



Hop the Pond Founder Kevin Egan Gets a Kick Helping J1ers

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Fishmonger

By Pat O'Connell

Published by Liffey Press/DuFour Editions

This is a charming and easy to read account by Pat O'Connell who sells fish in Cork's English Market.

The writing style reflects his personality because in the book he is an easy going person, hard working, honest, and comfortable with himself.

He became world famous because of a picture of him with Queen Elizabeth II taken when she visited the Market. He had expected her to be aloof and with

no sense of humor. Happily, Pat found she was anything but. He quickly got her laughing, and in the picture that went around the world in

newspapers and on TV they are both laughing uproariously.

Cork's English Market is "a local food market" that has been on the site for four hundred years. An imposing building was built there in the 1800's and remodeled in the 1980's. The stalls are each devoted to selling meat, vegetables, fish, poultry, cheeses or bakery delicacies. The food is all locally produced and sold to local customers.

Having a stall in the famous English Market is a family tradition begun by his mother a half century ago. O'Connell praises her strength, determination and business sense.

She needed those qualities because Irish women were still expected to stay at home, raise a family and be humble. They were not to be independent, and definitely they were not to run a business!

O'Connell planned for a career in business and had an excellent education to prepare for that, but he is happy selling fish in the English Market. He proudly describes the Market as a "prime example of being one of the best living, working, thriving markets in Europe."

Calso Cooks:

Real Food Made Easy

By Paul Callaghan

Mercier Press/DuFour Editions

Recipes for fresh food? There are dozens in this entertaining and informative book. The author is Paul Callaghan, a young Irishman who has an infectious passion for cooking.

As Callaghan says, "Everyone has a great cook inside them. I plan on bringing it out in my readers. I have not been trained . . . but cooking is something that I have embraced and love doing."

Callaghan was raised in County Omagh, but later moved to County Clare where he lives now.

Calso is a nickname from when he played Gaelic football for local schools. He grows vegetables and buys locally produced meat and fish.

There are 141 recipes in the book, handsomely presented and clearly printed. Each is accompanied by a color photograph of what the cooked food will look like. Many are from his very popular blog. Recipes on the computer screen are fine, but as he says, "there is nothing like having a cookbook in hand."

About authoring a cookbook, he says, "About two years ago I had a crazy idea: a



dream to one day have my own cookbook for sale in shops throughout Ireland," he says. "If we do not follow our dreams then they are not dreams, only thoughts," he continues.

I was pleased and happy to hear Paul say that he doesn't like fad diets. "The only diet that had ever made sense to me has been around for thousands of years, the healthy, balanced diet." The dictionary defines diet: the food and drink that a person or animal regularly consumes. He tells us that it says nothing about Atkins, nothing about counting points, nothing about cutting out a main food group.

Callaghan advises, "Food and nutrition are crucial to health, not only for the body, but also for the mind and emotions. Many ailments, sickness and diseases can be caused by an unbalanced diet."

He goes on to say: "The mainstay of a healthy diet



should be carbohydrates and fibre foods like potatoes, lentils, whole wheat pasta, wholegrain bread, brown rice and cereals. To these, protein based foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans should be added. It is not necessary to have meat or fish with every meal - not even every day. The other ingredients to be added are essential fatty acids from nuts, seeds, oils and oily fish. And, this along with vitamins and minerals found naturally in fruit and vegetables is the basic template for healthy eating.

He makes five suggestions that will lead to a healthier person.

Cut down on convenience food and fast food

Try replacing meat with oily fish more often

Reduce your intake of sugar, salt, coffee, fizzy drinks and alcohol.

Make your diet as varied as possible

Use fresh ingredients as often as possible

He sums up: "I fully understand that all this is not possible for everyone, but if we try and make even small changes to our eating habits, we will all benefit from it."

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

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



John Bull's Island

A landmark event in modern Irish history took place last month – President Michael D Higgins' State Visit to Britain. This, the first by an Irish President in the history of the state, was in return for the Queen's 2011 visit here. Both have been applauded as great successes and important steps in the process of reconciliation between Ireland and Britain. Particular and deserved praise has been given to the President and his wife; the visit was one which instilled a sense of pride. President Higgins will visit Chicago in early May. Get to see him if you can.

Parking the symbolism and diplomatic niceties, the Visit was particularly important in the formal recognition it accorded to the Irish community in Britain, both in terms of social acceptance within Britain and in terms of official recognition from Ireland. To a community which has often been taken for granted, and on occasion faced hostility or indifference, this formal acknowledgement is important in a country where so many have found a home. President Higgins, like many others a onetime Irish emigrant to Britain, could empathise easily with our people there, who enjoy generally excellent relations with the host nation, which has welcomed and given a livelihood to several million Irish over the centuries.

There are no exact figures for the numbers who came or their descendants. The British Ambassador to Ireland, Dominic Chilcott, suggested recently that as many as twenty five percent of the British population could

claim some Irish ancestry. A rough rule of thumb used by many has been the number of Catholics plus 10% - reflect-

ing the fact that Britain's Roman Catholic Church, roughly seven million, was overwhelmingly an Irish immigrant church, and adding in a percentage for those who "lapsed."

This may be a considerable underestimation. The obvious examples aside, there are people of recognisable Irish descent to be found at every level of British society. While it is widely known that Tony Blair's mother was born in Donegal, making him, incidentally, an Irish citizen by right, it came as a revelation that Mrs Thatcher's great-grandmother was a Sullivan from Kerry! And that could be just the tip of a very large iceberg. Though not as visible or as talked about as the Irish Americans, the Irish in Britain have made a significant, sometimes unrecognised, contribution to British society.

While there are roughly 34 million persons claiming Irish descent in the USA, reflecting the phenomenal numbers who arrived during the Nineteenth Century, those of Irish birth living in Britain today - at least half a million - constitute by far the largest grouping of Irish-born now living outside Ireland and greatly exceed the number in the USA. The 2010 US Census gave just under 145,000 Irish-born naturalised US residents; throw in those with or awaiting green cards and the undocumented and the total figure is probably around 250,000.

Irish immigrant experiences in the USA and Britain have been markedly different. While the USA has celebrated diversity, acknowledging the contribution of different immigrant groups, including especially the

Irish, to developing the country, Britain has until recently historically taken the different path of assimilation. This has changed in recent decades, with the arrival of large numbers of culturally and ethnically different immigrants which has seen British society become more pluralist, diverse and multicultural.

Until the sixties, however, immigrants to England, even from other parts of Britain, were steered towards assimilation and absorption into the dominant culture. There were reasons. Like immigrants everywhere, most arrivals were poor, entering society at or near the bottom. It was a long slow march up the social ladder in a society more closed and class ridden than in the USA. Assimilation helped. You were here, you worked, you were accepted, on the host's terms. And, to a large extent, it worked, certainly on the surface.

There were many exceptions, of course, and it is to their credit that Irish culture, and Irish identity were preserved and championed among emigrants. Yet within a generation or two many had become British, with usually just a nod to an Irish or Scottish grandparent. Hence the Thatchers, and many more like them (three of the Beatles). Remember some members of the legendary Irish soccer team of a generation ago - qualifying through a grandparent.

Historically there have always been many Irish in Britain. Irish-born immigrants constituted until very recently the largest "foreign" community in Britain; Indians and Poles have now passed them out. (The same, incidentally, is true in reverse of the British in Ireland). There was considerable migration even pre-Famine and steady, increased, flows thereafter, with spikes in the numbers arriving corresponding to economic downturns at home. During the 1950s the numbers surged, as the Irish economy hit the bottom, with up to half of each year's school

leavers emigrating, most to Britain. As an example, in 1960, of my mother's siblings three of four were living (and working) in Britain, while in my father's case the figure was seven out of fourteen.

It was a time of mixed experience. Generally Irish immigrants were well received and fitted in. But increased immigration after 1950 included many single men, generating a flurry of "No Irish" notices from landlords. While most thrived, indeed prospered, for the few at the margin life was hard, with alcohol, loneliness and impoverished lifestyles taking a toll. Remnants of these "forgotten Irish" remain, and one of the main thrusts of official Irish policy towards emigrants in recent years has been to provide assistance to them. In the 70s also the impact of the Northern Ireland "Troubles" was overwhelmingly negative, with widespread anti-Irish feeling after numerous people were murdered in IRA bombings and shootings. The hysteria spilled over into a number of miscarriages of justice, with ordinary innocent Irish people wrongly convicted of terrorist crimes. It was not a good time to be Irish and most immigrants kept their heads down.

Rising prosperity at home from the early

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John Bull

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1960s on saw emigration gradually reduce, though thousands continued to move annually in both directions. A further spike in Irish arrivals in Britain followed Ireland's economic collapse of the 80s and the meltdown since 2008 has seen yet another surge. Unlike the earlier emigrants, many of whom were poorly educated and doomed to menial jobs, the latest arrivals have been better qualified and have slotted in at every level of British society.

The two decades of peace since 1994 have helped enormously. There has been quicker acceptance of the Irish against a background of heightened awareness generally about ethnicity and cultural identity. It has been a period which has seen a steady rise in profile of and regard for the Irish in Britain. Events like Riverdance, groups like U2, the arrival in Britain of talented and high profile Irish artists and entertainers, fashion designers and professionals generally, have combined to generate a welcome change in attitude. Ireland and Irishness have become trendy, almost chic. The State Visit topped this off nicely. For the Irish in Britain, the Visit was a signal triumph.

Sean Farrell is a former Irish Consul General in Chicago.

Ireland President Higgins Visits Chicago in May



President Michael D. Higgins was born in Limerick city and raised in Co. Clare. He was the first in his family to access third level education and studied at University College Galway, the University of Manchester, and Indiana University. As a lecturer in political science and sociology in National University of Ireland, Galway, and in the United States, Michael D. Higgins was a passionate proponent for the extension of access to third level education beyond the walls of established universities. A desire to work more directly for equality and justice, led Michael D. Higgins to enter public life. He went on to serve as a public representative for many years and spent 25 years in Dail Eireann prior to his election as President of Ireland. On November 11, 2011, he was inaugurated as the ninth President of Ireland.

President Higgins is married to Sabina Higgins who studied acting in Dublin and is a founding member of the Focus Theatre. They have four children.

Gaelic Park is delighted to welcome His

Excellency, Michael D Higgins, with his wife Sabina to its Mother's Day Mass on Sunday, May 11th, at 10.00am which will be held in the Emerald Room at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th breakfast will be served. Admission is \$8.00 and all attendees will be required to be seated Street, Oak Forest. Following Mass, Irish by 9.30am. All members of the public are invited to attend this historical occasion. Please call Gaelic Park to make reservations 708-687-9323

For further information on this, and all of our activities, call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323 or visit the website at www.chicago-gaelicpark.org

The Irish American Heritage Center's Board of Directors and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support invite IAHC Members and friends to a Cultural Performance on the occasion of the visit to the Center by the President of Ireland, H. E. Michael D. Higgins.

The event is Sunday, May 11, 2014 in the IAHC Auditorium and features a Cultural Performance 6pm -7pm. President Higgins will address the audience during the performance. Ticketholders are required to be in their seats in the Auditorium by 5:45pm and there is no entry after 5:45pm.

Note: -A very limited number of tickets are available. There is no charge for the ticket. For more information, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has a unique opportunity to partner with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs for a special luncheon with the President of Ireland, His Excellency, Michael Higgins on May 12, 2014. The luncheon will be held at the Drake Hotel at 11:45am. As a partner organization, our members can attend at the member price of \$50. Registration details are on the website:

www.irishfellowshipclub.com



Ireland Network Chicago awards Chicago Irish Immigrant Support half the proceeds of their Annual Ball Charity Raffle, \$5,175. Pictured left to right: Ronan Keary, Breandán Magee, Imelda Gallagher

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Hop the Pond Founder Kevin Egan Gets a Kick Helping J1-ers



Kevin Egan, who has been touted as "The Irish Voice of Chicago Soccer", is known by most of his fans for his work as a presenter and commentator for Chicago Fire matches on MY50, or from his ESPN soccer radio show Fire Weekly on Saturday mornings. It might even seem that his career path has had a chosen trajectory since his Irish footballer father met his American mother while he toured the U.S. with his team, and it's certainly played out that way over the last decade as Mr. Egan has gone from working at RTE in Ireland to working at ESPN in America. But although he has a deep love for sport, and "football" in particular, it's a completely different initiative for which he's beginning to gain recognition and generate enthusiasm towards, and it has nothing to do with soccer. The project, a brainchild of Egan's, is called Hop The Pond, and has been created (along with Chicago brothers Marty and Mark Reiter) in order to help establish safer tourism for Irish students wishing to spend a season in Chicago.

Cathy and Cliff of IAN sat down with Mr. Egan to discuss this amazing endeavor he's spearheaded, and to talk about the serendipitous path that led a Gaelic footballer-turned-sports-presenter to create what might possibly become the best, safest, and most efficient way for young tourists to visit foreign cities.

His father, Liam Egan, was on the famous Dublin football

team in the late 70s, which was given the opportunity to tour the U.S. in 1977 after winning the All-Ireland. During this trip, Liam met Kathy Mitchell while visiting Chicago, and the two were married a few years later. It wasn't long before Liam missed home, and the pair moved to Ireland in 1984, where they raised their five children, Kevin the second born and the oldest boy.

He participated in many sports in his youth, but his favorite was Gaelic football, which he continued to play until he tore his ACL in college. "I told my parents, I'm gonna go insane, so I need to get something in my career," he says. He became vastly interested in sports programs and how shows were created for public television viewer consumption, so he started at the very beginning. "I'd go to shows and apply to be in the audience, then afterward would ask the stage manager for a script, and I'd say, 'I'm in college and I'm eager to learn how to put a show together.'"

His introduction into the sports business was as a production runner for RTE, Ireland's National Television and Radio Broadcaster, in 2004 during the Olympics. "It had been my dream to get into RTE. It's a great live TV atmosphere. I loved it." After paying his dues for a year, he became a researcher, of which he says, "I learned a lot about TV sports... it was a fly by the seat of your pants type of job, learning as you go." But his time spent in these lower-ranking jobs were never taken for granted. His motto, which he shares with others who begin in situations similar to what his was, is "Don't look too far ahead... you have to appreciate every aspect of the industry."

After spending some time as a researcher, he got into produc-

tion work, where he really began to learn and understand sports. Then, he was able to sit down with the greatest players of all time in Gaelic football, hurling, and soccer 1-on-1, where he got the best education. He was taught different trends, tactics, and how the games were really played. "Sitting with a soccer legend for a 90 minute match, you pick up so many different parts of the game that you never would have thought of before."

However, although RTE was the dream, he began to realize that to get where he wanted to be



within the company, it would be a 30-year plan. So, Egan explains, "I said to my mum in the kitchen at home one day, I'm going to America to get a job at ESPN or Fox, and it'll be good for my CV (resume), and then I'll move back to (Ireland, and) RTE and climb the stairs there."

He left Ireland in January of 2009, choosing Chicago as his American destination, since that is where his mother is from. "I arrived in Chicago the night before Barack Obama was inaugurated, and I was downtown reporting for RTE on the radio the following morning, and I was interviewed on WGN news that very day, about being Irish in the city here," Egan says proudly, adding that having been interviewed on his first day in the States, he assumed that breaking into televi-

sion or radio here would be easy. But, it wasn't.

To supplement his income, Egan got a job at The Curragh Traditional Irish Pub in Edison Park, and spent six months there. Kevin's younger brother, Michael, also moved to Chicago and is working as Chief Brand Ambassador for 'Beam Global's' Irish whiskeys.

Kevin had many contacts in Chicago when he left Dublin, and through a distant acquaintance, he was put in touch with Big Ten Network sports anchor Lisa Cornwell (a cousin of Bill Clinton), which eventually led to Egan being hired by the network in August of 2009. As with RTE, he had to work his way up, so he began as a production assistant. Sadly, he noticed early on

as a sideline reporter and color analyst. Eventually, through his work with the Chicago Fire TV broadcasts, ESPN took notice and he eventually became the co-host of "Fire Weekly". Of soccer in America, Egan informs us that it's the most-played sport among kids in this country, and he projects that it'll be a major sport, as big as football is in European countries, within the next 20 years.

So, at what point does his Hop the Pond project come in to play? Well, for starters, Egan is a very proud Irish man, proud of Ireland, and proud of his Irish heritage. And with that pride comes his love and interest in all other Irish people in America, Chicago in particular. In reading and learning about other Irish

people who have come to enjoy the States like him, he's gotten a really good feel for what tourism is like for visitors, especially younger ones.

It begins with the J-1 Visa. This Exchange Visitor Visa offers cultural and educational exchange opportunities in the United States through a variety of programs overseen by the U.S. State department. Most young Irish tourists planning to visit America during the seasonal months (May-September) must obtain this visa for their visit. "The J-1ers", as they've sometimes been referred to, often make no plans for their trip. They land at the airport and have no transport, no place to stay, no job, little money, and few or no contacts locally. Literally hun-

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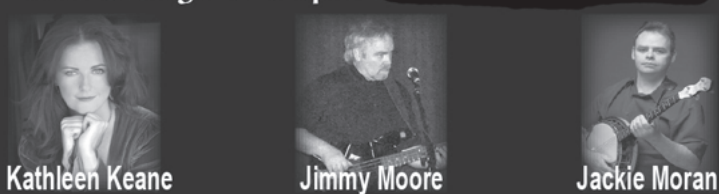
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Hop the Pond's Kevin Egan

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dreds of Irish students come to Chicago and arrive "blind", not knowing anything about the city, not knowing the dangerous areas, not knowing where to get a meal for a fair price.

Hop The Pond picks up where student planning leaves off. It's meant to be a one-stop information and resource hub for all international students. Working in collaboration with Choose Chicago, the government initiative for tourism in the city, Hop The Pond is able to offer transport, tourist housing, and seasonal jobs, as well as any assistance or advice needed. The "hopper" season runs from the middle of May to the middle of September, and they take students between the ages of 18-30.

What does a typical trip look like for an Irish hopper?

Beginning with a rigorous application process, during which Egan himself has several phone and Skype conversations with each applicant, the students are assessed for personality and interests. Once chosen, each person can then decide, a la carte style, which "amenities" they'd like to add to their Hop The Pond experience (found at hopthepond.com). For example, for a guaranteed seasonal job when you arrive, it's \$350. For a summer housing down payment, it's \$500. And so on and so forth, including airport pickup, data packages for a U.S. cell phone, and a few other things. Then, once you've chosen how much assistance you'll need from Hop The Pond, you can rest easy knowing that you'll be taken care of once you arrive in Chicago. (This does not include air fare, travel insurance, passports, etc, which end up costing an average of \$1,500)

Hop The Pond also plans events and activities that the hoppers can choose to partake in. Upon arrival, the students are taken to places like Six Flags or

Sky Dive Midwest in Kenosha, and treated to a day of fun and bar-b-queue as a way of getting to know fellow hoppers and get a taste for what you can find to do in the area. They have an event planned most days for the four months of the program, at



which the Chicago Police staff often work their days off to help make sure everyone stays safe.

As far as housing goes, Hop The Pond signs temporary leases for its participants, taking the burden away from the student. "We'll sign the lease, we'll take



the risk. It's a calculated risk that I'm willing to take because I've talked at length with each and every one of them several times, so we've gotten to know them, and we've gotten to know their parents. We have their parents' credit cards on file for damages, so (these travelers) don't want to do anything to jeopardize that."

It's the application process, the getting-to-know-you part Egan undertakes himself, that also helps him find jobs that fit each hopper well. He vets everyone for personality and experience, and tries to place them in jobs accordingly. Many Hop The Pond

travelers end up in seasonal jobs working as hostess and wait staff, or in bars.

What does Hop the Pond Need?

People to provide potential housing or potential jobs for these seasonal tourists. In general, hoppers need jobs that can offer at least 20 hours of work a week. And, let's be honest, an Irish accent will always draw customers to your place of business!

Why should you hire a Hopper?

"Because they're extremely personable, friendly workers, that are here for the busiest part of the season, from May- September, and you won't have to fire them eventually, as they're going back home right when you'd shed your summer staff," Egan says. "The hoppers are here for a certain amount of time to work hard and have fun. They're cheaper to employ, you don't have to pay medicare, you don't have to pay social security. (And) it's a smarter move to hire Irish hoppers over other nationalities because there's an accountability aspect with our program. I can be contacted at any time."

Of the program's ultimate goal, Egan states, "We want everyone to have an amazing experience, have a great time, and go back to Ireland better people."

For information on the Hop The Pond program, as well as how to become part of this amazing initiative to help bring more tourism into Chicago, visit www.hopthepond.com.

From Dublin to Chicago, from sports to tourism, Kevin Egan is spreading his kind Irish personality all over our city. A busy, hard worker, he spends his free time playing soccer for fun and planning his upcoming wedding with his fiancé Megan, whom he met at a coffee shop before his first shift at The Curragh in Edison Park.

Catch Mr. Egan's ESPN Fire Weekly show from 7-8am on Saturday mornings on ESPN 1000 AM, and his Chicago Fire matches on MY50 Chicago.

Mother Butter's Moves to Suburbs; Still Produces Great Gourmet Popcorn

By Tim Moran
Southside Editor

The best popcorn in the Chicago area may have left city limits, but can still be found on the south side.

Mother Butter's Popcorn and Confectionary, 3342 W. 95th St.

taste of the Cheezy BBQ, Chicago Mix or Cajun Cheddar flavors.

After six years of serving the Bronzeville neighborhood, Donnelly moved his store to Evergreen Park after years of luring by the city's Mayor.

"The parking issue became a bit

special brand of popcorn exclusively for Trump International Hotel and Tower. In 2013, the hotel was voted "Best Hotel in the World" by Travel and Leisure magazine. Other well-known establishments that purchase from Mother Butter's include the Palmer



*Mother Butter's
Owner Tim Donnelly*

in Evergreen Park, makes several different popcorn varieties on location, using all natural and locally sourced non-GMO corn.

Being a lifelong resident of Chicago, Mother Butter's owner Tim Donnelly (a Brother Rice graduate) was proud to open his first shop in the city's Bronzeville neighborhood.

While the popcorn industry is centuries old, Mother Butter's has risen to the top of the industry in just six years, having opened their first location not far from U.S. Cellular Field in 2008.

"We are pretty proud of that," Donnelly said. "That was the worst economic year in our lifetimes, so we were either crazy and going to go out of business right away or we could view it as there is nowhere to go but up. We saw the latter and have seen a 10-15 percent increase every year since."

The increase in popularity is hardly a surprise, as it's tough to not fall in love with the unique

of a problem in Bronzeville and the Mayor of Evergreen Park helped us find the perfect location," Donnelly said of his new site right in the heart of Evergreen Park in the same strip mall that hosts a Dunkin' Donuts and Subway restaurant.

Moving to Evergreen Park is the "best business decision" Donnelly ever made.

"There are no parking meters, we still have a lot of foot traffic, and we are close enough to Chicago that we are able to keep all our regular customers," he said.

The new Evergreen Park shop also allowed Donnelly to nearly double in size, going from 600 feet in Bridgeport to 1,000 feet.

"It is so much better here," Donnelly said. "We've been spreading the word through social media and word of mouth that we've changed locations. Once people find out we are here, they love it."

Foot traffic is only a small part of the clientele Mother Butter's serves. Mother Butter's makes a

House Hilton, Payden & Rygel and M&B Financial.

Popcorn tins are shipped out from the site with the company's name or logo printed on the tin free of charge.

Moet Hennessy, based out of Ireland, is also a big fan, ordering special blends of popcorn to pair with their champagne and cognac.

Their popularity has not gone unnoticed by Chicago media outlets such as WGN Radio, Windy City Live, and 190 North - where the confectionary was the feature on one of their Sunday night profiles.

Steve Dolinsky, host of "The Hungry Hour" said Mother Butter's has the "best damn popcorn on the south side, if not the entire city."

Donnelly also says Rick Kogan of the Chicago Tribune wrote "a wonderful piece on us" for one of his sidewalk columns in 2011.

Donnelly said he is excited about



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Continued to Page 8



Mother Butter's

Continued From Page 7

his new content-advertising relationship with the Irish American News.

"The Irish American News has always been on my families kitchen table growing up and still is today," he said.

Holidays are a busy time
Mother Butter's always sees

a spike in business around holidays, with Mother's Day being a particularly popular event for popcorn-buyers.

"During Christmastime we ship all over the country and Valentine's Day is pretty big too," Donnelly said.

Not just popcorn
While they will always be known for their popcorn, Mother Butter's

offers several other treats as well. Other shop favorites include bulk candy and nuts, gourmet fudge and caramel walnut clusters.

"No one else makes caramel from scratch like we do," Donnelly said.

How it all began

Donnelly said opening a food business had always been a dream of his, having worked in the industry since the age of 12 when he began working as a jack-of-all trades for Fox's Beverly Pub. Therese Fox, the matriarch of Fox's, is credited as Donnelly's mentor.

"At Fox's, I would cook, do the dishes, deliver, pretty much anything they needed," said Donnelly, whose cousins are Frank and Tom Fox, current owners of the popular south side pizza chain that now has locations in Plainfield, Oak Lawn, Beverly, Hinsdale, Orland Park and Mokena. Bridgeport resident loves working at Mother Butter's

The shop may have moved to Evergreen Park, but Donnelly says they "brought a little Bridgeport" with them as Bridgeport resident Jaclyn Tormey has been with the company for years.

"The Irish American News has always been on my families kitchen table growing up and still is today"

"It is really fun working here," Tormey said. "Great employees and great bosses makes this just like family."

A Proud Irish American

Donnelly, a native of Beverly and current resident of University Village, is proud of his Irish heritage and has visited family in the Emerald Isle several times.

He owns Mother Butter's with his wife, Jenny, also a Beverly native and Mother McAuley graduate. The couple have a one-year-old daughter named Savannah.

"The true Irish way is to treat people like human beings and talk to everyone that walks in," Donnelly said. "That's how we excel and maintain a loyal base."



Tim and Jenny Donnelly

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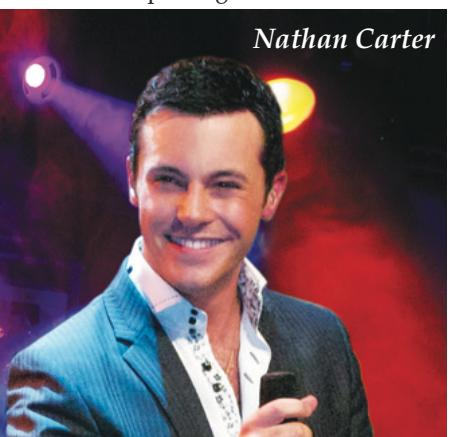
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Southside IRISH



Stars of Irish Music Shine at Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest

A Chicago area tradition for all ages, Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest is the premier music festival showcasing a full roster of live Irish musical stars over a four day Memorial weekend, May 23-26. Rain or shine, this indoor/outdoor Fest not only brings the best of contemporary and traditional Irish headliners to multiple stages but also features a



Nathan Carter

full carnival with rides, special events for children, Gaelic football, hurling, Ceili dancing, pony and dog exhibits and shopping. Free parking and Irish cultural exhibits are surrounded by food and refreshments over four days, May 23-26, all at one low price.

This 28th consecutive Irish Fest offers many different ways

to have fun, but it's the music that makes the Fest one of the nation's premier hot spots. This year, Irish Fest welcomes back fan favorites as well as showcasing new and innovative crowd pleasers.

Irish Fest welcomes young international star **Nathan Carter**. Nathan is a major attraction on the Irish music scene with chart topping music bringing a whole new generation of fans to Country Music in Ireland. Nathan and his band have toured for only three years and have recorded five albums and a two DVDs including - "The Way That You Love Me," "Time of My Life," "The Live Show," and "Wagon Wheel," which has become a sky-rocketing hit single logging over a million hits on YouTube and is a staple in clubs and Irish radio stations. His parents are originally from Newry in County Down and Nathan grew up in England with strong Irish roots. Early on it seemed like he was just born to perform. At the age of

four Nathan began playing the accordion and in a few short years he had become a head chorister in the Liverpool boys choir, touring the world and performing for the Pope in Rome. By age 12, trips to Ireland to compete in Fleadh Ceoil's became a regular event for young Nathan, resulting in All Ireland medals for solo singing and accordion. Nathan soon became a member of the Liverpool Ceili band and began playing solo gigs around Liverpool and London and playing occasional shows in Ireland. On a 2009 trip to Donegal Nathan appeared at a concert in Buncrana where he met with songwriter John Farry and in a few short months Nathan's dream of performing with his own band became a reality.

Nathan has appeared on many TV shows including the RTE 'The Late Late Show,' BBC The Nolan Show, 'UTV LIVE' and recently played a cameo role in the popular Irish Soap ROSNA RUN on TG4 Television. His fifth and current album "Where I Wanna Be" reached #1 on the Irish Charts and his new "Live in Concert DVD" has just been recorded on location in Letterkenny. Don't miss this chance to hear one of the top headliners in the world at Irish Fest.

World famous Irish Tenor, **Ronan Tynan** returns to Irish Fest! Originally from Co. Kilkenny Ronan was introduced to international audiences as a member of the Irish Tenors. He became known for his unique voice and his solo career brought international fame and recognition. He also has irresistible appeal as a man who has persevered with enormous passion

and determination through numerous challenges throughout his well-documented life.

Ronan is also famous for performing "Amazing Grace" and Schubert's "Ave Maria" before an international television audience of more than 35 million at President Reagan's funeral and for singing "God Bless America" at Yankee Stadium - which he says was unforgettable. He was also invited

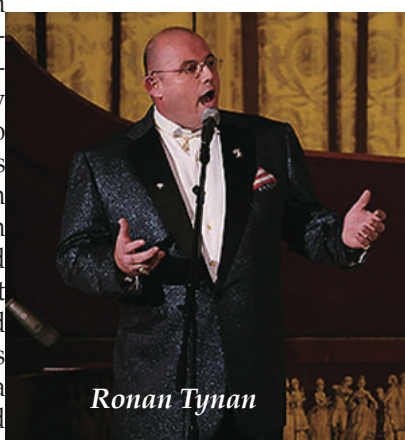


Osaka Heat

Osaka Heat follows the story of an American widow who travels to Japan and becomes involved in a forbidden romance with a Japanese man. The multicultural aspects of Osaka Heat are brought out in the literature, music, and Japanese cuisine woven through the book, along with the personal, religious, and cultural challenges faced by the protagonist during her travels in Japan.

to perform in New York during the 10th anniversary memorial services of the 9/11 tragedy. Ronan Tynan loves Irish Fest, and Irish Fest loves him. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see the world renowned Ronan Tynan at Irish Fest!

Black 47



Ronan Tynan

47 earned their chops playing pubs and self-producing their first indie record, Black 47, before gaining mainstream attention with their second album. The band celebrated over life on the road with their album "Bankers and Gangsters."

Rolling Stone magazine says, "...loud and live with upraised fists and chunky guitar riffs in local hangouts - explodes

This is it...last chance...Black 47's FINAL TOUR! This year, exactly 25 years after their first gig, Black 47 will disband. The political and thoroughly Irish form of rock 'n' roll, speaks to social issues with songs covering topics from the Northern Ireland conflict to civil rights and urban unrest.

A fan favorite, Black 47 earned their chops playing pubs and self-producing their first indie record, Black 47, before gaining mainstream attention with their second album. The band celebrated over life on the road with their album "Bankers and Gangsters."

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Ms. Mahaney was inspired to write Osaka Heat when she traveled to Japan as the chaperone for her son's high school student exchange. She saw the cultural setting of a Japanese school as the perfect setting for a novel. "I'm thrilled to have won in two categories, and a Gold Medal was beyond my dreams," said Ms. Mahaney. "I'm pleased the eBook format expands opportunities for people who love to read. One of the best things about having written Osaka Heat is that the book has been enjoyed by so many readers."

with declarations of gnashing street poetry punctuated with wailing pipes, Joe Strummer-style chord chops and Bourbon Street sax sojourns."

Their latest album, "Last Call," releases this year and fans will have one last chance to see Black 47 live at Irish Fest. Come early and get ready for a musical journey like no other.

Also returning to Irish Fest is the dynamic, all-female Irish music and dance group, the **Gothard Sisters**. These three young ladies perform newer Celtic arrangements of well-known traditional tunes and popular songs, as well as their own original compositions from their six studio albums.

Their album "Story Girl," was awarded Album of the Year by Celtic Radio. The sisters are seasoned performers and have performed concert series of all sizes. With original tunes and unmistakable sibling harmony, Celtic roots, and the nerve to take risks with style, a Gothard Sisters show is joyful and exuberant package of surprises that leaves audiences refreshed and inspired.

Hailing from the Pacific coast, the Gothard Sisters have performed around the country at Celtic and folk music festivals, state and county fairs, halftime shows, schools, the-

Continued to Page 30

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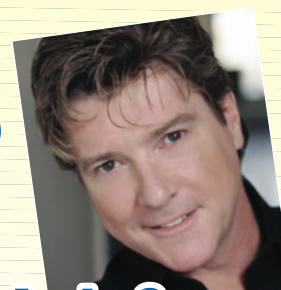
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Immigrant Tax Filing 101

By Raia Stoicheva

April has come and gone, and with it tax season. However, if you are an immigrant and late to file your taxes, here are some reasons you should do it as soon as possible. For immigrants, filing taxes is important for at least three reasons.

First, filing your taxes is a legal requirement. It falls on every person who earns money - above a certain threshold in a given year - in the United States. In 2013, for an unmarried individual under 65 years of age that threshold was \$10,000. Sometimes immigration status may play a role in what income is taxed and the type of credits and deductions available to a person, but not on the obligation to file itself.

Second, taxes play an integral part in successfully applying for many immigration benefits. All lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who plan to become U.S. citizens are required to show that they are people of good moral character. Filing all required federal taxes since becoming an LPR is a component of good moral character. In addition, it is likely that any comprehensive immigration bill (CIR) passed by Congress would include a provision requiring the payment of all assessed taxes as one of the pre-requisites to obtaining legal status. The CIR bill passed by the Senate in June 2013 includes such a provision.

Third, immigrants might be eligible to receive money from the government. In addition to a tax refund, they may be eligible for tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) available to lower income individuals and families.

You will need either a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to file a tax return. LPRs and some current and former U.S. visa holders will have a SSN. But, if you entered the country without inspection or if you overstayed a visa waiver or visitor visa, you would not have a SSN. If that is the case, but you are required to file an income tax return, you

can apply for an ITIN with the IRS for yourself and any dependents. You apply for an ITIN by filing a tax return and accompanying it with Form W-7 and the required photographic and documentary evidence. Taxes are complicated. And, it is important not only to

file them, but to do so accurately. For that reason, it is best to speak with tax professionals. Individual tax payers who earned less than \$25,000 in the last fiscal year and families with an annual income of less than \$50,000 may seek free tax assistance from the Tax Clinic of

the Center for Economic Progress (CEP). CEP helps tax payers to file their taxes and resolve controversies with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In addition, you can learn more about whether you need to file a tax return, as well as available tax credits and deduc-

tions through the Interactive Tax Assistant tool offered on the IRS website.

If you have questions on other immigration related matters don't hesitate to call our office at 773-282-8445 or email me at rstoicheva@ci-is.org.

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Souvenir of the Irish Fellowship Club, March 17, 1913. Classic delivered by Governor Taylor of North Carolina at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"Ireland"

If I WERE a sculptor, I would chisel from the marble my ideal of a hero. I would make it a figure of an Irishman sacrificing his hopes and his life on the alter of his country, and on its pedestal I would carve the name of "Robert Emmet."

If I were a painter I would make the canvas eloquent with deeds of the bravest people who ever lived, whose proud spirit no power can ever conquer and whose loyalty and devotion to home and free government no tyrant can ever crush. Under this picture I would write "Ireland."

If I were a poet I would move the world to tears with the pathos of my song. I would weave the shamrock and the rose into garlands of glory for the Emerald Isle, the land of martyrs and memories, the cradle of heroes, the nursery of liberty.

Tortured in dungeons, murdered on scaffolds, robbed of the fruits of their sweat, toil-crushed by the avarice of relentless power, and driven like the leaves of autumn before the biting blasts of winter, this sturdy race of Erin's sons and daughters have been driven o'er the face of the earth, homeless only in the land of their nativity, but princes and lords in every other land where merit is the measurement of man.

Where is the battlefield that has not been glorified by Irish courage and baptized by Irish

blood, and where is the free country whose councils have not been strengthened by Irish brains and whose wealth has not been increased by Irish brawn? Wherever the flag of war flutters the spirit of Irish chivalry is there, panting for the fray and eager for the charge.

Whether it be Wellington leading the allied forces at Waterloo, or Mad Anthony Wayne storming the British at Stony Point: whether it be Sam Houston crushing the army of Santa Ana or San Jacinta: or Davy Crockett courting death in the Alamo; whether it be Andrew Jackson at Chancellorsville; whether it be Phil Sheridan in the saddle riding like a god of war into the thick of the fight, or Pat Clebourne leading a forlorn hope and dying at the cannon's mouth on the breastworks of the foe, it is the same irresistible spirit of sublime courage that flows like a stream of inspiration from the heart of Ireland to fire the souls of the world's greatest leaders, and to burn forever on the altars of liberty.

Wherever the banner of peace is unfurled among the progressive nations of the earth, the same irresistible Celtic blood is ever present shaping the destinies of empire and republics.

It warmed the heart of Edmund Burke whose brain was a mighty loom that wove tapestries of glory for Ireland and for mankind.

It lighted up the brain of Oliver Goldsmith, who burst forth into song sweeter than the song of the nightingale.

It kindled the soul of Thomas Moore into flame, and, like an angel of light from the realms of dreams, he swept the strings of Erin's harp, and lo! the world thrilled with its

melody. The body of Thomas Moore is ashes long ago, but his spirit still lives in his songs. It breathes hope in every Irish heart and happiness in every Irish home.

It inspired the souls of Sheridan and Swift, whose dreams will linger in literature forever. If I were asked why our southern people are so impulsive, I would answer: "It is not so much the effect of the climate as it is the preponderance of Irish blood in our veins." It was this Irish blood that helped the heart of Patrick Henry to preach secession from English arms. It was this Irish blood that nerved the the arm of our Irish-American president, James K. Polk, to have Mexico thrashed before breakfast. It was this Irish blood that roused the Irish lion in the Irish bosom of John C. Calhoun, and impelled him to thunder the doctrine of the state rights under the constitution, and it was this Irish blood that finally put the North on the pension list and the South on crutches.

Without our Irish names the sky of our national glory would lose half its stars. The South would lose half its stars. The South would lose the names of Grady and Father Ryan.

Grady, that matchless southern orator, whose mighty eloquence calmed the spirit of sectional hate and avowed the nation into the fond embrace of fraternal peace and love.

Grady, like a morning star, glittered for a moment on the horizon, but was soon lost from mortal eyes in the light of God's eternal day.

Father Ryan, our own Irish poet and poet priest, whose mournful melodies of despairing love for the cause that was lost, and for that flag that was furled forever, still melts the hearts of the grizzled veterans of the South to the tenderness of childhood. Father Ryan, the Tom Moore of Dixie, whose spirit shall keep the watch over the folded stars and bars until the morning of resurrection.



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A Chairde:

Irish Fest at Gaelic Park on Memorial weekend is the first major outdoor festival every year and is eagerly anticipated, as we all rediscover the outdoors after a particularly long and harsh Chicago winter. This will be Gaelic Park's 28th consecutive year of providing the best of Irish music, dance and family entertainment. I congratulate Frank Bradley and his army of volunteers who are responsible for this wonderful weekend celebration every year. The full lineup can be found elsewhere on these pages, but we all anticipate the return of Ronan Tynan, the Chicago debut of country and western sensation Nathan Carter and welcoming Black 47 on their farewell tour.

We also eagerly anticipate a visit from President Michael D. Higgins at our monthly Mass and breakfast on Sunday, May 11. President Higgins and his wife Sabina are proving to be wonderful ambassadors for Ireland, as they return from a state visit to Great Britain where they

were greeted warmly by the Queen and Prime Minister of England. President Higgins is no stranger to the Midwest, having lectured and lived at Indiana University for several years. We welcome all visitors at Gaelic Park, and we will have a special *cead mile failte* for President Higgins, who has a wide reputation as a dynamic speaker.

I would advise regular monthly Mass attendees and all who plan on joining us on May 11 that everyone must be seated before 9:30am for this 10am Mass. Gaelic Park is honored to welcome President Higgins, as we have welcomed former Presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese in the past. This recognition is made possible by your continued support of all that we do at Gaelic Park.

Join us on Memorial Weekend for Irish Fest, and we will make you feel welcome and right at home.

John Devitt, President



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May 23-26





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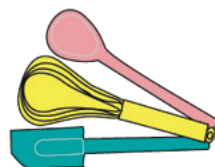
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Thank you for volunteering to help make the Tea Room a success again this year!

IRISH FESTIVAL May 23-26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND May Event Calendar

5/7	Monthly Musical Luncheon	NOON
5/11	Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast	10:00am
	<i>Must be in your seats no later than 9:30am</i>	
5/11	Mother's Day Special Carvery	
	RESERVATIONS REQUIRED	
5/14	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm
	<i>Final meeting until the fall</i>	

Sunday Classic Carvery features a carving station hosted by Chef John, an extensive salad bar, and many additional hot entrees. Mother's Day entertainment will be Ray Gavin. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Monthly Musical Luncheon Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm and entertainment for just \$13 per person. Entertainment for May 7 will be Joe Cullen. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Pub Trivia Tuesday Evenings continues every Tuesday at 7:30pm with Quiz Master, Tim Tobin.

Monday Evenings	Set Dancing	7:30pm
Tuesday Evenings	Ceili Dancing Lessons 7pm/Ceili	7:30pm
Thursday Evenings	Family Music Sessions in the Pub	7:30pm

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



CGP Office 708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

WIN A TRIP TO IRELAND with Gaelic Park Membership

Become a new member of Chicago Gaelic Park OR renew your present membership through Monday, May 26 of Memorial Fest Weekend, and your name will be entered in a drawing to win a trip to Ireland! Winner will be announced on stage at the close of Irish Fest on Monday.

Thanks to AER LINGUS AIRLINES who is the sponsor of this fabulous giveaway to our membership!

Aer Lingus 
Great Care. Great Fare.

Membership

NEW ☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ **Family \$50** ☐ **Individual \$30** ☐

Name _____ last _____ first _____ initial _____
Spouse (if joining) _____ last _____ first _____ initial _____
Address _____ street _____ Apt/Unit # _____
_____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

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

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

phone: 708.687.9323

fax: 708.687.0120

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

www.facebook.com/ChicagoGaelicPark



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



CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF IRISH FEST MEMORIAL WEEKEND MAY 23, 24, 25, 26

FEST HOURS

Friday May 23 Gates open 4pm
Half price admission 4pm-5pm only - \$7 & \$6!
Saturday May 24 Gates open 2pm
\$10 Admission 2pm-3pm only!
Sunday May 25 Gates open 1pm
11:30am Mass
\$10 Admission 1pm-2pm only!
9am-3pm Chicago Feis Dancing Competition
Monday May 26 Gates open 1pm
\$10 Admission 1pm-2pm only!
9am-3pm Chicago Feis Dancing Competition

ADMISSION

Includes ALL Stages, Events and Shows plus
Parking and Unlimited FREE Carnival Rides!

Daily

\$15 Adults - \$10 First Hour Only!
\$12 Adults 65+ & Kids 4-12
FREE Children under 4!

ONLINE DISCOUNTS 28th Anniversary Special

Four Day Pass - only \$28 through May 22!
Two Day Pass - \$18 through May 19!

Special Two Day Pass

Adults 65+ and Kids 4-12 \$15 through May 19!

SAVE MORE GREEN

Order online by April 30 for an additional 10% DISCOUNT
a total savings of 60% OFF gate price.

www.ChicagoGaelicPark.org
Most Credit Cards Accepted

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest 2014

INDOOR/OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

IRISH HEADLINERS ROCK A

FOUR DAY MUSICAL WEEKEND

MEMORIAL WEEKEND

MAY 23, 24, 25, 26

Great Value! One Low Daily Pass for
ALL Stages, Shows, Events, Parking and
Unlimited FREE Carnival Rides!

- ♪ Irish Music - New and Traditional
- ♪ Ceili and Step Dancing
- ♪ Theatre and Story Telling
- ♪ Food and Refreshments
- ♪ Petting Zoo
- ♪ Irish Bred Ponies and Dogs
- ♪ Gaelic Football and Hurling Games
- ♪ Magicians • Puppets • Jugglers • Clowns
- ♪ Irish Import Shops and Tea Room

Chicago Feis Irish Dancing Competition

Sunday, May 25th 9am-3pm • Monday, May 26th 9am-3pm

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th St. • Oak Forest, IL 60452

708-687-9323

www.ChicagoGaelicPark.org

Sponsored by Chicago Gaelic Park (A Not-for-Profit Organization).
Schedule subject to change.

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest 2014

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF IRISH FEST



MEMORIAL WEEKEND

MAY 23, 24, 25, 26

Order Online for Big Savings

Unlimited FREE Carnival Rides

Irish Fest 2014 Presents Top Headliners

FIRST USA TOUR



NATHAN CARTER

Ireland's hottest young star! His 5th album "Where I Wanna Be" hit #1 on the Irish charts and his "Wagon Wheel" single has over a million YouTube hits. With appearances on RTE, BBC, TG4, international tours and a performance for the Pope, Nathan is born to perform.

The One and Only!

One of the Irish Tenors, Tynan's powerful voice and indomitable spirit has endeared millions. With enormous passion Ronan perseveres through numerous challenges. His international solo career is soaring and he'll inspire you again at Irish Fest.



RONAN TYNAN



THE ELDERS

Top Celtic-American rock band. A blend of Celtic storytelling with a contemporary sound. Comical, political and cultural, they cover poverty, war, family, love and friendship. They have 6 CDs, 3 live CD/DVDs and PBS aired their "Live at the Gem Theater" concert special.



BLACK 47

The Farewell Tour! Unapologetic Irish rock 'n' roll, with songs covering Irish conflict to civil rights and urban unrest. A fan favorite, the band celebrates their 20th and final year with their latest album "Bankers and Gangsters." It's their last tour so don't miss Black 47.



MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS

Irish folk music royalty. The brothers bring a collection of instruments and five precise harmonies to create a "wall of sound." They define folk music with vocal power and stage presence, capturing the essence of their genre, while standing out as something truly unique.

Screaming Orphans
- Co. Donegal
They're not orphans and they don't scream. Four talented and insanely energetic sisters are rooted in traditional Irish music but love to crank out the jams. They've toured internationally, recorded and appeared on national TV. They'll win you over live onstage.



SCREAMING ORPHANS

Celtic Mayhem! Music, comedy and dance add a sizzling World Champion Bagpiper, driving drums and guitar. Mix in championship dancers and let the house heat up! Seen on 4 continents, festivals and theatres, before Presidents and Queens; and national television.



TARTAN TERRORS

New to Irish Fest! A road-tested, laugh-out-loud Irish trio. Members played with Riverdance, Cherish the Ladies and The New York Pops, as well as Bonnie Raitt and Josh Groban. Their debut CD "Open the Door for Three" gives new arrangements of great songs.



OPEN THE DOOR FOR THREE



GOTHARD SISTERS

A very pretty musical picture! With mind-boggling talent, these sisters grew up dancing and making music. Rigorous classical violin training and competitive Irish dance qualified them for Youth Symphonies and competing in dancing solos three years running.

Also Appearing

Infinity • Chicago Reel • Fintan Stanley • Pat Burke & Sharon • M & R Rush • Paddy Homan & Friends • Larkin & Moran Brothers
Bernie Glim & Country Roads • Gerard Haughey & Sean O'Donnell • Pat Finnegan & Friends • The Ray Gavin Band
Murphy Roche Irish Music Club • Irish Musicians • The Irish Music Club of Chicago • Joe McShane • The Shannon Rovers
Coyote Riot • The Pipes & Drums Of The Emerald Society • Three Men In Kilts • And many more!



Chicago Gaelic Park

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




Mother's Day
Sunday May 11, 2014

*Treat Mom to Dinner Out
This Year!*

*Make your Reservations for
Gaelic Park's
Mother's Day Celtic Supper*

Enjoy a Wonderful All-You-Can-Eat Dinner Buffet with Soup, an Extensive Salad Bar, your main entrees of Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala and Baked Ham, vegetables, potatoes and pasta Ice Cream Cake Roll for Dessert
Musical Entertainment by Ray Gavin

Dinner is served from 3 to 6pm, Entertainment lasts until 8:00pm
Reservations are Required
Adults \$24.00, Children 4 to 12 \$12.00
Admission includes dinner and entertainment
Cash Bar

Chicago Gaelic Park – 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL.
708-687-9323 / www.chicagogaelpark.org



SAVE THE DATE!



Irish Cultural Camp
August 5-7, 2014
At Chicago Gaelic Park
Open for children aged 6 to 14 years

Focus will be on Irish Sport, dance, music, language, drama, mythology, storytelling, history and much more!

Cost \$70 per child, \$5.00 discount for additional siblings
Includes lunch & snacks

Call 708-687-9323 to Register
www.chicagogaelpark.org

GAA Michael Cusacks Hurling Club Want You!

Many people associate the Irish with their gift of storytelling, but what many people don't know is that the Irish have crafted a sport that requires great skill and speed. This sport is called hurling and it is the fastest field sport. In fact, it has broken many of the Guinness world records! Hurling falls under the Gaelic Athletic Association, which is the biggest amateur sporting association in the world, having over 2,500 clubs with 300 of the clubs outside of Ireland. In Chicago, you can find 14 GAA clubs playing on any given Sunday throughout the summer at Chicago Gaelic Park. One club in particular is the Michael Cusack Hurling Club of Chicago which was founded in 2008. The Cusacks have had an extremely

successful run, having won the Junior C North American County Board Championship in 2010 and the Junior B North American County Board Championships in 2013. We are looking for players, 18 years and older, to play this year beginning in April. No direct hurling experience is required or expected, although experience in hockey, lacrosse, baseball or handball is helpful. Come on out and try your hand at Ireland's national pastime... you will be sure to have fun! If you are interested in learning about hurling or joining our hurling team contact the club at cusackhurling@gmail.com for more information or check us out at www.chicagocusackhurling.com.

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

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

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

the CARRAIG IRISH PUB

Live Music in the Pub

Fri May 2	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat May 3	Rhythm Futur	8:00pm
Fri May 9	The Chancey Brothers	7:30pm
Sat May 10	Wood Street	
	Bloodhounds	8:00pm
Wed May 14	Frank Rossi	6:30pm
Fri May 16	Vocal Illusion	8:00pm
Sat May 17	Smiley Tillmon Band	8:00pm
Fri May 23	IRISH FEST	
Sat May 24	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND	
Fri May 30	Safe Haven	9:00pm
Sat May 31	Aidan O'Toole	7:30pm

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



Thursday night sessions in the Pub at 7:30pm.

CARRAIG IRISH PUB at Gaelic Park Open to the Public 7 nights a week! Monthly food & drink specials! Friday and Saturday night entertainment. NO COVER CHARGE!

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

SUMMER BARBEQUES ON THE TARA ROOM PATIO

Beginning Wednesday, July 2 until September 10, a barbeque will be held on the patio every Wednesday evening, weather permitting. Charlie will have the grill going, and we will be serving our famous barbequed ribs, burgers, hot dogs, salads... and more. There will be live entertainment beginning at 6:30pm.





THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Baal Tinne Salon Concert

Join us in the Fifth Province for our monthly Salon Concert Series. The May Salon Concert is Baal Tinne.

The band, led by Noel Rice, explores the boundaries of Irish traditional music with contemporary influences while remaining true to the traditional sound.

A six member band, Baal Tinne features Noel on flute and tin whistle, daughter Cathleen on fiddle, son Kevin on



bodhrán and percussion, Matt Sundstrom on guitar, Kiera Byrne on fiddle, Richard Roche on piano and keyboards and Catriona Byrne on cello (not pictured).

Baal Tinne's sound strikes a balance between absolute respect for the tradition of the music, and pushing its boundaries. The band's commitment to rediscover-

ing long lost or forgotten tunes, contemporary influences, and a dynamic, driving rhythm results in a captivating sound.

The evening's opening act is the Academy of Irish Music.

The Baal Tinne Salon Concert is Friday, May 16 at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and children 18 and under are free.

Tea with Jacqueline Kennedy

Enjoy Tea with Jacqueline Kennedy in May at the Center's Saturday Morning Tea Series. Celebrate the life of this iconic First Lady with this fascinating first-person performance by actor and historian Leslie Goddard.

It is not long after her husband's assassination and the former first lady is struggling to cope. She shares stories



and her efforts to showcase the arts. As she gradually opens up,

about her marriage, fight for privacy, her work to restore the White House

you will meet the private woman behind the public myth.

Leslie Goddard's programs combine her experience as a teacher and actor with her background as a historian and researcher.

Tea with Jacqueline Kennedy is Saturday, May 24 from 11am to 1pm. Tickets are \$25 and must be reserved by May 21 by calling 773-282-7035.

Shapeshifters Theatre Presents The Importance of Being Earnest

Shapeshifters Theatre performs a staged reading of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest* this spring. Robert Ayres directs.

Two young gentlemen living in 1890's England have taken to bending the truth in order to put some excitement into

their lives. Jack has invented a brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to leave his dull country life behind to visit the ravishing Gwendolyn. Algy decided to take the name 'Ernest' when visiting Worthing's young and beautiful ward, Cecily at the country manor. Things start to go awry when they end up together

in country and their deceptions are discovered; threatening to spoil their romantic pursuits.

The Importance of Being Earnest is Sunday, May 4 and Sunday, May 18 at 2pm in the McGinty Room. Tickets are \$8 for Center members and \$10 for general admission. A cash bar will be available.

Tee Time for Golf Open

The 24th Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Saturday, June 14.

The scramble style fundraiser for the Center is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm.

The price is \$125 per person and includes greens fees, a cart, dinner, cocktails, entertainment and prizes.

To book a tee time, call Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603 or the Center at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

We are also offering sponsorship opportunities. Among them are:

- Hole sponsorship: \$100
- Gift basket sponsorship: \$150
- Golf ball sponsorship: \$400
- Dinner sponsorship: \$800

In exchange for sponsorship, participants will have a sign acknowledging their support on the hole of their choice and will be listed in the *Heritage Line* in August.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603.



JULY 11-12-13, 2014

Get your Irish on at the Irish American Heritage Festival

July 11, 12 and 13

Tickets are now on sale for the 29th Annual Irish American Heritage Festival.

Irish Fest is July 11, 12 and 13 and showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. It features more than 100 performers for 3 days on 5 stages.

Confirmed performers include:

Gaelic Storm, the Tossers, Dublin City Ramblers, the Killdares, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, the Chancey Brothers, Red Rebel County, Emish, the Academy of Irish Music, the Larkin and Moran Brothers, the Dooley Brothers, Baal Tinne and the Holy Hour House Band.

In addition to the great music lineup, the weekend is packed with the regular festival favorites: shopping, Irish dance, cultural

exhibits, children's activities, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the ShamROCK Stars singing contest for kids and the Hooley Hook-Up for singles on Friday night.

The Folk Tent returns with hands-on activity with demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food is available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry.

Cultural offerings include language lessons, one-act plays and art and museum exhibits. Our Tea Room returns as a respite for folks looking to cool off with live harp and piano music, a proper cup of tea and sandwiches in the air-conditioned Shamrock American Room.

Back for 2014: The Fine Spirits Tasting Tent with whiskey, beer and mead Tastings visits from

Continued on next page...



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

When Irish President Michael Higgins visits the Center on May 11, 2014, it will be because many years ago our founders had a vision. If it was not for their vision to found a Center that was a membership-driven organization, there would be no IAHC building at Knox Avenue, or an Auditorium to host this great gathering.

When the Center was established, the founders recognized the value and importance of membership. Their vision was a Center that was a "membership-driven organization."

During the past years, it seems many who frequent the Center and partake of the great events and offerings of the Center have not become members or have failed to renew their membership. I am sure for many this is a case of oversight.

While the Center's membership has grown, there still remains a sizable opportunity for us to increase membership.

Many of our volunteers are not members. While we greatly appreciate their work, we could sure use their input and support as members also.

At our recent annual Volunteers' Dinner, we reviewed the list of attendees and found that close to 58% of the volunteers attending were not members. We saw a similar percentage with all the great St. Patrick's Day Fest volunteers and the 2013 Irish Fest.

Collectively, we need to turn this around.

Membership is very important to the Center for many reasons:

1) Membership income is critical to helping pay for the overhead of the Center. Utilities alone are close to \$100,000 per year.

2) As we solicit for grants, donors, sponsors and seek foundation monies, they want to know what our membership numbers are.

3) Membership numbers are a barometer of the health of an organization and our bankers and creditors are very interested in this.

4) Membership leads to developing a great volunteer base and ultimately a great donor base.

5) We have contact information for members and we can quickly and efficiently reach out to members to share information.

6) When you join, your membership signifies you have made a commitment to the Center. And that implies that your commitment is likely to continue. And that continuation will help guarantee the Center your annual financial contribution and support.

There are many reasons why you should be a member including:

IAHC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1) Monthly subscription to *Irish American News* by mail

2) Ticket discounts to special events

3) 10% discounts on room rentals

4) 10% discounts on food in the Fifth Province and \$1 off on Lenten Fish Fry dinners

5) 10% discounts in the Gift Shop

6) Invitations to Town Hall meetings



7) Members with three consecutive years of membership may run for the IAHC Board of Directors

8) Members may nominate others as candidates for the Board of Directors and vote in the general elections

9) Members may also check out books from the IAHC library

10) Members are also eligible to be committee chairs

12) The chance to become a part of the IAHC family. It is time to address this issue head on.

The Board of Directors recently discussed the membership issue and with my total support passed two policies:

1 - Anyone who handles money at the Center or who is involved with any assets of the Center is required to be a member

2 - All Committee Chairs and Event Chairs are required to be members

Both of these policies make sense. Don't they?

A question I have asked is... Why not be a member?

If there are not sufficient benefits, what else would you suggest?

The leadership of the Center hopes all the work on the building, the events and the programming during the last few years has earned your support and will help you to decide to become a member or renew. We have strengthened our financial foundation, are operating in a transparent culture and have improved, cleaned up and renovated numerous areas of the building.

If you enjoy the Center... enjoy volunteering, use the library, attend language or genealogy classes, frequent the Pub, attend Irish Fest, attend Quiz Nights, use the Center for music or dance practice, or writing classes, you take a little of the Center with you so we ask you to help and give back to it.

Why would one who frequents the Center and believes in the mission of the Center not want to be a member?

I do not have a good answer to that question.

Could it be the \$30 per year cost?

The membership benefits above clearly offset the small \$30 per year membership cost.

Could it be that you are unsure of your membership status? You can check your status by calling the Center office or emailing membership@irishahc.org.

Our founders thought it was important to be a member and I do as well, as do many others.

When all is said and done, it will be the membership that will determine the Center's health and long-term survival.

Those of you who know me, know that I tell like it is. So there it is. Membership is critical to the long term success of the Center.

Do you have a reason for not being a member that you would share with me so I could address?

Do you have some input on how we can grow membership?

Please sign up to be a member and join us at the Town Hall Meeting on May 9 and share your thoughts.

Come on and join us as a member and help make sure we carry on the dream of the founders. The Irish American Heritage Center is, and will always be, a membership-driven organization.

When President Higgins visits the Center on May 11, I hope to point out to him all of the great members in the Auditorium.

There will be one chair left empty in the first row of the Auditorium on May 11. That chair will be there as remembrance and a thank you for the members who will not be able to be with us, but will be there in spirit.

We value membership.

Please join as a member and make sure we carry on the dream of the founders. The Irish American Heritage Center is, and will always be, a membership-driven organization.

John Crowley Gorski
President, IAHC

Irish American Heritage Festival

Continued from previous page...

Irish Wolfhound dogs, the Men in Kilts Contest and the Craft Beer Tent.

Hours are 6pm to 1am on July 11, noon to 1am on July 12 and 11am to 11pm on July 13.

Tickets are \$10 in advance for adults (until the end of business on July 9) and \$15 at the door on Friday and Saturday.

On Sunday, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Seniors are \$10 and Children 10 and under are free.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10. or visit <http://www.irish-american.org>.

Open House and Bridal Fair

Join the Center this spring for the second annual Open House.

Meet the Center's members, committees, volunteers and partners, and learn how to become a part of its vibrant community. This year the Open House features a Bridal Fair, with businesses and vendors in the Chicagoland bridal industry.

Visit IAHC and partner organizations' tables to meet the people who make the Irish American Heritage Center THE premiere destination for Irish culture in the United States and an important

part of the Chicagoland community; your community.

The Open House and Bridal Fair is Sunday, June 1 from Noon to 5pm and features live music, light food, a cash bar and a raffle. The IAHC Docent Team will lead tours throughout the building.

Don't miss this great community event and your chance to get involved. For more information on how your organization can join us, call 773-282-7035, ext 21.

BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it. Running, maintaining and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment. Your membership helps make the Center happen.

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit www.irish-american.org.

irish-american.org, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

**The Irish American Heritage Center
Membership**
4626 N. Knox Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp _____ 3 Digit code on card's back: _____

ANNUAL DUES

Individual Membership

☐ \$30/year or \$50/2 years

Family Membership

☐ \$40/year or \$60/2 years

\$250 - Harper

☐ 3-year membership -no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

☐ 5-year membership -no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership -no annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership -no annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

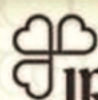
Lifetime

membership

-no annual dues



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



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American
heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

May 2014

May 2	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
May 3	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
May 4 and 18	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>	McGinty Room	2pm
May 9	Town Hall Meeting	McGinty Room	7:30pm
May 10	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Fifth Province	8pm
May 14	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am
May 16	Baal Tinne Salon Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
May 18	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>	McGinty Room	2pm
May 20	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7:30pm
May 24	Tea with Jacqueline Kennedy	Fifth Province	11am
May 25	Elizabeth Bowen Lecture	Library	3pm
May 28	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10am

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Celtic Art Class	Art Gallery	7pm
Tues	Memoir Classes	Library	7-9pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Wed	Irish Language Class	Room 304	11-1:30pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Thurs	Memoir Classes	Library	4-6pm
Thurs	Memoir Classes	Library	7-9pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Irish Language Class	Library	7-9:30pm

Library Lectures

The IAHC Library will showcase lectures on Irish and Irish Americans this spring. These multimedia programs will be hosted by scholars, authors and educators.

In May, University of Chicago lecturer Maud Ellmann will discuss writer Elizabeth Bowen with her lecture, *The Shadow Across the Page* on Sunday, March 15 at 3pm.

On Sunday, June 21, at 2pm, learn more about Irish art and architecture with Louis Sullivan and Chicago and Augustus Saint-Gaudens with scholar Diane Dillon and teacher and writer John Foley. Sullivan was a mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright and inspiration for the group of architects who became known as the Prairie School. Saint-Gaudens was a sculptor known for his Civil

War monuments, including Chicago's John A. Logan in Grant Park.

Tickets for the spring library programs are \$5 at the door.



design by Louis Sullivan

President's Town Hall Meeting

Center members, join us for a President's Town Hall Meeting this spring.

Join your fellow members and learn what we are working on and what we have

in store for the rest of 2014. Nominations for the IAHC Board will be taken at the meeting.

The President's Town Hall Meeting is Friday, May 9 at 7:30pm.

No Cover

Free Parking



the fifth province

Irish American Heritage Center

MAY ENTERTAINMENT

5/2	Ceili Mor
5/3	Mulligan Stew
5/9	Spraoi
5/10	St. Patrick's Fathers Dance
5/16	Baal Tinne Salon Concert, 8m, \$12
5/17	Party Music
5/23	Joe McShane
5/24	Billy O'Donoghue and Larry Nugent
5/30	Cirrus Falcon
5/31	Dooley Brothers

All Shows Start After 9pm

Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music.
Pub food is served from 6pm-10pm.

May Drink Special

\$4 Snake Bite (Cider and Harp)

May Food Special

Free Appetizer with Main Entree

Valid for the month of May 2014 only.

IAHC Raffle and Picnic

Join us for the IAHC Raffle drawing on Sunday, June 8 at 4pm, during our annual Raffle Picnic. The picnic is from noon to 6pm, on the South Lot Lawn and inside the Fifth Province. The day features hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, live music and a cash bar. Tickets for the picnic are \$5 for individuals and families are \$10.

Tickets are still available for the June drawing and a chance to win \$30,000. Only 1500 tickets are being sold.

We hope you will support this most

important fundraiser for the Center. All of the proceeds from the raffle are used to support our many programs and to continue the renovation of the building.

PRIZES:

First Prize	\$30,000
Second Prize	\$10,000
Third Prize	\$ 5,000
Fourth Prize	\$ 1,000

Checks, cash, Visa or MasterCard are accepted. To purchase tickets, call the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Shelby Baron, Theresa Choske, John Gorski, Mary Griffin, Natalie Miller, Mary Morris, Peggy Murphy, and Sheila Murphy

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


Mick
Mike Morley


ASSPOL

(As in: Police, Politics, Protestant Orange Loyalist)

What's up with Martin McGuinness' recent uncharacteristic displays of chumminess with the Queen and her minions? Is it a case of catch-up ball? As the UK's middlebrow Daily Mail explains it: "Mr McGuinness and his Sinn Féin colleagues had got it badly wrong when they boycotted the Queen's momentous state visit to the Republic in 2011.

On this reciprocal visit, he was determined not to misjudge the mood again." But further down the page the Mail trumpets to its readers bold-typed nonsense such as: "McGuinness admitted he was the IRA gunman who sparked Bloody Sunday with a single shot... a terrorist godfather (who) authorized the firing of IRA guns at the city walls in Derry..."

Then again, it may be McGuinness has decided to emulate Machavelli's princely advice: "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer", a diplomatic hard-ball tactic at which the Brits excel. Meanwhile, time soon will tell how a new generation of Irish will interpret a pivotal event in their country's history, the 1916 Easter Rising, on its centennial two years hence. The sacrifice of Ireland's Republican heroes at Easter was pregnant with meaning, a fact acknowledged by the Tory's 'Good Friday' Agreement. Yet, an Ireland 'united and free' remains an orphaned dream, unwanted in political parlors South or North, or the grand halls of Westminster.

Sinn Féin has decided to fill a space on the royal dance card. But dancing to Britain's tune invites disaster. The current game calls to mind "Bedazzled", the 1987 comedy film in which a poor sap working at a Wimpy's burger shop (Dudley Moore) is desperate to spark a romance with waitress Margaret (Elea-

nor Bron). Meanwhile the Devil (Peter Cooke) is in a contest with God, and grants Moore seven wishes in return for his soul. But each time Moore devises a sure-fire way to unite with Margaret, the trickster Devil hilariously stymies his



wishes. At one point Moore asks: "What's God really like... He is English, isn't He?" Cooke: "Oh yes. Very upper class".

Whatever Britain is planning to serve up in 1916, Sinn Féin- now joined in government with their Loyalist enemies and watched over by the Crown-absent some brilliant end-game stratagem, appears to have little bargaining power with which to make Ireland whole. It's a far cry from the tense days of negotiation in the '90's when The IRA could bring Britain's financial district to its knees. Now, two years before the anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, the dream of generations of Irish appears farther from fruition than ever. Britain surely would prefer to divert the centennial from a celebration of the aims and sacrifice of Pearse and his comrades, and hijack the event as a UK kumbaya, to further cement the status-quo.

England abolished the Irish parliament in 1800, a fact that facilitated England's food removals and evictions that eliminated perhaps three million

Irish in mid-century. In 1912 when the Third Home Rule Bill, meant to restore self-rule to Ireland passed in the British House of Commons, the Orange Order organized the Ulster Covenant, signed by up to 500,000, pledging to halt the law. Rich loyalists contributed to establish the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and fund illegal imports of arms and ammo from Germany. Edward Guinness (Lord Iveagh) alone donated a large sum (some reports claim

was thoroughly publicized, with celebratory demonstrations, a souvenir booklet, and extensive coverage in the British and European press. The April 25 Belfast Evening Telegraph reported: "It was an amazing sight to see this huge procession of cars nearly three miles in length descending upon the town with all their headlights ablaze... There was no rush or bustle in the doing of it..." British police and military appeared not to notice.

World War broke out in August. And with no conscription in Ireland, the UVF made a deal with Secretary for War Lord Kitchener, who promised they could serve together in their own units and Home Rule would be set aside until after the war. A permanently divided Ireland leading to many more years of conflict was just a step away.

Today, despite frequent press alarms about "dissidents", hoax bombs and attempts to create alarm by reviving old charges pardoned long ago, the 'Troubles', at least as they apply to Republicans, seem to have reverted to a situation like that in the 1960's, when Catholics suffering loyalist attacks would mock the Provos chanting "IRA. I Ran Away".

As I was writing this in April, a man accused of being a Provisional IRA member was put on trial at Belfast Crown (no-jury Diplock) Court for "professing to be a member of the IRA". The trial collapsed when the prosecution was forced to admit the Crown was "offering no evidence against the defendant". Seems a female complainant told police the man said he was a PIRA member and had "glared at her". The judge recorded a finding of not guilty.

But things are quite different for paramilitary groups the press doesn't label "terrorist" - like the pro-British Ulster Defense Association.

In the 21st century, stories abound in Northern Ireland (hidden or filtered from American eyes) of crimes of racial and religious bigotry, home invasions, murders and beatings. Here's a sampling just from April:

A disabled man's home and car were both damaged in an overnight attack in Larne. Bricks were thrown through a window of Ryan Conway's home in Knockdhu Park. His car was also set on fire. Conway, 27, has spina bifida and said his disability car was his "lifeline". Mr Conway lives with his two sisters, his mother and her partner, who is Portuguese. Police said a hate crime is one line of inquiry.

And loyalist paramilitary gangs fight each other in the streets while police appear helpless:

Up to 50 masked men were involved in three hours of disorder in Carrickfergus. Police appealed for information on the attack.

A crowd of up to 100 people, many of them masked, gathered in a residential area of Larne and attacked police, residents and homes. Asst. Chief Constable Hamilton: "This group of somewhere between 60 and 100 people, many of them masked, who we believe to be members of south-east Antrim UDA, decided that they would take the law into their own hands."

Oliver McMullan, Sinn Féin MLA for East Antrim: "it's worrying that police were unable to apprehend any of the 70 to 100-strong mob involved in the attacks."

The Loyalist stranglehold on an otherwise peaceful, democratic Ireland needs to be broken, not just painted over with British ballyhoo.

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Revisiting Bonds

Over the past few years I wrote several articles on fixed income investments or bonds. Over the past year however there has been significant swings in bond prices, interest rates, and sentiment towards bonds. So I thought it would be beneficial to write another one. In 2013, many bonds had a negative return for the year. The Barclays Aggregate Bond Index had a return of -2%. Some longer term bonds had losses closer to 10%. This was largely due to the rise in interest rates in 2013. This volatility in prices caused many investors to question the validity of bonds in their portfolio. From CNBC to the Wall Street Journal, everywhere you looked there seemed to be recommendations to get rid of the bonds in your portfolio. An interesting thing happened in the first quarter of this year however. Long term bonds significantly outperformed stocks. Long term bonds were up over 5% for Q1 2014, bonds are good again. Since this recent tug of war on emotions towards bonds I figured this would be a good time to revisit how bonds work.

Rate movements in either direction affect portfolio returns. This is true in any market environment, regardless of the current rate level. The larger question is how to manage the risk. As you read the financial headlines and evaluate your current fixed income exposure, it may be helpful to consider these principles about fixed income investing. Today's bond prices already reflect expectations for tomorrow's business conditions and inflation, and these expectations can change quickly in response to new information. If prices were easy to forecast, you should find a host of fixed income managers with market-beating returns. But most of them underperform their respective benchmarks over longer time periods.

Pursuing higher expected returns requires more risk taking.

The strong link between risk and return appears in all investments. When investing in stocks, bonds, or other assets, investors must accept more risk to pursue a higher potential return.

In the fixed income markets, earning a return above short-term government instruments is usually a function of assuming more term and credit risk. Term

risk refers to a bond's maturity, and credit risk refers to the creditworthiness or default potential of the borrower. Bonds with longer maturities and lower credit quality are usually considered riskier and have offered higher yields and returns to compensate investors for higher risk.

On the term side, investors who commit their money for longer periods of time are exposed to the larger effects of changing interest rates. Bond prices and interest rates move in the opposite direction: When rates rise, the value of an existing bond declines; when rates fall, bond values rise. The market adjusts the price to match the yield available on a new instrument. The longer the bond's maturity, the greater the price adjustment for a particular interest rate change. A long-term bond is more exposed to rate changes than a short-term instrument, and usually (but not always) offers a higher yield to compensate investors for the extra risk. Also, lower-coupon bonds are more affected by interest rate changes than higher-coupon bonds. For example, if rates move 1%, a bond that pays 3% will experience a greater gain or loss than one paying 5%.

On the credit risk side, the government is considered the strongest borrower in the market, so it has a lower cost of capital relative to other issuers. The most creditworthy companies are considered relatively safe, but they must still offer a higher rate than the government to compensate investors for taking more default risk. The weaker a corporate borrower's financial condition, the more it must pay in yield to attract investors.

Investment strategy should drive fixed income decisions.

Investors may hold fixed income securities for a variety of reasons—for example, to reduce portfolio volatility, generate income, maintain liquidity, pursue higher returns, or meet a future funding obligation. Each objective may involve a different portfolio approach, or a combination of strategies to manage tradeoffs. Regardless of your approach, you should know the difference between controlling risk and avoiding it. You cannot eliminate risk, but you can manage your exposure by diversifying across maturities, industries, countries, and currencies to reduce the impact of rates, inflation, currency

fluctuations, and other risks.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I was hangin' out on the north side a few weeks ago and had a few pints with the Clancy Brothers. It started out innocently enough at Kevin Clancy's joint, The Claddagh Ring Pub, but quickly escalated into a helluva hooley before midnight.

A fella known as "Johnny Vegas", a retired porn star and ex-cop who now lives on the south side, and takes every opportunity to bust my balls, introduced me to Kevin Clancy years ago.

On the night in question I was closing out a three-night launch of my new book, "More Hooliganism" at the Claddagh Ring. A steady stream of stragglers drifted through the back room to make the night a success with plenty of craic. Kevin's brother, Billy the cop, popped in to say hello and he was in a very entertaining mood as we swapped jokes and tall

tales. Then Kevin showed up and the whole joint was rocking with laughter from the banter of this pair of Chicago's Clancy Brothers.

The Claddagh Ring is a cozy Irish joint on Foster Ave. where many a lie has been told. The Clancys grew up in St. Ita's parish and you might think all of them have the saloon biz in their blood. Their dad Bill Clancy was born in County Mayo and his kids: Bill, Maureen, Kevin, Brendan, Sheila, and Christopher are legends in the Irish American community.

Their brother, Brendan, owned the BC Tap at Balmoral and Clark for a few years before being "run out of town" by irate goo-goo's who blamed Brendan for the mischievous deeds of the previous owners of the pub. Brendan's revenge was to move to Portage, Indiana where he is the Portage Township Trustee and for the last

several years he's owned Clancy's Public House in Portage.

After a beer fueled evening of story telling at Kevin's joint, the brothers talked me into heading over to another of the jewels in the Clancy bar empire over on Milwaukee Avenue. I told them I would meet them there and then got a text from Kevin with direc-



Maureen & Bill Clancy at Moe's

tions telling me to avoid Western avenue on the way over, "too many cops". Swell, just what I need when the north side already feels like the Bering Straits to me with all them crooked streets.

Bill Clancy laughed as he was leaving and said, "I'm takin'

Western!" Discretion being the better part of valor I followed my pal Nancy Moore in her car as I negotiated my way through the maze to Moe's Tavern, Chicago's best dive bar.

I parked on the street in front and there was a line of young hipsters out the door of Moe's. Cheap beer and great music will do that.

Moe's was packed and we were ushered to the front, handed beers, and told to sit in the judges seats for the weekly band competition as the decibel level shot up the scale and I could feel the hair in my nostrils curling from the intense explosion of music. A cute gal in shades practically sat in my lap as she plucked her bass and smiled at me while her band mate humped his shirt on the floor of the stage howling at the moon.

They sounded a lot like Badfinger!

Bill Clancy introduced me to his sister Maureen, AKA Moe. Oh now I get it. Maureen told me the story of Moe's, "It's a neighborhood bar in Avondale that has great music!"

What kind of music? "Live music! Every age, every race. It's like the UN." Every night is a different genre of music, whether it's hard rock, blues, hip hop, or just plain ol' funky. There's nothing fancy about this joint I thought as I spied her brother Kevin heading into the mens room with a bucket and mop

in his hand. But everybody in here is having a blast, including me!

Blues legend Liz Mandeville, a 2013 inductee to the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame, plays at Moe's every Thursday night and works the crowd into frenzy. There's definitely no sleeping at the bar in Moe's.

When they opened the joint a few years ago they kind of played around with the idea of satirizing the bar from the TV Show "The Simpsons" and served "Flaming Moe's" to the amused patrons until Maureen got a three page letter from 20th Century Fox telling them to "cease and desist", which is now the name of that flaming drink, "The Cease & Desist"!

If you're interested in seeing who's onstage on any given night at Moe's you can check it out at gigity.tv. It's kind of like the "Mass for Shut-ins". Go ahead and give it a peek, you'll see musicians giving it their all on any given night and you'll want to hop in a cab and shoot over to Milwaukee Avenue to get your groove on.

For more info go to www.moes-tavernchicago.com

Have to hand it to the Clancys of Chicago, they know how to party. Can't wait to see what Sheila and Christopher come up with when they expand the Clancy saloon dynasty. And big thanks for a hooley of a night to brothers Kevin and Billy and especially darling Moe!

g



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Early this spring, I was invited to judge a soda bread contest in Oak Park, Ill. The contest, a long-running tradition started by Jim and Anne August at their Irish Shop in 2008, brings in anywhere from 10 to 40 entries each year.

There were a record 34 breads to taste last year. With so many ready-made breads available, simply entering the contest is a testament to the growing popularity of home baking.

The day I was to judge the 2014 contest, I ate a light breakfast and skipped lunch altogether, figuring I would have to take at least 34 bites. Luckily for me, and for the competitors too, the 2014 entry pool was smaller, only 10 breads total, with three wheaten (similar to American whole wheat) and seven white.

Derek O'Brien, master baker, owner of the Baking Academy of Ireland and expert soda bread maker, suggests that all the soda bread entries "would need to be a of a particular weight, be even in shape, have been cut with a cross, but everything would come down to taste."

Should you be thinking about submitting a soda bread entry to next year's contest, take a few notes from O'Brien, especially if you can't make it to one of his baking courses in Dublin. (Although a few Americans have -- I'm adding one of his courses to my personal bucket list.)

But back to the task at hand: judging.

A few people lingered in the shop, including an Oak Park police officer, waiting for the tasting to begin. Jim August took out the judging clipboards, with pen and paper attached to each one. Soon he was expertly cutting into the loaves, one by one.

"This is the first entry," he said as he passed a piece to each judge.

I took the first soda bread in

my hand, almost as if I was taking communion. I examined the texture, inhaled the aroma, felt for density and then eventually took a taste, chewing slowly.

I soon realized that the judging process was going to be harder than I had anticipated,

contestant and previous winner, stood out for its traditional round form with a cross cut through the middle, a rich and slightly sweet taste and just the right amount of moisture to make the crumbs soft.

I had thought I knew soda bread. But when I bit into Amy Hasegawa's slice, I was astonished that a soda bread could taste so hearty and soft. O'Brien affirmed that soda bread varies wildly from baker to baker.

"Soda bread recipes vary greatly," he says, "because of the ingredients and for the way the flour, salt, buttermilk and sodium

self. We use baking powder and natural yogurt in our baking academy recipes."

O'Brien adds that there is a general misconception that the Irish have been making and eating soda bread for a very long time. "In fact," he points out, "it was first made in Ireland about the year 1850 – barely 160 years ago."

O'Brien, who opened the school in the early 2010, sees students of all ages come through the doors looking to improve their skills. During his long tenure at the Irish Baking School

aren't actually making cake, they are dabbling in emulsion technology," he said.

O'Brien enjoys teaching, but is most inspired by student engagement. "If people are asking you questions," he says, "then you are in business!"

O'Brien is concerned about the growing scarcity of true artisan or craft bakeries in Ireland. He strongly believes in baking apprenticeships, but in the mid-90s the Irish baking industry no longer saw the benefit and to cut costs, eliminated that requirement of its employees. Around 80 percent of breads in Ireland are manufactured in factories or "fakeries," according to O'Brien.

Needless to say, he holds his academy to high standards. "I have people who are employed as qualified bakers. Some are working in bakeries during the day and then come in to work for me later. I also only employ graduates of mine," he said.


Should you be a home baker in America and non-qualified professionally, O'Brien has recommendations for his "one-page operation," a.k.a. a soda bread recipe that you will find at the end of this column.

"If you come into us, we guarantee that our recipes will work," he said and one golden rule stands above all: "Bakers should weigh everything including the egg," he says. "You can't expect consistency otherwise."



In America he recommends using whole meal flour, because, "American wheats are quite strong." You can also make up your own flour by adding bran to pastry flour.


If you're a more adventurous baker, you can try changing up the traditional recipe, as O'Brien does. "There's a tendency to keep things brown or white in Ireland," he said. So he creates savory soda breads, like his Mediterranean bread with olives and pesto.

With all this new knowledge and a guaranteed recipe from O'Brien, maybe I'll enter next year's soda bread contest. I've got practicing to do. I hope my husband Michael is hungry.



The Baking Academy
of Ireland



WHEATEN BREAD			THE MASTERBAKERS		
	Stage	Ingredients	Gr.	Gr.	Method
	1	Plain flour	100	0	Place all ingredients in large bowl and blend the flours, salt and baking powder together well. Use a hand whisk.
		Bakers Flour	100	0	
		Wholemeal	300	500	
		Salt	7	7	
Baking Powder	25	25			
2	Caster sugar	5	5	Mix yoghurt & sugar in the buttermilk. Add to dry ingredients. Mix & knead gently	
	Buttermilk	325	325*		
	Natural Yoghurt	100	100		
Total:		960	960*		

Processing details:

Details	Temp/Time	Instructions
Dough Temperature:	Ambient	Use cold buttermilk
Fermentation Time:	none	

Scaling Weight:	480g x 2	Dust table with wholemeal flour Hand up dough pieces into a round ball shape
Intermediate Proof:	none	
Shape:	Type 1:	Deposit the mixture into a papered baking pan. Dampen the back of the hand and press level. Dust with flour.
	Type 2:	Shape round and place on papered baking sheet. Dust with flour
Cut in centre using a Scotch scraper / knife.		
Proof Time:	none	
Baking Temperature:	190°C	
Baking Time:	35 - 40 min.	

because each bread has its own character. But we were judging for the best and most authentic look and taste, so I forged ahead, through more and more slices of soda bread.

Eventually it became clear that we would have a winner. One of the entries, submitted by Amy Hasegawa, a long-time

bicarbonate are mixed together."

"The first thing we do in our courses is ask students to throw out their own recipe, probably from granny, because that recipe doesn't work anymore. The buttermilk we have nowadays isn't acidic enough, and continentals don't like the soda flavor," he says. "In fact I don't like it my-

self. We use baking powder and natural yogurt in our baking academy recipes."

at the Dublin Institute of Technology, he was inspired to start his own academy after meeting mature students looking for skill-building opportunities.

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Sinn Fein's Sean Crowe On an Inclusive Ireland

Seán is a lifelong Sinn Féin (We Ourselves) and community activist from Rathfarnham in Dublin. He now lives in Tallaght with his wife Pamela.

Seán was first elected as a councillor on South Dublin County Council in 1999 and also served as a TD for Dublin South West from 2002 to 2007. He was elected as a TD for the second time, for the constituency of Dublin South West, in February 2011. Sinn Féin's Sean Crowe visited Chicago recently to speak at the Clan na Gael Easter Commemoration Dinner. Here are some of his thoughts presented to publisher, Cliff Carlson, Irish American News.

Hi Sean. What is this weekend all about?

Sean Crowe: What we are going to be seeing this weekend in the importance of the proclamation and the rising itself, more importantly the type of Ireland they described, we would see the Irish Proclamation as our freedom charter, and the Proclamation talks about the 'inclusive Ireland,' you know, treating people as equal, regardless of if they were women, or men, Protestant or Catholic. It was radical, revolutionary even, to be talking in terms of women, even at that early stage, but they also talked about cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and the natural resources of Ireland should be used for the benefit of the people of Ireland, so it has resonance very much for today, for the Ireland that we're in today.

Tomorrow Jerry Adams is going to be launching a document in Dublin about the historic quarter where the rising was fought around the GPO, and the final surrender, and if you look at the state of the buildings in that historic quarter... there's potential now that a developer is going to turn it into a shopping center. In real effect, the state could take over the site. Our vision is that the site of these buildings would be an interpretive center of what happened then, and tourists and anyone could come and learn about the history surrounding this area.

C: Doesn't the GPO building still

have the bullet holes in the walls?

SC: Yes, the building still does. And, again, it's been the efforts of the relatives of the leaders, not official Ireland that have saved the buildings so far. Around the whole quarter, there's history going up as far as Parnell Square, O'Connell Street, there's meeting places where people were arrested, there's a whole history that we believe people would certainly be interested in. There's 70 million potential Irish diaspora, and I think that's part of their collective history as well, so it's important that we save that.

We're also talking in terms of outreach. President Michael D Higgins' visit to Britain is a form of that outreach, and I imagine that was a difficult decision.

C: What did you think of his visit?

SC: I see it as sending a positive message. It's sending a signal to Unionism, but it's also highlighting the potential. It's coming from a leadership of Sinn Féin, a leadership of Republicans. That's confidence in itself.

We're also recognizing the significance of many of the statements that the Queen made when she visited Ireland which were very positive... We need to build on the positive work that's been happening in relation to the relationship between Britain and Ireland, but also fully implementing aspects of The Good Friday Agreement... there's many aspects of that agreement that have yet to be fulfilled. And we would say that we welcome the fact that Dr Haas and Megan O'Sullivan over in Ireland, but there's still elements of what was agreed upon that haven't been approached yet. So we're going to be asking the Irish, and American administration, to go back to the proposals. The basic element of The Good Friday agreement is equality of agenda. We're still waiting on a bill of human rights.

C: How do you have the patience?

SC: Because we see it as a process. At times, it can be painfully slow, there's pressure on us all. People want to see immediate results, they want to see a peace

dividend. You can see some of these changes already, as part of the Good Friday Agreement. Sinn Féin is the largest party in Belfast, and we can conceivably be coming out of the European elections in the North as the largest party, the largest vote, and that's what we're aiming for.

C: Are you picking up momentum in the South, too?

SC: Yes. Polls are around 20-22%. We're in government. We could conceivably become the largest party. We don't believe we've hit a ceiling. It's the momentum that can change. We want to be in the next government in the South of Ireland. We believe that we have alternative policies to the austerity measures that are being cruelly implemented on low and middle income families in Ireland. We see ourselves as Europeans, but we want to see a greater solidarity coming from the European Union, and we want to see a confederation of free peoples in Europe.

C: Correct me if I'm wrong, but since 1998, it's been "take a bullet, don't use one." Now that's 16 years of negotiating, etc. So, if you've had that kind of patience to get all the things implemented from something that should have been done right away, you must have a plan for "one Ireland"?

SC: Yes, our national demand is for unity. We don't want to see division, we want to see an end of partition. Partition is not in the interest of the Irish people. The best way to promote Ireland is "one economy". We're a very small island. We have two transport systems, two health systems. Those differences create difficulties in the unity structure. There was always a responsibility on Republicans to come grab any alternative. We relish that challenge and we want to unite our people. We see ourselves as Unionists now.

C: So do you see a united Ireland down the road?

SC: I see it in my lifetime, and I think that the figures would suggest that. We want to start engaging with our Unionist neighbors about the type of Ireland they'd see, and this is where the importance of the commemorations around the

Easter Rising, and particularly the Proclamation. It moves us into that whole area of the type of Ireland that isn't divided.

C: Anything else you'd like to say to the Chicago area Irish and Irish-Americans?

SC: Just that we're so appreciative of the work that the Irish Americans have done. There wouldn't have been a 1916 rising without the Irish American involvement. They've been involved since the 20's. There are motions

being passed still. I'd like to thank people for their involvement in Immigration Reform. We all, in Ireland, want to see it resolved. We believe this would be hugely positive for the relationship between our two countries. It's important for our security, for our economic well-being. We're hoping that will happen within the lifetime of this Congress. We're hoping to develop our relationship between our countries and others around the world.

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Led by Francis Crowley

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the pages. Recovered months
later, these pages have become
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greatest national treasure. We
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methods of production, and
magnificent art.

Francis Crowley holds an
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traditional Celtic art, gives

presentations of the Book of
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ally, and writes a column on
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Piping It In

Jack Baker



It has been a long three years since Phil Coulter released his last CD, "Heartland, The Composer's Salute to Celtic Thunder". He has been busy, working with Celtic Thunder, produc-

by doing so, makes the music all the more memorable. A classic album from a classy guy.

Another classy guy is singer Andy Cooney. He too has been very busy lately with tours and cruises and whatnot so that we haven't seen a CD from him in a few years. He has now teamed up with Phil Coulter and Orchestra to put together a gloriously beautiful CD called "Bright Brand New Day". An encouraging celebration of life with arrangements of songs like "The Town I Loved So Well", "Westering Home" and "The Rose of Aranmore" that you'll say are the best you've ever heard. Andy Cooney is an expert at raising your spirits and the 12 songs on this CD will do just that. He makes good use of Phil Coulter's talented

orchestra and of Phil Coulter's talent as a producer. I have to say this is probably the best work Andy Cooney has ever done and feedback from my customers has been enthusiastic.

Well, it's finally May and we're all working to put the memory of winter behind us, and I've got just the little road trip that will help you get into a spring-time mood. Just three hours South of Chicago along Interstate 55 is the lovely hamlet of Chatham, Illinois and it is here, in Chatham Community Park, that the 19th Annual Springfield Area Highland Games & Celtic Festival will be held on Friday & Saturday, the 16th and 17th of May. Now to start, the Chatham Community Park is one of the nicest festival sites it's ever been my luck to set up in, lots of trees and flowers, a great place to be in spring. Secondly, the folks in the Springfield area really know how to throw a party. With plenty of libation and food, no one goes hungry or thirsty at this festival. One of the friendliest crews puts the show together and hosts a lovely highland dance competition, great athletics and the first major pipe band competitions of the season. Being the first, all the bands are trying their hardest to win and the music

is a great delight. There is a concert on Friday night with free entry and Saturday entry is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 6-12 and seniors, with kids under 5 and veterans free! A nice touch that. Friday night, after the concert they have a torchlight gathering of the clans that's really fun. You can make the trip in a day but I really recommend you take advantage of all the hotels along I55 in the Springfield area, no shortage of rooms. You can check out more about the festival and see some great shots of last year's festivities at www.springfieldhighlandgames.com

I'll be there, so stop by the booth and say Hi, it's always great to meet the readers.

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Stars of Irish Music Shine at Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest

Continued from Page 9

aters and concert series of all sizes. They not only impress as lovely and talented musicians, the sisters are champion Irish dancers who have competed overseas multiple times at the World Championships. Their performances weave the visual elements and the exciting rhythms of Irish step dancing into tightly choreographed, high-energy variety shows.

Irish Fest welcomes the return of one of the most successful cover bands in the land. **Infinity** breaks attendance records wherever they perform. They light up the stage with covers of everything from classic to current. They are well known for their outgoing personalities and for the ability to include the audience as part of the show. So be prepared, you might be singing along with them or a microphone may just appear before you. This is the difference between performers and genuine entertainers and is the reason for their perpetual return engagements year after year.

Chicago Gaelic Park welcomes the return of **Screaming Orphans**. No, they're not orphans and they don't scream...much. The Screaming Orphans are four sisters with the good fortune to have been raised in the magic of Bundoran in County Donegal, Ireland. There is a great tradition of music to be found in Irish homes especially in the Irish-speaking areas and their home was no exception. They've been singing and playing traditional Irish music from an early age but as teens they knew it was time to start their own pop/rock band. Being surrounded by so many different influences has inspired Screaming Orphans to explore new and exciting song writing and performance concepts. They draw on a diverse set of influences ranging from Simon & Garfunkel, The Bangles to The McNulty Family, with a strong focus on melody-driven songs with pop and rock strains.

Always a crowd favorite at Irish Fest, fasten your seat belts for Screaming Orphans.

Open the Door for Three is a trio that plays its music powerfully. Though the trio is new, its



Black 47

members are mainstays of the Irish music scene having played with Riverdance, Cherish the Ladies, Secret Garden, Anúna, Celtic Legends, and The New York Pops, as well as mainstream pop-artists Don Henley, Paula Cole, Bonnie Raitt and Josh Groban. They have performed in venues around the world: on Broadway, at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, at L'Olympia and Palais de Congrès in Paris, Malaysian rainforest festivals, piping tionóil in Ireland, theatres from Shanghai to São Paulo, cruise ships in the Caribbean and even a bullring in Mallorca. Their debut release "Open the Door for Three" is a culmination of years on the road, comprised of unearthed tunes, new arrangements of great songs, homages to the musicians and bands they grew up listening to and the signature sound of a trio of good friends playing great music together.

Irish Fest presents **The Elders**, Sunday only! Since forming in 1998, The Elders launched a skillful blend of American rock and amped-up Celtic folk that is progressive yet rooted in tradition. Employing a variety of instruments including guitars, drums, banjo, accordion, mandolin, piano & fiddle, these six gentlemen collectively create powerful four part

harmonies, blazing instrumentals and song writing. Their songs are mystical, comical, political and cultural, while covering a wide variety of topics such as poverty, civil war, family bonds, spirituality, love and friendship. To date, The Elders have produced 6 full-length studio CDs and 3 live CD/DVDs. PBS television aired their "Live at the Gem Theater" Concert Special. The most recent project is the "The Elders Hoolie" DVD recorded live at the historic Uptown Theater in Kansas City.

The Makem and Spain Brothers

The tradition continues with the internationally known band that keeps the music alive and defines where Irish folk music is headed. A host of various instruments and five male vocals using precise three part harmonies blend perfectly for what can only be described as a wall of sound. Their talent and enthusiasm draw in fans who have never experienced



The Elders

the joy of folk music. This band of brothers has played before millions of people in the U.S., Caribbean and Ireland. Along the way they were highlighted in national PBS specials and on popular Irish talk shows.

The Makem Brothers, from north of Dublin in Co. Louth, continue an Irish musical dynasty begun by their grandmother, Sarah Makem and their famous father, Tommy Makem. The Spain Brothers also learned Irish songs at their father's knee. When the Makems met the Spains the brothers realized the powerful synergy of their com-

bined talents. There are bands traveling down uncharted roads trying their best to keep the music alive, but there is only one Makem and Spain Brothers.

Irish Fest welcomes the return of **Tartan Terrors**, billed as "North America's premier Celtic event." They are a Celtic invasion, mixing the energy of rock with traditional music, adding in movement and good 'ol Irish fun. They feature classic pipes, fiddle, percussion and unique guitar stylings. Members of the group have been on stage in over four continents with appearances at Festivals, Highland Games and Theatres of North America and on Good Morning America television.

Their latest release is "Whiskey Before Breakfast." If Celtic music ever goes mayhem, you'll find the Tartan Terrors making it happen!

M&R Rush are back...performing at Irish Fest during their "Livin' For The Music" summer tour. M&R Rush had its beginnings in the early 70's, with a group of five high school friends from Chicago's Roseland neighborhood. As the band matured they played the college club scenes, eventually booking into Chicago clubs. With their popularity high, M&R Rush released "Reach For The Stars" and promoted it in the Midwest. During this time M&R Rush shared stages with Styx, Survivor, Sammy Hagar, Judas Priest, Black Oak Arkansas and the Go-Go's. With the music industry changing M&R Rush disbanded in 1987. But band members kept in close contact and it was decided that 2003 would mark the return of M&R Rush. Since then the response has been tremendous. The are booked into venues and their music has returned to the airwaves with regional radio stations have featuring live-unplugged performances and music from four recently released CDs.

Over the four day weekend, May 23-26, Irish Fest is also proud to present many other favorites like Infinity, Chicago Reel, Fintan Stanley, Pat Burke & Sharon, Paddy Homan & Friends, Larkin & Moran Brothers, Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Gerard Haughey

& Sean O'Donnell, Pat Finnegan & Friends, The Ray Gavin Band, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, Irish Musicians, The Irish Music Club of Chicago, Joe McShane, Shannon Rovers, Coyote Riot, Pipes & Drums of The Emerald Society, Three Men in Kilts and many more!

Chicago Gaelic Park is located just outside the Chicago city limits in Oak Forest. A full day pass to all musical stages, full carnival with unlimited rides, free on-site parking and fun for the whole family is only \$15. 'Four Day Pass' discounts are available online through May 22rd. Adults over 65 years and kids under 12 are only \$12. Youngsters three years and under are free. Special online discount ticket offers, a complete Irish Fest performance schedule and directions are available at www.chicagogaelparkirishfest.org. Chicago Gaelic Park can also be reached at 708-687-9323.

Irish American Society of County Will

Shamrocks Men's 2014 Rugby Schedule

Home games are played at Central Park on Park Road behind Fire Station #1. There is no admission.

5/3	at Peoria
5/10	at Milwaukee
5/17	Home vs. Illiana
5/24	at Dragons
5/31	at Bloomington

Morrigan Women's 2014 Rugby Schedule

Home games are played at Central Park on Park Road behind Fire Station #1. There is no admission.

5/10	Tournament in Lemont
5/17	Home vs. DePaul

For more information contact eiregall@yahoo.com

Chicago's 2014 Rose of Tralee

Colleen Marie Nolan – 2014
Chicago Rose of Tralee

Colleen Marie Nolan is a 25 year old alumna of the University of Notre Dame where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Political Science and Accountancy. She now works in Finance for Grosvenor Capital Management, an alternative investment firm, and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Colleen is extremely active in the Chicago Irish community: she is the youngest member on the American Ireland Fund Young Leaders Steering Committee and is the current Vice President of Sponsorship on the Executive Board of the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. She is also an active member of the Ireland Network and is very involved with her parish and Rose of Tralee sponsor, Old St. Patrick's Church, as a member of the of the Old St.



Pat's Young Leaders Advisory Board. Growing up, Colleen was an avid Irish step dancer and volleyball player, earning her the position of President of the Notre Dame Irish Step Dance Team and a spot on the varsity volleyball team at Notre Dame her freshman year. Colleen is exceptionally passionate about her Irish heritage and is thrilled to represent Chicago as the 2014 Chicago Rose of Tralee.

Photo by David Kindler

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Carrying the Torch

By Colleen Marstad



Finally, May has arrived and now is the time for many festivals during the late spring and summer seasons. The flowers and trees should all start to bloom. The grass should start to turn a pretty green; and everybody should be back to being outdoors and glad our never ending winter has finally come to an end! Spring and summer were always my grandpa's (Pat Hennessy) favorite seasons because he could sit outside with his Irish American News or his Irish Echo or his Chicago Tribune and read in the sun. He would always wait until after 2pm to go outside; he claimed it wasn't as hot then especially in July and August. Many of times, he would fall asleep as he read. I miss coming home to see him sleeping outside soaking up the sun after teaching my students a history lesson or how to multiply fractions; only to learn valuable life lessons from my grandpa.

March was a very successful month for all of the St. Patrick's Day parades and activities. For the most part the weather was nice and welcoming. The river downtown turned green, and everybody was excited to be Irish for a day or a week. It was nice to have families come together to celebrate their Irish heritage. If the Hennessy's were to stop, I know I would miss it. As the saying goes; you don't know what you have until it is gone; and that is about family. I have always been blessed by being part of the Hennessy family because we typically try and get together three times a year; 1) St. Patrick's Day Parade; 2) Summer Family Picnic in July; and 3) Holiday Dinner in Gaelic Park in November. My grandpa was always the one to push for us together; he loved his

extended family (including his beloved friends) and they all loved him as well.

Congratulations are in order to a dear friend of my grandpa, Maureen O'Looney. Maureen was named 2014 Irish Hometown Hero by the Emerald Society of Illinois. Every Christmas like clockwork Maureen would send my grandpa Irish cookies from her store, Shamrock Imports. He always looked forward to receiving them. Maureen was born in 1922 in County Mayo; and she came to the United States in 1953. Maureen has supported many Irish-American organizations in Chicago including Gaelic Park, The Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago Irish Immigration Support, and many more. Congratulations Maureen, we are very proud of you and thank you for your hard work.

On Sunday, May 11th, 2014 the President of Ireland, His Excellency Michael D. Higgins will be making a visit to the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. There are a very limited number of tickets available. Members of the IAHC have first availability for tickets; however if there are remaining tickets they will be available for the general public on April 24th. There is not cost for the tickets. Call 773-282-7035 ext. 10 for information.

The GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) is now becoming worldwide. Originally the GAA

followed Irish emigration such as the case in Chicago where my grandpa and his friends started the GAA when they emigrated from Ireland. However there has been a recent shift of global business towards Asia with more people going there for business. This has resulted in new GAA clubs in more countries. There are 370 GAA clubs in Ireland, 150 in North America, 70 clubs in Europe; 23 in Asia, and 10 in the Middle East. The finals for Asia will be played in Hanoi, Vietnam and the finals for the Middle East will be played in Bahrain. Some of the clubs do not have Irish roots; however it has brought much interest in Ireland worldwide and in the games of hurling and Irish football. Paraic Duffy, head of the GAA said; "it's not just a network for sports anymore, but it's a driving force in business." Ireland will benefit from the worldwide attention with education and growth because of the interest in the country.

Gaelic Park will be hosting its annual Irish Festival 2014 on Memorial Day Weekend (May 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th.) For the festivities this year, they will have great musical entertainment by Nathan Carter, Black 47, and many more. Also, they will have rides for all to enjoy. They will be a petting zoo, ceili and step dancing, storytelling, Gaelic football and hurling will be played. My personal favorite is the tea room. The only time during the year I have a cup of tea and a treat in a nice quiet atmosphere. The Irish Festival is a big fund raiser for Gaelic Park, please come out and support it and have fun.

Hope to see all of you at the Irish Festival at Gaelic Park! Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde Gael.



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Kathleen Therese Meany, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, stated that "Illinois residents will be able to dispose of their household hazardous waste in an environmentally-friendly manner on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills, IL."

While they are routinely used to clean, maintain vehicles, and garden, household hazardous waste poses an environmental threat. Consumer product labels that include "danger," "warning," or "caution" in the text are an indication that the product should be disposed of in a special manner.

Meany concluded by saying, "these products are harmful to the water environment, so it is important that residents use, store and dispose of them properly. The MWRD is happy

to work with our state and municipal partners to bring this collection opportunity to the south suburbs."

Items that residents may bring include unwanted medicines, chemical cleaners, aerosol and oil-based paints, paint thinners, antifreeze, weed killers, insecticides, pesticides, and similar hazardous household products. Batteries and electronic waste will also be collected. Smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, controlled substances and sharps will not be accepted. Latex paint is not considered hazardous; it can be dried and taken out with the regular trash.

Gently used clothing will be accepted and donated to local organizations. Contractor, agricultural, business, governmental, commercial, industrial, school or public works wastes cannot be accepted.

A complete list of waste that will and will not be accepted can be found at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazard->

ous-waste/household-haz-waste/hhwc-acceptable.html.

Two additional HHW collections will be held in Cook County; on May 17, items may be brought to Countryside City Hall, 5550 East Ave., Countryside, and on June 28, items may be brought to Eisenhower High School, 12700 Sacramento Ave., Blue Island. Operating hours for both are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.






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Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



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

IAHC- Tara Club

Wednesday, 14th May 2014 – Staying Strong: Joint Meeting with Tír na nÓg

Who wouldn't want to learn about 10 ways to stay strong as you age? This week we are once again joined by our friends from Swedish Covenant who are going to share with us some practical information that could keep us fit and active for a long time to come.

Wednesday, 28th May – Doing Business in Ireland The Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is responsible for the attraction and development of foreign investment in Ireland. We are joined by a representative from the Chicago office who will tell us more about the work done by the IDA as well as the current economic situation in Ireland.

Gaelic Park – Emerald Club

Wednesday, 7th May 2014 – The Great Irish Bake Off Over the years we have heard many of our group members brag about their bread making skills. Now it's time to see what all the talk is about as we invite group members to bring along their own homemade Irish breads (white, soda brown – whatever!) to be shared with the group. There will even be some prizes for those who really wow us!

Wednesday, 21st May 2014 – A Visit from the Consulate Today, we will be joined by a representative from the Office of the Irish Consulate, Chicago. We will get an opportunity to learn a little more about the work that they do here on behalf of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and you can also ask your own questions in a Q&A session.

Calling All Volunteers

We are still recruiting volunteers for the upcoming Chicago launch of Irish Senior Connect, a telephone listening line geared towards Irish and Irish American older adults. A key component to the success of ISC is the volunteers that assist in running the listening line. There are a variety of opportunities to get involved in this meaningful project whether you want to

man the phone lines and provide your own listening ear to isolated seniors or you would prefer to be involved in the planning and development of the service. Volunteers are provided with training and support at all times. If you would like to get involved or would like to know more about ISC please call me at the CIIS office on 773-282-8445.

A Green Thumbs-Up for your Health

At the time of writing it is 66 degrees in Chicago. At the risk of jinxing us all, it appears the winter that seemed like it would never end has finally given way to spring! It's that time of year when those with inclinations toward the natural world start to think about their gardens, window boxes, or pots on the balcony. While doing a little research I learned that there are a host of health benefit to gardening, even for those who do it on a very modest scale. Read more about some of these benefits below and learn how a bumper crop is just the start of what you're getting from your garden.

Most Americans are Vitamin D deficient. Vitamin D is often known as the "sunshine vitamin," and it may have protective effects against a laundry list of illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis and cancer. The most effective way to boost Vitamin D levels is sensible sun exposure, as solar photons hitting the skin causes your body to naturally produce the vitamin. Spending a little time taking care of your plants is a great way to keep your Vitamin D levels topped up.

A great deal of us are missing out on the health perks Mother Nature has to offer. Most of the wellness benefits of gardening center around giving you a daily excuse to get outside. It is estimated that a little as five minutes of outdoor physical activity reduced stress and improved self-esteem and mood.

Gardening isn't a face paced workout but digging, planting, weeding, and other repetitive tasks that require strength or stretching are excellent forms of low-impact exercise, especially for people who find more vigorous exercise a challenge, such as those who are older, have disabilities, or suffer from chronic pain.

The food you grow yourself is the freshest food you can eat. And because home gardens are filled with fruits and vegetables, it's also among the healthiest food you can eat. Of course, it also tastes much better to!

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The Law, the Police and the Thought Police

To Turkey on a jaunt. The great gateway between Asia and Europe often gets a bad press today. Prominent northern European countries, particularly Germany but also many commentators in Ireland, chide Turkey for failing to uphold 'our European' democratic values such as freedom of speech. Skeptics about Turkey's fitness for Europe's political union also insist that Turkey must establish a transparent system of law and order before proper consideration can be given to its accession to the European Union. Isn't this the pot calling the kettle black? Just how well do both sides fare on the issues of freedom of speech and accountability in justice and policing?

When the Turkish Prime Minister got embroiled in a major scandal in February and proceeded to scapegoat the Turkish

police and judiciary in a bid to extricate himself from it, Turkey's standing did not rise in an already judgemental Europe. Erdogan's response to the barrage of anger that ensued was, well, to punish the police. Although he could not prove, and still cannot prove, that a member of the police leaked anything to the press, he realised that heads had to roll to calm the storm of publicity resulting from the disclosure. Sooner their heads than his: so the police and judiciary were purged by the thousands.

A grisly affair, granted, but while it was happening we had a serious miscarriage of justice at governmental level in Dublin too. The fiasco, which played out in February and March, involving our Ministry of Justice and the most senior office of our police force,

bears a striking similarity to events in Turkey. The Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter, decided to close ranks with his Garda Commissioner, Martin Callinan, who had harshly criticised two whistleblowers within the force after they raised issues of misconduct in the Gardaí. The minister seemed prepared to stand by his commissioner, but when the story sparked public outrage Callinan felt a sudden need to retire and spend more time with his family. The most alarming aspect of this episode is the contempt that both the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner showed for whistleblowers that raised concerns about policing practices in Ireland. Shatter quickly dispelled any such alarm, proposing a new reform on the floor of the Dáil on March 26th: 'The Public Disclosures Bill, which will apply to the Garda Síochána and indeed the entire public and private sectors, will provide [the] best international standard protection for whistleblowers'. Could it be that the new bill is simply a sop and that the existing culture of denying whistleblowers the fair hearing they deserve will persist?

So neither country is showing a good record on maintaining a transparent law and order system, but what about freedom of speech? While away in Turkey, I wanted to keep up with news reports on the above through uploads of Dáil debates, interviews and the like, but I was stymied. YouTube has been shut down in Turkey: 'access has been blocked by Telecommunication Communication Presidency'. That is not a misprint. The telecommunication president in Turkey, who is apparently so keen on communication that the word occurs twice in his title, saw fit last month to block the 76 million people in Turkey's secular, democratic, republic from viewing or uploading videos on social media such as YouTube, putting a still firmer clamp on people's freedom of expression. Resistance against such infringements on democracy in Turkey has stiffened for over two years now, and the political temperature is rising.

Whereas in Turkey citizens are being gagged by state censorship, in Ireland there is a curious tendency towards a spontaneous embrace of self-imposed censorship. Consider how warmly the Irish media welcomed recent moves by Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, to ban the word 'bossy' from being posted on Facebook, which apparently disturbs little girls and perverts their growth. (While there is nothing intrinsically

male or female, young or old, about the word 'bossy', it is senseless to ask too many questions). Irish journalists and bloggers tripped over themselves to endorse this introduction of Orwellian Newspeak. Why bother to think and speak in a language that might express oneself when a hectoring billionaire can prescribe sayable speech and proscribe unsayable speech? Join the swelling campaign, #BanBossy, today!

Thankfully, such Big Brother-esque manoeuvres have not been unanimously championed in our press. John Waters, a former Irish Times journalist, told the Sunday Independent in an interview on April 13th that his critics, who claim that he is intolerant of homosexuals' rights, hone in on single words he has used as sufficient justification for denouncing him; and, in so doing, they are not true to the rights they claim to propound. Defending his right to use a word (buggery), he stated: 'Why is it offensive? If the act is not offensive to people, why should the word to describe it be offensive?'

Waters has been in the news a great deal since he resigned from the Irish Times in late March, after contributing a column to that newspaper for over twenty years. He did so in protest at 'the present drift of the newspaper towards an ideological orthodoxy'. Specifically, he protests the newspaper upholding the validity of comments attributed to him, though never actually uttered by him. This he blames on the disproportionate influence of an orthodoxy enabled by the internet to steer media commentary: 'there may soon be no audible voice left to raise itself against the corrupted clamour of the unrecognised, unaccountable fifth column now directing every twitch and nuance of our public life'.

Waters is a very divisive figure in Ireland. But we are in his debt for continually forcing into the public debate issues related to the rights and responsibilities that go with freedom of expression; and for underscoring the covert threats of our internet age. Those who blithely hand over the freedom to think and use language to social media moguls, those who shirk from publishing heterodox views, should consider Waters' perspectives and curb any tendency that they might have to ban him. Or do they want state censorship along the lines of Turkey?

Maurice is a documentary filmmaker and writer living overseas.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane
and Margo O'Donnell



Hi Everybody,
and a big thank you to Joe for helping me while I was off color. Thankfully I'm back and feeling much better now, just like my old self again. Also thank you for all the good wishes and prayers.

What a wonderful month this is. In May everything seems

in Bundoran, Co. Donegal. The first words were written on a chocolate wrapping paper as we couldn't find paper and Shirley Jones had a bar of dairy milk, so from the outset it had the taste of sweet success. Here's to many more? Don't miss Nathan Carter, I know you will all love him the same as he is loved all over Ireland.

Nathan Carter



so new again. Flowers are in bloom and as I watch people they seem to all have a spring in their step. Speaking of things new, we have a wonderful new star in our midst, his name is Nathan Carter and what a wonderful talent this man is. I know he is Chicago bound and believe me you are all in for a treat. His new single titled "On The Boat to Liverpool" was written by myself, Joe and Nathan, and even though I say so myself, it is a wonderful song. The song was born one night

Now over to you Joe
Thank you Margo,

It's great to see you are feeling better. I too really enjoyed writing the song with both you and Nathan. He really is a great talent. The word in Ireland is that over the last few years, young people from all over the country have started to go to dances and are learning how to jive again. All because they want to go to a Nathan Carter dance. He has reinvented the social dancing scene and it really is fantastic to see

Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing 6/25

- Concern Worldwide U.S. will hold its 2014 Concern Chicago Golf Outing, presented by Collins Engineers and The McShane Companies, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at Harborside International Golf Center in Chicago.
- The afternoon format includes a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, access to driving range, golf cart, lunch, dinner and an awards program.
- Billy Lawless, Chair of Chicago

Celts for Immigration Reform is this year's Honorary Chairman.



The Co-Chairs of the golf outing

are (l to r): Steve Fitzgerald and Ed Stritch. Funds generated benefit Concern's emergency relief and long-term development programs in the areas of education, health, livelihoods and HIV and AIDS. To register or learn more about corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Kim Majewski at kimberly.majewski@concern.net or 312.431.8400 or www.concernusa.org.

On The Boat To Liverpool

Written by Nathan Carter, Margo O'Donnell and Joe McShane (Recorded by Nathan Carter) Verse 1

Sailed away from the old North Wall
Traveling feet gave me the call
Leaving a suit case in my hand
With the price of pint didn't eat a bite
There was good old Craic on the boat that night
As we left our homes in Ireland

Chorus

The lights they flickered from the shore
The boat was rockin' too and fro
Heading for the docks of Liverpool
We sang and danced the night away
The squeeze box and the fiddle played
Steppin' off the boat in Liverpool

Verse 2

Rise up at the crack of dawn
Working hard the whole week long
Night time I'd play me old guitar
We sang together one and all
Side by side and standing tall
The craic was good down in the Liffey Bar

Chorus

The lights they flickered from the shore
The pub was rockin' too and fro
Down beside the docks of Liverpool
We sang and danced the night away
The squeeze box and the fiddle played
Steppin' out at night in Liverpool

Verse 3

Now that was many years ago
Good fortune came I'll have you know
Leavin' that old suitcase in my hand
The time had come to bid adieu
To me good old pals in Liverpool
Tomorrow I'll be back in Ireland

Chorus

The lights they flickered from the shore
The boat was rockin' too and fro
Heading from the docks of Liverpool
We sang and danced the night away
The squeeze box and the fiddle played
Steppin' off the boat from Liverpool
Ah we're steppin' off the boat from Liverpool

young people enjoying what was enjoyed years ago. What's more he is an outstanding musician and he is doing for the accordion what Michael Flatley did for Irish Step Dancing. So Joe Cullen, if you are reading this. Its now sexy to play the accordion. So how's about giving me a few lessons?

I think our song for this month should be "On The Boat To Liverpool" That way when Nathan Carter and his band play the Gaelic Park Memorial Festival this month, you will be able to sing along with him. He will be performing on Saturday 24th at 7:00pm and on Sunday 25th at 5:30pm. You may actually see him on PBS now and then also. I hope you all have a great Memorial Weekend. There is a fantastic lineup of entertainment in store.

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Walk in Brian Ború's Footsteps

Historic sites relating to the life and times of Brian Ború are promoted in a newly developed tourist trail marking the 1000th anniversary of the death of the last High King of Ireland.

The National Brian Ború Trail was launched this afternoon by Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gael-tacht, at St. Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe, Co. Clare.

The event, which was hosted by Clare County Council in association with Killaloe Ballina 2014, was attended by National Brian Ború Programme representatives from Armagh, Clare, Dublin and Tipperary, the four main locations with connections to the life and High Kingship of Ireland's best known historical figure.

The newly launched Trail features informa-

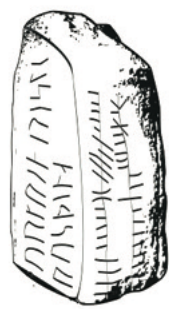
tion on the important sites and buildings associated with Ború including Kincora where he was born, and Clontarf where he was killed following his victory over the Viking rulers of Dublin in 1014. Other sites of interest include St. Patrick's Cathedral in the City of Armagh where Ború is buried; the Rock of Cashel where he was crowned High King of Ireland; and Lough Derg and the River Shannon where his navy was located.

Speaking in Killaloe today, Minister Deenihan said the launch of the Brian Ború Trail complements a comprehensive nationwide programme of commemorative festivals and events taking place during 2014.

The Minister continued: "Brian Ború's influence on Ireland's political landscape is well known but his legacy is also evident throughout the physical landscape of the island with dozens of buildings linked to his fascinating story and that of his ancestors. For the first time, this National Trail promotes some of the buildings and sites most associated with Ború which I believe will help to promote tour-

ism in the areas concerned and will also help to further promote the story of an individual who is an indelible part of this island's rich history."

Welcoming the new tourist guide, Ger Dollard, Chairperson of the Brian Ború 2014 Steering Group stated: "Significant work has been undertaken to ensure that the Brian Ború millennial anniversary is established as an



BRIAN BORÚ TRAIL

KILLALOE BALLINA \ CASHEL \ CLONTARF \ ARMDAGH

important cultural and tourism activity which lays the platform for further cultural and tourism development in future years. This Guide will serve as a useful tool for promoting Brian Ború's close links with Armagh, Clare, Dublin and Tipperary and in doing so help to promote heritage tourism in the areas concerned."

Produced by the Brian Ború 2014 Steering Group, the Brian Ború Trail guide is available at tourist offices, Council buildings and libraries throughout Ireland. Thousands of copies of the new guide are also being distributed to visitor attractions and accommodation providers throughout Ireland.

Visit www.brianborumillennium.ie to learn about the National Brian Ború Programme of events taking place during 2014.

About Brian Ború:

- Early Life

Brian Ború, son of Cinnéide and Bé Bhoinn, was born in 941 at Killaloe. His family belonged to the Uí Toirdealbhaigh – a Dalcassian tribe who had settled here hundreds of years earlier at Grianán Lachtna on the slopes of Crag Hill. Brian's father and

his grandfather Lorcán were the first of his family to rise to prominence leading their tribe against the Vikings.

- The Vikings

Brian's father Cinnéide died in battle in 951 and Mahon took over leadership of the Dalcassians. Brian convinced a reluctant Mahon to defend their territories against the Vikings and together they drove them from Cashel and Limerick paving the way for Mahon to become King of Munster

in 970. Following Mahon's murder by rival Munster chiefs, Brian led his tribe and avenged his brother's death. He attacked Scatterry Island, routing Vikings and killing their leader Ivar. He then turned his attention to Donovan and Molloy who were responsible for Mahon's death and they too were killed. Brian now consolidated his position in Munster with the marriage of his daughter to Molloy's son. His inauguration as

King of Munster took place at Cashel in 977.

- High King of Ireland

Although Brian continued to defend against invading Vikings he allowed those Vikings who had settled and established commercial activities to continue to operate. Some Vikings sided with Brian in his battles against plundering Vikings.

Brian and the High King Malachy at times cooperated in their battles against the Vikings, but their political rivalry continued. At one stage they divided control of the country between them with Malachy reigning in the Northern half and Brian in the South. But Brian had ambitions to unite the whole country. In 999 they successfully captured Dublin from the Vikings and Brian strengthened his position by marrying Gormlaith the mother of Sitric, Viking leader in Dublin at that time. Between then and 1002 Brian demanded Malachy's abdication. Finally Malachy, unable to gain support of the northern Uí Neills, abdicated and Brian became High King or Ard Rí of a united Ireland.

The tide began to change in

1013 with a revolt against Brian by Leinstermen aided by Dublin Vikings. Vikings in Munster too were getting more active. The spark that led to the Battle of Clontarf may have been a dispute during a game of chess at Kincora. Vikings from the Isle of Man, Orkney Islands and Hebrides came to the aid of Sitric at Gormlaith's request.

The battle on Good Friday 1014, where the Dalcassian forces defeated the Vikings, resulted in the deaths of Brian, his son and potential successor Murrough and his grandson. After the battle, the bodies of Brian and his son were brought to Armagh by its clergy and waked for 12 nights before being buried in a new tomb..

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



A Sick Note from Angie; Two Fingers from Frankie

In an article posted on my own website and sub-headed Random Thoughts of an April 3rd I wrote, amongst other things, of the continuing Angela Kerins (ex-CEO of Rehab) saga:

"The overbearing feeling of entitlement that drips from this ghastly, grasping 'charity worker' would leave Pee and Beverley Flynn in the ha'penny place. In fact, as I watch her swagger around the gaff as if she doesn't have a care in the world, I find myself reminded

of a phrase that my old buddy Bernard Clarke once used to describe Marlon Brando's approach to acting in his latter years: 'A walking mass of contempt.'

"The big difference here is that Brando's contempt appeared to be aimed at himself; Entitled Angie's appears to be aimed at everyone else.

"Fine Gael's Simon Harris seems to be worried that she might 'decline' to appear before the Public Accounts Commit-

tee in the future due to the fact that she is no longer an employee of Rehab. I doubt that, myself; but take a look at the wording of her resignation statement: note the expression "increasingly concerned about the toll that public controversy has taken on the Re-

hab group and my own family."

"Oh yes, I do think that we might be ripe for a serving of the old 'can't appear because my health has broken down with the worry of it all' cod-swallop. She would hardly be the first greedy grasper to pull that one."

The three most beautiful words in the English language sprang to mind only a week later. No, not those ones; the phrase was Told you so. And she didn't exactly leave me waiting long to get to say them. It was on the following Wednesday that she sent in her sick note to the Public Accounts Committee, whom she seems to regard as that group of upstarts who keep insisting on asking her awkward questions. Yep, she said that she must be excused from the classroom, explained about the strain of it all and how it's taking a fierce terrible toll on her health altogether, as if she were some frail shrinking violet of the Silent Movie Era.

Also making his excuses (although he wasn't sick, just bare-faced, hard-necked not coming in) was Fine Gael's former Director of Organisations and Strategy, Frank Flannery. Now the interesting thing is that Frankie-boy has been working alongside Angie-baby for quite some time now. In fact he was the CEO himself between 1981 and 2006. Of course Frankie would like us to believe that since he hasn't 'worked' for the charity since then, he shouldn't have to be answering any questions. However, on the day of the double no-show we learned (what many already knew) that he had been coining it in as a 'consultant' ever since he stepped down. In fact, he has earned through this consulting—and 'lobbying', let's not forget 'lobbying'—in the neighbourhood of €409,000 between 2007 and 2013; and as Robert de Niro says in Midnight Run: "That's a very respectable neighbourhood."

In fact it's so respectable that Frankie-boy was regularly doing the Charity Side-Step Shuffle with a tasty €5,000 a

month. Seriously, if I had been one of the volunteers who stood in the rain with a collection box; or a fundraiser who devoted his/her own blood, sweat and tears to organising something to raise money to actually help people; and who then found out that it had paid for the likes of Angie-baby, Frankie-boy and Company to swan around the world, then you can bet your life I would be wanting answers. And sending in a damned sick note or just a flat-out refusal to attend would not bloody well cut it. (And as if the whole thing didn't smell rotten enough many of Flannery's payments were to Larragh Consultancy—which no longer existed.

As to being sick, well by God Kerins wasn't too sick to instruct those busy lawyers of hers to fire off a directive to her previous employers at Rehab. She wasn't too sick to be threatening all sorts if anybody revealed her remuneration, pension or any other dealings that she didn't want the unwashed public—or the volunteers and fundraisers who would once have been condescendingly given hollow praise by her—to hear about it.

Those lawyers of hers must rub their sweaty little paws together every time they see her coming with yet another intimidating legal missive for them to fire off. Well, after what she's been earning from her 'charity work' all these years she can well afford a whole team of lawyers. And so can Frank Flannery: his legal boys were on the case the same day. I guess that despite Angie being sick and all, they were able to grab a few spare moments to compare notes; and off to Rehab went Flannery's threats not to mention his earnings. What a pair.

Lest we forget, it's only in March of this year that Flannery exited Stage Left from his cushy job as Fine Gael Director of Elections; and that's only because the proverbial was beginning to hit the fan over his Rehab doings. So to anyone reading this in Ireland, don't forget to ask a few questions when Enda's crew are knocking on

your doorsteps. Ask them why a representative of Fine Gael, happy to be with an organisation that accepts €83 million of taxpayers' money is able to give us the middle finger and be photographed having a pint whilst he tells us to take a hike, it's none of our business.

Interestingly, the chancers from all parties should have been doing their rounds weeks ago, but I've yet to open the door to one of them—and by Heaven, how I'm looking forward to that happy evening! They just appear to be shoving their junk mail through the letterbox and then legging it. I'm certainly yet to hear their usual guff about 'the reaction on the doorstep has been very positive'.

And here we go with the part of the Saga that I would like to see director Terry Gilliam filming...except that even he would find it too unbelievable.

Yes, it concerns Rehab and the imported Chinese coffin business that I mentioned in my last column. Sorry, with Angie stressed out we're still stuck with the bare facts: the charity wanted to import coffins from a company in China; by complete coincidence Angie's husband and her brother were co-owners of the company; also by complete coincidence so was the bould Frank Flannery; the company--Complete Eco Solutions-- billed Rehab to the tune of €255,552 for 528 coffins but Rehab says that they've only paid €70,000.

I'm getting a migraine and I don't even suffer from them.

To anyone out there who thinks that I'm banging on endlessly about this, I offer no apologies. As the details get murkier and murkier and people simply don't care to follow what is going on, preferring instead to just completely stop giving to charity, it's important to keep the clear facts in front of us.

And just for once in this country, maybe not hold endless questioning with bugger all to show for it at the end.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Fasting for Immigration Reform

Last year, a group of women from a wide variety of organizations and groups, came together to begin a campaign of fasting for immigration reform.

One of the leaders, Judith Browne Dianis explained why the women decide to act in such a way: "We are fasting to stand in solidarity with the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country seeking a pathway to citizenship.

As women who work in racial justice, we understand that racism and xenophobia have shaped our country's shameful policies on immigration.

Women and children make up three-fourths of all immigrants. As a result of deportations, children – many of whom are American citizens – are often left behind as their parents are imprisoned and deported. Families are living in fear in the shadows of society and on the run, creating unstable anxiety-ridden lives for children."

I applaud these inspirational women, what they are doing is a serious effort to humanize an issue that so often is presented in cold economic and political terms. People all too often forget the heartbreaking stories of real people who are torn apart by our outdated and inadequate laws.

The act of fasting brings us in touch with our humanity and reminds us of our inter-dependence and shared needs and values as members of the community that make up this great nation.

I find it amusing that, when political candidates are seeking election they very often highlight their "humble origins" and the fact that they, "understand the plight of working families". And yet, when it comes time for those same individuals, using their power as elected representatives, to improve our immigration laws, they come up short again and again in their efforts to truly work for the good of the country.

Let us hope and pray, that the US House of Representatives, can remember their roots as descendants of immigrants, and that they will heed the call of former Florida governor Jeb Bush who said recently: "The U.S. needs to become young and dynamic again, that means we should consider immigration reform not as a problem, but as a huge opportunity for us to fix it and make it an economically driven system that will be part of the catalytic converter of sustained economic growth."

Shark Bait

During a research experiment a marine biologist placed a shark

into a large holding tank and then released several small bait-fish into the tank.

As you would expect, the shark quickly swam around the tank, attacked and ate the smaller fish.

The marine biologist then inserted a strong piece of clear fiberglass into the tank, creating two separate partitions. She then put the shark on one side of the fiberglass and a new set of baitfish on the other.

Again, the shark quickly attacked. This time, however, the shark slammed into the fiberglass divider and bounced off. Undeterred, the shark kept repeating this behavior every few minutes to no avail. Meanwhile, the bait-fish swam around unharmed in the second partition. Eventually, about an hour into the experiment, the shark gave up.

This experiment was repeated several dozen times over the next few weeks. Each time, the shark got less aggressive and made fewer attempts to attack the bait fish, until eventually the shark got tired of hitting the fiberglass divider and simply stopped attacking altogether.

The marine biologist then removed the fiberglass divider, but the shark didn't attack. The shark was trained to believe a barrier existed between it and the baitfish, so the bait fish swam wherever they wished, free from harm.

The moral: Many of us, after experiencing setbacks and failures, emotionally give up and stop trying. Like the shark in the story, we believe that because we

were unsuccessful in the past, we will always be unsuccessful. In other words, we continue to see a barrier in our heads, even when no 'real' barrier exists between where we are and where we want to go. Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: slabhanoir@yahoo.com or 773-282-8445

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