

Irish american news  
**iran**

February 2008

**The Night Is...Young!**



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Brendan Loughrey

Mixed Pint Night!

**Thur, Mar 13 8PM**

Rob & Kelly Duo

\$3 Guinness Pints!

**Fri, Mar 14 8PM**

Aidan O'Toole

\$4 Feckin Shots!

**Saturday, March 15th (\$5 Cover)**

*(Cover Includes FREE Admission on Paddy's Day!)*

Steve Haberichter & Paul Callahan, 1:00PM

Irish Step Dancers, 3:30PM

Aidan O'Toole, 4:00PM

Emerald Society Pipes & Drums, 7:00PM

Patrick Guinee & The Rowdy Irishmen, 8:00PM

**Sunday, March 16th**

Brendan Loughrey, 6:30PM

**Monday, March 17th (\$5 Cover)**

Steve Haberichter & Paul Callahan, 1:00PM

Irish Step Dancers, 3:30PM

Larkin & Moran Brothers, 4:00PM

Emerald Society Pipes & Drums, 7:00PM

Three Men in Kilts, 8:00PM



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## Laurence Nugent Receives Illinois Arts Council Ethnic /Folk Arts Master/Apprentice Program Award

Master Artist/Apprentice Relationship Preserves Illinois' Cultural Heritage

The Illinois Arts Council is pleased to announce the recipients of the fiscal year 2008 Ethnic and Folk Arts Master Apprentice Program awards. Eleven Master Apprentice pairs received awards totaling \$33,000.

One winner in the Irish community is Master Artist Laurence Nugent of Chicago who has been awarded a grant to teach Traditional Irish Music to Mary Leandra Baker of Champaign.

The Master Apprentice Program recognizes the need for structured opportunities to pass on traditional arts as part of the preservation of the Illinois' cultural heritage. The program fosters this traditional teaching and learning relationship by providing a \$2,000 honorarium to the master artist and a \$1,000 stipend to the apprentice.

Traditional ethnic and folk arts eligible for support include those artistic practices which have a community or family base, express that community's aesthetic, heritage and tradition, and

have endured through several generations. These art forms are expressions of the particular culture of the regional, national, ethnic, tribal, or language group from which they originate.



Leandra Baker Photo By Ethan James

The Master/Apprentice Program generally supports art forms found in informal rather than institutional settings. A "Master Artist" is an individual recognized within his or her community as an exemplary practitioner of his or her traditional or classical ethnic art form. An "Apprentice" is an individual with some experience in a traditional or classi-

cal ethnic art form who is committed to attaining mastery of that art.

For additional information about the Master Apprentice Program, contact Susan Dickson, Acting Director of Ethnic and Folk Arts, by email at iac1.program1@illinois.gov or by phone at



Larry Nugent

312/814-6740 or 800/237-6994 (toll free within Illinois). Individuals who are deaf or have hearing or voice impairments can call 312/814-4831 TTY.

Awards are based on the recommendation of three out-of-state jurors who are cultural specialists.

### Ireland 2007/2008

See Athlone & District Tourist Guide

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**Bridie McKennas Opens in Highwood**

Bridie McKennas is the brainchild of the main owner, Fran Moore, who originally comes from Dublin but has lived in the Chicago area for the last 30 years. The business is affectionately named after his mother, Bridie, whose maiden name was McKenna and whose image is proudly etched in the glass on the entrance door. Bridie was a very tidy, proud and friendly woman and her image is a constant reminder to the owners and staff to treat their patrons with the warmth and hospitality that she was renowned for by visitors to her home. The words above the main door "Slan Abhaile" was frequently uttered by Bridie to her departing guests and are the Irish words for (Safe Home — slán = safe and abhaile = home).

As in traditional Ireland, Bridie McKennas is a community pub. The owners are committed to being a part of the community and getting involved in worthy causes both locally and nationally. Two of the owners ran the Chicago Marathon last year and raised funds for the American Cancer Society and are planning to run the Country Music Marathon in April this year to raise funds for a Soup Kitchen in South Africa.

The building was designed by an architect in Ireland who worked with Fran to recreate a truly Irish experience starting with the exterior, which

on both sides is a replica of a typical Irish rural town scene. The building is purpose built and covers 5,000 sq. ft. on each floor. At the back are park-

are adorned with pictures of rural settings and people and traditional Irish sports like hurling and Gaelic football.

Moving back into the bar you see two traditional Irish snugs. The his-

horse racing. This area as well as the complete building has free Wi-Fi access and is an ideal area to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with your emails in comfort.

The Library opens into the large



ing facilities for valet parking.

On the east side of the building you see a typical Irish Post Office (Offig an Phoist — Offig is Irish for Office and An Phoist is the Irish for The Post or Mail as we call it here in the U.S.).

On the west side of the building you see the public house, the merchants and the tobacconist at the end. Victorian gates will be erected along the patio which will seat about 50 people during the season.

Enter the main door and you are in the Victorian bar which is based on a Dublin theme. Here you notice the excellent woodwork which is evident throughout the building and was mainly designed, installed, or under the strict supervision of Fran himself, who is a carpenter by trade. The walls are adorned by pictures of Dublin and you notice the traditional sign writing of well known places in Dublin — Trinity College, etc. This type of bar was typically frequented by white collar urban workers.

To the right is the Country Bar — again you are struck by the fantastic woodwork. The theme is a typical country bar that was frequented by the working class rural folks who came for a drink and a "bit of craic" (craic is the Irish term for fun) after a long day's work and enjoyed some traditional music before returning home. The bar displays an open fireplace and an area for musicians. The floor is styled on a traditional slate/stone which is ideal for those lively Irish jigs and reels. The walls

tory of the snug began in Ireland in the late 19th century. It was typically a small private room that accessed the bar. You typically paid a higher price in the snug for the privacy it



Fran Moore

provided. The snug was not just for the well-off and professional town folk but also Ladies, at a time when it was frowned upon to be seen in a Public House. In rural Ireland, up into the 1960s, cattle were sold on the street and to close the deal both parties would enter the snug to finalize the deal and exchange cash. The deal was usually closed with spitting on your hands and shaking to seal the deal and the seller giving some money back to the buyer for good luck. Both parties would then enjoy a pint together.

Behind the snug is the very comfortable library area with beautiful woodwork and an open fireplace. This room is themed on Irish Poets and Writers along with two other great loves of the Irish, golf and

party room at the rear. This room displays a large 70" TV for showing international sporting events — soccer, rugby, American football, baseball, etc. There are also four professional dartboards where they plan to run competitions. This room opens into the patio area and this can be closed off from the rest of the patio for private parties. The Party Room can also be opened into the Library for larger parties and both can be closed off to the bar area.

Beside the Party Room is the very large Kitchen area.

In the basement there is an additional party room area which will be open soon. Off the party room and accessible from the Victorian Bar are two small amusement rooms where they plan to install games for kids so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy some music upstairs.

They have a very extensive menu — their Executive Chef James Coffey is excellent, and very proud of his food, and continually seeking out new recipes to add to the menu. The bar is stocked with 13 premium draft beers and over 25 bottled beers. They have a nice selection of wines by the bottle or glass and an excellent range of fine whiskies. They also have some typical Irish wares like Lucozade (an energy drink) and crisps (chips in the U.S.).

The opening hours are Monday-Thursday 11-1 am, Friday and Saturday 10-2 am and Sunday 10-Midnight. Their website is under construction but is [www.bridiemckenna.com](http://www.bridiemckenna.com).

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### Ireland's Top Artists Headline All-New Show "If You're Irish" 3-8

Renowned conductor Frank McNamara producing family show featuring Irish tenor Derek Moloney, soprano Deirdre Shannon and fiddler Cora Smyth

Producer Frank McNamara will lead an all-star contingent of Ireland's most celebrated soloists backed by a full orchestra and chorus when "If You're Irish..." appears for one night only - Saturday, March 8 at 8:00 p.m., at The Chicago Theatre.

Tickets for this inspirational import, direct from the Emerald Isle, are on sale now through The Chicago Theatre box office, by calling 312.902.1500 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Tickets are \$38, \$48, \$58 and \$68. For group sales information, contact

[tickets@smart-arts.net](mailto:tickets@smart-arts.net)

The Chicago Theatre is located at 175 N State St. "If You're Irish..." is a famous tune by The Irish Rovers.

Mr. McNamara, who gained renown for his work with both The Irish



Frank McNamara

theoric rise since being discovered in a 2002 "Search for a Tenor" competition. Since winning that event he has recorded two number one singles, giving Derek the distinction of being the first person ever to have two number ones on the Irish charts in such a short time as an independent artist.

Stunning Irish soprano Deirdre Shannon is one of the brightest new talents to emerge on the classical crossover music scene. This versatile singer, classically trained in Ireland at Dublin's College of Music, has starred with Celtic Woman and Lord of the Dance.

Dynamic Irish fiddler Cora Smyth was chosen to be one of the original violinists in Lord of the Dance. She also has performed in Celtic Tiger.

#### Fine Art Prints by Roisin O'Shea

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

Tenors and The American Tenors, has crafted the ultimate evening of Irish music consisting of fiery dance tunes and rousing ballads complemented by a full orchestra and chorus and three of Ireland's sensational soloists.

McNamara is credited with giving the Irish Tenors "their sound" while overseeing their first five albums.

Derek Moloney has been on a me-



### Danny Burns' Defectors Release Debut CD

Chicago-based Danny Burns' Defectors (DBD) have released their debut album Grace & Mercy on New Jersey based indie, TL Records. The album produced by Grammy-winning artist John Ginty (Citizen Cope, Robert Randolph, Santana) features the single "Sweet Poetry", available for free download at [www.myspace.com/dannyburnsmusic](http://www.myspace.com/dannyburnsmusic).



mile marker passes, the Defectors create musical imagery that compliments Danny's thick and "aged" Irish accent, as he weaves tales of struggle, loss and hope.

Led by the 26-year-old Danny on vocals and guitar, (a product of a working musician's family in Northwest of Ireland), Danny has been on the road as a full-time musician since leaving home at the age of 17.

Danny's voice and the Defectors style have drawn the comparisons of Van Morrison, Ray Charles, Richard Thompson, Steve Earle, and Ryan Adams. What Danny describes as "just roots music" contains elements of rock, alt-country, folk and funk. On Grace & Mercy the listeners ride shotgun on a journey through New York, Nashville and New Orleans, throughout Europe, the U.K. and Ireland, some roads recognizable, others unfamiliar. As each

Danny was featured in the critically acclaimed documentary "The Fairytale of New York", about Irish living-legend singer/songwriter Shane McGowan (Pogues) which is aired regularly on Irish National Television. Several years of extensive touring in Europe and the U.S. have Danny sharing the stage with such greats as Damien Dempsey, Seanchai & the Unity Squad, The Greencards and Gary Og.

Danny Burns' Defectors are currently performing throughout the Midwest. Plans call for a nationwide tour beginning in Spring 2008.

Danny Burns Defectors will have their CD release party at Martys (on Lincoln Ave. in Chicago) on Feb. 19th—not to be missed—with very special guests!

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# The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



## Kudos to Sean Ginelly on Good Morning Ireland Radio Show 1450 AM WCEV

When the indomitable founder of The Good Morning Ireland Show, John Gurhy, moved back to Ireland, Sean Ginelly took the reins. Big shoes to fill, but Sean has built an excellent program which seems to be fully supported by advertising. Check it out on Saturdays from 1 pm to 3pm.

## Group Subscriptions

If you are involved in a group that contains five or more members, Irish American News is offering substantial discounts on subscriptions to the paper.

The paper is currently available in over 600 outlets for free. All you have to do is walk in and pick one up. If you don't see it just ask someone for a copy. These locations are happy to offer the paper to you for free, and happy to see you come in. Most will give you a friendly Cead Mile Failte, So why subscribe?

Convenience: As I write this, it is 2 degrees outside, and it's 3 pm. in the afternoon! Take into account rain, snow, sleet, wind, and heat,

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## Derek Warfield And The Young Wolfe Tones North American Tour Starts at Ballydoyle Valentine's Day

The man often described as "Ireland's greatest ballad singer" is bringing a new sound to his legion of fans in Ireland, across Europe and the United States.

Derek Warfield, for many years the front man of the legendary Wolfe Tones, is now joined on stage by three of the finest Irish musicians from a younger generation.

claim in Ireland and the United States. They're now releasing a double CD of classic Irish songs and tunes titled The Night Is... Young on the prestigious Kells Music label which will have it's world premier in Chicago on February 14th at The Ballydoyle Pub.

Derek says, "I'm thrilled to be touring and recording with musicians of this calibre who



The Young Wolfe Tones are the singer-songwriter Pdraig Allen, the outstanding banjo/mandolin player Damaris Woods and the accordion and bodhran player Jim Woods.

The band, known as Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, have already toured to ac-

share an enthusiasm for our great Irish song & music tradition. For me it's a fantastic sound and I still have the passion and enthusiasm I started with - after more than forty years touring around the world!"

An outstanding singer, stage personality,

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composer of songs and historian of the song tradition, Derek Warfield is a legend wherever Irish roots have been put down. He enjoyed phenomenal success for some 37 years with the Wolfe Tones, with best-selling albums, number one hits, television appearances and shows in Carnegie Hall in New York and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

He's also been prolific as a solo artist, with eleven albums in just over a decade.

In the Young Wolfe Tones, he's joined by three musicians who've established reputations as top class performers & entertainers in their own right.

Padraig Allen, given his first instrument by his Uncle Tony from Foster and Allen, is originally from Westmeath. He has toured both as a solo performer and as lead singer with the Celtic folk rock outfit The Whole Shabang, playing leading Irish festivals throughout the States. Eager to learn from the master he is the perfect stage compliment to Warfield and it seems as though they have always performed together.

Siblings Damaris and Jim Woods, hail from Luton, England where they were part of a "golden generation" of young musicians born out of the Irish emigrant experience. Music has brought them home to Ireland where they are now based.

Damaris is an adroit picker on the banjo whose "deft, jaunty playing bobs and bounces merrily" throughout the tunes and songs (The Living Tradition). Jim, an inspired accordion player is acclaimed as one of the top bodhran players in the Irish tradition weaving tasty and complex rhythms into the Young Wolfe Tones mix. As performers the brother and sister combo bring a special magic to the stage creating, as the critics have observed an energetic and tightly woven sound that "snaps and sparkles with talent" — "a treat ...!" (The Folk Mag).

Damaris is recognised as one of the leading Irish banjo players and was featured alongside Barney McKenna of the Dubliners and Gerry O'Connor in the 'banjo extravaganza' on RTE television's famed Late Late Show and is just as well known as a teacher as she is a performer. Damaris tutors over 140 students and has put together what's thought to be the world's biggest banjo band, "The Damaris Woods Banjo Minstrels", featuring twenty young players and ten other musicians, all of them her students.

She and Jim have also toured internationally as the band Coisir. Their album On the Right Track was

regarded as one of the outstanding traditional Irish releases of 2004.

Jim Woods also a renowned & sought after teacher, has played leading festivals internationally. He has performed with top names in the Irish trad scene such as Martin Hayes and Des Cahill, and has also guested with the Brian Byrne Jazz Band and the Apple Hill Chamber Players.

The Night Is... Young features a HUGE mix of songs and tunes, 33 tracks in total. The songs include many major hits from the Irish scene, including "Slievenamon", "Grace", "The Homes of Donegal", "The Lonely Banna Strand", "The Foggy Dew" and "Streets of New York". Warfield says "We really had a brilliant time in the studio, really, the musicians, the engineers, just the folks hanging around... there is a buzz about the album because folks found out how much fun we were having." A listen to the CD proves Warfield right. The band treats these songs with a reverence to the music rarely heard. Well thought out arrangements that use traditional instruments prove that NEW or YOUNG does not have to mean screaming electric guitars and drumsets. This album gives you the feeling that if you were only half as good as them, you could gather your friends and have that much fun in your own kitchen.

"Darlin' Girl From Clare" with Derek in the lead backed by the girls from the Ag Sienm Traditional Arts Group from Co. Cavan is destined to be the new standard of the old Percy French song. Padraig takes center stage on an amazing well done version of "Galway to Graceland". The band even wraps the CD up with very upbeat "Celtic Symphony", a fan favorite from Derek's old Wolfe Tones days that will clearly become the jukebox favorite at your local pub. There is enough music on this that anyone can pick 12 or 15 favorites to put on their iPod. It really is a ton of music for less than twenty dollars, that is something you just don't see on other debut CDs.

Derek adds, "It's a pleasure to get the chance to present some stunning versions of songs which are really central to the Irish tradition. It's surprising but there aren't a lot of bands doing this material now, and it's very important that it's handed on to new generations.

The Night Is... Young Tour makes another stop in downtown Chicago March 14th. The CD street date is February 19th and it will be available at all finer Irish music retailers and all Borders locations. You can also purchase it at major online retailers like elrish.com and Amazon.com.

## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



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

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). [www.HealyLawFirm.com](http://www.HealyLawFirm.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

### Injuries and Violence at the Workplace: Part II

Previously, in this column, we discussed the unfortunate fact that too often in the public sphere we encounter random acts of violence. We have seen these types of events take place at malls, schools and in office buildings. We discussed the responsibility that a business owner has to its customers for these acts of violence. In this column, we will discuss the responsibilities of an employer to its employees for injuries as a result of violence in the work place.

**General Rule – No Responsibility**  
In Illinois, the courts have traditionally held that an employer will not be liable under the Workers' Compensation Act for injuries that result from truly random acts of violence. In addition, courts have ruled that an employer is not responsible for the injuries caused to an employee by an attack that is made by a personal enemy or antagonist of the employee.

Two examples can best illustrate these two legal principles. First, consider an accounting firm in the middle of the city in an otherwise safe neighborhood. If that firm's building happens to be struck by a stray bullet that comes through the office window and strikes one of the employees, this act on its own generally will not result in liability for the employer. The rationale is that the employee's injury did not truly arise out of and in the course



John Scanlon is a partner with The Healy Law Firm. He has been a trial attorney for 17 years and focuses his practice on dangerous products including vehicles, pharmaceuticals and industrial machines. He has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict, including cases against multinational corporations that have garnered national attention due to the size of the verdict and the significance of the case. He currently serves as Co-Chair of The Products Liability Committee for The Illinois Trial Lawyers Association

imposition of responsibility on the employer if an employee gets hit by a stray bullet.

In addition, if an employer knows that its office building is vulnerable to criminal attacks due to prior episodes and does nothing to guard against it, again, that type of fact pattern may result in responsibility being imposed on the employer.

As a second example, occasionally, an employer may have on its payroll an employee who is going through a personal dispute unrelated to the work. This could be the result of marital difficulties or some other personal issue.

In order to hold an employer responsible for acts of violence that occur during work, an injured employee has to make some showing that there was something about the work

of his employment. In other words, the employee's work did not make it any more likely that he would be injured; instead the employee was just as likely to be struck by a bullet as a passerby on the street. Under this reasoning, the employee is not entitled to workers' compensation because his injury is not related to his employment.

**Exceptions to the General Rule**

However, if that employer chose to run its office building in an area where there is high crime rate and a history of gun fire and stray bullets, then that same set of facts may result in the

environment that increased the risk of attack. If this cannot be shown, generally speaking the employer will not be responsible for injuries or harm caused under the Workers' Compensation Act. In the first example, where the employer chose to run its office building in a high crime area, Illinois courts have found that the employee's injury was related to his employment. Courts have ruled that where the employer knew it may be subjecting its employees to an increased risk of harm or violence, liability will attach.

There have also been situations where an intruder enters the work place to assault a former spouse or acquaintance, the general rule would be that the employer would not be responsible for such attacks. In contrast if an intruder enters the workplace to steal from the business and an employee gets harmed during the robbery, the employer will be responsible for the injury.

As a final example, occasionally two employees will get into a physical altercation at work. Here again, whether or not workers' compensation liability will apply depends on whether some connection can be drawn between the employment and the employee's injury. Sometimes, such a connection can be drawn because the disagreement that started the altercation was work related, such as when employees fight over who was to perform a specific job task. However, if the fight between the two employees was not related to work, an employee will not be compensated merely because his injury occurred on the job.

Employers can and should install certain safeguards to lessen the likelihood of harm to employees at the place of employment. Controlling access points to the work environment is one method. Use of security cameras and front door security is another method. Finally, having an emergency plan in place to ensure prompt response in the event of an act of violence is crucial. All these things in today's environments should be considered by a responsible employer.

These cases demonstrate once again that whether or not someone will be able to receive compensation for their injuries is heavily fact dependent and is truly decided on a case by case basis. It is important that if you or someone you know is injured, you should contact an attorney immediately, whether or not you believe the law provides for compensation under the particular facts of your accident.

John P. Scanlon

Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



And of course she also can be heard every Wednesday night on her Irish radio show, bringing her countless listeners not only beautiful traditional Irish song and music, but also the Irish news from at home and abroad.

We already mentioned her involvement in many fundraising benefits for someone who had "fallen on hard times." As a matter of fact she is considered one of the leaders of such wonderful humanitarian efforts, with Mike Kenny, Malachy Mannion, Nancy Holly, Martin Fahy and others. They are the leaders who send out the clarion call, "one of our own is down" and the legion of Chicago-Irish south and north rally to the call.

Maureen dropped into Chicago for a visit with her aunt in 1953 and she liked it so well that she forgot to go back. She worked on both first St. Patrick Day parades in the south and north, with such others as Jack Allen, Police Capt. Bill Hennessy, Fire Chief Bob Sullivan and others on the Southside, and on the Northside, the late Tommy Ryan, Stanley O'Sullivan, and Walt Philbin. She also became involved in promoting the GAA that year. And with another fine Irish lady, Mary Rose Teahan, introduced and played Camogie Ladies hurling at Shewbridge Stadium for the first time in Chicago.

In 1956, she married her sweetheart Clem O'Looney and they had a beautiful daughter, Theresa, who is now married with a family of her own. But a sad note crept in with the untimely and accidental death of her husband Clem. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.

She served with distinction on the American Irish Immigration Committee, and had an amendment pass in the House only to see it "die" in the Senate in 1972. She was also very actively involved in the successful fight for the "MacBrides Principles" and many other Irish causes. She was invited to the White House to witness her good friend the late Frank Durkan, also from Bohola, receive an award from President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary. We join with her legion of friends in wishing Maureen good health and continued success. Beannact De leat a cara.

Chicago Irishman Entertains Elderly

Well known Chicago-Irishman, Paddy Homan, an accomplished tenor singer, made the front page of the Chicago Tribune recently, and in a fine story by Judith Graham tells how he is available to bring the song and music of Ireland with some good Irish stories to the disabled and elderly along the way. His typical

Irish (Cork) charm breaks down their shyness and in a few minutes he has them singing along with him.

Most medical authorities advocate that such a remedy is priceless and should be encouraged not only in the private home but also in nursing homes. Such a remedy for the elderly or disabled removes, at least for the time that they are engaged in the gaiety and laughter, their pains and aches and even worries. That in itself is a blessing.

For more information call P.J. O'Dea, 708-453-4594.

Associates of Bro Rice

Hard working Bro. John Dornbos found time to write and tell us about "The Associates of Bro. Rice" and to appeal to our readers to give some thought to becoming one.

The Associates began to partake in many different projects eight years ago, all leaning towards the canonization of Bro. Edmund Rice, who was beatified in 1996 in ceremonies at the Vatican by the late Pope John Paul II. However, in order to be canonized or declared a saint, the Irish-born Brother who formed the Irish Christian and Presentation Brothers, needs one more miracle attributed to him in order to become the next Irish saint, named by many already as "The Hurling Saint", who

40 Years in Business for Maureen O'Looney

Few, if anyone in the Chicago-Irish community, have not met or heard of Maureen O'Looney and the famed Shamrock Irish Imports store at 3150 North Laramie Ave. So popular and well known is this lady from Bohola in Co. Mayo that the prestigious Chicago Tribune sent their ace reporter, Vanessa Bauza to cover the story of the 40th anniversary of Shamrock Imports and its well known owner.



a poster and of course ask Maureen if she will serve on the committee. More than likely she is on that committee already. So if you have not been there recently, drop by, "the 'Craic' (fun) is mighty."

Forty years in business at the same location and still going strong with the boss lady in her 80's is not something that one encounters every day, but the lass from Bohola has no intention of retiring, and please God, will be there for many more years to come. Above and beyond her long day at the store, Maureen has been on more committee's serving Irish causes than she would dare mention.



Mary O'Connor

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loved the old caman game, one of Ireland's national pastimes.

To fulfill the objective the Associates, who function all over our country, hosting prayer and discussion gatherings, teaching more about Bro. Rice and his work and celebrating masses. There are many Associate groups in the Chicago and Michigan area. You can be attached to one or form your own in your own area.

Bro. John would like to increase the mail that comes by mail and email but in order to do so he needs to get your permission to begin to send the material. Needless he would like all of us to participate in prayer because only by prayer can Bro. Rice's canonization be forthcoming.

Write or call Bro. John Dornbos at 9757 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, IL 60643-1639; 773-445-4988; jedornbos@sbcglobal.net.

Some of the upcoming events in 2008 include: May 3, 2008 - Annual Edmund Rice Mass, McDonough Chapel, St. Xavier University, 103rd and Central Park, Chicago at 5:00 PM. Afterwards pizza at Palermo's in Oak Lawn, 95th and S. Cicero. See you there, Please God.

### Congratulations New York GAA

Gaels all over the GAA world congratulate New York's GAA for its splendid opening "A grand new era for Gaelic Park", according to a fine story written by Frank Brady in the Irish Echo recently. Although still connected to the owner, Manhattan College, its synthetic surface and lighting for night games, greatly enhances this well known GAA location, scene of many a grand encounter between New York teams or visiting Irish or other American teams dating back to the 30's.

The year 1954 is memorable for Chicago GAA, that being the year the late and great John Kerry O'Donnell and the New York GAA invited Chicago hurling and football teams to play against the best of New York and Gaelic Park. Outside of being invited to play at Croke Park in Dublin, such an invitation to a fledgling group trying to get started since its recent re-activation in 1950 had to be the spark that ignited Chicago gaeldom.

A full plane load of Chicago gaels flew into Newark Airport and received a tremendous Cead Mile Failte from the late John O'Donnell, Paddy Grimes and a crowd of New York gaels. It was a welcome never to be forgotten by Chicago gaels. The games provided two thrilling encounters and, although Chicago lost both to their more experienced opponents,

they played good games and were loud in their praise of New York gaeldom. It was a memorable day.

Getting back to "A grand new era for Gaelic Park", all gaeldom must be delighted at such an event and although it is not a "green sod of your own" nevertheless, it is a vast improvement and no doubt will attract larger attendances and hopefully more promotion of Juvenile Hurling, a problem that Chicago and other U.S. city's share with New York.

The financial assistance from the Central Council in Dublin and the raising of half a million dollars was a splendid achievement and reminds one of the humble start that Chicago gaels made. In 1970, a small committee led by Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny), John Crean (Mayo), the late Joe Ahern (Cork), and other gaels set out to raise ninety thousand to purchase 9 acres, with option to buy more over the years. They knew that it was going to be a hard sell, but Chicago gaeldom rose to the occasion. The land was purchased and with the Herculean effort of the Chicago-Irish, Chicago Gaelic Park was erected and now stands on fifty acres of land. All this voluntary work was achieved making "the dream become a reality" like never before in any U.S. city or indeed in any city in the Gaelic world.

Today, Chicago Gaelic Park, all fifty acres of it governed by a Board of Directors, is a bee-hive of activity. Not only is it a beautiful GAA field, fenced and bleachers erected, but it is also an Irish Center promoting Ireland's heritage, games, and language with song, dance and music of the gael. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, visited here a few years ago and called it "The finest GAA Center that she has ever seen outside of Croke Park in Dublin." Most of the work that makes this great Irish Center work is voluntary, including the Board of Directors and the fine men and women who come to the park daily to contribute their time and effort. And the young lady who makes it all work is the charming lass from Mayo, the hard working Manageress, Marian Ryan.

Good luck to you, New York gaels, from the city that you helped to put on the GAA map over 50 years ago.

### Well Known Chicago-Irish Musician Dies

Chicago-Irish mourned the death recently of another fine Irish musician, the late James (Jimmy) Coyle from Belmullet, Co. Mayo. The late Jimmy, with the Cooley brothers, Joe and Seamus, Johnny Keane, Marty Byrne, Tommy Masterson, and Noel Gaffney made the sweetest Irish

music one could wish to hear and they did it their way at The House of Happiness on 79th Street back in the late 50's and 60's or at many an Irish dance hall for one good cause or another. We patrons may not have always appreciated it, but it brought back many good memories of home and other days and nights that were indeed memorable.

Jimmy's huge wake at Cooney Funeral Home in Park Ridge, his funeral mass at St. Paul of the Cross Church and interment at All Saints Cemetery, testified to the popularity of this kind and unassuming Irishman. We join with his countless friends in conveying our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife Anna Mae and family. Ar dheis De go raibhn ainm. "Lives of all great men remind us we too can be sublime and in passing leave behind us footprints on the sand of time".

### Patrick Fitzgerald Named Irish-American of the Year

The Irish Echo recently named Patrick Fitzgerald Irish-American of the year and we hasten to offer our congratulations to the popular young Irish-American who is U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. His recent conviction of "Scooter" Libby, Chief of Staff for Vice-President Richard Cheney, after a year's trial, testified that no one is above the law here in this great country of ours.

Both of his parents are emigrants from Co. Clare, Patrick and Tillie Fitzgerald, who lived in Brooklyn. They loved Irish music like most Clare people, and Patrick himself can play the music or dance the hornpipe as well as the best.

Like most Irish parents, his family came up the hard way, and worked hard to provide better education for their children. No doubt they are very proud of Patrick who is a Harvard Law school graduate and began his brilliant career with a conviction against the mastermind of the bombing of the World Trade Center.

Our own P.J. O'Dea, "the man from Clare" (those Clare lads stick together) dropped by the office to see his "good friend" and from all accounts Patrick is proud of his parents, his ancestry and the culture, games, song, dance and music of the Gael. He is an avid reader of our paper and apparently enjoys all the chatter.

In the 1990's, he investigated the infamous Osama Bin Laden and he promises "If there was a courtroom and someone had to stand up and try him, would I hesitate to volunteer?" "No." Spoken like a true Irishman. Congrats Patrick.

### This Columnist's View

Democratic and Republican Primaries will soon be conducted in midwestern states such as Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin and I am asking my friends to cast their votes for Hillary for two very good reasons as far as Irish-Americans are concerned. One of course is the fact that of all the candidates running for both parties, she is by far the more experienced. And don't for moment think that essential qualification doesn't matter. The other good reason is that President Bill Clinton and Hillary were very much instrumental in bringing about the Peace Agreement in Ulster. Their representative, George Mitchell, stayed in Ireland for almost a year working on the Agreement and the President and Hillary visited there very often during that period. Her opponents on the Democratic ticket perhaps have no idea what went on during that time.

All during that time Ireland was not the only troubled spot in the world. They were many, and wherever they occurred, no doubt Bill

Clinton and his wife Hillary were aware and concerned. That is experience that none of her opponents have. Add up that for 8 years, two terms and you can plainly see that both Clintons were learning most of the time.

If Hillary is elected she will be able to hit the ground running. She will have the experience. The others will have to rely on others to make decisions for them.

On the domestic side, President Clinton left President Bush a huge surplus when he left office. He balanced the budget each and every year. President George Bush allocated all that money for one reason or another and the country today is paying the high price. Plus a war is still being waged and young Americans are dying for no good reason.

Vote for experience and gratitude for the help that Bill and Hillary gave to Ireland with the Peace Agreement. It certainly is not enough-freedom and unification must come-but the ground work has been laid and hopefully soon the tricolor flag will wave proudly over Belfast Town Hall.



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Frank McGuinness

## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



### Ken Bruen's Cross

Ken Bruen is an incredibly prolific author. He has written 17 novels and collections of short stories. Just last June I received his Priest. That was followed in summer by the novel American Skin, a short story in Brandon Twenty-Five, and now another novel, Cross.

Cross is another in the Jack Taylor series. Jack Taylor is the fictional detective. He is probably in his early fifties and is brash, smart, observant, assertive, and successful. However, he battles inner demons, and alcoholism and drug abuse. He has conquered both addictions, but his former abuse caused him to be fired by the Guards.

Ken Bruen uses Taylor to show the noir aspect of modern Irish society and particularly the seedy, sleazy side of the city of Galway.

Webster's Dictionary says noir writing is "crime fiction featuring hard-boiled, cynical characters, bleak, sleazy settings and a dark, almost hopeless view of life."

Ireland can be proud of Bruen. Not only is he prolific but he has won the prestigious Shamus Award, and was a finalist for the Edgar, Anthony and Barry Awards.

In the last few years he has written The Guards, The Killing of the Tinkers, The Magdalan Martyrs, Calibre, Dublin Noir, The Dramatist, Priest, American Skin, and now, Cross.

I enjoy Bruen's powerful and bluntly realistic writing. He is a master of clean, clear, crisp, riveting prose. He is immensely imaginative and has a genius for storytelling. The resulting dialogue (the book is mostly dialogue) provides photographic impressions of life.

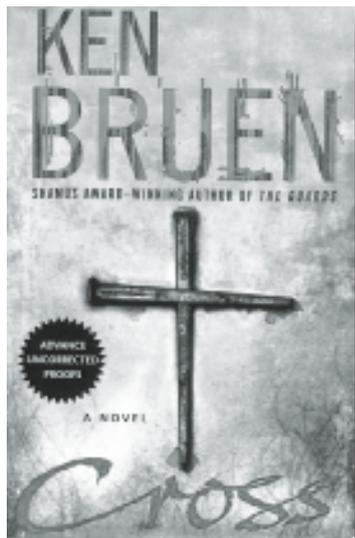
His writing skills make Taylor into a compassionate character study. But Bruen also writes with savage

ferocity of the evils of society.

Who is Ken Bruen? Quoting from my review of a previous book of his, "He was born in Ireland and today lives in Galway. He has lived in Southeast Asia, Spain, Greece, and South America."

In Cross, his detective investigates a gruesome crucifixion in Galway. And because he is no longer a Guard, he can go places and do things they can't. As his investigation proceeds, we meet many characters from Galway's underworld—but also unfortunate down-and-outers.

The release on the book's cover says: "when the sister of the murdered boy is burned to death, Jack



decides he must hunt down the killer, if only to administer his own brand of justice."

In Cross, Ken Bruen displays his writing skills. I enjoyed reading the book very much. These are some quotes that illustrate his style.

• Jack Taylor recalls growing up: "We had a few sticks of furniture, and one particularly rough winter we used the kitchen chairs for the fire." "You think I'm talking about Ireland in the last century- would it

were so. My father worked hard, but there were times the work just wasn't there. My mother would put his best and only suit in the pawn. That same pawn shop is now located on Quay Street, the trendiest street in our shining society."

• Taylor asks a priest: "How's business?" "We're having some problems but I'm optimistic." "Despite all the -problems- what's with the attitude? I mean the top guys, they're still as arrogant as ever, still issuing pronouncements and what do they call them - edicts? What's with that?" "He sighed, admitted, "Old habits die hard."

I'm a big fan of Ken Bruen!

Cross by Ken Bruen. St. Martin's Minotaur, New York, 2007. 288 pages, \$13.95.

### The Flight of the Earls

In September of 1607, the most powerful leaders of Ireland boarded a ship in Donegal and sailed into exile. Those leaders were Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, and Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell. They left with their families, relatives and advisors.

Hugh O'Neill owned and ruled most of Ulster, and Rory O'Donnell all of Donegal. They were the last leaders of Gaelic Ireland.

About the fundamental cause of this, the author says "... the English conquest of Ireland was inevitable and irreversible. The clash between Gaelic tribalism, ridden with its internecine rivalries, and a unified English bureaucratic machine, backed by superior military power, would prove to be a mis-match of enormous proportions. [The Earls] decision to flee the country at most only accelerated that process."

This book follows their travels across much of Western Europe before they settled in Rome. The book tells the interesting story of their travels (they were constantly followed by English spies). But it also describes the people they met (the loyalties of the dignitaries were constantly changing), the food they ate, and the places they visited.

This 109-page book is readable and accessible. Two very nice features of the book are the 41 illustrations—pictures of the people involved, the major figures of the age, and many of the places they saw.

The other feature I enjoyed were sidebars that explain historical events of that period. These put the struggles of Irish Earls into historical context.

These are some trivia I learned:  
- That wine in Ireland was called "the daughter of the King of Spain".  
- That Irish exile, "Richard Hen-

nessy, settled in Cognac where he established the famous brandy distillery."

- That the Irish National Catholic Seminary at Maynooth was founded in 1795 by the English government because of the fear that priests fleeing the French Revolution would "... return to Ireland infected with revolutionary ideas."

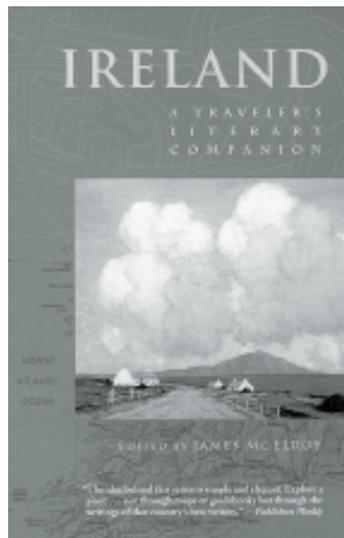
- That one of Napoleon's closest advisors was an Irishman.

- That many churches in Europe claimed to own the one, true head of John the Baptist!

Following are the major historical results for Ireland of the Flight of the Earls in 1607:

• England colonized Ulster with Englishman and Scots loyal to the English King. The bitter hatred that resulted has lasted to the present.

• "Irish nationalism became associated with Catholicism." This cut off Ireland from the Enlightenment, then spreading across Western Europe. The Irish looked



to Catholic Spain for help. But the Spanish empire was beginning a steep decline in power.

• Cromwell, and the Papal Laws, seemed to end Irish resistance. But they definitely debased the Irish people.

This is a short book, but is carefully constructed to tell this amazing story. The book provokes much thought and many what-ifs.

The Flight of the Earls: A Popular History by Liam Swords. Columbia Press and DuFour Editions, Dublin 2008. 109 pages, \$18.95. www.dufoureditions.com

### Traveler's Companion for Ireland

Ireland, A Traveler's Literary Companion is not a typical book that advises: stay in this hotel, try this restaurant, fly on this airline. Books that give this advice have a definite place and are useful and needed. But this book is not typical.

Instead, Ireland, A Traveler's Literary Companion is an entirely different approach. Travel writing has a long history, but as used today is almost a "new" concept in travel literature. Places in Ireland are seen through the eyes of famous Irish writers, novelists and playwrights. These descriptions are from the period 1907 to 2005.

The book divides Ireland into its four provinces. And each province is described by writers of literature from that area. Some deliberately wrote about the area they lived in or came from. And the writings of some are excerpted from the books they wrote.

Some of those excerpts are from the writings of John Synge (pronounced sing) and Patrick Kavanagh. James Joyce's description of Dublin Bay is from the opening pages of Ulysses.

Some of the pieces of literature in this book are short stories written by people as diverse as Frank O'Connor, Edna O'Brien, Brian Friel, and Gerry Adams.

Each short story can stand alone, and contains a complete story line, character development, and often suspense and surprise. All of this while they are set in the areas of Ireland these writers so vividly describe.

These are some excerpts I think you'll like.

• John Synge tells us of his elderly teacher of Gaelic in the Aran Islands in 1907. "Then he sat down in the middle of the floor and began to recite old Irish poetry, with an exquisite purity of intonation that brought tears to my eyes though I understood but little of the meaning."

• The Belfast novelist, Brian Moore, recalled in 1999 a teenage memory. "... I hear my elders talk complacently of the 'Irish Free State' and the differences between the Fiana Fail and Fine Gael parties who compete to govern it. Can't they see that this Catholic theocratic 'grocer's republic' is narrow-minded, repressive and no real alternative to the miseries and injustices of Protestant Ulster?"

• The novelist and short story writer, Ita Daly, describes the West of Ireland. "... the West of Ireland can... be heartbreakingly beautiful; and on a fine April morning with the smell of gorse and clover filling the air... on such a morning in the West of Ireland you can get a whiff of Paradise."

Ireland: A Traveler's Literary Companion edited by James McElroy. Whereabouts Press, Berkeley, CA, 2008. 240 pages, \$14.95. www.whereaboutspress.com.

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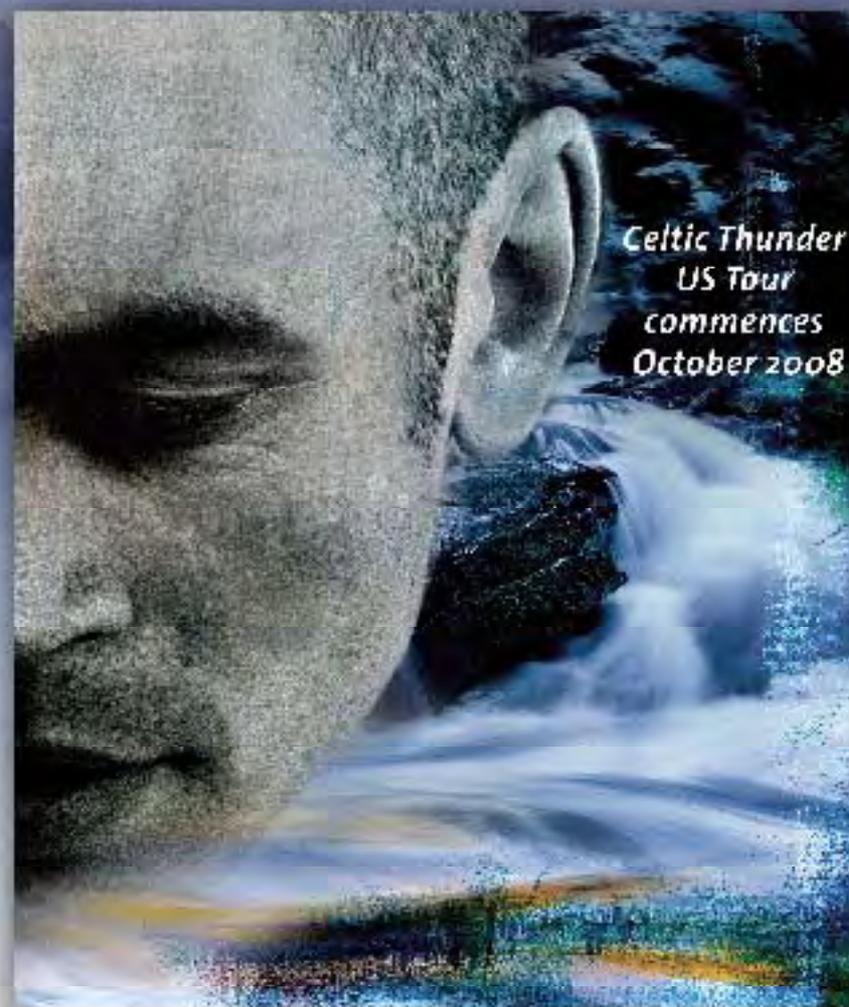
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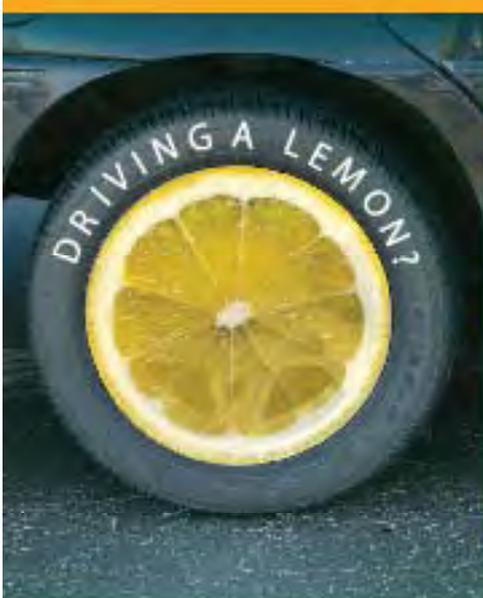
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# Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Finney



A local restaurant promoted leisurely dinners. So Brennan developed the leisure breakfast. This was a rogue concept then, since life was speeding up after the war. But he insisted if the finest food was served, then people would take the time to enjoy it. So with French trained chefs, he designed Breakfast at Brennan's. This feast included three artfully designed courses, beginning with appetizers like Creole turtle soup and strawberries with double cream. Then for main course, many variations of classic eggs benedict-style layering with trout, spinach, or beef and topped with a gorgeous sauce. However, the dessert menu is legendary, with a saucy bread pudding and the otherworldly bananas foster. This classic was invented when the boats were overfilled with shipments of bananas and Brennan ordered his chef to invent a dish for the abundance of bananas. The foster

was born, created with butter, brown sugar, liqueurs and bananas flambéed, and served with vanilla ice cream. The jewel on the crown was (and is today) their extensive wine cellar. That was just another example of Brennan's understanding for the need of quality of product, but mostly (I think) his great sense of hospitality.

Owen Brennan moved his restaurant from Bourbon to its current location at 417 Royal street in 1954. It was an all-encompassing feat, renovating the new facilities. On November 3, 1955, Owen went to an international organization of taste masters, enjoying the camaraderie of men who have supported the wine industry of Burgundy since 1551. The next morning, Maude Brennan could not wake her husband. He had tragically died overnight of a massive coronary at the age of 45.

Over the next 50 years, Brennan's

restaurant evolved, under the watchful eyes of many family members who wanted the best for their legacy, yet had different views of progress. Today, Mr. Owen Brennan's sons Pip, Jimmy, and Ted are at the helm of Brennan's, while Commander's Palace, a separate entity from Brennan's, is owned and managed by Ella, Brennan's sister, and her family.

A great part of Owen Brennan's success was his creativity. That was reflected through the vibrant menu he created for his restaurant. The following is one of my creations, dare I say improvements, on a classic — Irish bread pudding with caramel whiskey sauce.

## The Irish Kitchen, New Orleans' Style

Mardi Gras is the culmination of festivals and celebrations just before the solemn Lent season. The best place to celebrate Mardi Gras is New Orleans, the original melting pot of American culture. While New Orleans is very well known for the French influences, many don't recognize the Irish for their input to the city. One of the city's recent fathers, Mr. Owen Brennan, founder of Brennan's restaurant in the French Quarter of New Orleans, made such an impact on the New Orleans' culture and cuisine that his story is at the top of my list of influential American-Irish culinary greats.

Mr. Owen Edward Brennan was born April 5, 1910, in the New Orleans "Irish Channel". He was the oldest child of six born to Owen Patrick and Nellie Brennan. Even though Mr. Brennan worked as a foundry laborer, Owen went to work at an early age to help out his parents and siblings. His sense of loyalty and responsibility to his family continued, even as he began life with his new family and wife, Maude. In September 1943, Mr. Owen Edward Brennan became a bar owner with the purchase of the infamous Old Absinthe House on Bourbon Street. This legendary house was built in 1798 where reportedly Andrew Jackson and Jean LaFitte made the pact for New Orleans' defense against the British during the Battle of New Orleans. Brennan loved the history and atmosphere of the Absinthe House, and filled its walls with music legends. His guests included friends and admirers in both the Hollywood and political circles. Even Presidents Roosevelt and Eisenhower were fond of the Absinthe House original, the Absinthe Frappe. Brennan was known as "The Happy Irishman of the French Quarter" for his big smile, hearty

claps on the back, and his ability to recognize and remember the names of the legends, locals, and tourist alike. It was this ability that insured his success in the business.

Count Arnaud, owner of the popular restaurant, Arnaud's, was a friend of Brennan. After Brennan told Arnaud of a few complaints from customers, Arnaud replied that if he thought he could do any better, to go ahead and open a restaurant. Brennan took him up on his challenge. The count said that no Irishman could run a successful restaurant, save a burger shop. Brennan snapped, "...I'll show you and everybody else that an Irishman can run the finest French restaurant in this town!"

In July 1946, he leased the Vieux Carre, the restaurant across the street from the Old Absinthe house, and renamed it Owen Brennan's French and Creole Restaurant. This venture became the Brennan family business; with Owen employing his father as greeter, and later, two younger sisters and a brother. The financial interest through stocks in the restaurant allowed Owen to support his parents, while keeping them active in the business. Yet it was his Irish stubbornness that made the restaurant a success and gave it national fame. Building his restaurant on an "Irish smile and a kiss of the Blarney Stone", his tenacity moved the restaurant into such fame that the Hollywood following for the Old Absinthe House spilled into Brennan's Vieux Carre, as it was known. People like Walt Disney, Vivien Leigh, Gary Cooper, Robert Mitchum, and Elia Kazan showed up at the door and Brennan provided the entertainment. His hospitality and generosity was widely known. Even for the city of New Orleans and the department of commerce he encouraged all to visit.

Inside the restaurant, Brennan directed the food service with creativity.



## Irish Bread Pudding

1 / 2 c. salted butter, melted  
1 lb. loaf Texas toast, crusts cut off  
1 / 2 c. raisins  
1 / 3 c. Irish whiskey  
1 c. sugar  
1 / 2 t. nutmeg  
1 T vanilla extract  
2 large eggs  
1 can evaporated milk  
1 3 / 4 c. milk, whole preferred  
2 T. ground cinnamon  
2 t. sugar  
Cooking spray  
Vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350F. Spray 9x12 pan with cooking spray. Brush melted butter onto both sides bread. Place on cookie sheet, 5-7 minutes each side until golden. Cut into 1 inch cubes, and set aside.

Pour raisins and whiskey into small bowl and let soak.

Pour sugar in large bowl and add next four ingredients, then whisk. Add whole milk and whisk again. Add raisin and whiskey mixture, stir. Add bread cubes and allow soaking for 10 minutes. Pour into pan and sprinkle top with sugar. Bake for 40 minutes, or custard is set and top is golden brown. Serve with ice cream, if desired.

Caramel Whiskey Sauce

1 jar caramel sauce

1 / 4 c. whiskey

Pour caramel into small pan on low heat. Slowly stir whiskey in. Allow sauce to warm, and pour over pudding. Brilliant!

Info from Breakfast at Brennan's...and Dinner, too

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### MisÉ Eire

We get "anonymous" letters! To the author of this one I say, "take off your blinders." Not that it's any of your business; but I do not have a deep hatred for the Catholic Church. What I don't understand is why pedophilia was so rampant in the priesthood for decades. I don't understand why the Bishops transferred these priests to other parishes without warning!

If Mike Morley thinks this is all about church bashing and lawyers looking for high cash awards, he's entitled to that opinion. He's a good writer and puts a lot of thought into what he puts on paper.

My sympathies lie with the victims, the boys and girls who were sodomized and raped. They are the ones who will suffer the mental anguish for the rest of their lives.

I worry about pious people like you, who would rather believe it never happened. For your condition, may I prescribe some holy water. I



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### Todd Stroger

He'll get by with a little help from his friends, like Andre Garner, his Director of Media Affairs. Andre called WGN Radio while Todd Stroger was being interviewed on the air, pretending to be someone else. He was defending the proposed County Sales Tax increase, but he was soon discovered as it became apparent he had a lot of inside knowledge about the County budget. The end result was they were left red-faced and looking very incompetent. Mr. Garner apologized for a "lapse" in judgment. Todd Stroger was supposedly unaware that Andre Garner was going to do this. I wonder what Andre's salary is? Looks like they're still trying to fill up the pork barrel! For the record, Todd, to balance the budget you need to cut costs.

### Presidential Politics

In February 2007, BTK wrote regarding Barack Obama, "I will have to hear more about his plans for the future of this country if he is to be nominated and ultimately elected." I also said "... the time may be right for an African-American President. It would send a strong message to the world community about the evolution of our society which used to be described as the melting pot."

Since Barack Obama's win in Iowa his persona has changed. He has become very cock-sure of himself. New Hampshire would be a slam dunk. Surprise! Hillary beat him! If you haven't figured it out the Chicago machine was working hard in Iowa, but not in New Hampshire.

The Republicans are still in disarray. During the debate Romney actually defended the phar-

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maceutical companies. That was a big mistake. Now there's another scandal over the cholesterol drugs, Zetia and Vytorin, that is breaking now. They are actually putting people at risk for heart disease. These drugs are heavily advertised on TV! How about that Mr. Romney? John McCain is the front runner at the moment and the military industrial complex along with big oil would love to see him win.

Back to Barack Obama and his message of "change", give us the specifics please. He has talked about ending the war in Iraq, constantly proclaiming he opposed it. Yet he voted to fund it three times! He talks about health care for everyone. Health care is cost prohibitive. The system has already squeezed the doctors so hard that some are refusing to treat Medicare patients. The hospitals are making lots of money. Advocate Health care made about \$280 million in profit. Not bad for a not-for-profit corporation. Hospitals, drug companies and insurance companies are raking in the dollars. How do you fix that, Mr. Obama?

The economy is in the tank. Sub-prime mortgages are the latest calamity, as soon as interest rates ballooned the defaults on loans shot up. And let's not forget the savings and loan bailout the Republicans engineered in the 80's costing the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The only thing I'm hearing from Barack Obama are more platitudes. Why are the young people climbing on Obama's bandwagon? They see him as a fresh face, not a well-entrenched politician. He's youthful, he's a good speaker even though he's spewing out platitudes. Since Joe Biden pulled out of the race, John Edwards delivers the goods with his message. Get the lobbyists out of Washington. Get rid of PAC money.

I hope you are all registered to vote and vote intelligently in the primary on February 5th.

### Downtown Parade

Saturday March 15th is the big day. The Parade steps off at Noon on Columbus Drive. Why not join the fun, bring the family—young and old alike enjoy the parade! When Irish eyes are smiling, sure they will steal your heart away...

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest will be held on Sunday, February 17th at 1 PM at Plumbers Hall. Any girl of Irish descent, never married, 17-28 years old, is eligible to enter.

Catherine O'Connell

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## Authors Introduce New Book on Chief O'Neill at IAHC February 17

Writers Ellen Skerrett and Mary Lesch will be present at a book launch and signing, Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago, published by Northwestern University Press. The book was written by Francis O'Neill and edited by Skerrett and Lesch. Lesch is O'Neill's great-granddaughter.

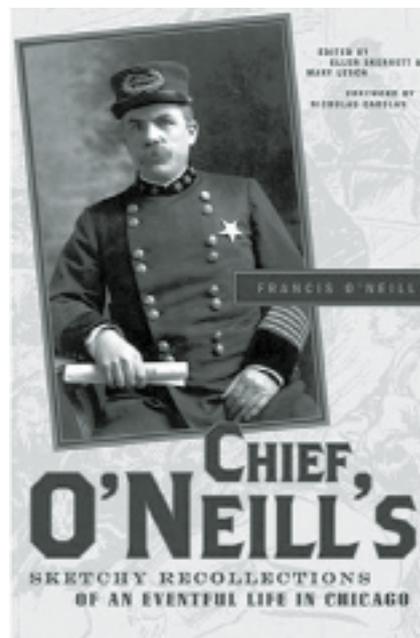
This memoir of immigration and assimilation provides a rare view of urban life in Chicago in the late 1800s by O'Neill, who came to Chicago in 1871.

O'Neill's story offers perspective on the inner workings of the police department at the turn of the twentieth century. His memoir also brings to life the challenges involved in succeeding in a new land, providing for his family, and integrating into a new culture.

During his thirty-two years on the force, and after his retirement, O'Neill devoted much of his private life to his intense passion for the traditional music of his native Ireland—a tradition that was in danger of extinction due to the effects of the Great Famine and the subsequent Irish Diaspora. Realizing this tragic possibility, the Chief developed an extraordinary network of musicians both in Chicago and Ireland, and often found jobs on the force for the best pipers.

In 1901, he helped establish the Irish Music Club of Chicago, with himself as president, and seized every opportunity for the promotion, performance, and education of Irish music.

The book launch is Sunday, February 17 at 3pm and is free. Lesch and Skerrett will read from the book, which will be for sale.



## Gaelic Park Student Cultural Scholarship

"An Irish Person Who Has Influenced Me" is the topic for Chicago Gaelic Park's Student Cultural Essay Contest 2008.

The following are rules for the contest. The program is open to all students in good standing.

Grades 6 through 8

A maximum of three typed pages (8.5 x 11) may be submitted.

In order of merit - \$1000, \$750 and \$500 will be awarded.

High School

A maximum of five typed pages (8.5 x 11) may be submitted.

In order of merit - \$1000, \$750 and \$500 will be awarded.

There will be a random draw of \$250 for Grammar and High School participants to reward effort and give recognition to other than the six winners of the contest.

The essays must be turned in to the Chicago Gaelic Park office by Monday, February 25th. Essays will not accepted by e-mail and will not be returned.

Individual winners will be notified by phone. Awards will be issued jointly to student and parents. An independent academic committee will evaluate the essays and the winners will be announced at Gaelic Park on March 09, 2008 at 9am Mass. The awards will be presented on

March 30, 2008 at Celtic Supper.

Visit [www.gaelicpark.org](http://www.gaelicpark.org) or call 708-687-9323 for more information.

## O'Brien Gets Budget Endorsement

Commissioner Terence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago announced that the Civic Federation has completed its analysis of the MWRD tentative FY2008 budget. The Federation has offered it support because it is fiscally responsible and minimizes the burden the district imposes on its taxpayers.

The Civic Federation commended the district for limiting its proposed property tax increase for its tax capped funds to only 0.9%, well below the limit imposed by state law. The Federation congratulated the MWRD for recognizing that personnel costs, the single largest expenditure in the public budgets, must be controlled on a long-term basis.

President O'Brien said the Civic Federation stated that the MWRD continues to take a leadership role among governments in the Chicago region by not only using long range planning tools and techniques, but also making those plans publicly available in the budget.

## Use the CCRD Website

During Eugene "Gene" Moore's, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, current term in office current technology has been employed to make the office more efficient in serving the citizens of Cook County. Their point-of-sale cashing has proven to be a service both lay and professionals alike appreciate. Previously, the recording process was achieved through arcane manual procedures, and it took anywhere from a month or more to record and microfilm documents submitted for recording. Documents are now scanned directly into the data base and the original document returned to the customer at the point of sale.

E-filing is now available, employing digital technology to record documents digitally over the internet, and allowing for mortgages or other non-real estate transactions located in Cook County to be financed worldwide and the secured interest recorded via E-filings.

The data base is available to the citizens of Cook County and others 24/7 via their website [www.ccrd.info](http://www.ccrd.info). Citizens of Cook County are encouraged to visit the website at least twice a year or more frequently to ensure that there are no peculiar filings, of which they are unaware, against their property.

Should you have any questions concerning the above information, or any other questions, my staff is available to assist you in any way they can. Please contact the Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office at (312) 603-5053.



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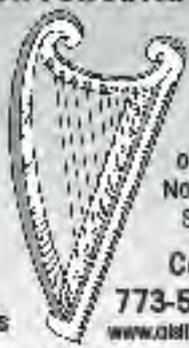
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A month into my 60th year of eating and drinking and I find myself running on a treadmill fighting the medicine ball of munch that hangs above my manhood. I know if I don't start working out I'll eventually explode so here I am.

My mind wanders as the tunes on my Ipod jump from Bowie to Barry White. I look up at the TVs hanging from the ceiling. It's all garbage except for football highlights, which get me moving on the mill like Devon Hester. And then I see a cable commercial that takes me back over 35 years to Glascott's Groggery.

Is low to a walk as sweat pours over my smelly trunk and pull out my earplugs. A TV commercial for Glascott's? The yuppified fern bar on the tube doesn't look like the Glascott's I knew.

But who among us looks the same as we did in 1972. The fabled Groggery has definitively had some work done. The customers in the commercial don't look like the rummies I knew from the Grog.

It still sits on the southwest corner of Webster and Halsted, probably been a saloon since Depression days. Larry Glascott Sr. was the owner and in my era his seven sons ran the pub. The redheaded Glascott brothers had grown up in the hood over on Burling, a tough neighborhood in them days, not the Lincoln Park weenie roast it is today. Each of the Glascotts looked like they woke up every morning and started their day with a bowl of nails for breakfast.

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I was a student at the Goodman School of Drama back then, a raw actor and unshaven hipster. The Glascott brothers had started a weekly special "Penny Beer Night". That's right, beers were only a penny. I think this was designed to bring in girls and it did. It also attracted horny broke hippies like me and my pals.

I walked into Glascott's my first night and the place had a special glow. A sign in the back said, "Get Drunk and Be Somebody", and I knew I had found my new home.

Soon after discovering this friendly Irish oasis I started frequenting Glascott's during the day. We'd have the place to ourselves, just some pals and me and five or six local alxies. The guy who cooked burgers in the back and swept up was Paul Porter. "What's My Line" is just waitin' for him!" cracked day bartender John McCloskey.

John Terrence McCloskey took his bartending seriously. He wore a white shirt and white apron and sported a moustache and dry wit that came in handy dealing with the bar stool confessions he heard all day. John was also from a large family of brothers, like me. He kept a volume of Shakespeare behind the bar and his literary acumen was astounding.

Many a wintry afternoon was spent at Glascott's sharing bon mots with McCloskey. When my pal Jack Whalen attempted to pass a rubber check at the bar, McCloskey told him, "There are seven Glascott brothers and each one will kill you in a different way."

We started using the side door on Webster so the boozehounds that sat in the front couldn't give us the evil eye upon our entrance each day. When McCloskey learned I was an actor he would riffle the pages of the Bard and place a play in front of me. "Lemme hear ya do this one."

I'd wet my whistle, lift the tome to my hands and pronounce to the few, sad stalwarts on their stools, "All the worlds a stage!"

The regulars would shout for me... to shut the f...up! I believe it was at Glascott's that I realized the age-old axiom, "In order to recognize who the regulars are... you, yourself must be a regular."

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Yes, I was a regular at Glascott's in those days. Proud to have been one. And here I was 36 years later staring at the tube as it ran a commercial for the face-lifted tavern. As the sweat poured over my jowls I remembered the words of Willie.

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, Creeps in this petty pace from day to day... And all our yesterdays have lighted fools The way to dusty death.

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage.

Glascott's Groggery no longer holds the glow it did for me in my youth. But there is some consolation. I can still lift a glass and trade quips with my old pal John Terrence McCloskey, because he's been married to my sister for over 30 years.

## Duddy to Fight in New York on February 23rd

World middleweight title contender "Ireland's" John Duddy is looking forward to fighting again in his adopted New York City home for the first time since last May, when he battles tough Tunisian brawler Walid "Tempete de Sable" Smichet (17-3-1, 13 KOs) in the 10-round, off-TV co-feature on the February 23rd heavyweight championship unification show headlined by IBF king Wladimir Klitschko and WBO title-holder Sultan Ibragimov at Madison Square Garden.



Presently rated No. 3 by the WBO and WBC, as well as No. 6 and No. 11 by the WBA and IBF, respectively, Duddy (23-0, 17 KOs) also is ranked No. 10 in The Ring magazine.

Duddy, who has fought 11 times in the Big Apple, including five in Madison Square Garden, is training in North Carolina with his head trainer, Don Turner. The unbeaten, charismatic Irishman is coming off of three consecutive fights in Ireland, including his most notable victory to date in December, winning a 10-round decision against former 2-time world title challenger Howard Eastman.

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# The Irish Rover

James McClure



read me to sleep with. Many of the books were from his own childhood in the 1920s. One December night in 1968, Dad wrapped me in a heavy brown woolen blanket, benevolent contraband from one of the nearly dozen paper manufacturing plants he

oversaw as vice president of Chicago-based Consolidated Packaging. In the manufacturing process huge sheets of paper or corrugated material would roll out over the wide blankets. I believe he had these remnants made into cozy



comforters of nighttime literature.

Apollo 8 circled the moon shining in through the window by my bed and Dad cracked open Doctor Dolittle's Garden, Hugh Lofting's 1927 work of a fantasy journey to the moon by the good doctor himself. The four-color cover shows Dolittle mounting the top of a giant moth that would fly him to the lunar surface and describe its plant and animal wonders. Dad would often leave me behind for journeys to corporate headquarters on Randolph then fan out across the Midwest to visit each paper plant. I could identify with Dolittle's young assistant Stubbins as the Doctor, in my Dad's narrating voice would remark,

"I would expect to be faced with situations when the companionship of another human might be a tremendous comfort and help. But-well you know Stubbins, how your parents would feel if I took you with me on such a trip. To the Moon!"

The closest I've ever come to parental responsibility started when I helped take a group of United States Navy Sea Cadets to see the Apollo exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. I looked back at the lunar lander and thought of my bedtime flights.

Decades before flex-time, PTO days and family-friendly policies, Dad's industrial journey's often took him far from us and nothing meant more to us than the sound of the tires of his Plymouth Fury as they crunched across our gravel driveway on Friday nights. Having five mouths and a wife to feed while fighting corporate battles must be a great burden when you can't come home to a family at night, but as Dad would say "Hey, either you did it and got the job done or it was Tough Shitski, Jack!" James H. McClure preferred Friday family homecomings to Friday pink-slips.

So, no I couldn't go with Dad on his journeys but he always made me feel as if I did. A full array of North Central Airlines minutia would grace the low dresser by my bed: flight schedules, napkins, flight glasses.

If we made it through the chapter for the night without me falling asleep, Dad would hold my hands in his and we would pray the Our Father together out loud, the ultimate expression of a father's loving care as preached by his son.

On the third evening I knew that I wouldn't see Dad when I woke the following morning... he would be on his way to Chicago or elsewhere. As a child I had a lot of the classic symptoms of separation anxiety, hating being dropped off at school or not understanding why my sister had left for college or if she would come back.

But I never felt an ounce of fear where Dad's travels were concerned, thank to something he once told me... "If you wake up alone, don't miss me, I kiss you every time just before I go out the door."

So tonight I'll look at the moonlight and pull the thick brown blanket up to my chin, and dream of moonshots and moths, lunar modules and fathers in DC-9s, keeping their sons safe and warm from hundreds of miles away.

## Dreaming of the Moon

One of my favorite adventuring ship captains remarked in one movie that his skeleton crewed space vessel "felt like a house with all the children gone."

And yet Captain Kirk's apt description of loneliness doesn't quite fit my current situation—a house with all the parents gone. Mom passed away in the Spring and after I spent most of the Summer looking after Dad (the reverse was usually the case) he moved up to a place near my sister in Green Bay.

I think the continued feminine presence, aided by regular visits from granddaughters and a great granddaughter, do him good.

As with most challenges and adventures in his accomplished life my father faces it face forward with a dry look and a million dollar one-liner. Walking in under the senior facility's banner labeled "CELEBRATE LIFE" my dad remarked "What's that mean? I should be glad I'm not dead yet?"

Wisecracks mentions of eternal sleep aside, bedtime is when I think of Dad most. I crawl into his old bed on the side where I used to approach in the night, afraid of something or in need of something. I never once felt rejection or reluctance on his part to see to my care.

Here in Northbrook, Illinois in a townhouse along a golf course I think back to a tiny house in Kalamazoo, Michigan where Dad would tuck me in to dream of the future and look forward to his return. In the late 1960's, after Kirk guided the Enterprise safely through the evening's Friday night adventure, Dad would end the night with a specific routine.

First was the Reach for the Stars. In that period of his life Dad was a dead ringer for Gregory Peck playing Atticus Finch. But the father who would sit through the night reading in the room of a bedridden son in Big Jim's version would hold Little Jim up all the way to reach for the ceiling as high as I could stretch.

Then he would tuck me in, sit down on the side of the bed and reach for a book to

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## Sharing a Pint



By Scott Powers



Dec. 17, 2007 was another sad day for journalism.

It was then I received an e-mail from John Conroy (June '07 Sharing a Pint), the author of one of my favorite books Belfast Diary and a journalist who I've come to really respect, who wrote that he had been fired by the Chicago Reader. He had been a staff writer for nearly 30 years.

"I just wanted to let you know that my long run at the Chicago Reader has come to an end," he wrote. "The paper was sold to a Florida-based company last summer and the new management has been cutting staff ever since. Previous layoffs have been on the production side, but it came to be editorial's turn about ten days ago, and I was one of four senior writers who got the axe. The paper seems to be moving toward a concentration in arts and entertainment, which seems odd to me, as you can get that in a lot of places,

but it's not my paper and I can only surmise that the new owners know what they're doing."

"I was hired by the paper in 1978, and but for a leave of absence when I was working on Belfast Diary in the early 1980s, I was a regular in those pages. The editors let me write what I wanted to write about, and it led me into some fascinating places. It was a terrific run. I'm not sure what's next, but it's a big world, full of opportunity, and I look forward to an interesting year."

Since then, I've communicated with Conroy a few times through email. Ultimately, he felt Craig's List is what has done the paper in. "The Reader was one of the most successful alternative papers in the country in terms of getting classified ads, and a huge portion of that income disappeared when Craig came along," he wrote.

This is today's journalism. Most conversations I have with fellow

scribes in the business are about company layoffs as much as they are about what stories they are working on. Ad revenue isn't what it once was, and newspapers have been forced to slice wherever they can. Everyone from the Chicago Sun-Times to the Daily Herald to the Chicago Reader are feeling the effects.

In the case of John Conroy, it was more than just a good person losing his job. It was the Chicago Reader's public and the industry as a whole losing an outstanding journalist.

Conroy's investigative work at the Reader surpassed anyone in Chicago regardless of publication. His archived work can still be found on the Reader's website and should still be read.

I have no doubt that Conroy will appear somewhere in your local pages again. I'll keep you updated. As for other people who have shared a pint over the years with me, here are some updates:

- I may bring two past Sharing a Pint columns together. Right now, Galway-based musicians JT Songs and Hally (December '07) and I have been in talks about having them in Chicago in late March for a couple shows. One of the places that they may play is The Atlantic, whose owners Cathal Lynch and Paul Mulvey (January '08) were recently featured here. Be sure to check out [www.myspace.com/jtsongsandwww.myspace.com/patrickhallinan](http://www.myspace.com/jtsongsandwww.myspace.com/patrickhallinan) for their music and more information.

- Larry Kirwan (August '07) and Black 47 will be releasing their newest album Iraq on March 4. For the first time, Black 47 will be releasing it through the record company United For Opportunity.

Black 47 will be also playing Dirty Nelly's in Palatine on March 13 and as always will be back in the area to headline at Gaelic Park on May 25-26. You can find more info at [www.black47.com](http://www.black47.com).

- Michael Patrick MacDonald (November '06) recently finished the screenplay for his best-selling book All Souls.

To promote the paperback copy of his second book, Easter Rising, MacDonald will be back in Chicago sometime after the March 3rd book release. The last time he was here was during a Chicago Bears' game, so he's looking forward to a possibly larger crowd. He expects to read in Beverly and possibly another place or two. Check out [www.myspace.com/michaelpatrickmacdonald](http://www.myspace.com/michaelpatrickmacdonald) for more information and updates.

- The Violin Venus, Jane Hunt (April '07) made her solo debut at Carnegie Hall in September and also performed as a guest soloist with Ronan Tynan for a Christmas

concert in Atlanta. She has also been recording with producer Neil Dorfman, who has worked with Solas, Sting and Bruce Springsteen, on a project combining Tango with what she described as "chill-out" beats.

The Violin Venus Show, which is a mix of classical, Celtic and jazz music, is being booked now for a tour later in 2008. You can go to [www.violinvenus.com](http://www.violinvenus.com) for info and further updates.

- Author and motivational speaker Rita Emmett (January '05) is stilling traveling the country giving presentations to help people break their procrastination and clutter habits.

On Jan. 26, she was headed off to the Irish Festival Cruise. A year ago, she and her husband Bruce had lunch with Tommy Makem several times on the cruise.

"Our conversations covered everything from his childhood experiences with Irish music to Tommy's thoughts about his cancer and mortality," said Emmett, whose website is [www.ritaemmett.com](http://www.ritaemmett.com). "We were so lucky to have those precious moments with this great man."

- Rus Bradburd (July '07) was offered a tenure-track assistant professorship by New Mexico State. "A big break for me," he wrote. He also is on the verge of selling the movie rights to his best-selling book Paddy on the Hardwood.

"We've agreed on everything, just gotta get it all signed," he said. "This is very little money... unless it actually gets made into a movie. Then I could make a bundle. It's still all a long shot, but very exciting."

He also was recently back in Ireland to see his old basketball team play. "Sadly, the Tralee Tigers are still doing great without me. Still, I had a great time in Tralee. It hardly rained there."

- Navy officer Matthew Denny (October '07) has been safely back in port since Nov. 19. He wrote via email, "As you know, I can't talk much about ship movements, but I can say we won't be back to the Gulf too soon, but we have some more underway periods planned for the coming months."

- Tony Duggins (May '06) and his band The Tossers will be playing throughout Europe in February before returning to the States in March to play some St. Paddy's shows.

- Author Cathal Liam (July '06) is working on a new book, Fear Not The Storm: A Biography of an Irish Republican Tom Cullen. Cullen was an undercover intelligence agent for Michael Collins during the Tan Wars and after the Treaty. During the Civil War, he became a major-general in the Free State army.

"As a key second-level player during 1919-1924, he received little notoriety, but played a key role in Ireland's bid for independence and freedom," Liam said. "I'm hoping by telling his story, readers can appreciate the contributions and risks many took for the cause of Ireland."

Liam has also started writing a monthly column - A Letter From Ireland - in the Ohio Irish American News.

- Photographer Niall Hartnett (February '06) is one written piece away from finishing his book on Irish writers. "Almost at 3-1/2 years now!" he wrote. "Hopefully, it will be published in some form before next Christmas."

- Comedian Martin Gollgoly (November '05) is in remission again as he continues to fight with leukemia. "Everything is great with me, I am in remission and feeling well," he wrote. "I hope to get back to work in the next few months. Right now, nothing to plug but my good health."

- Finally, this isn't an update, but more of a plug for another up-and-coming musician I met in Ireland. Her name is Grace Kiely and she's 25 years old and from Waterford. She was actually in the crowd at a Galway concert and began singing with Niall Connolly during one his songs when I first heard her. Her voice was incredible and I stopped her on the way out



to find out more about her.

"I always knew I'd write songs... I just never realized that it would be something I'd have no control over; because songs come into my head everyday so if I wasn't writing them I'd probably go crazy," she wrote me in a recent email.

"I've been described by many as 'the most Irish person you could ever meet' and such... I think I've always found myself agreeing. I play bodhrán very well, have been an Irish dancer all my life, and when I sing Irish songs it feels like my heart is congratulating me."

Her voice must be heard. You can go to [www.myspace.com/gracekiely](http://www.myspace.com/gracekiely) to hear a few of her songs. Be sure to drop her a note to let her know what you think.

Scott Powers can be reached at [sharingapint@yahoo.com](mailto:sharingapint@yahoo.com)

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### Lemon Law Litigation: Odometer Act A. Cause of Action

A claim under the federal Odometer Act, 49 U.S.C. §32701, et seq., is one of the best claims available in automobile litigation, if the underlying facts are right. There are two such statutes — the federal Act and the Illinois statute, contained in the Illinois Vehicle Code at 625 ILCS 5/3-112.1(e). They are essentially the same, and therefore using one or another depends primarily on the court system one wants to use: pleading the federal Act allows one to be in federal court, either voluntarily or by removal; pleading the Illinois Act means the case will stay in a state circuit court. There is one basic and one esoteric claim under the Odometer Act: (1) a claim of odometer tampering, or incorrect odometer disclosure, with intent to defraud; and (2) a claim of failure to disclose the vehicle's mileage on the title document. The legal validity of the second, more esoteric, claim is subject to opposing federal appellate opinions. Compare *Ioffe v. Skokie Motor Sales, Inc.*, 414 F.3d 708 (7th Cir. 2005), with *Owens v. Samkle Automotive Inc.*, 425 F.3d 1318 (11th Cir. 2005). This article does not discuss the second claim because it is impossible to predict whether Illinois courts are likely to follow *Ioffe* or *Owens*; nevertheless, the *Owens* opinion is a better-reasoned one because it relies on the plain language analysis of the federal Act and its implementing regulations.

#### B. Elements

There are only two elements of a claim under the federal Odometer Act:

1. false odometer disclosure (49 U.S.C. §32705);
2. "intent to defraud." (49 U.S.C. §32710).

#### C. Statute of Limitations

The federal Odometer Act provides for a two-year statute of limitations. 49 U.S.C. §32710(b). I must confess to my inability to find a statute of limitations for the Illinois version; in the absence of a specific statute of limitations, the statute of limitations would be governed by 735 ILCS 5/13-202 or 5/13-205, which provides for two- and five-year statutes of limitation, respectively. While this issue is beyond the scope of this article (it involves an interplay between statutory

penalties, formula for calculating the award, and actual damages (compare *Hoskins Coal & Dock Corp. v. Truax Traer Coal Co.*, 191 F.2d 912 (7th Cir. 1951), with *Sternic v. Hunter Properties, Inc.*, 344 Ill.App.3d 915, 801 N.E.2d 974, 280 Ill.Dec. 29 (1st Dist. 2003)), I believe the courts will find that §13-202 applies.

#### D. Parties

Proper plaintiff. A person who bought a car and discovered that the odometer on this car does not show accurate mileage, either because it was rolled back or because the odometer stopped working.

Proper defendant. Any seller of an automobile, including remote sellers.

#### E. Special Considerations

Once the mileage is shown to be inaccurate — either through a Carfax report or a title history report or through an expert opinion — the real issue becomes proving the "intent to defraud." A plaintiff must state enough facts to allow a jury to infer intent. Such intent "may be inferred from a showing of gross negligence or of a reckless disregard of facts indicating the vehicle's odometer is incorrect." *Hall v. Riverside Lincoln Mercury — Sales, Inc.*, 148 Ill. App.3d 715, 499 N.E.2d 156, 160, 101 Ill.Dec. 789 (2d Dist. 1986). As explained by the federal court:

A transferor of a vehicle may be found to have intended to defraud if he had reason to know the mileage on the vehicle was more than was reflected by the odometer or certification of the previous owner and nevertheless failed to take reasonable steps to determine the actual mileage.

*Suiter v. Mitchell Motor Coach*

*Sales, Inc.*, 151 F.3d 1275, 1282 (10th Cir. 1998). Under this standard, a transferor need not have actual knowledge that the odometer statement was false before liability may be imposed. Rather, intent to defraud may be inferred if a transferor lacks such knowledge only because he "displayed a reckless disregard for the truth" or because he "closed his eyes to the truth." *Id.* (quoting *Tusa v. Omaha Auto Auction Inc.*, 712 F.2d 1248, 1253-54 (8th Cir. 1983)).

Thus, if the condition of an automobile refuted its low mileage, this would be good evidence. If a warranty book with recorded mileage of oil changes is discovered in the car's glove compartment, and the oil change's mileage exceeds the mileage on the car's odometer, this would be great evidence. Cf. *Hall*, supra, 499 N.E.2d at 160.

#### F. Remedies — Special Issues

No punitive damages are available under the Odometer Act, but the Act provides for treble (triple) actual damages if a plaintiff suffers any actual damages. 49 U.S.C. §32710(a). If a plaintiff suffered no actual damages, the Act provides for \$1,500 statutory damages. *Id.* In most cases, though, a plaintiff would indeed suffer actual damages because, ipso facto, a car with an unknown mileage is worth less than a comparable car with a known mileage.

Attorneys' fees are recoverable under the Odometer Act and, in fact, are mandatory, rather than discretionary. 49 U.S.C. §32710(b).

Disclaimer: The above is an abbreviated description of the law and is not intended to convey legal advice or to be a comprehensive overview of the law. You should consult with an attorney to determine whether or not you have a claim under any applicable law(s), including, but not limited to, the Odometer Act.

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Cost of Living

Last month we looked at items from Irish newspapers printed in Ballina, Lurgan and Cavan during the month of January, 1850. But in editing for space, some highlights were cut. I decided to revisit that era again, and add a bit more.

We touched on the clearances—Irish forcibly evicted; their homes torn down; the thousands of unrecorded deaths from starvation; and the legal actions of British officials against destitute starving homeless who dared, in the depth of winter, to carry off a blanket or bag of meal.

It takes monumental brass for a conquering “god fearing” people who made a science of stripping their neighbors of land, crops, cattle, household goods, the houses themselves, even the fish in the rivers and the birds of the air—to then loftily impose on those subjects the

harshes of penalties for the crime of—“larceny”.

A Cavan paper of the time, the “Anglo-Celt” (an odd title—will it appear on a lakefront fest?) reported on the Cavan court sessions of January 1850:

Daniel RAWLEY—larceny of fowl—six days’ hard labour.

John SCOTT—larceny—eight months’ hard labour. Patrick DOHERTY—larceny of potatoes—14 days’ imprisonment, and a whipping on the last.

I believe His Lordship was not proposing whipped potatoes as a sendoff meal for Doherty following his stay with the county.

Some months earlier a Ballina, Mayo court sentenced a man to:

“fourteen days imprisonment with hard labour, for breaking a window and taking off some bread.

He alleged he did this through the effects of hunger, but it was shown he made a habit of thus getting his bread.”

This man was pushing his luck, making a habit of eating. Perhaps he was lifting Chinese bread. Eat it, and three days later you’re hungry again.

With millions of her subjects unwilling to starve or freeze to death obediently, the Crown naturally took gun registration seriously:

Mathew DONOHOE—having unregistered arms in his possession—12 hours’ imprisonment. Stephen SOUTH—like offence, and same punishment.

John Gilchreest – having unregistered fire arms in possession – 29s. fine to fever hospital, or one month’s imprisonment.

The arms penalties seem mild compared with those for falling off the no-cal wagon. Did some charges relate to old pikes and swords, not firearms? Or did owning a firearm in that world indicate someone a cut above, deserving of gentler treatment? At the time, a road laborer was paid 6-8 shillings a week. But 21 shillings a week would be needed to sustain a family. Imposing a fine of 29 shillings (about 1.5) on the average Irishman back then, would give new meaning to the phrase, “cost of living”. I’m sure the bulls then were as keen as they are now up north in keeping firearms in the hands of “the right people”. And it’s easy to imagine Stephen South as a forebear of Sean of later renown, but Cavan’s a good stretch from Garryowen.

Britain had abolished Slavery in 1833, so the recurrent “Irish Question” could not be answered with a rerun of Lord Protector Ollie Cromwell’s earlier “final solution”: the transportation “to Hell or Barbados” of Irish slaves at the point of a sword. Or could it, by applying just a little “English”?

Cromwell combined murder of the Mass with mass murder, and butchered or transported close to 20% of these people who just wouldn’t go along with the program. But a more enlightened century demanded more subtle solutions. The pen can be mightier than the sword, and just as effective.

It is instructive here to touch briefly on Irish Liberator Daniel O’Connell, who had fought hard for the worldwide abolition of slavery, even to the detriment of his dream of Irish Home Rule. He won emancipation for his own people in 1929 with the Catholic Emancipation Act which finally rescinded the last of the Penal Laws. His Repeal Movement was close to restoring an Irish government (the Dublin parliament was dissolved in 1800) and ending Ireland’s union with England in

1843 when O’Connell was arrested for sedition. Britain outlawed his large but impeccably peaceful meetings urging repeal. He was released from jail a year later, his health broken, on the eve of the “Great Famine”. He died in 1847.

Famine recurred many times in Irish history. In the 19th century alone, the country suffered seven famines in the years prior to 1845.) But during the “Great” famine, despite the enormity of suffering and death, more than £6 million in taxes, rents, and food exports were sent to Britain.

From the Cavan court session, January 1850:

“Mary Reilly, Rose Sheridan – larceny of fowl, Mary Reilly 2 month’s hard labour – Rose Sheridan, 1 month hard labour.

The next batch of convicts under sentence of transportation will be forwarded to the new settlement at Perth, Western Australia.

From the March session: “Mary Reilly, Margaret McMahon – larceny from Cavan workhouse – each 24 hours imprisonment. Winney Sheanan – larceny of potatoes – no bill. Ann M Golrick – larceny – three months’ hard labour.

If this is indeed the same Mary Reilly, she was tempting fate (and the Lords of the manor) with her efforts to keep her family alive that winter. Her name appears again in the Spring court session that April. This time Mary Reilly received much harsher treatment— for needing a sack of meal and a blanket to survive the January freeze:

“Owen SHERIDAN, Anne SHERIDAN, Bridge MURPHY and Mary REILLY—larceny of wheat, oats, a quilt, and a sack, &c.—the first, two months’ hard labour; the second, one month’s hard labour; the third, five weeks’ hard labour; and the last, transported for seven years. His Worship, in passing sentence on the latter said, it was useless to give her another opportunity, as she had been convicted before, and allowing her to remain in gaol would be only burdening an over-burdened county, as she was not likely to become a better member of society.”

A family of Reilly’s also appeared before that court. Was this Mary’s family, jailed for protesting her arrest? Had they been charged to assure her appearance?

“Patrick REILLY, sen., John REILLY, Patrick REILLY, jun., Edward REILLY, Bridget REILLY—riot and assault—prosecution withdrawn.

I’d prefer to imagine that gutsy wee Mary endured that exile in Australia and lived a full life. Perhaps

she faced a better chance of survival, however bleak, as a convict in Van Diemen’s Land than did her co-conspirators in larceny: Owen, Ann and Bridge, left behind, “overburdening” a country no longer their own, to face an Gorta, (the hunger) and the tender mercies of His Worship.

Yet another girl, Rose Maguire, stood at the same session. The editor thought her story so tiresome to the reading public, her fate so routine, that the official disposition of her life and future merited a mere four words of newsprint. You’d need more words to write a “dog for sale” ad:

“Rose MAGUIRE—larceny—seven years’ transportation.”

The paper’s meaty news bulletin for its readers that week was a verdict handed down on an Irishman who had lightly touched the eternal Unionist panic button. He had dared raise a hand in anger:

“The following was the only case of interest; Patk. LYNCH indicted—that he with others on the 29th of November last at Ballyjamesduff, did assault Joseph PORTER, so as to inflict grievous bodily harm. The evidence against the prisoner was clear and conclusive that he was the person that did seduce Mr. PORTER out of the house until he received a beating by the persons who were leagued with the prisoner out-side. Mr. PORTER swore that he (the prisoner at the bar) was the person that coaxed him out, but on account of the darkness of the night, could not swear he struck him. The other witnesses swore to the fact of the prisoner striking him. His Worship in passing the sentence said, he was guilty of a treacherous and most disgraceful act that would not be tolerated in any civilized country, that of cowardly and deceitfully leading a man innocently into the hands of a cowardly lot of assassins so as to inflict serious bodily harm on him... The sentence was passed in the usual way, that he be transported beyond the seas for seven years. The prisoner was the only son of a widow. Mr. PORTER earnestly begged his worship to revoke the sentence on the above consideration, but the court was inexorable.”

And inexcusable, intolerable, inhuman.

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E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net  
Watch: IRISH JOURNAL TELEVISION

Chicago cable - CAN-TV, Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM  
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## St. Patrick's Day Festival March 1st - 17th

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

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



**LARKIN BROTHERS**

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- 7:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

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

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

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

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8 (continued)

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

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9

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

### TUESDAY, MARCH 11

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13

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



**THE McCABES**

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14

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

### SATURDAY, MARCH 15

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

### SUNDAY, MARCH 16

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

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

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



**THE WOLFE TONES' DEREK WARFIELD**

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

### FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 28 & 29

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

**2007 Rerum Novarum Awards** - Cardinal Francis George, OMI (left) greets Mt. Greenwood resident Margaret O'Donovan at the 2007 Rerum Novarum Awards ceremony. The Cardinal presented the 17th Annual Seminary Salute to Labor, Business and Government awards to honor men and women who have proven outstanding in their support of certain humanitarian ideals. Awards went to: for Business - Daniel J. Walsh, President of Walsh Construction; for Labor - Joseph T. Hansen, International President of the United Food and Commercial Workers; and for Government - Juan Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority which manages McCormick Place and Navy Pier.



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**Contact:**  
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or  
 Maureen Foster at  
 312.922.3683  
 or  
 www.raceforrelief.org

**Committee Members:**

- Kevin Blake ..... 773.466.8100
- Shirley McKinnis ..... 773.466.8100
- Maureen Foster ..... 312.922.3683
- P.J. O'Donovan ..... 708.460.4418
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- Marge Griffin ..... 773.582.6393
- Michelle & James Down ..... 412.928.1199
- Stephanie Bell ..... 708.466.8100
- Jane Ryan ..... 773.963.1192
- Kate Moran ..... 708.466.8100
- Jeff & Christine Thompson ..... 541.704.0149
- Maureen Ryan ..... 708.466.8100
- Stacy Hayes ..... 708.466.8100
- Mary Moran ..... 708.466.8100
- Kathleen Driscoll ..... 773.466.8100

**Sean Cleland**  
 St. John's Irish Music School Students



Race for Relief was formed in 2001 to help champion the charitable work of the Irish Sisters of the Assumption who have selflessly pledged their lives to the poor, hungry, sick and dying people of South Africa.

Funds raised at this benefit will go to SACRED HEART HOUSE which is an LGBTQ+ hospice unit for three continents. It will also fund their continuing work with EDUCATION FOR LIFE which is an outreach program which promotes AIDS education.

Check Website at  
[www.raceforrelief.org](http://www.raceforrelief.org)  
 for bus information

Please visit our website [www.raceforrelief.org](http://www.raceforrelief.org) for more information and bus transportation information at the event.

## Vertigo USA U2 Tribute Band to Appear at Fitzgerald's Feb 7

Maybe you saw Vertigo when Oprah met and loved the band during her road trip across the US. Vertigo's incredible live tribute to U2 recreates the magic that is a U2 concert. A typical Vertigo concert will have the audience singing along to hits such as "With Or Without You," "Where The Streets Have No Name," "One," "Beautiful Day," and many other anthems spanning the U2 catalog. In Spring of 2005, Vertigo was asked by U2's official tour operator to perform at parties in support of the 2005/2006 U2 Vertigo World Tour which included stops in Buffalo, Minneapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Charlotte, Monterrey Mexico and Mexico City. Be aware- this is not a cover band, this is an experience of a lifetime!  
[www.vertigou2band.com](http://www.vertigou2band.com). Thursday, February 7— Vertigo USA: A Tribute to U2; 9pm; \$10.

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## February Gaelic Park Events

### The Merry Ploughboys Party

Gaelic Park will host The Merry Ploughboys on Saturday, February 2, 2008 with the doors opening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to this party are \$20.

The Merry Ploughboys, from Dublin, have been performing for over seventeen years. Their act includes performances of old Irish rebel songs, ballads and more. With the sounds of the fiddle, bluegrass banjo, bodhran, bass guitar, piano accordion and the distinct sounds of a mandolin, they're sure to rouse the crowd with their music. Reserve tickets via info listed below.

### Celtic Supper

Weekly Celtic Suppers are held every Sunday, from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Gaelic Park and are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and perfect for family celebrations such as parties for birthdays, christenings and more. The cost is \$16 music and includes, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9.00 and children under 3 are free. Reservations are required.

This month's entertainment includes Gerard Haughey on Sunday, February 17th and Joe Cullen on Sunday, February 24th. There will be no Celtic Supper on Sunday, February 3rd due to the Super Bowl and Sunday, February 10th because of the Annual Gaelic Park Convention.

### Monthly Musical Luncheon

This month's Musical Luncheon will be on Wednesday, February 6th, 2008 beginning at noon.

This is a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music by Joe Cullen, dancing and a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

### Monthly Mass and Breakfast

February's Monthly Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 10th, 2008 with Mass beginning at 10 a.m. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, will be served after Mass for the cost of \$8.

### Carraig Pub Entertainment

The Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park offers specials every day. On weekends enjoy free entertainment beginning at 9:30 p.m. every Friday and 10 p.m. every Saturday. This month's entertainment includes:

Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, February 8th;  
Mulligan Stew on Saturday, February 9th;  
Kieran Conway on Friday February 15th and Saturday, February 16th;

3 Men In Kilts on Friday, February 22nd;  
Joe McShane on Saturday, February 23rd;  
The Ploughboys on Friday, February 29th.

Thursday evenings feature traditional Irish music sessions given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Second Annual Carraig Pub

#### Trivia Quiz Competition

The competition will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m. Compete to win the \$250 cash prize and trophies for the winners and runners-up. Each team is limited to five players with a \$50 entry fee per team. Each team will choose a county in Ireland as their team name and the winners will hold the title of All-Ireland Champions.

### Super Bowl Party

The Carraig will also be hosting a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 3rd that will feature a Hot Food Buffet, open

bar from kick-off to the final whistle and a snack table during the game. Those attending will have a chance to win electronics, pub memorabilia, t-shirts and more. Admission is \$35.00.

### 1st Annual Carraig Idol Contest

Entries are now being accepted for the 1st Annual Carraig Idol Contest sponsored by the Gaelic Park Players. The first 60 singers to register will be accepted for the competition, which will take place on Friday, February 8th. Singers will sing unaccompanied and can sing two minutes of any song. Forty contestants will move on to the next rounds when two will be chosen from each round to compete in the finals. Many prizes will be awarded and the final winner will perform on the Gaelic Park Irish Fest Float at the Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade and at the Southside Irish Parade. Entry fee is \$5, payable at the time of registration.

### The Wolfe Tones

The Wolfe Tones return to Gaelic Park on Friday, February 22nd, 2008. The doors for this show open at 7:30 p.m. with an 8:30 p.m. show time.

Tickets to this much-anticipated show will go quickly as the last appearance at Gaelic Park did sell out. Tickets are on sale now for the price of \$20 per person.

### "The Voice of Ireland"

#### Tommy Fleming

Tommy Fleming, described as "the Voice of Ireland" will visit Gaelic Park on for two shows on Sunday, March 16th, 2008. A matinee show will begin at 2 p.m., tickets are \$25.00, and a special St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner show to begin at 7 p.m., tickets are \$40.00.

Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. To reserve tickets for any of the above events or for additional information call (708) 687-9323 or visit Gaelic Park's website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org).

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## Countywide Democratic Judicial Candidates Deserving Your Vote on February 5, 2008



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-Chicago Bar Association

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[www.judgemaureenwardkirby.com](http://www.judgemaureenwardkirby.com)  
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**Elect**

John G.  
**MULROE**

\*\*\* Judge \*\*\*



**VOTE DEMOCRATIC**

# Punch # 112

## Ireland Network Black-Tie Ball 2-23

The Ireland Network's 5th Annual Black-Tie Ball is on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 7pm in the InterContinental Hotel, 505 North Michigan Avenue. The event is a tremendous night and an excellent opportunity to make new contacts and rekindle old ones. It's been a highlight of the calendar in Chicago for the last four years. The event kicks-off at 7pm with a Champagne reception/open bar. Dinner and a full open bar will follow,

and the evening entertainment follows from the fabulous Orchestra 33.

Ticket Prices after January 31st are \$150 for members and \$170 for non-members. The event is open to non-network members, so feel free to reach out to your friends, neighbors and business colleagues. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase tickets, Send your check and the number of tickets you

require to: Rose Whitehorne, Ireland Network Ball, c/o IDA Ireland, 77 West Wacker Dr., Suite 4070, Chicago, IL 60601, payable to the "Ireland Network" and include the mailing address where you wish to receive the tickets. For info or the Ireland Network Chicago visit the website [www.TheIrelandNetwork.com](http://www.TheIrelandNetwork.com) or contact Brian Moore 773 636 7733 or Joe McKittrick 773 5076169.

## Brigid Awards Lunch February 15

Concern Worldwide is holding their annual Brigid Awards Luncheon on February 15, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, Crystal Ballroom-West Tower. This year's honorees are Sarah Flosi, Mary Houghton, and the Honorable Carol A. Kelly.

The awards are named for a fifth century Irish woman, who dedicated her life to helping the poor and sick. She was a protector of the environment, a promoter of peace and reconciliation, a defender of equality, and an advocate for the less fortunate.

For additional information contact Concern Worldwide at 312.431.8400 or visit [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org).

### HELP WANTED

#### Development Officer

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) North American County Board Chicago Central Division (NACB) seeks a qualified candidate for Development Officer (DO). This part-time position will promote the Gaelic games (Irish Football and Hurling) in the Chicago and area and Midwest for youth ages 6 to 19. Working inside and outside traditional Irish community circles to develop the sport and teams in communities, schools, and clubs will be the mark of success. This marketing position will develop new and existing teams by building community relationships, developing promotional materials, organizing clinics, and serving as liaison between Chicago clubs, NACB and the GAA.

The DO will organize exhibitions at community events such as festivals, dance competitions and sporting events; develop qualified coaches through community outreach and coaching clinics; organize youth clinics for the development of current youth participants; develop informational marketing materials via desktop publishing, video production and print jobs; participate in meetings between youth clubs, NACB and GAA.

Potential full-time opportunity with increasing future responsibilities based on the success of the program. Work visa for Irish nationals is available.

Requirements: Effective oral and written communication required. Desktop publishing of communication materials, flyers, and brochures requires proficiency in MS Office and related programs. Driver license & vehicle. Successful candidate will display dedication to the development of GAA games in North America, good working knowledge of the GAA and its rules and ethos for raising a club and integrity with an enthusiastic attitude and good standing in the community. Some Midwest travel and attendance at North American Continental Youth Championship required. Possible travel to Ireland in the future.

For information see [www.youthgaa.com](http://www.youthgaa.com) and [www.nacba.org](http://www.nacba.org). Resumes/CVs/inquiries to [jerry.kealy@naacba.com](mailto:jerry.kealy@naacba.com) or Jerry Kealy 1355 North Magna, Chicago IL 60630. Completion of NACB application required and will be supplied upon receipt of all inquiries.

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**We Get Letters**

January 6, 2008

Subject: "Mick" by Mike Morley

I just returned from dinner. Since I was alone, I picked up "Irish American News", January '08. Mike Morley's well crafted, interesting column leading off with "Black 50" is one of the best newspaper articles I've read since Mike Royko died!

On a single page, he gave me my first understanding of what lay behind the "Potato Famine", English bigotry, Conrad Black's arrogance and much more... The good that came of all the suffering and killing was an American population where the Irish continue to flourish and contribute much to build our country.

Only in America can one as me (Polish heritage) go to a Greek Restaurant in Round Lake, IL (mostly Latin) and read something really good about Irish history. The English continue to wither because they still can't reconcile themselves to the relatively recent freedom of those whom they oppressed for hundreds of years. Still, they've had their royal hooks into our body for far too long.

Thanks for your passionate, interesting prose Mr. Morley. Thaddeus Kochanny

**Horoscope**

By Theresa Castro

**ARIES:** You will have a possible flurry of communication from friends. No fewer than six planets are hovering together with a solar eclipse, all in the sign of Aquarius in your house of friends. Have fun chatting, texting, and instant messaging.

**TAURUS:** Your boss or the powers that be have the upper hand at work. Don't push the river with respect to authority. You will, however, be able to consolidate efforts from the past to enhance your success in the very near future. Choose well, because what you put today's efforts to will definitely stick!

**GEMINI:** You will be vindicated by a multiple trine aspect out of your ninth sector that will bolster your credibility at work or school. The February 2008 solar eclipse is accompanied by four other planets that will be felt by a lot of people in concrete ways. Luckily your experience with this dynamic planetary weather should be positive.

**CANCER:** You are faced with a conundrum this month with the eclipse and planetary pile-up in your eighth sector. You will inherit benefits and problems out of your control from other people or circumstances. A flexible attitude toward what you can and cannot control will go a long way.

**LEO:** You will see a lot of challenges from outside sources coming into your sphere. Some lions (the archetypical symbol of Leo) will relish the opportunity to fight to overcome whatever comes your way. Don't be too proud to ask for assistance.

**VRGO:** Your health and well being will come into play this month of February. It may be a breakthrough time for some of you who have had difficulty with health issues. There is an arsenal of energy that will be available to you to overcome your physical and emotional ills.

**LIBRA:** This could be a special time for you. There is a solar eclipse and four other planets congregating in your house of joy. You are being inundated, perhaps beyond your control, by forces that are urging you to let go and embrace life, love, and innocence.

**SCORPIO:** Your home base will play a greater than usual role this February with the planetary jam-up in Aquarius. You may see new additions to your family or at least some long term additions to your living space for better or worse. A flexible attitude would serve you well.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Use the opportunities presented to you this month well. Make sure that you even recognize these things in the first place. Your head needs to be in the right place for this so pay attention. A solar eclipse is occurring this February that can potentially help you in many areas.

**CAPRICORN:** You are in line to make a killing financially provided that you have your ducks in a row. Some Caps have begun projects that have a great chance of succeeding now. Your finances are the area of growth at this time.

**AQUARIUS:** You are in the spotlight now! The Planets are conspiring to greatness for you! There is a solar eclipse which include six planets in Aquarius. This is rare and is touching almost every person born in the month of February. All of this is very auspicious for you!

**PISCES:** The gang is planning a surprise for you. They're behind your back in your secret sector. There are a bunch of congenial planets that are working to make your future brighter. With the planet Uranus in your own sign it is hard to know what the surprise will be.



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February 2008

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Friday, 2/8	Ashli
Saturday, 2/9	Fisher Fagan's Band
Friday, 2/15	Seamus O'Meara and Jerry Moore
Saturday, 2/16	Paddy Huron
Friday, 2/22	Whiskey Barrens
Saturday, 2/23	Dryal In the West
Friday, 2/29	Ray Day In The Jazz Band

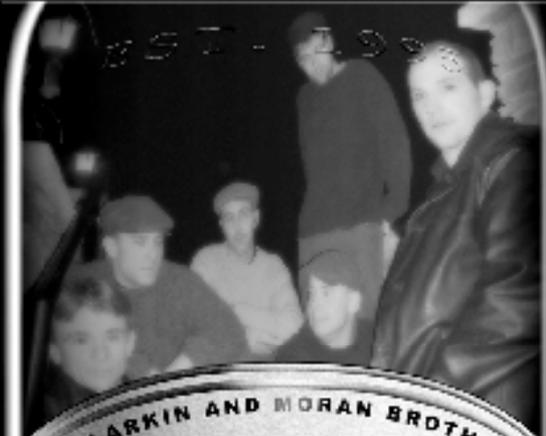
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## ing It In

Jack Baker



Got a call not long after Christmas from a young fella asking if we could help him tune his bagpipes. Now, as all my friends know, you could put all my musical talent in a thimble and still have room for your thumb, so I passed the request on to Mike Dietz who teaches piping in our store's backroom every Wednesday evening. Mike, being a gentleman and genuine nice guy, told the young man to bring his pipes in before class on Wednesday and he'd do what he could to help him.

Wednesday came as did the young man with the pipes which he'd bought on the internet with the intention of teaching himself to play. Problem was he couldn't get the bag inflated or make a sound other than noise. Those of you familiar with the piping scene can already guess the rest of this story. Yes, the pipes were from Pakistan and yes they weren't worth the money. The bag was dry as last week's popcorn and was a sieve. Mike couldn't get the bag inflated with all the drones stopped and the chanter plugged. After explaining how to season the bag, Mike explained just what the young man had bought. It was a sadder but wiser man that left the shop that night.

I caution anyone planning to get into piping, be careful about what you buy and where you buy it from. First off, you don't learn to play bagpipes on a full set of pipes. You learn on a practice chanter. You can pick up a good practice chanter

for between \$60 and \$100. If you see one for less than \$50, be cautious and check where it comes from. You'll work on the practice chanter for a good year before you'll be ready to look at pipes. The other thing you'll need is a teacher. I've heard folks claim to be self-taught on the pipes but with all the excellent teachers available I wouldn't recommend it.

When it comes time to buy your pipes, talk to your teacher, talk to other pipers, do your homework and be ready to lash out with some serious money. A good set of pipes is going to cost in the neighborhood of \$1000. You'll also need to fiddle with them a bit so make sure that you have access to someone who can help you. There is also the consideration of pipes made in

the US, like Gibson in Ohio or Atherton in Naperville, IL.

With domestic manufacturers, it's considerably easier to send a piece back for adjustment or call for advice and help. The bottom line is take your time.

You might want to check out these two stateside bagpipe manufacturers. You can learn a lot, just from their website. Find Gibson bagpipes at [www.gibsonpipes.com](http://www.gibsonpipes.com) and check out the beautiful work Dave Atherton does at [www.dmatherton.com](http://www.dmatherton.com)

If you're looking for a good piping instructor, give us a call at the shop, 630-834-8108. We've got a list of teachers that we know and recommend. Also, if you're a teacher and would like us to list you, give us a shout.

Now for some good news. One of the best things about this time of year is pipe band dances. It's a great excuse to kick up your heels, hear some good music and help your local band amass the funds necessary for another competition season. One bunch that it has been my distinct honor and pleasure to party with is the City of Rockford Pipe Band. These guys know the value of a good winter party, know how to throw one and know how to guarantee that everyone has a good time. The City of Rockford Pipe Band Winter Ceilidh 2008 will be held on Saturday March 1st at the Cliffbreaker's Grand Ballroom. You can get tickets and info at [www.cityofrockfordpipeband.com](http://www.cityofrockfordpipeband.com). If I wasn't going to be at the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas, I'd be hanging one on with my buddies in Rockford. If you like a good party, here's one I recommend.



Speaking of festivals, my season starts this month with the Sixteenth Annual Greater Philadelphia Mid-Winter Scottish & Irish Music Festival & Fair. How's that for a mouthful? Well it lives up to its name, I'll tell you. Three days (Feb 15, 16 & 17, 2008) two stages, all indoor and 19 performers, plus pipe bands and dance schools! We've been vending at this show since it started and I

wouldn't miss it. You can check out their website at [www.eohebrides.com](http://www.eohebrides.com). The festival is run expertly by Bill & Karen Reid of East of the Hebrides Entertainments. They do a wonderful job and we always have a great time there. Except for the year it snowed 21 inches and they closed the Pennsylvania Turnpike! Makes me wonder why Chicago can't do a winter indoor festival?

In the early 70's, a friend gave me a book called The General Danced at Dawn by George MacDonald Fraser and said I'd have a good laugh. He was wrong, I had a wonderful laugh and it started me on a life long fascination with this superb author. He kept me spellbound thru his twelve volumes of the Flashman novels, he shared his memories of service in Burma in Quartered Safe Out

Here and he made me roar in his revelations of his experiences in Hollywood in The History of the World According to Hollywood. It was with great sadness that I read of his passing last month. George MacDonald Fraser, OBE died on 2 January 2008, but his work will live on in the books he wrote. I highly recommend you cruise on down to your local library and check out his work.

I value your input. Please direct your comments, questions, critiques and bafflement to me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 South Villa Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181 or at 630-834-8108.

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## Within the Shelter of Others Irish Live

Recently, there is a growing emphasis in Ireland to promote the independence of older people, by way of offering choices and improving the quality of life.

This, coupled with a strong desire to return to Ireland, a much improved economy and the introduction of Ireland's first resort retirement village, Glendale Estate, helps make this a viable opportunity.

In recent years there has been much speculation in Ireland about the number of elders who are emigrating back to Ireland. Social welfare benefits, particularly the universal benefits such as free travel, were seen as the only incentives to seniors seeking return to Ireland.

Despite the strong desire to return to Ireland

amongst Irish people living abroad, there has previously been a relatively small level of return migration by older people due to a lack of quality housing, social opportunities and a high standard of living. Also, return migration is generally from an urban area abroad to a rural area in Ireland, which in itself causes much distress due to a lack of local and social services that one becomes accustomed to abroad. Another factor in determining return migration is the ease at which a satisfactory home can be secured by an older person.

Glendale Estate, in Tullow County Carlow, is Ireland's answer to such social requirements. Retirement villages, which are not uncommon around the world, have just hit the Irish market with the creation of a 21 acre resort retirement village by Glendale Estates Limited. Glendale Estate offers purposely designed barrier free homes, offering a range of facilities and activities that generate opportunities for social activity, alongside a range of care and support services that can respond quickly and flexibly to a range of care needs.

The high levels of service, care and support, in crime free environments, help maintain and promote independence. Also, the wide range of social and leisure activities, which have more in common with resort hotels than care facilities, are likely to attract Irish people from around the world, who have always considered returning home.

The late 1990s saw an enormous Irish economic growth of twice the rate of the USA

and four times the rate of the rest of Europe. It would be hard to argue that the improving Irish economy does not bring many Irish people home. The economy however, is just an enabling force in the return to Ireland by Irish people abroad from what, deep in their hearts, has always been a desire to "come home".

As the proverb goes: "Níl aon tínteán mar do thínteán féin", and now it really can be!

Glendale Estate retirement community, Tullowphelim, Tullow, County Carlow, Ireland. 011-353-59-151184. www.glendale.ie

## Ennis Book Club Festival

Roddy Doyle, Joanne Harris, Hugo Hamilton, and Dermot Bolger are among a number of internationally renowned authors recently confirmed as participants in the Ennis Book Club Festival 2008. The County Clare capital will host the second annual festival from February 29th to March 2nd and is expected to attract hundreds of book club members and book lovers from all over Europe and North America.

The Festival program will feature author visits, readings, lectures, workshops, exhibitions and cookery demonstrations, musical entertainment and chocolate tasting in various venues around Ennis.

Tickets for all events are now on sale at Glór Box Office (065 6843103/info@glor.ie). For further details on the Ennis Book Club Festival 2008 see ennisbookclubfestival.com. Alternatively email info@ennisbookclubfestival.com or contact 00353879723647 / 00353857758523.

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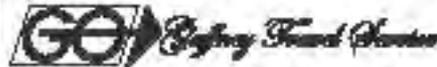
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The Democratic Party of Cook County has slated Judge Joan Powell, former Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County and appointed a Judge by the Supreme Court of Illinois in 2006, to be their endorsed candidate for one of the nine judgeships that will be voted on in the upcoming primary on February 5th of 2008.

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## A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



nd Michael M. Boland

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



child came to Catholic Charities eight months ago from a domestic violence shelter. Placed into one of our New Hope Apartments in a suburb, she was able to save

\$2,000 from her job toward her own permanent housing. In addition, with the help of Catholic Charities' Legal Referral Program, she resolved two legal obstacles that prevented her and her child from moving on with their lives. She has obtained her driving permit and works as a full-time bank clerk. She plans to gain experience and a job in a medical field.

Since we were founded in 1917, Catholic Charities has been keeping families together, housed and safe with emergency support: food, clothing, rental assistance. In recent decades, we have developed several comprehensive long-term programs that address the underlying causes of homelessness, help homeless families move out of shelters and teach them how to retain permanent housing.

These demanding and practical programs strike at the roots of homelessness: lack of education, job training and language skills. We provide the family with stable housing so the chil-

dren can go back to school, while the parents participate in intensive budgeting, saving, parenting and life-skills training; ongoing goal-setting and counseling; educational opportunities; and job training and placement.

• Last year, 161 families consisting of 513 family members participated in Catholic Charities' nationally recognized, five-year Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program that enables single parents to obtain the education and job skills they need to obtain a livable wage in positions that provide benefits. This rigorous program stresses employment retention so that graduates will achieve total, sustainable, financial independence—and never be homeless again. Last year, this fully bilingual, bi-cultural program included 49 Spanish-speaking families.

• A total of 197 formerly homeless families moved through our 121 New Hope Apartments in Chicago and suburban Cook County, making great strides in the two-year program toward permanent housing, steady employment and financial independence.

• Seventy-six women worked to regain their lives and their children in our intensive three-phase Forever Free program in Chicago for mothers recovering from substance abuse. At Samaritan House in Lake County, 77 families found safety from domestic

violence and strength to begin a new life. Our Interim Housing program in Chicago provided short-term shelter and life-improving services for 151 desperately poor homeless families.

A question that I'm often asked is: "How do people become homeless?" The major setback for most moderate or low income families is lack of any kind of backup. Almost any emergency can trigger homelessness: a major medical expense, unexpected loss of child care, and especially, loss of a job—things that can happen to any of us. Most middle-class families can bounce back, but for the working poor—or for families suffering from domestic violence, substance abuse, or chronic or serious illness, there is no safety net.

But new needs continue to emerge. We are now seeing more families in our shelters who have lost everything they own due to fires—and more adults and children with mental illness. The good news is that our social workers identify the illness and help these family members to obtain inpatient or outpatient treatment. Some children who received help have already been able to return to their families and are attending school again.

For the last 90 years, the mission of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has been to save families and individuals, helping them in time of dire need—often when no other help was available—restoring them to self-reliance, financial independence and the fullness of their God-given human dignity.

But Catholic Charities cannot do any of this alone. Every day, we rely on the living charity and dedication to the poor of our Board of Advisors and Regional Board members, parishes, parishioners and other friends and benefactors who support our work with homeless families.

We saw a vivid example of this great generosity on January 27, when 200 people gathered for a tasting of fine wines at Catholic Charities' 7th Annual "d'Vine Affair," at the Union League Club. Founded and chaired each year by Lake County residents Joseph and Helen Glunz, and John and Teddi Scholz, this beautiful event helps to support our self-sufficiency programs.

Everyone needs a stable home, a job, the professional and compassionate help to heal and to learn new skills, and someone to walk with them and believe in them. Please keep Catholic Charities and the struggling families we help in your prayers during Lent. God bless you.

For more information about Catholic Charities' programs for families in need, please visit: [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

### Self-Sufficiency: New Life for Homeless Families

A little over a month ago, we celebrated the New Year—a time of resolutions to do better in the future. Now, the season of Lent calls us to examine our life and look for ways to put our faith, hope and charity into action.

At Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, we don't have to look far!

In our five Family Self-Sufficiency programs in Cook and Lake counties, we are privileged to see resolutions made and hopes for a brighter future fulfilled every day of the year—by families who have recently been homeless or on the brink of homelessness.

Here is one success story: A 40 year-old single mother with one



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SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 3:00

# The Chieftains

With a career that spans 45 years and 43 albums, The Chieftains are Ireland’s premier musical ambassadors. The six-time Grammy® Award winners’ latest release, *The Essential Chieftains*, is a gathering of the group’s greatest and most loved melodies. Their annual Chicago appearance brings Irish melodies, step dancing, and great fun to Symphony Center!



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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



## Statement of JFI Campaign on Immigration Reform in the Presidential Race

As the presidential candidates campaign in Illinois, we are alarmed & disappointed at the harsh rhetoric aimed by some of the candidates and anti-immigrant organizations against undocumented immigrants. Such rhetoric will not solve the problem of illegal immigration, but can have the impact of alienating immigrant and ethnic communities, including legal residents and naturalized citizens.

Illinois deserve better than harsh attacks on these immigrants. We want sound policy proposals that repair a broken immigration system, not rhetoric that fails to address the issue, dehumanizes people, and creates an atmosphere of fear in immigrant communities.

We do not support illegal immigration. It is not good for society, which can become divided, or the immigrant, who is without protection of the law. It also erodes the rule of law.

However, we do support humane policies which repair a broken immigration system, not punitive enforcement proposals which will drive undocumented immigrants further into the shadows. Comprehensive immigration reform will help secure our borders by replacing illegal immigration with legal avenues for entry into the country. This will allow law enforcement to focus upon criminal elements that truly threaten us—drug traffickers, smugglers, and terrorists.

The presidential candidates seriously need to show leadership on this vital issue and debate solutions which comprehensively reform the U.S. immigration system. Harsh rhetoric and punitive enforcement proposals will not solve the problem and will only further alienate immigrant and ethnic communities in our State and through the nation.

### Faith Leaders Call on Presidential Candidates and People of Faith to Conduct the Debate over Immigration in a Civil, Respectful Manner

On December 17th in Washington, DC, Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, joined by Bishop Thomas Wenski, Chair of the Committee on International Policy for the U.S. Catholic bishops, Rev. Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor, Northland, A Church Distributed, Rev. Luis Cortés, President, Esperanza USA, and Rev. Derrick Harkins, Senior Pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, called on presidential candidates and Christians across the country to conduct the conversation about immigration in a civil manner and remember the holiday seasons' wish of goodwill to all people.

Recently, much of the public discourse over immigration reform has turned to hateful rhetoric and blame towards undocumented immigrants. It is the responsibility of Christians

to defend the dignity of our immigrant families, and this Christmas season Christian faith leaders reminded candidates and lawmakers that to embody the teachings of Christ they must promote a message of love and welcome instead of fear and exclusion.

"As we approach the beginning of the Presidential primary season, it is important that the candidates offer humane and effective solutions to repair our broken immigration system, not harsh rhetoric and mean-spirited enforcement proposals," said Bishop Thomas Wenski, Chair of the Committee on International Policy for the U.S. Catholic bishops.

"We don't need to create more enemies; we need the kind of cooperation and clear thinking that solves problems. Christianity is redeeming that which has gone bad," added Rev. Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor, Northland, A Church Distributed.

"The immigration issue is of the utmost importance to Hispanic families in the United States. I am hopeful that the rhetoric that we have heard will be toned down. Instead of the rhetoric that places blame, we begin the dialogue that America really wants and needs, one that leads to comprehensive immigration reform," stated The Reverend Luis Cortés, Jar, President of Esperanza.

"As the debate surrounding immigration reform continues, it is clear that the hard work of crafting legislation and statutes that lead us toward a path of earned citizenship and effective enforcement remains a priority for all Americans. It is just as clear that hateful, inflammatory and destructive speech serves no purpose. No matter where one stands on the political spectrum regarding this issue, as Christians, we never possess the option to speak or act in a way that lessens the worth of any human being. The African-American church has had a passionate voice for justice and equality. That voice must continue to be heard on behalf of those who seek to be productive partners in the American dream," said Rev. Derrick Harkins, Senior Pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

"In finding Immanuel as immigrant, wanderer and child, we embrace the true meaning of this holy season. As we understand Jesus as the helper of strangers and aliens, we ask our lawmakers and candidates to reject policies, practices, and language that marginalize vulnerable refugees and immigrants. We ask politicians and leaders to embrace the spirit of hope and expectation embodied in Advent and Christmas by lifting up hospitality and generosity to the stranger and the sojourner as our message to the

world," added the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in her statement of support.

"This nation, and our communities in Iowa in particular, deserve a more thoughtful conversation that helps us to not get caught up in this vitriolic kind of speech that demonizes, which ultimately dehumanizes, other individuals, however they came to be in the United States... We do not need any leaders who, by their tone and vitriol, further polarize people from being in community together and finding creative solutions," said Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer, Iowa Bishop of the United Methodist Church.

The religious community is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge across our differences on immigration and a source of healing and reconciliation. We as Christians are pledging to do more to unite our communities and restore the fabric of our society that this growing hate threatens to tear apart. Through Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Christian leaders are speaking out through the media, educating their congregations about biblical responses to immigration, and mobilizing the voices of people of faith. Source: Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

### Welcome!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Martin Rouine, our new Consulate General to Chicago. Martin has come to Chicago after a long career in the Irish Foreign Service.

His most recent appointment has been at Headquarters in Dublin, where, as Project Manager for the new Automated Passport System (APS), he was responsible for the design, development and installation of a new centralised computer system for issuing Irish Passports. This system was designed to meet the internationally agreed standards for biometrics in passports. He was then appointed as Director for Passport Services and was responsible for the successful implementation of the new system in all Irish Passport issuing offices around the world.

This was his second tour of duty in the Passport Service. Previously, during 1991 to 1994, he was responsible for the development of the first computerisation system for issuing passports which was eventually replaced by the APS system.

He spent six years from 1995 to 2001 as a member of Ireland's delegation to the EU. During the Irish Presidency he was responsible for the handling of the External Fisheries Policy of the EU. Following the

Presidency, he had responsibility for Euro Mediterranean Policy and subsequently for relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Martin Rouine served from 1986 to 1990 as Ireland's Deputy Consul General in New York where he had responsibility for a broad range of political, economic and cultural dossiers.

Prior to his appointment to New York, he had been responsible, as Head of Finances, for the introduction of new financial systems and for the overall management of the budgetary allocations for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Martin Rouine was born in Limerick, reared in Clare and was educated in Irish Christian Brothers School, Ennis, and at University College Dublin. He is married to Mary and they have two children.

We wish Martin and his wife Mary a pleasant stay in Chicago as he continues to serve the Irish in the mid-west region.

### Passport Fee Increase

The price of a standard first time/renewal/replacement passport is \$122.00 with delivery. This increase applies from 1st January 2008.

### Conversation with Jesus

Many times when I am troubled or confused, I find comfort in sitting in my back yard and having a vodka and cranberry along with a quiet conversation with Jesus. This happened to me again after a particularly difficult day.

I said "Jesus, why do I work so hard?"

And I heard the reply: "Men find many ways to demonstrate the love they have for their family. You work hard to have a peaceful, beautiful place for your friends and family to gather."

I said: "I thought that money was the root of all evil."

And the reply was: "No, the LOVE of money is the root of all evil."

Money is a tool; it can be used for good or bad."

I was starting to feel better, but I still had that one burning question, so I asked it. "Jesus," I said, "what is the meaning of life? Why am I here?"

He replied: "That is a question many men ask. The answer is in your heart and is different for everyone. I would love to chat with you some more, Señor, but for now, I have to finish your lawn."

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ [siochan@catholic.org](mailto:siochan@catholic.org) or 312-337-8448

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## Rosemarie O'Carroll Opens Rose's Wheat Free Bakery in Evanston

A family history of intolerance to wheat, diagnosed by her brother's friend, planted the seeds for Rosemarie O'Carroll to become a baker and restaurateur.

High Achievers Before she could realize her dream, this first generation Irish lass had to finish her Navy career as a pilot, meteorologist, and oceanographer over the span of twenty years.

Rosemarie grew up in Chicago, went to Lane Tech High School, and then Loyola University, earning a degree in Physics,

While in the Navy she met her future husband while they both attended Aviation Officer Candidate School. He became a helicopter pilot. The couple retired about three years ago as commanders. Rosemarie's husband is currently the Commandant of Rickover Naval Academy at Senn High School.

Diagnosis O'Carroll's mom was diagnosed about 16 years ago as being gluten intolerant. She almost died from the inflammation that it caused. Unfortunately, her Dad's idea of taking care of a sick person was to bring her tea and toast! But one of her brother's best friends became a doctor, and figured out what was the matter with her.

Twelve years ago Rosemarie's mother came to help her with her 8 month old twins while her husband was on deployment. He wouldn't be home for roughly 8 more months. While her mother was helping her, Rosemarie was breaking out in hives everyday. "I had broken out in hives almost daily for almost 8 years. My mom said, 'You could be allergic to wheat too!' I told her 'You think everyone is allergic to wheat.' But, because my mom was home with me, we were eating gluten free. I stopped bringing my sandwich to work and I didn't break out in hives for the whole week. Then they had a BBQ at work and I ate the hotdog with the bun. Hives Everywhere! That was 12 years ago," said Rosemarie.

Since her mom had been so ill eating wheat, Rosemarie was careful she didn't go that direction as well. She's careful, but not perfect. If she has wheat or gluten, she aches all over, suffers some of the same symptoms as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia.

"My sister also had problems with wheat and my two daughters developed symptoms six years ago. My oldest girl became very intolerant, so much so that she couldn't tolerate any gluten products at all," said O'Carroll.

Bakery "I was baking all the time for the kids and my family. I decided it would be a good idea to go into business and so, here we are. I wanted a nice place where people could come for a meal and sandwich and not worry about cross contamination," said Rosemarie.

Rosemarie's Bakery serves lunch in the cafe 11am. to 3pm., dinner on Friday and Saturday 5-9 and brunch on Sunday 11-2pm.

Winter Cafe Menu.

Starters - Baked Artichoke, Spinach and Goat Cheese Dip with crostini for dipping \$8. Turkey Strips - Breaded strips of organic turkey, served with cranberry relish \$7.

Hummus Plate - Rose's hummus, crostini, and crisp seasonal vegetables \$6. Greens - Choose Rose's homemade buttermilk ranch dressing or balsamic vinaigrette. Spinach Salad Baby spinach, sliced mushrooms, red onion, hard boiled egg and croutons, tossed in your choice of dressing \$8. Beet Salad - Roasted organic beets, toasted walnuts, French feta over mixed greens \$8. House Salad - Organic mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumber, chickpeas, red cabbage, and shredded carrots with your choice of dressing \$4. Add grilled chicken breast to any salad: \$3.

Sandwiches All of Rose's sandwiches are served warm on a fresh sandwich roll with lettuce, tomato, onion, napa slaw, cafe chips and a pickle. Grilled Vegetable Sandwich - Grilled seasonal vegetables with goat cheese and basil pesto \$7. - Tallgrass Hamburger - Delicious grass-fed ground beef, from Bill Curtis' Red Buffalo Ranch \$8. - Ham and Cheddar - Baked spiral ham with natural mild cheddar \$8. - Grilled Chicken - Organic chicken breast, spinach and French feta cheese with our signature applewood aioli \$8.

Rosemarie's Bakery serves lunch in the cafe 11am. to 3pm., dinner on Friday and Saturday 5-9 and brunch on Sunday 11-2pm. The Bakery is open from 7 to 6pm. on Monday through Thursday and 7-9 Friday. Saturday from 8am. to 9pm., and 10-5 Sunday.

All meats, butter and eggs are organic, hormone free and antibiotic free. Vegetables are mostly organic. All vegetables used that are on the top ten list for higher pesticides are always organic: salads, potatoes (they taste much better organic) berries and spinach to name a few.

Rose's Wheat Free Bakery, 2901 Central St., Evanston, IL, 847-859-2723.

Family Ties

Rosemarie's dad was from Hospital, Co. Limerick, and worked as a painter for the city for many years before he passed away three years ago. Her mother is from Co. Mayo, and is a retired Cook County Correctional Sergeant. Her mother's father was from Co. Clare.

The O'Carroll's have three children, Mary (16), Brendan (13) and Caroline (13).

Her three brothers were all Chicago Policemen until one brother joined the fire department. Her sister is also a police officer so Rosemarie is the only sibling who didn't join the police department.

"I'd say she did alright!"

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<p><b>Celtic Fiddle Fest</b> with Kayla Burt, Christian Linnert, Andrea Stewart &amp; Gail Foley Sunday, March 2, 7 pm "Three of the finest folk violinists anywhere." - The Washington Post</p> <p>90.9 WDLR</p>	<p><b>Patty Larkin</b> with Beppe Gambetta Friday, March 21, 8 pm "Celtic-influenced ornamentations" - Chicago Tribune</p> <p>88.7wfmt</p>

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## Commissioner Berrios Supports Bill to Aid Seniors Living With Adult Children

Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago congratulates Board of Tax Review Commissioner Joseph

Berrios on being named the New Chairman of the Democratic Party of Cook County. Berrios is the first Hispanic to be elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. From L to R: Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Michael Madigan and Commissioner Joseph Berrios.



Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Joseph Berrios is a successful person with significant historical "firsts" in his record.

He was the first Hispanic elected to the Board of Review. That was in 1988, and approximately seven months ago he became the first Hispanic named Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party. Both times he proved skeptics who doubted a Hispanic could be elected to be wrong.

But historical firsts or proving skeptics wrong isn't what Berrios is about. He is seeking re-election to the Board of Review and his vision of the Board is all about people.

Berrios' commitment to the neighborhoods and the average homeowners in the neighborhoods isn't too surprising considering his background. One of seven children in a blue-collar family that moved from Cabrini-Green to a house in Humboldt Park, Berrios' immigrant parents taught their children the value of hard work, education and helping others, he said.

He began his association with the Board of Review, an independent agency that corrects property assessments placed on residential, commercial and industrial property by the Cook County Assessor, as Chief Clerk, managing the day-to-day burgeoning agency. He spent 6 years in the state House of Representatives. In 1988 was elected to the Board of Review.

Berrios said one of his goals in his next term is seeing that number continues to climb by encouraging and helping the homeowner seek relief from assessments that may not be fair. Besides encouraging people to challenge unprecedented and skyrocketing assessments, Berrios points out more technology is being brought to the agency to make the appeal process faster and easier for the homeowner. This year the Board's web site will feature a search engine designed to allow more extensive queries of historical data by homeowners, who need the information in the appeal process. He said he wants homeowners to have accessibility to the system.

Berrios added that since 2000 the majority of valuation reductions have been for residential property, approximately 80 percent of the reductions have been residential.

Working with State Rep. Gregory Harris (D-13th District), Berrios is supporting a bill designed to aid seniors who have been losing their senior property tax exemption because of a changing society.

"It's not uncommon for adult children to be living with their senior parents. But the senior exemption is based on income, household income. If it exceeds \$50,000, the senior exemption is lost. Our bill would increase that limit to \$60,000 and make it the income of the property owner, not the people living in the house. I think it will help seniors stay in the homes they earned through hard work," he said.

In the wake of the real estate bubble busting, Berrios supports real estate valuations being frozen to allow reality to catch-up to inflated property values caused by the non-realistic escalation of home prices in recent years.

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Mirella Murray - Accordion  
Roisin Dillon - Fiddle

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The February lecture, Roddy Doyle's Fiction: Yesterday's Triumph's, Today's Challenges, will focus on Irish writer, Roddy Doyle (pictured) and his impact on ontemporary Irish literature.



Sunday, February 3, 2pm • Free

**Hanneke Cassel Fiddle Concert and Workshop**



Fiddle player Hanneke Cassel's exuberant playing has earned her many honors and awards. She is the 1997 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Berklee College of Music.

She has played for the Cathie Ryan Band, made guest appearances with Cherish the Ladies and Alasdair Fraser and is a member of Boston-based fiddle bands, Childsplay and Halali.

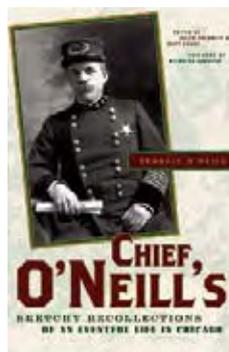
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**Chief O'Neill Book Launch**

Join Ellen Skerrett and Mary Lesch for a book launch and signing of Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago.

O'Neill's story, brings to life the challenges involved in succeeding in a new land, providing for his family, and integrating into a new culture.

Sunday, February 17  
3pm • Free



**Chulrua Salon Concert**

Chulrua, one of the world's top traditional Irish bands, returns for an encore salon concert performance.

The band plays old instrumental dance music of Ireland: jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, walking marches,

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Thursday, February 21 8pm • Price \$20

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The Prop Thtr's critically-acclaimed drama about Mayor Richard J. Daley returns to the IAHC for six performances this winter.

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## Tradition In Review



Bill Margeson



Well, first of all—don't forget that the Top TIR Awards are next month. These are the Annual Awards by Irish American News for the best of the best in traditional Irish music releases in the past year. We hand them out every March, and the list is being finalized as we write this! The regular reader knows that we also write regularly for Livelreland.com, which is by far, the world's largest Irish music web site. There, the site hands out their Livies Awards every January. Many times, The Livies and The Top TIR are the same Awards. Not this year. Well, some will be the same, many not. Chicago is the second largest Irish market in America, lagging only behind Philadelphia—so the Top TIR are eagerly awaited each year, and for good reason. The Awards are, truly, the best of the best. Don't miss them.

The term, "just under the wire" has to apply to this month's album. Being generally released in February means that it is eligible for Top TIR Awards, and we can tell you now that it will be winning SOMETHING. It is that good, and it is seldom that we get really great albums of this caliber out of the average 40-45 that come in each month. Well, here it is!

One of the greatest names in music over the last 39 years is Charlie McCoy. "Legend" does not cover him. We guarantee you have heard him. You just may not know it. In the annals of Nashville, there has been no musician in more demand than Charlie. His main instrument is harmonica. His first, famous studio work was on the iconic, Candy Man with Roy Orbison. Since then, he has recorded with everyone. Everyone, we 'tells 'ya. From Bob Dylan to Elvis, Johnny Cash to Perry Como. After all these years, and with all of this stunning talent, he has finally turned his musical attention to Irish music with the release of, A Celtic Bridge. The subtitle is, From Nashville to Dublin. So it is. We hasten to insert here that there are legendary harmonica players in Ireland. Brendan Power with Riverdance. The Allens. The Murphys. They are fantastic, really. The harmonica has been one of "the poor men's instruments" for decades. Easily carried, relatively inexpensive, and a naturally terrific



sound for accompaniment. Starting with the gods like Larry Adler, Toots Thiemann and The Harmonicats, the instrument took on a larger and more important role as a solo lead player in music. And, then came McCoy. No one, really, has moved so easily among musical genres as he. We DO have the man, Howard Levy, right here in Chicago—and he is truly spectacular. And, remember Paul Butterfield?

We are going to do a major article on Charlie McCoy very soon right here. We were put into contact with him by local friend and Irish music producer/agent/promoter/manager/maven/impresario, Irish Mike Considine. We have been writing about all this music for decades now—all this writing, studying, reviewing, and commenting. We've met 'em all in Irish music, as the saying goes. Well, all the ones we actually wanted to meet. Fun. Nice. Informative. But, we were never

tongue-tied and nervous until Irish Mike arranged a phone interview with Charlie McCoy. The first five minutes were spent with our groveling and drooling over his career and talent. Thanks be to God, he is a wonderful guy, and we soon relaxed into a lengthy chat with only sporadic lapses on our part into truly unbecoming fawning.

When you hear A Celtic Bridge you will do the same. This, quite literally, is a masterpiece for this Grammy Award winner. He is instinctually at home with this music. Oh, he has some very nice sidemen and women along with him on the album. Very good musicians, all. Charlie even lets them sing on a few tunes. The best song, by far, is the biographical, "An Irish Pedigree." Charlie penned the song and sings it. It is a surprisingly open and accurate summation of his life and career! Best of all, it totally explains why he came to make this album.

But, all this is simply background chatter. Never mind the songs and the side chats. This album is, like all McCoy albums, about his harmonica. This is not a Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Blues Travelers kind of harmonica. This is a master at work. Some would say the best of all time—and when it comes to Nashville, that is saying it all. The tone, the notes, the approach. The hands, heart and very breath of a master musician at the top of his form. It cannot be done better than this, and it cannot be done more personally. If you think we are hyperventilating, you are right. Just like on the phone interview. But, wait a minute. We can truly tell you why. Here it is. This is Charlie McCoy we are talking about. Having paid our own way

through college as a studio musician, we have heard about this man from the 60's—he was a legend even then. So, you love Irish music, or you wouldn't read this column. Just trust us. If you want to hear gorgeous tunes played in a way you have never heard, just go get this album. We know The Rampant Lion in Villa Park and Paddy's On The Square in Long Grove have it.

There are very, very few albums that are truly and deeply, "Must Haves" for an Irish music collection. We can think of, maybe, 10. Wait. 11. A Celtic Bridge. Get it. You'll see. More importantly, you'll hear. Unbelievable.

Rating: Four Harps

\* Remember Shay Clarke's and my radio program, Blarney on the

Air every Monday night from 7-9 on WDCB, 90.9 fm. [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org)! We'll be playing THIS on that show—to be sure!

\*We must also mention the Compass release of Dennis Cahill and Martin Hayes' first album in nine years, Welcome Here Again. It will also win a major award next month, and we had intended to review it along with A Celtic Bridge this month. Terrible news of a tragedy to a dear, dear friend as we are writing this tears us away from the column. We mention this new and beautifully played, instant classic running out the door, so that on a far better day, we can review it fully. This mention will serve as a review and eligibility for Awards right now.

\*Ta.

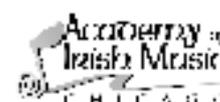
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### Three St. Patrick's Celebrations at IAHC

The IAHC continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2008. What makes these celebrations different than the many Chicago holds is that the live music, dance, food and activities all take place under one roof. People wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay late, beating the bar crowds and cold weather. The IAHC is a smoke-free establishment.

On Friday, March 14, 2008, the IAHC kicks off the holiday with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish dance event at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish dancers, all on one stage.

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the IAHC holds its annual St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented event has as many as 3,000 attendees throughout the day. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight and include traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities.

There will be live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band will make its annual ap-

pearance. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if purchased before the end of the day on March 13. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. Only 3,000 tickets will be sold and last year's event was sold out.

On Monday, March 17, 2008 the IAHC holds its annual St. Patrick's Day party in the Center's Fifth Province Lounge. The day begins with Mass at 11am, and the pub opens at noon. Events include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. The cost is \$10 and tickets are available at the door only.

773-282-7035, ext. 10.

### Irish Heritage Library Lectures in march

The lectures have been a staple of the Center's cultural programming for 22 years and the 2008 lectures will be no exception.

The two-part series begins on Sunday, March 2 at 2pm with Recollections of a Dublin Playgoer, a talk by Professor Patrick J. Casey followed by writer Peter Quinn, discussing the social and economic aspirations of Irish Catholic Americans.

The second lecture on Sunday, March 9 at 2pm is Why The Irish

Speak English: Printing, Literacy, and Education in Eighteenth-Century Ireland by Peter K. Fallon, followed by writer Michael Cain, discussing Irish crime connections.

Tickets for each lecture, which include admission and a reception are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or by calling the IAHC office at 773-282-7035.

### Monthly Irish Lecture Series Continues

The IAHC and the DePaul University's Irish Studies Program continue their ongoing lecture series featuring scholars, artists, journalists and public figures this February.

Intersections: Present, Past and Future in Irish Culture addresses issues relating to the fast-changing culture, economy and historical sense of both the Republic and Northern Ireland. Topics will focus on the interests of all ages and backgrounds.

The lectures are held the first Sunday of each month at 2pm at the IAHC at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago and are free.

The February 3 lecture, Roddy Doyle's Fiction: Yesterday's Triumph's, Today's Challenges, focuses on Irish writer, Roddy Doyle and his impact on contemporary Irish literature. Jim Fairhall, Ph.D. Interim Director of the Irish Studies Program DePaul University, will discuss Doyle's work.



Peter Quinn

Doyle, a Booker Prize winner who is also Ireland's most popular writer, has created in "Barrytown", a fictional Northside Dublin setting that might be compared to Brian Friel's Ballybeg. Doyle is a writer who claims, unlike Friel and his Field Day colleagues, to have no designs on his readers' minds. Yet, like Friel and many other Irish writers going back to Yeats, Joyce and beyond, he explores the theme of Irish identity.



Chulrua

### Chulrua Returns to IAHC Salon Concert Series

Chulrua, a top traditional Irish band, will return for an encore salon concert performance in an intimate 90-seat acoustic setting at the IAHC's new third floor theatre this February.

Chulrua will perform selections from their newest release, the highly-acclaimed CD The Sing Kettle. The concert is Thursday, February 21 at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door.

Chulrua (cool-ROO-ah) is Paddy O'Brien, Patrick Ourceau and Pat Egan, who strive to present tunes, keeping with the old tradition, as they were handed down from generation to generation in Ireland. The band plays old instrumental dance music of Ireland: jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, walking marches, slow airs and set dances.

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 March 10, 11, 12  
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**Shipshewanna, IN June 10 & 11** at the Dan Ross House \$235 per person 4th day

**Springfield, IL June 22-23**  
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**Moline, IL July 31** Country Classic Lunch & 4 hr River Cruise \$85\*\*

**August 6 - Dixieland Party Lunch & 4 hr River Cruise \$85\*\***

**Springfield, IL Sept 14-15**  
 2 Day 1 Night \$235 per person 4th day

**Galena Big Band Weekend June 28-29-30 \$395 per person 4th day**

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## Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



Little did the GAA know when they opted to open up Croke Park for commercial purposes that they were sitting on a virtual gold mine. This has been proved in regard to allowing rugby and soccer internationals to be played on the hallowed sod of Croke Park while rugby venue, Landsdowne Road is being re-developed. It is expected that the latter venue will not be available until the end of 2008/'09. Sponsorship firms are clamouring to get a bit of the action and already the GAA have to draw up a list of those anxious to be considered in this latest development of high powered sponsorship rights.

Now comes the news that the Association is very close to signing on a New Year deal which will earn the GAA 75m euro in sponsorship deals over the next three year which will be a record for an Irish sports organisation. The new deal is virtually sealed on giving the GAA 9.7m euro per year deal for a six way sponsorship of the All-Ireland football and hurling championships while negotiations are at an advanced stage on the new TV3 and Setanta sharing coverage with RTE for the first time. Naturally the TV and the sponsorship deals are linked, with broadcasters required to use various company names as part of their match day presentations, which is now the norm at major international events.

The huge costs involved in these arrangement have not been made public but the word is that the GAA priced the All-Ireland football sponsorship at approx over 5m euro and the All-Ireland hurling championships about a million or so less. The GAA negotiating committee wanted six sponsors- three for football and three for hurling- bringing the total take for the 2008- 2009-2010 seasons to 29m euro, more than three times the return from Guinness and Bank of Ireland who have sponsored the championships since the early '90s.

The new TV deal, which ends RTE's monopoly of All-Ireland senior championship coverage is expected to be worth at least 15m a year nearly double that of former years. Significantly the whole deal is broken into a series of packages including TV and radio rights at

national and local levels. It must be stressed that the top of the range package features TV rights for the All-Ireland finals, semi finals and quarter finals. Packages two and three features various breakups of the 10 provincial and All-Ireland qualifying matches, followed by three and four and five which are comprised of 10 picks from further down the line. The National League and All-Ireland club championships feature on further packages, while there are multi-packages involving lesser TV coverage such as news and on-the-spot reports and radio at national and local level.

TV3 has already secured the rights for a package which features seven provincial and three qualifier ties. The rest are still being negotiated, although it's certain that RTE will retain its hold on the glamour matches at the concluding stages of the championships. It proves once again how highly Gaelic Games are held in the esteem of the major companies who are eagerly, seeking to be part of major sponsorship arrangements. As of now the GAA, following the successful conclusions to their TV/ sponsorship deals can look forward to banking 25m euro a year over the next three years from those sources alone.

\*There will be no changes in the GAA's disciplinary system for the forthcoming National Leagues and Championships despite the fact that team managers and some county Boards were calling for reviews of the present rules. The earliest any disciplinary changes could apply would be for the 2009

season, as it has been decided that any proposed alterations must go before Congress in April. A high profile review body has already brought forward some radical suggestions about match discipline, which include abandoning 'ticks' in favour of a strict use of yellow cards. That led to the belief that that the radical changes would be in use for this year's provincial championships and the 'ticking' issue might be even dealt with at the Special Congress last month. But Croke Park officials made it quite clear that this will not be the case and that any disciplinary changes, if agreed, will not apply until the 2009 Congress.

## Enter Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Queen Contest!

James T. Sullivan, General Chairman of the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade, today announced plans for a city-wide search for "Chicago's fairest Colleen." She will represent the Chicago Irish community as the Queen of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Queen and her court of four will be expected to attend civic, neighborhood, parish, and Irish events on behalf of the parade committee.

Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, 17-28 years old, is eligible to enter the contest.

Entrants should send a snapshot with name, age, address, phone number and brief biography and explanation on why you want to be Queen.

Mailing Address: "Queen Contest", 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60607

Contest finals will be held Sunday, February 17, 2008, in the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60607. Deadline for entries is Friday, 312.263.6612.

## Beacon Street Needs Camp Support

Creating positive change through the arts in Chicago's most diverse community—Uptown—for 25 years The Beacon Street Gallery and Theatre has served over 6,500 artists and 19,500 youth and families with award winning education programs, first voice exhibitions featuring women, minority, and new emerging artists, and folk and ethnic performance programs.

A recent evaluation of students attending Beacon Street's after school program shows a 92% rate of improvement in report card grades, standardized test scores, creative arts portfolios, and student behavior. This type of programming is critical for children who live in at risk

situations.

One student can attend camp for \$100. Donations will be much appreciated and put to undeniably good use. [www.beaconstreet.org](http://www.beaconstreet.org).

## Celtic Soccer Club Seeks Players

The Chicago Celtic Soccer Club is looking for a few new experienced players with dedication for their Saturday Over 30's and Sunday Open Team. Their practices take place on Sunday mornings. Interested players (who are serious about playing) should e-mail [Josulli887@yahoo.com](mailto:Josulli887@yahoo.com) or visit their website, [www.Chicagoceltic.blogspot.com](http://www.Chicagoceltic.blogspot.com).

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- ◆ Graduate St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota
- ◆ Attended University College Dublin, Ireland for college junior year.

Judge Dennis J. Burke, born and raised on the South side of Chicago, is the son of John and Catherine Burke.

"Jabwoy" Burke, born in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland, was a well-known Irish fields player.

His mother's family was from Keel, Achill, Ireland.

## Please punch Number 78

for the most qualified and experienced judge on the ballot.



Judge Dennis J. Burke (upper left) and his family at his daughter's wedding at Old St. Patrick's church this past October.

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## Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



St. Joan is a wordy, wide-ranging, polemical drama on the interplay of politics and religion by the gifted Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. And it is as pertinent and engaging today as it has been at any time since it was first produced at New York's Garrick Theater in 1923. Unlike some of Shaw's other work, because of contemporary references, it remains evergreen and is no way dated. The presentation last month by the Shaw Festival of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier was probably as good as any production mounted anywhere in the past 83 years. The staging under the direction of Jackie Maxwell was broad in scope and the players, their Canadian accents notwithstanding, were nothing short of magnificent.

Overall, there was no discernible weakness in any of the 26 roles depicted on stage. The 16 actors, some of whom did double duty, wowed the audience repeatedly with their impressive vocal deliveries which were delivered with amazing realism and clarity. Tara Rosling as Joan was especially impressive as was Peter Krantz as an English chaplain. The production enabled playgoers to experience fully the emotional depth of Shaw at the peak of his playwriting powers. And to cap it all, with present day presidential political campaigns touting the winds of change, there was more than a modicum of take home messages for today. The give and take on the manipulation of the masses by those in power, on

the juggling of justice for political purposes, on the employment of terrorism and torture, and the misuse of religion for secular ends are as pertinent and possibly unsettling today as they were at the time of the play in the early fifteenth century.

### Hundred Years War

The storyline of St. Joan is well known. It was the Middle Ages and the Hundred Years War (which actually lasted 116 years) between England and France was raging. England had invaded France and captured much territory. It seemed only a matter of days before the city of Orleans would fall and the people of France were in a deep funk. The future looked black and dismal. Joan, the illiterate daughter of a sheep farmer, saw things differently. She heard voices telling her to become a soldier and lead the French to victory. She said that the voices had come from God and should be obeyed. At first, no one took her seriously; people did not believe that a mere girl could do the work of an army. But things were so desperate that the authorities had second thoughts. Impressed by her arguments and compelling personality, they thought they had nothing to lose and decided to give her a chance. To their amazement, Joan mobilized the French forces and succeeded in routing the English in a series of hard fought battles. The zenith of Joan's success was when she crowned the neurotic prince dauphin (Harry Judge) as king of France in the cathedral in

Rheims. Following the coronation, things went downhill.

Many had been wondering at the reason for Joan's amazing success and postulated that it was due to supernatural powers. But was it for good or evil? On that people were divided. Was Joan a witch in the thrall of Satan or a force for good who owed her success to God? Shaw had the English and French debate that separately on stage and both remained uncertain. But both sides independently arrived at the same conclusion. Joan was an agent of change who had become a threat to the status quo of the social order. The church personified by Archbishop of Rheims (Norman Browning) was miffed that Joan as the voice-appointed agent of God had taken it upon herself to crown the king thereby undermining the role of the church. The Archbishop believed that was the church's responsibility: that the church militant should be at least the equal of the king on earth and superior to him in heaven. The king, despite what Joan had done for him, thought that she was too intrusive and talked too much. He simply wished that she would go away and leave him alone. The English Earl of Warwick (Patrick Galligan) whose aim was to rule France (and other dominions in what he saw as their best interest) saw Joan as a populist nationalist whose beliefs and political powers could unseat him and the landed class as well. These various forces eventually colluded to ensure that Joan was destroyed.

### Joan's Trial

As things turned out, Joan, while on a military mission, was captured by Burgundians (a force of the French province.) She was betrayed and handed over to the English for a mighty sum. The English imprisoned Joan and the France that she had saved washed its collective hands of her. Warwick employed French clerics to bring Joan to trial which they did. Peter Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais (Ben Carlson) and his allies decided to try Joan not for witchcraft but for heresy. At a protracted trial in which Joan repeatedly bested her Inquisitors she was convicted and then burned at the stake. Normally, that would be the end of matters and the end of the play. But it was not the end in reality. Twenty one years after Joan's death, the findings of the court were overturned and Joan was declared not guilty. Five hundred years later she was beatified and then declared a saint by the same church that had burned her. That irony led to Shaw writing this play and declaring a clear message: the powers who

rule society are never ready to accept someone who would change society even though that person is a saint.

In World War I (1914 – 18) Shaw was an avowed pacifist which did not endear him to the leaders of England. He campaigned against the war and saw the heads of the various countries as equally culpable. He even publicly supported clemency for Irish patriot Sir Roger Casement.

His stock had fallen so low that the London theatrical scene looked with askance at his work. He decided to have this play first produced in New York and not London. He turned to Broadway where St. Joan was a hit. A year later the play opened in England and created such a buzz that the Irishman was nominated for and awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1925.

## Gaelic Park's Irish Fest Queen Contest Entry Deadline Fast Approaching

Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest 2008 Queen Contest deadline for entry is February 23, 2008. Applications can be obtained at Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. in Oak Forest or call 708-687-9323.

The candidate chosen as the new Irish Festival 2008 Queen shall reign as Queen for one full year. A Queen's court will also be chosen. Both the Queen and her court will be invited to participate in many activities and events. During St. Patrick's week, the new Queen and her court will be given the seat of honor high atop the Irish Festival Parade Float. Ceremonies, contest and gala festivities at Irish Festival 2008 will be memorable and fun for the Queen and everyone involved. Gifts and prizes worth more than \$1,000 will be bestowed upon the newly crowned Queen. Valuable prizes will also be presented to her court. All girls who meet the following requirements are invited to enter the contest, if who meet the following requirements:

- Are 18-26 years of age up to March 2, 2008
- Must be of Irish heritage
- Single
- \$10.00 registration fee

Your Irish Fest 2008 Queen Contest Application should be mailed along with the entry fee to: Irish Festival Queen Contest, c/o Colleen Murphy, 135 Old Creek Road, Palos Park, IL 60464 to arrive by February 23, 2008.

## Hizzoner at IAHC

The critically-acclaimed production of Hizzoner: Daley the First returns to the IAHC as part of its Winter 2008 tour.

The tour revisits the venues of Hizzoner's summer 2007 sold-out performances, including the Beverly Arts Center and the Skokie Theatre and wraps up just in time to kick off St. Patrick's Day festivities at the IAHC. Hizzoner played to 8 sold out audiences when it was performed at the IAHC in May 2007.

Performances at the IAHC are Friday, February 22 through Sunday, March 2 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Ticket prices are \$35 for general admission and \$30 for seniors.

Mayor Richard J. Daley (1902-1976), authoritarian politician, family man and dynasty builder, whose life was inextricably bound to Chicago, the city he loved, is explored in Hizzoner. Written and starring Neil Giuntoli, it is directed by Stefan Brun and opened March 2, 2006 at Prop Thtr. Hizzoner calls forth from history of the 60's and 70's while featuring a theatrically intimate look at the man atop Chicago's political machine.

## Circuit Court Judge Powell Running for Re-election

Cook County Circuit Court Judge, Joan Powell, works in the First Municipal Division at the Daley Center. She was appointed to the bench in October, 2006, by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Judge Powell has been endorsed by all bar associations that review judicial candidates, including the Illinois, Cook County, Women's and Chicago Bar Association.

Before joining the judiciary, Judge Powell was a successful attorney, first in private practice than as a law clerk and later in the Cook County's State's Attorney Office. As a solo practitioner, she handled family law, elder law and contract cases for more than five years. She then worked as a law clerk for Judge Joseph Casiato in the Law Division for three years before becoming an Assistant State's Attorney. In her 6-1/2 years in the Cook County's State's Attorney Office she worked in the Complex Litigation Division where she litigated civil rights and medical negligence cases in federal and state court.

"Being a judge is one of the most important jobs in the world," she said. "As a judge you don't just decide cases. You protect human rights, the integrity of the judicial system, the U.S. Constitution and democracy."

Up until the Feb. 5, 2008 primary, Judge Powell is trying to get her name out to the public and educate the voters about the election of judges.

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**Sunday School Cinema**  
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## World Monopoly Is New Goal of the Irish

Irish Citizens at home and abroad called on to vote to get Ireland on the first-ever World Monopoly Board

A worldwide vote for countries to be included on the first-ever World Monopoly board has been launched to the international press in Times Square New York. The Rose of Tralee, Lisa Murtagh will cast the first official vote for Ireland at the event, while back in Dublin, Miss Ireland, Bláithnaid McKenna, will rally the Irish nation to get behind the Irish vote.

Global games company Parker Brothers is launching the worldwide vote to find the 22 greatest cities in the world that should be included on the new Monopoly Here & Now: World Edition board – and Dublin has been nominated.

Monopoly fans around the world can visit [www.monopoly.com](http://www.monopoly.com) to cast their votes and help create the first-ever worldwide edition of the game. Voters are allowed to cast their ballots for up to ten cities each day of the vote, which will be open until 28 February 2008. The city that receives the most votes will be placed on the highest rent property traditionally held on the Irish board by Shrewsbury Road and more recently, on the new All-Ireland edition, by County Roscommon.

Bookmakers Paddy Power has put odds on Ireland being represented by Dublin making the board at 1/3 and for Dublin to achieve the highest rent position of 20/1. "This vote is about the passion of the Irish people. It's up to us to ensure that Ireland is featured on the board. And as was demonstrated only recently by the people of Roscommon, it's entirely possible that if Irish people at home and abroad vote everyday over the coming month, Ireland will have a good chance of featuring on the board", he said.

The twenty cities that receive the most votes will be part of Monopoly history as the first cities selected to be on the World edition game board. However, two spaces on the board will be reserved for cities that are nominated through a wild card vote. Any city in the world can be nominated for these property spaces, which means that Belfast and Cork might appear on the game board next to Paris, London or Dublin. The wild card winners will occupy the low-rent property spaces traditionally held on the Irish board by Kimmage and Crumlin and more recently, Donegal and Westmeath.

"Monopoly is the world's most popular board game and it transcends cultural barriers," said Helen Martin, global brand director for Monopoly brand. "More than 750 million people have played the game since it was first introduced nearly 75 years ago and its popularity shows no sign of slowing down.

Now" versions of the game in each country – with often surprising results. In Ireland, almost 170,000 votes were cast and the people of County Roscommon proved to be the most passionate about their county winning the top spot. In France, Paris never made it onto game board. In the United States, powerhouse city Dallas landed in the low-rent district. In Australia, fans logged more than 17 million votes. And in the UK, more votes were cast during the UK online vote than were cast in the local elections, which took place simultaneously.

The cities voted onto the final game board will be announced in August 2008. The new Monopoly Here & Now: World Edition will be produced in Hasbro's plant in Waterford and available in stores around the world in the autumn.



By Frank J. Mahon



### Part Five: The Root of All Evil, and Also Theatre

All artistic endeavors, regardless of form or degree of inspiration, have one thing in common: they all take money. And as I have found out, raising money is an art form unto itself, particularly when you are trying to finance a play. Our production of *The Quiet Man Tales* was coming together nicely. The rights to one of the most beloved Irish stories of the 20th century was securely in our hands. We wrote a script that test-audiences enjoyed. Through auditions and staged readings, we had the beginnings of a stellar cast. We had a Tony Award-winning co-producer, and director Bill Pullinsi, who has enough Jeff Awards for a chess board, said he wanted to direct it.

The final hurdle was (and still is as of this writing) raising the capital. Our co-producers crunched the numbers.

Compared to a Broadway musical, it's a low budget production, but to the rest of us, it's over a quarter mil.

So how does one go about raising that kind of money for a theatrical production? If you're Mel Brooks, you have to wear a hard hat because people are throwing wads of money at you. If you're a well-established producer, you have a list of investors that you have been dealing with for years. The quality of your productions, your experience, success, and integrity keep those names on your list and keep those people investing over and over again.

If you are a less-established writer/producer like me, you start the old fashioned way: by hitting-up your family and friends. Such support helps you to tightly pack a snowball of cash that you then roll down a hill and hope that it has enough momentum to keep rolling and get bigger and bigger.

On the advice of our well-established co-producers, Libby Adler Mages and Tony D'Angelo, we decided to hold a backers' audition. A backers' audition is a staged reading on steroids. Everything about it—the cast, the venue, the director, the reception that follows—all have to be the best you can afford, because you aren't just inviting a test audience—you are inviting potential investors—people who not only applaud and gush over your brilliance, but also write checks.

The first consideration was the venue. Almost from the moment I

started writing *The Quiet Man Tales*, I had a vision of seeing the play at the Mercury Theatre on Southport. I had seen Frank McCourt's *The Irish and How They Got That Way* there twice. It seemed like the best venue in the city for an Irish play, especially with Cullen's Bar attached to it. "The Irish" ran for over a year there.

As it turned out, Libby and Tony produced *Over The Tavern* at the Mercury and knew the owner Michael Cullen well. Tony suggested that we hold the backers' audition there. Suddenly, what had been a hopeful vision became a real possibility. Tony called Michael and worked things out. The date was set: March 12, 2007, and Bill Pullinsi was slated to direct. We called the actors we wanted from our prior readings, and filled in the gaps with some of Bill's favorite actors. (Bill's currently the artistic director of Theatre at the Center in Munster. Back in the 60s, he and Tony started the venerable Candlelight Theatre. Bill knows lots of actors.)

Things came together quickly. Bill, Tony, my writing partner and I met at my condo in Evanston to discuss things. Bill brought along diagrams of the stage for each scene, indicating where some very basic furniture would be placed. It was the first tangible sign that *The Quiet Man Tales* would be more than just words on a page, or actors at music stands. The collaborative process had begun. We had moved up a very large notch. I was psyched.

Next mission: filling the house. The Mercury Theater seats almost 300 people. We didn't know 300 people. But we invited everyone we knew who might be remotely interested in our play, including Libby and Tony's investors, and prayed they'd come.

On March 12th, the actors showed up in the afternoon for a run-through. Actors get paid only a small fee for readings, and rehearsal time is limited per Equity rules. Over the weekend, we had asked a lot from them. Still, they remained cooperative, enthusiastic, and professional. We had assembled a cast so good that we probably won't be able to afford them all when the show actually gets produced. Something very special happened shortly before the audience arrived. I was sitting in the theatre, worrying about the final scene. In the play, the former "flying column" comrades sing "The Parting

Glass" and march slowly across the stage. We hadn't had much time to work on this climactic moment, and precision was critical. Then, quite by surprise, the actors returned to the stage early, giving up part of their dinner break, to go over the song, and time the singing to the marching. They ran through it over and over. When they did it for the audience later that evening, it was perfect—as if they had rehearsed it for a week.

The audience started arriving around 7 p.m. At first, a nice crowd was forming in the lobby. Then more came, and more, and more, until the line was out the door. We wound up with an audience of about 175 – more than we could have hoped for. 7:30 came. We introduced the play, dropped a few gentle hints about investing, and then turned the stage over to the actors. I found a staircase at the back of the theatre and sat there, listening, watching, worrying, and occasionally pulling out my flask. The first few funny lines got respectable chuckles. But as the evening wore on, the audience warmed up. They were listening, they were laughing, they were enjoying it. Even the stage directions were getting laughs. When it was over, the audience gave the play a standing ovation—very rare at a reading. Bill and Tony told us afterwards that it was the most successful reading they had ever attended. But would all this enthusiasm translate into investments?

That was eight months ago. We've had one more backers' audition since then, and we have over half the budget raised. Today, unless a playwright is content to send his or her script to theatres and wait months, sometimes up to a year to get a response, which is more often than not a rejection, it takes being an entrepreneur. It takes being a salesman. Theatres have their specific mission statements, agendas, and favorite (often in-house) playwrights. Many small theatres exist primarily to give their ensemble actors roles, and produce works by "resident" playwrights, side-stepping the submission process. Nothing wrong with that. But there's a third avenue: Make it happen yourself. After trying it the other ways first, that's the road we're on. It takes planning, goal-setting, commitment, learning, stamina, and time. I've done things in the last year I never thought I could do, and that's very exciting.

We're closing in on reaching our goal, and have a ways to go, but we are getting there. It's often been said that you never know what you can do until you try, and that is absolutely true. Which leads me to...

Next month: Maureen O'Hara reads *The Quiet Man Tales*. And comments. email [fjmahon@aol.com](mailto:fjmahon@aol.com)

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## For The Republic

Chris Fogarty



**CORRECTION.** Last month here I described murder victim Paul Quinn as an "Irish Republican patriot." Am now informed that he wasn't an activist; that he was more an ordinary working member of the public who refused to kow-tow to his district's new enforcers of Brit rule—especially now that those enforcers are members of the Adams/McGuinness gang, erstwhile IRA, now traitors.

MICHAEL McKEVITT remains caught up in a corrupt judicial system. He languished in Portlaoise Prison, having been framed for the Omagh atrocity. Meanwhile, David Rupert, the life-long criminal and chief witness in that framing, was himself (and McKeivitt wasn't) involved in that very crime for FBI agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley and their MI5 handlers. Rupert is living on the \$millions he received for his involvement in that atrocity (29 murdered) and the subsequent frame-up. Mary and I attended Michael's frame-up trial in 2003. It was in the very room where 200 years earlier, Robert Emmet, the "Darling of Erin" was sentenced by Brit Lord Norbury to be hanged and decapitated.

The chief difference in the two trials is that in 1803 the Brits had to pack the jury to ensure the desired verdict. In 2003, under "Irish" sovereignty the system doesn't trust the people to deliver the desired verdict, so McKeivitt's trial was a juryless, three judge event. Space here doesn't permit adequate recount of those two weeks. It was unbelievable. All any crime investigators had to do was get the documents showing FBI/MI5 agent Buckley's crimes in Chicago and Winnetka. Those crimes were repeated later in Ireland; but while they locked us up in the Federal Correctional Center at Clark and VanBuren and separately framed me for the murder of the Langert family, they failed against us in Chicago but did succeed with the same crimes later in Ireland.

NEXT DATES for McKeivitt are February 12, 13, and 14. Those are the dates of his appeal to Ireland's Supreme Court. The spectacle of the 2003 "trial" remains a vivid memory. All of its obvious corruption raises question as to how high the corruption goes. We shall soon learn if the corruption also engulfs the Supreme Court. If so, the next step will have to be the International Court for Human Rights in Salzburg. Let us all ponder justice and how to support it and make it a

respected and dependable component of life, and think of Michael McKeivitt and the justice he and his family so need and of which they have been so deprived. Mrs McKeivitt is a sister of Bobby Sands (R.I.P).

DO WE KNOW why we favor one politician over another? The science of psychology is being used to benefit retailers and pols by short-circuiting our intellect. They are winning the struggle for sovereignty over our individual decision-making capability. Unchecked emotions override intellects. That is why advertising targets our emotions. They have studied us carefully, to know our weaknesses to manipulate us through them. They have learned of our "hot buttons," the images and impressions that incite emotion. For example; younger males, naturally aggressive, can be made to condone, say, the genocide of Iraq and the looting of its oil if it is presented to them as "winning." The intellects of young men tend to collapse upon hearing "hot button" words such as "winning," and "victory." All Seven Deadly Sins within us are used by others to try to control us, and they are frequently successful. Our own lust and pride is used against us to sell us cars. Karl Rove has been the master of manipulation. He was so unbelievably cunning that he convinced multitudes of "patriotic" Americans that the winner of three purple hearts and a silver (bronze?) star was less patriotic than one who stayed out of that war through clout, went AWOL from his Stateside unit, and then deserted.

RELIGIOUS fundamentalists are among the most vulnerable of all. Preachers claiming a biblical interpretation convert tire congregations into rabid promoters of the wackiest of notions, even genocidal ones. An example of this is the "Left Behind" scam with its tens of millions of followers; the Rapturists. Their interpretation of the Bible "reveals" that before the Messiah's second coming, Israel's borders must extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. Thus, to advance biblical "prophecy" those poor saps, hugely influential due to their millions of votes, call for acceleration of Israel's genocide of the Palestinians and neighboring populations. Odd, seeing that those same Dixie fundamentalists used to be the wellsprings of American anti-Semitism. How "good" is their religion? Consider this: they are doing all in their power to cre-

ate Armageddon; but when it comes, they will not be here. They will have been wafted up out of their clothes to their reward in Heaven. Their reward will consist of being seated at God's right-hand side whence all will gaze with satisfaction down upon the rest of mankind burning in the "Lake of Fire" that was once Earth. How is that for malevolence? And they are Christians? So innocent, by comparison, are those Muslims and their 56 virgins. "CHURCH-GOING U.S." That is what the polls clearly show. It is also our international reputation. Meanwhile essentially all of the presidential candidates, whether Repub or Dem, express concern exclusively for the middle-class, the relatively comfortable, while the promises they make, if implemented, would tend to further benefit the wealthy. Bush publicly identified the Republican base as the "have-mores." Am unsure about other religions, but Christianity has always championed the poor and promoted charity. Thus, the fact of Christianity's preference for the poor whose existences the pols ignore while promising more to the wealthy, is utterly revealing. It tells all with eyes to see that, despite the self-proclamations, the "born-again," and church-attendance, Americans are not Christian. The national "Judeo-Christianity" that skews benefits away from the poor and toward the mega-rich is something; but it is not Christian nor, logic indicates, "Judeo." John Edwards' references to the poor, and even more so, Dennis Kucinich's, make them shining exceptions (by this single standard, though other matters must be evaluated).

"CHANGE" is now the mantra of the Dem presidential candidates. Meanwhile, much of the news media cheer Repub plans to lower income taxes, while concealing the crucial fact that most of the benefit is funneled to the mega-rich. The Bush regime has created a chasm between rich and poor unseen in the U.S. in more than a century, if not since 1789, and current Repub promises would widen the chasm.

OBAMA: the "change" candidate. His success in Iowa evidently panicked his Dem competitors. The votes were not completely counted when they donned his image. They, especially Hillary, thereto the self-proclaimed personification of "experience," immediately abandoned it and began to sprinkle "change" throughout her talks.

THE U.S.: WHERE TO? It is important to know that our nation is already fundamentally changed. For the first time since its founding, much of the electorate is quite OK with official torture (of others), despite the fact that it is a crime. Not alone do polls reveal its wide-spread acceptance, but its very popularity was highlighted by Romney

when, in pursuit of votes, he proposed doubling Guantánamo.

WE CAN KNOW the real intentions of the candidates by their choices of advisors. Here is the sad truth of the matter:

Clinton: Madeleine Albright (who, while Secretary of State, condoned the killing of a half-million Iraqi children), Wesley Clark, the bomber of Serbia, who admitted in advance his plan to bomb civilian targets including electrical, water treatment and sewage treatment plants and TV stations. Sandy Berger, and Richard Holbrooke, the shipper of war material to the Indonesian military as they were invading East Timor, killing one-third of its population.

Edwards: Advisors are top officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy Material Command; the purchasers of weaponry.

Huckabee: claims to have or will have as advisors John Bolton and Richard Allen; Iraq war promoters. Is a pro-lifer (for the unborn, exclusively). Has called for the U.S. Constitution to be amended toward a Rapturist version of Sharia law. Doesn't believe in evolution!

Giuliani: Norman Podhoretz, Daniel Pipes and many others who skew our policies to Israel's exclusive benefit. (Also, note that all such agents for Israel are consequently pushing us into war against Iran.)

Kucinich: The only one promoting single-payer medical coverage. Has no criminal advisers I know of. Opposed the Iraq war from Day 1. His main defect: during a debate he expressed belief in UFOs; (and not merely unidentified US craft).

McCain: Kissinger, Haig, Max Boot, Scowcroft. Bloody-Handed, all. Scowcroft approved China's Tiananmen massacre.

Obama: Brzezinski, the creator of the Taliban. Anthony Lake, behind the invasion of Haiti and illegal ousting of Aristide. Ex-Air Force Gen. McPeak who, after the Dili massacre in East Timor, delivered more attack aircraft to the perpetrators. Dennis Ross, Israel-Firster who also led last year's smear attack on Ex-Pres. Carter for expressing sympathy for Palestinians.

Paul: Clean, like Kucinich, also a permanent opponent of the Iraq war. A Libertarian; thus opposes all collectivist programs such as Social Security/Medicare and laws against prostitution and narcotics.

Romney: Cofer Black (of infamous deeds in Indonesia). Falcoff and Roger Noriega (think El Salvador), Dan Senor, a key drum-beater for our Iraq invasion. For a more complete list of current advisors see Kelley Vlahos' "War Whisperers: The 2008 Hopefuls Promised a Change in Policy Then

Hired the Old Guard" in the Oct, '07 issue of THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE. Also see Alan Nairn's www.newsc.blogspot.com. Its Jan 7th article is titled; "The US Election is Already Over. Murder and Preventable Death Have Won."

THIS IS CHANGE? On the contrary. Not a single one of the front runners is clean. Their future actions as President are already established by their choices of advisors. All are truly vile. America does not deserve this squalid gang. And remember: Cabinet members are generally selected from among the successful candidate's advisors.

DEMOCRACY TO IRAQ? How democratic did Bush & Co intend to make Iraq? Consider this: one of the laws imposed by Bush viceroy Paul Bremer on Iraq gave total impunity to all 185,000 US civilian contractors there. Many of those civilians are mere bureaucrats who, through political clout back home, were allowed to go to Iraq and, at \$140,000/year plus expenses, consume much of Iraq's oil income that is diverted away from Iraqis. Among them are more sinister figures, the 35,000 gun-toting, hair-trigger mercenaries. While our military remain subject to military law, our mercenaries' many massacres and rapes soon turned the population against us. But it isn't the actual murders that so offend our nation and its reputation. Rather, what

so sullies our nation is the impunity deliberately arranged in advance for those heinous crimes. That, followed by the spectacle of our dithering Congress wind-bagging about enacting a law against those massacres. This, as if we need a law against mass murder, as if Bremer's diktak somehow overruled out Constitution. They propose to make mass murder illegal? Obviously, a law-abiding Congress would not play such games but would secure the prompt prosecution of those crimes. PATRIOTS are beginning to assert themselves. For example, on Jan. 15th Rear Admiral (Ret.) John D. Hutson, former Navy Judge Advocate General (1997-2000) released a report through Human Rights First. It was delivered at the National Press Club on Jan. 16th and is entitled: "Private Security Contractors at War: Ending the Culture of Impunity." It exposes the U.S. Department of Justice's failure to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by private security contractors operating in Iraq and Afghanistan criminally responsible for creating a dangerous "culture of impunity."

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See terrorismireland.org.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your ancestors? See irishholocaust.org. 312 664 7651 or fogartyc@att.net.

# B Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan



ditional family pubs such as this is becoming a novelty now that so many are owned by silent partners with acting

## In Wrigley's Shadow, Visit the Irish Oak

"I have nothing to offer this country except my genius." This phrase, above the bar which greets patrons of The Irish Oak, may originally have been coined by Oscar Wilde. The idea, however, is illustrated by the Lawless family, formerly of Galway, currently of Chicago, on the Irish pub scene. The way they run their establishment is nothing short of genius. Obviously, this is a family who knows the industry. You'd probably hear the same comment from numerous west-coast Irish residents. The Lawless Clan has owned 5 or so pubs on and off the last few decades in and around county Galway. If you should stumble upon that corner of Erin, check out the Twelve Pins in Galway town. But in case you're not going international anytime soon, you can find the same world-class Irish hospitality just a few doors down from the friendly confines. A tra-

ditional family pubs such as this is becoming a novelty now that so many are owned by silent partners with acting managers, etc. This is the real deal. Stay longer than a few minutes and Billy Lawless and family will have you believing you're at a roadside pub on the way to the Cliffs of Moher.

The Irish Oak, 3511 N. Clark, has been welcoming Wrigleyville visitors for about a decade. The warm oak and mahogany woodwork accompanied by fixed wooden furniture makes for an exception to the predominately here-today-gone-tomorrow, trendy bars in this neighborhood, so many of which lack any real character. This is one of the oldest and most unique in its area. You'll not find better service, food, draughts or craic anywhere else for quite a distance. For example the Guinness. This is far and away the very best in the city-the recipient of several awards. No surprise there. Other draughts include Murphy's, Boddington's, Smithwicks, Fat Tire, 312, Harp, Stella Artois, Newcastle, and Sam Adam's Seasonal, to name a few. There is also a respectable selection of bottles, both domestic and imported, if drafts



too, especially for traditional all-homemade pub favorites. Any good pub can be measured by its stew. The Guinness and beef stew here is a 10. These seafood chowder, a cream-based mixture of whitefish chunks, celery, carrots and potatoes is another tasty, homemade alternative, served with very fresh and hearty Irish brown bread. The shepherd's pie, a reliable mixture of beef, vegetables and mashed potatoes, can also help keep you warm this winter. A world-class fish and chipper could not make this standby any better than that found here.

A lighter (but not less filling) menu of varying sandwiches, such

as rib eye steak, burgers, corned beef, chicken and clubs are also available to fill you up while you watch the games, featured on big screened TVs throughout the pub. Can't score Cubs tickets? Watch the games from here and beat the after-game crowd to the specials.

And, speaking of 'Full Irish Breakfasts,' there in none more authentic in Chicagoland. Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and columnist living on Chicago's Gold Coast. missmaurencallahan@yahoo.com.

don't suit you. Try a few and accompany them with an appetizer of smoked salmon, curry and chips, skins, to name a few. The hot or barbecued wings, the Saturday special for .10 each, are surely soon-to-be-famous. You won't be disappointed in the macaroni and cheese, either. Once a lesser-known side show, this dish has worked its way to the Red Carpet, and The Oak has a fabulous version to be tried.

This is a great place for lunch or dinner,

as rib eye steak, burgers, corned beef, chicken and clubs are also available to fill you up while you watch the games, featured on big screened TVs throughout the pub. Can't score Cubs tickets? Watch the games from here and beat the after-game crowd to the specials.

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## Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



We made it back to Ireland for Christmas and had a brilliant time with family and friends. The weather was the usual mixed bag of sunny spells, light rain and drizzle and even a bit of snow, but never

as cold as it gets here. It was a special time for us all, as it had been five years since we went home as a family and we had never made it home for the Holidays. American Airways looked after us very

well and we arrived in Dublin safe and sound and ready for adventure.

There were lots of people to see and we wasted no time as children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews came and went in a blur during those first few days, some of our friends from England flew over to spend a few days with us.

Sausages and rashers of bacon, black and white pudding, turkey and ham, Christmas pudding and mince pies, loaves of brown bread, dozens of eggs and gallons of tea were consumed with gusto and in the evenings we would walk down to our local pub, O'Dwyers, for a few pints of Guinness and some good conversation...it was a tonic, good for the soul, but maybe not for the arteries.

Traci and I took the Luas (Dublin's new commuter train's) into the city for a quick reconnoiter of our old stomping ground around Grafton Street and found it busier than ever. A quick pilgrimage to Grogan's pub on South William Street to see Tommy Smith was our first call and it was the same as ever, has not changed a bit, Thank God. Grogan's is still my favorite Dublin pub and Tommy Smith, the owner and keeper of secrets, is still my favorite operator. In a time when most Irish pubs are fast becoming restaurants, Grogan's still supply the best-toasted cheese sandwich in Dublin. No choice of bread, no choice of cheese, you can have it with mustard or without...

an epicurean delight.

We had lunch at the Old Stand (Traci did not share my taste for the old toasted cheese sambo). We found space at the bar and Traci had the Prawn salad and brown bread, I had another pint. We watched the hustle and bustle of Wicklow Street as we chatted with other patrons at the bar; this was the Dublin I remembered, the craic. The Old Stand is one of Dublin's oldest pubs and I was surprised to find that the mens room boasted the new Dyson Air Blade hand dryer...I was mightily impressed.

We walked up Grafton Street to the Green to get the Luas back to Kilmacud and marveled at the throng of shoppers, the Celtic Tiger is mighty indeed and my impression was that, whatever changes have come about in my 'Fair City', they are changes for the better.

We went racing at Leopardstown and bowling in Stillorgan, we shopped the new Dundrum Shopping Center and again I was really impressed by the selection of stores, restaurants and facilities there. The multi-story parking deck is state of the art and is the best I have ever seen. Dundrum Shopping Center is convenient and easily accessed; it is just off the M-50 and is also on the LUAS green line.

We ate at some beautiful new restaurants in the new mini-city of Sandyford. New streets, new hotels, new shopping areas, only a mile or so from where I grew up. The Beacon hotel, with its interior designed by John Rocha, is a great addition to the south suburbs and there are many more such hotels and centers that I had no time to visit. It was at that stage I realized what all the cranes had been doing on the skyline for the last few years. My son Niall was blown away as we left the hotel one night. Right in front of us, in the hotel parking lot was a line of Ferrari's, Lamborghini's, Maserati's and Bentley's. We stopped to take some photographs and it was a surreal experience as we walked to my mother's little Toyota Starlet. I discovered, the following day that these cars belonged to a local motor dealer, but obviously there is a market for these amazing cars in the new Ireland.

On Sunday afternoon we went up to Johnny Fox's Pub in Kiltarnan, "Ireland's Highest Pub". It was packed to the rafters with visitors and locals alike and the "craic was mighty". A ballad group provided lively entertainment as we settled down to savor mussels, prawns and seafood platters, with Johnny Fox's own famous brown bread and cream pints. I must say again, nothing has changed, the food, the entertainment, the atmosphere, the service...Johnny Fox's beats Temple Bar any day of the week.

On New Years Eve we drove to Waterford via Wicklow and Wexford. At Ballyhack we took the ferry across to Passage East in County Waterford.

My Mum had spent Christmas with my sister Miriam in Ballygunnar and we stayed with my brother Don and his wife Maria at their Passage home. It was a great re-union and we rang in the New Year in style.

The wild goats of Passage were grazing the hill and some early daffodils graced the roadside as we drove towards Waterford on New Years Day, a sure sign of early spring in the sunny southeast. We returned to Dublin after a lovely lunch at Miriam's beautiful new home. Mum came back with us and at last, home felt like home again. We had been staying at Mum's house in Dublin while she was in Waterford but, as the kids said it's just not the same without Nana".

I took the family to Kells in County Meath for a day to visit all the places I had spent my summers as a boy. My mother's family lived around Balrath and my father's family lived in Kilbeg on the far side of Kells. We saw St. Ciaran's Well, St. Columcille's House, The Round Tower and High Cross of Kells. We saw homes that I grew up in and a real "fairy fort", but the only thing that caught their interest was a donkey in a field by the road. The donkey was photographed, fed and played with, and that was the highlight of their day. Youth...it's wasted on the young.

I was really impressed with the new (new to me anyway), Museum of Decorative Arts and History, located by the Liffey, on the site of what used to be called Collins Barracks. In the courtyard is the massive Viking ship 'The Sea Stallion'. It was built in Roskilde and sailed to Ireland by a crew of volunteers...Google it, its brilliant. I particularly enjoyed the exhibit 'Soldiers and Chiefs...the Irish at war at home and abroad since 1550'. They have on display the original flag of the Irish Republic. Its free of charge and a must see for any visitor. The LUAS stops right outside the Museum.

Conor got to spend a day at Croke Park, the Holy Ground of Gaelic Football and he was able to take a few photographs. He had been there already this year at a Meath / Dublin match, but this time he had "Croker" all to himself.

We were there to celebrate my Mum's birthday and we gathered friends and family for our last night in O'Dwyer's before heading back to reality in Chicago. It was a great trip and like all good vacations, it will sustain us with great memories.

The New Ireland is every bit as good as the one I left behind, and for those living there, it's really a lot better. The wit and good nature still prevail and the big-hearted hospitality is as strong as it ever was. Check it out for yourselves, there are flights leaving every few hours. You know you should. It will do your heart a power of good.

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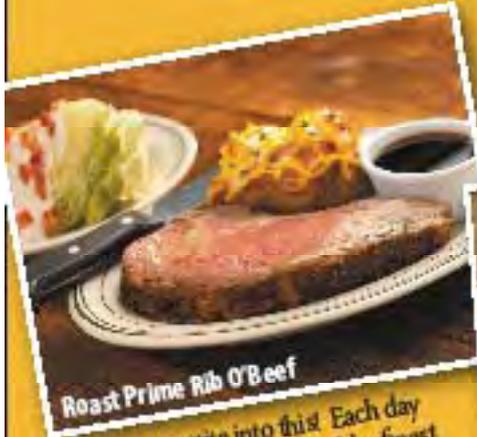
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