost universal Europe-wide popular disenchantment with the way society is perceived to be evolving, with the existing establishment and party political dominance under threat from populists on both the left and right.

Potential domestic banana skins are beginning to emerge. The government has a date with destiny next year over the Irish Water issue when the expert commission reports. In the interim there could be further trouble over pursuing those who haven't paid for existing water bills – possibly half of all households – with the respon-



The IASCW Shamrock's Rugby Football Club hosted Jailbreak 7's on June 11, 2016 at the Joliet Park District. This year was a record turn out with 32 teams participating. Mens team and Womens team participants and fans enjoyed perfect weather, food and beverages, and plenty of action. Gratitude is due to the Joliet Park District and to the Illiana Misfits RFC for helping make this event a success. Congratulations to all! To play rugby in Will County, contact Ray at rcmisischia@aol.com.

Music & Entertainment for Celtic Fest 2016 includes:

The following entertainment is planned for Celtic Fest 2016. Join us at the Fest, explore Celtic heritage, grab a pint and enjoy the craic!

Tunes of Glory Pipes & Drums

The Tunes of Glory are a competition, parade, performance and teaching pipe band from the western suburbs of Chicago based in Warrenville, Illinois. Their roster comprises over 20 active pipers and drummers, and a number of students. The Band performs in the Chicago area delighting audiences everywhere. Tunes of Glory is under the musical direction of Pipe Major Mike Heywood and lead drummer Joanna Lloyd.

Larkin & Moran Brothers!

They are widely considered one of the most followed and sought after Irish/Celtic music bands in the Midwest. Shay Clarke of the Irish American News has said that 'The Larkin and Moran Brothers have a sense of fun and energy that is rare these days'.

John Condron

John, a perpetual favorite, is a Philadelphia born singer-songwriter, musician, & producer who currently makes his home in the Chicago-land area. The former front man for the power quartet "the benefit" has been spending much of his time lately focusing on solo performances as well as performances w/ his new full band project "The Old Gang Orchestra". Recent shows highlight songs from his collection "...If Any or at All", released on the Flipside Works label in addition to material from his four previous studio albums.

Gavin Coyle

An accomplished singer and songwriter, Gavin's musical range covers both pop and folk music as well as traditional music from his native Derry in Northern Ireland. His performances often reflect this versatility as he mixes traditional

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.

and original compositions. In addition to being a guitarist, he plays several other instruments including the bodhran (an Irish drum) and the flute. Gavin's musical influences are a varied lot: Elvis, Patsy Cline, Beethoven, U2, The Velvet Underground, and John William

Whiskey of the Damned

Their brand of Celtic Rock features Eoin McCarthy - Guitar/Vocals/Bagpipes, Gina Romanini - Fiddle/Mandolin/Vocals/Melodica, Matt Schuetz

- Bass/Vocals/Drums, Andrew David Weber- Drums/Vocals/Variousother instruments, Brian Link- Accordion/Piano/Trombone/Vocals, and Marco Conley (Mark O'Connelly)- Fiddle/Mandolin/Guitar/Banjo/Vocals.



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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who was Mary Robinson? She was the first female and 7th president of Ireland. I can only imagine the impact and sense of responsibility in being the first female to become Head of State. I'm sure Robinson felt the demand to make a difference and prove that women are just as capable of leading the country as men. There are several other countries where women are also directing their countries, a few include: Chile, Germany, Croatia, Poland, Argentina, Switzerland, and Nepal. Robinson is from Co. Mayo. (the heather co.) (b 1944) Her parents were both medical doctors, her father was Dr. Aubrey Bourke and her mother was Dr. Tessa Bourke (nee O'Donnell) Robinson graduated from Trinity University and won a fellowship to Harvard. Robinson studied Law at Trinity, where she became a barrister. She met her husband Nick Robinson at Trinity University whom she has 3 children with. Nick is also a lawyer and follows the Protestant faith. Unfortunately, her marriage to Nick caused a rift with her parents and so they didn't attend her wedding, but the rift was eventually overcome.

In 1969, Robinson was elected into the Seanad (Irish senate), she was continually re-elected for 20 years until becoming president in 1990. She has earned many titles which include: author, lawyer, Chancellor of University of Dublin, Professor of practice in international affairs at Columbia University (NY), United Nations High Commissioner and former President.

I think the most notable thing to be said of her is that she is the voice for the voiceless, people whose voices have been silenced by experience, oppression or poverty.

A quote from the Bible, (maybe the only quote I know) the Book of Isaiah comes to mind as I'm typing about Robinson, "seek justice, defend the oppressed take up the cause of the fatherless, plead the cause of the widow". (vs. 1:17)

She is widely known for her work and compassion for promoting human rights. Both as a senator and lawyer she championed numerous causes which include: to liberalize the availability of contraceptives, rights for abortion, removing the prohibition of divorce, preserving archaeological digs, restriction of wire taps on journalists, and decriminalizing homosexuality. She is one of the foremost authorities of human rights in the world. She is in the ranks of Gandhi, Dali Lama, Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar. Her hopes are to end discrimination and suffering around the world. Something we all hope for and can work together to help achieve. She was the United Nations special envoy to Africa. She is on the board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, an organization which supports good governance and great leadership in Africa. After leaving the UN in 2002 Robinson formed "Realizing Rights" an ethical Globalization initiative, it's main objectives, include: fostering equitable trade and decent work, promoting the right to health and more humane migration policies and good governance in developing countries.

She has been outspoken about the Catholic church although she regularly visited with Irish nuns and priests abroad. She put a symbolic light in her kitchen window in Aras an Uachtarain (residence of pres) which was visible to the public as a sign of remembering Irish emigrants around the world. An acclaimed symbol of an Ireland thinking about its sons and daughters around the world. (I think a beautiful female touch to the presidency)

She started a foundation, The Mary Robinson foundation, "Climate Change". It brings awareness and aid to the victims of climate change who are usually forgotten, the poor, dis-empowered and marginalized across the world. Robinson was a very popular president. A media critic named Vincent Browne passed her a note at the end of a press conference simply saying, "you were magnificent". As I'm writing about Her Excellency, Mary Robinson and all of her contributions and efforts toward human rights, it leads me to think of all the women around the world who still struggle for basic human rights. Women that live in countries where their lives are not equal to men and at times their lives are in a constant state of danger. Countries such as: Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nepal, Yemen and Pakistan. I am sure there are some good people and policies I am not aware of in these countries but what I have researched is alarming and ugly... My genuine intention isn't to insult or disrespect any country only to shed light on the treatment of women. In some parts of the world a woman is only half a witness, women can not drive, women can not get a divorce, rape victims can be charged with the crime, women can not leave the house without permission. In some countries women are being murdered in the name of their families "honor" or murdered in "acid attacks". I am extremely grateful for the achievements of Robinson and her efforts in human rights but I think the world has a long way to go.

However, sadly, it is very clear, there are some parts of the world that still treat women in unspeakable and unthinkable ways. Some governments are grossly out of bounds and still practice inhumane and barbaric traditions that suppress women.

Robinson has led an extraordinary life filled with purpose and passion she has fought for people in her native country and around the world.

Here is a list of a some of her awards: Presidential medal of freedom, Ambassador of Conscience, Sydney peace prize and Erasmus prize winner. She has received Dame hood from the military and hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus in Jerusalem.

Robinson delivers several lectures during the year at a variety of universities around the world. I am so proud of H.E. (her excellency) Mary Robinson, I wrote her a letter, she may never receive it, but I'm grateful for her contribution, courage and work. I will conclude with one of her powerful statements from the "The Golden Bough", "If fate has called you the bough will come easily and of its own accord. Otherwise, no matter how much strength you muster, you never will manage to quell it or cut it down with the toughest of blades".

Gaelic for the Month:
Civil Rights-Cearta Sibhialta

Humanity / Humanitarian-daonnachta, daonnula women-mna
Co. Mayo-Mhaigh eo
work-obair
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Nil saoi gan locht na daoí gan treith-There is no wise man without a fault nor any fool without a good feature
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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



Senior Group Meetings

As usual our senior group meetings at both the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park have been suspended for the months of July and August. We will be back with an exciting new schedule of programs in September. We wish all those that come to our group meetings a very happy and healthy summer. We are available to anyone who may need our assistance throughout our summer break and can be contacted at the office on 773-282-8445.

A New Irish Government

No doubt most of you are aware of the recent general election in Ireland which, after much political manoeuvring, saw Fine Gael once again take control of a coalition government they manage to cobble together using no fewer than nine independent or non-affiliated representatives. The election was an interesting one on several fronts given its inconclusive results and the political back-and-forth that followed as the larger parties tussled for influence and control. For those of us that work with Irish emigrants and the wider Irish diaspora, there were concerns about what a new government might mean in terms of Irish policies that shape our work with the global Irish community and the resources available to us to execute that work. Since 2004 successive Irish governments have maintained the Emigrant Support Program (ESP) which provides funds to non-profit organizations (like Chicago Irish Immigrant Support) and projects that support Irish communities overseas. Despite difficult economic time in Ireland in recent years, the funding for the ESP was never decreased. Since 2014 the Irish government has released a series of policy and research documents - including Ireland's first official comprehen-

sive diaspora policy - indicating a strong commitment to working meaningfully with Irish communities throughout the world. In 2014 Jimmy Deenihan was appointed as the first ever Minister for the Diaspora. For those working with Irish communities abroad, all these developments were an endorsement of the importance of our work.

The election brought concerns of a new government that may not be as focused on the Irish diaspora or that might divert funding from the ESP program. Given that the government is still very new it's difficult to determine yet whether the conviction around supporting the Irish overseas will be diminished. However, the appointment of Joe McHugh as the Minister for State for the Diaspora is an encouraging sign that we continue to be a priority for the Government of Ireland. Below is an excerpt from from the new Minister that was included in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Global Irish Newsletter from 31st May this year.

I am delighted to be appointed your new Minister of State for the Diaspora. It is a great privilege to be the representative of the many vibrant and diverse Irish communities overseas and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my time as Minister.

Ireland's greatest resource has always been our people and

our community abroad has made and continues to make a very valuable contribution to Ireland and to the world. I firmly believe that our diaspora is both a great resource and a great responsibility, and engaging and connecting with you is of enormous benefit to all our people, both home and abroad. I am therefore committed to the vision of sustaining a vibrant, diverse global Irish community, connected to Ireland and to each other.

I am delighted that this summer Ireland will welcome 20 of our younger members of the diaspora from the US for their first visit, to attend the inaugural Global Irish Summer Camp, to learn about our culture and history and to immerse themselves in our shared heritage. We will update you on their progress later in the year.

I will work to progress other key commitments, such as the establishment of an Alumni

Challenge Fund to connect with Irish and non-Irish graduates from Irish Universities working internationally, as well as on other issues of importance to our Irish abroad, such as improved communications and voting rights. Learning the lessons of Ireland's long history of emigration, I am also keen to advance Ireland as a centre for diaspora research and to show how our experience could help others in meeting the challenges of the modern, interconnected world.

I will also ensure that welfare for those of our diaspora in most need will remain at the heart of what we do. Through our Emigrant Support Programme, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is assisting over 200 organisations in 20 countries to support Irish citizens abroad - the incredible work done by the staff in Edmonton, Canada is a great example of this support and I hope you enjoy the spot-

light on their centre. I will also continue our work to support the many other aspects of Irish culture that bind us including music, sport and the Irish language.

As Minister of State for the Diaspora I am proud to be the voice of our Irish abroad and I will work hard to represent this valued community in Government.



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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Ordina l'uomo e Dio dispone: Man proposes, and God disposes. Orlando Furioso Canto XLVI, stanza 35.

"On behalf of everyone at Disney, we offer our deepest sympathies," said Walt Disney World Resort president George A. Kalogridis.

Orlando Furioso in "The Happiest Place On Earth", - June 2016

An armed terrorist dedicated the slaughter of 49 persons and the maiming of scores more to the Islamic State at Pulse, a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, only days after a young singer was murdered after her performance. An alligator snatched a two-year-old boy off of a beach and out of the frantic hands of heroic mother and father and drowned the toddler. Both incidents are iconic and hot-button flashpoints for people who need to scratch out moral high-ground in order to supply themselves with their own rarified air.

I had not written about the tragedy, because I have yet to get my head around what had happened. Plenty of other voices are shouting. I responded to this person that "No, I am not blind to the fact that the victims were gay, as far as we know, nor that I somehow harbor delight that an Islamist - please note that I did not say Muslim - monster slaughtered people at a nightclub."

My Inquisitor reminded me that I have and do continue to write about the legal and cultural morass created by the redefinition of marriage, as well as bathroom proprieties.

This person succeeded in getting me to respond to his snotty, smarmy and sophomoric questions with a robust and physically taxing imperative.

My morning Eucharist was cancelled out. I have not been to Florida since 1998. I have gone to Florida on two occasions. The first was a trip to Disney World with my late wife, my oldest child, age three at the time, and my mother and father in law in a big Ford RV. It was a very happy time.

The second was a trip to Disney World in 1998, a few months before my wife Mary died of a glioma brain tumor. My brother and sister in law paid for the trip for Mary and the kids and me.

It was as happy as it could be. In fact, two incidents stand out. One was taking the two older kids to the beach near Disney's Port Orleans and watching Captain Hook water ski. The other took place at dinner in Epcot Center's Norway World when a very sweet

waitress took great pains to see that the children of the very pretty woman in a post brain

surgery babushka had the best of times.

"The Happiest Place on Earth" in Orlando, The City Beautiful was not yet finished with heartbreak. Two-year-old Lane Graves, the youngest of three children of Melissa and Matt Graves from Nebraska was dragged into Disney's man-made and controlled Seven Seas Lagoon.

Disney is a 'controlled' environment. In fact, Disney seems to be more of a template for a controlled society than a place of wonder. Wonder is unrestricted and Disney Corporation is nothing but rules, codicils, patents and litigation. Disney controls huge chunk of the American media, including ABC television.

An alligator is powerful and so is a Silverback gorilla. A few weeks ago a couple in Cincinnati Ohio witnessed their toddler in a gorilla habitat. Immediately the mother and father had the media, including Disney, questioning the attention of parents and also whether or zoos must no longer exist:

The death of Harambe has reignited a debate about zoos and their purpose. PETA, one of the world's most visible animal rights organizations, released a sharply worded statement on its website condemning the death of Harambe, arguing that zoos fail to provide an adequate home for the "complex needs" of wild animals. (ABC

More horrific than the sight of a child in the immediate reach of a silverback, was the immediate and international vilification of the couple who took the little boy to the zoo. Death threats, examination of criminal history, job searches by amateur moralists and self-satisfied people of peace and feelings demanded criminal charges against the couple. The gorilla died and the little boy was saved, thanks to the common sense quick response team at the Cincinnati Zoo. Thanks be to God.

The zoo scape was built for the gorilla. Kids are curious. Parenting is unforgiving. Group thought and social media is immediate.

Disney has a controlled environment and corporate culture. It dug lagoons where God did not see fit to place them. Alligators love lagoons almost as much as curious children do. Alligators, like Silverback gorillas, have evolved enough to accept an environment. Only man, homo sapiens, adapts to environments. If things get cold, man will kill an animal with fur and also dig out a lush lagoon if he wants one. A man

will test the climate of social media and see which way the prevailing popular winds are blowing as well.

Disney wants us to evolve to its moral template. Disney no longer valorizes Davy Crocket, or any other God fearing Christians, and has all but erased Walter Disney's world of wonder. People who wonder do not always get into the long lines being established for them in Orlando, Florida and worldwide.

Orlando is Roland in Italian. Roland was a paladin of Charlemagne, the Christian king who fought off the Saracens under Agramante who invaded Europe in the 5th Century. You see Agramante wanted to establish a caliphate (Islamic Rule Universal) and some Christians, back then were just evolved enough to think that was a good idea.

Charlemagne and his paladins beat back the Saracens at the Battle Roncevalles in 778 A.D. and a number of epic poem celebrated the victory of these Christians. Chansons de Roland in French and Orlando Inamorato and Orlando Furioso in Italian. I used to teach those poems to high school kids.

Orlando was in love with a pagan gal who gave him the brush and the poor guy went nuts - he was furious - killing everyone in Europe and North Africa who crossed his path. His pal took Elijah's fiery chariot to the moon, which was where everything lost by human beings, including sanity, was warehoused and restored Roland/Orlando's sanity.

Disney in Orlando will settle with Nebraska family with a monstrously large settlement, which will do nothing to salvage the broken hearts of the Graves family.

Disney dug a lagoon and created a controlled environment. Disney applies social engineering to every aspect of its culture.

The couple in Cincinnati have their little boy and the enmity of group thinkers with perches on high moral ground, because a majestic ape was sacrificed. I have yet to hear any mention of alligator rights.

The Graves Family, like my family, came to Disney's controlled environment to enjoy the advertised wonder and their baby disappeared into the man made lagoon. In Canto 44, line 35 of Orlando Furioso, it is noted Man proposes and God disposes.

May God bless the Graves Family.

Skinty and Houli

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Words to Live By?

I am convinced that words have power. Words can motivate us to do awesome things, both on a personal level as well as at a professional level. "Selected words" such as mantras, mottos, and quotes can inspire us and act as reminders of our goals. Some people are blessed with the ability to say meaningful and pertinent things that stick with us.

Recently, I attended a graduation ceremony where the main speaker simply expanded on the meaning of a handful of mottos. She quite effectively spoke about the meaning of each one. After reflecting on the litany of mottos that she referred to I developed my own list which includes eight sayings that speak to me, and hopefully to you also. Alternatively these examples may stimulate you to find your own mantra.

"One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it's the man who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his life." ---Edward B. Butler, American businessman. Many of us have heard the old saying that life is not a sprint, but rather a long, tiring marathon. Libraries are full of books that tell the stories of people (Lincoln and Edison come to mind) who became successes only after failing time after time. Michael Jordan is quoted as saying, "I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that's why I succeed." Even if you have had some failures learn from them and push on. Or you can allow yourself to be stymied, which should you choose?

"Envision an uplifting and ennobling future by imagining exciting and ennobling possibilities." ---James M. Kouzes, American author. As a long time executive coach I am absolutely convinced that we hold the keys to our success in our own hands. So you cannot allow yourself to wallow in

the inevitable defeats you will encounter. Life is tough; you need to embrace that reality and as many young people say, "get over it."

"Search out challenging opportunities to change, grow, innovate and improve."--- Barry Z. Posner, American author. As my two sons have said to me many times, if you ever hope to become one of the "big dogs" yourself, you first need to run with them. There's not much learned by overwhelming inferior opponents.

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life." ---Charles Swindoll, American Pastor. A person's positive attitude is the fuel that produces the desired results. As an old friend of mine used to say, "It is very difficult to beat someone who is focused and determined on winning and actually views defeating you as secondary."

"The man who goes farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The sure-thing boat never gets far from shore."---Dale Carnegie, American author.

It is almost impossible for most of us to conceive of how a person allows himself to be rocketed into space, yet people do it. The scientists who explore the ocean depths are courageous by anyone's standard. How about the youngster who faces down the neighborhood bully? Those who Do and Dare in all phases of life become our heroes.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." Marianne Williamson, American author. Take ten (quiet) minutes a day for a week to look at yourself in the mirror and then ask yourself if these statements about fear are worthy of further examination. Those who excel in matters that demand a great deal of physical or moral courage will readily tell you they have been frightened, but they refuse to let the fear control their lives. Rather

they embrace the second statement by Williamson; they force themselves to overcome their fears.

"Remember your honor is a sacred trust."---Unknown.

Your honor should be supported by your integrity. Your honor should challenge you to sacrifice the momentary relief of quitting the race, regardless of the type of event. Once you have lost your honor, you are on the slippery slope of life. You are very close to abandoning your birthright.

"The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it."--- Lou Holtz, legendary coach. Many of us blame other people, other things, other conditions, etc. for our failures, but we all know of people who have overcome similar conditions or worse. Think of all the wounded warriors.

Hopefully, this brief article will prompt you to stretch yourself. If you feel yourself unwilling to risk failure, pray for the courage to stay the course.

I boxed in high school. When I was a junior I got hammered by a whirlwind slugger, Don Rybicki. I must have surrendered the fighting spirit, which was sensed by the referee who awarded Don a TKO. To this day, I regret not having the courage and fortitude to overcome Don's battering, even if I would have still ultimately lost the fight. Ironically enough, after the bout, Don graciously said that my left jab had been tough for him to

handle. Maybe I should have read Williamson's words before that fight. So now when I am faced with new challenges, I am able to surface that dreadful feeling that came from the loss of my courage. CARPE DIEM.

"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently." --- Warren Buffett, American

businessman.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



I Love My Postal Carrier

Everybody like to get mail, I mean good mail, not bills. Everybody likes to get good news, unexpected money, stuff like that. Me, I get music, often unexpected, always welcome and, sometimes, the stuff that feeds your soul. Twice in recent weeks my postal carrier has dropped off packages containing those special CDs that speak to me in the mysterious ways handed down, generation to generation, that bring me to that place I want to be. All this from a simple CD? Yes!

First came a recording from a group called dBize (nfitzfiddle@gmail.com), strange name, I know, but strange music? No not at all. Lovely music, yes indeed and great fun. The band is a trio of extraordinary musicians,

Yvonne Bolton on concertina, fiddle and cello; Neil Fitzgibbon on fiddle, guitar and vocals and Paddy Morgan on guitar. Their CD is titled "Storm Party" and a party it is indeed. Neil has a fantastic voice and handles the vocals admirably. Yvonne is a wizard on both concertina and fiddle and Paddy holds it all together with his expert guitar work. Aside from their expert performances, the band has chosen some really interesting music for their debut CD. I was especially fond of the song "Echoing Green" and a set of flings "On Waikiki Beach" & "The China Pig". My only complaint was that nowhere on the cover was there a clue to the fantastic music contained therein. When you see the cover art you'll understand. This is yet another exciting new band that I am anxious to see in person. I sincerely hope they'll



be able to tour the US soon and bring their excellent and unique music over here to share with us. In the meantime check out their CD and several videos online and you'll see why I enjoyed their music so much.

The Chicago area is blessed with several fine Irish music schools and one of them, Murphy Roche (www.murphyroche.org) has just released a CD, "The Tradition Continues" featuring their current crop of students. If you've been suffering from the blues, down in the mouth, unhappy and generally feeling low and you need some sunshine in your life, something to make you welcome the future and look for a brighter day, here you go! The work of Murphy Roche School, and other schools like it, is in-

valuable to our musical tradition. They work hard to share the love and skill that they've developed over the years with the youth of today and if you'd like to judge their success, you've only to pick up this CD and give a listen to some of the sweetest music you'd ever want to hear. The CD starts off with a set of jigs performed flawlessly, and with no small amount of spirit, by 11 year old Lexia Kennedy. A stunning start to a superb CD that will leave you buoyantly optimistic for the future of Irish music. If this is the future, I hope I live a long time! I was really impressed by the banjo work of Michael Foreman and the lovely vocal talents of Aisling Hanly. There is not a bad track on this CD and efforts of these young musicians should be celebrated by all of us who still own a CD player. This is joyous music, played, and sung, by some of tomorrow's best artists. Give them a listen and help the efforts of the Murphy Roche School by buying a copy of their CD, heck, by several, they make great presents, and you'll be doing your part to make sure that our music never fades away.

Before I fold my tent and slip away into the night, I want to encourage all of you to join me at the Irish American Heritage Center's Irish Fest on July 8th, 9th and 10th. If you've never been to the center, it's at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago, corner of Knox and Wilson. Along with a wonderful list of performers this year, there's also the museum, the library and the art gallery. The tea room is a great place to sit for a spell and refresh and you'll have your pick from Chicago's finest merchants. I'll be there and my booth will be in room 109 on the first floor. I've moved inside where it's cool and dry and quiet, giving me a chance to chat with folks. The center is on the upswing these days and the job that has been done on putting this show together will demonstrate that fact. I'm looking forward to it and I hope to see you all there. I know parking is a challenge, but bear with it, the festival is worth it.

If I don't see you at the center, you can catch me in the store 630-834-8108 or online at store@rampantlion.com

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When Ali Fought in Ireland

It was during a chat many moons ago with former Kilkenny hurler Eddie Keher that I first learned of Muhammad Ali's fight in Ireland. I was a journalism student at the time and I took the bus to the All-Star awards to meet with Eddie, who had agreed to be my interviewee for a college project. He gave me a wonderful hour during which he regaled me with stories of hurling in the 60s and 70s and of playing against the Tipperary full back line, who were nicknamed 'Hell's Kitchen,' and he told how they were of their time.

When I began to inquire more of the surrounds of such times, the conversation led to boxing and when Eddie told me he had spent time which Mohammad Ali, I was astonished but wholly intrigued. This is how that story came to pass.

After Muhammad Ali suffered his first loss as a professional boxer to Joe Frazier in the 'Fight of the Century,' his coach Angelo Dundee decided that it would be beneficial for Ali to build up to regaining his title and his cofers by taking fights outside of the USA. As it happened, one of the first people to take a shot at getting Ali was an Irishman by the name of Butty Sugrue. Butty, who hailed from Killorglin in the county of Kerry, had made his living as Ireland's Strongest Man in the circus before becoming a well-known publican in London. He was a character with an eye for making a buck and once he even buried a man alive underground outside his pub for 61 days to set a World Record and ensure his premises remained a hub of activity. Prior to the Ali fight, Butty

never been involved in boxing promotion and when he announced that Muhammad Ali was coming to fight in Ireland, most people thought it was either a prank or a publicity stunt and it has been reported that it was not until the Louisville Lip got off the plane that people actually believed that the fight was taking place.

Ali in Ireland - For the 10 days or so he spent on the small island at the far side of the Atlantic, Ali had the people of Ireland eating

from the palm of his hand. At his first press conference, when he was pressed about his ties to Ireland and about his great grandfather, Abe Grady, who had emigrated to America from County Clare almost 100 years previously. His response was, "Yes I am an Irishman and that is what makes me The Greatest, because I am an Irishman."

He followed with what he knew of Ireland: "Well, I know that it is very green and I like

things that are green.... Have you got any green in your pocket for me?"

The fight was to take place at Croke Park; his opponent was Al 'Blue' Lewis, flown in from Detroit. Blue Lewis was a big man, well equipped to take and give a punch and had at one time been sentenced to 30 years in prison after a man he had an altercation with ended up dying. However, a race riot at Jackson Prison in 1965 saw Blue chosen by the guards as a go-between when hostages were taken. He managed to save the warden's life and was subsequently granted early parole after serving five and half years behind bars.

One problem Butty Sugrue had in the lead up to the fight was selling tickets, so a number of events were organised to help publicise the fight and on one such occasion, it was Eddie Keher who was chosen as the most prominent hurler of the time to meet with Ali. Eddie told me how when he met Ali, that the man was humble and gracious with his time and even played with the hurl and slotar.

However, when the press men started to appear, Ali went up close to Eddie and said: "Let's put on a show for these guys."

With that he started engage with Eddie, as if the pair were fencing, saying Blue would need more than a hurl to take him down. Afterwards Ali autographed a hurl, which sits in pride of place on a wall in Eddie's home. The fight itself wasn't particularly memorable and Butty lost a fortune as half the people who attended jumped the wall into the stadium as the few stewards on post turned the blind eye after giving up trying to keep

them out. Remembered: Ali had great time for the people he met while in Ireland and of his visit, there is one memory that is yet remembered fondly even today. That is a most wonderful interview given by Ali to Cathal O'Shannon on the eve of the fight. I have seen many interviews with Ali but I have never seen better.

During it he talked of many things and of the Irish people he said: "In America, I stand up for black people regardless of what it costs me. I speak out for what I believe. You have got people in Ireland fighting and speaking out for what they believe. I've got something else to say. This is one thing I love and admire about the Irish people. I have studied a little bit of history since I've been here. I found out

that you have been underdogs for hundreds of years, people dominating you and ruling you and you can identify with this freedom struggle.

"I just have mine at the other side of the water. We are all fighting for the same cause and ideas but we have different reasons and different approaches." (Another clip from that interview can be seen: <http://bit.ly/1UNiqQh>)

Ali returned to Ireland for the launch of the special Olympics in Ireland in 2003 and again to visit the birthplace of his great grandfather in 2009. He was certainly The Greatest. For a while, he was the top sportsman on the planet, who gave up being the 'Heavyweight Champion of the World' for prison on a principle.

Ali was both of his time and the man of his time.



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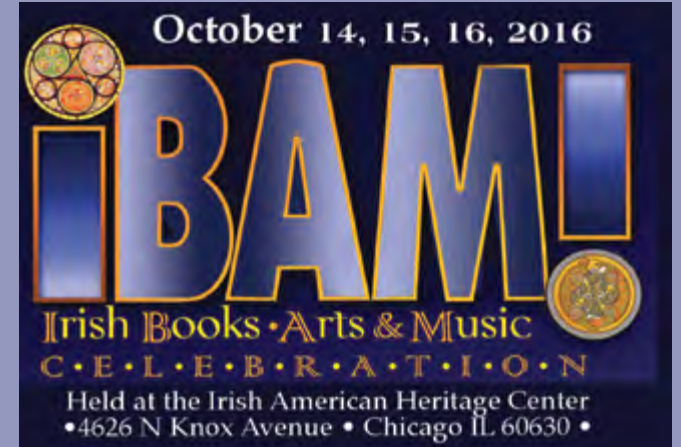


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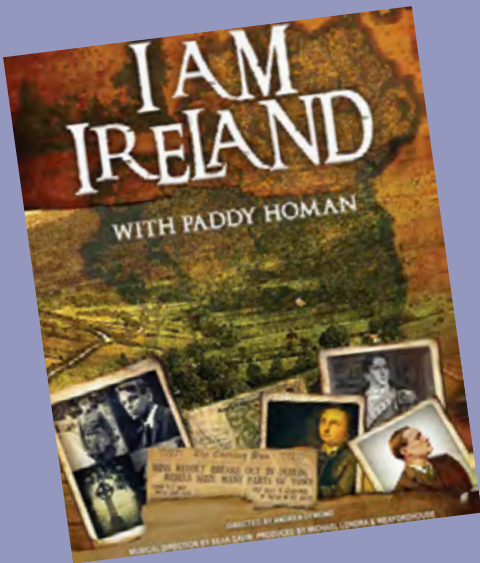
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