



March • 2008

Eileen Kapolnek  
2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen

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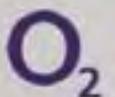


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### CCIR and ILIR Successfully Pressure Clinton for Immigration Reform Strategy

In a powerful one-two punch, the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, and the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform have the declaration they wanted from Senator Hillary Clinton. She has pledged to pursue a path to legalize law-abiding immigrants in her first 100 days in office. Now all she has to do is get elected!

December 1, 2007, in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Community Care Forum Billy Lawless, Chairman of Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, put Senator Hillary Clinton on the hot seat with the following question: "Senator Clinton, The chairman of the Democratic National Caucus Committee, Rahm Emmanuel, has advised the Democrats to avoid the immigration issue for fear of losing votes. This is a 180 degree turnaround to what he told 2000 of us here in Chicago, just six months ago. Do you support your colleague or would you show the courage and leadership to unite, not divide any further, the people of this country by making it a priority in your first 100 days in office to give undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship?"

"Well, I have been in favor of a path to citizenship for years. I have voted

for it in the Senate, I have spoken out about it around Iowa, and the country in this campaign, and as President, comprehensive Immigration reform will be a high priority for me," said Senator Clinton.

Mr. Lawless pressed Clinton with a follow up question. "What about the first 100 days Senator?" "Well, first you've got to get Congress to pass the legislation. The President can do as much as possible which I will do," she replied as she was roundly booed in the audience.

Since then, ILIR chairman Niall O'Dowd and Vice-Chairman Ciaran Staunton met with Senator Clinton on February 20th and urged her to announce a 100-day strategy at the debate after earlier submitting the same message to the campaign.

On February 21, 2008 Senator Clinton earned a huge cheer from the audience at the University of Texas when she said: "We need a path to legalization, to bring the immigrants out of the shadows. ... If they had committed a crime in our country or the country they came from, then they should be deported. But for everyone else, there must be a path to legalization. I would introduce that in the first 100 days of my presidency."



Jay Doherty, President of City Club of Chicago (left) with Terrence O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. O'Brien was a guest speaker at the City Club of Chicago's recent Public Policy Forum Series.

### Hibernian Leader Condemns Deportation of McAllister Kin

The leader of the nation's oldest and largest Irish Catholic organization has taken the U.S. government to task for the deportation of Jamie McAllister. "It is apparent that having failed in their efforts to extradite Jamie's father Malachy," stated Jack Meehan of Quincy, MA, "the U. S. government is taking its' revenge. This action is reprehensible, a mockery of priorities and truly unjust."

"Folly such as this has become all too common," claimed Meehan, "with governments that have lost their sense of priorities. They take comfort

in one shallow publicity stunt after another while real problems and real solutions seem beyond their grasp."

Concluded President Meehan: "I will be urging our members and their families to share their opinion of this latest outrage with their elected officials and the U.S. Department of Justice. For far too long the lives of some of our members have been ruined to satisfy the ego of small minded bureaucrats and vindictive public officials who have lost all perspective of what it means to be a public servant."

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**The Sales Pitch**



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



**The One Hundred Thousand Dollar Question**

If you knew of something, and your gut told you, this could be big! Would you do something about it?

Well, I went to a reading of the script in 2005, "The Quiet Man Tales," and thoroughly enjoyed it.

I'm not a big fan of plays. I like movies. There isn't a lot of bad acting in most of the movies I pick. You never know with a play. Some are great, and some are great big bores!

I believe this one could be great. "Quiet Man Tales," is a play developed out of the book, Green Rushes. The same book the epic movie, "The Quiet Man," came out of. You know, Maureen O'Hara, John Wayne, Barry Fitzgerald etc!

The play is a saga about men and women who are part of the Irish War of Independence and what happens to them after all the fighting is over. It's about love, and loyalty and friendship—like the symbols of a Claddagh ring.

The reading struck me as so good, that I would enjoy seeing the play even if the actors were reading their lines all the time!

The way I see it, any play that comes out of the same book as "The Quiet Man" is something special.

So, when Frank Mahon told me he was looking for investors, I stuck my neck out and told several of my friends that this play could be a real winner. I believe it could be a play seen around the world, and eventually become another great movie.

To stage the play correctly, Frank is raising \$260,000 dollars. He's now within \$100,000 dollars of his goal. My hats off to those that have invested. A play is always a risk, and they could lose their investment. But I believe this risk is well worth taking. Every year somebody makes it big in plays and movies.

There will never be another "Quiet Man" with the likes of Maureen

**Brave a Shave for St. Baldrick's**

St. Baldrick's Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research, plans to raise \$17 million, hold 600 events and shave 25,000 heads this year. With a goal of "Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer," St. Baldrick's coordinates worldwide head-shaving events, with volunteer shavers raising money to support childhood cancer research. "Volunteer shavers, barbers and organizers are needed to make 2008 a

record-setting year for the foundation," says Kathleen Ruddy, Executive Director, St. Baldrick's Foundation. "Not quite ready to brave a shave? That's okay too! Supporters are welcome to stop by one of the hundreds of events planned and show their support in the fight to cure childhood cancer."

Interested supporters can visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org) to locate an event in their community, organize an event, pledge to shave or donate money to the foundation.

For more information about St. Baldrick's, please call 1-888-899-BALD or visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org).

O'Hara and John Wayne, but there is room for the next generation of Irish success stories.

If you want to be a small or large part of this, contact frank for more information at [fjmahon@aol.com](mailto:fjmahon@aol.com).

Frank has been writing columns about the play for the last six months. They can be read at [www.irishamericannews.com](http://www.irishamericannews.com). Go to columnists, find Frank Mahon and click on. His last column about his adventure will run in our April, 2008 edition.

I'm a small publisher with not a lot of funds, but I'm going to scrape together a group to handle a share of this. Every once in a while you CAN get in on the ground floor!

**Ireland on Parade at Gaelic Park**

Celebrating its 41st year, "Ireland on Parade," will present the music, song and dance of the Emerald Isle at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. in Oak Forest, starting on Friday, March 7 through March 17, 2008.

The program starts at 7:00 each night and features various Irish Dancing Schools, Set and Ceili Dancers, Singers, and Irish Musicians, from the Chicago Metro area. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Food and refreshments will be available.

There will be a drawing each night for two tickets to Ireland donated by Gaffney Travel Service of Oak Lawn; winner to be announced at the St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Proceeds will help the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

Other entertainers from Ireland and various parts of the US will be celebrating St. Patrick's week at Gaelic Park. Call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323 for times and dates.

**Share Foundation 17th Annual Spring Luncheon**

Members of the Lake, La Porte & Porter County chapters of the Share Foundation Service League are holding their 17th Annual Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, March 12th at 10:30 a.m. in Schererville's Halls of St. George. The Luncheon will benefit the Share Foundation's residential and camp programs for handicapped/other abled adults. A donation of \$30 per person includes a delicious meal, an array of fabulous door prizes, entertainment and the great company of many Share Foundation supporters.

Reservations are required so please make yours by calling the Share Foundation at 219-778-2585, Shirley Ladendorf, chairperson, at 219-845-3291 or by emailing the foundation directly at [share@sharefoundation.org](mailto:share@sharefoundation.org). Your support is greatly appreciated.

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For the Chicago downtown parade Saturday March 15th, look for  
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Celebrate your Irish roots by joining the  
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For information call Billy Lawless,  
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## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



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.

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.HealyLawFirm.com](http://www.HealyLawFirm.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

### The Rights of Those Confined to Nursing Homes – Part I

Across the state, there are hundreds of thousands of disabled people and elderly residing in nursing homes. These individuals are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Because of this they need to be protected from those who would do them harm. In Illinois, we have a comprehensive Nursing Home Care Act which provides all residents of nursing homes with certain established rights and simultaneously prohibits any form of abuse or neglect of the elderly, infirm or disabled. This article will address the rights that those in nursing homes have. Future articles will discuss the responsibilities of nursing home administrators and employees, and what happens when these rights and responsibilities are violated.

### Constitutional Rights

First and foremost, a resident of a nursing home retains all of the rights guaranteed them by the Illinois and United States Constitution. This includes rights to free speech, to practice one's religion and to be free from an unlawful search. Specifically, upon request, and if necessary at the resident's expense, the administrator of a nursing home must make arrangements for the resident to attend religious services of the resident's choice. Conversely, no resident can be forced to attend any religious services or have any religious practices imposed on them.

### The Right to Manage Your Financial Affairs

Also, residents are guaranteed a right to manage their own financial affairs. Of course, some residents because of physical or mental infirmity cannot manage their own affairs. However, like any other person, a resident must first be adjudicated a

disabled person by a court, or voluntarily appoint another person manager of his financial affairs before he can lose his rights to manage his own finances. The mere fact that a resident is confined to a nursing home will not be sufficient to strip him or her of this right.

### Physical and Chemical Restraints and Confinement

Another important right is the right not to be restrained or confined for the purpose of punishment or for the convenience of the homes personnel. This includes restraint not just by physical force, but through the use of drugs. Separately, the Act provides that no resident will be given unnecessary drugs, including excessive doses of an already approved drug. If restraints are used, a resident has the right to notify a

person or organization of his choosing, including the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission. The Act further provides that a resident must be informed of this right once restraints are applied.

Restraints are to be used only as a last resort. Prior to their use, a consultation should be had with an appropriate health professional, and if possible, a trial of less restrictive measures should be used, or, it should be decided that such measures would not be practicable, given the physical or mental condition of the resident.

Again, there will be instances where it is necessary to restrain a resident to avoid harm to himself or others. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that this is the true need for the restraint, and not merely a tool for employees to use to avoid caring for the resident. Likewise, restraints should not be used to punish a "hard to care for" resident.

### Visitors and Communication

All residents are also guaranteed the right to private and uncensored mail and telephone communication, as well as visitors. A nursing home must make sure that it is easy to receive mail, and that telephones are accessible to residents. Also, a nursing home must allow private visits at any reasonable hour, unless there is some medical impediment to a visit. Any medical impediment must be documented in the resident's medical chart by his physician.

Additionally, a physician may order that a resident's mail be restricted

or censored, but only to protect the resident or others from harm, harassment or intimidation. However, any letter to the Governor, members of the General Assembly, the Attorney General, judges, state's attorneys, officers of the Department of Public Health or attorneys cannot be read and must be immediately forwarded to the addressee. Likewise, any letter in reply sent from one of these officials or an attorney must immediately be delivered to the resident and cannot be examined by personnel at the nursing home.

These rights guaranteeing free communications with a resident are very important because without them, a nursing home could deny access to an abused resident using the guise of medical necessity.

### The Right to be Discharged

Many people fear ever going to a nursing home because they are afraid they will not be released when they are ready to go home. The Act provides that a resident may be discharged from a nursing home once he gives written notice to the administrator, a physician or a nurse. Of course, if a resident has a guardian appointed that guardian's consent is necessary before a resident will be discharged.

### The Right Not to be Abused or Neglected

Finally, no owner, administrator, employee or agent of a nursing home may abuse or neglect a resident. More importantly, if anyone associated with a nursing home becomes

aware of such abuse or neglect they must report it to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Abuse or failure to report abuse can result in a facility losing its license as well as steep fines and even criminal prosecutions both for those who committed abuse and those who knew about the abuse but failed to report it. Additionally, the nursing home can be civilly liable for damages and attorney's fees.

The next article will more fully explore the duties a nursing home owes to its residents as well as the civil liability of nursing homes.

By: John P. Scanlon and Dennis M. Lynch



The O'Sullivan Award was presented to the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, for 'Best Band' in the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Parade, downtown Chicago. (l to r): Colm Murphy, Cyril Reagan, James T. Sullivan, Billy Lawless, Breandán Magee, and Austin Kelly.

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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



They eventually helped him escape back to his home and parents, but he now longed to go back to Ireland to teach the gospel and convert the people.

His parents sent him to Rome where he became

a priest and was assigned back to Ireland as a missionary. In union with other priests he began his mission and as we all know it was a very successful one.

Over the years at home and abroad the Irish, wherever they settled, wore the shamrock with pride and celebrated March 17 with parades, song, dance and music. St. Patrick had become their apostle and they showed their love and appreciation for his great work and effort.

Here in Chicago it all began in 1953, shortly after the reactivation of the Gaelic Athletic Association. U.S. immigration had opened up after a 15 year absence caused by the great economic depression, World War II and restrictive U.S. immigration laws. Our city got its share of the "New Seed," perhaps the best of the lot. After a

Chicago Parades to Honor St. Patrick Sunday March 9 - Saturday March 15

Once again Chicago Irish and others (everyone loves to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day) will honor the memory of Ireland's Apostle St. Patrick, a great missionary and saint, with two big parades March 9th on the great Southside along South Western Avenue, starting at noon at 103rd, and the official one in the downtown area, along Columbus, adjacent to beautiful Lake Michigan on Saturday March 15, again starting at noon.

Strange as it may seem St. Patrick was not Irish. He was born in Brittany of noble parents and was kidnapped by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland, where he was sold to farmers to watch their sheep on the Irish hills.

Young Patrick watching his sheep often felt lonely for his parents, but began to love the Irish peasants who treated him as one of their own.

request from the GAA to the more established Irish Americans like Jack Allen, Fire Capt. Charlie O'Sullivan, Johnny Joyce, Tom McNamara, and Police Capt. Bill Hennessy, and some meetings in Jack Allen's basement, the first parade in honor of the good saint was on 79th Street, ending at St. Sabina's where the late Cardinal Stritch officiated at benediction.

On the northwest side some other fine Irishmen and women were also planning such a celebration. Men like Tommy Ryan, John Cashlin, Walter Philbin, Dan Lydon, and Maureen O'Looney put it all together, and marched around St. Mels church for a start. It too was a great success.

When Mayor Richard J. Daley was elected Mayor in 1955, he called representatives of the two parades to his office and hammered out a deal that the City of Chicago would sponsor the official parade on the feast day and the two communities could hold their own on the Sunday prior to the feast day; hence the two parades.

So as we march along in both parades let's be mindful and thankful for the herculean efforts that started it all and passed it along to other generations who have greatly improved the two big celebrations, in memory of St. Patrick and Ireland. "Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our Isle, on us thy poor children, look down with a smile. And now thou are high in the mansion above, on Ireland's green valley's look down with your love."

2016 Olympic Games to Generate 2.5 Billion

If Chicago is lucky and is nominated to host the 2016 Olympic Games, \$2.5 billion will be generated in City revenues, according to dynamic Pat Ryan, chairman of the Chicago committee. That figure is almost a billion more than top rivals.

"When the games come to America," Mr. Ryan said, "there is a spike in television sponsorship, ticket sales and advertising," while unveiling initial financial expectations if Chicago gets to host the Games. London is a good example for our city, he explained, and they are expecting a \$2.6 billion turn over.

Other cities in the running with Chicago have much lower expectations including Rio de Janeiro \$750 million, \$754 million for Qatar, \$1.5 billion for Tokyo and \$1.6 billion for Madrid.

Chicago is boosting an operational amount of \$1 billion for the Olympic Village, which will house all the athletes, coaches etc. The Village is expected to be built above the McCormick Place truck yards. The bid team is also expected to build an aquatic center in Douglas Park, at a cost of over \$107 million.

If Chicago advances as a finalist in June it will have to present a detailed budget due in February 2009. The I.O.C. will select the host city in 2009. Mr. Ryan summed it all up with wise words, "it's not a slam—dunk by any means but, I believe that we have a huge market. It will be a lot of hard work, but we believe that revenue is there."

We wish the Chicago committee every success. It behooves every one of us to boost Chicago when we write our families and friends in other countries. It certainly would put Chicago on the global map and make our

city one of the most attractive for tourists in the world. Beannact De ar an oibre, Padraing O'Riine, God bless the good work, Pat Ryan, Chairman of the Chicago Committee.

Congratulations to Our Great Sports Writer, Sean Og Ceallachain

Our congratulations are extended to our fine sport columnist, Sean Og Ceallachain, who recently released another "must read book" entitled Giants of Gaelic Football — All-Time Greats. Sean was asked to write this book by the well known Fergal Tobin of Gill and McMillan and undertook the huge task knowing the numerous pitfalls that can arise from such an assignment, however well the author might put it all together.

But Sean on or off the playing field was never one to back away from an opponent or assignment and as he describes it in the preface, "however tough the going," he was going to give it his best try. That he did with great success, in my humble opinion. And I am sure a great majority of his readers will agree.

Mention of such football greats as Gerry O'Malley, (Roscommon) Mick Tynan (Limerick) Jim Wall (Waterford) and of course our own P. J. O'Dea (Clare)—outstanding men on any football field, who never received the recognition that they deserved is proof enough that this book is one that had to be written, if only for that one cause. Fair play to Sean and Fergal Tobin who saw this injustice and corrected it, in addition to full recognition for the all-time greats.

National T.V. Stations Biased on Election

Ray Flynn, well known Irish—American writer in a recent Irish Echo column deplored the coverage of the New Hampshire Primary, particularly the Democratic contest, calling it "as unprofessional as I have ever seen." He not only blamed the stupidity of the reporters, but he also had well deserved criticism for the commentators who read the story. In addition, he blamed the general managers for "letting them get away with it" and also the Federal Communications Commission for tolerating it. I agree with every word of his criticism. It's not in the best interest of either one of the candidates and certainly is not in the interest of impartial coverage, something that we all take for granted about our news media here in the United States.

I watched the coverage that particular night as I do every night and the entire coverage was like a paid announcement for one of the candidates in addition to denigrating the other candidate. I never saw anything like it. It was disgraceful in a great country that brags so much about fair play and impartial news coverage.

MSNBC and CNN are the culprits, and it was not just one commentator but the entire staff those nights and almost every night since and before. It is the same biased reporting and apparently few if any of the panelists are allowed to disagree. There's nothing wrong with that conduct if it is a paid announcement by the candidate, but when sponsors have to pick up the tab they should know that there are

Continued to page 16

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# Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



## Irish Short Stories

Brandon Twenty-Five is a collection of short stories celebrating the 25th anniversary of Brandon, the Irish publisher of outstanding fiction. The press release says "they have published many of the best-selling books in Ireland."

Thanks to DuFour Editions for bringing this book to the United States and making it available here.

The book contains short stories along with excerpts from novels. These excerpts are almost like complete short stories within a novel.

A short story is like a powerful painting on a small canvas; or a one-act play; or a virtuoso piece of music, rather than a symphony.

The short story author has an emotion, or awareness, as a goal and must accomplish this in only a few pages. The author doesn't have the luxury of the large scope and length of a novel, where a character or scene can be developed over many pages.

The collection includes some of my favorite authors: Ken Bruen, J.B. Keane, and Gerry Adams.

A nice feature of Brandon Twenty-Five is the biographical information about each author at the end of the book. This information is invaluable.

The biography of John B. Keane (1928-2002) says he was "one of Ireland's best loved and most prolific writers who achieved success not only as a playwright, but also as a novelist, poet, essayist, music composer and journalist."

When I was a young man I read Keane's Letters of a Postman. I was strongly impressed by his bittersweet, and very realistic, view of life's events. But that is so very Irish.

Keane published forty six works: seventeen plays, five novels, essays, etc. Among the plays are the powerful and memorable: Sive, The Field, Big Maggie, The Chastitute, Moll, The Buds of Ballyunion and many others. His work was loved because he wrote of what was important to Irish people. He reflected traditional culture and some of the changes taking place in modern Ireland.

When he began, Keane wrote about the Ireland of the 1950's and

1960's. The excerpt in this book is from The Bodhran Makers. It is about that period and is about Irish people and their growing self confidence which made them able to stand up to the arrogance and unlimited power of the clergy.

Why do I write about this long-ago period? I write for two reasons: when I grew up in Chicago and until I was a young man, the local pastor ruled our narrow world. He was a lot like the priest Keane describes. I am embarrassed to admit the priest was an Irish American. He was pompous, arrogant, and very unkind.

The other reason is the religious

certainty of some of our current self-righteous politicians who feel they have God on their side and have answers for every question.

Part of the excerpt from Keane's The Bodhran Maker describes a raid on a private house where a dance is taking place. It is late on a Saturday night and in a country area. The dancers are enjoying themselves after a week of hard work. Men and women can meet each other here. It is all very innocent. However the raiders aren't human enough to see this. The raiders are the parish priests.

Keane describes the dancing couples this way. "Countrified and

uncultured they might be but there was a certain dignity in the way they disported themselves."

The priests turn off the car's engine and headlights so they can't be seen coming into the farmyard. They sneak up on the house where the people are dancing.

They burst in, and one priest yells "How dare you abuse the Sabbath, you ungodly wretches?"

Many of the women fled "screaming into the night" at the sight of "roman collars." Most of the men also fled in a panic.

The priest rails on "it's past two o'clock in the morning, and you'll be entering the church of God in a few hours. Do not, under the pain of excommunication, enter my church with the sign of drink on you."

But times were changing, and people were becoming more confident. "As the Canon spoke his eyes took in [those who remained]. He noted the defiance on the faces, but it did not deter him. His eyes finally rested on [a woman]. The Canon surveyed her coldly and hostilely from head to toe before looking her in the face. She did not bend or deflect her head as he had anticipated. She returned his look without flinching until he was obliged to look elsewhere."

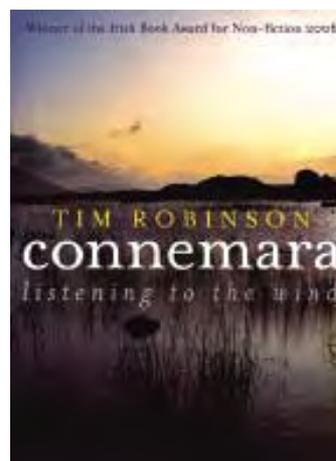
Our ancestors endured clerical self-importance. And this was another powerful reason why they came here.

A humorous quote I think you'll like is this. Keane begins this section with this wonderful description of the Canon's pious reading material. He shows the stupidity and absurdity of the Canon's later actions. "The Canon read The Messenger, his favorite religious publication, a forty-eight page compilation of stories, poems, prayers and serials, all with a decidedly Catholic slant. It cost only two pence and because of its flimsy paper cover, red in color, it was easily folded and pocketed. The Canon considered it ideal reading whenever he found time on his hands. When eventually he discarded it [the house keeper] painstakingly withdrew the leaves and divided each into two equal parts. These she hung in a bleak outdoor W.C. which served as the curates' toilet. It could be that she intended the bisected but still readable pages to serve as reminders of their priestly calling as well as fulfilling their primary toilet rolls. Old newspapers cut into approximately the same size supplemented The Messenger contributions."

## Connemara: Listening to the Wind

In Connemara: Listening to the Wind, author Tim Robinson takes reader to a beautiful region of Ireland, traveling through a fascinating landscape and history of a unique piece of the world. Winner of the Irish Book Award for non-fiction in 2006, scheduled for publication as a Penguin paperback original in the U.S. this month, Connemara is the story of a largely undiscovered place and the people that carry its long, often tragic, and always interesting history.

Connemara: Listening to the Wind by Tim Robinson. Penguin Group USA, New York, 2008.



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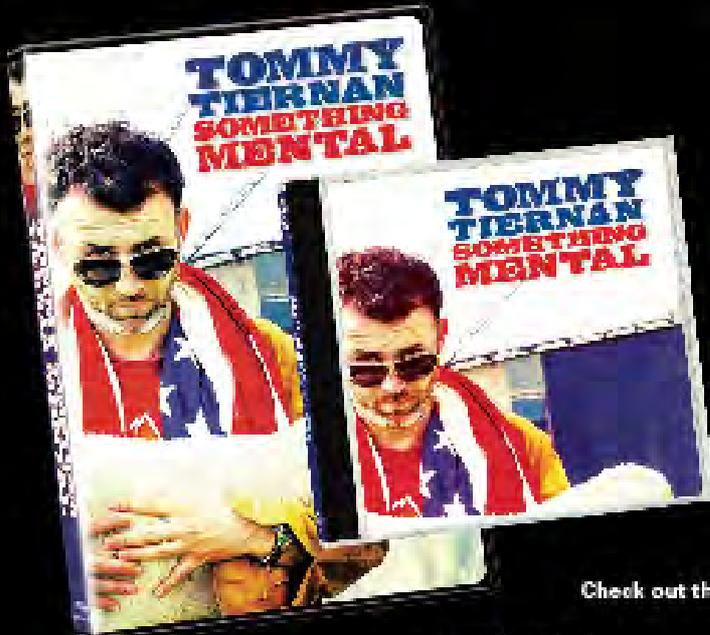
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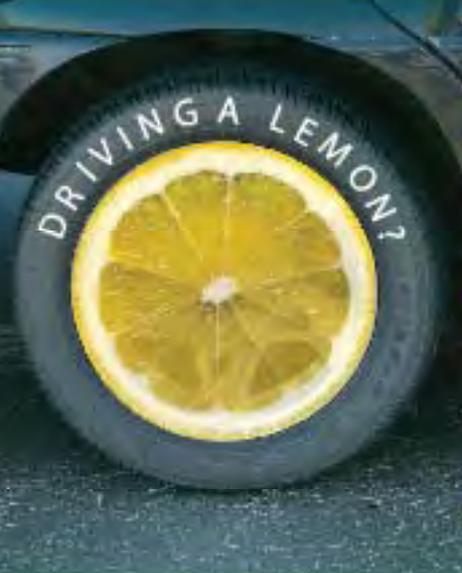



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## Lá Fhéile Pádraig

(low fayla pawdrig)

Translation: **Happy St. Patrick's Day**

## Ar mhaith leat deoch?

(ar way leat juk?)

Translation: **Would you like a drink?**

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(magners irish sydur)

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## If You're Irish... - Chicago Theatre March 8th

By Shay Clarke

Frank McNamara, Irish musical legend, composer, conductor, arranger, and musical director of everything from Ireland's RTE Late Late Show (instant fame in his teens) through three PBS specials and 5 albums with the Irish Tenors, is bringing his latest show to the Chicago Theatre March 8th. Frank, with full orchestra and chorus, will present the fabulous Irish Soprano Deirdre Shannon, dynamic Irish fiddler Cora Smith and introduce Derek Maloney, a new Irish tenor. Frank says that Derek has an amazing tenor voice, "in the McCormack lyric tradition," and who would know better than Frank. This could be the best concert to visit our fair city in years, as between Frank, Cora, and Deirdre, they have entertained us with Celtic Women, Celtic Tenors, Lord of the Dance, Feet of Flames, and Celtic Tiger. This could be the concert of the year and even if you live out of state, it would be a great reason to visit Chicago during our St. Patrick's Day Season. I would not miss this show for the world.

If you're Irish... premieres in Chicago on March 8th and then heads east to Pittsburgh, Lowell, Hartford, Providence, and then to Washington D.C.

Deirdre and Derek sing the Fields of Athenry as a male/female duet, and when you think about the lyrics, this makes sense. Frank tells me that The Fields of Athenry has been recorded over 400 times but never as a male/female duet. I told Frank, that my favorite version was by Dustin the Turkey, and Frank

tells me that back in Ireland, he and Dustin are at odds regarding the "Eurovision Song Contest"... so we drop the subject! Poultry in Motion ...it's a Dublin thing.

Frank is originally from Thurles Co. Tipperary, lived for many years in Dublin, and now lives in Dunshaughlin Co. Meath. In Thurles Frank attended the Christian Brothers School, as did my favorite Irish comedian, Pat Short and everybody's favorite Irish actor Brendan Gleason. Boy George also went to school in Thurles, but we think he may have gone to the convent school.

Frank has recorded a big band album featuring his sister in law, Mary Lowe, titled Jazz Diva. He has written and recorded a Beatles symphony - yet to be released and for the Irish Millennium Celebration in 1999, he arranged, produced, and conducted Handel's Messiah featuring Gladys Knight, Roger Daltry, Chaka Khan and a gospel choir, with narration by Aidan Quinn. You can check out some of his music at [www.ourdiscs.com](http://www.ourdiscs.com)

When I asked Frank if he knew of anybody up and coming in traditional music circles, he told me about a group of musicians from Galway, "Music at the Crossroads" who should be taking the world by storm this year.

I had a great conversation with Frank on the phone. He is an amazing person with many stories to tell and I look forward to seeing him at his concert in Chicago and I hope to have him soon as a guest on our radio show, Blarney on the Air. Monday's 7-9 pm on 90.9 fm in Chicago and on the worldwide web at [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org).

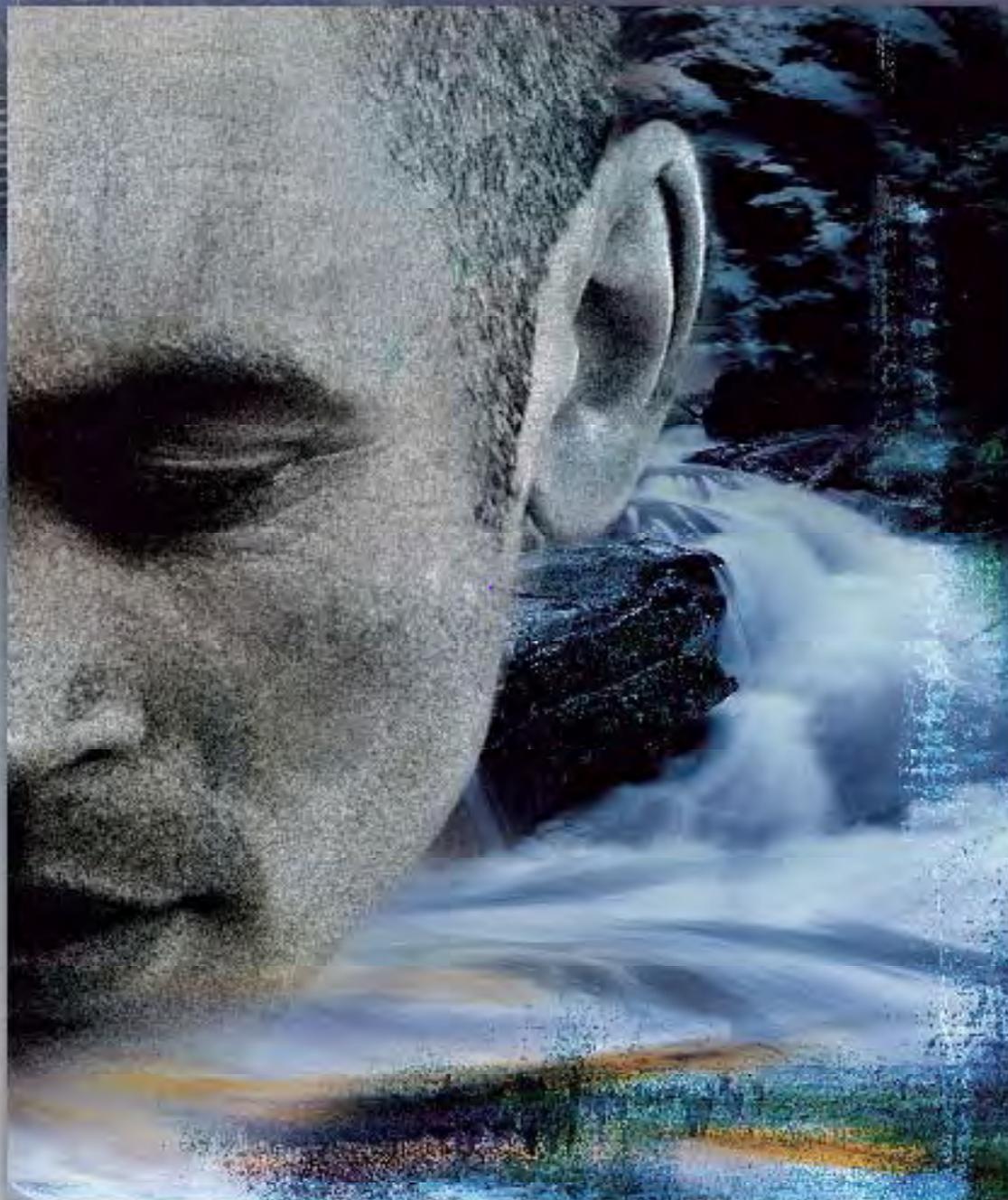


↑ Jim Sloan, (second from right) and his fine young men at the Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to raise money for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

← Ed Scanlon and the infamous Mike Houlihan at the same dinner!

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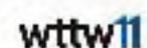
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**Chicago Gaelic News**

Continued from page 8

consequences for such conduct. As Mr. Flynn wrote they even insulted the people of south Boston by bringing up its unfair reputation of racism to "worm" their way out of why the people of New Hampshire did not vote for Obama. They threw out "the race card" for being so wrong in their prediction. Apparently it was a major disappointment to them, as was the Massachusetts result, despite Kennedy/Kerrey and other big supporters.

It is too much to hope that such people will change their minds overnight or anytime soon. Such people have one track minds, so it is up to the general managers who condone such conduct. Hopefully, the FCC will pay more attention to such biased reporting by stations in the interest of fair play, if nothing else.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day From the Norbertine Fathers**

Fr. Dave McElroy, of the Norbertine Fathers at Saint Norbert Abbey, De Pere, Wisconsin, writes to tell us about the great St. Patrick.

"Many centuries ago a great and compassionate man named Patrick walked the beautiful and rolling hills of Ireland. He was a brave missionary with a heart filled with love. Preaching among the pagan Druids he was determined to bring the message of God's love and bring them into the family of Christ."

"That great man was St. Patrick." Fr. McElroy wrote "as he brought new faith to Ireland, so may he bring you a touch of Irish happiness in everything you do. And through St. Patrick may your home and life be blessed with God's favours that make you happiest."

Fr. Dave asks us to share that love of Christ with him and his fellow Norbertines as they bring the message of God's love to all people. Please drop

him a line at Saint Norbert Abbey, De Pere, Wisconsin, 54115.

**Death of Famed Nationalist in Ireland**

Our thanks to well known Irish Nationalist in Chicago, Limerickman, John Hunt, who keeps us informed on Nationalist affairs. This time it is on a sad note: the death of a well known Nationalist in Ireland, Uinseann MacEoin, who was a strong believer of Republican ideals all his life. He was a staunch member of the Wolfe Tone Society and Clan na Poblach and was involved in the Northern Rights Association.

In 1940 during World War II he was arrested and spent a year in Arbour Hill prison for being a member of an "illegal organization." From there he was transferred to the Curragh Camp where he spent 3 years. Under the Principles of the War Act, members of an "illegal organization" could be interned during the course of the war. Our friend John Hunt was interned along with many more.

Uinseann was an architect and a brilliant author. He wrote three books

which were based on interviews of veteran Republicans. He is survived by his beloved wife Nuada, two sons and a sister and brother to whom we offer our sincere sympathy and condolences. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm agus slana abhail Uinseann.

**Super Tuesday Primary Voting**

The presidential primary election between the two candidates (Edwards dropped out), Hillary and Barack Obama, has come and gone, and although Senator Clinton won some of the big ones like New York, California, Massachusetts (despite the influence of the Kennedy family and others), Obama won his own Illinois and others leaving them almost tied at the finish. All the pundits agree that this race may go on until April, and even then may not have a decisive winner. The complex counting of votes at caucus's etc. is so mixed up that one has to wonder why the National Democratic Party allows such a complicated system to prevail.

The Republicans do at least have a much better system; one that the Democrats could indeed copy. John McCain, senator from Phoenix, seems to have a commanding lead of delegates pledged to him and with

Mitt Romney out it looks as though he will be the Republican nominee in November despite Conservatives' objections. He will be a formidable candidate, but if the Democrats do not end up in a split convention, either one of the candidates can beat McCain.

Two big states, Michigan and Florida have not been heard from yet and the final result whether before or at the convention could help Hillary, who already has "won" in Florida by the votes cast "unofficially." This could be a difficult problem for the powers to resolve, especially on the convention floor, and might well indeed result in a split party. Hopefully they will not allow such a mix-up to get to the convention floor but will decide it by caucus before the convention.

The national T.V. stations especially MSNBC and CNN, are having a field day (or night) with this one. But unfortunately, both stations' commentators have taken sides favouring Obama and sometimes denigrate Hillary for one reason or another. One has to wonder why the general managers and even the sponsors allow such unfairness to continue. Present the news, guys and dolls, and leave the definition to the listeners. They know much more than you do.

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**Friday, March 14**

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# Irish Diaspora

By Charles Brady



"The Mexicans say that the Pacific has no memory. That's where I want to spend the rest of my life... in a place that has no memory." It

## Brothers in Panama

It truly is remarkable, this gift we have been given. It can treat us very badly indeed at times, in the form of earthquakes or tsunamis, or hurricanes and forest fires. The random nature of Nature can test the beliefs of any man. What can't be denied, though, is that we live on a tiny mud-covered globe far from the centre of anything and yet we have been given a green space that will never cease to astonish and nurture us. And no, I am not turning into some lonely bearded tree-hugger who wanders around proclaiming loudly that he doesn't eat meat because he prefers to talk to plants like his barmy hero Prince Charles. I'm as cynical about people as I always have been; but this wonderful planet of ours—you can never be cynical about that. Never.

I think of this as I revisit the extraordinary mix of nature with human technological ingenuity that is the Panama Canal. It's an extraordinary sensation to experience the passage from the Caribbean Sea on towards the Gulf of Panama. In other words a person passes through a narrow man-made strip from the Atlantic, only to be reborn nine hours later (how symbolic can you get?) in the warm waters of the Pacific. Do you remember that great line from Tim Robbins close to the end of "The Shawshank Redemption"?

really is like being born again. And the Canal is a real working canal, with ships sailing constantly through there on practical tasks, while around them the widening and updating of the waterway goes on continuously. Last October was the previous time I was there, and that was for the launch of another masterpiece of human engineering: it was none other than the beginning of work on Los Faros de Panama (The Lighthouses of Panama). This is a three tower complex, the middle tower of which will be—when completed in 2009—the highest building in the world, taking over from the current champion, the Q1 Tower in Queensland, Australia. Housing 1,700 two, three and four bedroom apartments as well as luxury penthouses I must put my hands up and admit that this would be my idea of Hell. I can admire the construction and—like the Canal—the sheer human ingenuity, but the thought of living in proximity with so many other people? Forget it. That's just a personal opinion, though, and the fact that 112 apartments were sold on the very day of the launch speaks volumes.

The launch took place in Panama City's sumptuous Miramar Hotel and was quite an event, with Mayor Juan Carlos Navarro and Vice President Samuel Lewis Navarro presiding over the shenanigans. I have to admit it was a great night, although later I was intrigued to see the comparisons be-

tween very rich indeed and very poor indeed.

At breakfast the next day and suffering from a mild headache that had been doubtless brought on by delayed jet-lag and had nothing at all to do with the copious amounts of alcohol that had been forced down my unwilling throat, I found myself soothed by the soft burr of a couple of country Irish accents at the next table. They were two men that I judged to be in their thirties. As we were all from Ireland we got to talking and they turned out to be a fascinating pair indeed.

Real nomads, these two and of course the similarities were swiftly explained by the fact that they were brothers. They struck me as the sort that you find too few of in this world. Quiet and dignified, but with quick smiles and an easy-going manner that belied what I suspected was steel-spring coordination when needed. As it turned out I wasn't far wrong in my quick summing-up of them.

The older of the Byrne brothers, Tom, is 39; Ken is 35. But if ever the expression 'peas in a pod' meant something it was with these two. "We ran a place called the Kilkenny Fitness Centre back in Ireland", Ken tells me. "We wanted to explore another concept of gyms, a different approach to Karate."

"We did that for six years," adds Tom, the quieter of the two brothers. "We had classes where you just didn't wander in like an eejit from the streets and start working out at things that weren't any good for you. We wanted to give people a proper assessment, see what they were capable of without them being hurt unnecessarily."

Like the best of the Irish everywhere I go, what attracted me to these guys was their pure unadulterated enthusiasm. As we continued breakfast a

nomad history emerged: the Cayman Islands, a stint with hotel management in Mexico. Asking about some markings I'd noticed Ken tells me: "We were the first two white guys to get the Purple Dragon First Dan. It's a system called Don Jitsu Ryu. Wonderful fighting system, but even more wonderful at giving you peace of mind." Later I check this out and see it described as "the most practical, deadly, and complete martial arts fighting system in the world today. Modern in concept, yet ancient in origin, it blends with the traditional arts of Kung Fu, Tae Kwon Do [...] and Kick Boxing." And I have to emphasise that there is nothing of the swaggering showboat about these guys. Rather, there is a placid atmosphere that almost seems to emanate from them.

So now they're in Panama, where they have set up the First Panama Investment Company. Here their enthusiasm is as strong as it seems to be for Life itself. Ken: "We asked ourselves; what do people want? And of course they want to buy an all in one package. We're doing no-fuss houses that people can afford. Listen, Panama is at the point that Costa Rica was twelve years ago."

They've been working on their own project, Emerald Drive (you can get more details from their website [www.firstpanama.com](http://www.firstpanama.com)). They had twelve houses under construction when I spoke to them a few months back. It is the first development by Irish developers in Panama. Ken adds: "The country here is going crazy with the whole property boom. The very same way that Ireland went, every conversation with people in restaurants and bars is about property."

These are a couple of Irishmen with a vision. I wish them well.

# Irish Inns and Tours

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Irish Inns and Tours is a group of five Irish inns that offer both romantic and corporate accommodations for visitors to Wisconsin. You are welcome to visit our Irish hotels scattered throughout Wisconsin: St. Brendan's Inn (Green Bay), County Clare Inn (Milwaukee), 52 Stafford Inn (Plymouth) and Rochester Inn (Shaboygan Falls). We also have an inn in Ireland, perfect for that vacation getaway!



## St. Brendan's

St. Brendan's Inn, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, offers lodging accommodations, authentic Irish food, Irish drink and Irish music—all in an elegant yet comfortable setting. Each room offers free hair-dryer, maple furniture, in-room whirlpool baths, walk-in rainfall showers and a high-speed internet connection are in each of our 28 guest rooms.

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### New home for Murray's Irish Outfitters is Now Open

Murray's Irish Outfitters, formally of Oakbrook shopping center, has relocated their store to a brand new location at the Oak Brook Promenade on Butterfield Road in Oak Brook. The new store has just recently opened, just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Murray's Irish Outfitters, Home of the Chicago Irish, is a local family owned business. They have been proudly serving the Irish community for over ten years. Owners Kathleen Murray Devitt and Roger Devitt happily announce the grand opening of their newly relocated store.

Kathleen and Roger have filled the store with exciting new merchandise for the upcoming season. In addition to their regular food selection, they will also now be carrying Irish bacon and Irish sausages, as well as Winston's Irish soda bread. Their new store has parking conveniently right in front of the store, if you just need to run in for a quick gift.

Enter to win in their grand opening raffle. The grand prize will be a trip for two to Ireland. Drawing will be held on March 16th. Prize includes round trip airfare and accommodations for one week. Winner need not be present at time of drawing. See store for details.

Other great door prizes will be

given away through St. Patrick's Day, including a free Chicago Irish poster to every customer while supplies last.

Murray's Irish Outfitters is located at 3021 Butterfield Rd

Sue 102, Oak Brook, Ill. 60523. 630-572-1520 irishoutfitters@aol.com

Store hours are: Monday through Friday, 10-7 pm, Saturday 10-6 pm, and Sunday 11-5.

### Southern Illinois Irish Festival April 25-27

Mark your calendars for the Southern Illinois Irish Festival weekend April 25-27.

This year's featured performer will be Cathie Ryan. She will be making a preview appearance at the Saturday Celtic Fair in late afternoon. Friday's concert per-

formers have not yet committed—check the website periodically for updates.

The Festival's Celtic Fair will again be at Turley Park, W. Main Street, Carbondale—across from Mugsy's from 10-4:30 both Saturday and Sunday. Admission is only \$3 for adults, free for children and special groups. Many new and continuing performers will provide music and dance throughout the day both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday's "Celtic Roots, American Traditions" will focus on southern Illinois Scots Irish as well as American traditional music with roots in Celtic traditions.

Also enjoy the return of the Battle of the Clans with the Ancient Athletes from Springfield, merchandise and food vendors, lots of children's activities, cultural displays and presentations, and much more—RAIN or SHINE!

Visit [www.silirishfest.org](http://www.silirishfest.org) for more information as the festival gets closer.



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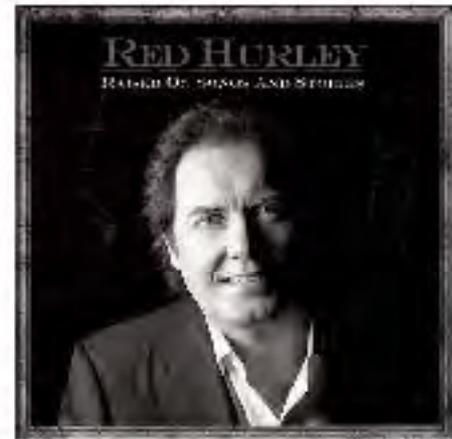
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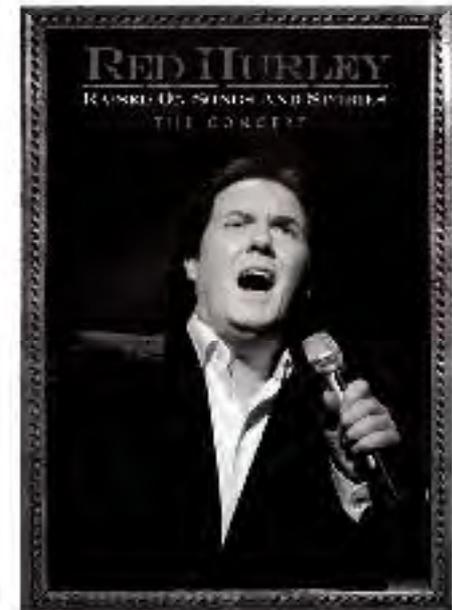
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# Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



## Can you change?

In a recent conversation with a client of mine, he said he didn't believe that people really change. Oh, they might conduct themselves a bit differently at various times, but would they really undergo a fundamental change? NO! He apparently submits to the view that "leopards don't change their spots". I don't know whether to classify this view of life as an "exercise" in mental laziness or whether people really believe that stuff.

As a person who makes his living as an executive coach, I found the above pronouncement troubles me to say the least. It seems to me that CHANGE is the essence of life. However, my client felt that his life experience had solidified his view on the matter. If I agreed with him, I would have to find another way to make a living. So, this conversation prompted me to examine the matter more closely.

In recent months, we have been inundated with all levels of politicians telling us that we need to change. In fact, we must change, they say. It is essential that we change. The imperative for change seems to affect every aspect of our life. A

recent item in the Tribune said, "Dr. Phil would applaud [Notre Dame Football coach] Charlie Weis' willingness to change."

As we approach Easter, we are reminded that Jesus Christ was the ultimate change agent. He desperately wanted the world to change its ways. One of his disciples, Saul, had been a committed persecutor of Christians. Once Saul was motivated to change his ways, he became an avid, driven spokesman for Christianity. Well, if Saul, later known as Paul, could change, why is it that we can't change?

Perhaps, the skeptics would say, "Yes, a person can change. Let's say, they can quit smoking, but what about making changes at a core level?" What are your core values? Do your core values include any of the following: honor, truthfulness, or authenticity? If a person wanted to, could they really change one of their core values? I would argue that of course we can change anything if we are willing to pay the price or have survived some sort of an epiphany. Just look at any youngster who survives the rigors of

Marine bootcamp—s/he is a different person than the one who arrived at the induction center. I would contend a different person, who is physically, mentally and emotionally altered.

Mahatma Gandhi once said "As human beings our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world—as in being able to remake ourselves". Have you survived an epiphany in your life?

Do you really think that YOU are the same person you were just a few years ago? Medical authorities tell us that every cell in our bodies is replaced on a seven year cycle. So you aren't even the same group of cells you were seven years ago. You are in fact a changed person.

Do we see people who resist change? Absolutely, we do. Some change can be painful. If you are right handed, try writing with your left. For most of us, it's very hard to do. Your writing will look more like chicken scratching than legible hand writing. But with enough practice, you can develop into a somewhat proficient writer.

Many of us have noticed the change in our children when they come home from college for their first visit. They are different: they are likely to be more mature and more independent. The skeptics who proclaim that people don't/won't change are naive in my mind. If you have ever seen a person who has undergone a religious transformation, they are different at a core level.

Do I witness a change in the conduct of my coaching clients? Absolutely. Have I changed them? Not really, but I have helped. They have changed themselves. They have learned that they can deal with an issue in a different way. They come to believe in themselves. If we are fortunate, someone can help us realize our inner greatness. To quote Nelson Mandela's 1994 inaugural address, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." One of my editors said his deepest fear was not getting to heaven. What's your deepest fear?

To those who say that people don't change, I would ask them to examine the evidence a little more closely. We see where all kinds of rehab programs succeed in transforming alcoholics, drug addicts, gamblers and others into model citizens. Does everyone who attends an AA meeting kick their alcoholic behavior? Absolutely not! But many people do. The same is true with people who have other addictions. Clearly people can and do stop abusing prescription drugs, street drugs, gambling, etc. Is it easy? No. But for people with the right motivation, it can be achieved.

I have a dear friend who stopped drinking about 35 years ago because it became apparent to him, he would lose his wife, kids, home and his livelihood if he didn't stop drinking. So he was motivated by these factors to conduct himself differently. Perhaps

he heard that old expression about an unexamined life isn't worth living and applied it to his own circumstances.

Do hard heads change? If someone is noted for his or her stubbornness, can they modify or lose that trait? People demonstrate that ability every day. If so, why do we still have so many hard heads, you ask? Mostly because no one has motivated them sufficiently enough to change. They see no reason to change. Maybe they are lazy. Maybe they are tired. Maybe they simply don't see any reason to change. But IT IS NOT BECAUSE WE CAN'T CHANGE. Do you know people who would enhance their careers if they changed some of their values?

And if a person doesn't lose their undesirable traits, should I care? As long as the person changes the ways/he manifests themselves to the world, it's OK. There are people who harbor terrible thoughts but how would I know that or frankly, why should I care? Perhaps the world would be a "better" place if they changed their inner core values, but truly, how would I even know if they did? We have succeeded if the individual has changed how s/he addresses the world. Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net

# Céad Míle Fáilte

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*(For a sneak peak at items visit the Avenues website at [www.avenuestoindependence.org](http://www.avenuestoindependence.org))*

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For reservations contact  
Peg O'Herron at 847.885.8976 or  
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## Wear Shamrocks For Kids This March

Right now, Chicagoans can help provide a solution for kids in crisis by supporting Mercy Home's Shamrocks for Kids, presented by Jewel-Osco. Shamrocks for Kids is an annual St. Patrick's Day-

themed, multi-channel awareness and fundraising campaign that gives hope to abused, neglected and troubled young people whose lives are changed at Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

There are several ways the public can participate in Shamrocks for Kids and help young people. Any attendee at area St. Patrick's Day celebrations can get a special shamrock pin for a donation that goes directly to Mercy Home. Volunteers decked in green Mercy Home aprons will distribute pins for donations along the parade routes of the Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 1, the South Side Irish Parade on Sunday, March 9, and the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15, or at O'Brien's Restaurant on Wells Street on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Mercy Home volunteers will also collect donations at several Chicago and land locations through March 17. Wearing Mercy Home's Shamrock pin this St. Patrick's Day season is a great way to show support for kids in crisis. More information is available at [www.mercyhome.org](http://www.mercyhome.org).

Shoppers at local Jewel-Osco stores can also participate in Shamrocks for Kids by purchasing select Kellogg's, Edy's and Kimberly-Clark products. From March 1st through the 31st, ten cents from each item sold will go directly to Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. Shoppers

using their Jewel-Osco Preferred Card when buying these products will be automatically entered in the Shamrocks for Kids Family Vacation Sweepstakes to Ireland. Contest includes round-trip air transportation for four, courtesy of American Airlines, and four nights' hotel accommodations. Complete sweepstakes rules and registration are found at [www.mercyhome.org](http://www.mercyhome.org) or in Jewel-Osco's in-store circular. Certain restrictions apply.

Mercy Home invites the public to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with them at the Hilton Chicago for its 13th Annual Shamrocks for Kids Post Parade Celebration. The family-friendly party kicks off immediately following the Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15. Guests will enjoy live entertainment by Dillon-Gavin Irish Dancers, Dyed in the Wool, Mullane School of Irish Dance, The Narrowbacks, The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Sean Cleland and the Irish Music Kings, and World Academy of Irish Dance.

Adults will enjoy the traditional Irish buffet and kids will receive Leprechaun Lunch bags, courtesy of Blue Plate Catering. Kids will

also delight in costumed characters. General admission is \$50, teenagers are \$25 and children under 12 are admitted free. Proceeds from the event support Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. For more information call 312-738-8331.

Also during March, ABC-7's lead news anchor Kathy Brock will appear in public service announcements promoting the campaign. More information about Shamrocks for Kids will also appear on the Lisa Dent and Ramblin' Ray Morning Show on US99.5. During the week of March 10 to March 14, the popular morning hosts will broadcast live from Galway, Ireland.

Since 1887, children who need hope, healing and a place to call home have been finding refuge at Mercy Home in their residential and mentoring programs. Children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect, poverty and even abandonment are provided with the chance to improve their lives at Mercy Home. Mercy Home operates two locations—a home for boys at 1140 W. Jackson Blvd. in Chicago's West Loop and a home for girls at 11600 S. Longwood Dr. on the south side of Chicago.

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## Celebrating Saint Patrick at Old St. Patrick's Church

During Irish-American Heritage Month in March, Old St. Patrick's Church honors their patron Saint, Saint Patrick, by hosting events that include the finest in Celtic song, dance and story. Please join us for the following events: Feast of



the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. The church doors open at 7 a.m., and the main floor of the church is wheelchair accessible.

Immediately following Mass, there will be a 10:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet in The Frances Xavier Warde School (FXW) Cafeteria and a performance by The Sheila Tully Irish Stepdancers. Tickets for the Cafeteria Buffet are \$25/adult and \$10/child. For the first time this year, preferred seating will be provided in the church balcony for the 9 a.m. Mass for those with Breakfast Buffet tickets. To purchase Breakfast Buffet tickets, please go to [www.signmeup.com/59234](http://www.signmeup.com/59234). Please send your ticket order form with payment to Old St. Patrick's by Thursday, March 6, as tickets are mailed out on Friday, March 7.

St. Patrick ~ Community Celebration, Sunday, March 9 ~ 12:45 p.m. Mass; Feast of St. Patrick ~ Civic Celebration, Saturday, March 15 ~ 9 a.m. Mass and 10:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet.

Please see our ad in this edition of Irish American News for more details or check our web site at [www.oldstpats.org](http://www.oldstpats.org).

Join Old St. Patrick's Church and the St. Patrick's Day downtown parade dignitaries for the annual St. Patrick's Day Civic Celebration. Bishop Timothy Lyne will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass, which features Celtic music by traditional Irish musicians, Old St. Patrick's choir and cantors, performances by the Sheila Tully Irish Stepdancers, and

Also, please join us for the 12th annual Siamsa na nGael, Monday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. ~SymphonyCenter. Renowned Irish composer Shaun Davey's presents the North American Premiere of The Relief of Derry Symphony, along with a spectacular performance of Special Olympics Suite. Award winning actor, John Mahoney, will be our special guest narrator. Tickets range from \$25 to \$55 and can be purchased through the Symphony Center Box office at 312.294.3000 or [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org). For Post-Performance Reception Ticket Packages or Sponsorship Opportunities, please call 312.831.9355. Proceeds from the benefit performance will support OSP programs and community outreach activities.

## Mayor Daley Names Megan McDonald New Head Of Mayor's Office Of Special Events

Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Megan McDonald as the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. She had served as the department's Acting Executive Director since March, 2007.

The Office of Special Events is responsible for creating, programming and managing large scale free events for the City of Chicago. These events range from family focused events to sporting events to music festivals and cultural performances that take place throughout Chicago's many diverse neighborhoods.

McDonald will manage day to day operations of the office, which produces more than 20

events annually and provides technical assistance to hundreds of private and civic events taking place in the City.

She will work closely with Chicago's corporate community, which sponsors many large- and small-scale special events.

McDonald, 32, re-joined the Office of Special Events in December, 2006, as First Deputy Director, having worked there from November 2000 to November 2002 as an event manager in the Sports Development Department.

From 2002 to 2006, she served as Director of Lakefront Operations for the Chicago Park District. In that role, she was

responsible for daily operations and maintenance of the city's 26 miles of lakefront property - including 18 miles of lakefront trail, 48 lakefront parks, nine harbors and 29 lakefront beaches.

From 1999 to 2000, she was a project manager for the National Conference of State Legislators, and from 1998 to 1999, she worked for the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority as supervisor of its Student Ambassador and Internship programs.

She grew up on the city's South Side and is a graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut.



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Lincolnwood 6-9pm (847) 677-3350
- March 13 Thur. L. Woods Tap & Pine Lodge  
Lincolnwood 6-9pm (847) 677-3350
- March 15 Sat. IAHC St. Patrick's Fest  
Chicago 4pm (773) 282-7035
- March 16 Sun. L. Woods Tap & Pine Lodge  
Lincolnwood 5-8pm (847) 677-3350
- March 17 Mon. FitzGerald's  
Berwyn 7pm (708) 788-2118
- March 28 Sat. IAHC 5th Province  
Chicago (773) 282-7035

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## Incorporating Your Irish Heritage Into Your Wedding Day

By John Mooney

Weddings are the ultimate occasions for honoring family traditions. Irish American couples seeking to incorporate their heritage into their special day have many resources at their disposal to help incorporate Irishness into all facets of their wedding planning. For instance, Enterprise Ireland and the North American Celtic Buyers Association aid Irish companies – from jewelers to makers of crystal, pottery and fragrances – to promote their products in the U.S. There are books, such as Bridget Haggerty's Traditional Irish Wedding Book, that offer a comprehensive presentation of traditions, customs and folklore, and other information. Discover Ireland ([www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com)) will help plan a wedding or honeymoon itinerary.

Your local Irish gift store can be incredibly helpful. They have morphed from focusing on selling crystal, Aran sweaters and shamrock-embazoned gifts into a cultural resource for Americans of Irish descent.

"Irish stores provide customers a wide range of quality Irish

well as some suggestions for making your wedding day an Irish celebration.

### Wedding Traditions from Ireland

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and a sixpence in your shoe...

The rhyme and wedding tradition is still popular in Ireland, where blue is considered a lucky color. Wearing something old symbolizes the connection to family, something borrowed from a good friend represents friendship, and a bridal handkerchief is usually something new for good luck. The sixpence forebodes financial success (one would hope).

### Wedding Veils

In ancient Ireland, a bride was veiled to hide her away from evil spirits and from fairies who might steal her for her fine dress. A veil was also thought to represent purity and chastity.

### The Honeymoon

In Celtic society, the lunar calendar was very prominent. Couples were married at a new

products, as well as a valued connection to their heritage," said Anne Tarrant, executive director of the North American Celtic Buyers Association (NACBA), the trade association for retailers of Celtic products in the U.S. and Canada.

"While the business has changed over the years, the fundamentals remain the same – providing quality products and personal service to customers of Irish descent" Tarrant added.

With our Irish American News Wedding Guide, we hope to provide an overview of wedding elements to consider, as

moon and would drink Mead (a wine made from honey, which was believed to enhance fertility) for the first moon cycle.

Couples seeking to keep that old tradition, alive may include Mead at their wedding reception as a welcome drink for guests. Otherwise, they can simply pay homage by going on their honeymoon – perhaps to Ireland!

### Jewelry

Your local Irish gift shop can be quite helpful in answering questions about Celtic jewelry designs. Some shop owners, such as Orla Castanien,



Orla Castanien of Nuada in Chicago receives her Jewelry Certificate in Dublin from John Condron, Chairman of the FJMI (Federation of Jewelry Manufacturers of Ireland), in January.

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proprietor of Nuada in downtown Chicago, have completed a new jewelry training program launched by the Federation of Jewelry Manufacturers of Ireland (FJMI) and the North American Celtic Buyers Association (NACBA). She and 12 other Irish shop owners from throughout the U.S. have become accredited jewelry sales professionals able to expertly answer questions about precious metals, diamonds, and hallmarking.

Claddagh Ring

Legend has it that in the early 16th century, a man named Richard Joyce was fishing off the coast of Galway a week before he was to be married when his boat capsized. He was captured by pirates, taken to West Africa, and sold into slavery to a Moorish goldsmith. Eventually, the man escaped captivity and returned home to Ireland to find that the girl he loved had never married. He fashioned a unique ring for his beloved that featured three symbols: hands (signifying friendship), holding a heart (signifying love), topped with a crown (for loyalty). Richard and his love bride settled in the fishing village of Claddagh, which lent its name to the most famous Irish ring that has worn as a symbol of love, loyalty and friendship for centuries ever since.

Celtic Knot

The interlacing lines of the Celtic knot stands for "no beginning, no ending, the continuity of everlasting love, and the intertwining of two souls." Irish Christianity embraced much of the ancient Celtic symbolism and has adapted Celtic knots into high crosses and illuminated manuscripts.

Toasts & Irish Blessings

Ireland's most famous toast, of course, is:

May the road rise to meet you.  
 May the wind be always at your back.  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
 The rain fall soft upon your fields.  
 And, until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

However, for those who prefer not to recite words hanging on the wall plaques in countless Irish American homes, a simple Slainte! will do. (Slainte!, pronounced "slawn-cha", is Gaelic for "Cheers!" or "To your good health.") Naturally, there are countless other Irish toasts that can be found in books available in your local Celtic shop.

Celtic Wedding Ceremony

Lighting of a Unity Candle

The Celtic Unity Candle ceremony is the lighting of candles to symbolize the joining of two families or clans. The

smaller candles represent the families of the bride and groom, and the larger center pillar candle represents the new family formed by the marriage. Unity Candles are often adorned with Celtic designs, such as the Claddagh, Celtic knots, or shamrocks. Traditionally, a member of each family lights the outside candles before the wedding ceremony. The single center candle is lit in unison by the bride and groom representing that they, as individuals, are joining as one.



Kilts

A unique way to bring the spirit of the Celts into your wedding is to have the men and boys in the wedding party dress in authentic kilts. Formal kilt attire includes a "Prince Charlie" jacket and vest, sporran (a fur or leather bag worn from the belt), kilt socks and a sgian dubh, a small dagger slipped into the top of the kilt sock.

The proper fit for a kilt is two inches above the natural waistline, extending to mid-knee. A tuxedo shirt and black bow tie can be worn, but a less formal button-down Oxford shirt with a tartan tie and tweed jacket. Any lace up dress shoe can be worn.

If you always wanted your own kilt, a local Irish or Scottish shop can help identify your family tartan, take your measurements, and place the order. Allow 3-6 months for production and always confirm in writing that you will receive your kilt in time for your wedding. Otherwise, you can rent one.

Music & Dance

What would an Irish American wedding be without traditional music? Frequently, brides and grooms will plan for bagpiper to play during the bridal party procession. Reception cocktail hours often include a traditional fiddle player and/or harpist or even a bagpiper. Some families will hire local step dancers to give a short performance. Most cities, such as Chicago, Boston and New York, will have a plethora of Irish wedding bands to choose from in order to have a rollicking good fun Irish wedding.

Wedding Favors

Spirits

Miniature bottles of whiskey or Bailey's tied with green ribbon  
 Shot glasses with Celtic symbols

Sweet Treats

Candies in the shape of a shamrock or harp

A Bit o' Nature

Seed packets of shamrock, Irish wild flowers, or tree seedlings – encourage guests to take the seedling and plant it as a thank you to Mother Earth.

Bridal Party Gift Ideas

Maid of Honor & Bridesmaids  
 Jewelry with Claddagh designs or Celtic knotwork  
 Irish linen hankies  
 Waterford or Belleek picture frame  
 Inis Irish fragrances

Best Man & Groomsmen, Fathers & Grandfathers

Celtic flasks  
 Pewter tankards  
 Money clip with Celtic symbols  
 Sgian dubhs with the wedding date or message engraved on the blade  
 Waterford or Belleek picture frame  
 Inis Irish fragrances

Getting Married in Ireland

Whether planning to marry in a church or civil ceremony, three months written notification is required by the Registrar in the district where the marriage is to take place. Detailed information is available at [www.groireland.ie/getting\\_married.htm](http://www.groireland.ie/getting_married.htm).

Honeymoon in Ireland

Ireland has no shortage of romantic places, such as the Lakes o Killarney, Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Kinsale, a charming harbor town known for its culinary delights in Co. Cork. Less frequently traveled by Americans, but no

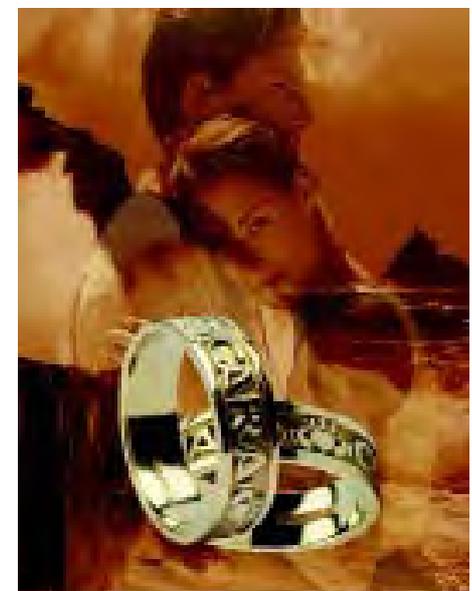
less romantic in their scenery are Dingle Peninsula, Achill Island, off the coast of Co. Mayo, and the stunning Donegal Coastline and the Giant's Causeway in Co. Antrim. Lodging can range from Adare Manor, the five star luxury castle hotel in Limerick, to other castles and charming cottages scattered across the island of Ireland. For more information, visit [www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com).

Americans who may have lost touch with Irish traditions as generations have passed can also turn to resources such as The Traditional Irish Wedding Book written by an Irish mother, Bridget Haggerty, who helped her American-born daughter plan a totally Irish celebration. It features advice on how to bring Irish touches to apparel, decor and flowers, fascinating facts about the old ways of Irish wooing, suggestions for vow vows and blessings, recipes and advice for honeymooning in Ireland.

"I am convinced that if couples make the effort, they can have a totally Irish celebration from beginning to end," says Haggerty, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1963 and now resides in Cincinnati.

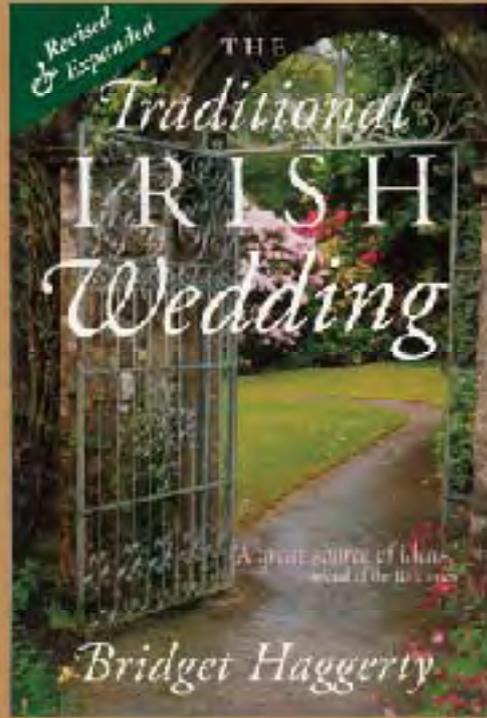
Also, the North American Celtic Buyers Association (NACBA) has created a 20-page booklet, "Creating a Celtic Wedding," available free of charge from NACBA member Irish shops.

Special thanks to Anne Tarrant of the North American Celtic Buyers Association for being such a valuable resource.



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## Weddings In An Irish Castle!

No doubt, some of you are planning an Irish wedding complete with castle.

Here is what goes on at the famous Ashford Castle

Your day is as important to them as it is to you, and they claim to leave nothing to chance. Their professional team have helped fulfill the dreams of many couples, some of whom share their experiences in the paragraphs below.

There are a myriad of details to be arranged, and Ashford Castle will help you organize as many of these details as you wish, to allow you to concentrate on more important issues. Whether you hold a small or large wedding all of your guests must be residents of the Castle. The Ashford will take all individual reservations from your guests, and will confer with you so that you have the final say in room allocations.

The Castle can accommodate two styles of weddings, either a maximum of 160 persons or a maximum of 40 persons. These maximums assure the capabilities of their restaurants, the George 'V' Dining Room or the Connaught Room will live up to all expectations.

You'd also be amazed at how inexpensive a fairytale castle wedding is. The Ashford has welcomed many couples from the US. Below are some of the comments sent to Monica Feeny, Wedding Coordinator at Ashford.

Hi Monica

My Husband Kevin, eldest son Aiden and I were recently guests at the Hotel for my fathers, Brooke's wedding on July 1st. I am emailing today to say THANK YOU to each and every staff member we encountered. Each and every person-from the cleaning staff, to the falconry school, to the spa(Steph), to the very special gents in the dining room, drawing room and bar. Everyone was a AMAZING. All of us we treated beautifully and you helped make Ashford Castle special for us.

It should be mentioned that the wedding weekend itself was wonderful....again, the special combination of amazing place and lovely people!

We hope to be back someday!!

Thank you again,  
Kristin Thygesen  
U.S.A

Hi Monica,

Thank you and your staff for creating such a memorable wedding reception for David and I. It was the best meal we had during our entire stay in Ireland. Ashford

castle is absolutely gorgeous. The View of the courtyard is breathtaking. I was so mesmerized by the entire experience. The day after the wedding David and I spent the entire afternoon walking around the grounds and enjoying the scenery.

Thanks for making our stay so \$125.00 with guest's accommodations from \$150.00 per person sharing. The same efforts and courtesies and welcome are extended to you and your guests as were to Mr. Pierce Brosnan (007) who married in Ashford in 2001 and Shane Filan of Westlife who married in 2003.

Rates quoted for weddings at Ashford castle includes:

- \_ Consultation with the wedding co-coordinator
- \_ Complementary stay for the bride and Groom
- \_ Wedding tasting for the Bride and Groom
- \_ Champagne on arrival for the Bride and Groom
- \_ Red Carpet at the entrance of the Castle.
- \_ Floral arrangement and candle on all of the tables
- \_ One personalized Menu per person.
- \_ Complementary use of the Cake stand and sword for cutting the cake.
- \_ Table plan and place cards
- \_ PA system for the speeches.

If you are getting married in the U.S., Ashford Castle would be equally delighted to welcome you for your honeymoon. Remember to reserve a Stateroom which guarantees a four poster bed in the oldest section of the Castle.!

A graduate of GMIT in Hotel & Catering Management, Monica Feeny has been Wedding Coordinator at Ashford for "5 years" now and she embodies that wonderful quality of genuinely caring for all Wedding couples. With many successful weddings under her belt it's not been uncommon for her to progress to handling the couples Anniversaries and even Christenings!

Monica will be your first contact at Ashford. Once you have stayed and decided this is the only venue for you, Monica will then introduce you both to T.J, chef and Neil their operational management team who will help you with any questions relating to service and choices for the wedding Dinner. Their award winning sommelier, Robert, will guide you through the amazing wine choices helping you choose what wines best compliment your food choices and budget.



### Ashford Castle Wedding Time Line

#### 18 Months-1 Year to go

- Congratulations on your recent engagement.
- Book your wedding in Ashford Castle and the Church.
- Book the Church and apply for your marriage licence – (3 months notice is required.)
- Hotel Contract to be sent outlining deposit procedures.
- Start looking at Bands and music for the church as good vendors are often booked over a year in advance. Go and

see a few bands.

- Book photographer.
- Begin the process of finding your perfect wedding dress and the wedding attire for the Groom and Best Man.
- Choose Bridesmaids, Best Man, Flower Girls and Ushers.

that you can be sure of numbers.

- Give final numbers to be given to the Castle.
- Give the wedding coordinator Table plan and place cards.
- Finalise the wedding itinerary with the wedding coordinator at the Castle.

#### 1 Week to go

- Have your wedding rehearsal
- Reconfirm final numbers with the Castle.
- Give the best man the money that may be required for any third party operators who are providing services on the wedding day.
- Ensure you pack your bags for your honeymoon a few days in advance.

#### The Wedding Day

#### 6-9 Months to go

- Organise wedding stationery.
- Look into Honeymoon and make a decision if possible. (Make sure that your passports are valid.)
- Meet with the Priest and plan the order of service.
- Choose the wedding rings.
- Meet the wedding coordinator to discuss the itinerary for the wedding day.
- Book the florist.

#### 3-6 Months to go

- Make sure that all of the necessary paper work and certificates are all in order for the wedding ceremony.
- Send out wedding invitations.
- Book the wedding car.
- Order the wedding cake (remember if the cake is a traditional Irish Cake it need to be made 3 months prior to the wedding for the cake to mature.)
- Organise a hair trial and a makeup trial with the Castle.
- Book the Videographer.
- Plan the Hen and Stag Party.

- Hair and Make up appointments in the Morning.
- Make the best man has the wedding rings.

- Wedding Ceremony (remember if the wedding is in the winter time it will be dark after 3:30pm/4:00pm.)
- Drinks Reception in the Oak Hall or on the lawn weather permitting.
- Guests are called and seated in the George 'V' Restaurant.
- Priest says grace (this is optional)
- Meal begins – time scale 2 hours
- After Tea/Coffee, cutting of the Cake

#### 1-2 Months to go

- Have the wedding dress fittings.
- Meet with the wedding coordinator to discuss the itinerary.
- Complimentary Menu tasting for the Bride and Groom.
- Finalise the Dinner menus and itinerary.
- Make sure the wedding rings fit.
- Enjoy the Hen and Stag party.

- Speeches begin.
- Priest says grace after meals (this is optional)
- Dancing commences in the Drawing room
- Evening Buffet food served in the George 'V' Restaurant at 11:30pm Approx.

#### 2 weeks to go

- Make a list of all wedding replies so Enjoy the day!



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## Ashford Castle: A Brief History

### 700 Years in the Making

The stately architecture of Ashford Castle, located deep in the heartland of Mayo and set against a spectacular backdrop of forests, lakes and mountains, seems to suggest a place where time stands still. But the castle you see today has witnessed enormous change since its foundation nearly eight centuries ago.

1228 — Ashford is founded by the Anglo-Norman De Burgo family following their defeat of the native O'Connors of Connaught. The De Burgo's would build several such castles throughout the province, but Ashford would remain the principal stronghold. The native O'Connors also leave a legacy in the form of the nearby 12th century Augustinian Abbey of Cong, built on the site of a 6th century monastery.

1589 — After more than three and a half centuries under the De Burgo's, Ashford passes into the hands of a new owner. Following a fierce battle between the forces of the De Burgo's and those of the English Lord Bingham, Governor of Connaught, a truce is agreed and the castle falls to Bingham who adds a fortified enclave within its precincts.

1715 — The famous Ashford estate is established by the Oranmore and Browne family and a fabulous french style chateau is added to the architectural splendour of the castle.

1852 — Ashford's new owner, Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness, extends the estate to 26,000 acres, building new roads, planting thousands of trees and adding two large Victorian style extensions.

1868 — Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness bequeaths Ashford to his son, Lord Ardilaun, an avid gardener who oversees the development of massive woodlands and rebuilds the entire west wing of the castle.

1915 — Ashford is retained by the Iveagh Trust on behalf of the Guinness family until it is bought by Noel Huggard in 1939. Huggard establishes the castle as a "first class hotel".

1951 — The director John Ford comes to the west of Ireland to film what would become a movie classic "The Quiet Man". Many of the film stars stayed at Ashford.

1970 — Ashford Castle is bought by John A. Mulcahy who oversees its com-

plete restoration and expansion, doubling its size, building the golf course and developing the grounds and gardens.

1985 — A group of Irish American investors purchase Ashford. In the 16 years since, Ashford has been voted not only one of the best hotels in Ireland but also one of the top 50 resort properties in Europe.

Ashford Castle — one of the most luxurious resort hotels in the world. A legacy 700 years in the making.

The castle has welcomed and entertained its fair share of celebrities and public figures over the years. Members of Europe's royal families, political figures, industrialists and film stars who have all enjoyed the hospitality of the castle.

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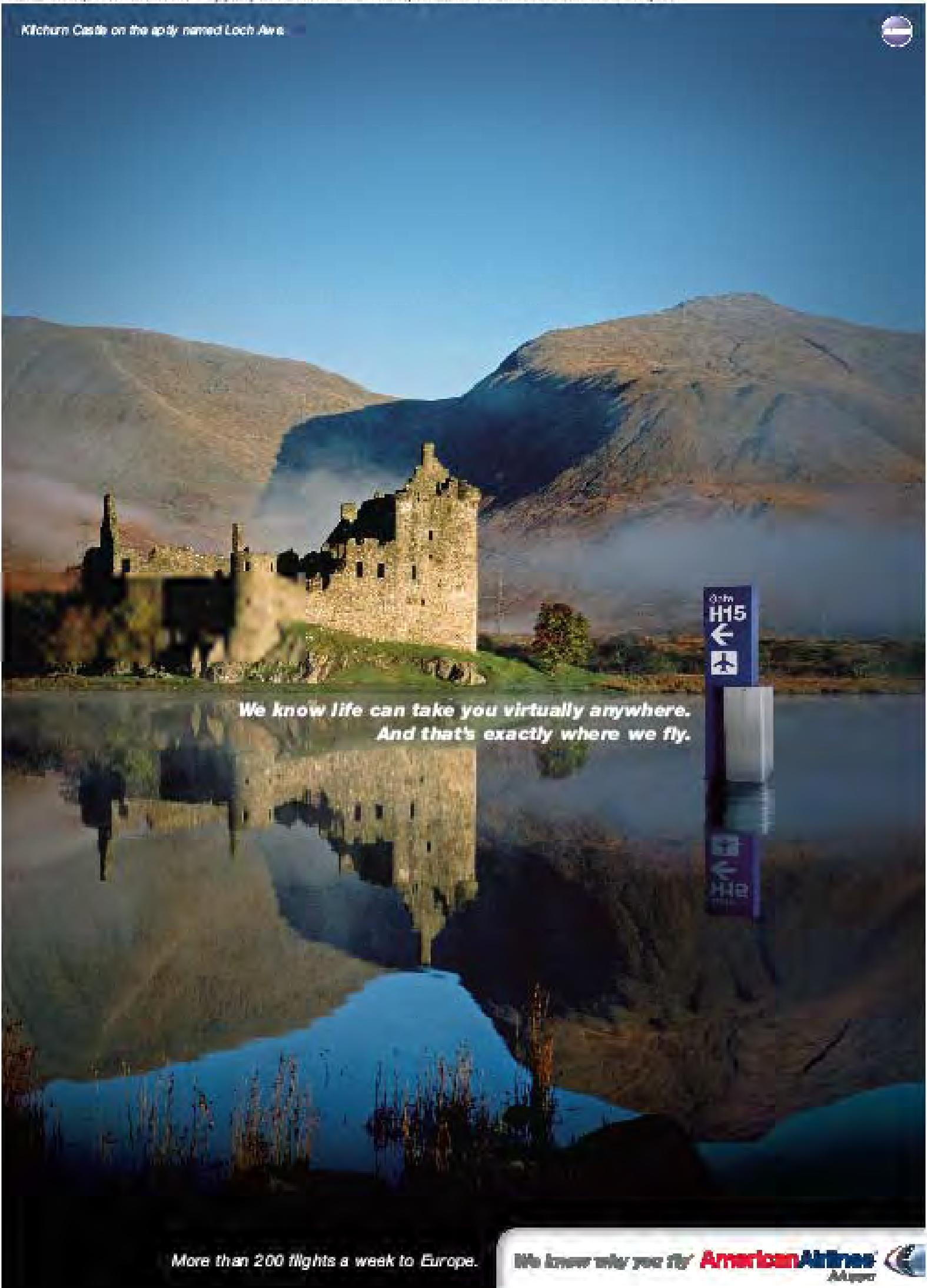


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## Irish Wedding Superstitions

Christmas & New Year's Eve are thought to be especially lucky for weddings. An unlucky month for a wedding is believed to be May.

The wedding party should always take the longest road home from the church.

The bride and her mother-in-law will be friends forever if the bride's mother-in-law breaks a piece of wedding cake on the bride's head as she enters the house after the ceremony (the mother-in-laws will love this one!)

If it rains on your wedding day it is considered good luck. Then again when doesn't it rain in Ireland?

A man should be the first to congratulate the bride. If a woman gets there first, it's bad luck!

On your wedding morning, it's good luck to awake to the song of birds.

It's bad luck to put on your own veil; give the honor to a long time happily married woman.

A bride with a lovely voice is expected to sing at her wedding.

An Irish bride uses a different road home than she took to the church. This is a symbol of her new life that begins with her marriage.

Your wedding earrings will always bring you luck whenever you wear them.

Some Irish brides prefer a wild-flower tiara over elaborate veils.

Bouquets are designed with wild-flowers, especially lavender.

A traditional Irish bride braids her hair. The bride can also choose braiding on the trim on her gown, braided ribbon on bouquets, or having her bridesmaids wear their hair braided.

Something old, something new, something borrowed something blue, and an "Irish" penny for her shoe.

When dancing, the brides shouldn't take both feet off the floor.

The top tier of the wedding cake is an Irish whiskey cake, saved for the christening of the first baby.

A slice of the wedding cake is saved to be eaten on your first anniversary.

Salt and pepper shakers are a lucky gift.

If you do not wish to use the loving cup, it is also lucky to have wineglasses or tall toasting flutes.

Begin your reception with an Irish toast:

May God be with you and bless you,

May you see your children's children,

May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.

May you know nothing but happiness

From this day forward.

Please call the Treasure Shop to help make your wedding day extra special!

The Treasure Shop, 44 Broadway, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, 1-800-833-1782, [www.IrishTreasureShop.com](http://www.IrishTreasureShop.com).

## The Treasure Shop

Wedding traditions are appealing to everyone these days and always add that something special to the happy wedding day.

The Treasure Shop, located in downtown historic Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, has been helping customers with wedding items and gifts for over 25 years. Of particular interest are the Irish Wedding Traditions. Because the Irish love to celebrate special occasions, there are numerous wedding traditions, but alas here are a few that people enjoy.

A bell, usually crystal, but often ceramic or metal, is a traditional Irish wedding gift.

The "make-up" bell or "wedding" bell is to be rung after a quarrel when one partner is ready to "make-up". Legend has it that the sound of the bell will always bring an end to disagreement, as the husband and wife remember the sound of their wedding bells and their love. With the ringing of the bell, all arguments between the happy couple must end, never to be brought up again. But, the husband & wife must always take turns ringing the bell, the same spouse cannot ring the bell every time!

The claddagh theme is very popular. The familiar claddagh symbol is two hands holding a crowned heart, "with these hands I give you my heart & crown it with loyalty forever". The symbol is displayed on just about everything including wedding & engagement rings, cake toppers, invitations, garters, candles, toasting glasses, loving cups and, of course, tie tacks, necklaces and wedding hankies.

The Celtic design, which is a design of unending twisted lines, is also very popular, signifying "no beginning or end". The Celtic design is available within rings, other types of jewelry, crystal and pewter toasting glasses.

The loving cup is a cup with two handles made traditionally of pewter. It is jointly used for the wed-

ding toast instead of the use of two separate glasses. During the wedding toast the groom first offers the cup to his new bride and then after she takes her drink, the bride offers the cup to her husband for his drink. It is a symbol of the two now being one in marriage.

For good luck, Irish brides used to carry a real horseshoe. The horseshoe was always turned up like a "u" so the luck wouldn't spill out. Today a bride may still carry a horseshoe on her wedding day, but because a real horseshoe is very heavy she may opt to wear a horseshoe charm instead.

The Magic Hanky is another Irish custom enjoyed today. To dry her tears of happiness the bride carries a hanky, but not just any hanky, a hanky with a future. The magic wedding hanky is specially made so that with a few sewing stitches it can be turned into a baby bonnet for the first baby to wear on his or her Christening Day. When it is time for this baby to marry the bonnet again becomes the hanky on the child's wedding day.

Music is always a part of every wedding, often expressing the love and deep feelings of the bride and groom. There are two songs ex-

tremely popular at Irish weddings today. The chorus words of The Irish Wedding Song wish the happy couple a long and wonderful life: "In good times and bad times, in sickness and health, may they know that riches are not needed for wealth. And help them face problems they'll meet on their way. Oh, God bless this couple who marry today."

"My Son" is another song with a wedding message. Popular for the groom's dance with his mother during the reception you'll see many eyes filling with tears as the first verse is played: "My son, you were the seed of life in me and now, I can't

believe the man I see with pride. I watched you grow up, you wanted so much to change the world for me."

Traditional wedding items no longer are just for the Irish wedding, but are enjoyed today by everyone. The traditions we described today can be found at our shop and we can always special order additional items that will add to a beautiful wedding.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please give us a call.

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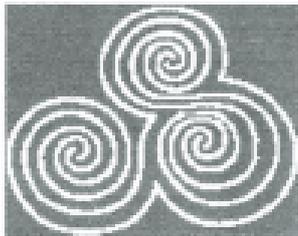
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## We Get Letters

Dear Editor,

I noticed you will be featuring an Irish Wedding section in the paper in March. I had talked with one of your writers back in 2004 and they thought it would be nice to do an article but somehow it got side tracked and didn't get done. I planned my entire 2004 wedding based on a few articles in your paper that caught my interest. Which then set me on mission to use as many of your advertisers as I could; which sent me on a search for all the historic wedding info I could find. I contacted but did not use Garland Flowers because she was not open on Sunday which was the wedding day. However she was most helpful giving me information about which flowers to use that were native to Ireland. I would have loved to use her as I have seen her work. Much of the crystal used came from Blarneys Irish shop and Shamrock Imports, grooms wedding band came from Blarneys (I think) our soda bread and butter came from Winston's, our wedding programs and Coat of Arms banner were created by McAleer Designs, for which all but one of our planning meetings took place at McNamara's, who let us sit there as long as we wanted and kept our glasses full. The one not held there was at Chief O'Neill's—here again we were on the patio for hours talking about my wedding plans. Or loving cup from Ryan's Travel, they had an ad for Irish crystal and I believe the forever more goblet was featured in an ad in your paper, someone from Trinity Dancers put me in touch with Karen Hatley of Celtic Creations who did all the embroidery on the hem of my



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jersey from "that team he watches every weekend" and see which one remains as the years go by.

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gown, she, at the time did the work on the Trinity Dancers solo dresses and the design she did was then copied onto my hand painted aisle runner and so on and so on. Our wedding invites came from Historical Irish Stationary from Ireland—I found out about them from someone else that I had talked to as a result of an ad in your paper. I had scheduled the McNulty Irish Dancers to perform during dinner hour but when I changed my wedding date from Feb to August there was a conflict so I had to use a group out of Crystal Lake. But, the concept of using them was a result of an ad in your paper. Even the Irish Heritage Society gave me very valuable research information and here again; I believe I saw some kind of ad about them in the paper, so I called. So I guess I did use the paper quite a bit.

I realize I really went overboard with my Irish Wedding but it was great fun and EVERYONE is still talking about it as one of the most interesting weddings they have ever been to. My husband and I hear this all the time, unsolicited. We took ceremonial practices from as far back as the 10th century. All the font used on all our printing was MeathFLF.fog which was supposed to be old Celtic.

I just wanted to share the positive experience your paper helped create for me!

Cynthia

"I planned my entire 2004 wedding based on a few articles in your paper that caught my interest."  
Cynthia Dugan





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### Martin McGuane

On January 31st the Irish American Heritage Center lost a great friend, and volunteer, Martin was from Kinturk, Connolly, Co. Clare. This mild-mannered man and man of great faith led an exemplary life; always his doing his part for family and friends.

I first met Martin in January 1987 when I started volunteering at the Irish American Heritage Center. I'll never forget the day he said, "many hands makes light work." I had never heard that expression before and it struck a chord with me.

His wake at Cooney's Funeral Home in Park Ridge was perhaps the biggest I've ever seen—a real testimonial to the mark he made in the world. When the bagpiper played "The Cliffs of Doneen" at St. Monica's Church there was a tear in practically everyone's eye. My condolences to Breege and the family.

### St. Patrick's Day

What's it all about Paddy? Why all the fuss? Outsiders just don't get it! I've often been asked, "What's so great about being Irish?" Any attempt to explain that might fall short. To explain the Irish psyche, you must first be a romantic and possess a sense of your very own inner being. It's about our spirited ancestors and how they overcame adversity. Not wanting to leave their native land, they had to leave in order to find work and an opportunity to make their own way in the world and have a family of their own.

Many came to the USA, some had relatives already here. Nonetheless, you will find the Irish scattered around the world. Known for their charm, good humor, and quick wit they easily make friends. They came to this country with a strong work ethic, with the desire to succeed, free from the bonds of oppression—and succeed they did. Quickly learning the mechanics of Ward politics, how to get the vote out, and how to win

elections, they soon gained elected office and others sought jobs in the public sector in the police and fire departments. This became the ladder that would get them to the top. Others sought the protection of unions as workers were often exploited.

Strong practitioners of their faith, they sent their children to Catholic school. The generations to follow soon learned the value of higher education. Now entering the professions, i.e., law, medicine, once again, they rose to the top.

The Irish never let go of their traditions. Irish music and dance were an important part of their life. Most remained active in various Irish organizations such as The Kerryman's Association, The Galway Fellowship, The Mayomen's Association, and The Dublin Association. It was groups like these that allowed others to mingle with old friends and people that came from the same part of Ireland as they did. It's time for the younger generation to take a greater interest in their roots and become active in the Irish community. I remember as a child my two aunts in the convent, Sr. Joseph Boyle, Sisters of Mercy, Naas, Co. Kildare, and Sr. Therese Boyle, Presentation Convent, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny would send us sprigs of shamrocks to pin on our shirts for St. Patrick's Day. Last year, when my cousins arrived from Kilkenny they gave me a Waterford Crystal Bowl full of shamrocks. What a great surprise! Don't let the traditions die. Spend the day with family and friends.

I hope to see you all at the Downtown Parade, the Southside Parade, and celebrating the day with dignity at Chicago Gaelic Park or the Irish American Heritage Center. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### Clinton/Obama

On February, 13, Jack Higgins had another great political cartoon (lampoon) in the Chicago Sun-Times. He sets the scene from behind the podium where Obama is speaking. There is an empty loop coming from Obama's mouth in a typical cartoon there would be dialog coming from OBama's mouth. In a typical cartoon there would be dialog in this loop. Another face in the crowd is asking, "Exactly what did Obama just say?" I almost fell out of the chair because I hear nothing but empty rhetoric

from Barack Obama. The race for delegates is being hotly contested. It's a virtual tie. The Democrats have to be careful not to polarize the party along racial lines.

We need to know before the convention what changes would be made. If it's a lot of liberal social reforms to be carried on the backs of the taxpayer we say no!

The Republicans views on Obama as being easier to beat in an election. The Republican attack dogs are licking their chops, Grrrr!

### Downtown Parade

Many of you probably don't know the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade is actually run by the Chicago Journeyman Plumber's Local Union 130. James T. Sullivan, general chairman of local 130 is also chairman of the parade. The planning leading up to the corned beef dinner, the queen contest, and the parade itself begins many months in advance. Since organizing an organization are second nature to union officials they do an outstanding job. Chicago Plumbing Council also plays an important role. There are hundreds of volunteers working behind the scenes to bring you this proud tradition which is televised all over the country.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen  
And the winner is? Eileen Kopolnek, 21, from Park Ridge, IL. Eileen is a junior at Marquette University. Her great grandmother, Anna McGowan, survived the sinking of the Titanic, in 1912. This is the year of the redhead.

### We Get Letters!

Elsewhere in this edition. Read it carefully. It's "anonymous" again! I suspect the writer is a priest. March being a very busy time and a time to be light-hearted compels me to forego the pleasure of answering this letter until April.

### Gaelic Park

Be sure to spend some time there when "Ireland On Parade" returns for the St. Patrick's Day Festival. When you walk through those doors think about how it all came to be! The visionaries, the fundraisers, the donors, and the volunteers. They gave you a world-class facility. Go and enjoy it. Get involved. Become a member.

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## Tommy Tiernan's First U.S. Special

Having conquered the rest of the English-speaking world, Ireland's top comedian, Tommy Tiernan, will release his first US special, *Something Mental*, on CD and DVD on Tuesday, March 11 from Image Entertainment. *Something Mental* will also premiere as an hour Comedy Central special on Friday, March 14.

Recorded at The Mercury Theater in Chicago, *Something Mental* captures Tiernan's boundless energy taking his audience on a journey through what the British press called, "the devilish wonderland of his mind." Weaving contemplations and observations on relationships, religion, being Irish and his travels through the US, Tommy's stories blend a playful absurdity with an intellectual depth that cuts with a philosophical edge.

The *Something Mental* CD features Tommy's hour performance with an additional bonus track. In addition to the hour performance of the main program, the *Something Mental* DVD features over 30 minutes of extras including "Walk in the Windy City," "Interview With Tommy" and "Meet The Badger: Outtakes."

Considered one of the best comedians in the English-speaking world, Tommy Tiernan has sold-out performances from London to New York to Melbourne and continues to break his own box office records in his home country of Ireland. Winner of The Perrier Award at The Edinburgh Festival and the British Comedy Award for Best Stand-up, Tiernan's four previous DVDs have all debuted as number one



Tommy Tiernan. Photo by Brecheisen

sellers. His most recent DVD release in Ireland, *OK, Baby*, was released in November of 2007 selling over 100,000 copies in five weeks.

Tiernan is the top comedian in Ireland breaking all Irish box office records over and over again with sold-out shows across the country including a staggering current record of 150 dates in Dublin's one thousand-seat Vicar Street Theatre.

From his beginnings in Galway's GPO and Dublin's Comedy Cellar to an early win of the "So You Think You're Funny" UK Best Newcomer Award, Tommy's stage work quickly led to the 'Perrier Award' win in Edinburgh, a 'Brit-

ish Comedy Award' for 'Best Stand Up' and a 'Nokia Best Of The Fest Award' on his return to Edinburgh. His commitment to live stand-up has led him on an extraordinary journey, including twice being accused of blasphemy in the Irish Senate and one tour even finished with a 6 week 650 mile walk across Ireland, performing shows in small regional theatres for an Irish TV show called "Supertramp."

In 2006, Tommy focused his energy on performances in America and Canada. In the last 18 months Tommy has completed a blind-ing debut performance on "The Late Show with David Letterman," a 3 week run of his show, "Loose," at UCLA's MacGowan Little

Theater, a 6 week run of his show, "Cracked," at The Village Theater in New York, a 6 week tour of Canada, 2 Gala performances at the Montreal International Comedy Festival: Just for Laughs and numerous American club dates including performances in Philadelphia, Washington DC, Omaha and Texas.

In 2007, Tommy won The People Of The Year "Funniest Living Irish Person" award and co-wrote the ménage-a-Tiernan play "Help" which ran at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He also filmed both his IFTA nominated documentary "Jokerman—Tommy Tiernan takes on America" and his DVD *OK Baby*, which was released November 23. And he completed the Dublin Marathon.

Tommy is currently running his new show, "Bovinity," at the Vicar Street Theatre in Dublin through March and all 40,000 tickets have sold out.

For more information on Tommy visit [www.TommyTiernan.com](http://www.TommyTiernan.com).

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Contact Barry's Tea. To make sure that Barry's Tea keeps giving you the best teas to suit your tastes and the service that you deserve, they need your feedback. So please drop them a line, they would love to hear from you. Barry's Tea, Kinsale Road, Cork, Ireland. Tel: +353 21 4915000 Fax: +353 21 4313606 or email us at: [info@barrystea.ie](mailto:info@barrystea.ie)



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## The Irish Rover

James McClure



### Back to the Future with Dad-O McClure

Last month's column (IAN Feb. 2008, pg. 19) left with me curled up a bit lonely but warmed by my father's blanket in our all-but abandoned North Shore estate while Dad starts a new life in a new senior residential community near my big sister in Green Bay.

Forgive James Joseph McClure's senior healthcare marketing jargon, my dad James Henry McClure, as usual, says it better and more succinctly: "It's an okay place if you don't mind being around a lot of old farts."

I can't say what emanates from Dad's 90-year old pipes but the sweet smell of vigorous youth seems to be magically restored in this 90-going-on-30 wunderkind whose Irish luck has yet to run out.

Things weren't all shamrocks and sunniness just a few short months ago in the late summer of 2007. After more than 63 years of marriage to Rogers Park's finest, Audrey Corley McClure, this self-described member of what J.H. calls the "shanty Irish peasant class" of Beverly was taking his wife's death deep inside a broken heart. Although at times the dashing Morgan Park Military Academy graduate and future corporate manufacturing executive from the South Side could lock horns with his national model-turned mother-turned real estate executive North Sider wife, the two had an enduring bond that is not easily broken.

It seems common knowledge, if not actuarially factual, that when one spouse goes another soon follows. Make no mistake, after Mom left us in March, Dad was quickly and progressively dying in every respect of body, mind and spirit. His memory got radically worse, he began falling down, and the evening drink of a non-alcoholic O'Douls or the regular single drink of whiskey he would have after work in downtown Chicago became a succession of instantly forgotten progressive beverages as his short term memory became almost non-existent.

On one occasion I came back from a pre-work hike in the nearby Cook County Forest Preserve to find Dad in bed at noontime with a huge welt on his face. "Oh these things happen" he said absentmindedly as he lay in bed at noontime.

He thought the year was sometime in 2003, had lost the ability to make phone calls or operate the TV set. We would later find out the combination of grief, forgetfulness and one less person to supervise his medications left him disoriented and depressed.

Most distressing was the death-laced comments he would make: "I won't be around much longer so take all the money while I'm still here to give it to you" and his over concern of arranging burial plots for himself and the rest of the family. I would sometimes come home to find him in the dark with the TV in full snow mode and him staring blankly ahead

not caring. He rarely ate, and what little he did consume was usually left half-eaten and forgotten in the microwave. He could barely walk or make it up the stairs and darn near fell from the top of them on more than one occasion when

I caught all 6-foot-4 of him tipping over the shaky and low top banister.

And yet with the growing infirmity and lack of energy, I always found the light on by my bed and the bed sheets and blanket turned back in a perfect U.S. Army circa W.W. II triangle. God knows how he got through the pitch dark room filled with obstacles but he did it every night just so I wouldn't feel alone when I came home late at night. It is not only characteristic of my Dad, but obvious to me and my brothers and sister that when his final moment comes, it will be thinking or doing for someone else.

Finally one night I declared to my sister Pat that we had to get him to a hospital if he fell again... even if it meant eventual confinement to a nursing home. He needed some sort of supervised care that we couldn't possibly provide given our diversity of schedules and locations.

Thankfully, he did fall again badly but with no major injuries other than pride. We insisted the paramedics take him to the hospital when they made it optional. In short, it was discovered that he had practically poisoned himself and the mix-up of medicines was killing his mind and indirectly his will to live. The Irish in general and McClures specifically are brought up to never quit. It was breaking our hearts to see him die of a broken heart and a surrendering spirit.

The change came sometime after a week in the hospital and two weeks in an excellent rehabilitation recovery facility in Glenview. It was a change for me, too. I'm rather ashamed to admit that dealing with several deep sorrows of my own, combined with frustration at living at home and feeling trapped George Bailey style with two elderly parents for more than a year made me hesitant to be there emotionally for Dad in his time of need. For "Dad-O", a dead ringer of Gregory Peck in middle age, I had reached the "maximum effort" of Peck in Dad's favorite move, "12 O'Clock High."

But somehow I said a silent prayer to God and His Son that Fr. Ted Hesburgh of Notre Dame says he always prays in moments of deepest doubt: "Come, Holy Spirit." And he did. In spades.

As Dad learned to maneuver his walker around the nursing facility, I suddenly had the strength to spend every afternoon and night after work going to dinner with him and then holding his hand in his room or in the outside lakeside veranda until closing time. This "heavy burden" became the lightest of duties, just as the Son Jesus gave the promise of The Father that, in the Spirit, the heaviest of yokes would become easy and light.

When big brother Tom arrived to drive Dad up to sister Pat's for permanent re-location to a place that would look after him, Dad, normally a quiet sort, put his arms out to mine, pulled me close, put my forehead next to his and said "Thank you Boy... thank you for everything." As we sobbed goodbye together, I reminded Dad of some words a submarine ship captain told me many years ago when I asked how he could possibly bear the long separations from his family: "Aw that's easy," the grinning skipper said over the hum of the nuclear reactor, "When you say goodbye you just think of what it will be like the next time you say hello."

That time comes often now and Dad's private apartment, combined by regular family and nurse visits, has been a witness of personal rebirth. His walker sits unused as he strides the hundreds of yards to the Marriott Courtyard Inn-style facilities to dine and socialize with his contemporaries.



All of the McClures in Green Bay and Chicago make regular visits and Dad is bright as a tack, using the phone, notepad and TV with aplomb, speaking with the clarity and vigor of a man half his age (He was born the year the White Sox won the pennant... 1917 that is). The best medicine has been a tabby cat he's named Kitty.

If that strikes you as a bit limiting for a man who went to the University of Chicago in summers to complete his Washington & Lee degree in three Depression-era years to fulfill a deal with his cash-strapped father... I would remind you of the words of Joseph Barrington on his 1803 assessment of the peasant class in the Land of Saints and Scholars, quoted in Walter Bryan's *The Improbable Irish*:

"The sharpest wit and the shrewdest subtlety which abound in the character of the Irish peasant generally lie concealed under the appearance of simplicity."

As I named the neighborhood dog "Poodle" growing up in the 1960s in Kalamazoo and my first fish "Fishy," the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Now that the young boy has become a man, I visit my Dad often in the adjoining Wisconsin apartment and find him the person I remember from 40 years ago. We are great friends, confidantes and I find his love and advice more enduring than ever as he regularly calls, writes and generally stacks all his multi-tasking mental marbles right where they should be. The 60 year old guy who taught me to play the video

game Pong at the Great Lakes train station in the 1970s even wants to learn the computer now. The Internet will never be the same.

As for his health, he's gained weight and his new clothes he wears daily get the job done, "Hey as long as the belt buckles and the zipper stays up I'm in business."

Deep in the night, with the moon outside his wide window rising over the hilltop television tower that broadcast my first television story as a Green Bay intern reporter, I'll open the door and peek in to find him sound asleep with Kitty in his arms and a peaceful look on his face.

As I write this, I have just placed the final picture up in my new apartment over a lake and waterfall near a beautiful forest preserve in Lake County, Illinois. As I sit by the fireplace this February night the moon rises out the window as it did when Dad used to tuck me in, read about fairy tale trips to the moon and pray the Our Father.

I glance about my new home and see more than a half-dozen framed pictures that my Dad created to commemorate my many adventures and travels. A nuclear submarine in the Pacific here, a guided missile cruiser in the Mediterranean there, a young helicopter midshipman trainee in an anti-submarine squadron learning how to hunt Russian subs, a reporter flying supersonic with a NASA test pilot and a young man interviewing George Herbert Walker Bush as the elder president remarked, "What's a nice young kid from Kalamazoo doin' way out here in Virginia?!"

The answer probably lies in that last portrait I hung... a winning elementary school science project mural I did after I arrived in Lake Forest, Illinois in August 1971 to study in astronaut Jim Lovell's Catholic parish.

Behind the mural on the back is my Dad's trademark all-capital-letters signature which looks almost exactly like my handwriting on the project in front. Hand framed, it reads "PRESENTED TO MY SON JIM - LOVE DAD-O... Nov. 8, 1991."

For a son born on JFK's election day (Mom insisted on stopping to vote for Kennedy on the way to the hospital to offset Dad's vote for Nixon) that's one heck of a present and a clairvoyant finishing touch to me being on my own again, working with news media to promote technology companies. To paraphrase a favorite Christian singing artist's lyric Dad is the soul inside the man I am.

And as for those deathly thoughts of his sad summer? "No need to rush up through a snow storm just to see me—I've got the rent paid up for some time and I'm not going anywhere just yet! We've got plenty of time, Boy."

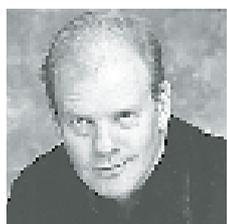
Not to worry, Dad. We made it through an Alaskan-Canadian snowstorm together, and we'll be together praying the Our Father in the moonlight before you know it.

Jim McClure is a freelance broadcast and print journalist working as a national technology public relations practitioner for a firm in the northwest Chicago suburbs.

E-mail: IrishRoverJim@aol.com

# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



nervous on the eve of the funeral he would direct, one that had been planned for years over lunches with his mentor, Andy.

The morning of

his funeral they came through the snow and biting cold for the send-off; senators, cops, aldermen, lobbyists, and McGaffers. Burke, Keane, O'Connell, McLaughlin, Giglio, Hynes, and Tunney. Bill Harvey, bartender at Ken's on Western Ave., was there too. His mother had always told him in hushed tones, "Nobody does it like McGann."



He was the master of the graceful exit. Andrew J. McGann Sr. had been burying the South Side Irish since 1948. Last month was our turn to bury him.

Andy's wake drew a hardy crowd of mourners to St. Catherine of Alexandria church in Oak Lawn. Photos from Andy's life were decked out along the apron of the altar, a testament to Andy's many years in politics as State Representative out of the 18th Ward and city of Chicago commissioner. As director of McGann & Son funeral home, Andy had officiated at the send-offs for all their moms and dads.

Andy was laid out in his mourning suit, starched white shirt and tie, grey gloves, and alongside him in his coffin rested the black Homburg felted hat that was his signature. Serenity suited him. He looked as though he was about to leave on a trip.

The trip began in the '40's at McGann's Tavern, his father's joint at 75th and Halsted. Roger Sheehy worked the funeral home across the street, took Andy under his wing, and taught him the business. Andy went to war twice with the Navy and Marines, raised a family, helped thousands of families in their darkest hour, and got into politics.

His wake brought generations of families he touched. Standing near the coffin, Illinois Speaker of the House Mike Madigan said, "Andy McGann was a legend... the legend developed in his role as a funeral director, but went well beyond that in terms of his personal relationships with thousands of people he met in his life. And he was clearly one of the sincerest people that ever lived. Whatever he said, he believed."

At the wake his nephew told of how Andy once claimed, "I never get hangovers. I think I actually have this ability to drink myself sober. I've never, ever in my life had a hangover."

Andy's McGann's rosy Irish face, hair of white, and twinkling eyes were without guile; tears came to him as easily as laughter. In the back of the church stood Chris Cieplak, Andy's protégé in the funeral business. He looked

He would be speaking from beyond through the scriptures.

Cook County Judge Pat McGann eulogized his uncle with love and humor, adding to the lexicon of Andy McGann stories. He finished with Andy's trademark keen, "Come now, come Andy, come home... the flowers are appearing in the fields, the season of joyful song has come... come this is home."

State police stopped traffic in both directions on Cicero and Central for the funeral procession to Holy Sepulchre. Hundreds of cars snaked through the snow cemetery to the chapel for Andy's final goodbye. A Navy color guard and bugler played Taps. There wasn't a dry eye in the room.

A luncheon at the Oak Lawn Hilton followed the funeral. His pals toasted Andy and stories of his adventures were re-told. Like the time he snubbed Sinatra. Or the night he and his pals kept calling the White House to talk to their hero, Jack Kennedy, until the Secret Service showed up and told Andy to knock it off.

Another protégé of Andy's, Phil Maher, told the story of the day Andy led a funeral to the wrong

cemetery. As he cruised through Mt. Olivet looking for the burial plot he realized his mistake and made a wide u-turn through the marble orchard and led the procession back out onto 111th street to Holy Sepulchre. As they exited the hearse the family hugged him and said, "Oh Andy, you took us by the graves of all our relatives, thank you, how did you know?"

I said it before; Andy McGann was the only guy who could make a dead man comfortable.

He would have been proud of Chris Cieplak and Phil Maher on his funeral day. They sent their mentor off with the same class he reserved for all of the Southside Irish. Well done, lads.

Father Lion told us at the funeral, "the angels led Andy into paradise." They are in for one hell of a good time up there. We will not see his like again.

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## Sharing a Pint



By Scott Powers



I've been trying every which way to get the information out and make their journeys to Chicago worth it. This month, I've basically pimped my article to do the same. While I didn't share a pint with anyone this month, I'd like to share as many in March with whomever can make the shows.

Just a little background, Connolly (www.myspace.com/niallconnolly) is a well-known indie songwriter from Cork. He has a cult following back home and his latest album, *The Future Tense*, was voted 2007 Irish of the Album of the Year. He recently moved to New York and has continued his music career there.

Jackie Hayden, the person who discovered U2, once wrote of him, "Niall Connolly writes intelligent, literate songs rich in graphic detail. Better still, he writes convincingly from his own experience and his heart. We don't have enough like him."

I came across Connolly while in

Life without risks doesn't seem worth it.

While I'm not recommending Russian roulette, there are plenty of other risks that don't have a chance to end so tragically. In March, myself and a few Irish friends are taking a few of these, and I'm hoping you might be able to help the risk turn out successful. Let me explain.

The last few months I've written about a recent trip to Ireland and some of the great musicians I met over there. Since then, I've kept in touch with a few those people and talked

about having them possibly come to Chicago and play. Over the last weeks, we've decided to make it happen.

In March, JT Songs, a Galway-based songwriter, and Niall Connolly, who is from Cork, will be making their first trips to play Chicago. Both will play at The Atlantic (5062 N. Lincoln), one of my favorite Irish pubs, in March. Connolly plays at 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. JT Songs will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 23. Both will cost \$10.

I've never promoted a concert, so this is new to me. Aside from black-mailing friends and family to come,

Galway when I was invited to see his show after seeing JT Songs perform the night before. I knew nothing of Connolly beforehand, but his show at The Crane Bar, an intimate venue in Galway, became one of the highlights of the trip. I'm not great at describing how music sounds, but his songs were smart, beautiful and also fun.

For anyone who can make the show, he has one promise.

"To me, sincerity is the most important thing," he said. "I don't care so much about genre, style, etc. If I am going to hear your song, read your book or go see your movie, I need to believe that you do actually have something to say. Because life is short and if you don't have something to communicate, if it is all style and PR and no substance, then you are simply quite staining the silence and I am switching off."

Few have switched off him.

The same can be said of JT Songs (www.myspace.com/jtsongs). After seeing him play and getting a copy of his new CD, *Distractions of An Age*, it was what I listened to continually for at least a week when I returned to Chicago. His single "The Black Went Down" was one of my favorite songs of 2007.

As he explains, it's a song about "countless beer-fueled epic billiard showdowns in Melbourne's backstreets with a sidekick in a beret and a corduroy vest, cueing for your life

against muscle-bound overly-competitive Australian alpha males, searching desperately for a meaning in the winning or losing of the final frame."

JT Songs, who's real name is John Tully, is actually a doctor back in Galway. The music and running an indie label called Laredo Records with his close friend Hally is something he does on the side.

"I don't look at what I do creatively as a 'career', more as a document of existence. I suppose that's one luxury working full-time affords you," he said. "The basis of the whole somewhat strange undertaking is to prove to myself and the world that you can live a life of balance and hopefully still be good or even excel at what you. Only time will tell as to whether or not this was a big mistake and terrible waste of crossword-solving time."

Coming to the U.S., he plans on having fun as much as he does playing music.

"I expect to be drunk in a multitude of unglamorous establishments," he said. "I expect to be hungover on couches of friends and kind strangers. I expect to sell 200 albums, less than wouldn't generate a profit for the trip. I expect to have a hump-backed whale of a time."

If you can make it to the shows, maybe we can all have such a time. Scott Powers can be reached at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

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### Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Revives Old Easter Tradition

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's new older adult initiative "An Café Liteartha" has proven hugely successful so far. CIIS has echoed the sentiments of the Irish government and has attempted to give something back to the emigrants who left Ireland in the 1950's and 60's.

Ireland owes a debt of gratitude to the emigrants who left during the meager times of the 'lean years' and who funneled money home to the relatives who stayed. They kept a struggling economy afloat and laid the foundations for Ireland's booming success today. An Café Liteartha is our small way of repaying that debt.

The older adult group along with Wellspring Personal Care has provided many guest speakers on topics

### Arranmore/Marian Bradfield Concert at Maple St. Chapel

The Maple St. Chapel concert series late director, George Brown, had been friends for years with the Celtic/Americana music group Arranmore. George would always ask the group if they would return to the Chapel to perform in the annual St. Patrick's



show, and they would always jump at the chance to work with him.

Sadly, George passed away last year after losing a brave battle with cancer. Before he passed on, Brown asked the group to return again this year. The annual concert will take place on Saturday, March 8 at 7:30pm., and Marian Bradfield will join them.

Certainly, this will be a night full of great music and memories remembering the former director of the Maple St. Chapel concert series. The admission for this special show will only be \$18 making it affordable for all to stop by and remember George Brown in songs and stories.

The Maple St. Chapel is located in Lombard, Illinois at the intersection of Maple and Main Streets. Contact the Maple St. Chapel concert series at 630-434-4423.

as wide ranging as memory, elder law, memoir writing and graphology. The members also enjoy regular traditional music sessions, Gaelic Masses and pot-lucks. They meet every second Thursday in the Irish American Heritage Center from 10am- 12pm and all are welcome to attend.

"The group has really filled a

need, in offering not only classes and useful information on aging but in providing that vital social outlet that we all need. We have a brilliant membership who are very lively and keen to express their Irish identity" remarked Breandan Magee, Executive Director of Irish Immigrant Support.

"I'd encourage anyone to come along, we have a wonderful time... or if you know someone who is elderly or lonely, by all means please bring them along", he added.

The group is this year attempting to revive an old Easter tradition that has recently died out in the Irish community. We will ferry our members to 7 churches on Holy Thursday evening, March 20th to celebrate the

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper. We will say a few prayers in each church starting at 7:30 pm. We will provide a mini bus free of charge to escort the faithful and all are welcome to take part in reliving a vital piece of Irish history in Chicago. We will pick you up at the Irish American Heritage Center but spaces are limited so please call 312.337.8445 to book your spot now.

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## Former President Bill Clinton to Visit Belfast or 10th Anniversary of Good Friday Agreement

Former US president Bill Clinton will visit Northern Ireland to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr Clinton will be joined by Senator George Mitchell, who played a crucial role in brokering

the 1998 accord, at an event in Belfast to be held in April.

Northern Ireland First Minister Ian Paisley has not yet indicated whether he will attend the US-Ireland Alliance commemoration, which will be held

at Queen's University. However, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin will be attending.

Trina Vargo, president of the US-Ireland Alliance, welcomed the confirmation of the former president's visit, saying 'President Clinton's involvement was crucial in bringing peace to Northern Ireland.'

Other confirmed guests include General John de Chastelain, who oversaw paramilitary decommissioning, former and present SDLP leaders John Hume and Mark Durkan, Ulster Unionist leader Sir Reg Empey and ex-Northern Ireland secretary Paul Murphy.



The Elders

## Singer/Musician Kelly Millar

Chicago last month welcomed a new face on the music scene. Kelly Millar, a musician and famed vocalist has put down roots in the City of Big Shoulders and hopes to share her beautiful voice with audiences far and wide. Be sure to keep a look out for this fresh new face and unforgettable voice. She has performed in concerts throughout Europe, and North America.

to believe that such a big voice can come from such a 'wee' girl. The bubbly 26-year-old attributes her



vocal stamina to Irish genes and Pittsburgh steel. 'We're made of tough stuff in the Iron City,' she joked.

Kelly was the soloist for the world premiere of PAX by Luke Mayernik, and the Pittsburgh premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem. As a soloist, she has performed various works including Handel's Messiah and operas such as La Boheme. She is noted for her vocal range of over three octaves and the purity of her tone.

A Pittsburgh native, Kelly is trained in opera, chamber music, oratorio and theatre. She manages to squeeze in some haunting Irish melodies too though, a testament to her Irish roots.

"Although I've only been here a month, Chicago already feels like home... people are so welcoming," Kelly added, showing that roots are easily planted on Chicago soil.

After hearing a soul-stirring rendition of a well-known favorite 'The Green Fields of France,' it's hard

to believe that such a big voice can come from such a 'wee' girl. The bubbly 26-year-old attributes her vocal stamina to Irish genes and Pittsburgh steel. 'We're made of tough stuff in the Iron City,' she joked. Kelly was the soloist for the world premiere of PAX by Luke Mayernik, and the Pittsburgh premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem. As a soloist, she has performed various works including Handel's Messiah and operas such as La Boheme. She is noted for her vocal range of over three octaves and the purity of her tone. She received her undergraduate degree in Music from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, citing its beautiful 19th century chapel as the perfect testing ground for her voice. She is a freelance musician and performs at weddings, funerals and private concerts and can be reached at 412-841-5806.

## FitzGerald's St. Patrick's Day Celebration

On Monday, March 17th, when most clubs, bars and restaurants have had their fill of Irish partying from the weekend before, FitzGerald's will open its backyard tent and club to host its own "féile" (festival) with non-stop music, food and dancing beginning at 2pm.

Just west of Chicago, FitzGerald's Night Club and the FitzGerald family has been celebrating their Irish heritage with friends, family and the larger communities of Berwyn, Oak Park, Forest Park, Chicago and more for the last 26 years.

Featured performers include dancer/fiddler extraordinaire, April Verch, local lads, the Dooley Brothers, talented and, oh-so-darling, students of the Mayer School of Irish Dance with Paul McHugh and Mary Mayer-McHugh, fiddling with the Avenue Kids, and Chicago's own rockin' Irishmen, Kevin Flynn & the

Avondale Ramblers. Almost one year ago Wishbone Restaurant opened its Roosevelt Road location, next door to FitzGerald's Night Club. They will serve up a special St. Patrick's Day menu for this celebration featuring Guinness beef stew, soda bread, corned beef & cabbage and a kid-friendly menu. Perks include lots of tables and chairs, a coat-check and heat in the outdoor tent! Lift a pint of Guinness or Harp from their free-flowing tap or enjoy one of their Irish whiskeys—with or without the coffee! Doors open at 1:00pm, performances begin at 2:00pm; \$10/\$5 for kids 12 and under. Tickets available at the door. No advance sales. Check the website for complete schedule at [www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com](http://www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com). 6615 W. Roosevelt Rd. in Berwyn, IL, (708) 788-2118.

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 The Botby Band were only together for three years, but were responsible for the rebirth of traditional Irish music and set the standard for all bands which would come after them. *The Best of the Botby Band* (originally released four years after the band split up) is a superb introduction to their blend of tradition and innovation.  
 (LUN 3041)

**Andy Irvine & Paul Brady**  
*Andy Irvine and Paul Brady*  
 This classic 1976 album from former Flanby members Andy Irvine and Paul Brady was greeted with critical acclaim when released in Ireland and Europe. Joined by Donal Lunny on bouzouki and Kevin Banks on fiddle, Irvine and Brady are one of the most accomplished Irish traditional duos that have ever recorded.  
 (LUN 3008)

**Matt Molloy**  
*Matt Molloy*  
 The three most influential groups in traditional Irish music—The Botby Band, Flanby, and The Chieftains—have only one man in common. He is Matt Molloy and this is his landmark solo album which shows why he is often referred to as the greatest flute player ever.  
 (LUN 3034)

Available at: **Rampant Lion** Rampant Lion Celtic Trader  
 47 South Villa Ave in Villa Park, Tel: (630) 834-8108  
[compassrecords.com](http://compassrecords.com)  
[greenlinnet.com](http://greenlinnet.com)  
[mulliganrecords.com](http://mulliganrecords.com)

Please visit [compassrecords.com](http://compassrecords.com) and [greenlinnet.com](http://greenlinnet.com) to join eNews, track artist tour schedules and order CDs and other merchandise via our secure online ordering. Thanks for supporting independent music!

### Fast Eddie McAteer and Billy O'Donoghue CD Release Party

Fast Eddie McAteer and Billy O'Donoghue are releasing their first CD together after 16 years. The CD was recorded live in Galvin's Public House and it contains some of Ireland's favorite modern ballads and rebel songs. It's not for the faint at heart. It's a ball of energy and finishes off with the finest rendi-

tions of the Irish and American National Anthems.

Eddie sings the Irish National Anthems in Gaelic and English. Most of the people in Ireland don't know that it was originally written in English and later translated to Gaelic. The words are very similar to the Star Spangled Banner, so when sung in

Gaelic and English, Americans can hear the true meaning.

The CD release party will be held at the popular Galvin's Public House, Friday, March 14th at 9 o'clock. Eddie and Billy will be playing and signing copies of the CD. 5903 W. Lawrence in Chicago, 773-205-0570.

### The Elders at ECC

Celtic legends, The Elders, will be appearing at Elgin Community College on March 14th at 7:30 p.m. In case you haven't already heard, The Elders are a group of Kansas City musicians with a passion for Celtic music, joined by an Irishman with a love of all things American, creating a cross-pollination of elements that are high octane and rooted in tradition.

Additionally, their latest CD was crowned Celtic Rock Album of the Year by The Irish American News in Chicago who commented: "These boys have left their mark on fans everywhere with their talent, energy and their breakthrough album, Racing the Tide."

The Elders' latest release, the entertaining and tightly paced documentary, The Elders: Alive and Live in Ireland, chronicles the adventure which took the band and devoted fans from the USA to Ireland in March 2007, making

their way east to west on a wonderful and memorable journey. Alive and Live in Ireland was first screened at the Kansas City Film Festival in September to great reviews. Festival organizers described the documentary as "... nothing you've ever seen before..." The DVD package features an exclu-

sive live CD of 13 memorable Elders' tunes including the title track of their latest studio CD, Racing The Tide.

See The Elders live at Elgin Community College on March 14th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$28 & \$24, available at the box office by calling 847-622-0300 or visit web at www.elgin.edu.

### The McKenna Ensemble Concerts

On Sunday, March 9th, at 3:00pm, the premiere of the Orchestral Suite from the opera The Magic Cup, composed and produced in 1988 by Father McKenna (libretto of Fr. Andrew Greeley) will be performed by the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Kevin McMahon, conductor, at Ottawa Township High School Auditorium, 211 E. Main Street, Ottawa IL. (Take I-80 westbound; exit at IL Rte 23 south to

Ottawa, which becomes Columbus Street, left at Main St, which crosses the Fox River. High school on the immediate left.)

On Sunday, March 30th, at 3:00pm, there will be a recital of music principally by Antonin Dvorak, the famed Czech Catholic composer who flourished in the United States, at Our Lady of Pompeii Shrine in the UIC/Little Italy neighborhood.

Rev McKenna 219/874-7609.

### Trad Singer Len Graham in Midwest

Len Graham is one of Ireland's best known traditional singers who has gained an international reputation, not only for his inimitable singing style, but also for the breadth of his knowledge of Irish folk music. He is making a rare US tour of performance and teaching engagements in the Midwest. This is a really special opportunity for traditional song enthusiasts and singers. His rich recording history spans over thirty years, with more than twenty highly acclaimed albums to his credit.

Illinois engagements are listed below. Visit www.thesession.org/events/display/760 for more locations in the Midwest.

31 March: Chicago - WDCB Chi-

cago, 90.9 FM, "Blarney on the Air" radio show, 7 p.m. with Shay Clark and Bill Margeson. Listen online: www.cod.edu/wdcb/wdcb\_online.htm (not archived)

7 April: Carbondale, IL - Concert at SIU, Carbondale. Contact: Bryan Kelso Crow - bcrow@siu.edu

8 April: Champaign IL - Piper's Hut concert series, Champaign IL - www.pipers-hut.com/concerts/ - Contact: Dean Karres- pipers.hut@gmail.com

9 April: Chicago - Song workshop at IAHC in Chicago - Info: Brian Hart: ohairt@yahoo.com

10 April: Chicago - Concert: Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago - www.irishamhc.com

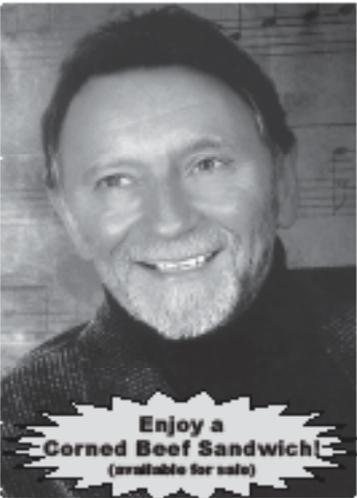
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Phil Coultter is truly one of the most enduring figures in the music industry. From writing million-selling pop hits to performing with some of the world's leading orchestras, the range of his work is as impressive as his staying power. Holding a collection of gold and platinum albums, his songs have been recorded by a library of stars from Sinéad O'Connor to Elvis Presley. In his native Ireland, he is the biggest selling instrumentalist of all time and has taken his particular blend of orchestral music around the world. His albums have enjoyed long periods in the Billboard Music Charts, and he has joined the distinguished band of Grammy nominees.



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## OLD ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. Conroy, Pastor      781 West Adams • Chicago, Illinois

**WELCOME** to the 2008 season of Lent and our annual preparations for Easter at Old St. Patrick's Church. We invite you to explore the meanings and significance of Christian life through our liturgies, ministries, and programs during Lent 2008.

**Faith of St. Patrick Community Celebration**  
Sunday, March 9 - 12:45 p.m. Mass  
This traditional Community Mass honors our patron Saint, Saint Patrick, and features Celtic music performed by traditional Irish musicians, Old St. Patrick's choir and cantors, the choirs: Holy Irish Pipe Band, and the St. Ann's Honor Irish Pipe Band. A complimentary Irish Continental breakfast immediately follows Mass.

**Faith of St. Patrick Civic Celebration**  
Saturday, March 15 - 9 a.m. Mass & 10:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet  
Please join Old St. Patrick's Church and the St. Patrick's Day downtown parade organizers for the 9 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Timothy Dowling, featuring Celtic musicians, song, and dance. After Mass, please join us in the ECF Celebration for our Breakfast Buffet. Tickets for the Buffet can be ordered at [www.rialtosquare.com/99234](http://www.rialtosquare.com/99234) thru Thursday, March 6.

**Lenten Great Exorcism Series**  
Sundays, March 2 and 9  
Please join us to hear the following excellent, thought-provoking, and inspiring prayers during the 2008 Lenten Season:

**Sunday, March 2**  
Rev. Richard O'Flynn  
Pastor  
St. Luke's Church

**Sunday, March 9**  
Rev. Barbara Beard  
Assistant Pastor  
Unity United Church of Christ

**Annunciations: Reflections on the Sunday Gospel**  
Lent 2008  
Sundays, March 2 and 9  
Would you like to deepen your understanding of the spiritual wisdom available to us in the Gospel? If so, join us for reflection and dialogue on the 2nd floor of the St. Jack Wall Mission Center, 711 West Adams.

There is no fee. If interested, please call 512.626.1081 or visit our web site at [www.rialtosquare.com](http://www.rialtosquare.com)

[www.rialtosquare.com/99234](http://www.rialtosquare.com/99234) and visit at 2008 Lenten Schedule and Programs for more details.

**Wednesday Lenten and Lenten Reflections**  
March 5 and 12  
12:30 - 1:15 p.m.  
Do you work diligently? Are you looking for a way to engage in Lent? Join us at Old St. Patrick's for a soup lunch and short Lenten reflection during your lunch hour.

**Holy Thursday**  
March 20  
Holy Thursday will be celebrated in four locations on the Old St. Patrick campus at 7:00 p.m. in the church of Rev. Patrick McGeehan; 7:00 p.m. in the church hall of Rev. John C. Condit; 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Border World School Gym of Pastor and Rev. John J. Wall; 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Border World School Gymnasium of Rev. Paul J. Hawk.  
Prior advanced paid reservations are needed to attend the Mass and community observance. Visit [www.rialtosquare.com/99234](http://www.rialtosquare.com/99234) for further reservations.

**Good Friday**  
March 21  
Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
Eucharistic Celebrations - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Eurgy of the Passion and Death of our Lord Rev. John C. Condit - Noon and 7 p.m.  
Sessions of the Cross  
Rev. John J. Wall - 9 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 23  
Join us as we celebrate the great Feast of Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the church of Rev. Patrick McGeehan; 7:00 p.m. in the church hall of Rev. John C. Condit; 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Border World School Gymnasium of Rev. Paul J. Hawk.  
Eucharistic Celebrations - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Eury of the Passion and Death of our Lord Rev. John J. Wall - 9 p.m.

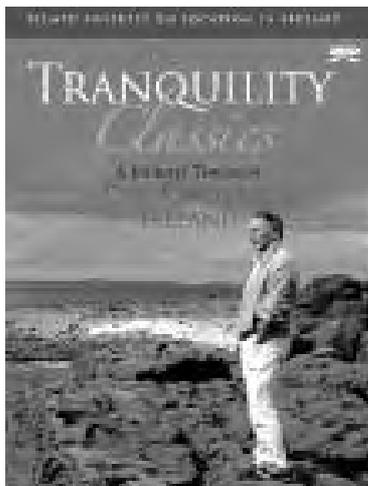
**Resurrection Sunday**  
March 23  
Join us as we celebrate the great Feast of Easter Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the church of Rev. Patrick McGeehan; 7:00 p.m. in the church hall of Rev. John C. Condit; 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Border World School Gymnasium of Rev. Paul J. Hawk.  
Eucharistic Celebrations - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Eury of the Passion and Death of our Lord Rev. John J. Wall - 9 p.m.

Additionally, there will be marriage rites available and the Easter Bunny to meet.



**Phil Coulter Releases New CD and DVD**

Phil Coulter has enjoyed a career longevity that is rare in the music business. Few musicians share Coulter's illustrious resumé which includes having his songs recorded by Elvis and Sinead O'Connor, co-writing hits for Cliff Richard and the Bay City Rollers, producing Van Morrison, and being the catalyst for Enya's own best-sellers. 2008 promises to be a banner year for the pianist, composer and producer as he released a new



swooning melodies and picturesque and astoundingly beautiful orchestrations that tell poignant and timeless stories.

Coulter's new DVD *Tranquility Classics* was filmed entirely on location in Ireland and is a celebration of the enduring quality of Phil Coulter's music and a testament to its staying power. [www.shanachie.com](http://www.shanachie.com)

CD, *Timeless Tranquility* (February 19) and a new DVD *Tranquility Classics* (February 5) both on Shanachie Entertainment. Coulter will also launch his first US Tour in seven years (he will be appearing March 11 in Joliet, Illinois at the Rialto Square Theatre) and star as the music director for the highly anticipated PBS special *Celtic Man* (a follow up to the phenomenon *Celtic Woman*) to air in March 2008.

Phil Coulter's new CD and DVD celebrate the 20th anniversary of his hugely popular *Tranquility Series* that landed a spot for Coulter on the Irish music charts throughout much of the '80s and '90s. These dynamic, emotional and rich recordings demonstrate Coulter's unparalleled knack for crafting lush,

**Did You Know Tom Cullen?**

Who was Tom Cullen? That's the query author Cathal Liam is trying to answer. With most of the research completed, the Ohio-based novelist is plugging away on his fifth book, a biography this time.

Cullen, a fascinating person, lived a thrilling life during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Born in Blessington, this Co. Wicklow man soon became embroiled in Ireland's struggle for freedom. Quickly rising in the ranks of the Irish Volunteers, after their founding in November, 1913, Tom spent time in Wicklow, Mountjoy and Belfast jails for his activities. His passion for the cause of liberty attracted the at-

**St. Patrick's Pops:  
Celts and Kilts March 13**

Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director/Conductor Kirk Muspratt for "St. Patrick's Pops: Celts and Kilts," Thursday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Star Plaza Theatre featuring traditional Irish group Cherish the Ladies and local Celtic duo Switchback.

Let your inner leprechaun celebrate with an enchanting evening filled with Irish melodies featuring Cherish the Ladies. Taking their name from a traditional Irish jig, the Ladies' unique blend

of virtuosi instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing combine all the facets of Irish traditional culture and put it forth in an immensely entertaining package. Local Irish band Switchback will help get the evening started and students from the Mayer School of Irish Dance will kick up their heels.

Tickets range from \$20-\$60, and student tickets are just \$10. Group sales are also available at a discount. Call the Symphony office at (219) 836-0525 or visit the website at [www.NISOchestra.org](http://www.NISOchestra.org) to order tickets for "Celts and Kilts".

attention of many including Michael Collins.

With the aid and comradeship of Liam Tobin and Frank Thornton, Cullen became a key figure in Collins's undercover intelligence operation. They worked out of Crow Street in Dublin, an address only two blocks from The Castle. As a key operative, Tom and his two counterspy friends often pointed out British operatives to members of Michael's Squad for assassination in the streets of Dublin.

After the War for Independence, Cullen, acting as a bodyguard, accompanied Collins to London during Treaty talks in the autumn of 1921. Later, as a major-general in the new Free State army, Tom became an aide to Governor-General Tim Healy after Collins death. But

with Civil War resentments intensifying, the three undercover men played key roles in the 1924 Army Mutiny, sometimes referred to as the Tobian Mutiny.

Tragically, however, Tom met an untimely death in Lough Dan during the summer of 1926. Though only thirty-five, he'd led an unbelievably exciting life surrounded by some of Ireland's greatest patriots-heroes.

Look for Cathal Liam's new book, *Fear Not The Storm*, scheduled to be published in autumn of this year.

(Dear reader: If you have any information, photos and/or personal recollections regarding Tom Cullen, please email Cathal at [cathal@cathalliam.com](mailto:cathal@cathalliam.com).)

## Happy St. Patrick's Day

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## St. Patrick's Day Festival March 1st - 17th

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- 8:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Beggarman** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 9:00-11:00pm Clontarff Whiskey promo
- 10:30pm Queen of St. Patrick's Weekend nominations



**LARKIN BROTHERS**

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- 7:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 9:00-11:00pm Celtic Crossing Irish Liquor Promo

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

- 8:30-10:30pm Jameson Whiskey Promo

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

- 5:00-9:00pm Girls' Night Out
- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm **Wild Colonial Bhoys** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover (Girls, No Cover)
- 9:00-11:00pm Boru Irish Vodka Promo

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

- 5:00-7:00pm **Aidan O'Toole** (Irish Music)
- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Siochain** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 10:30pm Queen of St. Patrick's weekend nominations

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8

- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Larkin Brothers** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8 (continued)

- 10:30pm Queen of St. Patrick's weekend nominations

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9

- St. Patrick's Day Family Celebration
- 1:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 2:00-4:00pm Irish face painting, jewelry making, and Irish tales
- 3:00pm **Donnybrook** (Celtic Rock)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 11

- 8:30pm Tuesday Irish Trivia Night
- 9:00-11:00pm Celtic Crossing Promo

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

- 8:30-11:00pm Irish Open Mic Night
- 9:00-11:00pm Michael Collins Whiskey Promo

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13

- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:00pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 8:30pm **Anish** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 8:30-10:30pm Jameson Whiskey Promo



**THE McCABES**

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14

- 5:00-7:00 pm **Aidan O'Toole** (Irish Music)
- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **The McCabes** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 9:00-11:00pm Boru Irish Vodka promo

### SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Sandcarvers** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 9:00-11:00pm Clontarff Whiskey Promo

### SUNDAY, MARCH 16

- 1:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm **Mother Grove** (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- 9:00-11:00pm Boru Irish Vodka Promo

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY MONDAY, MARCH 17

- 8:00am Eggs & Kegs Irish Buffet
- 10:00am Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 11:00am Irish Dancers
- 12:00pm **Aidan O'Toole** (Irish Music)
- 3:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 3:30pm **Anish** (Celtic Rock)
- 7:30pm Dave Johnston (Irish Bagpiper)
- 7:45pm The Ballydoyle Knights, a Toast to Ireland and Presentation of the Queen of St. Patrick's Day
- 8:00pm **The Wolfe Tones' Derek Warfield** (Celtic)
- 10:00pm Irish Dancers

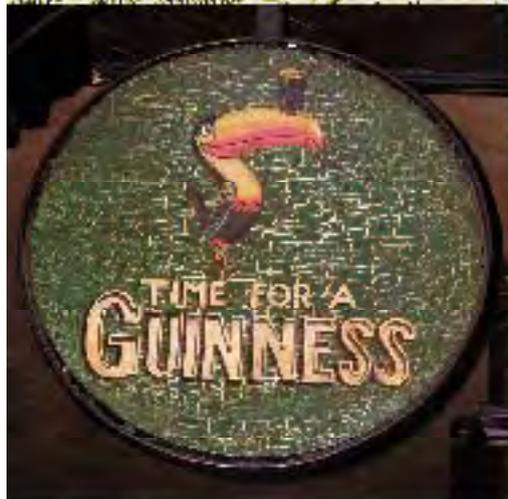


**THE WOLFE TONES' DEREK WARFIELD**

\$10 cover per person after 2:00pm  
No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm

### FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 28 & 29

- 9:00pm **The Elders** \$10 cover



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# McNally's Fleadh

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

### March 12-17, 2008

#### FEATURING . . .

- 3/12 - Irish Buzzed Bingo
- 3/13 - Sexy Men in Kilts Contest  
Shamrock of McNally's Contest  
Myles & Friends 9pm
- 3/14 - The Kissers 10pm (\$5 cover at the door)
- 3/15 - Deep Six 4:30pm  
Hi Infidelity 7:30pm
- 3/16 - Irish Cabaret Night  
Fabulous Irish Dinner & entertainment by:  
The Gavin Coyle Band  
Trinity Irish Dancers  
The Muck Brothers
- 3/17 - One Sweet Jane 11:30am  
The O'Brien's 2pm  
Trinity Irish Dancers 3:30pm  
Michael McDermott 5pm  
Mike & Joe Band 7:30pm

All events on 3/15, 3/16, & 3/17  
will be held in a heated tent on the  
3rd deck of the parking garage  
located directly behind McNally's.

#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Availability is limited, for information  
call 630.513.6300

Tickets for 3/15 & 3/17 are \$8 each - \$12 for both days.  
Tickets for the Cabaret on 3/16 are \$25  
(\$8 kids 14 & under)

Join us at McNally's  
on March 8th  
to see the St. Charles  
St. Patrick's Day Parade  
at 2pm

# Irish Cabaret

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day at The McNally's Fleadh

Sunday March 16th, 2008

Join us for an amazing night of dinner & entertainment.

The Gavin Coyle Band 5pm

The Trinity Irish Dancers 6:15pm

The Muck Brothers 7:30pm

Call the pub for your tickets **On Sale Now!**  
Availability Limited! \$25/ticket includes a  
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fabulous night of entertainment & laughs!  
(\$8 for kids under 14 with choice of chicken  
nuggets or pizza)

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Grand Prize - Round trip Airfare to Ireland for 2

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## Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



As we look into a new GAA season just starting now with the National Leagues, I would hope that some of the annoying features of last year's GAA programme of events will have been rectified. The GAA owe it to their loyal supporters, irrespective of where they are watching county games, north, south, east or west, that they are getting value for money. Gaelic football is developing into a basketball style of game with very little dependence on kicking the ball. Every game I witnessed last year had the same fault even the top teams like Kerry, Dublin, Tyrone, Galway, have become obsessed with the hand passing style game much to the annoyance of their followers. You have only to stand on the terraces to hear the frustrated fans screaming at players "will you kick the F.....g ball." Hand passing is part of Gaelic football but only to create possible scoring chances and not to spend unnecessary time hand-passing the ball from defence up the field before some player is forced to kick the ball

away to an opponent. There is also another annoying practice taking place in matches when players drop to the ground feigning injury in order to get his opponent booked or sent off or delaying the taking of a free. This is a despicable and totally unsporting act which brings the game into disrepute. There should be a law, like in soccer, where a so called 'injured' player must leave the playing pitch, before the referee calls him back to his place on the pitch. Referees know when players are acting a part and a yellow card should be given to the offending player.

Referees have the power to give a player a yellow or red card should he hear him verbally taunting an opponent and that at times leads to a violent response from that opponent but sadly most referees don't bother producing the yellow or red cards—and more is the pity. This practice has been going on for years in our games but nothing has been done about it. When referees fail to use the remedy to clean up

this annoying aspect it will never be applied as it should. This disgusting practice is now very much in evidence at underage matches and indeed school matches and soon it will become an accepted part of our national games unless some thing is done about it sooner than later. There is another annoying practice, all too common nowadays at our matches when teams are not announced until the day of the game. The fault here lies with the team officials who delay naming their team line out and then not always play that fifteen they had issued. This is supposed to confuse their opponents with no regard for the punter who has just paid five euro for a match programme, which also makes a mockery of the occasion.

There is presently a trait growing for delaying the start of matches because a section of fans are still in local bars drinking ignoring the starting times of matches they are attending. It happens at times in all the other provinces as well as Croke Park when Dublin are playing, and this creates major problems for the Gardai. The Dublin fans then arrive at the stiles in their thousands forcing the Gardai to order the stile gates to be opened to prevent accidents to fans due to crushing. It means that the officials delay the start of matches in

order to allow the Dublin fans time to claim their seats. It is very unfair on those followers who arrive in plenty time to reach their paid seats without hassle. There is no clear cut remedy for this situation and the GAA's hand is tied in the matter. They don't want a riot at their matches but the time is now for the GAA to come up with some plan to change the circumstances that prevail at present.

Even GAA presidential candidate Sean Fogarty has described the Association's disciplinary process as being a "total and utter shambles" and has called for a return to a "one hearing, one appeal" system to deal with offences. The former Munster Council Chairman hopes to succeed Nicky

Brennan as President in 2009 and he has identified the discipline issue as one of the biggest problems facing the GAA. Fogarty insisted that the GAA 'panicked' when a number of players sought High Court injunctions to avoid suspensions prior to the introduction of the Independent Disputes Resolution Authority.

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# Concerts





**Celtic Fiddle Fest**  
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Sunday, March 2, 7pm  
"Three of the finest folk violinists anywhere."  
- The Washington Post

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**Patty Larkin**  
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- Chicago Tribune

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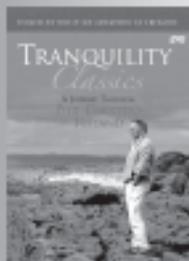


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## The Search for the 2008 Chicago Rose of Tralee Is On Rose Crowned at Chicago Rose of Tralee Ball Saturday, April 19

**"Twas Not Her Beauty Alone That Won Me"**

The Chicago Rose of Tralee will crown this year's Chicago Rose at the Annual Rose of Tralee Ball, a black tie affair at Ridge Country Club, 6:30 PM, Saturday, April 19, 2008. Up to 25 contestants will compete to represent Chicago's Irish community in Ireland at the Rose of Tralee preliminary competition this June. The winner will receive an all expense paid trip to Ireland and the opportunity to be an ambassador of Chicago's Irish community. There are a few slots left to become a Chicago Rose. If you are interested in receiving more

information about becoming a Rose or to purchase tickets to the Ball, please contact the Chicago Rose of Tralee at 773-239-3927 or [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com). But don't delay because space is limited.

The Chicago Rose of Tralee judges are looking for a young woman between the ages of 18-27 and of Irish descent who is an exemplary role model, exceptional at school and work, active in extra-curricular activities and committed to volunteering in the community. The Rose of Tralee is a once in a life time opportunity to represent Chicago,

travel all over Ireland, meet people from around the world and compete to win the Rose of Tralee in Ireland, representing the Irish community world wide for an entire year.

The Chicago Rose of Tralee Ball is the most anticipated Irish formal of the year. The Ball will feature the best of Irish entertainment including Irish musician David James, Irish dancing, a silent auction, and the crowning of the 2008 Chicago Rose of Tralee. To celebrate the crowning of the Rose, the DJ will pump up the music and guests will dance into the wee hours of the morning. This is a night that should not be missed!

The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world. The Chicago Rose of Tralee sponsors enrichment programs and events that celebrate the Irish culture all year round. Girls ages 5-12 participate as Rosebuds, youngwomen ages 13-17 participate as Rose Petals and the Rose Contestants are ages 18-27. Funds raised at the Rose Ball will go toward sending the Chicago Rose to Ireland, the Chicago Rose of Tralee Internship Program here and abroad, the Chicago Rose of Tralee International Exchange Program, the Chicago Rose of Tralee Web Pals and Chicago Rose of Tralee Service Projects.

We are especially grateful for the support of our sponsors for making these programs possible. The 2008 Chicago Rose of Tralee sponsors are the Beverly Review, Jack Desmond's Pub, Ridge Country Club, American Homefront Mortgage, Qualified Carpentry & Construction, Haggerty Pontiac, Beverly Kitchen & Bath, Kinsale Properties, Interim Healthcare, Beverly Pantry, Café 103, Farmers Insurance, Fitzgerald Realty, Beverly Hills Flower Shop, All Around Travel, United Temps, Inc., County Fair and Beverly Bank.

## Irish Studies in Montana

Montana, unknown to most, has a strong link with Ireland most specifically with western Cork and the Beara Peninsula area. The state is home to the largest per capita population of people of Irish descent in the western United States. This community is comprised largely of descendants of those Irish-speaking miners who left the destitution of rural Ireland to seek their fortunes mining copper in the town of Butte. Butte soon grew to such an extent that it began to exert an influence that was not only local and regional in reach but stretched all the way back home to Ireland. Dr. Douglas Hyde, then president of the Gaelic League and the future president of the Irish Republic, visited in 1906 and the then fugitive Eamon DeValera found refuge and support here in 1919. The legacy of Ireland's people, traditions, and struggle still resound strongly here in Montana.

The University of Montana (Missoula, MT), is offering a minor in Irish Studies (with an emphasis on the language) which was formally launched and endorsed in May 2006 by a visit from Mary McAleese and enjoys support, enthusiasm, and some funding from the Irish government. The program is extremely popular, the teachers are accomplished and talented, the classes are full and flourishing and the students are lining up to participate. They are also in the process of developing a student exchange program with the University College Cork. This is the only Irish Studies program of its kind west of the Mississippi and, unlike Notre Dame or Harvard, the University of Montana is affordable to most everyone who wants to study Irish here and with the rising costs of today's education, this is a very important aspect. Not to mention that the quality and level of education at this University is respected and world class.

[www.cas.umt.edu/irishstudies](http://www.cas.umt.edu/irishstudies)

## Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

**ARIES:** There is a lot of activity that is not in plain view where you are concerned. There may be some shenanigans going on behind your back or at the very least some facts are being omitted. Be alert and don't let anyone pull the wool over your eyes.

**TAURUS:** Your friends are banding together to bring you out of the doldrums. You may also be surprised to have one of your fond wishes come true. Your eleventh sector of hopes and dreams is activated this month. "Great!"

**GEMINI:** You will do well to pay attention to your career interests. The planets are congregating in your tenth sector of aspirations and the planet of surprises, Uranus is along for the interesting ride. Expect the unexpected.

**CANCER:** You are being given a well needed respite from a lot of the stresses lately.

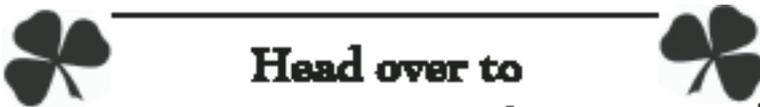
The planets are gathering in your ninth sector of higher aspirations and spiritual matters.

Some of your good karma possibly due to long forgotten good deeds you performed in the past is returning.

**LEO:** You are feeling a bit like a fish out of water with all that has occurred lately.

Rest assured that your family and friends will not abandon you. This time will pass into a more relaxed and carefree phase. "Whew!"

**VIRGO:** Some of the things that have happened in the last few years will be improved upon soon. Something or someone will enter your life and change your world for the better. You probably feel gun shy from all of the former strife, but do not expect to be down forever!



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noon - midnight  
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TVs to watch the parade & cheer on your team  
during March Madness

**Sunday, March 16th**  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. breakfast  
Enjoy an Irish breakfast before heading to the  
Northwest side parade!  
Followed by a buffet @ 2:30 p.m.  
With special prices on buckets of beer!

**Monday, March 17th**  
Corned beef, cabbage, & Irish beer all day long!

*Buffet Features: Corned Beef & Cabbage,  
Fish-N-Chips, Shepherd's Pie,  
Irish Sausage, and Much More!*

*Irish Breakfast Includes: Scrambled Eggs, Quiche,  
Bacon, Irish Sausage, Potatoes, Black/White  
Pudding, Hashers, Baked Beans, Broiled Tomatoes,  
Soda Bread, Brown Bread, Pastries,  
Bagels, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, and More!*

*Irish music-March Madness-  
crazy atmosphere-food and drinks-  
Buckets of Beer-  
authentic Irish  
breakfast and brunch*

## Black 47 Takes On Iraq

By Cliff Carlson

### Iraq CD

Radio host, writer and Black 47 band founder, Larry Kirwan, has released his latest CD, Iraq. Written mostly from the point of view of the band's fans who have served in Iraq, Kirwan and his band explore the stories and emotions of emails and letters they have received.

Stars and Stripes, Downtown Baghdad Blues, Sadr City, Sunrise on Brooklyn, The Last One to Die, The Fighting 69th, Battle of Falujah, and Ramadi are some of the selections.

The album has the unmistakable sound of Black 47 - hard rock, angry lyrics, the unusual blending of guitars, bagpipes, trombone, saxophone, and Larry's many words! More words than you can decipher in one listening!

Larry has had a lot to say since the band started eighteen years ago, and he hasn't run out of material. "Many of our fans joined the service after 911. People are using the service to fund their mortgages and educations. I'm personally against the war, but I tried to express the feelings of the fans who communicated with us. I'm surprised their aren't more artists getting into the war. It's a fertile ground to explore." One of Ernest Hemingway's best books, 'For Whom the Bell Tolls,' was written during the Spanish Civil War," he mused. "Part of the indifference I perceive could be that the war is being waged over there. I read a recent poll taken in Florida. The war was only the fourth most important issue facing America! Only 14% said the war was the

most important issue," exclaimed Larry. "I want to capture what it is really like over there. I think it is the most important issue. We can't begin to fix the problems in America until the war is over. We can't spend 10 billion a month on war and fix any other problems, Kirwan stated.

Q. Speaking of wars, did you ever think you would see Martin McGuinness and Ian Paisley shaking hands?

A. "It's a stunner. I didn't think agreement would come that quickly. Reminds me of the quote by William Butler Yeats, 'Much hatred little room.' Ambition might have a lot to do with it. My grandfather used to say to me that Unionists were more interested in the half crown than the Crown. This new generation has an investment in the future. We had nothing to lose. Hopefully, time will cure things now."

Live at Connolly's

Kirwan has a new DVD out as well called Live At Connolly's. "We do a show at Connolly's on New Years Eve. I attempted to capture the feeling when you are in the center of the world. Connolly's is within the barriers around Times Square at 45th near 6th Ave and Broadway. The DVD is a description of how it was back in 2001 to now. What's happened since 911. You have to have a ticket to get in along with your I.D., and you could

be searched," he said.

Larry has no dust on his blue suede shoes. He hosts a radio show on Sirius Radio that can be heard across the nation Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to Midnight



on Channel 70. He also cohosts 'Celtic Crush' on Saturdays from 10 am. to 1 p.m. with music critic Mike Farragher.

### Writing Contest

Joyce, Burns, Thomas, McCourt! The Celtic tradition is rich with writers and storytellers. Celticlounge.com is encouraging a new generation to submit their stories and enter a unique competition called "Write On!" Entries may be in short story or in essay form, on any subject, not to exceed 1200 words. Celticlounge.com will present the winner with a grand prize of \$1,000, courtesy of Celtic Crossing Liqueur.

Entrants need only log onto CelticLounge.com and join this growing community. Membership on CelticLounge.com is free and open

to anyone 21 years of age or older. The contest will run through March 16, 2008. The next great writer will be announced in time for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2008.

An additional \$500 prize will be awarded to the most popular story voted on by members of CelticLounge. Celticlounge.com is not just a community space but features its own member driven webzine. The search for the next great writer is an ongoing effort to sidestep the often-exclusive literary-industrial complex and provide an outlet for new and established writers.

CelticLounge.com was launched by Black 47 lead singer Larry Kirwan and Irish Voice

columnist Mike Farragher to provide a unique social networking site that gathers Celtic artists and their fans in a dynamic electronic community. On a very user-friendly site, members build their own profiles, share ideas and writings as they listen to Celtic

Lounge Radio play a continuous stream of folk, punk, rock, rap and traditional music from Celtic artists on both sides of the Atlantic. The site is also home to CelticPulse Magazine: a user driven e-magazine that encourages both new and established writers to submit their articles.

### Festivals

"I love the festivals. You can take your whole family to them. Some are taking the place of the old state fairs. Many are very professionally done. They reach outside their regular base to others who enjoy everything Irish. Many have great sound systems. They hire bands that draw crowds and they change bands yearly. Iowa has a great new festival in late August I think. I'll be back at Chicago's Gaelic Park in May for their festival.

When Larry is not busy as a disc jockey or entertaining the crowds he finds time to write a weekly column for the Irish Echo.

Advanced copies of Iraq can be purchased at black47.com, and will be available March 4th at any big record store, borders.com or Amazon.com. Black 47 will appear live at Dirty Nellies in Palatine, IL on March 13th.

## Fiery Female Fiddler in Michigan

A beguiling blend of Celtic, folk, jazz, old-time, bluegrass and roots music woven together with precision, intensity, and soul. April Verch is pure energy that infuses fiddle playing and stepdancing. The subtlety of her pure voice mixes with the finely detailed elegance of her fiddle phrasing and the depth of a repertoire that ranges through material from bluegrass to Brazilian to Celtic, from a jaunty Canadian folksong to a poignant contemporary ballad. April is world-class fiddler, a champion Ottawa Valley stepdancer, an acclaimed composer, and a vocalist whose voice has been hailed as "absolutely captivating" by the Toronto Star.

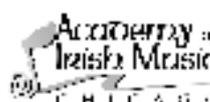
The April Verch Band features world-class musicians Marc Bru on percussion, Lincoln Meyers on guitar, and Cody Walters on upright-electric bass. The April Verch Band will be appearing for a special mid-week concert at the Howmet Playhouse, 304 South Mears Avenue in Whitehall, Michigan, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$14.00. Call 231-894-4048 for tickets or more information.



# WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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## Tired of Working for Someone Else?

The Career Transitions Center of Chicago (CTC), located at 703 West Monroe St., Chicago, is sponsoring a ten-week course on how to start your own business. The course, Start Up! Chicago meets on Tuesday evenings for ten consecutive weeks, starting March 18 @ 6 PM. CTC is a ministry of Old St. Patrick's Church and a number of other downtown

churches and temples.

Each session of the course will start at 6 PM and will wrap up by 8:30. The course will be facilitated by Dr. Thomas E. Murray and Mr. James F. Fitzgerald. Dr. Murray has taught this course many times; he is recognized as a national authority on entrepreneurial ventures. Dr. Murray is currently starting up his latest

business venture, the sale of outdoor spas, in Door County, WI. Jim Fitzgerald is the former Chairman of the Board of CTC. He has also started a number of businesses and he has specialized in coaching executives for many years. Jim writes a Careers column for the Irish American News.

The course is organized on a two track approach. First, entrepreneurs speak at each of the sessions on how they started their business. They are asked to discuss: What are the actions they regret? How could they have better facilitated the start up of their business? How did they get financing? If they were to do again, what would they do differently? Then the facilitators apply the insights provided by the entrepreneurs to the various lessons taken from the textbook.

The costs of the course are subsidized by Charter One Bank, which allows CTC to charge only a fraction of the actual cost as tuition. Please call CTC at 312-906-9908 for the specific details and circumstances. If you are rethinking of starting your own business, you should be at START UP! CHICAGO, starting March 18.

Could be some good bargains in Ireland soon! Try to stretch your dollars!!!

Quote From Tom Boyle's Cousin:

"It looks like a lot of the american golfers are not travelling to Ireland this year. I guess the dollar is having a big effect on things. We are over 40% down on business this year compared to 2007. The prices the courses are charging over here is not helping matter either!!"

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## Fest Raises Spirits and Funds for Agency

All eyes will be smiling at the 11th Annual Avenues Irish Fest hosted by Avenues to Independence parents and Board Members Bob Healy and his wife Peg O'Herron and Board Member Mike Prindivile and his wife Mary. The gala is set for Sunday, March 9th at 2 pm, and will be held at the Meridian Banquets in Rolling Meadows.

The afternoon includes entertainment by the Academy of Irish Music, the Irish Heritage Singers and harpist Chelsea Link. Guests will also enjoy the talents of the Weber Dance Company of Chicago. After sharing the traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage, attendees can peruse the many items up for silent auction and take a chance on the Pot of Gold raffle. The Shamrock Silent Auction will feature a week's stay at Ballindolley Castle in Galway, Ireland.

Established in Park Ridge in 1953, Avenues to Independence is a non-profit agency serving adults with developmental disabilities throughout the Chicagoland area. The agency maintains both a residential and employment program. Apartments, townhomes and single-family residences are located in the towns of Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Niles. The work center, which provides training and employment opportunities, is located in Wheeling. In addition to those employed at the work center, twenty-five businesses throughout the area employ more than 70 workers from the agency's job placement program.

Irish Fest is the brainchild of Bob Healy and Peg O'Herron who have turned a small family and friends get-together into one of Avenues most prosperous fund raisers. All proceeds for the Irish Fest will fund Avenues No Place Like Home initiative, a project to update and renovate Avenues residential properties. Contact Bob Healy or Peg O'Herron at 847.885.8976.

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March 3 Whelan's Dublin- Ireland  
March 5 Killarney Avenue Hotel- Ireland  
March 7 The Quays Galway- Ireland  
March 14 Elgin Community College -Elgin, Illinois  
March 15 The 6th Annual Elders HOOJIE - Uptown Theater, Kansas City  
March 17 Oelwein Performing Arts Center - Oelwein, Iowa  
March 28-29 Ballydoyle - Downers Grove, Illinois

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## Tradition In Review



Bill Margeson



### Top TIR Awards

It is time! The 2008 Top TIR Awards — the top albums reviewed in the column here during the last year. Chicago. International. Major market muscle. This is THE way to recognize the best of the best. The past Top TIR winners are an almanac of the best Irish music in the world. The best way for you to show your appreciation for these artists is to support them. Go to the concerts. Buy the albums. This is the best music in the world, easily. And, these are the Masters of the Form for 2008. The envelopes, please:

1. Composition of the Year — Jean Yelland - The Cast

Mairi Campbell wrote Jean Yelland in honor of a wonderful lady in British Columbia, Canada. It was included in this year's superior album, *Greengold* that she and partner Dave Francis released on the Greentrax label out of Scotland. Mairi is a gifted singer and musician, but who knew she could compose an instant classic like this gorgeous, heartfelt air? Jean Yelland's deceptive simplicity and obvious beauty assures its place in the music and its history. Dave Francis's guitar is superb. A perfect accompaniment. Understated. Elegant. Much like this tune itself. What to say about Campbell's fiddle playing? Just perfect. Any trained 10-year old can rip a reel or jig. It takes a mature and gifted woman to play an air like this! The point is that airs are for the real, true honest-to-God musicians among us. Nowhere to hide. It is all out there. We think the Scots are the best at airs, and this tune proves why. The Cast takes its time, and simplifies the tune structurally, so we can hear the heart. Not just the notes. Good heavens, this is great. Probably the easiest winner to pick this year. Stunning. Well done!!! Jean Yelland will now live forever! And, so will Jean Yelland!

2. Instrumental Album of the Year — Firewire

The winner is *Firewire* by Chris Newman and Maire Ni Chathasaigh. Newman on guitar and Ni Chathasaigh on harp have carved a unique path to the top. Their technical virtuosity on their instruments is topped only by their exquisite artistic taste and approach. She is indisputably the greatest harp player in the tradition. Ever. His guitar work is so superb, both in solo and accompaniment, the listener is usually stopped dead in his or her tracks. *Firewire* is their best album, ever. When it comes to these two, that is saying something, indeed.

Like all this year's winners, these two are a gift to all of us. They are the best in the world at this.

3. Male Vocalist of the Year — Tim Dennehy

*Old Boots and Flying Sandals* was Tim Dennehy's sixth album, we believe. It is his best. It is also clearly the best of the year against some stiff competition. Dennehy has a beauty, wisdom and gravitas about his voice seldom, if ever, equalled. The best singers open their hearts as well as their throats. This is really, really hard for a lot of artists to do. Most of us have a natural reticence about letting anyone see us all the way down. Not the greats like Dennehy. You have to have the voice to begin with. Then, you have to have a love and an understanding of the music. Then, you need the soul. It is all here. Dennehy joins a select group of Irish male singers who ARE the tradition, yet are absolutely of the day. Very, very special. Tim Dennehy delivered something so wonderful in this album that we are still listening to it regularly, months after its release. It is magic.

4. Female Vocalist of the Year — Eddi Reader

There are many who now say Eddi Reader is the best singer in the music. We love those arguments, as they are always friendly and go perfectly with pub pints. It certainly can be argued. And, if anyone knows anything about the music, Eddi Reader has to be one of the first names mentioned on any music lover's list. She is now an international treasure. Her album, *Peacetime* was released on Compass in 2007. It was our personal favorite album of the year. We still play it almost daily. This Scot can sing! Her voice is a wonder. It can be wild, gentle, soft, or rockin', as she originally started in rock and roll. Starting with last year's *The Songs of Robert Burns* and now with *Peacetime*, she has set a new gold standard of what the best can offer. We saw her perform live in 2007, and she did not lose a note. She is as perfect in concert as she is on a recording. Perfect. Eccentric, brilliant, warm and a voice from God. Eddi Reader is now at the top. The select few are up there with her. Let's put it this way. There is none better. A unanimous choice for this Award. Good on 'ya, girl!!!

5. Concert of the Year — Munnely - IAHC

Well, ANY concert by The David Munnely Band would qualify as The Concert of the Year. This year, Munnely

gets it for their Friday night concert at IrishFest in Milwaukee and an unbelievable show at The Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. Best show in the business, no question. This group is also now the best vocal/instrumental ensemble in the tradition. If they are within 100 miles of you and you don't make the effort to see them, you are very, very foolish. NO ONE is doing what they do live. Or on record. Munnely is headquartered out of Belmullet, Mayo. All the wild passion of that North Atlantic coast is on display in each tune. And, now they have added Shauna Mullin as their vocalist. (See *Newcomer of the Year*). The whole, total deal.

6. Newcomer of the Year — Shauna Mullin

You probably have not heard Donegal's Shauna Mullin, yet. You will. She is the voice of the future of Irish traditional music. She is now the singer with the extraordinarily popular, David Munnely Band. We saw her in concert in 2007, and have never been so stunned in a performance setting. Extraordinary. A Gift. She is an alto. Think a young and vibrant Dolores Keane, but an even warmer, more open, intuitive voice. We know of no first album being looked forward to by so many people. How many singers do you see get a standing ovation in a live performance after their first song? There are only a few really, truly great trad singers — think Cathie Ryan, Eddi Reader, Eilis Kennedy, Muirerann Nic Amhlaoibh and Mairi Campbell. Now add Shauna Mullin. She may become the best of all time. She is that special.

7. Male Musician of the Year — Martin Hayes/Dennis Cahill

Their brand new album (the first in NINE years, for God's sakes!!!) is *Welcome Home Again*. It is on the Compass label. It is their best. Both Dennis AND Martin win the Award, because no duo in Irish music history has ever played so perfectly as one. The Everly Brothers did it vocally. These two do it in Irish trad. The perfect blend. The total understanding of the music, and the gorgeous way a guitar and fiddle can offer it. Tempo, soul, incredible understanding — all for the price of a CD. These guys are the best duo in the world at this. Period. Dennis and Martin told us recently the goal was to present an album that highlighted the melodies of the tunes themselves. No gimmicks. No fireworks. Just Irish traditional music at its best and most loving in its presentation of the melodies. Perfect. A classic. Forever. Well done, lads.

8. Vocal/Instrumental Album of the Year — North Cregg - Roseland Barndance

We have always adored North Cregg. This Cork-based quintet topped all again this year with *The Roseland Barndance*. The trad lover well knows The Cregg — and the addition of brilliant new singer,

Claire-Anne Lynch just makes the whole deal all the better. Cork groups are known for their slides, but North Cregg does it all. Much of the music also has a real sense of humor, as well as stunning musicianship and arrangements. This band is all in its prime now, and we are all the beneficiaries of it. There are few, if any, bands that can be more relied on to produce wonderful magic on every selection. The North Cregg is at their top form with this album. Long may they reign!! In many ways, this is the most eagerly anticipated Top TIR each year. There could be no better recipient. Up Cregg! Up Cork!!!

9. Female Musician of the Year — Maire ni Cathasaigh and Chris Newman

Listen, if we could combine the Male Musician for Hayes and Cahill, we can also do it for this perfect duo. The world's best harp player, with the perfect guitar virtuoso have done it again. This year's *Firewire* is, finally, beyond description. The regular reader knows there are certain artists in the music for whom we have run out of adjectives over the years. Maire and Chris are two of them. Brilliant. Gifted. Unique. Astonishing. Indescribable. Genius. Yup. They all still work. This album is just the two of them, with the occasional musical guest. We hear their new stuff, and get dizzy. It is that special, and that wonderful. There is no one remotely like these two in the music and there is no use even attempting comparisons. We always felt like this about Ray Charles. You start out with the assumption that, well... there is Ray Charles. And, then there was everyone else. Same with Maire and Chris. As we said, there are no words. Just get this album. You'll hear, and then you'll know.

10. Thunder on the Horizon Award — Rebecca Gresty

There is an 18 year old singer in Wicklow named Rebecca Gresty, and we met here through [www.Livelreland.com](http://www.Livelreland.com) in Dublin, where we also have a regular column. You know we always bring you the best first. Rebecca is so new in her career that she is still making up her mind what type of musical path to follow. That is her choice. Her gift to us is her voice. She is amazing. God bless all these strong young altos like Rebecca and Shauna Mullin emerging. No nasal, whiny sopranos here with quivering voices. Full throated, lovely young women who are gifted. Just know this. Remember Rebecca Gresty's name. We are playing her on our weekly WDCB radio show. You want to hear more of the future? Listen to, and remember, this one. Rebecca Gresty.

11. Vocal Cut of the Year — Billy O'Shea - Michael Black

We almost didn't give this Award to Billy O'Shea from Michael Black's terrific solo debut album on Compass

Records, appropriately entitled, *Michael Black*. Honestly, the cut had worn us out. My Public Radio partner had insisted on playing it, like three weeks in a row, and about six weeks out of seven. We had listened to it again and again. We had raved about it in our written columns, and had played it privately for a number of people. We were pooped. Enough! Then it dawned on us. Why were we playing it so much? Easy. It is the Vocal Cut of the Year, that's why. We are listening to it as we write this, and loving it all over again. A true Dublin song. The Black sisters may not be relevant in the tradition any more, but the Black Brothers are, and none more than Michael. A great album. A fabulous song. A really terrific singer.

12. Instrumental Cut of the Year  
Beoga's *Mischief* was one of our favorite albums of the year, and was a major contender for Vocal/Instrumental Album of the Year. One of the tunes that made us fans forever is a particular bit of brill called, "Jazzy Wilbur." Brilliantly arranged and played, it shows this multi-talented group at its best. Real energy — plus a refreshing and much needed thing in trad music, a sense of humor. The first time we heard, *Jazzy Wilbur*, we laughed out loud. Very, very special. We are fans of Beoga — big time. "Jazzy Wilbur" is just one reason — and there are several more, including a great singer, Niamh Dunne (also fab on fiddle). This group is going to be around and really successful a long, long time. Wondrous pieces of music like "Jazzy Wilbur" are a big part of the reason why. There could have been about six other tunes of theirs that would have won this Award — all perfect — and, all different. We had to pick one. We listened to "Jazzy Wilbur" the most. Reason enough!!!

12. Watson Achievement Award

This is the most prestigious of all the Awards annually, and this year it goes to a great all-time all-star, all-everything wonder of a musician named, Charlie McCoy. Starting with his iconic playing of the harmonica on Roy Orbison's, "Candy Man," this musician has conquered all in his career. As a studio musician our self in the 60's, we heard about this giant even then. A true, honest to God, no nonsense, no hype, legend. He has accompanied everyone from Orbison and Elvis Presley to Chet Atkins and Patti Page. His new album, *A Celtic Bridge: From Nashville To Dublin* is a masterpiece so sublime we dare not attempt to even describe it. We know *Rampant Lion* in Villa Park has it. Google it. Find it. Get it. Grammy Award winner, Charlie McCoy, on harmonica, is the best there ever has been at this sort of thing. The man. The career. The Watson Award.

Notes: \*The radio show! The radio show! WDCB, 90.9fm or [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org) every Monday night from 7-9 Chicago time. Why would you miss this much fun?



## Raised on Songs and Stories



This month my great friend, fellow columnist, and radio partner, Bill Margeson is presenting his annual T.I.R. awards for traditional Irish music. These are well-deserved accolades for some of the world's finest musicians, bands, and singers in this genre.

But who will speak for all the rest, the ones who don't fit in Bill's world, the ballad singers, the Celtic rockers, the ones who dare to be different, the talent that fuels the festivals, the bands that play the pubs, clubs and concert halls. I will. If it's inspired by the Celtic tradition and played well and with heart, then I'm your man. I welcome your drum kits, your bass guitars, your bagpipes and bouzoukis. Celtic musicians, I salute you all.

And so I proudly present the 2008 ROSAS Awards for albums released in the past year. I recommend that you buy and enjoy them and urge you to support festivals, clubs, pubs, and venues that showcase Celtic talent. Congratulations to you all.

### 1. IRISH ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The High Kings – The High Kings

Just arrived in time to be included, The High Kings debut album is fresh and faultless. The ballad group is back! It's been cleaned up, finely tuned, incredibly produced, and professionally packaged. Old favorites sung better than ever, and new songs sung even better still. Amazing harmonies from Finbar, Brian, Martin, and Darren who are renowned for their talent, never mind their pedigree. This is the music that started it all during the Irish folk revival of the early 1960's. The backing band is chock full of world-class musicians like Martin O'Connor on accordion and Nollaig Casey on fiddle. Incredible stuff, I love it all and can't wait to see them perform live. Well done all involved... this is a sure fire winner, The High Kings rule again.

### 2. SCOTTISH ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Four on the Floor – Old Blind Dogs

Simply the best Scottish folk band out there today. They have survived personnel changes and thrived. Aaron, Johnny, Rory, and Frazer have brought all of their amazing talents to this album, holding nothing back.

Original arrangements of traditional tunes and songs that will steal your heart away. Live on stage they never disappoint, always true to their traditional heart, Old Blind Dogs are not afraid of change and this album Four on the Floor is a brilliant collection of what Old Blind Dogs are all about. Great stuff, their best album yet.

### 3. CELTIC ROCK ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Racing the Tide – The Elders  
What a great year for The Elders. They seemed to be everywhere and deservedly so. The Celtic Soul of Kansas City, these boys have left their mark on fans everywhere with their talent, energy and their breakthrough album, Racing the Tide. Some call it "arse kicking, Celtic music," I call it "Celtic rock for adults" but it all comes down to a unique excitement, created by these seasoned and multitalented musicians. The album, Racing the Tide is a collection of original songs. They are songs of saints and scholars, myth and merriment, history and hope. Words matter with The Elders and with me. I have all their albums and they are all brilliant but with Racing the Tide, The Elders have matured. This album is special... very special. You will love Racing the Tide.

### 4. MALE VOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Michael Black – Michael Black  
When Michael Black's self-titled debut album arrived last summer, it just blew me away. It is a masterfully crafted collection of songs, some old, some new, but all of them gems. It is a rare album, no fat, no filling, just 12 beautifully delivered songs and one instrumental track featuring Michael on banjo. From begin-

ning to end, there is not a bad note on this blockbuster album. I must acknowledge Mary and Frances Black, who sang backing vocals, and guest musicians Liz Carroll, John Williams, Seamus Egan, John Doyle and Chico Hoff who all added their incredible talents to make this album my personal favorite. John Doyle also produced the album. Well done everybody... it's brilliant and is a must have for all collectors of Irish music.

### 5. FEMALE VOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Believe – The Irish Sopranos  
This album, an eclectic mix of operatic arias, contemporary, inspirational, and Irish songs is simply sensational. Irish divas, Kay, Wendy, and Deirdre, along with their musical director Owen C. Lynch, take you on a beautiful journey with this album. The harmonies are heavenly, the solos are stunning and I can't wait to see them in concert again. Believe is a treat for the senses and an album that will endure. Buy it, and you will be a believer.

### 6. ALBUM OF THE YEAR – SPOKEN WORD/MUSIC

Irish Ways – Ron Kavana  
Incredibly researched, over 6 years in the making, the four CD box set and book full of songs, poetry, music and history is Ron Kavana's magnum opus. Ron, from Cork, is an amazing singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist and is joined on this album by Shane McGowan, Terry Woods, Paddy Keenan, and Niamh Parsons. Ron's album presents a unique look at Ireland's history from Pagan Ireland to the present day, with songs and poetry that have brought tears to my eyes, sometimes tears of sadness, but mostly tears of joy. A brilliant piece of work, I take it with me on my long journeys and learn from it all the time. Entertaining and illuminating, this major work is brilliant and needs to be heard.

## Irish Eyes – American Idol

I was delighted to see an Irish girl progress through the early weeks of American Idol and thrilled when she was picked in the TOP 24. Her talent was recognized by Randy, Simon, and Paula, but now she will be judged by the viewers and that has always been a different kettle of fish.

Although true talent usually wins through, this is not always the case, and I wondered how Carly would continue to progress without the necessary massive network of family and friends. I had not realized until a few days ago that Carly is a friend of my son James. He tells me that I have met her several times

and that she visited with us at the Irish Fest in Chicago a few years ago. Carly is a local girl, I probably even know her parents.

Carly Smithson comes from Ballinteer in Dublin and went to school at Notre Dame in Churchtown. She has been singing since childhood and still chases her dream in this year's American Idol season. She runs a tattoo shop in San Diego with her husband Todd and right now she needs our support.

She has the talent and it would be a shame if she did not progress and reach her potential due to lack of votes. So join me and TEAM CARLY and vote early and often for the Irish Girl, Carly Smithson. Come on... it's the Irish way.

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In Chicago, Pat performs with the groups Babala and Mince & Brewster, and has performed and recorded with Liz Carroll, Doreen Cuddy, Kate Eagleton, Martin Hayes, Louisa Hughes, Paddy O'Brien, Eabha O'Connell and John Williams.

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ing It In

Jack Baker



Woo boy! Do I love my job! Wasn't able to say that with the same feeling when I was with the "polis", but now, selling Celtic music full time, I say it with a happy heart. What brings on this expression of contentment with my lot in life? A great concert, that's what. Something that simple and yet so rare. Let me explain. My son and I went to the Irish American Heritage Center on Super Bowl Sunday to see one of my favorite musicians, Hanneke Cassel, perform. We were treated to one of the best musical experiences we've had in quite a while.

I first met Hanneke some years ago when she was playing fiddle with Cathy Ryan's band. As a matter of fact she came up to us while we were setting up our booth at the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas and asked if we'd be interested in carrying her solo CD (her first). We said yes and she left a play copy with us and said she'd stop by at the end of the festival so we could have a chance to listen to it. As luck would have it, the festival was busy that year and I never got a chance to listen to it. Hanneke came back as promised at the end of the show but said she couldn't give me any CDs as they'd all sold out. That was my first clue.

Monday morning following the Dallas show found me driving North thru Oklahoma, drinking a cup of Choctaw coffee (if you buy gas at the Choctaw Nation gas station, the coffee is free) watching the sun rise and listening to Gayle sleeping in the passenger seat. I figured I might as well listen to that CD I'd gotten from Hanneke so I fished it out and slid it into the CD player. To say I was gobsmacked was an understatement. It was pure heavenly and the first time I really enjoyed driving thru Oklahoma or drinking Choctaw coffee for that matter. I have been a big fan of Hanneke Cassel ever since and have been privileged to see her perform with Cathy Ryan's band, as a solo and with Halali, a band she plays in that consists of three very talented fiddlers, Hanneke, Laura Cortese and Lissa Schneckenburger.

The Sunday show at the IAHC was the first time I had seen her in almost two years and I was pleased to see her joined by Ariel Friedman on cello and Christopher Lewis on guitar. Ariel was magical on the cello, innovative, original and lovely. Chris Lewis was rock solid with his guitar backing but really spectacular when performing a solo. What a voice this young man has. I hope we hear more from him. As good as her accompanists were, the true treasure of the evening was Hanneke and the new and delightful tunes she has written. As usual her stage presence was welcoming and her stories were a hoot. I especially loved her story about how her tune "Tennessee Quick Cash" got its name, although I'm not completely certain I followed the whole train of thought there. Her tunes were wonderful original pieces that were such a pleasure on the ears. She mostly performed works from her Silver CD, released last year and I wouldn't be surprised if some of these tunes became classics. I was especially impressed with "Leaving JP" and "The Curse Reversed". Ian said that "Tennessee Quick Cash" was his favorite. It was a further compliment to Hanneke's talent that one of the greatest fiddlers in the world, Liz Carroll, was in the audience to hear the concert.

I have six Hanneke Cassel CDs in my collection and I love them all but they are different and unique, further highlighting this amazing fiddler's scope. Her first, My Joy was the CD that saw me thru Oklahoma and is still my favorite. Her second Some Melodious Sonnet has some of her most ambitious works. Her third, Many Happy Returns is all Scottish Country Dance tunes and has been praised by many dancers as easy to follow and very traditional. I recommend this one to country dancers all the time and they invariably get back to me with favorable comment. The next CD from this prodigious musician was Halali as mentioned

earlier. This one is a "must hear", a classic and one of the finest CDs of this type I've ever heard. Next comes Silver and her latest work is Calm the Raging Sea, traditional hymns performed with guitarist Chris Lewis and an exceptionally lovely collection. All great CDs, I'm running out of superlatives here, give them a listen. Really treat yourself though and go see her perform next time she performs in this area, and I hope it's soon.

Congratulations to John Karr, bouzouki/bodhran player with the Milwaukee based "Atlantic Wave" band. On Saturday, 19 January, John, lucky man that he is, was married to the lovely Donna Starr. What a reception that was! They held it at Paddy's Pub, 2339 North Murray Avenue in Milwaukee, a total gem of a dining/drinking establishment. A stop at Paddy's when you're in Milwaukee would not go amiss, great food, great drinks, great décor and, most important, great people. Gayle and I strapped ourselves to a corner of the 1st floor bar and watched the party swirl back and forth around us. It was a great wedding reception for two wonderful people who add so much, both in talent and personality, to the Celtic music scene.



Avenues To Independence

While we're talking about great folks who add so much to our community with their good works, we'd be falling short of our duty if we didn't mention Bob Healy and Peg O'Herron and the work they do with a group called Avenues to Independence. Avenues to Independence is a non-profit organization that provides vocational, residential and job placement services to adults with developmental disabilities. They basically help these lovely people by giving them the skills to live an independent life. To do this takes money and one way funds are raised is by their annual Irish Benefit. This is put together by Peg and Bob and a whole raft of great folks who donate their time and work. There's a lovely corned beef dinner, a stunning array of local entertainers, a raffle and silent auction, not to mention several local vendors (yours truly among them) who set up and sell and donate a percentage to the organization. All in all, it's a lovely event for a wonderful cause. It'll be held Sunday, March 9th at the Meridian Banquets in Rolling Meadows and you can call 847-292-0870 for information or check out the website at [www.avenuestoindependence.org](http://www.avenuestoindependence.org).

Lastly I'd like to wish all of you a very happy, healthy Saint Patrick's Day. Attend your local parade or the great celebration at the Irish American Heritage Center or your local and remember to keep the teachings of Saint Patrick in you heart. Slainte!

I value your input. Please direct your comments, suggestions, mutterings and musings to me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181 or give me a call at 630-834-8101.

City of Chicago Pipe Band in Concert April 5

The City of Chicago Pipe Band has invited the readers of the Irish American News to a Tartan Day concert April 5th, 2008. The event will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois and begins at 7:30 p.m. The concert will mark the debut performance of the new City of Chicago Grade IV band.

The City of Chicago Pipe Band is committed to teaching Chicago youth free of charge and will be showcasing its talented young members at the concert. Tickets are available for \$10 and may be guaranteed by emailing [cocpipeband@gmail.com](mailto:cocpipeband@gmail.com) and will also be available at the door.

The band is hosting a ceilidh immediately following the concert at Molly Malone's, 7652 Madison Street, Forest Park, Illinois, 1-1/2 miles from Grace Episcopal Church. Raffle tickets are available for \$5 or 6 tickets for \$25 and can be purchased by e-mailing [cocpipeband@gmail.com](mailto:cocpipeband@gmail.com). The \$500 raffle winners will be announced at the ceilidh. For further information call 773-875-6812.

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Friday, 3/21	Fishers Fagan's Band
Saturday, 3/22	Pat Daly
Friday, 3/28	Seamus O'Keefe and Jerry Moore
Saturday, 3/29	The Doolan Brothers

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**HOURS: Monday - Sunday Opens at 11am Daily**

### Will County Celtic

By Dennis Sullivan

Welcome to the first appearance of Will County Celtic, a column publicizing cultural, social and historical activities in the county of Will.

This column is starting simply, with a list of events of interest. There are many activities I've overlooked. Please send your suggestions to: Dennis@willcountyceltic.com.

3 -7: Frankfort — Katie Sullivan Band performs Americana/ Folk 7:30 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881

3 -8: Frankfort — SIOCHAIN 8:30 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881

3 -9: Naperville — St. Patrick's Day Photo Session of local Irish Leprechaun 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Quigley's Irish Pub, 43 E. Jefferson St. (630) 428-IRSH

3 -10: Frankfort — Annual Irish Coffee Contest. 7 p.m. at Quigley's Irish Pub, 43 E. Jefferson St. (630) 428-IRSH

3 -10: Joliet — Traditional Irish Music Session. 8:30 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -11: Joliet — Ireland's most popular singer-songwriter, Phil Coulter, appears with the Irish Pops Orchestra at 7:30 p.m., March 11 at the historic Rialto Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St. Coulter performs pop, folk and traditional Irish. The Derry native's songs have been recorded by Sinead O'Connor, Elvis Presley and dozens of other major performers. Tickets are \$30, \$35, \$40 & \$45. For more information, call (815) 726-7171.

3 -11: Joliet — Acoustic Folk/Celtic/Bluegrass, 6 to 8 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -12: Frankfort — Brendan Loughrey 7:30 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881

3 -14: Frankfort — Aidan O'Toole, 8:30 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881

3 -14: Joliet — Award-winning Duo, Larry Nugent/Danny Burns, 9 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -15: Frankfort — Steve & Paul Callahan Duo, 1 p.m.; Aidan O'Toole, 4 p.m.; Patrick Guinee & The Rowdy Irishmen, 8 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881.

3 -15: Joliet — John Condron, with special appearance by a bagpiper, 9 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -15: Plainfield — The Ploughboys, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. O'Sullivan's Irish Pub. 24205 W. Lockport St. (815) 436-4529.

3 -16: Frankfort — Brendan Loughrey, 7:30 p.m.;

3 -17: Joliet — Traditional Irish Music Session. 8:30 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -17: Frankfort — Steve & Paul Callahan Duo, 1 p.m.; Larkin & Moran Brothers, 4 p.m.; Three Men in Kilts, 8 p.m. The Galway Tribes Irish Pub & Restaurant, 9680 Lincolnway Lane, (815) 464-9881

3 -17: Joliet — Irish music and dance with Jeff Lindblade and The Hatfield Sisters, 8 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -21: Joliet — Leadfoot Stringband plays Bluegrass/Celtic

music, 9 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -24: Joliet — Traditional Irish Music Session. 8:30 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -25: Joliet — Acoustic Folk/Celtic/Bluegrass, 6 to 8 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.

3 -31: Joliet — Traditional Irish Music Session. 8:30 p.m. Chicago Street Pub. 75 N. Chicago St. (815) 727-7171.



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## West Suburban Irish Celebrate with Naperville Parade

The West Suburban Irish have announced the 15th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naperville will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. The mile-long parade route begins at Naperville North High School, winds through beautiful downtown Naperville, and ends at Naperville's Municipal Center.

The theme of this year's Parade is public safety. Numerous representatives of local police and fire and other public safety departments will be featured in the Parade. More than 80 entries, including Irish dancers, pipes and drums, community groups, businesses, and politicians are expected to participate. More the 5,000 are expected to view the Parade.

The Grand Marshall of the Parade is local businessman, Nick Ryan. Mr. Ryan and his wife, Teresa, own Ryan Hill Realty and Casa Bella Kitchen and Bath store, dedicated to providing residents of Naperville and the surrounding area with a very high level of customer service. Mr. Ryan serves on the Carillon Foundation and is a member of the Rotary Club of Naperville Downtown. He and Teresa have 5 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

The Queen of the Parade is Colleen Manser, a junior at Naperville North High School. Colleen is very proud of her Irish heritage. Her mother's family came from Ennis in County Clair in the late 1800's. Ennis has been said to be the "heartland of Irish music." Colleen has had the privilege of visiting Ireland which she believes is the most beautiful country. A memory that Colleen cherishes is while in Ireland, she had the opportunity to dance and associate with authentic Irish dancers. As Irish Queen Colleen will be the hostess of the West Suburban Irish Emerald Dinner on February 16th, participate in the Irish Mass at Saints Peter and Paul on March 13th, and preside over the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th.

Parade applications are available online at the West Suburban Irish web page, [www.wsirish.org](http://www.wsirish.org).

For more information on the parade, contact Co-Chairpersons Nancy Quigley, [naquigley@aol.com](mailto:naquigley@aol.com) or Chuck Corrigan, (630) 853-9461, [cjc1@dbcw.com](mailto:cjc1@dbcw.com).



Nick Ryan

## Irish Mass March 13, 2008

The West Suburban Irish will be hosting an Irish Mass in honor of St. Patrick on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at Saints Peter & Paul Church in Naperville.

The Irish Mass is a beautiful service featuring Irish hymns and instrumental music. A Prelude, including harp music and Irish readings, begins at 6:30 p.m. The Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Mass will be celebrated by Father Michael O'Keefe, a native of Ireland. Vocal soloist Beth Considine and harpist Lisa Boggess will add to the beauty of the ceremony. All are invited to attend.

## President of Fraternal Order of Police Up For Reelection

Mark Donahue has been a Chicago Police Officer since 1977, and served for twenty years as a patrolman and a Field Training Officer on the Southside. In 1966 he was promoted to Youth Officer and subsequently became a Detective in 1998.

He has currently served two terms as President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 and is up for reelection to a third and final term.



Mark Donahue

As President, Mark has run the FOP Lodge 7 like a business. "We have been successful in bringing our attorneys in-house, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. We did some belt tightening and have completely paid off the building we reside in here on Washington Blvd. We also pushed successfully for retirees to be able to carry concealed weapons. They will have to qualify once a year," said Mark.

"We were also able to get the city of Chicago to return 25.9 million dollars in over charges in our healthcare package. The city estimated charges for healthcare, but never reconciled the numbers. That returned money will benefit our 30,000 retirees," he continued.

"We were the first union out of thirty in Chicago to get a renewed contract which took effect in 2005. It expired in June, 2007 and we are pushing to get a new contract renewal," said Donahue.

When asked about the recent incidents involving officers gone astray, Mark said, "The overwhelming majority of our members are 100% dedicated and serve honorably. I couldn't be more proud of them."

**1st Vice President**  
**Bill Dougherty**  
Running  
Uncontested

Bill Dougherty is running uncontested as 1st Vice President of FOP Lodge #7. He has been a member of the organization since 1987. He worked in the 8th and 9th districts as a patrolman and tactical officer.



Bill Dougherty

Bill was elected to the office in March, 2002, and became a field representative for the lodge. He chairs the Grievance committee and also serves on the Disabled, Legislative, Picnic and Golf committees for Lodge #7.



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## A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



and Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



### St. Leo's Veterans Residence: A Year of Achievement

On April 5, Catholic Charities' 90th Anniversary Gala will celebrate not only nine decades of service to the poor, but will benefit Catholic Charities' St. Leo Residence for Veterans, which is celebrating its First Anniversary.

Dedicated last April by Cardinal Francis George, Catholic Charities' St. Leo Campus is the first in the country for homeless veterans. Planned and built in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development to alleviate the "national tragedy" of homeless veterans, St. Leo's was fully occupied less than a month after opening its doors in January 2007.

Created on the site of St. Leo's Parish, which served parishioners and the South Side community for 118 years, the St. Leo Campus includes the new residence of 141 studio apartments, each with kitchen and full bathroom; a beautiful Veterans Garden honoring all branches of the armed forces; and the Auburn Gresham Veterans Affairs Clinic, offering health care to the 18,000 veterans in northeast Illinois, but especially to the 8,000 veterans estimated to be living on Chicago's South Side.

A great number of U.S. veterans are homeless—they comprise 23 percent of the homeless population in the United States. St. Leo's is a home for men and women veterans facing a variety of challenges as they leave a life of living in parks, cars and shelters, and actively prepare for a life of self-sufficiency, employment and independent, permanent housing.

For many veterans, the military provided a structure of duty, following orders and a sense of community. After homelessness, the St. Leo residents are recognizing that working and living as a civilian is much more complex. It requires taking responsibility, cooperation, and investing yourself in the lives of others in your community.

Nathaniel Gilham, Director of Programs at St. Leo Residence and at Cooke's Manor, Catholic Charities' residence on the Hines VA campus for 40 veterans recovering from substance abuse, is himself a veteran. He understands the challenges the

veterans face as they strive to rebuild their own integrity and principles. And he and his staff see the progress the residents are making.

Healthwise, St. Leo's is making a big difference in the residents' lives. Many of the veterans have medical problems or are coping with addictions.

- 99 percent of the veterans in residence visited the VA Clinic at least once during the year.

- St. Leo's is a drug/alcohol free facility. Almost 50% of the residents are enrolled in the Addiction Treatment Program at the new Auburn Gresham VA Clinic located on Halsted Street adjacent to St. Leo's. NA and AA recovery groups at St. Leo's support those no longer in treatment.

Employment is a major goal for residents as they prepare to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing. With the help of Catholic Charities' four case managers, job developer and supervisors, the veterans—most of whom are 59 years old or younger—are preparing for a life of responsibility and independence.

Already, St. Leo's has several "success stories," and many more are in the making.

- Currently, 70% of the veterans are employed daily as security officers or home care providers; in the food service industry, building maintenance or transportation fields.

ment, and another is a job developer with Volunteers of America who has held seminars at St. Leo's and recruited vets for employment.

- St. Leo's continues to work with the Department of Labor at the neighboring VA Clinic to help residents find employment. Residents attend job training programs there that include resume writing, mock interviews and job preparation; and use St. Leo's computer lab to write, send and receive e-mail resumes and responses.

- As of last September, more than 50% of veterans at St. Leo were receiving benefits due them that they had not received before.

Residents, who previously lived in the isolation of homelessness, are learning the importance of forming and being part of a community; of negotiating, organizing and communicating with others. They have initiated and attend regular in-house classes such as: Life Skills, Morning Meditation, Bible Study, Job Clinic, Bridge Group (for vets in recovery transitioning into independent life), Women's Group (for women in recovery), and a 12-Step Art Therapy program.

Their Tenant Leadership Council has formed committees to do well-being checks of the residents and hold Town Hall meetings to make decisions relating to St. Leo activities

- Three employed veterans have already moved into market-rate permanent housing.

- One resident works as the Community Liaison for St. Leo's Social Service Department

and policies. The female residents have formed a Women's Group that orchestrated the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day celebrations and organized Black History Month events.

St. Leo's Community Liaison has invited many guest speakers from the community—opening numerous possibilities for community collaboration, education and employment. Representatives from the Chicago Police Department, CAPS School Safety Volunteer Training; Social Security Administration benefits workshop; Cabrini-Green Legal Department, Westside Technical Institute, local bankers, Catholic War Veterans and AMVETS have visited St. Leo's.

The George Guiles Post 37 (the first black American Legion Post in the United States, established in 1919) has donated clothing and would

like to help form a St. Leo's American Legion Post.

Catholic Charities' goal is to walk with each veteran and help them to build personal trust and accountability, as he or she becomes a responsible, financially independent, working, contributing member of the community.

St. Leo's is important because we are rebuilding lives and building futures. In its first year, St. Leo's has made a profound difference in helping formerly homeless veterans rebuild their lives and re-enter the communities they left to serve their country. Please keep them in your prayers as they reclaim their independence, their God-given human dignity and their lives.

To learn more about helping our veterans at St. Leo's, visit [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

### Saw Doctors Return to Chicago

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with The Saw Doctors on Saturday, March 8th at the Vic Theatre, 3145 North Sheffield in Chicago. Show starts at 8PM, tickets are \$27.50, ages 18 & over.

Tickets on sale at the Vic box office or through Ticketmaster ([ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), 312-559-1212 or ticketmaster outlets).

IA News columnist Mike Houlihan attended last year's concert and said, "The Saw Doctors put on a terrific show! When Elvis performed in concert women would throw their panties onstage. At the Saw Doctors show, somebody in the crowd tossed an Irish tri-color pair of boxers with a fake butt sewn on the back. The musicians held them up to show the crowd and the place went nuts." [www.sawdoctors.com](http://www.sawdoctors.com)



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## Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul

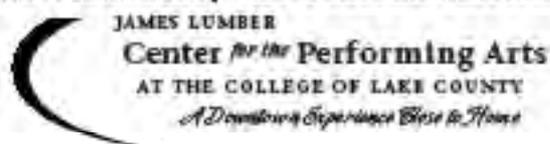
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By Frank J. Mahon



### Part Six: The Imprimatur

Two of the Abbey Theatre's early stars were Sara Allgood and her younger sister Molly. Together, they created many of John Millington Synge's greatest characters. Sara was first to perform the role of Maurya, the aged mother in *Riders to the Sea*. She was 23 at the time. Molly, known professionally as Maire O'Neill, was the inspiration for and first portrayed "Pegeen Mike" in *The Playboy of the Western World*. Synge was engaged to Molly when he died in 1909 at age 37. Sara and Molly were obvious role models for Abbey actresses to follow, including a very young redhead named Maureen FitzSimons, known later in films as Maureen O'Hara. Sara and Molly both ended up in Hollywood and had film careers that lasted into the 1950s.

In 1941, Maureen and Sara Allgood appeared in John Ford's *How Green Was My Valley*. It was the first of several Ford pictures that featured Ms. O'Hara. By the time "Valley" wrapped, Ford and Maureen had a handshake deal for her to play the female lead in *The Quiet Man*, if Ford ever found the money. It took more

than a decade for him to do so.

I met Maureen O'Hara once, in Los Angeles. I was attending an annual award ceremony for western stars of TV and film. James Stewart presented Maureen with her "Golden Boot" statuette before a large crowd. It also happened to be her birthday, August 17th, so we all sang Happy Birthday to her. Afterwards, I rushed her table with my then-wife to try to meet her. And we did. She was every bit the beautiful, gracious Hollywood legend I wanted her to be. The class act you've seen on film was the class act we met. That was 1991. (Yes, I have washed that hand since.) I never thought our paths would cross again, but they have.

Fast-forward to 2005. I decided to try to get Ms. O'Hara to read our script *The Quiet Man Tales*, based on the book from which the film was taken. I wanted her to read it not just because she is the last surviving lead of the film, but also because, unlike Ford and Wayne, she is really Irish. It's very intimidating, and a bit audacious, for two writers from Chicago to adapt a classic Irish story. Adapta-

tions require fresh dialogue, getting the sound and the feel of the subject right. It all has to ring true. Having played Mary Kate Danaher, and being the fierce Irish nationalist that she is, Maureen O'Hara might well be our toughest critic.

But how do I get to her?

I found the Maureen O'Hara Online Magazine ([moharamagazine.com](http://moharamagazine.com)). I contacted June Beck, the editor of the magazine, and asked if she would channel my request to Maureen, who sanctions the magazine. June was nice enough to do so, and Maureen graciously agreed to read the script. And if there was one thing I was sure of, it was this: If Maureen O'Hara says she'll do something, she'll do it.

I mailed the script to her while I was on vacation in Killarney. Maureen was still in residence in her home in Glengarriff, Co. Cork. That was fall of '05.

Weeks passed. Months passed. A year passed. Still no word from herself. Had she just been too busy? Was she in ill health? Or, me being a paranoid writer, did she hate it? I knew there had to be a good reason.

In May of 2007, we were getting set for another backers' audition. I decided to give it one more shot. All I had to lose was the postage. I sent the latest draft of the script to Maureen, told her that we had the reading coming up, and if there would be any way she could give us any kind of statement, we would appreciate it.

As it turned out, we had to change

the date of the reading because of complications with the venue, and reset it for later in July. But there had been no word from County Cork. Then it came: an e-mail from Maureen O'Hara's assistant with two letters attached. The first letter was addressed to me, and the second document was her official endorsement of *The Quiet Man Tales*. (See accompanying insert). Hard copies in the mail followed shortly. Her letter to me is a personal treasure, but I can share a couple of parts with you. The long delay was due to some health issues. She was very apologetic, which she needn't have been. Then she said this: "I am proud that you asked me to do this, but astounded that you would ask me of all people to quote about a subject I am very biased about. For me there will only ever be one 'Quiet Man'... John Ford was a genius and what he did with Sean and Mary Kate can only happen once and their characters will always be the gold bar. However, reading your script, I see the dedication and care you've taken with your characters and each of them stands by themselves very

well... I will set my own 'Quiet Man' aside to compliment you both on a script well done!"

By the time we had our backers' audition, I had her endorsement blown up poster-size. Our guests seemed suitably impressed.

Afterwards, I contacted her assistant, Caroline, to tell her we wanted to send Maureen some roses. I thought roses would be appropriate since they are ever-present in *The Quiet Man*. But I was advised that she would prefer a nice plant instead—perhaps an orchid. Caroline provided me with the number of a local florist. When I called, they were out of orchids, but suggested some nice calla lilies. Perhaps a little too Katharine Hepburn, I thought, but okay, let's go with them. Reportedly, the calla lilies were a big hit.

Hepburn once described Spencer Tracy as being like a potato—dependable, from the earth. The same thing could be said of Maureen O'Hara, though I'm not sure that I want to compare herself to a spud. So let's just say that she will always have an untarnished star on my personal Walk of Fame.

### Carousel at Court Theatre

Court Theatre continues its 53rd season with Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, *Carousel*, directed by Artistic Director Charles Newell with musical direction by Doug Peck. The co-production with Long Wharf Theatre runs March 6 – April 13, 2008, at Court Theatre in Chicago.

This Rodgers and Hammerstein masterpiece reinvented musical theatre in its day with its lush score and seamless integration of song, story, and dance. Now the piece *Time Magazine* named the "best musical of the twentieth century" will soar to new heights in Court's intimate space. Set in a small New England town, the story of an impulsive, brash carnival barker and his bride spans heaven and earth in its exploration of love, human frailty, and redemption.

The production will run March 6 - April 13. Tickets range from \$32-\$54.

The Box Office is located at 5535 S. Ellis Avenue, Chicago. For performance dates and times call (773) 753-4472 or visit [www.CourtTheatre.org](http://www.CourtTheatre.org)

### Maureen O'Hara

10<sup>th</sup> of July 2007

*A wonderful script both sensitive and honest to its time frame of very troubled times in the Ireland of 1921. A hard balance but its been done very well.*

*The characters are strong and interesting, and carry very well the hardships and plight of that era without bringing the element of prejudice or hate into it as so many stories do today.*

*It is so nice to see the Irish depicted with the capability of loving relationships instead of being cold and unaffectionate. The tale is well told and brings us into the homes and lives of the Irish living in those difficult times. I'm sure Maurice Walsh would approve of this story based on Green Rushes being scripted in such a delightful way.*

*You have managed to give uniqueness to the story and its characters that will make it stand on its own and not be compared to "The Quiet Man". I know it will be a success and wish you both continued good luck with its production.*

Maureen O'Hara

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Pat O'Brien with his daughter, Lindsey, at the St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest. She didn't win but she's still his princess!

### Fine Art Prints by Roisin O'Shea

Superbly detailed, vibrantly coloured Fine Art prints of watercolour paintings by internationally published Irish artist Roisin O'Shea, from all 32 counties of Ireland, are available at [www.roisinosea.com](http://www.roisinosea.com). All prints from the artist's official website are individually signed in pencil by Roisin. Also available are Roisin O'Shea calendars, notelets and Christmas cards.

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## Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



off. But with only 14,000 troops under arms, Ireland was ill equipped to repel an army of invading Saxons.

If rumors of a return of the Brit-

In the dark days of WWII, Ireland was one of the few bright spots on the globe. The reason was that the leaders of Ireland had refused to permit the country to get drawn into the world-wide conflict then raging. This reluctance was due in part to Ireland's doleful history. For hundreds of years Ireland had been relegated to the role of a province having little say in its own affairs. Most political decisions were made in Westminster and not Dublin. The New Ireland changed that.

When the British pulled out from Southern Ireland after a stay of more than 700 years, the search for Irish identity began. Ireland's leaders chose a policy of isolationism. And when war broke out in Europe, the leaders made a unilateral declaration of neutrality. This was the fledgling country's first major foreign policy initiative and it did not sit well with the British. Like a parent refusing to believe that a child has grown and become independent, the British saw Ireland's action as outrageous and cowardly. Their pique resulted in a vicious propaganda campaign to discredit Ireland and there was considerable saber rattling. Rumors that the British were going to reoccupy the island were rife. Eamon DeValera, the leader of Ireland, stated stoutly that in that event of an invasion, the Irish army would fight the invaders

to The Irish Free State were not enough, there was another reason for angst. The Germans had their eye on the country too. It was widely believed that axis forces were going to strike against Ireland and use it as a springboard for an attack against England. It is in those troubled times that Donegal-born and Dublin-based poet and playwright Frank McGuinness has set his remarkable play, Dolly West's Kitchen. The play was staged at Chicago's TimeLine Theatre last month.

### No Invasion

As things turned out, neither the British nor German invasions occurred and this play is not really about the cataclysmic struggles going on in the greater world. Rather, it focuses on the domestic life of the West family who live in neutral Buncrana just across the border from Derry in Northern Ireland. The Wests are not without their problems and squabbles. These range from the privations brought about by wartime shortages to intense interpersonal longings and unhappiness. At the start of the play the family appears to be coping reasonably well. At least that is the face it presents to the outside world. The family consists of Rima (Kathleen Ruhl), the matriarch, and her grown children Ester (Danica

Ivancevic), Dolly (Kat McDonnell) and Justin (Niall McGinty) along with Esther's husband Ned (Mark Richard) and Anna (Sara Hoyer), the maid. All live together in a large seaside house left to the family by Rima's physician husband who died many years previously.

The play mostly takes place in the spacious kitchen of the house which is dominated by a long kitchen table. The kitchen is the bailiwick of Dolly, a spunky thirty something single, who was a restaurateur in Italy. She, an emancipated female in some ways but dependent in others, returned home at the start of the war and is not sure if she will ever return to Italy. Dolly has fond memories of Alec (Cliff Chamberlain), an English boy she met while they were students at Trinity College, in Dublin. But Alec wandered out of her life and they have not had contact in years. Esther and Ned are locked unhappily in a marriage that is slowly destroying them. The marriage has not been consummated due to Ned's impotence. As an antidote, Esther spends much of her time sitting on the strand and staring out across the ocean. Ned is a sergeant in the Irish army.

### Dr. West's Foibles

Justin, the youngest West, was conceived by Rima after her errant husband returned from a fling with other women. Rima wisely came to terms with that a long time ago but her unforgiving daughters have not. While their father's actions are not at the forefront of their thoughts, they remain embittered. Justin is on active duty in the Irish army and as a commissioned officer is Ned's superior. He is not above pulling mili-

tary rank on Ned just to get his way in family disputes. Both Justin and Ned are assigned to a military base so close-by that they are able to sleep and eat at home.

Into this situation come three allied servicemen: Jamie O'Brien (Aaron Golden) and his cousin Marco Delaviciario (Joshua Rollins) who are Americans and long lost Alec who is now in the British army and is stationed in Derry. The two Americans have popped across the border for a little R&R and bump into Rima in a pub. She brings them home because she thinks they can be a balm for whatever is ailing her family.

With these characters a lot is destined to happen in Dolly West's kitchen. Surprisingly, there is not one central plot but a series of six subplots which interface like intricate lattice work. They unfold with wonderful dexterity as characters respond emotionally and personally to each other. There is jealousy, adultery, homosexuality, bitterness, denial and divided loyalty, all of which can be found in any family in war or peace. In laying this out, playwright McGuinness does a superb job. Justin reopens old wounds by attacking Alec for what Britain has done to Ireland over the years. He exhibits unwarranted braggadocio and tries to bully everyone. As things turn out he is not really as stalwart as he first appears. He is defending himself against latent homoerotic impulses which become a lot less latent as the play evolves.

### Outcomes and Resolution

Esther in her marital unhappiness becomes attracted to the American Jamie. But she

...continued to page 62

## Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Kirk Muspratt



**St. Patrick's Day Pops  
Celts & Kilts**  
March 13 at 7:30pm  
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### Cherish the Ladies

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### Love Thy Neighbour at GP

The Gaelic Park Players will be performing Love Thy Neighbour by Jimmy Keary and directed by Mick Kenna as their Spring 2008 show. Performance dates are March 28, 29, 30, April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13, 2008.

Performances Friday And Saturday are at 8:00 p.m. Afternoon performances on Sunday are at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for Theatre Performances only and \$23.00 for the Dinner/Theatre Combination (Sundays only). Reservations for Dinner/Theatre. 708-687-9323.

### Skin in Flames

#### at Stage Left Theatre

A young girl looks gently into the camera lens, her clothes and hair aflame, thrown through the air by an exploding bomb. Twenty years later the photojournalist returns to this war-torn country and agrees to an interview with an upstart female reporter who challenges his standing as a national hero. But the hotel room where they meet holds more secrets than either expects. Skin in Flames received the prestigious Barcelona Critics Award for best script of the year in 2005.

The Chicago premiere of Skin in Flames (by Guillem Clua, translated from the Catalan by Disanders) opened February 19 and runs through March 29, 2008 at the Stage Left Theatre, 3408 North Sheffield Ave. in Chicago, Thursdays - Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. 773-883-8830 or visits www.stagelefttheatre.com.

### Last Days of Judas Iscariot at The Gift Theatre March 19 Through May 4

The Gift Theatre will present The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, directed by Kevin Christopher Fox, from March 19, 2008 - May 4, 2008.

Written by Stephen Adly Guirgis, this provocative, wild, and brilliant play on Catholicism, Jesus' infamous betrayer stands trial in Hope, a small section of Purgatory, in which Satan takes the stand and everyone's to blame.

The production opens on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., and runs through May 4, 2008. Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. For tickets: (773) 283-7071 or buy online @ www.thegifttheatre.org

Tickets are \$20 (Thursdays and Sundays); \$25 (Friday and Saturdays). Group rates are available for groups of 10 or more by calling the Box Office. \$15 tickets are available at all performances for students, seniors, and industry with proper identification.

The Gift Theatre is conveniently located at 4802 N. Milwaukee in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood—two storefronts north of Lawrence, on the west side of Milwaukee—and is easily accessible by the Kennedy Expressway, the Lawrence and Milwaukee buses, and the CTA Blue Line.

## Upcoming Events at the Irish American Heritage Center

### IAHC Library Lecture Series

Two-part series featuring writers and scholars on Irish themes  
Sunday, March 2, 2pm • \$10  
Recollections of a Dublin Playgoer and Social and Economic Aspirations of Irish Catholic Americans



*Peter Quinn*

and  
Sunday, March 9, 2pm • \$10  
Why The Irish Speak English: Printing, Literacy, and Education in Eighteenth-Century Ireland and Irish Crime Connections

### Art Exhibit: The Tradition Continues Group Art Show



March 9 – April 6  
Exhibit hours:  
Saturday and Sundays  
from 1-4pm

*Art by Michael Carroll*

### Irish Dance Chicago

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Friday, March 14, 7pm • \$10; children under 12 are free.

### St. Patrick's Festival

Celebrating the finest in Irish music, dance and family activities.



Entertainers include The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Tim O'Shea and Jonathan Roche, as well as The Dooley Brothers, The Academy of Irish Music, Gan Bua and Finbarr Fagan's Band.

Saturday, March 15, 1pm - midnight

Tickets: \$12 - 15 for adults, Children 12 and under are free.

*The Irish Rovers Pipe Band*

**LAST YEAR'S CELEBRATION WAS SOLD OUT!**

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The family fun continues in the Fifth Province with Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food.



*Matt Stedman Band*

Monday, March 17

11:30 am-midnight Tickets \$10; children 12 and under are free.

## Beyond the Abbey

Continued from page 60

actually recognizes that he and she live in different far apart worlds and have no future. The maid Anna, bearing the indelible stigma of illegitimacy, has her feet planted firmly on the ground. Her bubbly yet realistic personality and being kept in her place over the years are responsible for that. Anna makes the most of her situation once a suitable opportunity presents itself.

The acting performances are top notch and do full justice to the play. Kathleen Ruhl is excellent as Rima and does not come across as overbearing or manipulative even when she is pulling the family strings. She projects the role of a concerned parent. Kat McDonnell as Dolly displays the right balance of spunk and sadness. Her north of Ireland accent is a delight. Danica Ivancevik plays the unhappy Esther with uncommon sensitivity as does Cliff Chamberlain as a roving Englishman. Direction by Kimberly Senior is well done as the action moves both inside and outside the home onto the foreshore. In summary, Frank McGuinness has given us a wonderful play and TimeLine Theatre has done full justice to it.

## Playwrights and Irish Theater

By Frank West

Patrick Mason, former artistic director of the Abby, said in Chicago:

"Language has always been cherished by the Irish."

"Many contemporary playwrights have written plays that emphasize body movement, stage props, minimalist language, etc., instead of words."

"The Irish playwright has kept faith with the word."

I love theater—particularly the work of Irish playwrights. And because of this, I enjoy the drama section of DuFour's catalogue. This is because there are books here that I never see anywhere else. DuFour Editions brings books from Ireland and distributes them in the United States. Their catalogue is thirty-one pages long!

I have received several of the outstanding books they distribute, most recently *An Irish Eye* by Gerry Adams, and *Ireland on Stage*.

Also available from DuFour Editions is Brian Friel's *Artistry*, *The Cambridge Companion to Brian Friel*, *Theater Talk: Voices of Irish*

*Theater Practitioners and Echoes Down the Corridor: Irish Theater—Past Present and Future*.

These are invaluable reference books. They are divided into sections based on the essays written about particular playwrights, plays, or topics of interest.

I looked in these books for essays written about Conor McPherson or Frank McGuinness. I read the scripts of the two plays they wrote, and saw one of the plays, so in the January issue I wrote reviews of them.

Conor McPherson's *Shining City* will be presented at The Goodman Theatre through February 17th. Box office; 312-443-3800. And Frank McGuinness' play *Dolly West's Kitchen*, will be presented at Time-Line Theatre through March 22nd. Box office; 773-281-8463.

For the books about Irish theater mentioned in this article, contact DuFour Editions in Chester Springs, PA or call them at 610-458-5005.

## Martin McDonagh's Movie In Bruges

The successful playwright, Martin McDonagh, hasn't missed a beat as he moves from plays to movies with *In Bruges*, a don't-miss movie with Oscar potential written all over it.

In Chicago to promote his film *In Bruges*, Martin is handsome and confident, with penetrating blue eyes that emanate quick and vigorous intelligence. He is 38 years old and was born in the U.K. of Irish parents.

When growing up, he visited the west of Ireland during summers. He listened to relatives and learned how Irish people there use English.

McDonagh was also influenced by the plays John Millington Synge, Chicago's David Mamet, Herald Pinter, and British T.V. comedy.

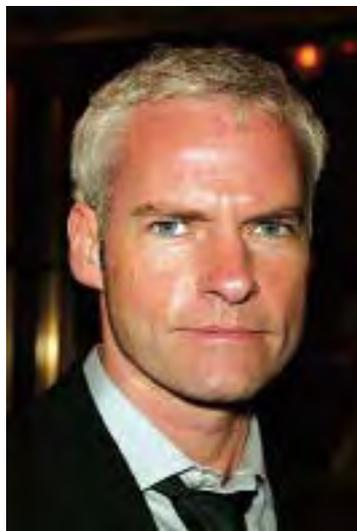
He is an established playwright who has received many awards including four Tony's for Best Play. Most recently produced in Chicago are: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Skull in Connemara*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, and *The Pillowman*.

In 2006 he decided to concentrate more of his time and energy on making movies. The result is the beautiful, powerful and funny *In Bruges*. The movie stars Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, and Ralph Fiennes. You will have to get past the swearing. There is lots of street talk mixed in with very clever and insightful dialogue as well.

Without giving too much about the movie away, Colin and Brendan are hit men hiding out in the Belgian city of Bruges after a hit in London. While they wait for their next as-

signment they tour the city, meet those that make Bruges their home, and come to significant crossroads in their lives. We see with them the astonishingly beautiful sights in this medieval town of canals, churches, cobblestone, and mysterious nooks and crannies. The city was not bombed, or even damaged, in World War II.

Publisher, Cliff Carlson, and myself were with Martin when he gave this interview to IAN. I have summarized the topics we discussed.



Martin McDonagh

• The humor in *In Bruges* is often about the absurdities that happen in life. There is little we can do about these events except see the humor in them. (Absurdities like the Chicago man who recently drove his car into the Channel 7 broadcasting studio on State Street: When police asked him why he did this, he said "I wanted to be on T.V. and be famous!")

• Violence is all around us in newspapers and on T.V. We have become desensitized to it. Some directors have to use violence to get

our attention.

• When Ken and Ray, the assassins, are sitting on the bench at the canal they speak of what we are taught as children. These feelings stay with us as adults. Intellectually, we change and adjust our beliefs, but emotionally we remain pretty much the same.

• Good and evil exist in all of us to a greater or lesser extent. The movie *In Bruges* shows this characteristic of humanity—even assassins Ken and Ray are kind to each other. The movie shows that there can be hope and optimism for humanity.

• Why is the movie set in Bruges? In a Chicago Tribune interview, McDonagh says about a trip to Bruges: "I was struck by how beautiful it was in some ways, and how boring it was in some ways. So I let those voices pop around in my head—one side of me loving the culture, the other side just wanting a beer and to meet a girl. I ended up doing museums. I never did the girls."

• In 2006 McDonagh announced that he would concentrate his energy on making movies. But he told us he would not stop writing plays (in fact has two partly finished) but would also write movie screenplays. He has always wanted to create movies. And I added that a movie is more lasting; a play achieves excellence at the moment of production, then ceases to exist. Whereas the same movie can be shown over and over. In my view, a playwright just uses a different medium in creating a movie.

*In Bruges*, by Martin McDonagh is a visually beautiful movie that uses humor and strong acting to show the vagaries and possibilities of human nature. The cast is perfection with every character believable, simple, complex, and human. You'll enjoy seeing it.



Artist Philip Dever Groark is showing "Ireland at a Glance" at Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago, Monday-Friday 9-5 until March 31st. His original oils and prints are available. He can be contacted at (773) 777-5289.

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### The Banshee of Crokey Hill Heads to the Windy City

The Banshee of Crokey Hill — the work of Irish radio presenter Tommy Marren — has been deemed one of the most successful plays written in Ireland in the past year. The play has received rave reviews and following a successful tour of Ireland and England the cast have decided to come to Chicago to stage the play at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago on April 4th, 5th and 6th for what promises to be an event not to be missed.

The storyline keeps the audience guessing right until the last minute and nobody will predict the dramatic finale that will unfold. The play is steeped in hilarious one-liners and a lively “hooley” takes place in the kitchen that includes a spell-binding exhibition of brush-dancing that has audiences enthralled.



From l-r: John Duggan and Tommy Marren in Banshee

Tickets for the Banshee of Crokey Hill are now on sale at the Irish American Heritage Center and the word on the street is that these shows are likely to sell out soon so early booking is advisable. The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago, 773/282-7035.

### Trumbo at TimeLine Theatre

TimeLine Theatre Company will present the play Trumbo by Christopher Trumbo, based on the letters of Dalton Trumbo and starring Tony Award-nominated actor Howard Witt (Death of a Salesman) in the title role. The production will be di-

### Premiere of Polly Teale's Brontë

Remy Bumpo Theatre Company presents The American Premiere of Polly Teale's inventive drama Brontë running March 20 through May 4 in the Upstairs Mainstage of the Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago. This extraordinary play by Polly Teale evokes both the real and fantasy worlds of the Brontës, as the sisters' austere surroundings give way to the boundless power of imagination.

Curtain times are Wednesdays

through Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm. There will be Wednesday matinees at 10:30 am on March 26, April 9 and April 23 and at 2:00 pm on April 2 (no evening performance on this date), 16, and 30. Additionally there will be one Saturday matinee on April 5 at 2:30 pm. Ticket prices for the regular run are \$35-\$40. Single tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [www.remybumpo.org](http://www.remybumpo.org) or through the Victory Gardens box office at 773-871-3000.

Mondays at 7 p.m. through June 2, 2008, at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. Running time is approximately one hour and 30 minutes, with no intermission.

rected by TimeLine Associate Artist Louis Contey and will also feature TimeLine Company member David Parkes in the two-person cast.

Trumbo will run for 10 performances only, opening Sunday, May 4 at 8 p.m. and running Sundays and

All tickets are \$15. Advance purchase is recommended as performances may sell out. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 773-281-TIME (8463) or visit [timelinetheatre.com](http://timelinetheatre.com).

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**Finding Your Chicago Irish**

By Sharon Shea Bossard  
Your field guide to Irish in Chicago hits the bookstores March 2008

It's that time of year when Chicago dyes its river green, revelers line the parade routes, beer takes on the hue of the shamrock, and Irish musicians tune their

want of an Irish experience, take a look at what's inside this book, for Finding Your Chicago Irish is your guide to Irish in Chicago and suburbs. Check out the many fine Irish organizations and clubs to join, educational opportunities and scholarships to pursue, trolley tours of Irish neighborhoods to enlighten, traditional music sessions to attend, Irish theater to entertain, festivals to hear the music and experience the culture, Bloomsday celebrations to

commemorate James Joyce, and how about an Irish cruise? These, plus many more events and opportunities, will keep you busy throughout the year and help you get connected to your Irish. Finding Your Chicago Irish will be available at all fine bookstores and can also be purchased from the publisher at [www.lakeclaremont.com](http://www.lakeclaremont.com), as well as from the author's website, [www.findingmyirish.com](http://www.findingmyirish.com). You might also be interested in picking up a copy of the

book, Finding My Irish, where Bossard meticulously recorded the lives of her own family's experience as struggling Irish immigrants in Chicago and reveals to her readers the difficulties and rewards of the search. Recommended reading for anyone preparing to embark on their own search to discover their unique heritage.

Finding Your Chicago Irish by Sharon Shea Bossard. Lake Claremont Press, Chicago, 2008. Paperback; \$16.95.



Sharon Shea Bossard

fiddles and play the old favorites—that one day when everyone is Irish. But what about the rest of the year? If you find yourself suffering from withdrawal for the sheer

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# the Session

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Wednesday, March 12th  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Gan Bua**



Thursday, March 13th  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**The Prodigals**



Friday, March 14th  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**The Wolfe Tones'  
Derek Warfield and  
the Young Wolfe Tones**



**RAFFLE**

As part of The Session there will be a \$10 raffle run through our 501(c)(3) Organization, The Irish Charitable Society of Chicago. First Prize is two round trip tickets to Ireland. Other prizes range from Waterford Crystal to Aran Knit Sweaters to His and Hers Claddagh Rings. Only a limited amount of tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held at The Session on Friday Night at 9:00 p.m. To buy tickets, go to [www.charitableirish.com](http://www.charitableirish.com).

The Session will have authentic Irish Cuisine ranging from Shepherd's Pie to Fish and Chips, as well as serve Guinness and Harp. In addition, there will be an Irish Tea Room.

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**For more information about the festival, contact Alastar McGrath at 312.762.5935 or visit [www.charitableirish.com](http://www.charitableirish.com)**

\*Depending on weather, all Musical Performances will take place on the Plaza in an enclosed heated tent.

Mick



Mike Morley



not only legit; it mustbewhatthe countrywants to hear.

Arthur Sulzberger replaced his father (Arthur "Punch") as publisher of the

family-owned NYT in 1992. Former NBC correspondent Bernard Goldberg notes in "Arrogance", his incisive book on the media, that Arthur the younger was an anti-war activist in the sixties. His father, bailing him out following one of his arrests, asked him: "If a young American soldier comes upon a young North Vietnamese soldier, which do you want to see get shot?" Pinch replied, "I would want to see the American get shot. It's the other guy's country." Pinch's attitudes may have matured a bit since then, but the story is revealing.

The NY Times-owned Boston Globe in January 2002 launched a series on sexual abuse in the Catholic Church that snowballed into investigations, huge court settlements, and bankrupt dioceses nationwide. Since then the Globe has won a Pulitzer, the Church has paid out billions, and at least five dioceses have declared bankruptcy.

It was also January 2002 when the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law. A small provision in the act mandated that the US Department of Education research the prevalence of sexual abuse in schools, follow up with an in-depth report, and make suggestions for legislation. Charol Shakeshaft, professor of education at Virginia Commonwealth University, was hired to conduct the research.

The results were startling. They showed: "the physical sexual abuse of students in schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests." The report estimated that more than 4.5 million students are sexually harassed or abused by an employee of a school at some time between kindergarten and 12th grade.

After Shakeshaft submitted her draft report in 2003 she was puzzled by the lack of follow-up. The agency told her the in-depth national study was to be "postponed." "What we know about educator sexual misconduct tells us that in order to prevent incidents we really need to know more about it," she argued, saying that leadership at the federal level is needed because the U.S. education system is decentralized. "There's no one school district for the whole country... The only place we can go really to do a national study is the federal government."

When the department published her "educator sexual misconduct" research on June 30 2004, it was roundly ignored by US journalists who were then more interested in publishing accusations against "pedophile priests". Again she was disappointed: "there hasn't been any systematic response to this issue."

I did find one reference to the 2004 report in the NY Times- printed a year and a half later, Sunday December 11, 2005. The story in the Ideas and Trends section of Week in Review details "cases where women are prosecuted for having sex with boys". And its tone is 180°

distant from the parade of press exposés like "The Most Dangerous Priest in America" that have been landing with regularity on the nation's doorsteps.

It began: "When Sandra Beth Geisel, a former Catholic schoolteacher, was sentenced to six months in jail last month for having sex with a 16-year-old student, she received sympathy from a surprising source." The judge in Albany County New York told her she had "crossed the line". But, he added: "the teenager was a victim in only the strictly legal sense." "He was certainly not victimized by you in any other sense of the word". Times reporter Kate Zernike wondered: "The prosecutor and a lawyer for the boy's family called the judge's comments outrageous. But is it possible that the 16-year-old wasn't really harmed?"

She touches on similar cases and adds: "But when the women face prison, questions are raised about where to set the age of consent." She quotes social psychologist, Carol Tavris: "You may not like something, but does that mean it should be illegal? If we have laws that are based on moral notions and developmental notions that are outdated, do we need to change the laws?" She then cites Psychological Bulletin: "...59 studies of college students who said they were sexually abused in childhood concluded that the effects of such abuse were neither pervasive nor typically intense, and that men reacted much less negatively than women."

The story quoted the Department of Education study briefly for its finding that "40% of the educators reported for sexual misconduct with students were women"; but made no reference to the magnitude of teacher abuse cases found in public schools. Zernike apparently interviewed Ms. Shakeshaft about the women's cases. "I'm torn, I don't know," Professor Shakeshaft said. "Teachers are always wrong. And it would be my belief that people aren't formed by 16. On the other hand, my mother married my father at 16 and they were married 65 years." Was that quote selected to cast a shadow on the professor's research report?

Here's a few more tidbits from the Times' story:

"...several studies have raised questions about whether the recent cases should be filed under child sex abuse... They (the new studies) suggested substituting the term 'adult adolescent sex in some cases where the sex was consensual.'"

A Temple University professor and others noted that "Canada and about half of Europe have set the age of consent at 14 after recommendations by national commissions. To set it much higher, as most states do, they say, ignores the research, and the hormones..." the laws in this country can be arbitrary."

"...the willing sexual involvement of a mature 15-year-old adolescent boy with an unrelated adult... may represent only a violation of social norms with no implication for personal harm."

The Times did note that: "The article in Psychological Bulletin was roundly criticized by prominent conservatives and denounced in Congress..." (Note: in the Times lexicon "conservatives" is a synonym for "mossback

morons". "Progressive" is the PC equivalent of "Liberal", a term now used mostly to describe the amount of wine Julia Child adds to a marinade.)

Could the NYT have cast a better light on pedophilia? It reads like "Springtime for Hitler" from "The Producers". But here the folks who brought you to a world of horror stories about clerical sexual abuse in the Catholic Church want you to take them seriously.

Why are these perpetrators seen as almost blameless and the victims relatively unscathed? Is it a journalistic curtsy to N.O.W.? Is it because airing teachers' dirty laundry will anger the twin 500 pound gorillas of the NEA and AFT? Is it because a well organized gay lobby is on the offensive since Cardinal Ratzinger, strongly against legalized same-sex marriage, was elected Pope and tightened rules on gays entering the seminary?

It can't be the Church is treated differently because it hid its offenders, sending them from parish to parish. Because, as the press well knows, school districts often do the same with abusing teachers, avoiding publicity and lawsuits, sometimes adding a sweet cash settlement if the offenders move on quietly. It's called "passing the trash".

The Associated Press conducted its own five-month investigation into public school sexual abuse, resulting in a three-part series released last October. Among its findings: from 2001-2005 alone, the teaching credentials of 2,570 educators nationwide were revoked, denied, surrendered or sanctioned following allegations of sexual misconduct. And experts insisted those cases represent just the tip of a much larger problem. California attorney Mary Jo McGrath, who's been investigating schools for three decades said: "Every single school district in the nation has at least one perpetrator. It doesn't matter if it's urban or rural or suburban."

AP is a news service owned by 1,500 U.S. member newspapers and broadcasters. The New York Times has a seat on the AP's board of directors. And Dennis J. FitzSimons, Chairman, President and CEO of (the Chicago) Tribune Co. is also on the board.

Yet those publications, and the majority of other AP member news companies nationwide saw to it that the public would not see this major in-depth investigative report that was researched — by their own news service! A Nexis search by the Catholic League showed that only five small newspapers in the US carried the entire AP series. A few others, notably Hearst, carried parts of the series. The vast majority of US readers never saw the new findings. Many instead got to read more lurid tales of "Pedophile Priests".

It's hard to discount those who say the target of the press campaign is not so much sexual abuse, as Catholic sexual abuse.

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Chump Change

The prospect of change is attractive. It appeals to our optimistic human nature. When candidates promise "change", with no details whatever of what those changes might be, people find it tantalizing. They tend to fill in their own rosy details with pie in the sky and chickens in pots. A candidate can simply utter the magic word "change" and wait for a spike in the polls.

It's a powerful concept: the less people know, the happier they are. But political ignorance won't remain blissful for long. Four years hence, reality will have dashed the visions of voters now eagerly reading their candidates lips.

One institution sadly in need of change is the Fourth Estate, the press. The British Parliament represents three social estates: Lords Spiritual (the clergy), Lords Temporal (nobility, the rich), and commoners, the Third Estate. Irish statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke, who incidentally famously supported the American colonies against the king, once looked up at the press gallery in the House of Commons and said, "Yonder sits the Fourth Estate, and they are more important far than them all."

Astute observation: The press, or media, besides its role of keeping the public informed, also functions as our primary conduit for political and social advocacy.

People require information to decide for themselves what is their best interest. And the more complete and less biased the information, the more objective their choices may be. And as advocate, the press highlights problems that, in the opinion of publishers and writers, are in need of change. The problem is how to keep the information and advocacy free of bias.

The NY Times is the newspaper of record for America. Though it's read by only 5% of the US population, its influence dwarfs its size. It's the first source editors nationwide scour before deciding what stories to include in their daily news "budget". To these lesser masters of media, when a story appears in the Times, it's

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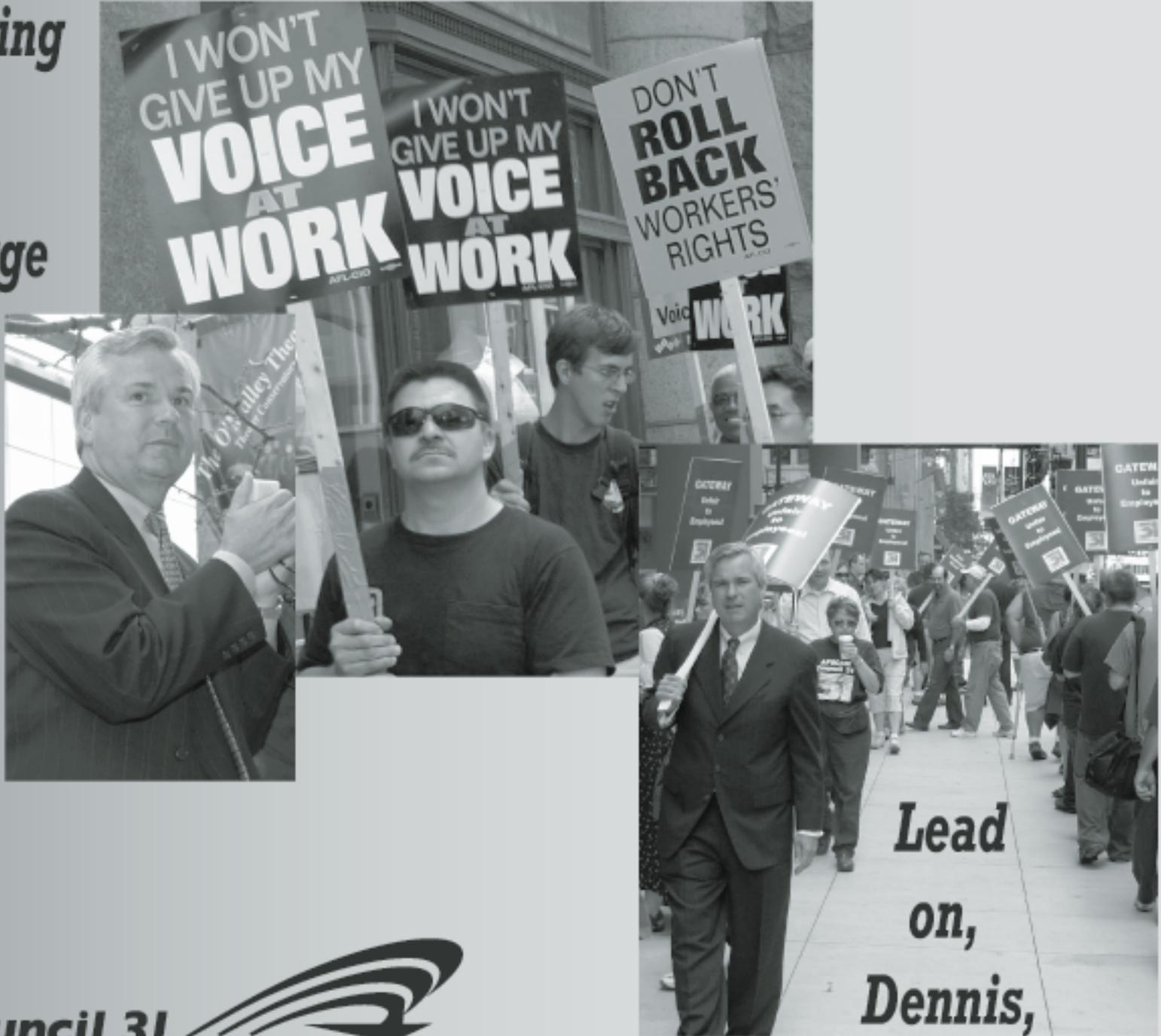
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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



## JFK's A Nation of Immigrants

Both the Republican and the Democratic candidates in next November's presidential election are agreed on at least one thing: America needs to secure its borders, but there is less agreement on how to achieve this objective. Will more fences be the answer? Michael Chertoff, secretary of Homeland Security is on record as saying it will not be the answer!

It is when the debate turns away from concrete and fence posts and focuses on real people that the candidates begin to distinguish themselves from each other.

On the Democratic side, both Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama voted for the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. But their ap-

proach to comprehensive immigration reform on the campaign trail slightly differs. For example, Senator Clinton supports an agricultural jobs program but opposes a guest worker program that would lower wages of American workers or exploit immigrants. Senator Obama supports a guest worker program where immigrant workers would be less dependent on employers to stay in the country. Senator Clinton opposes providing undocumented immigrants driver's licenses while Senator Obama supports providing driver's license to undocumented immigrants.

On the Republican side, the three candidates also differ when it comes to immigration. Mitt Romney has taken an "enforcement-only" approach, whereas

Gov. Mike Huckabee's proposals are harder to define than this hard-line approach. In particular, Mitt Romney opposes any path to legalization for undocumented immigrants and supports tougher penalties for hiring undocumented immigrants.

Romney also proposes to issue tamper-proof identification cards to immigrants and create a verification system if elected President. In addition, Mitt Romney would cut financing to cities where officials refuse to enforce immigration laws.

Governor Huckabee's plan would give undocumented immigrants at least four months to register with USCIS then leave the United States voluntarily, after which they could apply to return.

Sen. John McCain from Arizona is the only Republican candidate to support comprehensive immigration reform. McCain you will remember was one of the co-sponsors for the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, which proposed a path to legalization for millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Senator McCain's approach towards legalization for undocumented immigrants includes learning English, paying fines as well as back paying taxes. Senator McCain, along with Senator Obama, is also a co-sponsor of the Dream Act of 2007, which would allow states to give undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for college and confer legal resident status on immigrant students who came here as minors and had no choice in the matter.

With all this talk on the campaign trail, is it now the time for comprehensive immigration reform? Most of the experts say no, not right now and I agree. Immigration reform is unfortunately too much of a divisive issue to expect the candidates to have any major proposals at this point. It is also clear that the leadership of both parties have no desire to re-visit the issue prior to the November elections.

President Bush was unable to garner the support needed in Congress to pass a comprehensive bill last year and it is most unlikely that he will revive the effort before leaving office. However, over the past year, immigrant communities have seen an increase in immigration raids and the news media has continued to focus on immigration. Because all of the presidential candidates are talking about immigration, it is likely that immigration will remain a center topic in America in 2009.

The lawmakers on both sides are agreed that the problem of immigration is not going away and sooner or later they are going to, whether they like it or not, "grasp the nettle" and deal with the issue as Senator Kennedy says: "I believe we can build the kind of tough, fair and practical reform that is worthy of our shared history as immigrants and as Americans."

**Can't Fool the Faithful: Immigration is a Moral Issue, Not a Political Football**  
By: Interfaith Immigration Coalition

The hateful, anti-immigrant rhetoric on the radio frequencies and permeating the presidential campaigns isn't going over well with people of faith.

Christians especially are sick of hearing their right-wing comrades reject Christ's loving example of extending perfect justice and perfect mercy. Deporting innocent children, denying life-saving services to the elderly and chronically ill, and refusing undocumented individuals any process by which to earn their legal status beg the question of how often these anti-immigrant, political Christians actually read the Bible.

"How would Jesus treat immigrants?" is a profound question which has yet to

be asked by the media or explored by Bible-quoting politicians.

If politicians are to benefit from openly expressing their faith, they should have to answer these tough questions. Can we honestly see Jesus building walls, calling people "illegal," and playing to basic fears in a rabid attempt to slap a bandaid on our broken immigration system? Hardly.

Pastors and people in the pews know that in human raids, deportations, local anti-immigration ordinances, and racist sentiment against various groups of immigrants fly in the face of the Lord's admonitions to not "oppress the stranger" (Ex. 23:9) or "pervert the judgment of the stranger" (Deut. 24:17). Instead, the Lord taught us to "love the stranger as ourselves" (Lev. 19:34), and "allow the stranger to live among us" (Lev. 25:35). Christ's teachings in the New Testament reaffirm the Lord's commandments of inclusion by urging us to welcome the stranger. He promises that as we provide for the stranger (or "alien," NIV), we are serving Him (Matt. 25:35-40). How many of these politicians really want to deport Jesus?

People of faith know that our country's broken immigration system does not justify breaking apart families and ruining lives. Immigration is a moral issue because it is a people issue – a family issue. People of God want to engage politicians in a conversation involving the global causes of migration, trade regulations, inalienable rights of health and education, eradicating racism and segregation, misconceptions of the economic impacts of immigration, and what they can do as a community to triumph over hate and to welcome the stranger. In discussing immigration reform, we need our politicians – especially those running for president – to put away the rhetoric, the slogans, the sound bites, and candidly talk with the American people about fixing our backlogged visa system, helping families stay together and prosper, and allowing undocumented immigrants in our communities to earn their legal status. Only then can these politicians accurately profess to follow the teachings of Christ.

These are the opinions of Jen Smyers, Associate for Immigration and Refugee Policy of Church World Service, and Bill Mefford, Director of Civil and Human Rights for the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society.

Various members of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition are writing weekly op-ed pieces for this website: <http://www.streetprophets.com/story/2008/1/16/143958/307>

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ [siochan@catholic.org](mailto:siochan@catholic.org) or 312-337-8448

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Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Ann Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing

Followed By

*Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell*

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm Show By

Weber School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

Foy School of Irish Dancing

8:00pm Show By

Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing

Followed By

*Music & Dancing with Sean O'Donnell*

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm Show By

Shaylyn McNamara School of Irish Dancing

7:30pm Show By

The Irish Music School of Chicago

8:00pm Show By

Mullane, Healy, O'Brien School of Irish Dancing

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**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

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## For The Republic

Chris Fogarty



3RD WORLD? Is that our nation now? You be the judge. We all know what constitutes a self-regulating republic; our Constitution spells it out. But merely having a Constitution is not enough; it is crucial that the gov't obey it. Thus, our new 3rd world status can be measured by counting the violated components of our Constitution. From "Light to the World" we have now fallen to gov't by a secret Executive Branch and complicit Congress who spy on their own people, perpetrate genocide, wage preemptive wars based upon lies, spend \$billions to prop up murderous tyrants, rob the resources of other nations, engage in torture and assassination, operate a "justice" system based upon perjury and evidence fabrication by gov't agents, loot our treasury and our economy for the benefit of their biggest bribers, and interfere in the elective process to block efforts to save the nation.

FACTS VS OPINION This column doesn't waste your time with opinions. It provides facts covered up by the rest of the news media. But now, to illustrate other facts, I opine as follows; with the exemplary Kucinich gone, Ron Paul seemed worthy. But where Paul is factual, so is Cynthia McKinney, and where Paul is wrong (Libertarian individualism is excessive; greedy), McKinney is still correct. So, Mary and I decided to vote for McKinney for president. On Election Day we went to vote in our 5th Precinct, 42nd Ward at 7:15 a.m. at 910 No. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. Two other voters were present, and four or five (or 6) official watchers/judges. We requested Green Party ballots. All of the officials got involved. They informed us that they had no green-colored ballots until they finally acknowledged that we were asking for Green Party ballots. They then informed us that they had no Green Party ballots; that only two kinds were available; Republican or Democratic. We finally told them that if they did not have Green Party ballots we would use Republican ones (to vote for Ron Paul). Troubled all day by this I returned to the polling place at 3:45 to verify this outrageous denial of our voting rights, only to be told once again that they had ballots only for Repubs and Dems; though one poll watcher mumbled something about independent voters. What's going on? Who rigged the election? Will this crime be prosecuted? Encouraged by IAN reader Roger Murphy, we notified the Green Party who sent me the following (I delete paragraphing):

SUMMARY OF EXIT POLL. As of February 12, the Illinois Green Party had received at least 91 reports of voting irregularities involving the Green Party ballot in the February 5 primary election, coming from precincts in 23 counties. Voters were encouraged to report their experiences, both positive and negative. I volunteered to receive and compile those reports. This is a summary of what I received. In 42 cases an election judge orally offered only the Democratic and Republican ballots, without mentioning the Green Party ballots. In 32 cases the Green Party ballots were stored in a place where they were not visible to voters, while Democratic and Republican ballots were displayed on the table. In 23 cases an election judge told the voter that there simply weren't any Green Party ballots. In most of these cases the voter insisted that there were, and eventually the judges found the ballots and allowed the citizen to vote Green. But some voters ended up voting in other parties, out of frustration. In 16 cases when the voter requested a Green ballot the judges gave them a Democratic ballot (printed on green paper). In 13 cases the voter reported that judges seemed to be unaware that the Green Party existed. In 10 cases the Green Party ballots were visible, but placed off to one side, away from the Democratic and Republican ballots. In 9 cases voters were told that there were paper ballots only for Democrats and Republicans, while Green Party votes would have to be cast on an electronic voting machine. In 8 cases an election judge engaged in "prejudicial" behavior, that is, expressed verbally or nonverbally, a negative judgment about the choice of a Green Party ballot. These actions ranged from scowls, to laughing at the voter, to " (being) indignant," to delaying the oral offer of the Green option, to a judge who "made the meanest, nastiest face and shrugged... (and) huffed and puffed," to a judge who asked "are you sure that is what you want, because (once) you take it that is what you get." In one precinct Green voters were told to put their ballots in a special box because the machine that was taking the Democratic and Republican ballots wouldn't accept them. The worst case was reported from Libertyville, in Lake County. The voter was first told; "We have no Green Party ballots." He insisted that he had seen the Green Party ballots on the County Clerk's web site, and then he saw a Green Party ballot on the table. The judges then admitted that they did have the ballots, but told him

that all four presidential candidates had dropped out of the race. He told them he had not heard any news of candidates dropping out, and he insisted on voting a Green ballot. One of the judges "got on his cellphone and supposedly contacted whoever was in charge," and based upon the "phone call," confirmed that all four candidates had dropped out. The voter still insisted, and eventually the judges let him cast his Green ballot. He reports that a friend of his went to the same polling place and was given the same story of there being no Green Party ballots. Similarly, a voter in Chicago's Ward 25, Precinct 12 reported that at first he was told there were no Green Party ballots, he insisted until the judges found them and allowed him to vote. He later heard from his roommate who voted later, that the roommate also had been told there were no Green Party ballots. A voter in Kane County (Batavia) said; "A judge then told me that there is no Green Party ballot because there are no candidates! She (the judge) said she was told that by the instructor who taught the Kane county election judges." One voter who was told that there were no Green Party ballots, and who ended up voting a Republican ballot, asked "Will this crime be prosecuted?" The Party has also received 35 reports of satisfactory voting experiences in which all three ballots were treated equally. Lee Hartman, Secretary, Shawnee Green Party, Carbondale.

THIS ELECTION confirmed our 3rd world status. Despite its adherence to Constitutional forms it constitutes a direct assault on our nation. In addition to the above examples of pervasive election fraud, TV pundits act as connoisseurs of spin. They extol spinmeistership. They encourage us to view the election as a competition of professional con artists demonstrating their fitness to lead us by the cleverness and subtlety of their lies and smears. Are we really a nation of amateur con artists seeking to be led by the most professional among us? Isn't that what our nation's opinion molders have established? Haven't they also debased the national definition of patriotism, promoting the notion that patriotism is best demonstrated by trampling on laws and murdering large numbers of foreigners, and by torture, instead of by upholding our Constitution and by living decent lives? How inappropriate that, to demonstrate their "patriotism," so many of our opinion molders maintain a permanent sneer toward all other nations and their inhabitants; except Israel. None of them ever mentions Israel's destruction of Lebanon and ongoing genocide of Palestine.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, so far, has seriously harmed our nation. Willingness to torture was made a measure of "patriotism," es-

pecially among the Repubs. Romney said he would double Guantánamo. The Supreme Crime (waging war of aggression) was very much "in," especially among Repub "pro-lifers." McCain advanced after saying that he would continue the Iraq war (a Supreme Crime) for a hundred years, and singing "Bomb, bomb, bomb; bomb, bomb Iran." Meanwhile the Dems were mostly trying to have it both ways, appealing to America's blood-lust while accusing the Bush gang of it. Truth-telling polls didn't stand a chance. They were promptly smeared by their lying rivals and by TV's talking heads. Thus, Gravel, Kucinich, McKinney and Ron Paul were relentlessly mocked; their truths so out of sync with the others that they were treated as kooks, freakish. Finally, the truth-tellers were driven out, all but Paul and McKinney. McKinney's low media profile probably saved her.

WHO COULD GUESS that America, a nation founded in rebellion against empire and privilege, would become like empire-Britain in its outlooks and policies? Aren't we doing to Iraq what the Brits used to do to its colonies? Consider: once Britain got control of a victim-nation's sources of wealth it then became its largest employer, of locals armed and exempt from murder laws - to keep the rest of the people down while the occupier looted national resources. (And today it's done for the multinationals, not for America. US machinist jobs have been outsourced to the point that US security guards now outnumber machinists. So do croupiers.) Today, to survive, the vast majority of newly hired Iraqis become armed traitors, like India's infamous Sepoys and Ireland's Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). The Sepoys, like the RIC, were locals led by Brits. They were Britain's local "eyes and ears" backed by its army and encouraged to shoot first and ask questions later. My people, on both sides, became "respectable" by allying with power. My paternal grandfather whose parents and sibs were evicted from their Ballykealy, Durrow, Co. Laois land by Brit Lord Flowers (usurper of tens of thousands of acres), supported them with his Brit army pay. He earned it by participating in the robbery of some \$27 billion (current value) of Australian gold, by helping to wipe out NZ's Maoris for Brit "settlers," and by helping to reestablish Britain's Raj after the Sepoy Rebellion. His very respectable son, my uncle Kieran, joined Michael Collins' "Free State" army that was paid, munitioned, uniformed and transported by the Brits to shoot down unpaid (and media reviled) IRA volunteers, thus maintaining Brit control of Ireland. My maternal cousins (Finnegans) were similarly "respectable." They were RIC men until 1920 when the IRA shot dead one of them (Luke) in Thurles. During the

"potato famine" the RIC, 12,000 strong, escorted at-gunpoint the droves of livestock and lines of grain carts and canal barges to Ireland's ports for export. Irish resistance to death by starvation must have been fierce. Britain had to reinforce the RIC with militias. Where the people overcame both forces, British army units, 75 reg'ts total, joined in to execute that genocide (see [irishholocaust.org](http://irishholocaust.org)).

IS IRELAND FREE - of British control? Consider this: A British War Graves Commission internal memo in my possession reports on the cost of maintaining its overseas graves. It notes that those in Ireland cost them nothing because Ireland's Dept. of Public Works maintains the Irish graves of all British soldiers who fell in Ireland for Britain. Meanwhile, Ireland's gardai have assaulted and harassed those who maintain the graves of the Irish who fell fighting for Ireland. In 1926, ten years after the Rising, when it became clear to all that the "Irish" gov't was not going to identify or mark the graves of Ireland's heroes, the National Graves Association (NGA) began to do so, voluntarily. Later, to defray some of their expenses, they and their supporters took up an annual collection, from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. In doing so they (we) distribute little paper lilies to be worn on the lapel. These innocuous bits of paper seem to drive "Irish" officialdom berserk. Ireland's police sometimes rob distributors of their lilies and collected donations. Wardens punish political prisoners for honoring Ireland's fallen by wearing the lilies. We, here, are safe from those crimes, so, during Holy Week, authentic NGA Easter Lilies will be distributed as usual by Tom Dalton at TR's Pub and Dalton's Pub, by Tom Fitz's group including Seán Gibbons (Hilton) and Galvin's Pub (Maurice, Bridget and Mags), by Pat Haran & IBEW Local 15, Keegan's Pub (Bernie Callaghan), Johnny O'Hagan's Restaurant (Pauline & Peter), 3-Counties Pub (Eileen Joyce), MacDara O'Flaherty, John Heneghan, Jim McClafferty and others including Mary and me. A word of caution: others distribute identical lilies and accept donations but forward nothing to the National Graves Association.

THE TRUTH SPREADS. Ireland's National Graves Association has ceased using the cover-up words ("famine," "potatoes," "Gorta Mor," etc.) regarding that historic crime. See [www.nga.ie](http://www.nga.ie). It now uses "Holocaust," following the 1847 precedent established by The Cork Examiner newspaper and by Michael Davitt in his works published about 1899. It was in the 1960s that Jewish-Americans began to refer to the (nearly-as-lethal) Shoah as "Holocaust." Contact me at 312/664-7651 or [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) and support our advertisers.

## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



### The Perils of Religion, the Perils of Gibson and the Perils of Canterbury

Hi folks!  
 Hope you missed me, but then again—being a realist—I know that you probably didn't even know I was gone. Poor me.  
 I spent most of the Christmas season as a guest of your health care system, and what a brain testing eye opener that turned out to be. I was airlifted from the West Indies to a Miami hospital—(which I won't name, in order to save their blushes. This being in the perhaps erroneous belief that they could care less what their patients think). How do you do it? The prices alone are eye-watering. America is indeed "no country for old men." I mean, I admit that Ireland isn't exactly a jewel to be studied when it comes to health, and we have Mary Harney, a health minister who preferred to swan off to the States to watch the Super Bowl when she should have been attending to some pretty important matters here, but still the sheer business-like callousness of the States took my breath away. (Not literally, and if it had I'm pretty sure I would have been charged for the oxygen.)

Meanwhile, now that I'm back at the ranch, corruption here continues unabated. Our Führer, Herr Bertie Ahearn, has changed his story on where dodgy sums of money delivered into his—ahem—safekeeping have come from at least seven times. I may have missed a few story changes while in Miami. Mein Führer, word of advice: why don't you just go, abdicate or take a very long walk off a very long pier? The country is embarrassed enough after Squire Charles J. Haughey took us for all he could get, so please don't try to emulate the Master.

And here's another lovely, unedifying sight to return to: Cardinal Desmond Connell attempting to block inquiries into the files that were compiled about the paedophile priests—the many, many pedophile priests that this island of saints and scholars has produced. A couple of questions here, apart from the obvious: why are there so many more of these perverts among the exalted ranks of the clergy than there are, say, oooh, for argument's sake, pedophile plumbers or pedophile

electricians? And why were these criminal swine just moved around to other parishes instead of being handed over to the police and banged up, preferably for life.

The obvious question, of course, is where Connell is getting the money to fund a high court case that exists simply to cover up what must be explosive secrets that are hidden away in these documents. Think about that, folks, the next time that you're putting your hard-earned shekels into the church's money basket.

Meanwhile, a few miles across the water in England, we have another clown—namely, the Archbishop of Canterbury—telling his fellow British that the time has come when they will have to accept some form of Sharia Law (in other words, extremist Muslim Law). In the name of all that's sane, why? Britain is Britain and has British laws. If the Sharia supporters don't like that then let them go and live in a country that accepts Sharia. Let's be honest, there's enough of them. What the hell is a clergyman advocating such nonsense for anyway? I wouldn't care but for the fact that if Britain sneezes we get the cold. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see some clown of an Irish priest in the near future telling us that we should be more compassionate towards the people who are waging a global war against all things Western.

Only this week I listened to a heartbroken woman talk of the murder of her nephew in Saudi Arabia. When they arrived to see and remove his remains they were questioned as to whether or not they were carrying bibles. That's contemptible enough, but they were warned that they could not take in crucifixes—and of course, it's an Irish tradition to put a rosary into the coffin of the deceased. But such a thing would

be too much for the sensibilities of the Bush family's Saudi masters. In humbling addition, they had to ask for permission from the Saudi king before they were even allowed to see the murdered man—and in ten days, they got to see him once, while in all that time they were being treated as if they were the wrongdoers. Yet the same crowd of rent-a-religionists come over here and demand that we treat them as they are treated at home, i.e., like bloody little two-cent Gods. What a soft bunch of eejits we are.

The cameraman was murdered by Al Qaeda in Saudi Arabia in June of 2004, but this is the first time that the family have spoken out about it. He was working with the BBC correspondent Frank Gardner when ambushed. Gardner, who had bullet after bullet pumped into him, was left a paraplegic while Simon was left dead. His aunt Róisín has talked now of the lack of compassion shown to them and asks for more tolerance from Muslims towards Christians.

And so it has come to this: while the greedy, grasping, amoral Bush dynasty sucks up to the Saudis and sells America off, quietly and bit by bit, to these loathsome, despicable anachronisms, WE have to ask THEM to show tolerance.

Jesus wept.  
 And over here, as the Dublin Film Festival gets ready to honour Mel Gibson with an award there are ANONYMOUS (what else?) Rabbis bleating on about how it is all in very bad taste. To which I can only say: "Get over it. The guy was drunk, he's said he's sorry." Did you never get rat-faced and say something you regretted? No, of course not, because your perfect. That's why you all make statements signed Anonymous, you bunch of cowards. I personally think that Gibson deserves to be honoured as a superb actor/director. Just a few of my favourites: "The Year of Living Dangerously"; "Galipoli"; "Braveheart"; "Apocalypto"; "Tim"; and "Mary Poppins" (OK, I made the last one up). He's a fine, fine actor, so let's get over the fact that he also drinks too much.

Until we meet again, my faithful friends, au revoir.

## Blackstairs Rebel in Chicago

Formally known as Rebel Heart and D'Oul Coblers... now known as Blackstairs Rebel...

The Band hail from a small village in Co. Wexford called Kiltlealy and play a wide variety of songs from The Wolfe Tones, The Fureys, The Dubliners, Christy Moore and The Dublin City Ramblers, with a few self penned songs thrown in too.

Check them out Friday, March 14th at Lanigans 3119 W. 111st in Chicago, and Saturday, March 15th at Jack Desmonds in Chicago Ridge, and again at Lanigans on St. Patrick's night.



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## Chicago Gaelic Park in March Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park's Celtic Suppers, every Sunday from 4-9pm, are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for large group meetings or family celebrations. For \$16... music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided. This month's entertainment includes The Griffins on March 2nd, which will be a special Celtic Supper with the Gaelic Park Queen contest and announcement.

There will be no Celtic Suppers on March 9th due to the South Side Irish Celebration and March 16th due to the Tommy Fleming Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner show.

Easter Sunday, March 23rd is another special Celtic Supper with an appearance by the Easter Bunny and musical entertainment by Joe Cullen. The Easter Celtic Supper admission price is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children aged 4-12, and kids 3 and under are free. Sean O'Donnell will be the musical entertainment for Sunday, March 30th.

Regular priced Celtic Supper admission is \$16 for adults, \$9.00 for kids ages 4-12 and kids under 3 are free.

### Ireland on Parade

Gaelic Park, along with Martin Fahey, will host the 41st Annual Ireland on Parade celebration featuring Irish music, song, set dancing, step dancing, ceili dancing and story telling for five nights beginning on March 7th and running March 11th through the 14th.

Each night free entertainment in the Emerald Room begins at 6 p.m. and includes fast paced Irish step dancing performances by 2 to 3 Irish dance schools. Each evening concludes with ceili dancing, set dancing, line dancing and waltzing to the music of Sean O'Donnell. There is no admission charge for Ireland on Parade.

The following is a schedule of the Irish step dancing school performances:

Friday, March 7, performances by the Jerry O'Loughlin School of Irish Dancing and The World Academy of Irish Dance; Tuesday, March 11th performances by the Eilish Sullivan School of Irish dancing and the Ann Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing; Wednesday, March 12th performances by The Weber School of Irish Dance, the Foy School of Irish Dancing and the Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing; Thursday, March 13th performances by the Shaylyn McNamara School of Irish Dancing, The Irish Music School of Chicago and the Mullane, Healy and O'Brien School of Irish Dancing; Friday, March 14th performances by the Blackbird School of Irish Dancing, Cross Keys School of Irish dancing and the Mulhearn School of Irish Dancing.

In addition, the Carraig Irish Pub features Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, March 7th and the Griffins on Friday, March 14th, both beginning at 9:30 p.m. There is no cover charge for the Carraig.

### Pat Woods

Pat Woods, known as the "Bard from Armagh" will appear at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest for two shows. Woods performs on Saturday, March 8th in the Carraig Pub beginning at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 9th in the Tara Room as part of the South Side Irish Celebration beginning at 6 p.m. There is no cover charge for the Saturday performance. On Sunday the \$5 admission charge covers Pat Woods and ten other performers on four stages.

Pat Woods has recorded 12 best selling albums and is also an international television and recording star. Pat is said to have brought a new style and technique to Irish folk music with his words, he illustrates the wishes and dreams of the people.

The Carraig Pub Hosts St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park will host a St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser on Saturday, March 15th, 2008. All

donations go to childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's volunteers are sponsored by donations from friends and family and shave their heads in solidarity for children with cancer. The head shaving will begin at 4 p.m. at the Carraig. St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer driven fund-raising event to fight childhood cancer. More information on the foundation can be found on their website at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org).

### Chicago Gaelic Park's Mass & Breakfast

Chicago Gaelic Park will hold a special South Side Irish Celebration Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 9th, 2008 with Mass beginning at 9 a.m. The morning begins with a special presentation of the symbols of Ireland by local school children. The Gaelic Park choir will perform inspirational Irish hymns during Mass and a delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, will be served after Mass for the cost of \$8.

### Monthly Musical Luncheon

Chicago Gaelic Park will host their monthly Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, March 5th, 2008 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music by Joe Cullen, dancing and a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

### Carraig Pub

The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, offers specials everyday including sandwiches, ribs, steak, shrimp, bottles and drafts. Manager of the Carraig, Tadgh O'Reilly, boasts the best pint of Guinness this side of Dublin.

On weekends enjoy the energetic and free entertainment beginning at 9:30 p.m. every Friday and 10 p.m. every Saturday. This month's entertainment includes:

Dan McGuinness on Saturday, March 1st; Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, March 7th;

Pat Woods on Saturday, March 8th; The Griffins on Friday, March 14th; Jerry Eadie on Saturday, March 15th; Joe McShane on Friday, March 21st; 3 Men in Kilts on Saturday, March 22nd; The Larkin Brothers on Friday, March 28th; Week Back on Saturday, March 29th.

Thursday evenings, come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, March 16th features a special St. Patrick's Eve performance by Ricco Quinn beginning at 7 p.m.. There is no cover charge.

Visit Gaelic Park's website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) for more information and complete list of specials or call (708) 687-9323.

### Queen Contest

Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, will select a new Irish Festival Queen and a Queen's Court at Gaelic Park's Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 2nd. For the admission price of \$16, the Celtic Supper, beginning at 4 p.m., includes an all you can eat buffet until 7 p.m. and dancing music provided by Velvet Green until 9 p.m.

All of the Queen contestants will be introduced and the winners will be announced at the Celtic Supper. The newly selected Irish Festival Queen will enjoy participating in ceremonies, contests and festivals during the Irish Festival of St. Patrick's Day Week and will be given the high seat atop the Gaelic Park St. Patrick's Day parade float. Gifts and prizes valued at over \$1,000 will also be presented to the Queen. The newly elected Queen's Court will also participate in the activities and receive many prizes.

### South Side Irish Sunday

On South Side Irish Sunday, March 9th, come to Gaelic Park for a day full of events for the whole family beginning with the Monthly Mass and Breakfast at 9 a.m.. The Mass is followed by a delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, sausage, soda bread, and black pudding. The cost is \$8.

Doors will re-open at 1:30 p.m. with four stages of continuous entertainment for the entire family. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Entertaining in the Emerald Room is the popular, lively local group, The Larkin & Moran Brothers at 1:30 p.m.; Arranmore brings its contemporary folk music with an Irish flair at 5:15 p.m.; Celtic Thunder, the dynamic ensemble group from Washington, D.C. plays a mix of Irish and Irish American ballads and dance music beginning at 7:30 p.m. and The Dennehy School of Irish Dance displays its wonderful step dancers at 8 p.m. The festivities in the Tara Room include Siochain, the five piece versatile and talented band from Indianapolis playing at 1:30 p.m. and Pat Woods, "The Bard from Armagh" bringing his award winning ballads direct from Ireland at 6 p.m.

In the Carraig Pub, local sensations Joe McShane will perform at 1:30 p.m. and Jerry Eadie at 6:30 p.m. Lastly, the Celtic Room hosts children's entertainment beginning at 2 p.m. with the Dublin Deceptions Magic Show, A Bit "o" the Magic at 3:30 and the Shamrock Shenanigans Magic Show at 5 p.m.

All in all, Gaelic Park provides a great atmosphere for the entire family to celebrate South Side Irish Sunday no matter what the weather is like.

### St. Patrick's Eve Brings Tommy Fleming to Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park is hosting Tommy Fleming, Ireland's hottest new singing sensation for two shows on Sunday, March 16th.

Gaelic Park is bringing Tommy Fleming back to Chicago after he was a huge hit at last year's Irish Festival.

On March 16th the doors open at 1 p.m. for the matinee performance. Admission is \$25 and there will be a cash bar.

On Sunday evening, the doors will open at 6 p.m. with a dinner of corned beef and cabbage to be served at 7 p.m. and the show beginning at 9 p.m. Dinner music will be performed by Sean O'Donnell and there will also be a performance from the Ann-Lavin Cassidy School of Irish Dancing. Tickets are \$40 and do require reservations. Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve tickets or for further information. Please also visit [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org).

### St. Patrick's Day

Not surprisingly, there is a full day of activities at Gaelic Park on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, 2008.

The Emerald Room doors open at noon for the annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon. The \$20 admission fee includes a delicious lunch served at 1 p.m. with music and dancing to the sounds of Joe Cullen until 4 p.m. There will also be a special step dancing show by the Cross Keys School of Irish Dance. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

The Tara Room will provide a family atmosphere including children's entertainment with Magic Matt's Fun Show at 4:30 p.m. and Mulligan's Stew at 6:30 p.m. There is no admission fee and a delicious hot food buffet is available for purchase.

The Carraig Irish Pub at Gaelic Park presents the Griffins at 3 p.m. and Gerard Haughey at 7 p.m. The Carraig provides a wide assortment of refreshments including perfect pints of Guinness. Delicious pub food including, chicken, steak, shrimp, fish, sandwiches and snacks are available until 10 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Gaelic Park, the Irish cultural and heritage center, is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. Visit Gaelic Park's website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) or call (708) 687-9323 for more information, reservations or schedules on any of the above events.



# Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh

(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

to

All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



FROM THE MEMBERS OF



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The McNally brothers, wives, friends and fellow workers enjoying the 10th anniversary of the opening of McNally's Irish Pub in St. Charles, IL. Known for its great food and hospitality, another McNally's is scheduled to open not far away near the end of the year. Stay tuned . . . . .



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### Eileen Kapolnek is Queen of the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade

When the Titanic sank in April 1912, a terrified fifteen year old girl from Ireland was put into one of the remaining lifeboats and survived. The great-granddaughter of that little girl is Queen of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Her name is Eileen Kapolnek.

Eileen is a beautiful red-haired girl. She is twenty-one years old, and a junior at Marquette University. She is strong-willed, decisive, and

a pleasure to interview. Eileen is a positive, optimistic person with clearly thought-out goals for her life. She is working hard to make those dreams and goals become real. She was raised in Park Ridge. She now studies finance and computer technology at Marquette University.

One of the prizes given to the Queen is a trip to Ireland. She plans to use that opportunity to explore

career opportunities in Dublin's new financial and technological district. Her goal is to get a stable job to build a career and then to raise a family. In the meantime, she is applying for a summer internship with the international accounting firm Price-Water-

house-Cooper here in Chicago.

I asked her "What qualities do you value in a person?" She immediately replied, "Honesty, kindness, and understanding." She went on to describe this sensitivity for the feelings of other people as, "when you can put yourself in someone else's shoes."

Eileen learned this quality from

her parents. She described them as the "most considerate people in the world." They must be wonderful people to have a daughter like her. She must have learned from them one of her personal strengths "my ability to put others ahead of myself." Eileen Kapolnek is a young person with the inner strength to make her dreams become real.



Martin Healy speaking at the Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner held at Plumber's Hall to raise money to pay for the parade.



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JOINT AGENTS

# Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Finney



## St. Patrick in the Irish American Kitchen

In America, St. Patrick's Day begins with mass and EARLY full Irish breakfast at a favorite pub. Serve up a couple pints of some good stout, then the heaping helpings of the obligatory corned beef and cabbage are presented. A few more pints, maybe a toast or two with some uisce beatha (whiskey) and then it's time again for another plate of the corned beef. Throw in some great Irish music, a storyteller, a few parades and a green river in Chicago and the holiday is complete.

But most of that is the Irish American celebration today. Was that what the holy day held up for those in Ireland and a new generation of Irish Americans? I took

three wonderful people down the windy Irish lanes of memory to help me out with the Irish traditions from years past.

Mr. John Connell, a singer, teacher, and man extraordinaire, hails from County Cavan. He emigrated from Ireland many years ago and is now a Professor at the University of Akron. His memories of St. Patrick's feast day when he was a lad on the ol' sod brought a smile to his face. In a gorgeous, thick accent he talked about going to mass in the morning and then anxiously waiting for the parade. Then I asked him about the dinner. No, no, he says straight faced. There was no such thing as corned beef. We did have a boiled dinner but it was beef or similar, though there wasn't much money for that. Dinner was never

extravagant that day. Even so, he continued, it was the parade we were excited about. He said they would hurry through the other family events just because it was so thrilling to get to the parade.

Sr. Catherine Walsh, who grew up in county Mayo, was another eager parade watcher in her youth. I asked her about St. Patrick's Day festivities and the food surrounding it. She said there was always a morning mass for the feast day. Then the family would go home for a dinner of beef or lamb served with other sides and the wonderful baked breads. While we talked, she smiled and she returned to her childhood kitchen as if she could smell the bread from the cooker, possibly an old Aga stove. I pulled her back in and asked about serving corned beef and cabbage. She shook her head and said there wasn't any corned beef then. That might be an American thing, she said and smiled. By the way, she added in a light Irish lilt, I do have a couple recipes if you like!

The Ladies' AOH Margaret Judge division in Summit County, OH, have a few ladies in their

midst who can tell stories of the Emerald Isle. Whether they were born there or are first generation, these gems are invaluable to subsequent Irish American generations. Mrs. Kay Seeman, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who grew up as Hannah McNamara, lived near New York City when she was young. Her father came over from County Clare and her mother was a Scot. She told me when she was young they lived in an Irish part of town and took off from school for the feast day. There was always morning mass and then the excitement of the parade. As for corned beef, she didn't have much of that. Their feast day meal was not unlike the other Sunday dinners after mass. BUT, she said, the thrill of the parade set that day apart for her brother Danny, and herself. Even after Kay's father died when she was young, she clung to her Irish roots loving the song "McNamara's Band", and will still sing it today without much prodding!

As I talked to Kay, I began to understand from where the corned beef and cabbage tradition came. Most of the Irish immigrants who landed at Ellis Island were looking for comforting things to remind them of home.

For the immigrants, food was their mainstay and a reminder of times past. As new Americans, they searched the shops of New York City and found corned beef, a highly seasoned meat sold in Jewish delis. That meat was the closest they had to their Irish dish of boiled bacon. This meat was a loin section and cooked with spices, served thinly sliced or like chops. It is still widely prepared today and can be ordered online from traditional Irish grocery and meat websites.

Corned beef and cabbage is a relatively new tradition for the Irish American. Yet you can't have a St. Paddy's Day without a taste of that famous dish. For my contribution to the St. Patrick's Day celebration this year, I am serving my American version of a heaped corned beef sandwich and chips, along with a Guinness stew and beer bread, and my raisin cinnamon bread pudding. I'll be in the kitchen all day, so come over and say hi! All of this and more will be at the AOH party on March 15th at the K of C club on Glenmount Ave. in Akron, OH. Please come and share your stories of St. Paddy's Day past, to meet some new friends, and indulge in a great tradition of the Irish American, corned beef.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Daniel J. McLaughlin**  
Mayor of Orland Park



## Easy Reuben Sandwiches

Serves 4

1 lb. sliced corned beef  
 1 14oz. can sauerkraut, drained  
 1 C. Thousand Island dressing  
 8 slices Swiss cheese  
 8 slices rye bread  
 Butter or similar spread

In one stack, slice the corned beef into 1/4 inch slices. Turn, and slice again into 1/4 inch creating small dice. Put in large bowl. Cut sauerkraut in similar fashion, place in bowl, and combine well. Add

dressing and stir again.

Warm skillet. Spread butter or alternate onto one side of each slice of bread. Place one slice of cheese on bread, then a generous scoop of meat mix. Put in skillet, to with second piece of cheese, then another slice of bread. Carefully check for brownness, then flip — it may get messy. Remove and serve immediately with chips, or hold in warm oven.



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**HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY**



**Congratulations  
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for his  
selection as  
Grand Marshall  
for the  
Chicago  
St. Patrick's Day  
Parade**

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[www.chicagoteamsters.org](http://www.chicagoteamsters.org)

## County Cork Trade Delegation to Travel to Cook County

A delegation of government, IT, biotechnology, crafts and tourism professionals from County Cork, Ireland will travel to Chicago, March 13-18, 2008, for a trade mission focusing on development. Since 1999, the Cork County Council and Cook County Government have had a signed Sister County Agreement to foster bilateral trade between the regions.

Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger, along with the Partners with Ireland Committee and the Cook County Economic Development Department/Chicago-Cook Business Center, will host this year's

trade mission. Committee members and staff have arranged meetings and presentations with Cook County businesses and organizations in four sectors: information technology, biotechnology, tourism and crafts/family business.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** Working with the Illinois I.T. Association (ITA), staff from the Cork County Council, the Cork Institute of Technology and Cork BIC (an interdisciplinary venture consultancy) will meet with ITA members from local businesses to discuss industry statistics, trends in each region, and

to determine which companies are interested in a possible international partnership. Enterprise Ireland representatives will discuss the support and grants they provide for companies doing business here and abroad. Visit the ITA's website for details on the May trade mission at [www.illinoistech.org/associationnews.aspx/300](http://www.illinoistech.org/associationnews.aspx/300).

**BIOTECHNOLOGY** A new sector to the Sister County Agreement is biotechnology. On this in-bound mission, delegates from the Cork County Council, the Cork Institute of Technology, Cork BIC and University College Cork will meet

with local institutional leaders in the biotechnology sector to discuss opportunities in Cook County and in County Cork.

**TOURISM** During their stay, the Cork government officials and hoteliers will highlight the many reasons Cork County is a 'must see' for the visitor to Ireland. Wearing the colors of Cork County over the St Patrick's weekend, the group plans to add a little red to a sea of green as they march in the downtown Chicago St Patrick's Day Parade. The Tourism delegates will meet with key tour operators and travel agents from Cook County to discuss ways to promote travel to each region.

**Crafts/Family Business** In recent years, Craft delegates visiting Cook County have focused on selling

their unique handcrafted work. The committee has helped to research local market trends and locate new retail venues. On this trade mission, the sector will focus on researching family business trends. Using successful business models, delegates and committee members will help small businesses and local artists to find successful retail markets.

The success of a trade mission is typically measured by the quality of introduction to new ideas and new people.

If you are interested in discussing economic growth and fostering a relationship with a business in County Cork, Ireland, contact Cook County's Economic Development Department / CCBC at 312-603-1070 or visit [www.chicago-cook.org](http://www.chicago-cook.org).

**Illinois District Council No. 1  
of the International Union of Bricklayers  
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**We Salute Our Labor Leaders and  
Congratulate the 2008 St. Patrick's Day  
Parade Grand Marshall, Dennis Gannon**

**54th Annual  
Paddy's Day Luncheon**  
of the Electrical Industry of Chicago  
(A Not-for-Profit Organization)

**Friday, March 14th, 2008  
11:30 am**

**Chicago Hilton and Towers  
International Ballroom  
(Not the Grand Ballroom)  
720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL  
(312) 922-4400**

**Price \$55.00 Per Person**

Tickets may be pre-purchased by sending a check payable to the "Paddy's Day Luncheon Society" and mailed to:

Attn: Ms. Lorie Rozewski  
Paddy's Day Luncheon Society  
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245 Fenel Lane  
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Pre-purchased tickets will be held at the Door in the Patron's Company's Name  
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**Happy St. Patrick's Day**



**Tom Balanoff, President**  
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## Irish Diplomat to Head UN Task Force

The President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Srgian Kerim, has appointed Paul Kavanagh, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, as Co-Chair of a key Working Group on UN reform. The task is to promote greater coherence in the efforts of the UN system world-wide. Welcoming the appointment, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern T.D. said recently:

"I am confident Ambassador Kavanagh will do a first-class job, for Ireland as well as the United Nations, in this important role."

"Ambassador Kavanagh brings to his new responsibilities unparalleled experience of the United Nations, having worked for a decade

and a half in key positions with three successive UN Secretaries General. He has worked closely with me as Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and at the European Union in Brussels. He had a central role in Ireland's campaign for election to the Security Council in 2000 and subsequently in our delegation on the Council."

"Continuing reform is underway at the United Nations, but greater coherence is required across the work of its broad system of Agencies, Funds and Programmes in the development, humanitarian and other fields. In this way the UN will better serve all of its Member States and peoples in need."

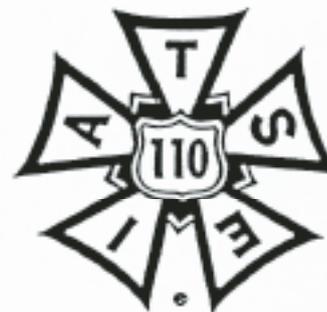


John Griffin, Tom Allen and Martin Healy lead the procession for the Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**We salute our  
Irish-American Labor Leaders**



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Dennis Gannon,  
St. Patrick's Day Parade  
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What is St.

In honor of Saint Patrick and our upcoming holiday, I'd rather write about Saint Patrick's Day than consumer protection laws. Saint Patrick's Day only comes once per year.

Why do we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day? Saint Patrick is celebrated because he converted our pagan ancestors to Christianity.

I spent nineteen (19) years—more than half of my life—in Catholic schools. Despite that, I learned very little about Christianity.

I came out of those schools with some very vague notions about Christianity. I know all of the ritu-

als performed in Catholic churches during mass. I know about the sacraments. I have recollections about some bible stories, like Lazarus was the man raised from the dead, the parables of the Prodigal Son, the good Samaritan, that there were twelve apostles, and that there are ten commandments, etc.

One of the reasons I didn't know much about Christianity was because I did not know what most of the bible says. I did not know what the bible says because I was never required to read it, in its entirety, in school. All I can remember is one kid being called on to read one passage at a time, and when you're a

kid you're usually not listening but rather you're worried about possible embarrassment from reading in front of the class. Maybe it's because, as kids, we're not really interested in bible lessons. Maybe it's because a lot of bibles were hard to read. The sentence structure did not flow like the English language I was used to. I recently saw a bible at a museum that was from the 1500s, from the Elizabethan era. I could not read it. That was not the same English language as we know it today.

Nowadays, thanks to modern translations (e.g., NLT – New Living Translation), the bible is as easy to read as a contemporary magazine. And, nowhere in the bible, I now realize, are there ashes on people's foreheads. There is no fasting on Fridays. As a matter of fact it was Jesus who was questioned by the Jewish religious leaders as to why his disciples did not fast. Also, there is no abstaining from meat by Christians. As a matter of fact, given the strict dietary restrictions of the Jewish religion, Jesus said that it is not what you put into your body that defiles you, but rather your thoughts and your actions. Mark 7:15. Jesus also was accused of working on the Sabbath for healing the lame. Jesus did not appreciate the religious rituals insisted upon by the Jewish religious leaders. Nevertheless, many of us

think we are Christians if we follow Catholic rituals, even if only from time to time.

Do you realize that there is no baptizing of babies in the bible? Of course, many will remember John the Baptist and that even Jesus was baptized by John. But no babies were baptized, only consenting adults of their own free will.

I used to have a notion of "born again" Christians. And it's a term that, for most people I know, conjures up images of bible-belt, bible-carrying, hymn-singing, adults who undergo a late-in-life spiritual awakening. But I never knew or realized that you cannot be a Christian unless you are born again. I knew the name Nicodemus and that he was a biblical figure but could not have told you that he was a Jewish Pharisee who Jesus told that, in order to see the Kingdom of God – i.e., go to heaven, he needed to be born again. Jesus told him no one can go to heaven without being born again of water and the Spirit. John 3:5. It had nothing to do with parents deciding for their babies. It had only to do with adults deciding for themselves.

Then, a few verses later, Jesus said the following: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

How many of us would admit we do evil? Not many—unless you realize that evil is a lot more common than we assume. Many of our thoughts are evil. Jesus said it is our thoughts which defile us. From within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, eagerness for lustful pleasure, envy, slander, pride, fool-

ishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you and make you unacceptable to God. Mark 7: 20-23. A lot of people would think the only thing on that list that was evil for sure was murder. Some of us think of pride as a virtue but, according to Jesus Christ, it is vile and makes us unacceptable to God. How many of us know adulterers? And Paul warns, "The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life." Romans 2:16. It is not just murderers who make the news that are evil. Many of us would fall all over ourselves just to shake the hand of a politician known for theft, greed, and deceit.

So, how many of us know what it means to be a Christian? And if we know what it means, can we honestly say we are a Christian? Don't say you are a Christian just because your parents chose to have you baptized when you were a baby.

Where is Saint Patrick when we need him?

I've been to Ireland several times but never during Saint Patrick's Day. I was once told that it is more of a religious holiday than festive party in Ireland; whereas, in this country, it is more of a festive party than a religious holiday. "Everyone is Irish on Saint Patrick's Day!" (Drink up!) I don't know about Ireland on Saint Patrick's Day, although I know the country is changing very fast. What was true ten years ago I suspect is hardly true anymore. But I know in this country Saint Patrick's Day is quite a party, celebrated by many with lots of drinking, cavorting, and carousing. How funny it is that many celebrate the life of Saint Patrick through pagan revelry. I guess we can at least thank Saint Patrick that we no longer sacrifice humans to pagan gods and goddesses.

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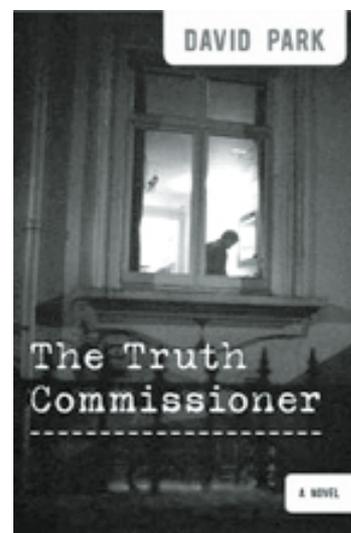





The Truth Commissioner by David Park

As Northern Ireland leaves behind a period of bitter violence, part of the continuing peace process focuses on how best to come to terms with the suffering of the past. In *The Truth Commissioner*, author David Park images how one solution might take shape by inventing a fictional truth commission, modeled on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in South Africa after apartheid. The first case the commission will hear will be the now seventeen-year-old unsolved murder of Connor Walsh.

The *Truth Commissioner* by David Park. Bloomsbury, New York, 2008. 384 pages, \$24.95. www.bloomsbury.com.



### Doubleday Mourns Passing of Author John O'Donohue

On January 3, near Avignon, France, the celebrated Irish poet and philosopher and internationally bestselling author, John O'Donohue died suddenly. Saturday, January 12 2008, he was laid to rest in Fanore, County Clare, Ireland with nearly 500 friends, family and fans in attendance.

The author of Anam Cara (regarded as the classic of Celtic spiritual wisdom); John had just completed To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings to be published March 4, 2008 by Doubleday. "John's depth of wisdom and generous spirit will be profoundly missed," said Trace Murphy, Associate Publisher of Doubleday Religion and John's editor for this work. "It is painful to accept the loss of such a wonderful man and the wealth of wisdom he would have continued to bring into the world. Yet it is heartening that he has left us with a body of work rich enough to contemplate for many years and many generations to come."



"Let us not look for you only in memory,  
Where we would grow lonely without you.  
You would want us to find you in presence,  
Beside us when beauty brightens,  
When kindness glows  
And music echoes eternal tones."

From To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

His person, voice and work will be deeply missed by everyone at Doubleday and by his fans around the world.

John O'Donohue is the author of several books, including, most recently Beauty, and the international bestsellers Anam Cara and Eternal Echoes, as well as two collections of poetry, Echoes of Memory and Conamara Blues. He lived in Ireland and was well known to American audiences for his workshops and lectures.

### MacDonald Reading at Borders

Michael Patrick MacDonald will do a reading as part of the promotion of the paperback version of his book Easter Rising on March 12 at 7 pm. at Borders (2210 W. 95th St.) in the Beverly neighborhood in Chicago.

In his best-selling ALL SOULS: A Family Story from Southie, Michael Patrick MacDonald told the powerful story of a decimated community and family, chronicling the loss of four siblings to the violence, poverty, and gangsterism of Boston's Irish American ghetto. In EASTER

RISING: A Memoir of Roots and Rebellion, now available in paperback from Mariner Books, MacDonald tells his own story of escaping from that world, immersing himself in the 1980s punk music scene, and traveling to Ireland twice—roots journeys that inspired him to reclaim his heritage as a source of pride rather than shame.

Houghton Mifflin Books, Mariner Books 2008. Paperback; 256 pages, \$13.95. www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com.



Be there as we crown the 2008 Chicago Rose of Trollee

Saturday, April 19, 2008  
6:30 PM  
Ridge Country Club  
10522 S. California

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Apply a Rose of Trollee nomination slip to all women aged 18-27, interested in leadership and service to the community. Contact the Chicago Rose of Trollee for details 773-339-3827.

We are accepting Rose of Trollee applications 10-11 and 12-13 to participate in the Chicago Rose of Trollee.

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773-339-3827  
www.chicagoroseoftrolleeball.com

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**Springfield, IL Sept 14-15 2 day 1 night \$235 per person**  
**Dear County June/July/August Dates TBA**  
**Branson October/November 5 day 4 night Dates TBA**

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### Busy Season for O'Hare School of Dance

March is an exciting time of year for the Irish community. St. Patrick's Day means visiting with family and friends, going to parades, and enjoying traditional festivities in honor of Ireland's patron saint. And what would any traditional Irish celebration be without Irish Step Dancing?

With the emergence of Riverdance and Lord of the Dance this beautiful art form has experienced a renewed popularity that has attracted people of all ethnicities. Subsequently, Irish dancing has truly transcended the

boundaries of traditional venues. Its appeal has reached out to many in our great melting pot. Never before have so many young people aspired to learn and perform Ireland's traditional and progressive dances. In the realm of teaching this native Irish footwork, there is no greater example of excellence than that seen at the O'Hare School of Irish Dance.

For the past 25 years, Tim O'Hare, has dedicated himself to the growth and development of young Irish

Dancers. This two-time world Champion has distinguished himself as both artist and teacher giving students an opportunity not only to excel, but enjoy the experience. After being the first North American dancer to win two World Championships, he opened schools in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio and in 1996 further expanded his school to Chicago, Illinois. The O'Hare School

now boasts more World Championship titles in solo dance than any other school in the United States. Yet, for all of the accomplishments of the students, the O'Hare School is grounded in healthy priorities. Emphasis is placed on friendships made, community interaction, and most importantly the development and self-esteem of their dancers.

This year as you make your way to

all of the seasons events, be sure to include the O'Hare School. They will be performing at the Irish American Heritage Center for its annual event Irish Dance Chicago. For more information please e-mail them at idoharechicago@yahoo.com or by phone at (847) 295-5421. Classes are offered at their studios in Des Plaines, Lake Bluff and their newest location in Norwood Park (Chicago).



## May the luck of the Irish be with you!



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- Sixth Place: \$1,000

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# St. PATRICK'S DAY

WTTW11 pays tribute to the Emerald Isle with a special evening of programming in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

**Sunday, March 16**

## Celtic Woman: A New Journey

**3:30 p.m.**

*Filmed at the historic Slane Castle in County Meath, Ireland, this special features the original members of Celtic Woman – Chloe Agnew, Orka Fallon, Lisa Kelly, Meav Ni Mhaolchatha, and fiddler Mairead Nesbitt – plus the New Zealand-born international recording star Hayley Westenra. The group sings a blend of old classics, contemporary hits, and original material. Also airing Thursday, March 13 at 9:30 p.m.*



Hayley Westenra

## Celtic Thunder

**5:30 p.m.**

*The producer of Celtic Woman teams up with Grammy-nominated Irish songwriting and composing veteran Phil Coulter and five talented male singers to produce a show that includes an eclectic mix of songs ranging from the traditional "Mountains of Mourne" and "Come By the Hills" to international hits such as "Brothers in Arms" and "Desperado," as well as original compositions by Coulter.*



*Also airing Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 p.m.*

## The High Kings

**7:30 p.m.**

*The most exciting new Irish ballad group to come along in years, The High Kings is comprised of four outstanding male vocalists bring their intricate harmonies and driving rhythm to bear on traditional Irish music. Backed by a band of world-class musicians, the group re-energizes these familiar melodies and put them back in the forefront of the Irish experience, at home and abroad.*



*Also airing Sunday, March 2 at 9:00 p.m.*

## Historic Pubs of Dublin

**9:00 p.m.**

*A visually stunning tour of Dublin's most notable historic pubs, as well as the many places of interest that surround them. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt serves as your personal tour guide, providing valuable insight into Irish*



*culture and history, and the significance the Irish pub plays in both areas. This program teaches you how to make the most of your visit to Dublin.*

**Watch WTTW11 on Sunday, March 16!**

# wttw11

Everyone calling in with a contribution during the live pledge drive this evening will be eligible to win round trip airfare for two to Dublin, courtesy of American Airlines!

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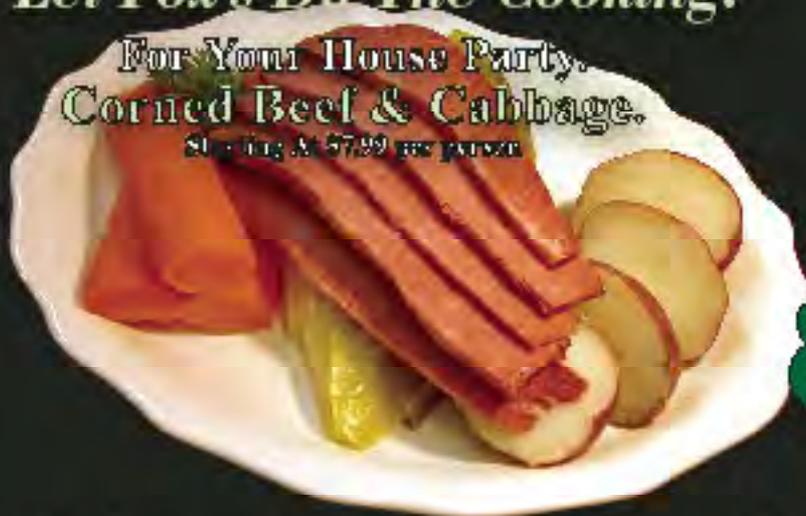
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143rd. & Route 30  
Spring 2008

# MARCH GREATNESS at Fox's Orland Park

*Celebrate St. Patrick's Day through 3rd week of March!*

*Keeping the Tradition Alive!*

**Bagpipers • Irish Dancers  
Face Painters • Balloonists**



**Live Entertainment**  
Both Locations  
*Featuring*  
**Keith Benson  
and  
Chris Bahr**

(call for schedule!)

**Any size group**

**Oak Lawn 10-25-35 up to 100**

**Mokena 10-25-35 up to 100**

*Private room, reservation  
or open seating*

**7 Days & 7 Nights a Week!**



- Showers
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Engagement Parties
- Any Celebration!

**PARTY ROOMS  
AVAILABLE**

*(Ideal for Concert and  
DVD's with Flat Screen TV's)*

Call for per person Banquet Prices



*Fox's is the Longest Standing Restaurant in Orland Park  
Taste the difference and experience over 40 years of tradition.*

**Plenty of Parking  
Bar Seats up to 50**

**Call for  
Entertainment**

**Dine In • Banquets • Carry Out • Delivery • Catering**

11247 W. 187th St. Mokena  
708.478.8888  
[www.foxsonwolf.com](http://www.foxsonwolf.com)

9655 W. 143rd St. Orland Park  
708.349.2111  
[www.foxsorland.com](http://www.foxsorland.com)



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