



December 2016



A Place to Call Home

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Offers Connection, Caring and Belonging . . . pages 24 -25

Pictured (l to r): Fr. Mick Madigan, Former President of CIIS; Cyril Reagan, Paul Dowling, and Michael Collins



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Tom Boyle



Pigs Flew

When pigs flew the Chicago Cubs won the World Series. When pigs flew the Irish rugby team beat the New Zealand Blacks for the first time in history. When pigs flew Donald Trump won the election for President of the United States.

Hillary

The glass ceiling held fast, as Hillary lost her bid for the Presidency. Hopefully, this will be her last curtain call. I don't think President Trump will offer her an ambassadorship.

Cincinnati

On November 5th, Cliff Carlson, publisher of the Irish American News and I headed to the Irish Heritage Center in Cincinnati for the annual "Green Tie Ball." We got a chance to see the many improvements that have been made, new stage lights, chandeliers in the theatre along with new seats.

The program opened with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick singing the National anthems, followed by a selection of Irish tunes. Dan Shea was the choir director and MC for the evening.

When I saw Dan use the pitch pipe I was reminded of my youth in the choir at St. Mary's and Sister Clarasine. She would give us a note on the pitch pipe and we would Hmmm.

Chairman of the Board, Bill O'Donnell was speaking about the problem of attracting young people to get involved at the Center. That problem is not unique to Cincinnati.

Maureen Kennedy and Kent Covey know how to throw a great party. By the way, there is a statue of a flying pig in the main hallway. Bless the work.

Cliff Carlson was the keynote speaker. He drove home the point about joining, supporting, and giving generously of your time and talent. He did it with a sense of humor that had everybody

laughing.

Colin Kapernick

The consummate mope didn't vote.

Demonstrations

Riots and the destruction of private property, chanting, "love Trump hate." Riots don't start on their own. . . somebody incites them. This election was a bitter defeat for the liberal left. The young people were expecting Hillary to get them a free education. Do they expect this country to become the United Socialist States of America? Arson and looting only widen the divide. Is it worth rioting to get a free case of beer, a bottle of liquor, or a big screen TV?

Irish Medicine

My cousin, Margaret O'Connor, from Clontarf, Dublin needed an MRI of her ankles. She would have to wait one year, or she could pay \$170 Euros and get her MRI the very next day at Cappagh Orthopedic Hospital. Do you still want socialized medicine?

Mae Maxima Culpa

You must watch the HBO documentary Mae Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God. The story of Father Lawrence Murphy in Milwaukee, WI who molested children at St. John's School for the Deaf. This documentary will shake the very foundations of your faith. As I stated in my column when Cardinal Ratzinger became Pope, he was well aware of the rampant sexual deviancy in the priesthood, as he was the Prefect of the Congregation of Faith prior to becoming Pope. All of the the sex abuse crimes the priest committed were reported directly to him. I believe that is why he stepped down from the Papacy. The Vatican said he resigned because he could not endure the travel to Rio. I say he resigned because of the grievous sins that he himself committed. World without end!

In all fairness, I feel I must include this email from my niece, Diane, who is a playwright, and her play, Sacrilege, was a play on Broadway.

"In light of our conversation last night: As we've discussed many, many, many, many times, I'm completely in agreement with you regarding zero tolerance for abusive priests. I sure don't need to be convinced of the horror of it, and, being a practicing Catholic, am as outraged as anyone, possibly even more, by the abuse.

But false accusations are rarely reported after having wrecked the lives of dedicated priests. I stumbled across the article below this morning and thought of you. You



know the Rolling Stones reporter who faced the rape story on campus? Well, she faked another story on priest abuse. See below.

nately, the priests falsely accused are never publicized as much as the real abusers. They're not as newsworthy, I guess.

Of course those false stories in no way mitigate the real abuse. But even you would agree there have been reports of lawyers contacting former alter boys from various parishes inviting them to join a lawsuit, cash in, whether they were abused or not. (You're own beloved Cardinal Bernardin was the victim of a smear.)

With so few good priests out there, priests who are so needed, who dedicate their lives to serving the people, the poor and needy, that they, too, should be caught up in this destruction is a horror of another kind. Unfortun-

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**From the
Motherland**

By Sean Farrell



Not Single Spies

Just when the public, and the government, began waking up to the potential extent of the difficulties posed by Brexit, involving Ireland's largest trading partner, along comes Donald Trump, with a hard-nosed pro-

gramme part of which at least could impact on Ireland's fragile prosperity by threatening inward investment from Ireland's largest source of FDI.

And as if that were not enough there are noises from a freshly emboldened EU Commission about a major push on removing

tax sovereignty from member states and vesting it in a "European sovereignty." With the heavy hitter against such a move in the departure lounge, holding the line on tax could prove fraught. The apparent certainties on which the current inter party governmental arrangement, cobbled painstakingly together six months ago, was based are no longer there. One of the adapted jingoes going the rounds here takes inspiration from the 70s hit "Stuck in the Middle with You" - "Trump to the Left of Us, Brexit to the Right..." All we need now is Tarantino.

It will be some time before the extent of any damage done to us by Brexit becomes clear, with the exit waters generally muddied considerably by a Court decision, currently under appeal, requiring consent by Britain's Parliament before the process of leaving can begin. As I write, a leaked consultant's study has shown official disarray, lack of organisation and a paucity of qualified (or trained) negotiators and staff to handle the complex process of unravelling forty plus years of EC membership with its thousands of directives, regulations and transposed legislation. Factor in some evidently lukewarm British Ministers and the exiting process could involve hard pounding for some considerable time. Even after the Article 50 process is initiated, the two year timescale envisaged looks wildly optimistic (Who thought of that period anyway? Some fool in Brussels?)

But damage there will be, and already is. At my son's wedding

two weeks ago a young farmer who exports beef to Northern Ireland told me of his woes, with margins disappearing as sterling plummeted against the euro - a vista looming right across the foodstuff sector, heavily dependent on exports to Britain. The Irish consumer is already voting with her feet by heading north to avail of lower prices as the busy Christmas holiday season approaches. Our tourism figures from our largest market seem destined to take a hammering. That's just some of the economic aspects. A territorial squabble is threatened over the "ownership" of Lough Foyle, with Britain seeking to claim the lot. And, while we have tended to focus on the border problems likely to be posed for us by a hard Brexit, there is also the likely stance of EU partners and institutions that will balk at Britain using the Border as a convenient back door for exports into the EU free of EU regulations.

Bertie Ahern told a British Parliamentary Committee recently that, such was the importance of the threat posed by Brexit right across our economy and institutions, the government should appoint a special Ministerial supremo for Brexit. He modestly did not suggest himself for the role. The suggestion was not taken up but perhaps should be looked at again, and one properly resourced, now that there will be additionally a new and radically different US President come January. Our bureaucracy is a small one and fighting on two fronts, three if the Commission gets bolshie over tax, may

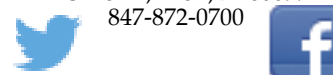
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 Co-Publisher Cathy Curry Carlson
 Advertising Sales Cliff Carlson
 Photographer Cathy Curry Carlson
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well be a step too far. There's already a small but vocal group now questioning whether we should not follow Britain out of the EU. Small, arguably insignificant at present, but we have seen how things can change quickly.

So far Ireland has avoided contagion from that sense of alienation which bred Brexit, Trump's election and threatens to impact decisively in elections in several EU states, but these sands could be shifting. February's election demonstrated record levels of rejection for Ireland's traditional political parties and we should not forget that the core anti-EU vote, as measured in various referenda over the years, is certainly 30% or more.

The anti-EU argument as most recently elaborated is a variation of the "what have you done for me lately?" line. The answer as trotted out is "Not Much."

We are now net contributors to the EU budget (a constant compelling whinge of the Brexiteers), something likely to increase. The €40-odd billion we have received from the EU over the years is more than offset by the €60-odd billion we paid to bail out the banks – at Brussels' (or worse, Frankfurt's) insistence. Our own profligate spending on public sector wages and unsustainable social welfare benefits together with a populist erosion of the tax base during the Noughties is ignored or discounted as is the fact that the EU dug us out of a hole, sustaining us when no one else would lend us money to keep the country afloat.

Our near neighbour, major market and co-guarantor of the Peace Process is departing and, geopolitical considerations being what they are, our role and influence in the European Institutions is diminishing (12 out of 751 members of the European Parliament, plus more and more issues in Council decided by QMV) while we have no guarantee that our critical national interests will be fought for during the Brexit negotiations to come. Simplistic, yes; but as Brexit and the Trump election have shown, simple messages get across. Remember our own Nice and Lisbon experiences. And being bullied over tax sovereignty will not help.

Trump's election platform promise to slash U.S. Corporation Tax rates from 35% to 15%, in a bid to stem or reverse the flow of US companies overseas, poses a threat of a different order. Ireland has been remarkably successful in attracting investment from US multinationals, based in no small part on the very attractive 12.5% company tax rate on offer. For several years we have been in the sights

Wishing
All of You
A Very
**Merry
Christmas**
and A



Happy
New Year!

of US officialdom and politicians over what are seen as tax avoidance schemes (remember the "Double Irish") and as constituting a type of tax haven.

Up to now there has been much talk but little action. This may now change, but to what extent existing US investment here will be affected is unclear. The tax break was just one of the planks in our investment package and arguably in the high-tech sector we have achieved critical mass. It's difficult to see some of our Silicon Valley offshoots relocating to Youngstown Ohio, or elsewhere in the Rust Belt. But new investment COULD be affected – big time. These are very early days, and, as with Brexit, it could be several years before the effects on Ireland are felt. Meanwhile we in Ireland watch in fascination as the Trump Era unfolds.

Heading into the New Year there are more clear and present dangers to face, particularly in the industrial relations area where a cave-in to the police on pay is prompting widespread copycat demands across both public and private sectors. That and the other known and threatened knowns requiring resolution promise an interesting 2017. Still, it will be difficult to top 2016 which was quite a year. Whether watershed or aberration remains to be seen.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West



The Trespasser

By: Tana French, Viking Books - Amazon
"Tana French is a master of the modern psychological thriller."

The focus of *The Trespasser* is what goes on in the minds of police detectives and the criminals they pursue. They are in a constant struggle to outsmart each other. This makes for great psychological insight, and Tana French is a master at showing psychologi-

cal tension and suspense. The novel she has written is truly gripping.

Police detectives gather facts (evidence from the scene of the crime, etc) but they are careful not to jump to conclusions and

permit the facts to point them to the truth. With great self-discipline they wait until they have as many facts as possible before developing a theory to explain the crime.

The book focuses on Detective Antoinette Conway, who was recently promoted to Dublin's police Murder Squad. Because she is new to the squad, she is given routine, unchallenging cases.

The murder she and her detective partner investigate, seems at first to be the result of a lover's jealous rage. Two senior detectives work to convince them to arrest a person seen at the scene of the crime. This, they say, would solve the crime.

However, as they investigate, Antoinette



and her partner, become convinced the murderer is someone else. They must make a painful decision to explain why those other detectives tried to convince them it was someone else.

Tana French lives in Dublin with her husband and two daughters. She was born in 1973 and attended Trinity College. There she trained as an actor and today works in theatre, film, and voiceover. The book shows this influence, as the scenes are strongly visual, like scenes in a play.

Her psychological thrillers have won many awards: the Edgar, Macavity, Anthony, Barry, and The Irish Book Award for Crime Fiction.

Tana French tells a profoundly riveting story that seizes your attention. I read until late at night, then again early in the morning. She uses prose that is clear and beautiful and a model for good writing. These quotes

show that.

"Outside the window my street is dark, the street lamps fighting night and losing. The wind is punching around a paper bag... slamming it up against a wall holding it there for a second, before tossing it down the road again."

"Detectives have many motives. One is the joy of the hunt. "The case has changed... Now we're hunting. We've got the prey in our sights, and we're closing in, and everything we do is building towards the moment when we'll have him pinned down for the kill shot."

Our prehistoric ancestors would understand the feeling. "That feeling...lives inside you somewhere deeper and older... than anything else...It's a smell of blood raging at the back of your nose, it's your arm throbbing to let go of the bowstring... and a victory roar building at the bottom of your gut."

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Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night Returns for Holiday Season at Royal George

Christmas Hasn't Changed, But We Have!

Vicki Quade returns as our favorite bingo playing former nun in the holiday comedy, Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night, opening Nov. 25 at the Royal George Theater in Chicago for the 2016 holiday season.

The production runs Nov. 25, 2016 to January 1, 2017.

And this year, the show will feature lots of new material and a special twist on the story of the Annunciation.

Four actresses will share the role during the holiday season. They are Vicki Quade, Kathleen Puls Andrade, Cheryl Roy, and Lisa Braatz.

Written by Vicki Quade, co-creator of the comedy, Late Nite Catechism, Christmas Bingo is the second installment in Quade's bingo series, which also includes the long-running hit Bible Bingo. The show was selected as one of

10 holiday shows highlighted by Chris Jones, the Chicago Tribune's theater critic.

In this interactive comedy, audience members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Bible . . . and a clever recreation of the Annunciation, complete with audience members in angel wings and halos.

In its review, The Chicago Reader recommended the show, saying, "Vicki Quade has made a career out of Catholic comedy (Late Nite Catechism, Bible Bingo), and she's in top form here."

Today's Fan, an online review site, calls Christmas Bingo, "delightful." "You will be engaged by the

show's uniquely interactive approach that involves a bingo game with real prizes. Its entertaining aspect comes from the hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles off-beat myths and outrageous facts about Christmas."

Tickets are \$30, with discounts for groups.



Times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Christmas Eve show time moves to 5 p.m. For tickets, call the Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. 312-988-9000.

For more information about the show, go to www.nuns4fun.com

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American Ireland Fund Gala in Chicago November 2, 2016: Yvonne Bruce and Nuala Kavanaugh.



Ireland End the Year in Seasonal Cheer

By David McDonnell

This winter so far has been one of contentment across the sporting environs of Ireland.

When totting up on the abacus of achievement, it is difficult to remember a time when Irish sport was in as good a place and it has been a wonderful few weeks for the soul; for it's been great to cheer and witness these accomplishments through green-tinted glasses.

When life is going this well, it is important to cling on to these moments with a tightened grip for it is inevitable that such a marvellous perspective certainly can't last forever.

Last month the Irish rugby team defeated the All-Blacks for the first time in a whirlwind game of twists and turns on a bright Soldier Field in Chicago that will linger in the memory.

This much sought-after victory against the perennial rugby superpower had been a long time coming and the manner of the triumph made the wait all the more worthwhile.

Playing a brand of rugby where Ireland attacked wide and at speed, Irish rugby coach Joe Schmidt caught his native land unawares. The men wearing green refused to kick away possession for long periods and carried with intent throughout. Just as impressive as the attacking patterns was the Irish front five earning domination at the scrum, while providing Ireland with an attacking lineout maul that had the All Blacks under pressure throughout.

Ireland took a prominent 22-point lead when Simon Zebo scored a try not long after half-time, only for New Zealand to score three second half tries to reduce the gap between the sides to four points with 15 minutes

left to play.

For every Irish supporter there was a tangible fear that another gut wrenching defeat could be in the stars only for Robbie Henshaw to crash over for the insurance try that helped see out the victory. In the end the scoreline read 40-29 with New Zealand tasting defeat on the international stage for the first time in two and



Joe Schmidt

a half years.

For the many in attendance it was an occasion that won't ever be forgotten and the 15 that started and all the impact replacements, this first victory against New Zealand will be a significant annotation in their sporting careers.

For the Irish sporting public it was a joy to behold and a deed to savour.

If it seemed that sporting life in Ireland couldn't get much better, the following weekend saw further Irish sporting successes of note on the international stage.

Connor McGregor made UFC history when he became the first fighter to hold two World Titles at different weights at the same time when he mercilessly took apart a very credible opponent in Eddie Alvarez at Madison Square Gardens in New York.

There were a number of UFC aficionados who thought prefight that Alvarez has the wrestling aptitude to overcome McGregor, who startled even the most fervent of his travelling support

with the unmitigated control he displayed from the start to win with a second round stoppage without much difficulty.

Such has been his emergence in Mixed Martial Arts; McGregor is transcending the sport and in doing so could very well become the best paid sports star on the planet in 2017.

Soccer

Although it would not have made the back pages of newspapers outside of Ireland, the national soccer team is also currently riding on a crest of a wave.

The Boys in Green finished the year at the top of a very competitive World Cup qualifying group after they beat Austria 1-0 in an away fixture in what could be a very significant result in Ireland's hopes of qualifying for the most prestigious soccer tournament for the first time since 2002.

As it stands Ireland are out in front in Group D on 10 points, two ahead of fourth seeds Serbia, while Euro semi-finalists Wales and the aforementioned Austria reside at six and four points respectively after four games.

Manager Martin O'Neill and his assistant Roy Keane have managed to continue in the vein that brought a huge lift the country over the summer when they beat Italy to reach the knockout stages of the European Championships.

Martin O'Neill has a squad of players that are leaving everything they have on the field and so far they have taken advantage of the breaks that have come their way.

Against Austria, James McClean scored his third goal of the campaign to break the deadlock after he ran onto a terrific through-ball by Wes Hoolahan and blasted through the goalkeeper's legs for the goal that secured the three points.

What makes the Irish position even more encouraging is that Ireland have played both Austria and Serbia away from home and will welcome the pair back to Dublin next year.

The next round of qualifiers will see Ireland play a pivotal

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home match against Wales at the Aviva in March followed up by another home game against Austria in June.

A win for the Irish would considerably scupper both opponents' chances of occupying the top two placings in the group.

Another feather in O'Neill's cap has been his willingness to introduce new blood into the squad and the first eleven.

Eunan O'Kane came on as a substitute in the win over Moldova while Harry Arter, who has been impressive form all season with Bournemouth in the Premier League, saw his first taste of competitive action for Ireland when he started against Austria in Vienna. Such is Arter's form it is likely that he will, barring injury, hold his place in the side.

O'Neill also included two players from the Irish league in an international squad for the first time in his tenure when he added Dundalk's Daryl Murphy and Andy Boyle after they impressed in their club's Europa League campaign.

However, the one area where Ireland are still lacking depth is upfront and it is rumoured that Brentford striker Scott Hogan will be approached to play internationally for Ireland. Hogan has been in good goal scoring form for the Championship and his teammate John Egan, who hails from Cork and plays centre-half, is another who could make the step up into the national squad during the coming months.

For now, Irish sport is full of hope and optimism. Pray it continues over to 2017.



Maggie McEldowney, 2016 International Rose of Tralee, (Chicago!) and Roseann Finnegan LeFevour, Midwest Director of The American Ireland Fund at the 2016 American Ireland Fund Gala.



Trish Maloney, and Mary Kay Marmo, Director of the Rose of Tralee.



Maggie McEldowney, 2016 International Rose of Tralee, and Kathleen O'Connor.



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On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Founding Partner



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

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

Caring for the Elderly and Infirm

As the holidays have arrived our thoughts turn to spending time with our loved ones. For many of us, that includes visiting elderly relatives in nursing

homes. As medical care has advanced, life expectancies continue to rise and many of us have come to rely on nursing homes to care for our loved ones.

Nursing Home Benefits

Nursing homes offer many great benefits such as around the clock care. They can provide, through a professional staff, medical care, treatment and physical rehabilitation, as well as meals, and all types of social activities. They also provide protection and security for residents who are in many ways helpless.

But with all these benefits, nursing homes too can be fraught with dangers to residents. Proper staffing is a must for proper care and understaffing can lead to a failure to get appropriate medication and nutrition and affect most areas of care. Immobile residents present unique problems. They can be prone to bed sores which can lead to life threatening infec-

tions. Security for the residents must be a primary concern for nursing home nurses and administrators. Lax security can result in physical or sexual assaults by fellow residents or improperly hired staff.

Arbitration Clauses

When these problems do occur, action should be taken to remedy the situation, and proper compensation should be awarded to those injured as a result. There is a clause in many nursing home contracts that can significantly restrict the amount of compensation to the victims of nursing home neglect. This clause is known as a "forced arbitration clause."

Some nursing homes include these arbitration clauses in the voluminous paperwork residents need to sign in order to be admitted the facility. These clauses are similar to what each of us sign or are subject to, usually unknowingly, when applying for a credit card, buying a car, or attending a show or sporting event. In most situations, these clauses are the prototypical "fine print" of any contract, and in the case of nursing homes, they are often required in order to be admitted to the facility.

Arbitration can have positive aspects. It can be cheaper and faster than a complete jury trial. Rather than going through the rigors of formalized pleadings, discovery and trial practice, arbitration often has relaxed rules which favor an easier disposition. Additionally, arbitrators may be "specialists" who are well-versed in the laws regarding personal injury cases in nursing home cases. As a result, you are pleading your case before a technical "expert" instead of a twelve-person jury or judge.

However, arbitration can have drawbacks. For one, the nursing home as party may be before the individual arbitrator on a regular basis, while the injured party is there usually on a one-time basis. Second, arbitration does not have the public scrutiny that jury trial would. This can result in less public knowledge of nursing home conduct. The famed early 20th century United States Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis observed:

Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman.

One of the many benefits of the jury system is that, in accordance with Justice Brandeis' observations, it allows the public to decide what is and what is not acceptable behavior. Arbitration, conversely, places that duty in the hands of

generally one individual, with no appeal, and with no public input or knowledge.

Anti-Arbitration Clause Statutes

Because of the vulnerability of nursing home residents Illinois enacted several laws and administrative regulations designed to protect nursing home residents. Included in these protections was the preservation of the right of a jury trial by nursing home residents. Unfortunately, in the last several years, State and Federal Courts have eliminated this protection. Courts have found that Illinois, and other states, anti-arbitration provisions are "pre-empted" by federal law, which heavily favors the resolution of cases by arbitration. As a result, Illinois' attempt at protection was void.

There are exceptions to the application of arbitration clauses, one being that arbitration agreements will only apply to the resident, and not to family members. This is true even if a family member signs the relevant paperwork because they are a guardian of the resident and the resident is somehow incapacitated. As a result, although a resident's claim for injuries may be subject to arbitration, a family member's claim, such as for the wrongful death of the resident, will not be subject to arbitration – even if that family member signed the arbitration clause on the resident's behalf.

Administrative Rule

In these final days of the Obama Administration, relief from federal pre-emption was on the way. Appreciating the weak position residents are placed in – having to choose between care or their right to a jury trial – the Department of Health and Human Services issued an administrative rule that prohibits any nursing home who accepts federal funding (which represents most, if not all, such homes) from forcing arbitration clauses on its residents. The rule is already in effect, but only applies to future admissions. Nursing homes, with their vast resources, have vowed to fight the rule in court.

With the coming change of administration, the future of the rule may be in doubt. But for now, the sunlight of jury trials can remain the best disinfectant to some of the ills of nursing homes.

By:
Martin Healy, Jr.
and
Dennis M. Lynch



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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



This Month's Senior Group Meetings

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

Wednesday 7th December 2015 – Irish American Heritage Center - How to Stay in Shape by Doing What You Love

Today, we have Andrea Scott, a former collegiate gymnast and former Illinois Amateur Racquetball Champion! Andrea has a passion for fitness and exercise, and with a Master degree in Adult Fitness and Cardiac Rehabilitation, her passion is helping people live long, healthy lives. Join us as Andrea teaches us about how to be fit and healthy, regardless of age and ability!

Wed. 14 December – Christmas Party

This year's Christmas party will take place at Gaelic Park with a bus running from the Irish American Heritage center. There will be delicious food and live musical entertainment from Jerry and Kara Eady. Tickets are only \$15. You must register by calling Paul on 773-282-8445.

When it's Time to Hang Up Your Car Keys

Over the past two months or so I have had several conversations with older people who have recently made the decision to stop driving. Each person I spoke with expressed a great deal of regret and sadness about their decision but ultimately felt that for health and safety reasons that they made a good choice. Driving is much more than a simple activity and incorporates several other very important issues. For many, driving is something that they have done for many, many years. It has been so much a part of their daily lives that being a driver has become engrained in their very identity. In this instance not being able to drive means being unable to express a fundamental aspect of oneself.

For others driving is both a practical and symbolic marker of independence and freedom. Many people pride themselves on their ability to get where they want to go their own steam. To be dependent on others can be a very unsavory

prospect.

No longer being able to drive has a very real impact on an individual's well-being. It can mean a greater restriction on opportunities for social interaction and staying connected to family, friends, and the community. We all know the important health and wellbeing benefits that come from being active and engaged, however managing to do so can be a challenge when we hang up the car keys for the last time. This month I'd like to share some information about a transit program that might be useful to those who no longer drive and who are unable to take public transport.

Paratransit service is the general term for a "demand-response" service in which a passenger must reserve a ride in advance. Unlike fixed-route service, in which buses travel the same route in a regular pattern and pick up any waiting passengers, paratransit vehicles make only pre-arranged trips for riders who are eligible for the particular service. There are several different types of paratransit service.

Dial-a-Ride

There are dozens of Pace Dial-a-Ride programs throughout the suburbs. In most cases, Pace has a financial partnership with a city or township to pay for and operate the service. Dial-a-Ride programs have different rules on fares, geographic boundaries and passenger eligibility. For information on your local program contact local senior services or your township.

ADA Paratransit

This paratransit service is required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and is provided for customers whose disability or health condition prevents them from using CTA and/or Pace fixed route services for some or all of their travel. Only persons who are certified by the Regional Transportation Authority are eligible to ride ADA Paratransit. Trips are only provided at the same times and within the same geographic areas as fixed route. Pace operates this service across the entire six-county region, including Chicago.

Pace's website at www.pacebus.com or 847-364-7223. You can also call your local senior services or township.



American Ireland Fund Gala, November 2, 2016

(l to r) Dan McCarthy, Kieran McLoughlin, P.J. O'Connor and Gary Reidy

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Kathleen McCauley and Gerry Gainer enjoy the festivities at the American Ireland Fund Gala on November 2, 2016. (more pics throughout the paper)

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Scott and Katie Wolf are probably still partying after the Cubs win and the Ireland Rugby victory over New Zealand, ending a combined 221 year wait!



(l to r) Scott Wolf holds the Southside Irish Rugby Chicago flag with Drew Parchem.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Risky Living

The autumn is a season that seems to have the most profound effect on my thinking. A gush of wind clutching the fragile, barely hanging on leaves makes for a powerful reminder of change. Watching people kicking through the small heaps of dead foliage, while others scratch their lawns to remove the beautiful dying colours into bin bags, drives home the sense that winter is close by. There is beauty as well as sadness in change. We memorialize these endings with celebrations that distract, and solidify our hope for better things to come and at such times I feel the pull of an intangible pull towards Ireland. For most of the year, I'm content to simply watch from afar, but when splendid colours of the autumn leaves are replaced by barrenness the urge for what is familiar intensifies.

Since I originate from Derry I have a very close affiliation with Donegal, and for those people who have yet to discover this county, it's one of the most beautiful counties in Ireland. It's so pretty that before I made the move to Chicago I lived for two years in Donegal. I have fond memories of walking the hills in all sorts of weather. If there is one memory in particular that stands with me, it's one particular climb up Errigal, Donegal's highest mountain. Since Donegal is to the far north, and close to the wild Atlantic, the winds can be very powerful. Errigal, from an American perspective, may not be considered a mountain, but a very large hill, and to be fair the climb is more of an arduous walk than scurrying up a rock face. On a good day there is nothing perilous about this walk. If you're fit enough you can get to the top in less than an hour. However, if the weather changes, which it frequently does, the climb can be hazardous.

With such a narrow path at the top of the mountain, and little pro-

tection from strong winds, there have been fatalities. On one side of the mountain lies a steep drop, while on the other there are lots of large rocks. Once at the top, you can be deceived into a benign sense of comfort. If it's a clear day, the view from the top is spectacular. A patchwork of fields lead out onto the tumultuous sea on one side, with sheep appearing to be precariously perched on grassy hills on another side, while heather bushes, bronzed by the autumnal chill, grow in the remaining heart of the boggy turf land. It's one of those experiences that you never want to forget.

I've been to the summit of Errigal a few times, and each time has its own unique memory, but there was one trip that will stay with me for a lifetime. A friend and I decided, unwisely it seems now, to climb the mountain on a particularly wet day. Anyone with any sense stayed indoors, curled up to the fire, and watched the box, but not us. We were going to walk up this mountain just for the hell of it. The wet drive from Derry to the remote area of Donegal was so quiet. No one who did not have to venture out into the damp weather did. At the base of the mountain, we put our raincoats on. A foolish, if not ironic, gesture, since the strong wind and rain hurled itself at you from every angle. Traipsing up the bog land our feet would sink into the mud, which would often cause

us to fall face forward into the wet muck. Still the journey began; it would have to be completed.

As we edged our way higher, the winds grew stronger. After a while it was almost impossible to hear what the other one was saying. With our heads kept down we concentrated on getting to the top. In my mind, I remembered the warnings about not trying to climb Errigal when the wind was up, but it was futile. We were going against common sense reasoning for sheer pleasure of it. You may find this hard believe, but the bracing wind, coupled with the, cold, lashing rain was invigorating. There was no one else around, another good reason for not going ahead since one of us could get injured, but none of this seemed to matter. We were willing to take the risk, recklessly it seemed, and yet it wasn't.

By the time we reached the top the wind was howling like a Banshee. Its powerful grip was enough take all of your weight if you pushed into it. The real danger lay in the wind dying down. At such times you get careless, and drop your guard. Without warning a sudden gush can suddenly push you over the edge. It can come at you from any side, and you are merciless to protect yourself. We stood at the top unable to hear each other, and for a moment the clouds parted and the sun shone down on the valley below. The parting of the skies was but for a moment, but the view it revealed was almost miraculous. We were soaking wet, covered with mud, witnessing a wonderful revelation that would never come our way again and it was worth it.



Colleen Tully, Maggie Dolehide, and Colleen Nolan. (AIF)



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Dublin Part 3

In the last two issues I covered some topics and highlighted issues about Co. Dublin and Dublin City. I still have more to say. Dublin is the only city in Ireland that when you address a letter to Dublin you will notice you don't have to write Co. Dublin before Dublin. Also, I gave more detail about the city as opposed to the County as Dublin city overshadows the county. Dublin city is administered by a city council, the city is listed by a globalization and world city research network

GaWc. As a global city with a ranking of alpha placing it among the top 30 cities in the world. The name Dublin comes from the Irish word dubh linn (black pool). The new version given to Dublin is, Baile Atha Cliath which means the town of the hurdled ford.

Since it is still 2016 I have something to add about the Easter Rising. In the November issue I made reference to the sadness of 1916-1923 and the war of independence while Sinn Fein was taking the road of politics, a 27 year old Easter rising veteran named Michael Collins was exploring an alternate path working with the IRB (Irish republican brotherhood) the Irish volunteers. He began organizing a parliamentary force that armed Sinn Fein's efforts for independence. This force became known as the Irish republican army, IRA. This war of independence was also known as the Anglo Irish war it lasted for 2 years from 1919-1921 during which the Irish resistance

fighters waged guerrilla warfare against British soldiers. Michael Collins played several extraordinary roles for the nationalist movement, minister of finance, diplomat and finally a tragic martyr. His exploits were legendary, Liam Neeson portrayed his life in the patriotic movie Michael Collins (1996).

This is still a good question



was violence necessary to achieve independence? This question is still debated. Michael Collins signed the treaty saying it was the best that Ireland could achieve under the current circumstance and after a bitter struggle it was passed by the Dail. (The new Irish parliament) Everyone was not happy however, Eamonn DeVelera confirmed the treaty as did the majority of the Irish nationalists in the IRA. These nationalists said that they had fought for a united Ireland and they wouldn't settle for one cut into pieces and so the civil war of 1921-23 began. Like all civil wars this one was marked by hostility and atrocity. Michael Collins was forced to organize an official military response against the same IRA men that he fought beside for many years. Hundreds died and Collins himself was killed in an ambush at Beal na Blath in Co Cork. They anti-treaty forces however did not have the support of the populace and it was soon

clear that they could not win. To stop the bloodshed Eamonn DeVelera announced that it was time for Ireland to accept the treaty and move on. Ireland found peace and independence at last but not without a huge cost, the scars of the civil war lasted for decades.

When I was a young man just starting out working at a power plant in Chicago handling very dangerous machines where we processed and worked with oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and the elements in the air but under high pressure in the

early 60's. I worked my day shift and went to safety school by night as required by OSHA regulations for the new employees, some of the older workers were of Irish descent, out of 150 employees my friend Joe and I were the only Irish born in the workforce.

The older company workers would harass us and say things like, "why are the Irish always fighting among themselves. I guess their grandparents had told them stories about the Irish wars".

I had to think before I replied to that one, so I replied as it was in the election year of 1964 when Barry Goldwater from Arizona ran against Lyndon Johnson of Texas for President. I said just look around you, what do you think goes on in Washington? The House and Senate Republican and Democrat factions are practically at war with each other every day and that shut them up.

On a happier and more current topic, Congrats to the Chicago Cubs on their major milestone of winning the World Series. Ironically the last time the Cubs won the year (1908) had the numbers 108 in the year, and of course that matches the number of years it took them to do it again!

In conclusion, my wife Mary and I together with our children, Mike, John, Tina, Steve and Jim would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Tom Butler

kilkennycat@yahoo.com

Mary Ellen Considine



Office 773.935.4466
Voice Mail: 773.687.5181
Cell: 773.704.4250
Efax: 781.609.9527
Email: maryellen.considine@cbeexchange.com
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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Getting to Know the Irish

Every society has its own share of sacred places that is, buildings, environmental features, geographic locations; mountains, lakes, rocks, waterfalls, etc..A sacred place is believed to be endowed with spiritual qualities thought to possess supernatural power that can heal, rejuvenate or affect the devout that visit them. A sacred site is revered and valued as an extraordinary and unique place and having some type of supernatural force of divinity. Some sacred sites around the world include: Mt. Sinai in Egypt, Mt. Kailash in Tibet, Bodh Goya in India, Mecca in Saudi Arabia and in our neck of the woods, Arizona has the Vortexes. Ireland has it's own collection of sacred sites I'd like to explain 3, they include: Knock Shrine, Clonmacnoise and Croagh Patrick Mountain. Ireland was nicknamed, "Land of Saints and Scholars", that name came about in the Middle Ages. It was a place of growing culture and Christianity. During the dark ages some saints who helped spread light in the land included: St. Brendan, St. Kevin, St. Oliver Plunkett, St. Columcille, St. Brigid and St. Patrick. Academically Ireland is ranked 4th place in the world for mathematics and 2nd in chemistry. Ireland had a 14th Global Scientific ranking. Honestly, I don't know what exactly that all means but I'm impressed and proud of Ireland for having such a profound reputation for learning and a deep seated curiosity about life.

First we have Knock meaning the Hill of the Virgin Mary, in Co. Mayo. It's a 30 minute drive from my mom's home so my family is very familiar with Knock and has visited often. The

Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and John the Evangelist have said to have appeared on August 21st, 1879. 15 People between ages of 5-75 including men/women witnessed what they stated was an apparition of the three. They said the Virgin Mary was beautiful and her feet were hovering about the ground. She wore a white cloak, she had a crown and she was deep in prayer, her eyes raised to heaven. St. Joseph was also wearing a white robe, his head was bent forward. St John, the Evangelist, wore a long robe and wore a miter (pointed hat a bishop wears) he appeared to be preaching and had a book in his hand. Those who witnessed the apparition stood in the rain for hours reciting the Rosary. There was an ecclesiastical commission of inquiry by the Archbishop of Tuam on October 8th, 1879 it was deemed trustworthy. They had a second commission in 1936 with the surviving witnesses it was confirmed the evidence they initially gave. A number of cures are associated with visitors to Our Lady of Knock's Shrine.

Each Irish diocese makes an annual pilgrimage to the shrine every August. Over one and half million pilgrims visit Knock Shrine annually. Pope John Paul II visited Knock in 1979 to commemorate the centenary of the apparition. A documentary about knock was released in August called, "Strange occurrences in a small Irish village."

Next we have Clonmacnoise (meadow of the songs) in Co. Offaly on the river Shannon. Clonmacnoise was founded in 544 by St. Ciaran (from Roscommon) It's a monastery and until the 9th century it had close association with the kings of Connacht. St. Columba visited the Monastery, while he was there he prophesied about the future debates in the churches of Ireland about the dating of Easter and claimed that angels had visited the monastery while he was there. While St. Columba was there a young monk named Ernene Mac Craseni tried to touch St. Columba's cloak when he wasn't looking. The saint immediately noticed and grabbed the boy by the neck and told him to open his mouth, he blessed him saying that Ernene would teach the doctrine of salvation. The monastery was attacked at least 40 times by the English. In 1552 an English garrison destroyed and looted Clonmacnoise for the final time leaving it in ruins.

Lastly, we have Croagh Patrick (Patrick's stack) nicknamed the "Reek" it is a mountain (2,507 ft) and an important site of pilgrimage in Co. Mayo. It's the third highest mountain in Co. Mayo. It's climbed by pilgrims on Reek Sunday every year which is last Sunday in July. St Patrick fasted on the summit for 40 days in the 5th century. Thousands of people climb the mountain every July. The climb is led by Archbishop of Tuam every year. An estimated 40,000 per year climb it but in 2015 it was canceled due to safety measures by local farmers. From St. Patrick's time there has been a small chapel at the summit, Teampall Phadraig. A small chapel was built in 1905 over an archaeological dig of an early church. It was decided to open the church every day during the summer rather than only on holy days. Mass is celebrated in the church on Reek Sunday and on August 15. An exciting discovery was found in the mountain, a wrinkle of gold, in the 80's. However, local resistance by the Mayo environmental government headed

by, Paddy Hopkins, the mayor council decided not to allow any mining. These are just 3 of Ireland's sacred sites, there are many more. I find it to be such an interesting topic to delve into, the relationship between divinity, people and their land and ancestors.

My lovely friend Virginia Gibbon's book club at the IAHC will be on Dec. 10, at 1pm, the book is titled, "The Thing about December", written by Donal Ryan. I hope you can make it, she delivers an educational, fun and interesting afternoon! I hope everyone has a Happy Christmas and can spend it with the people they love!

Gaelic for the month:

Sacred-naofa
mountain-sliabh
worship-adhradh
Seanfhocail

Tuar maith don athbhliain na piobairi teallaigh a chloisteail la Nollag

It's a good omen to hear a cricket on Christmas day

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

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Rose of Tralee's Visit to Kolkata, India

By Mary Kay Marmo

Maggie McEldowney, the 2016 International Rose of Tralee left for Kolkata, India on November 6th for a week to volunteer and visit with the Hope Foundation. The Hope Foundation works to free street children and poor families from lives of pain, abuse and poverty. A staggering 250 thousand children in Kolkata are living with little or no shelter. HOPE restores childhoods and provides the supports necessary to build better futures for children and vulnerable families.

Founded by Maureen Forrest in 1999, with her headquarters based in Cork, Ireland, Maureen states, "The poorest people in our global community live a life of bare subsistence, one of uncertainty, insecurity, more suffering and quite often, premature death. There are no safety nets, such as social welfare, for the families we work with." Maureen asks that we all remember the street and slum children and to support their work.

During Maggie's visit she received a handmade bowl as a gift from one of the children. "These children have nothing, and yet I leave with gifts." But, Maggie was sure to bring gifts for the children. Maggie's parents sent crayons and coloring books that found a home in the children's school



The brilliant founder of the Hope Foundation and human rights activists, Maureen Forrest

in one of the slums. They were thrilled because all of their crayons were broken.

Maggie stated, "That when The Hope Foundation came to this village, there were countless children working in the garbage dump. They dig for food, plastic, glass; anything worth value to resell, hoping to make 200-300 rupees (a few dollars) a week. Maureen organized a cresh for the children to begin the process of attending school so that

they could rise above the lifestyle they inherited." Luckily, there are plenty of success stories like three young ladies Maggie met on her visit. Maggie explained, "These girls were living and working in the dump before Hope came to town. They are now 17, in 8th year and hope to make it to America one day." As Maggie reflects on her trip to India, she said "It was a beautiful learning experience for this naive soul from Chicago. Thank you to the Hope Foundation and the Rose of Tralee International Festival for providing me this life changing experience."

In the spirit of holiday giving, if you would like to donate to help the children of Kolkata, India, please visit their website at: www.thehopefoundation.org.uk/donate/



Three young ladies that lived & worked in the dump as children, but have now benefited from the Hope Foundation and all hope to make it to America one day.

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Rugby Brings Irish Tourism Brass to Chicago

By Cliff Carlson

Shane Ross; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sports was in Chicago at a fortuitous time, as over 35,000 people made their way direct from Ireland to see Ireland play the New Zealand rugby team at Soldier Field. The added bonus was watching our Northside baseball team, the Chicago Cubs, come from 108 years behind and win the World Series after being down three games to one.

Leave it to Ireland to outdo us! They had been trying to beat New Zealand for 111 years! They took a page from the Cubs handbook and bettered it by winning in convincing fashion.

But I digress!

Shane Ross was an Independent T.D. in Dublin for five years, and before that he was in the Irish Senate for 29 years. He was here for the business of sport and tourism, and we talked at a meeting for Tourism Ireland and Aer Lingus with Chicago's movers and shakers in the travel industry at the Drake Hotel. Did I tell you we had ringside seats to the Cubs victory parade? Talk about the luck of the Irish!

Podcast on Tourism with Jody Halsted and Shane!

We talked about Brexit and the English leaving the European Union. "There has been extraordinary news in the last few days with the British Prime Minister being required by the courts not to trigger the beginning of negotiations until she has put it through Parliament. She is repealing that decision but this may delay things a bit, but basically we don't understand what is exactly going to happen with Brexit because we don't know. We don't think it's going to be good for Ireland. Britain is our biggest importer of goods and they are very significant to us. If they leave the European community it means all the trade deals are changed, it means our relationships changes a great deal, and it means because of the falling

Sterling that our exports are going to be more expensive and our imports are going to be cheaper. The balance of the relationship changes and there could be huge differences in terms of British tourists - our largest source of visitors - being less likely to come to Ireland. If it is 10% more expensive for the British to visit, we think there is going to be a softening in visitors from Britain.

One of the reasons I'm here is to bolster tourism from America. Tourism from America is up 12% in 2016 from America and we would like to continue

that trend," said Shane.

I asked Shane how he wraps his head around such a huge job as running transport, sport and tourism?

"When you come into this job new, it is a huge undertaking. Ireland has 1000,000 kilometers of roads and they are not in great condition because of the recession. We have had no money for new projects in a while but we anticipate that to change soon. We are recovering now and playing catch up. We are hoping to improve roads immensely in the next 5 to 10 years," he explained.

When asked which of the three areas takes up most of his time, Minister Ross picked transport. "I think the transport element. We have several bodies that look after trains and busses. We just had a bus strike recently that took up a lot of time. It's settled now.

"The Rugby World Cup is going to take place in 2019 in Japan. We are going to try and land the Rugby World Cup in 2023 and it would be phenomenal for us if we could land it. We are one of three countries in the running, including France and South Africa. We think we have a good chance of winning that. That will be decided in 2017. If we win it we will make sure our stadiums are in shape. We've picked 12 around the country to use. Some are in perfect shape and some would have to be improved. This would put Ireland on the sporting map. We punch above our weight in football. We reached the European Cup Finals this summer. The fans are great ambassadors for our country. We have great golfers with worldwide reputations," he said.

In closing, Shane stated, "I'd like to encourage as many people as possible to come for a welcome to Ireland. The ties we have are stronger than I ever thought they would be. I hope that the mutual support and the strong bonds continue between our two countries."



Photog. Dean Battaglia AIF Gala



Shane Clarke; Director Corporate Services Tourism Ireland, Alison Metcalfe; CEO Tourism Ireland North America, and Shane Ross, Ireland's Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sports.



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



If you read this column, you are probably aware that Cassie and Maggie MacDonald (pictured) are among the very top musical acts in demand on the Irish/American/Canadian con-



cert scene. The sisters' new album, *The Willow Collection*, shows why. From Nova Scotia, the young ladies are developing quite an international follow-

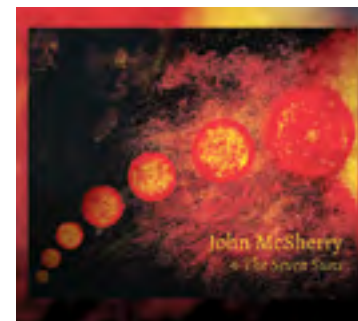
ing. It is not for nothing that the producer of this CD, Dave Gunning, also appears as guest musician and musical Sherpa. He is among Canada's premier recording artists, and he knows talent when he hears it. So will you. Here's the secret to the incredibly rapid growth in popularity of Cassie and Maggie's performances. They are really, really good. They are also incredibly entertaining, be it their foot percussion accompaniments to the driving Nova Scotian sets, or their perfect sibling blend to a stunning interplay on various instruments. A musical evening spent with the Cassie and Maggie is a great night, altogether. So far, so good.

But, here is another secret to

their success. As you listen to their albums and watch their performances, you sense the completeness with which Cassie and Maggie absorb musical information, styles and approaches. Because they are young, and so dedicated (driven?), they have a long list of mentors. Unlike many musicians, they really, truly pay attention. They learn. They study. They synthesize. They draw it all together from an incredible variety of sources, and the result is a gem like the *Willow Collection*.

There are eleven songs and tunes on this CD. A tremendous variety ranging from *The Salley Garden Set* to *Down in the Willow Garden* shows not only the musical ability, but the depth and variety of their musicianship. Their music is as straightforward and charming as are they themselves. Think this is an exaggeration? Listen to this CD. Go to one of their concerts. Meet them. Talk to them. You'll see. Look, here's the deal: they are young, yet incredibly mature musically, gorgeous, intelligent, and very, very nice. But the picture of the two on the back of the CD shows their determination and seriousness, as well. Does this review sound as if we have lost all objectivity regarding this duo, Cassie and Maggie? Good. It should. We have. It's hard to think of a more entertaining act in music right now. As always, the bottom line is the music, and they play it superbly. What a future!

A wonderful new album, *Seven Suns* just arrived from the exceptional John McSherry, and one of our favorite labels, Compass. The gifted piper and whistle player is joined by the best in the biz, Michael McGoldrick, Sean on Graham on guitar,



Niamh Dunne on fiddle and Sean Warren on bass. Superior. These musicians are all well-established pros who know how to make an Irish album that is



gorgeously produced, packaged and immediately accessible artistically to anyone who listens. My personal favorite is *Carrowmore*, to which I am listening as I write this. A beautiful air. John



McSherry and Michael McGoldrick have won this paper's top musical honor, *The Top TIR* in the past for a great cd of a few years ago, *First Light*. You may

also remember John McSherry as one of the founders of Lunasa—musical history! The low whistle on this album gives the whole thing a warm tone and feel that guarantees a true and relaxing experience aurally. This is not the screeching tin whistle we know all too well over the years. No. This is a rich, lush musical tapestry produced by master musicians at their work. A true contender for *Instrumental Album of the Year* here next month in the *Top TIR* announcements.

Also a top contender for any special friend for a brilliant stocking stuffer for Christmas! Put a sign up next to this album while you listen: *ATTENTION--Masters at Work!*

We are also in love with the brand new, *Pound Ridge Sessions* from Kevin Burke and John Brennan. They've been musical friends for years dating back to Patrick Street. This is another one with a slew of terrific guests, including the ubiquitous, Michael McGoldrick on pipes and low whistles,

Eamon O'Leary on bouzouki. Johnny Connolly on button box, Nuala Kennedy on whistle and Winnie Horan joining Kevin on fiddle, among others! Just like the aforementioned, *Seven Suns*, *Pound Ridge Sessions* is loaded with experienced pros and the musical results show it. Brennan plays an electric guitar on much of the album, and it is beautifully worked in offering a different style and substance to the deal. There is some singing on the album from O'Leary and Kennedy, but the instrumentals are the big bit of business here, all right. This is terrific stuff. Balanced, professionally brought together by a bunch of well-traveled pros who know how to deliver the goods. Well worth the effort to find, it is on Burke's label, Loftus. Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a Wonderful,
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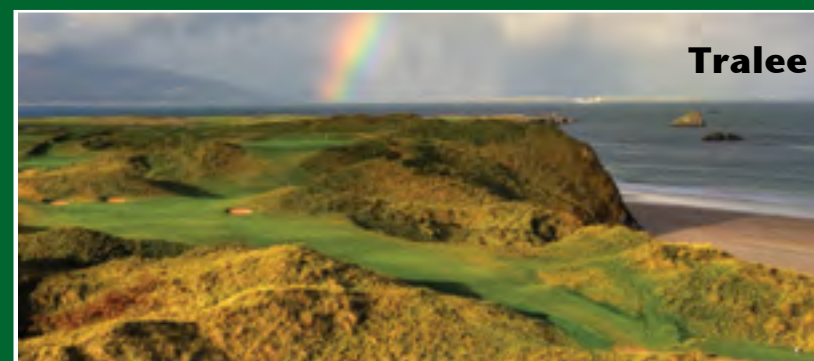
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Tralee

Jackson, Redux

Some pundits have compared the startling political rise of populist Donald Trump with that of Andrew Jackson. Old Hickory's 'impossible' crushing of "invincible" England in "America's Forgotten War" decided that America, not Britain and Spain, would direct expansion West across the continent. The victory ushered in a ten-year "Era of Good Feelings", a time when Americans felt unified, with a sense of national purpose. We hope our new President heralds a similar era of American accord.

In 1814 the U.S. was a group of 18 states east of the Mississippi at war with superpower England. In April, Britain and her allies bested Napoleon, one of the greatest military minds in history, and Lord Castlereagh, Marquess of Londonderry, focused Britain's war machine on the United States. Veterans of Wellington's victorious army blockaded the East coast. Another large British force crossed the border from Canada. They raided the Chesapeake Bay and New York, then headed for Washington City. Sixty Royal Navy vessels with 14,450 soldiers and sailors aboard arrived in the Gulf of Mexico east of Lake Pontchartrain in America's newest state, Louisiana.

The Federalist Party and rich New England merchants opposed the war with Britain. Nantucket Quakers signed a neutrality agreement, and Massachusetts tried to negotiate a separate peace with England. Nearly every Eastern newspaper urged ejecting newer western states (Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Louisiana) from the union. New England politicians

met in closed session at Hartford, Connecticut, threatening secession.

Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana then were 'territories'. In 1809, for example, when the US Congress organized the Illinois Territory, its entire population numbered less than 12,000. In 1812 Potawatomi Indians destroyed Fort Dearborn, murdering fifty-two troops and civilians there. That site on the Chicago River at Michigan Ave. is now flanked by iconic downtown Chicago structures like the Wrigley and Crain Communications buildings and Tribune Tower. The Potawatomi now own a big casino and hotel in Milwaukee. Native American words like 'Wisconsin', 'Chicago', 'Michigan' and 'Milwaukee' abound in the former territories.

Massachusetts and most other states refused to release troops to help President Madison. But he was over-confident in the superior numbers of his American militia force, and when the British force under Major-General Robert Ross from Rostrevor, County Down, Ireland approached Washington, Madison and most of his Cabinet rode out to meet them at Blandensburg, Maryland, 8 miles from the U.S. capitol.

Madison narrowly escaped capture in what was termed "the greatest disgrace ever dealt to American arms" and "the most humiliating episode in American history". American militia, along with the entire American government, fled through the streets of Washington, scattering through Maryland and Virginia. (The London Times did report that the most serious American resistance at



Mick

Mike Morley



Blandensburg was provided by a group of 'Irish rebels').

The British walked into Washington unopposed and set it ablaze. The White House, the Capitol building, the House of



Representatives and the Library of Congress were gutted. Several other federal buildings and private homes were also destroyed.

The Brits next turned on Baltimore, then a boomtown with a large population of French, Irish, and German immigrants harboring deep hatred for Britain. Two American riflemen aimed at Ross. By some accounts, he was felled by a fatal shot fired by a 'club-footed Irish barber'.

The British battered the hell out of Baltimore's Fort McHenry. That 25 hour bombardment, witnessed by Francis Scott Key, inspired a poem, and our anthem. The fort held and the British moved on.

In the Gulf, a Royal Navy fleet of 60 ships with 14,450 soldiers and sailors aboard arrived east of Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, aiming to seize New Orleans, end the war, and begin occupying the huge Gulf-to-Canada territory, the the U.S. Louisiana Purchase. Had they succeeded, the U.S. would have been remained a minor power, surrounded by vast British and Spanish territories.

Jackson crushed the world's toughest war machine with a small force of 4,732 men he culled from every class of fighter: U.S. Infantry, Navy, Marines and Dragoons; West Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana Militia and Mounted Gunmen;

New Orleans and Mississippi riflemen and gunners; detachments of Free Men of Color; Baratarians- gunners from Jean Lafitte's

pirate crews; and Native American Choctaws.

Many were the "ramshackle" dregs of society that 45 years earlier attorney and statesman John Adams had mocked in court while defending British soldiers on trial for firing into a crowd of Americans at "The Boston Massacre".

Said Adams: "We have been entertained with a great variety of phrases to avoid calling this sort of people a mob... The plain English is gentlemen, most probably a motley rabble of saucy boys, Negroes and mulattoes, Irish Teague's and outlandish jack tars."

["Teague" refers to the once very common Gaelic male name, "Tadhg"; a given name of many Irish kings. Colonial Massachusetts was 85% English. And "Taig" (pronounced like 'tiger', minus the 'r') is a racial slur in common use then and now by English and 'Scots-Irish' to disparage an Irish Catholic.]

When the battle ended, some 500 British soldiers who had feigned death, rose up to surrender. The image of the living rising out from the dead struck Jackson forcibly. "I never had so grand and awful an idea of the resurrection as on that day," he recalled.

James Monroe, the next President, said of General Jackson: "History records no example of so glorious a victory obtained with so little bloodshed on the part of the victorious." To the world's amazement, Jackson's "dirty shirts" suffered just 13 killed, 30 wounded. The Federalist Party, associated with secession and treason, never recovered nationally. Jackson, like that peasant girl of 15 at old Orleans 400 years earlier, demonstrated the power of belief and determination in the face of absolute power.

Later, 'Old Hickory' addressed his troops saying: "Natives of different states, acting together, for the first time in this camp...have

reaped the fruits of an honorable union."

Currently there's a face-off between two Americas: the comfortable "elite" with good jobs and higher education who look down their noses at the other America, the working stiffs, and indulge welfare stiffs like their pets. They believe that 11/9 was worse than 9/11.

I believe real class division in this country began in 1963, 13 days after 11/9. The bullets fired that day insured our descent into a ten-year abyss of death, dissent and division.

The dissent cooled after 1/27/1973, the date another president ended the military draft. But his decision to quiet opposition by making military service voluntary opened yet another class chasm between American citizens, favoring those with the means to stay in school and rise to enhanced wealth and success. Free time can always be set aside to do penance and show "solidarity" with lesser mortals in marches and protests against exploitation.

But the marches by "deplorables" often begin and end at a barracks door, or other bivouac far from home. Comparing that brand of American solidarity with the current culture of street demonstrations brings to mind the fable of a chicken and pig contributing to a breakfast of ham and eggs. The chicken gets involved, but is then free to go on her way. The pig, however, is deeply committed. Showing solidarity on Fox TV is not the same as sharing solidarity in a foxhole.

[This article is a continuation of another I wrote last year for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Titled "Long Division". It can be accessed online at: <http://irisheye.us/page14.html>]

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Chicago Revels in Irish Rugby Victory over New Zealand

By John Breslin

New Zealand's All Blacks may have exacted some revenge when they bulldozed their way to a win in Dublin later in the month, but that takes nothing away from the momentous victory in Ireland's first November "home game" against the Kiwis.

Soldier Field, Chicago, Nov. 5, 2016, will go down as one of the greatest days in Irish sporting history as the team defeated the near unconquerable All Blacks for the first time ever.

It came in the immediate wake of the Cubs victory, and some Irish in the city were left pondering just exactly which was the bigger win.

The vast majority of the 62,300 fans - a record for a rugby game in the U.S. - were supporting Ireland as a blanket of green was placed over the home of the Bears.

And that huge support must have helped to drive Joe Schmidt's Irish to an early lead in the 40-29 victory, and keep the Kiwis back as they launched a second half onslaught, according to those in the stadium on that Sunday afternoon.

Jack Sullivan, a member of the Beverly-based South Side Irish Rugby Club, went to the game

with his father, uncle, and brother. "The atmosphere inside was unbelievable," said Jack. "It was like a home game, like being at the Aviva. It was so loud."

He added, "We would have been happy with a two try loss, for the team to keep it low."

Then came the stunning early performance by the Irish team,

moments of the day for Jack, and likely many others, was when a picture of Anthony Foley, who died Oct. 16, was flashed up the on the big screen. "The place absolutely erupted," he said.

"This was massive, an absolute shock," said Jack. "If you took someone who has been an Irish rugby fan, and also a Cubs fan, it

Pat Sullivan, also of the South Side Irish, but no relation to Jack, at least not immediate as both their family's trace back to west Cork.

"When the game was announced we immediately got tickets. 150 of them," said Pat. "When word went out requests starting coming in from everywhere."

From California, but also New Zealand. Ten of the large party that made its way north to Soldier Field had flown in from New Zealand.

"It was just such an awesome day," said Pat. "I was thinking it was going to be close but it was a great surprise. Cousins were calling from Ireland after the game." Many, no doubt, a bit jealous it was the Chicago, and American-Irish, who were able to witness such a singular sporting occasion.

"It was just a field of green, and the singing of the Fields of Athenry," Pat remembers. "The team did a victory lap afterwards. So many were still hanging after the game, and did not want to leave."

The South Side Irish RFC was founded 41 years ago in the Beverly neighborhood by Gene Moriarty and the Kennelly brothers, Art, Joe and Kevin.

The club currently competes Second Division in the Midwest and USA. Last year they finished in the final eight of the USA

Second Division Championship, losing to Detroit.

Among the teams that have traveled to Chicago from Ireland for years were Monkstown, Landsdowne, Ennis, Skibbereen, Balinasloe and UCG to name a few.

The South Side Irish also have an academy team, which is made up of high school kids, including from St Rita's, Mt Carmel, Brother Rice, Marist and St Ignatius.

"It was a great win for Ireland," said Pat, "but it was also a great day for American and Chicago rugby. It will help grow the game here in the USA and I hope Ireland comes back to Chicago soon."



Nate Rees, Drew Parchem, South Side Irish Club team administrator, and his mom, Mary Ellen Parchem

and the sweet scent of victory.

"We started getting worried when they opened up in the second half, but hoping Ireland would try and stay competitive," Jack said, "and they did."

One of the most emotional

would be hard to know which win meant more?"

Some 150 people gathered on Western Ave. in Beverly early in the morning to travel in three buses to the game. But not all of them were Irish fans, explained



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Southside Irish ready for the tailgate party as Eric Rehling loads up for the journey



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A Place to Call Home: Offering Connection, Caring and Belonging to the Irish in America

It's been a hardscrabble life over the course of the 50-plus years since Ellen Casey, an Irish immigrant, moved to Chicago. Recently, she took a bad fall which exacerbated her deteriorating health, leaving her holed up in her tiny public housing high-rise on Sheffield Ave. Hardship after hardship has befallen her since her husband left, her son became chronically ill and her physical and financial well-being took some major blows. She's forever scrambling to pick herself up off the mat.

On a recent fall morning, she's filling the kettle with water and preparing the fixings for tea, looking forward to the visitor she calls 'my angel. As he has for about seven years since Casey made a desperate cry for help to renew her green card, Paul Dowling, Casey's case manager and a social worker for Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, (CIIS) will share tea, lend a loving silence and listen before helping her wade through the piles of paper work and financial distress.

"I don't know where I'd be without Paul," says the senior, born in Tipperary. He makes me know I'm not alone." Ellen is like many of the more than 700 people who come to the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support each year. Like her, many if not most, have been on the receiving end of bad things for a long time. Though the data is hard to get a handle on, 5,000 of the estimated 50,000 undocumented Irish immigrants in the United States live in Chicago, according to Michael Collins, executive director for CIIS.

Thanks to the CIIS, they become less vulnerable and alone.

From a tiny office at the end of the third-floor hallway in the former junior high school-turned Irish American Heritage Center on Chicago's Northwest side, CIIS delivers on its mission: to champion the Irish living here, both the undocumented and American citizens who are longing for a way to share their fundamental connection, support each other through difficulty and celebrate their strength and resilience.

"We are the voice for people who can't have a voice," says Cyril Regan, who recently retired as board president after serving on the board for 21 years.

Since its founding in 1998, the non-profit direct service agency has provided frontline advocacy, immigration support and robust social services, especially for the elderly, throughout Chicago, Illinois and 19 states represented by the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago and Austin. The only regional Irish service agency serving across the Midwest, it covers a geographic area ranging from Ohio to Colorado, south to Texas, and north to Minnesota and the Canadian border.

CIIS was born out of an agreement between Francis Cardinal George and the Irish Bishops, who saw the need for pastoral and social services for a new wave of Irish immigrants to Chicago. The organization also works in partnership with Irish welfare organizations around the world.

CIIS has taken a leadership role in driving immigrant reform and policy changes throughout Illinois and nationally. From legal services, including naturalization applications and immigration petitions, to an innovative student program that hosts students enrolled in Irish social work programs to work in Chicago, to pastoral services, marriages, baptisms and visitation of the sick, the gamut of services is extensive, according to Collins. In addition to helping young adults come to the U.S. through its J1 program, caring for elderly Irish in America, seniors like Casey, is at the core of its mission.

For many of the elderly, CIIS is a lifeline. Some are drawn for the social aspects and community to make friends, stay connected and celebrate their heritage at teas, drop-ins, St. Patrick Day celebrations and attend myriad educational workshops ranging from healthy heart seminars to personal and property safety that impact seniors. Dowling also makes check-in phone calls to encourage seniors to stay in touch. Others needing more intensive help are visited regularly by Dowling and case workers. Like Casey, they receive help with finances, mental health issues etc.

"Seniors are such an important part of our community," says Dowling. "It's vital for us to help keep them connected, to help them hold on to their identities, which so often are stripped away for the elderly. They are the heart and soul of our community," said Paul.

There's no question CIIS is making a difference. Laudable accomplishments include:

- Playing a key role in the historic passage of Illinois' undocumented driver's license law, when the then Gov. Pat Quinn signed a much vaunted bill that provides temporary driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants the state.

- 1916 Commemoration Event in which CIIS in conjunction with Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform hosted a symposium last April commemorating the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The event, hosted by Chicago Celts' Billy Lawless, recently named the first emigrant senator, also raised awareness of the important influence that the Irish Diaspora and Irish immigration have played in the United States. It was a Who's Who including the then-Consul General of Ireland to Chicago Orla McBreen, Illinois legislators John Cullerton, Michael Madigan and Dick Durbin, to name a few.

- CIIS made Chicago and national headlines when leadership tirelessly advocated for and helped Josephine Stout, a 90-year-old Irish immigrant who was undocumented even though she'd lived in Chicago nearly nine decades. Sadly, she died about four weeks shy of her dream of becoming an American citizen. A lengthy Chicago Tribune front page story detailed how she came to this country from Ireland in the 1920s as a toddler, but got her green card only recently after a lengthy struggle to prove she was a permanent legal resident. In a like case, CIIS also made international headlines for the hands-on role it took in helping one of the Magdalene Laundry survivors.

Both women's sad stories underscore the journey of many of the immigrants, including Ellen Casey, who seek CIIS help, says Breandan Magee, a native of Belfast, Ireland, Senior Director of Programs for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrants and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and former executive director for CIIS for nine years. In the Tribune article, he is quoted: "Josephine was a woman who showed such great fortitude. In my eyes she was indicative of that fighting Irish spirit you see in so many women of her generation."

The plight of the 50,000 undocumented Irish has been heightened lately following the recent presidential election and Donald Trump's call for more action on undocumented immigrants. "There's been lots of press conferences and CIIS and its affiliate partners have been in defensive mode,"

says Magee, who also serves as Senator Lawless' Chief of Staff.

Working closely with ICIRR, CIIS supported Mayor Rahm Emanuel's efforts to ensure Chicago will remain a sanctuary city despite Trump's promise to withhold federal funds from municipalities that protect undocumented immigrants from deportation. CIIS is also working alongside local and national organizations to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, (DACA), which provides work permits and a deportation reprieve to people who were brought to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally, many who are now in college. This too now faces an uncertain future.

To that end, CIIS works closely with a number of organizations including helping to found The Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, (CCIR), and a lobbying and community-organizing group with one goal in mind, the legalization of the 12 million undocumented workers, 50,000 of who are Irish. It also works in partnership with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrants and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). ICIRR is an umbrella group of over 130 agencies in Illinois that advocate for immigrants' rights; The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC), a national umbrella group for all of the Irish Immigration Centers in the US; Gaelic Park, The Irish American Heritage Center, Ireland Network Chicago, Wellspring Personal Care and De Paul University.

"The vision for the future includes expanding the services and outreach of CIIS and pushing for comprehensive immigration reform," says Collins.

Adds Magee: "I hope its role as a link between Ireland and the U.S. will continue to grow. It also would be great to see CIIS become the center for Irish cultural expression and continue as the leader and change maker for immigrant rights."

For more information on Chicago Irish Immigration Support contact Collins at:

4626 N. Knox Avenue, #301
Chicago, IL. 773-282-8445.

Casino Night Tickets on Sale Now!!

Buy your early bird special until Dec 25th for \$75. After Dec 25th the price will increase to \$85.

Ticket includes open bar, food, and music. Purchase tickets through the below link or by calling 773-282-8445

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-in-for-chicago-irish-immigrant-support-casino-night-fundraiser-tickets-29077794466>



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General admission — \$85 after Dec. 25

Group Special — \$300 (4 tickets)

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6-Blackjack | 2-Poker | 2-Roulette | 1-Craps

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**All proceeds from the evening will benefit
CIIS and its mission**

Immigrant Services:

- CIIS provides referrals and consultations with highly rated immigration attorneys
- Consultations can address the following:
 - Renewal of Green Card / naturalization and citizenship
 - Irish citizenship applications
 - Irish residency and immigration applications

Pastoral care:

- Part-time Chaplain available for pastoral care, counseling and prison visits

Social Services:

- Twice monthly senior groups events at the Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park with exciting guest speakers and educational events
- Case management for seniors and others in need of specialized services

Help us further by becoming a sponsor.

LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP ARE:

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- Family Sponsor: **\$200**

Visit our
website for
details

Registration is easy:

- Visit our website at www.irishchicago.org to register online or call (773) 282-8445.
- Send a check or money order to our address
- Or go to our eventbrite link below
www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-irish-immigrant-support-casino-night-fundraiser-tickets-29077794466

**You can still register that evening at
the door so you won't miss out on the fun!**

Direction to Irish American Heritage Center:

Via either the Kennedy (I-90) and/or the Edens (I-94) Expressways

- Heading North on I-90/94, exit Wilson Avenue (Exit 43A)
- Heading South on I-94, exit Wilson Avenue (Exit 43A)

Take the Montrose exit on the CTA's Blue Line, walk East to IAHC.



Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is a 501c3 charitable organization supporting the Irish community in Chicago and the Midwest.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Best of Year Awards

Ever since I started writing this column, people have been urging me to come up with annual "best of" awards. I resisted for a long time. I had trouble picking the

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change depending on my mood or how much I've had to drink or any of a number of factors. So why change? Friends in the music industry have explained to me how important it is to artists to win awards, especially so in these days of declining CD sales. So I hitched up my trousers, plugged in my brain and came up with the following. I established criteria for judging based on many factors, such as how well a recording sold or what customer feedback I received but in the end I primarily based my decisions on what I liked. For better or worse, there's no one to blame, or praise, but me. So here we go.

Favorite Band to Watch on Stage. This was a tough one, there are so many talented, delightful bands performing these days but I ended up choosing *Socks in the Frying Pan*. Great musicians, talented singers but with a lovely sense of humor and a great joy in life that is shared with the audience. Better yet, they manage to transmit these feelings thru their three recordings.

Best Female Vocalist. Another difficult choice but the nod goes to *Aine McGeaney* who sings with the band Goitse.

Best Male Vocalist. Out of all the sing-

ers in celtic music, I have to give this one to the great *Seamus Kennedy*. No one knows better that music is more than words and notes and Seamus follows that belief in all his performances. He can make me laugh, make me cry, sometimes both at the same time.

Best Bodhran. *Without question, Jackie Moran.*

Best Fiddle. Is there anyone I could say other than *Liz Carroll*?

Best Up and Comer Fiddler. A shining star to keep an eye on, *Gillian Head*.



Best Button Box. From *Socks in the Frying Pan*, *Shane Hayes*.

Best Uilleann Pipe CD. *The Raven's Rock by Cillian Valley*.

Best Solo CD of the Year. This one knocked me out and I listen to it daily. *All Because by Pauline Conneely*.

Best Accordion of All Time. Love this man, the great *Jimmy Keane*.



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The Irish American

Since 1981

Society of County Will

www.CountyWillIrish.net



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.*

HISTORICAL FOCUS

It is a long way from the lush terrains of Counties Cork, Tipperary and Offaly, to the city of stone and steel, better known as Joliet, Illinois.

The Irish American Society of County Will tips its hat to the Hennessy family, with its strong tradition of public service.

David and Ellen Fitzgerald Hennessy came to Joliet during the famine. Their son William, was a Joliet police officer who later became Chief, city commissioner and eventually Mayor, 1931-1935. So strong was the family call to public service, that William's son James, also became mayor, serving two terms, from 1955-1963.

James' son Edward, is now on the Joliet Zoning Board of Appeals. He has also served with the Joliet city council, Will County board, and Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce.

That sense of helping their fellow resident was also evidenced during the Great Depression. The family owned a clothing store where they often gave away clothing to the needy. "They were more concerned with helping others and making sure everyone else had clothes on their back. They always say everybody is out to make a buck, but that was not and still is not the Hennessy way" said Karen Ward, great granddaughter of William Hennessy.

Thank you Hennessy family for continued help of your fellow residents.

MANHATTAN IRISHFEST

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

Hello IASCW members & friends! As you know, Manhattan Irish Fest (MIF)--always held on the first weekend in March--is one of the greatest Irish Festivals in the Chicagoland area! Due to the improved location last year, attendance was at an all-time high, with resulting increased net profits, which are shared with the IASCW and several other organizations. We need your help at MIF 2017 to again produce these net profits that fund our scholarships and more.

The MIF net profit distribution is determined by the number volunteers manifested from each group. IASCW has always been an important component in maintaining a successful Fest and we want that to continue. Please consider donating a couple hours of your time on the MIF weekend, Friday, March 3rd and Saturday, March 4th, 2017. To volunteer please send an email to info@countywillirish.net or contact Christy Gibbons directly (cgibbons86@yahoo.com or 773-627-8231) Thank you in advance for ensuring the continued bond between Manhattan Irish Fest and Irish American Society of County Will.



NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

The IASCW Calendar coincides with the Gaelic new year, November 1st. The Society's annual meeting is always held on the first Sunday in November. New IASCW Officers and Directors elected at the recent annual membership meeting include:

President Chris Schaal; VP Timothy M. Brophy; Treasurer Bettie Komar; Secretary Sharon Houk; and Membership Chairman Mike McHugh. Joining existing Board members James Lawler, Ryan Stoddard, and Mary Beth Gannon are new Directors Paul Ward, Brian Conroy, Danny Maher and Pete Hegarty.

To contact any officers, please email info@countywillirish.net.

IRISH LIFE EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Will County high school students are encouraged to consider the Irish Life Experience (<http://irishlifeexperience.com/high-school/>). The IASCW awards up to 50% of the 3-week summer program cost. All high school students who live in Will County or attend a Will County high school are eligible to apply. Scholarship applications are

available from high school counselors beginning in January. Finalist Interviews will be held in February. For more information, visit www.countywillirish.net or email info@countywillirish.net.

WillCountyCelticFest.com



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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Culture Corner

December is filled with concerts, programs, activities and social events to get you in the holiday spirit. See below to learn about how you can get in on the action this month and enjoy all we have to offer.



Christmas Tea

Deck the Halls of the Erin Room this December with the annual Christmas Tea.

Enjoy afternoon tea, sandwiches and Christmas cookies while musicians and storytellers celebrate the music of the Christmas season. Featured performers are Kathy Cowan on vocals, Aislinn Gagliardi on harp

and Tenor Mark Piekarcz on piano and vocals. Brigid Duffy and Jim Padar will tell Christmas stories.

The Christmas Tea is Saturday, December 10 from 11am to 1pm and tickets are \$25 for adults and children 12 and under are \$8. Reservations are necessary and must be made by December 7.

IAHC Holiday Food Drive

Show your holiday spirit by donating to the fourth annual Holiday Food Drive at the Center, benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago's food bank, is a nonprofit food distribution and training center providing food for hungry people while striving to end hunger in our community. It makes a daily impact across Cook County with a network of



650 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and programs.

The IAHC Holiday Food Drive runs through January 6, 2017. Drop off items in the Center's lobby. Items most needed include canned fruit, cereal, pasta, rice and soup.

IAHC Archives Collection Project

Our Archives Department is collecting copies of memorial cards, funeral mass and cemetery locations and burial plots and is cataloging them. We have received hundreds of memorial cards with the promises of more.

The Genealogy Committee uses these documents to locate information on deceased family members. If you have duplicates of memorial cards from family members, are downsizing your home or cleaning up an estate, consider donating these materials to our Archives.

We also seek postcards with Irish views and programs, tickets, posters, death notices and obituaries with Irish and Irish-American themes. These

items help document the Irish presence in America and Ireland.

To donate, drop off materials at the IAHC office or Library, or email info@irishahc.org.

Social Scene

New Year's Eve Party



Ring in the 2017 with the annual New Year's Eve Party in the Fifth Province.

The celebration is Saturday, December 31 at 7pm. Tickets are \$35 and include hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast at midnight, party favors, dancing and music by Gerry Hughes and Kara Eadie.

Concert Corner

Cathie Ryan Concert

Salon Concerts Chicago presents Cathie Ryan's The Winter's Heart: An Irish American Christmas this December. Cathie Ryan has been one of the leading singers in Celtic music since the 1980s, and rose to prominence as lead singer of Cherish the Ladies.

This Christmas concert features Ryan's heart stirring vocals and crystalline voice, her band's virtuoso musicianship, and beloved stories, poetry and song.



Cathie Ryan

From ethereal hymns to exuberant jigs and reels, Ryan and her band celebrate the wealth of Irish Christmas traditions. Ryan's band features Patsy O'Brien on guitar and vocals,

Kieran O'Hare on uilleann pipes, flutes and whistles and Patrick Mangan on fiddle and vocals.

The concert is Thursday, December 8 at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and children 18 and under are \$10.

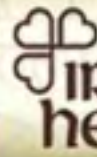
To purchase tickets for all Center programs, visit www.irish-american.org, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or buy at the door.

Join the IAHC Family!



Join the Center or renew your membership and help us make 2017 our best year yet!

Visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

'Twas the month during
Christmas
And all through the Center,
Everyone was stirring,
From volunteers to vendors.

The staff was in the Gift
Shop
Each and every day
Perfecting and selling
our Irish display.

Sweaters and jerseys
Were hung there with care
Caps and jackets for your
Loved ones to wear.

Trinkets and ornaments
And jewelry galore
Books and CDs and
Instruments and more.

All of these great items
Just waiting for thee

To purchase
for loved
ones

To place
under the
tree.

The Gift Shop
possesses
all that you'll
need

For the
morning of Christmas
And the family you'll feed.

The aroma of breakfast
as they awake from their
bed
scones and the butter and
delicious brown bread.

On Donner, On Dancer
On Rudolph, On Dasher



But don't
forget to pick
up
The bangers
and rashers.

December is
here
The Center
will be rocking
So, buy a gift
membership,

To place in one's stocking.

This poem comes
For only two reasons
Stop by the Center
and have a great
Christmas Season.

Eugene M. Cooney
President

Annual Appeal

Below are the names of donors to the 2016 Annual Appeal who have given through 11/16. The campaign runs through March 2017 and donations will be listed in *Irish American News* through the March issue. Each year, Patrick and Peggy Burke generously pledge \$25,000 in matching funds for the Appeal. We thank them, and you, for your generous support.

Center Champion (\$1000-\$4,999)

Bridget Flanagan

Tom and Catherine O'Connor

Mary J. Cooney

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Mary McNamara

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Maloney

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Mary Schultze

Bernadette O'Malley Sippel

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Patrick Cannady, Theresa Choske, Karen Cook, Gene Cooney, Brian Donovan, Ellen Folan, Catherine Kelly, Peggy Murphy, Sheila Murphy, Becky Tatz

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

- 12/2 Ceili Mor
- 12/3 Mulligan Stew
- 12/9 Green Meadow Boys
- 12/16 Hodie Snitch
- 12/17 The Dooley Brothers
- 12/23 TBA
- 12/24 Closed
- 12/30 TBA
- 12/31 New Year's Eve Party, 7pm
Gerry Haughey, \$35



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; 7pm-9pm

December 2016

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Dec 2 | Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor | Fifth Province | 8pm |
| Dec 4 | Christmas Bazaar | First Floor | 9am |
| | Christmas Mass | Auditorium | 10:30am |
| | Bazaar Breakfast | Erin Room | 11:30am |
| | Shamrock American Club Social | ShamAm Room | 7pm |
| Dec 7 | Tara Club Senior Meeting | Room 304 | 10am |
| Dec 8 | Cathie Ryan Concert | Auditorium | 8pm |
| Dec 10 | Christmas Tea | Erin Room | 11am |
| | St. Patrick Fathers Social | Room 109 | 8pm |
| Dec 11 | Shamrock American Club Brunch | Erin Room | 10am |
| | Library Great Books Club - <i>The Thing About December</i> by Donal Ryan and <i>Hidden Kerry</i> by Breda Joy | Library | 1pm |
| Dec 16 | Shamrock American Club Meeting | ShamAm Room | 8pm |
| Dec 24 | Building Closed | | |
| Dec 25 | Merry Christmas! Building Closed | | |
| Dec 31 | New Year's Eve Party | Fifth Province | 7pm |

Regularly Scheduled Events

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Mon-Fri | Gift Shop | First Floor Lobby | 4pm-8pm |
| Tues | Nimble Thimbles | Room 208 | 9am-Noon |
| | Traditional Celtic Art Class (through 12/6) | Art Gallery | 7pm |
| | Set Dancing | Room 111 | 7:30-9:30pm |
| Wed | Traditional Irish Music Session | Room 311 | 7pm |
| | Nimble Thimbles | Room 208 | 7-10pm |
| | Na Gaeil Irish Language Class | Library | 7pm |
| Thurs | Taping of The Craic Radio Show | Fifth Province | 6pm |
| | Thursday Night Irish Music Session | Fifth Province | 7pm |
| | Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal | Room 306 | 7pm |
| Fri | Francis O'Neill Club Ceili | Room 111 | 8pm |
| Sat | Gift Shop | First Floor Lobby | 10am-8pm |
| | Na Gaeil Irish Language Class | Library | 11am |

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm

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MIKE RUDDY

FAMILY BENEFIT

On March 5, 2016, our friend Mike Ruddy passed away suddenly, leaving behind his wife Terri and three young children. To those of us who knew him and to those reading this story, it must be said that we lost one of life's finest.

A funny, carefree, genuine, happy, consider, intelligent and decent man are but a few words to describe him. We all knew firsthand that as soon as he set foot on American soil, he took immense pride on his roots—as we often heard him recite the well versed tune of “The Carrick Smashers”. He was also beyond grateful for the opportunities that came his way as he made a life for himself here in this great country and married his best friend Terri.

During his time playing for the Chicago Wolfe Tones, his passion for the game and for his teammates was extraordinary. He won both Chicago and North American Championships playing with and against distinguished inter-county players and did it all with exceptional skill. In the years to follow, he remained an outstanding supporter to the GAA community all the while maintaining his sense of humor and mischief. In his professional life as an electrician, he didn't just take on projects; he took on a mission as if it were for family and finished it with professionalism and pride.

He made life long friendships with those who employed him and never asked for more than what was fair.

We are asking that you help us in *this* mission for every great ship that sails has a captain and its crew. This family has lost their captain but they must keep sailing, keeping life on course. We as a community must help to keep them sailing because as much as Mike was given in this world, he gave back 10 fold, never with a pause or a question, it was his nature. While our hearts are gripped with sadness as we think of this huge loss to this family and our community, we are reassuringly reminded by his carefree, lighthearted attitude to constantly live every moment of life to its fullest!

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

Our year of commemorating the Easter Rising is coming to an end, and I'm sure that many of you, like me, now have a greater knowledge of the events leading up to the Rising and of the Rising itself, and a deeper appreciation for the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices of the Heroes. They made a significant impact on history, and their ideals, expressed in The Proclamation, addressed to both men and women, declared the right of the people to the ownership and control of their nation. It sought religious and civil liberties, and

equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, and it resolved to cherish all children of the nation equally. In 2017 and beyond, I hope all nations can move closer to those ideals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Chicago Gaelic Park, thank you for attending our events this past year and supporting us in other ways. We wish you and your family members a Happy Christmas, and safety, freedom, health and prosperity in 2017.

**Slán go fóil,
Bill O'Sullivan, President**

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| Sat | Dec 10 | Bernie Glim | 8:00pm |
| Wed | Dec 14 | Frank Rossi (Rib Night) | 6:00pm |
| Fri | Dec 16 | Jerry & Kara | 8:00pm |
| Sat | Dec 17 | Larry Nugent & Bill O'Donahue | 9:00pm |
| Fri | Dec 23 | No Live Music | |
| Sat | Dec 24 | No Live Music | |
| Sun | Dec 25 | Happy Christmas from all the Carraig Irish Pub | |
| Fri | Dec 30 | Brian Thoma & Nick Gonzalez | 7:30pm |
| Sat | Dec 31 | Ring In The New Year with Bernie Glim | |

Chicago Gaelic Park

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NO COVER CHARGE

2016 CGP Calendar of Events 2016 DECEMBER

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 12/4 | Celtic Supper with Ray Gavin | 3:00pm |
| 12/7 | Monthly Musical Luncheon* with Joe Cullen | |
| 12/11 | Classic Carvery with Joe McShane | 3:00pm |
| 12/18 | Classic Carvery with Jerry & Kara Eadie | 3:00pm |

Ladies Auxiliary - No Meeting in December and January

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

*Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Monthly Mass and Breakfast is the 2nd Sunday of the Month

Pub Trivia are Tuesday evenings **7:30pm**

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

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

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM **7:05-9pm**



CGP Office 708.687.9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

Visit the CGP Library in the Shamrock Room



A huge thank you to our wonderful audience for making our fall show *St. Patrick's Gift* by Lynnea Mangan a success! Our fall production showcased familiar faces as well as new ones and we would like to thank them all for their wonderful performances. We are grateful to Lynnea for writing such a wonderful play and letting Gaelic Park Players perform the world premiere. We are also thankful to our cast and crew and everyone who

volunteered their time. We will be announcing our spring play in a forthcoming edition.

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



"St. Patrick's Gift" cast members from left to right — Katie McKirdie, Tom Kearney, Colleen Winters (behind the couch), Renata Allelujka, Jacqueline Canty, Bill Gleason, Myra McWilliams, Mike Kelliher, Peter Simon



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Andy Cooney's
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DIRECT FROM CARNEGIE HALL

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Saturday, December 31, 2016

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Friday January 6, 2017 7:00pm

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Little Christmas is a "ladies night out", rewarding women for their labors during the holiday season.

Please RSVP to reserve your seating for you and a friend.
Phone 708-687-9323 - Over 21's only

Happy Christmas and All the Best for the New Year from Everyone at Chicago Gaelic Park!



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Ireland vs All Blacks Rugby Match - November 5, 2016



Gaelic Park was well represented at Soldiers Field for the Ireland V All Blacks rugby match



Irish rugby team on the attack against the All Blacks at Soldiers Field on November 5th 2016.



Soldiers Field in all its green and glory on November 5th, 2016



Philip Quinlan with Irish Rugby legend Keith Wood (The Raging Potato) after Irelands historic victory 40 – 29 over the All Blacks on Saturday November 5th 2016

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saturday march 11, 2017

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Are We Having Fun Yet...?

I mean, what was I thinking? There I was, not really caring who won the American Presidential election as long as it wasn't the co-head of the Clinton gang.

God, I can be slow at times: as the countdown began and I could see all the self-important pro-Clinton celebrities getting their precious selves all upset; see the usual crowds of tender, easily-offended buttercups looking shocked and teary; and most of all, as it finally dawned on me that a Trump win would mean LOTS and LOTS of ass-kissing and humiliating U-turns from our spineless

Irish politicians who had slagged Trump off and all but called for him to be barred from stepping on Irish soil; as all of this sank in I was practically running around with a daft baseball cap on my head and wearing a TEAM TRUMP T-shirt.

I really hadn't considered the entertainment value this would mean for me!

Pollsters, for a start -- how can anyone sane not laugh at people who make their living doing polls? They're so used to only asking people in one particular bubble a few leading questions and never take into account the fact that people

LIE or...here's a thing...change their minds. Yes! Lie or change their minds; who would possibly predict that?

Hopefully, after getting BREXIT and the American election TOTALLY wrong and making complete eejits of themselves, Pollsters will be keeping the head down for a long, long time. Nah, I'm not counting on it either. It will somehow turn into our fault for being stupid.

The mainstream media! How happy was this making me? Article after article lectured us, told us we were thick if we thought that Trump had a hope in hell before listing all the reasons that Bill's moll Hillary was going to wipe the floor with him. And now this very day the same chancers are listing the reasons why she lost.

Guys, here's the thing...you've been found out. Since you were wrong all the way down the line, then why would you have a clue now? We don't care what you write anymore. With a handful of honourable exceptions (and just

let me give a shout-out to Ireland's Niall Boylan Radio Show who called Trump's election win when the elitists were still guffawing into their Chardonnay) the mainstream media has shown itself to be just as corrupt and agenda-driven as your average politician. Or --or-- try to be kind -- just as lazy and complacent.

In Ireland the anti-Trump articles were SO relentless, SO ubiquitous, SO vicious -- and with nothing on the other side to balance them, in case Denis 'Redact' O'Brien got upset -- that it actually had the effect of making people who didn't give a toss about Trump (me) suddenly hope that he really wiped that entitled smirk off Clinton's face.

I mean, we know a bit about entitlement dynasties here in Ireland, where the sprog thinks it's their God-given right to be elected into the seat that their great-great-granddaddy won about a century and a half ago when he got the parish pump fixed. So seeing Queen Muck of the Mountain pointing at imaginary people and hugging Be-

yoncé like she was already dining at the trough was a bit off-putting, to say the least.

Beyoncé and her hubby Jay-Z! Wasn't that a hoot, seeing Jay-Z singing a sweet, inspiring and presidential little melody at a Hillary fundraiser? What was it called again? That's right! 'Jigga ma N****' was the title that this wordsmith had given it, proving that Patrick Kavanagh will never be dead but leaving me puzzled. Wasn't Trump supposed to be the racist one? Why was Jay-Z singing this load of tripe...oh yeah. I forgot. You can only be a racist if you're white! That must be what that commentator meant when he called the whole thing a 'whitewash'.

Oh, and as I type this I hear that Enda has had his ten-minute phone call with his new best pal. Remember back in June when Enda announced that Trump was 'racist and dangerous'? Well, apparently that was only said 'in the heat of battle'. Jesus wept. You could be forgiven for thinking I'm making this up. Trust me: my imagination just isn't that good.

I'm going to need some third person perspective on this, though. Our Enda has history when it comes to talking to people that no one else can see. Can anyone confirm that there was a ten-minute phone call? They can?

Apologies; but what's the betting that Trump kept him on hold for nine minutes and forty seconds. I know that's what I would do.

Still, Enda's happy: there he'll



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be on St. Patrick's Day, clutching his bowl of shamrock and getting ready for some major, MAJOR forelock tugging. And he's well used to it after the amount of brown-nosing he's done with Merkel these past years.

Meanwhile, back at home, as if caught in the slipstream of insanity that is consuming the world, I switched on the radio last Sunday and to my horror, who was on the Marian Finucane Show but Pat Rabbitte and Bertie Ahern!

I kid you not: Rabbitte, the failed Labour traitor and champagne socialist who says that it's OK to lie during an election; and Ahern, the man who won all that money on the horses, after riding the country into the ground – and of course, the self-described 'last socialist in Europe'.

I couldn't believe my ears: there they were, like a sinister Stan & Ollie of Irish politics pontificating on everything from the Nurses' Strike to the proposed Garda Strike to BREXIT.

It might have been OK if the hideously overpaid Finucane had asked a few tough questions. But no; she's at that point in her career where that isn't going to be happening ever again. Instead, there was lots of diffidence all around whilst Ollie Rabbitte blew his bloated, rancid bubbles and Stan Ahern did his fake stammering, misunderstood, man-of-the-people act, pretending to be an

ejit whilst coining it in to beat the band.

But all in all it has been the Donald's month and also highly entertaining seeing excitable people preparing for Armageddon. Listen, give him a couple of months and he will have adapted to the status quo and we'll all wonder what the fuss was about. Who knows? He may even be a great President.

And as one wit said on social media today, he will get on just fine with Kenny as he has openly said he likes 'p*****'.

'He's not even a career politician' they're screaming.

Well, isn't that kind of the point? We've tried career politicians and they've lied to us, stolen from us and – here's another reason that they got shafted – NOT LISTENED TO US. When Joe & Jane Soap say things like they are concerned about immigration they are NOT being racists, they are being concerned about immigration. Listen to people and they won't give you the kicking they gave Clinton.

Meanwhile I'm going to have a lot of fun listening to our lot, starting with Kenny and Martin, tie themselves in knots as they try to explain that when they called Trump 'racist', 'dangerous', 'sexist' and 'misogynistic' they meant... in a GOOD way.

Are you having fun yet? I know I am. How long that lasts is another matter.

chasbrady7@eircom.net www.cbsays.com

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

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bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



PATRICK CULLINANE R.I.P. London, ex-Co. Limerick. Premature death; justice permanently denied. Decades ago criminals within Inland Revenue (IR, Britain's IRS) concocted a £5,000 tax claim against him. They evicted him from his then-£170,000 house, sold it, and kept the entire proceeds. This column publicized the case; and I twice visited London seeking justice. Irish Ambassador Barrington and London's two Irish newspapers proved destructive. The few shining lights included M.P.s Benn, Corbyn, and McDonnell, and Finance Reporter Phillip Inman of The Guardian newspaper whose powerful columns on Cullinane would have brought justice in any lawful nation. Cullinane's integrity was buoyed by that of multitudes of supporters; especially by Litigants in Person (LIPS) and the courageous IR employees who covertly provided proof that the IR's claim against Cullinane was deliberately fabricated, but all to no avail. Cullinane will be remembered for his integrity and courage.



Pauline Conneely & Jimmy Moore Am. Ireland Fund Gala



Kavan O'Donoghue, Maggie Danaher Brian Cunningham



Lee Travers, Stephen White, Enda Meehan

Concealing genocides invites more of them.

'FAMINE' GRAVES dot Ireland, unmarked, or marked only "FAMINE GRAVE." Why did our schools teach "famine" while the teachers (at least some) knew otherwise? Why say the Irish "grew only one failure-prone crop," thus "fell into a lethal trap of their own making?" Why thus bear false witness (or no witness at all) regarding the mass graves?

SOME BACKGROUND. Ever since the landlords' arrivals from England they tightened their grips on the Irish. During the 1845-1850 Holocaust 97% of Ireland was "owned" by landlords. Ireland's landlords listed in my Ireland 1845-1850: the Perfect Holocaust, and Who Kept it "Perfect" start as follows: (Notice the non-Irish names.) ABERCORN, Duke of, K.G., twice Lord Lieut. of Ireland: Tyrone, 60,000 acres; Donegal, 16,500 acres.

ABERCROMBY, Sir Robt., Bart., of Forglan House, Turriff, Banffshire, Scotland: Cork 434.

ACTON, Thos, of West Acton, England: Wicklow, 4845.

ADARE, John George, Donegal, 42,000; Laois, 9,655; Kilkenny, 518.

AGNEW, William, of Kilwaughter Castle, Larne, Co. Antrim. 9,770.

ALBEMARLE, Earl of, Quiddenden Hall, Attleboro', Norfolk, England. Leitrim, 2,506.

ALCOCK, Harry, of Wilton Castle, Enniscorthy. Wexford, 9121.

ALDWORTH, R.O. of Newmarket: Cork/Limerick. 8,739.

ALEXANDER, Granville, Henry, Jackson. Ex-83rd Foot, Armagh, 8,324.

" , Robert Jackson, Antrim, 5,215; Derry, 2,866; Tyrone, 1,769.

" , Robert Quin, Dublin, 2,973; Armagh, 192.

" , Samuel Maxwell, Derry, 5,229; Donegal, 504.

" , J. of Milford House; Carlow, Antrim: 2,375.

ALLEN, George, of Mt. Panther, Down, 2,855.

ANDERSON, T.W. Gracedieu, Kilk/Cork/Wat, 3,690

ANNALY, Lord, ex-13th Dragoons; ex-Lord of the Treasury, Sat for Clare, Longford, and Kidderminster, England. Longford, 12,560; Dublin, 3,954.

ANNESLEY, Earl, Castle Wellan, Co. Down. Ex-Fusilier Guards and 43rd Foot. Sat for Cavan.

Cavan, 24,221; Down, 24,350; Laois, 2,489.

ANTRIM, Earl of, Glenarm Castle, Antrim. Antrim, 34,292; Derry, 112.

ARCHDALE, Mervyn Edward, Castle Archdale, Fermanagh. Ex-Inniskilling Dragoons. Sat for Fermanagh.

Fermanagh, 27,410; Tyrone, 6,505.

" , William Humphrys. Fermanagh, 5,627 (exclusive of a large amount of land on perpetual leases,

which appear in tenants' names.

ARDILAUN, Lord, St. Anne's, Dublin. Sat for Dublin City. Galway, 27,111; Mayo, 3,747; Dub, 484.

ARCHIBALD, R. Kildare, 3,075.

WRIGHT-ARMSTRONG, Henry Bruce, Killylea Ho. Armagh, 3,120; Longford, 1,949.

ARRAN, Earl of, K.P., Castle Gore, Mayo. Was Britain's Charge d' Affaires at B' Aires. Mayo, 29,644;

Donegal, 6,883. Exclusive of 7,000 acres let on perpetual leases.

ARTHUR, Francis, of Dublin. Clare, 10,534.

Some larger estates were: BERRIDGE, Richard, 160,152 acres in Galway, 9,965 in Mayo. BINGHAM (Lord Lucan), 60,570 acres Mayo including Castlebar. BROWNE (Lord Sligo), 114,881 acres in Mayo including Westport. LANDSDOWNE, (Marquis), 94,983 Kerry, 12,995 Meath, 8,980 Laois, 2,132 Dublin, 617 Offaly.

UNTIL Britain's 1900-1910 vast estates; keeping Ireland's buy-out and repatriation to people, its producers, at the edge of England of Ireland's landlords, of death from starvation and they usurped the wealth produced by everyone on "their" exposure. Because the landlords got the spending of everyone's

production, towns died and new ones cropped up outside the landlords' gates: tradesmen, shops, lawyers, Anglican Church, saddle & harness-makers, doctors, police barracks, courthouse, hotel, to serve the landlord's interests. Thus Castlebar mushroomed outside Lord Lucan's gates; Castlereau outside Lord Mount Sandford's gates; Westport outside Lord Sligo's gates, Strokestown outside Parkenham's gates, etc. Our ancestors, for a year's cultivation and harvest of the latifundist's crops, were "paid" by use of a few acres on which to build a cabin and grow food.

AN T-ÁR MÓR (The Genocide) When the potato crop failed, the landlords (many members of Britain's House of Lords) got more than half of Britain's army; 67 regiments of its total of 130, to remove the food crops, at gunpoint, away from its producers and to the ports for export. Thus, the Holocaust, and Ireland's mass graves.

IRELAND'S MASS GRAVES, unmarked or misleadingly marked, are an international scandal. Marist Brother Enda, asked in retirement why, for decades, knowing it was genocide, he taught "famine," explained; "I had no choice; I had to teach the curriculum as presented by government." Mary and I, hoping to end genocide as government policy by exposing Britain's Irish one, are installing Holocaust memorials. A NW Mayo priest blocked a local memorial by a priest in Florida. We, too, meet covert opposition; mostly, shockingly, from priests. Ireland's government allows housing developments to obliterate mass graves. However, the development scheduled for atop Killala's workhouse mass grave is stalled.

WHY NOT join with family/friends to install a memorial at the "famine" grave nearest your birthplace? Ours honor the Dead and bear true witness by naming which British regiment(s) removed the local food crops. For info: fogartyc@att.net or 312/664-7651

An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



President Elect Trump-Now What?

What to the majority of observers will go down in history as, the most bitter and divisive political campaign in the past century has finally ended with the shock election of Donald Trump to become the 45th President of the United States.

Taken together with the Brexit vote in the UK, the Cubs win in the world series, and the Irish rugby team's triumph over the All Blacks here in Chicago, this result must surely place 2016 in the annals as the year of the great upsets.

In his victory speech president elect Trump, has pledged himself to represent all Americans. The fact that he won the election but lost the popular vote means that he will have to work hard to convince many skeptical voters that he means what he says.

It is not just the average citizen who is concerned with Trump's election; the financial markets have been reacting in a negative way to this result. If president Trump proceeds to actively pursue the kinds of policy positions that he espoused during the campaign then it is understandable that many of our allies are also feeling anxious with what lies ahead.

This election also has handed the Republican party a clean sweep, come January 20th 2017 they will control the three branches of our government. Following the past eight years of pursuing a very obstructionist role in the government of this land, it now falls on their shoulders to deliver on their promises to make this country a better place. To do that it clearly demands that they begin the serious work of actually passing legislation to enact their program for government.

What this means for immigration reform is very uncertain, few on the republican side of the aisle have shown a willingness to strike a decent deal that would see the overhaul of our outdated immigration laws. Also, which

message from Trump can we realistically see him pursuing: As widely reported in the national media; Trump in 2012 spoke on the subject on Fox & Friends saying "Immigration is very important and the Republicans have to get involved, Look, they're never going to win another election unless they do something." On the other hand, Trump on the campaign trail constantly promised to "build a beautiful big wall on the Mexico border" and to deport 6 million undocumented immigrants. And now that they have won another election without any serious movement on a host of issues, including immigration reform, what will their actual legislative agenda look like?

Let's just hope and pray that President Trump will follow the example of a former President, whom he frequently referenced on the campaign, namely Ronald Regan. Regan and house speaker Tip O'Neill, left an example of what can be achieved when two leaders from opposite parties are willing to put the country first and work in a bi-partisan manner to pass meaningful laws.

Thoughts From Abraham Lincoln

Taken from the Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions: Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois January 27, 1838

"In the great journal of things happening under the sun, we, the American People, find our account running, under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era.-We find ourselves in the peaceful possession, of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions, conducting more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than

any of which the history of former times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them--they are a legacy bequeathed us, by a once hardy, brave, and patriotic, but now lamented and departed race of ancestors. Their's was the task (and nobly they performed it) to possess themselves, and through themselves, us, of this goodly land; and to uprear upon its hills and its valleys, a political edifice of liberty and equal rights; 'tis ours only, to transmit these, the former, unprofaned by the foot of an invader; the latter, undecayed by the lapse of time and untorn by usurpation, to the latest generation that fate shall permit the world to know. This task of gratitude to our fathers, justice to ourselves, duty to posterity, and love for our species in general, all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

Here then, is one point at which danger may be expected.

The question recurs, "how shall we fortify against it?" The answer is simple. Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate in the least particular, the laws of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support

of the Constitution and Laws, let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor;-let every man remember that to violate the law, is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the character of his own, and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws, be breathed by every American mother, to the lisping babe, that prattles on her lap--let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in Primers, spelling books, and in Almanacs;--let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

While ever a state of feeling, such as this, shall universally, or even, very generally prevail

throughout the nation, vain will be every effort, and fruitless every attempt, to subvert our national freedom.

When I so pressingly urge a strict observance of all the laws, let me not be understood as saying there are no bad laws, nor that grievances may not arise, for the redress of which, no legal provisions have been made.--I mean to say no such thing. But I do mean to say, that, although bad laws, if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible, still while they continue in force, for the sake of example, they should be religiously observed. So also in unprovided cases. If such arise, let proper legal provisions be made for them with the least possible delay; but, till then, let them, if not too intolerable, be borne with."

I wish all our readers a blessed Christmas and ever good wish for the New Year.

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2016 St. Patrick's
Day Parade Queen
Erin Mulcahy

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2017 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest

James F. Coyne, General Chairman of the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade, today announced plans for a city-wide search for "Chicago's fairest Colleen." She will represent the Chicago Irish community as the Queen of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Queen and her court of four will be expected to attend civic, neighborhood, parish, and Irish events on behalf of the parade committee.

Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, 18-28 years old, is eligible to enter the contest. Entrants should send a snapshot with name, age, address, phone number and brief biography and explanation on why you want to be Queen.

Application fee is \$25.00. Download a copy of the application and pay fee online by visiting our website at

www.chicagostpatricksdaysparade.org.

Checks will also be accepted. Please make checks payable to Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. If mailing application, send to Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Attn: Queen Contest, P.O. Box 16215, Chicago, Illinois 60616. Contest finals will be held Sunday, January 15, 2017, in the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60607. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

The Parade will be held in Downtown Chicago on Saturday, March 11, 2017.



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Your Life in 2017!

How will your life next year be different from your life this past year? When we were kids we got to ask for a "do over" if something didn't turn out as planned. "Do over's" are a thing of the past..... but as adults know, there are "start overs" that occur each January. We are gifted with a fresh new year every 365 days. What do you want to do with your gift called 2017?

In an article by Professor Al Gini of Loyola University he reminds us that we need to look carefully at how we are spending our life. His research says, on average, a double income couple with two children put in 16.5 hours a day on work, community and chores. That only leaves 7.5 hours for tender love and care, plus sleep.

Maybe you might want to re-think your goals for the New Year; do they sound too big already?

Are you really planning on a HAPPY new year? I am convinced that the expression, Happy New Year, is just that for many of us; it's a greeting, it is NOT an expectation. We don't really plan to be HAPPY during the next year. Some people say that you can't control your life; I disagree. Just watch how people conduct themselves on a day to day basis. See how people doing any variety of jobs are smiling and pleasant whether they are cleaning your teeth, making you your Starbuck coffee or delivering the mail, aren't they normally smiling? People adjust to their circumstances.

You need to have dreams in order to achieve dreams. Too many of us are comfortable settling for a mediocre job & salary with a low grade future. We don't face the future with gusto; we view it as "same old, same old, that's the way it has always been." I simply reject that approach to life. Why can't you improve your circumstances? Perhaps we have been conditioned to accept our "station" in life? My wife and I watch a WTTW program

called "Indian Summers"; it is set in India during the 1930's. The local people have been conditioned to accept second class citizenship; they don't think much about improving their circumstances or getting a better job. They take what they have been given and are thankful for that. It pains me to watch the program, perhaps because it reflects not only the reality of the 1930's in India, but I would contend, it reflects the current state of things in our beloved USA. We have been conditioned to accept the status quo.

Can we do anything about it? We can complain about our status in the world or we can respond more positively about it. The famous Irish novelist and poet, James Joyce, wrote it is "Better to pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion then fade and wither dimly with age". ABSOLUTELY YES we can do something about our status, but we need to re-calibrate our thinking.

If you don't think you are advancing in your career, consider this five step approach. First, talk to your boss: what specific steps does s/he suggest you should take to advance yourself? Second, determine what deficiencies would be corrected with more education and then set a schedule for the completion of those requirements. Third, seek the counsel of two or three mentors who can guide you through the organizational thickets. Seek their advice on a regular basis. Fourth, always remember you are in charge of your career, not the Human Resources Department or your boss. Fifth, periodically review your status and make a STAY or LEAVE decision.

Whether you decide to stay or leave your current organization, do some honest evaluation of how you are projecting yourself to your boss, your fellow employees, and the world at large. There is an expression used by motivational speakers that could be the title for

part one of our remedial program (of three)"FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT." This statement reflects the belief that your abilities are probably better at any given task than you are willing to believe. Maybe we don't accept this belief due to our fear of failure; we don't want to embarrass ourselves. Next time you are confronted with a situation that requires an action –beyond your known abilities— consider the truthful down side, what's the worst thing that could happen? Give it a try. Step out of your comfort zone.

The second part of our approach to enhance the perception that people have of you is to SPEAK POSITIVELY. "How can this challenge be met?" "What steps should be taken to achieve my goal?" Rather than saying such things as "we are never going to find a solution for this mess". Taking a POSITIVE approach or looking at the problem from a different angle will be far more likely to succeed.

Third, LIVE IT! There is the scientifically validated Law of Attraction which says that your positive conduct and action will attract other like-minded people. Look for evidence of this Law all around you every day. "Doers" tend to attract other doers, not duds.

So as we approach the New Year think about how the adoption of these three concepts could be more helpful to you than a long list of resolutions. According to research, only 8% of people stick with their resolutions for the whole year. It is my suggestion that these three attitude changes are a much better bet for you in the New Year. Try them. CARPE DIEM.

For Your Consideration

We are most effective as a team when we compliment each other without embarrassment and disagree without fear.

Unknown

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

James F. Fitzgerald is President of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-Based Senior Executive Coaching and Career Transition Firm.
#630-420-0362

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Dally Investor

By John P. Daly



Bonds and Interest Rates Again

We started 2016 with the idea that the Federal Reserve Bank might raise interest rates 4 times in 2016. This expectation was set after the Fed increased interest rates by 0.25% in December 2015. Falling oil prices, volatility with the global economy and some disappointing economic numbers had the Fed put the brakes on any increases. A September rate hike was thought to be a possibility but the Fed decided not to raise rates in their September meeting. However, they did plant the seed for a rate hike before the end of the year. Most likely in their December meeting, after we get through the election. With potential interest rate hikes on the horizon, I thought this would be a good time to review what effect rising interest rates have on bond investors.

Interest rates and bonds have an inverse relationship. That means when interest rates go up, bond prices fall. So as a bond investor, you risk losing money on your bonds. In a rising interest rate environment, bond fund investors will see principal values decline until rates level off or dip again. A diversified bond fund will reinvest interest payments into new bonds with higher coupons, however – meaning investors will see larger interest payments with time.

Now that is the simple, straightforward explanation. However, it is more complex than that. The maturity date of your bonds and the type of bonds that you own will give you more insight as to how they will respond to interest rate hike. Just like there are many different types of stocks out there; growth and value, small and large, international and domestic. There are different types of bonds. And those different types of bonds have responded different in the past to interest rate hikes. One area investors should be aware of is the maturity of their bond portfolio. Longer maturity bonds

have more interest rate risk. Meaning, they will be more negatively affected by a rise in interest rates. One way investors have been trying to minimize this risk is to shift their bond investments to more short term bonds, which have a lower risk to interest rate hikes. The downside of this move is that shorter maturity bonds tend to pay a lower interest rate.

Should investors sell their bonds before interest rates go up? I don't believe so. Investors need to understand how bonds work and why they own them. Bonds can have several functions in a portfolio. They can be used to generate income. They can be used to preserve capital. And they can be used to lower a portfolio's volatility. Get a good understanding of what type of bonds you own, why you own them, and what the risk is associated with those bonds if interest rates go up. This might lead you to adjusting your bond portfolio to be better prepared for rising rates, but it is unlikely that getting out of bonds all together is the right move.

Higher rates have not always imperiled the bond market. Since 1975, our economy has witnessed six rising interest rate environments. They lasted from two to five years with T-bill rates increasing between 2.3-11.9%. In those six instances, the total annual return for Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index ranged from 2.6-11.9%, with most of the total annual returns at between 4-6%. In short, no disaster for a bond investor.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Dally Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning & wealth management. 312-239-1317 john@dallyinvestment.com You are encouraged to contact him with questions regarding investments or financial planning.



Leadership Awardee Mary Dillon, 2nd from left, and Family.



John McEneaney, Imelda Gallagher, and Seamus Byrne at the AIF Gala.



Steve and Peggy Lombardo, and Kieran McLoughlin enjoying the American Ireland Fund Gala.



Declan Cooney, Paul O'Connell, and Robert Sullivan enjoying the Gala before Paul and the Irish Rugby team beat New Zealand All Blacks for the first time in 111 years, 40-29 at Soldier Field on November 5th!



Senator Billy Lawless receives yet another award, this time in Boston, at the Golden Bridges Awards on November 18th. He received the Courage of Connaught Award.



L-R: Tourism Ireland Executive Shane Clark, Chicago Alderman Patrick Thompson, Irish Senator Billy Lawless, Minister Shane Ross, Tourism Ireland Executive Alison Metcalfe, Partnership Chairman Michael Clune, and Partnership Chief Executive Mary Sugrue at the Irish American Partnership Breakfast held in October, 2016.



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Although Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is nearly upon us, I'd like to carry over my favorite dish from the overflowing Thanksgiving table to the festively dressed and curated Christmas table. That adaptable, crowd-pleasing dish is...stuffing. I find its easy versatility perfect for both holidays.

Now, you have to understand that I prefer cooking my stuffing

other dishes on the table like a culinary masterpiece. Plates were clutched in eager hands lining up for large spoonfuls of the yet to be discovered disaster.

What seemed like endless chewing commenced with teeth attempting to bite through the surprisingly tough pancetta.

"Oh no, you forgot to remove the paper from the pancetta," my mother said as she pulled the fork



separate from the bird. It has never appealed to me to stuff the rear of the freshly plucked holiday star with an assortment of many-days old breads – rye, sourdough, wheat – celery, garlic, onion, sage, egg and yes, pancetta.

During one unfortunate incident, in my haste to throw together my stuffing (the kitchen was busy that year), I left the parchment paper between the thin slices of pancetta. How I didn't notice while I was slicing the cured meat is beyond me. All of it went into the oven only to be discovered later by unlucky diners.

With both hands snug in oven mittens, I pulled the perfectly cooked stuffing out of the oven and brought it to the table. The dish looked like it was taken straight out of the pages of Bon Appétit magazine: It glistened in my red Le Creuset casserole dish, standing out among the

away from her mouth and po-

Sage, Onion and Pancetta Stuffing

(Adapted slightly from Jamie Oliver's "The best roast turkey - Christmas or any time" recipe)

- Sprigs fresh sage, leaves picked
- 12 strips pancetta, sliced (remove the parchment paper!)
- 1 bulb garlic, peeled and broken into cloves
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled and chopped
- 2 sticks celery, trimmed and chopped
- 1 1/2 big handfuls breadcrumbs (days old rye, sourdough, wheat)
- 1 handful dried apricots, sliced
- 1 lemon, zest of
- 1 pinch grated nutmeg
- 1 large free-range egg
- sea salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Heat a saucepan until medium hot and add a splash of olive oil, the sage leaves and the sliced pancetta. Peel and chop garlic cloves (to taste) and 1 onion. Add the garlic, celery and onion to the saucepan and fry everything gently until soft and golden brown. Take the pan off the heat, add the breadcrumbs and, while the mix is cooling down, chop the apricots roughly and stir them in. When the stuffing has cooled down, add the lemon zest, nutmeg, egg and lots of salt and pepper, and mix everything together well. Place the stuffing in a casserole dish, cover and set in the oven for 40-50 minutes. Check periodically to make sure the dish doesn't dry out.

lately tucked a piece of the paper plus pancetta into her napkin.

I stared at the dish, looking for evidence and upon seeing it, my cheeks flushed with embarrassment and I mouthed: "Oops."

And then the table burst into laughter with a few stuffing lovers giving the ruined dish a playful nibble. "It's not so bad," my brother murmured. The ruined recipe found a new home in the bin, where our pesky black and tan Dachshund eyed the treat and was quickly shooed away by my mother (at least some creature would have enjoyed it).

The stuffing, when made without mishaps, will fill your kitchen with the delicious smells of Christmas: fragrant fresh sage, savory yellow onion, fatty and salty pancetta. Browning the onion and sage together get you off on the right foot and then, the rest of the recipe flows from there with no need to ever stick your hand near the turkey's rear end.

A note about the bread: Collect days old bread ahead of time, cut the loaves into large cubes for a chunkier stuffing. I like to check the grocery store for days old bread because they usually have a good assortment of options – be creative!

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hi Everyone,
Congratulations to Pauline Conneely. I was looking through Facebook a couple of weeks back and saw her playing on stage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. The great comedian and multy instrumentalist Mike Snider heard Pauline play her banjo and invited her on the show. The crowd loved her and why wouldn't they? Things are really taking off for Pauline and it's great to be able to witness what she is doing for the Irish traditional scene.

I will join Eamonn McDonagh on Sean Ginnelly's "Good Morning Ireland" radio show at Christmastime. Eamonn is doing some recording at my studios at the moment. He has a wonderful singing voice and of course with all his acting experience (Chicago Fire TV show and numerous plays etc.) he has also got an outstanding gift for doing speeches or monologues. He recorded a well known story

called "The Little Pub In London." It will be played on the program, so tune in.

There's a breath of fresh air that's just blown into the Irish country music scene. A man who has become a very dear friend and writing partner. His name is Jordan Moge, from Ballymoney, County Antrim. Jordan's latest single, which has just hit the airwaves, is titled "Luke The Drifter." It's a statement about modern, so called, "Country Music" and also a ghost story in the bargain. It's written by Jordan and myself and is one of the very special songs that I've been involved in over the years. We have written about one hundred songs together so far, and I'm sure there will be many more. The song is only available from this site at the moment. Here is the link. <http://www.isgmusicgroup.com/product/luke-the-drifter-mp3/>.

I had a really nice phone conversation with a living legend of

guitar/singing/songwriting and one of the finest band leaders Ireland has ever produced. His name is Declan Nerney, who so many people know and love. If you look through any record collection in an Irish household, I'm sure you'll find Declan, there with all the other great's. Declan is a typical funny and sincere Irish character and his way of wording a conversation will brighten anyone's day. I asked him when he got his first guitar and he said "I was twelve and the guitar was twelve pounds" (in money that is). He told me he would put any spare penny's he had into an old jam jar, until he had the price of the guitar he'd been dreaming about. It was in the music shop window in Longford. He said "the whole story is in a song I wrote with Henry McMahan called, "The Marque In Drumlish." It's about his hometown of Drumlish, Co. Longford and how his love for music began. They have a very famous Marque in Drumlish every year, and as a young boy Declan would talk his mother into taking him to see bands like - Joe Dolan and the Drifters, Big Tom and the Mainliners and all the super stars of that time. The song is like a biography of his childhood and musical career. Some of the bands he had played lead guitar with include Brian Coll and the Buckaroo's, Gene Stewart and the Homesteader's, Gerry and the Hi Lows, plus lots of studio sessions with his outstanding Fender Telecaster playing. I guess you could say Declan was chickin' pickin' (term used for the Nashville style of guitar picking) while we were pluckin' chicken's. That part of his musical journey took him to the late 80's. He then started his own Band and has been filling venues for 28 years. He plays like the guitar and him are one. Declan has appeared on TV shows, and before 65,000 people at Croke Park. His life would make a great movie. As it says on his website, when asked "what else is in the pipeline Declan?" His answer - "I've a lot of other tricks up my sleeve" smiles Nerney. Well, Declan Nerney, proud farmers son and just a real pleasure to know. Thank you so much for your time and your contribution to the

"It Left A Little Mark Behind"

Written by Joe McShane

It all began so long ago first day I started school
And from then on they told me I'd broke their golden rule
But every morning I'd head off after hugging momma dear
I loved my momma oh so much I never let her see my tears
So winter, summer, spring or fall I'd stand out in the hall
Confused by all the cruelty my back against the wall
A big man stared upon me there was no compromise
As the leather strap came down on me I tried to close my eyes
Chorus

It left a little mark behind, I still don't understand
But I walked away contented I took it like a man
I swear sometimes I do believe, I didn't have a friend
It's taken me a lifetime to reach this journey's end
Told I never would succeed and taken for a ride
But throughout all the hard times I held on to my smile
The one my momma gave me with love no one could steal
It's thanks to her dear loving heart, that I can start to heal
So thank you for the lessons but it's time to heal the scar
I don't have to mention names, you know who you are
I'll just take a long deep breath and leave it all behind
I guess you'll find another fool, a different place another time
Chorus

It left a little mark behind, I still don't understand
But I walk away contented I took it like a man
I swear sometimes I do believe, I didn't have a friend
It's taken me a lifetime to reach this journey's end
The doors of opportunity you closed down for a while
Don't mean a thing to me right now,,,
I've still got my momma's smile

music scene. "Thank you Joe and we'll see you in the summer 2017 in Ireland. Happy Christmas to all in Chicago and USA". "The same with you Declan and all at home in Ireland." When I put the phone down after talking with him, I had a smile on my face that I took to bed with me. Long may he grace the stage.

This months song is about unconditional love, that I recieved from my parents. Followed by what I can only describe as a nightmare. One that lasted throughout my school days. I had all I could take of that, so I left school at age fourteen and started to work in construction. As a songwriter I have learned the best way to make a song have feeling, is to say it like it is. The second part of this song speaks about my love of music. And also subtly about the way I had to accept the fact that the "music business" is very far removed from the unconditional love of my parents, as was the school days scenario. Suffice to mention trivial stuff like being called up to sing by

bands and witness them messing with the amplifiers, to make the microphone sound as bad as possible. Which I now take as a compliment, thank you. The strokes that have been pulled to try and stop me from furthering my career. I also now take that as a compliment and I say thank you again. It hurt for the years I was made to feel like a third class person. When you come from a simple, loving, hard working family, you don't realize, there are people that see you coming and are ready to take advantage. It took a while but I now thank them for the experience of it all. As my song suggests, I still have my Mother's smile. That's reward enough. Thank you Mom and Dad R.I.P.

Next month I have another very special song written by Joe Cullen, Nathan Carter and myself recorded by Nathan's brother Jake.

On that note (no pun intended) I want to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

As always, be good to one another, Joe.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Irish Reportage and the Rise of Counter-Culture

This second part of a column on a new volume, *Great Irish Reportage*, examines the role that journalism played in challenging Ireland's views of itself in the 1970s and 1980s.

Naturally, dissent in Irish journalism predates that watershed. Consider, for example, in this volume an article by Honor Tracy. Tracy became a pariah by merely describing the way in which a Catholic Canon in a country parish had enriched himself, stirring his parishioners to raise funds for his new house. More unflinchingly, Protestant dissent against Catholic intolerance flows from the pen of the great Hubert Butler. Butler's exposé of religious bigotry during the Fethard-on-Sea boycott of Protestants is the best essay in this book. It manages to capture so much of post-partition Southern Irish attitudes in one sweep that it should be prescribed reading in every secondary school in Ireland.

There is also Gertrude Gaffney's polemic in response to our constitution's callous exclusion of women from the workplace; a compelling article in part because Gaffney

manages to implicitly refute the constitution's claims by writing in a modern and self-confident idiom. Articles 40 and 41 of our constitution impeded the natural progress of women in Irish society for at least two generations, and responsibility for those disabling Articles falls four-square on Éamon de Valera's shoulders. Gaffney ranks de Valera in the company of Hitler for his comparably reactionary policies towards women. (How Dev's shade might writhe when, starting in the 1990, we had twenty-one consecutive years of women presidents who proved that they could occupy the country's highest office better than he could.) Even so, this volume's compiler, John Horgan, provides telling editorial input that Gaffney was a champion of General Franco, who was enacting in Spain exactly the policies that Gaffney found objectionable in Ireland.

Women's sexuality is further explored in Mary Maher's brave account of the inhumane treatment of working class women in our maternity wards, while Mary Kenny's article, dating from the 1960s, does similar investigative work on

the canal banks of Dublin's South Side, speaking to prostitutes long before it was thinkable that the national broadcaster would televise or document the sex trade.

Yet these voices are salient partly because they are so rare. Dissent against the Church and the State in periodicals was successfully silenced, insofar as it was attempted at all, in the half century since partition. In Northern Ireland to articulate the abuses of the state in a newspaper was to face an even more comprehensive climate of censorship.

The 1960s, it is said, came to Ireland a decade late. When it did arrive, however, it brought with it a range of new personalities who founded periodicals to give voice to a new counter culture. This generation could either leave the country or, provided that they managed to get a job, stay. Those who stayed were largely underwhelmed by what they found; as Colm Tóibín put it: "Ireland in the 1970s was a great country to emigrate from". They wrote about it and wrote against it. The educated young people who remained were brave and open about their socialist or feminist or homosexual agendas.

Journalists like Nell McCafferty, Colm Tóibín and Gene Kerrigan became Irish proponents of Tom Wolfe's ethic of personalising news story writing and cultivating journalism as a literary form. They, among others, swept aside the stagnancy and introspection that had characterised Irish journalism since partition. Vincent

Browne's magazine, *Magill* (one of several innovative periodicals) gave the new crop of journalists vehicle to write what they thought. For instance, a long article, reproduced in *Great Irish Reportage*, which Gene Kerrigan wrote for *Magill* in 1983 in defence of Irish people who resisted the introduction of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, which formally banned abortion, is eerily contemporary over thirty years later.

The most surprising piece in this collection from the point of view of challenging orthodoxies is not really an article at all: Vincent Browne conducts a lengthy interview with Mary McAleese before her election as President of Ireland as a Fianna Fáil candidate. Browne's line of questioning focusses on the praise McAleese heaped on Fianna Fáil leaders of yore: Éamon de Valera ('the greatest visionary Ireland has had') and her fulsome admiration of Charlie Haughey. How to reconcile McAleese's feminism with an identification with de Valera, or political integrity with an analysis of Haughey as admirable? McAleese was, when she won the popular vote, a jumble of contrary pulls—feminist yet traditional, pro-gay rights yet Catholic, northern yet adopted by a mainstream southern political party. Browne's forensic approach made for a great interview.

Here I will make a case for an article that may have been included. While several articles collected here confront the Northern Irish Troubles, one article by Eamonn McCann treating of the way in which the violence in the North transformed a natural affinity in among Southerners for their Northern counterparts to indifference or worse, would have been welcome. McCann has continually illustrated how the continuation of atrocities in the North created a distance between the Southern and Northern jurisdictions; and how those attitudes were deftly justified by the organs of the State. His 2012 feature on the fortieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, arguing that that massacre sealed a partitionist view of the Troubles, deserves to be anthologised. And McCann certainly belongs in the pantheon of great Irish journalists, whatever the criteria for selection may be.

The range, style and courage of these articles make this a book destined to endure. In a year in which the quality of public discourse has precipitously fallen this book is a timely reminder of what is so precious to preserve.

Great Irish Reportage edited by John Horgan is published by Penguin Ireland

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The Weir at Den Theatre

By **Conor McPherson**
Directed by **Siiri Scott**

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(costume design), Cat Wilson (lighting design), Joe Court (sound design) and Jen Bukovsky (stage manager).

Playwright: **Conor McPherson**
Director: **Siiri Scott**

Featuring: ensemble members Brad Armacost* (Jack), Jeff Christian* (Jim), Dan Waller* (Finbar) and Sarah Wellington* (Valerie), with guest artist Brad Smith (Brendan).

Location: The Den Theatre (2nd Floor), 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago

Dates: Preview: Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 pm



ofchicago.org. The press opening is Friday, December 16 at 7:30 pm.

The Weir features ensemble members Brad Armacost*, Jeff Christian*, Dan Waller* and Sarah Wellington*, with guest artist .

An enigmatic young woman from Dublin finds herself the center of attention at a local pub. Pints in hand, the local barflies recount ghostly yarns of the supernatural to impress and entertain her, but it is the visitor herself who relates the most unsettling story of all. McPherson wrote the hauntingly beautiful and humorous play *The Weir* at the age of 26, winning the Olivier Award for Best New Play, and the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright.

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Press performance: Friday, December 16 at 7:30 pm

Regular run: Saturday, December 17, 2016 – Sunday, January 22, 2017

Curtain Times: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm; Sundays at 3 pm. Please note: there will be added performances on Monday, December 26 at 7:30 pm (industry night) and Wednesday, December 28 at 7:30 pm; there will not be performances on Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day), Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) or Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day).

Tickets: Previews \$12. Regular run: \$26 Thursdays/Fridays; \$30 Saturday/Sundays. Seniors/students \$5 off. Tickets are available at www.irishtheatreofchicago.org.

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