



**Denis J. Healy  
Honored by  
Irish American  
Hall of Fame**  
*Story page 2*

**The 2016  
Irish  
American  
Hall of Fame  
Awardees**  
*Story pages 19-34*

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**About the Cover:**

Denis J. Healy (center) will be inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame on April 23, 2016 at the Irish American Heritage Center. He joins an esteemed group of fellow 2016 inductees including

Brian Dennehy, Spencer Tracy, Frank McCourt, Nolan Ryan, Governor Edward F. Dunne, Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher, Fr. Andrew Greeley, Anne Sullivan and Captain Emily Hanrahan Warner.

Denis, along with his wife Sondra, is Co-Chairmen of Turtle Wax Inc., a Chicago-based car-care icon.

Turtle Wax was founded by Sondra's father, Benjamin F. Hirsch.

"My father was an entrepreneur, a dreamer," she said. "He was a chemist. He had to drop out of college during the Depression. He had this fascination with cars, and he wanted to come out with a premium liquid car polish.

"In the early days, he made the product-a liquid car wax, called



Christmas party," Healy said. They were married eight months later. Their son, Denis John Healy, Jr. is now Vice Chairman, carrying on the family business, third generation-style.

Mr. Healy served in the Army in the



Plastone, by hand in the bathtub. My mother, Marie, would fill the bottles. Then my father would hop on a streetcar and sell the product to gas stations."

When Mr. Hirsch died suddenly, Sondra became a vice President at the young age of 24. Three years later she met her future husband, Denis Healy, where they were attending a trade show. Healy was a chemist and product developer for Barr Co.

"Our first date was my company

Korean War and is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of the

Korean War National Museum located in the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center in Springfield, Illinois. He is past-President of the American Ireland Fund of Chicago and continues as a Board Member.

See pages 19-34 for more information about the Irish American Hall of Fame Awards Gala.



# LOOK OF THE LASS

by Mary Kay Marmo



Go-Fund-Me site and during Catholic Schools Week at her elementary alma mater, St. John Fisher School. Soon Maeve will be crowning the next Chicago Rose on May 15, 2016 at Gaelic Park. A job well done to you Maeve for being an inspiration to others and doing Chicago proud with your grace and compassion to help others.

of Tralee will receive an all-expense paid trip to Ireland for an experience of a lifetime and represent Chicago in a three-night televised event

in Tralee, Ireland. For more information or to fill out an application for the Chicago Rose of Tralee visit [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com).

## Chicago Rose: Not ALL Glamour!

Being the Chicago Rose is not ALL glamour. Being chosen as the Chicago Rose of Tralee comes with great responsibility to represent our City and to go out and be an Ambassador to help others. Maeve McSweeney, our 2015 Chicago Rose did just that when she jetted off in February with



The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for

15 other International Roses from all over the world to Belarus to visit the Children of Chernobyl at the Vesnova

nuclear power plant accident. This facility is funded by an Irish based charity Chernobyl Children International.

tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world. The winner of the 2016 Chicago Rose



GPO in Dublin on Easter Sunday 2016. For more Rising photos, go to pages 46 & 47



Children's Mental Asylum. These children have physical, as well as mental disabilities stemming from the 1986

Maeve went over to spend time with the children and raised money here in Chicago for these children through a




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## Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



My purpose here is often to entertain you, or least distract you from real life for a few minutes. My column might actually be worth something more to you this time around.

As I prepared for an upcoming trip to Ireland, I began reaching out to friends about places to visit off the beaten path. You know, anything other than the Blarney Stone.

What I received and will now present to you is a wide range of recommendations. Maybe someday this list will come in handy if you're traveling to Ireland.

\* Connolly's of Leap in Leap, Cork: "This place was an institution back in the day. In the early 90s I saw Archie Lee Hooker, The Frames and a load of other heroes play here. Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy played here. Sadly, the place closed down after the proprietor passed away, but after a seven-year break his youngest son has now got the license back. The place smells of music. Probably the best small venue in Ireland."

\* Scenic drive: "Some of my favorite things we've done is the Conor Pass in Dingle. It's absolutely stunning and the tour buses can't go up there, so it's much quieter than the rest of the Ring of Kerry. We went in September and then had lunch in Cloghane, which is a really cute town you pass through on your way back down."

\* Pubs in Dublin: "Bowes on Fleet St do a great trad session with some members of Kila on a Sunday night. And outside that it is a great little pub, especially if you like whiskey, great collection and knowledgeable bartenders. Another great little spot is Grogans. Art work all over the walls, and some great characters in there, especially day time."

\* Mary's Bar in Cornmarket, Wexford: "It's a pub from another time. It's in the old part of town, close to Selskar Abbey where King Henry II of England did penance for the murder of Thomas Beckett. Also close to many of the events of the 1798 Uprising."

\* Kayaking in Cork: "Jim Kennedy. The man. The legend. The best way to see West Cork (and you might not like this suggestion) is from a kayak. Jim runs "Atlantic Sea Kayaking" and takes groups out around islands, along the coast, explains the flora and fauna and sea life. Well worth looking into."

\* Music in Killarney: "Every Wednesday night usually from 9-11 p.m. at the Grand Hotel in Killarney is something folks looking for the real heart of Ireland -- and the soul of Sliabh Luchara -- wouldn't want to miss. Con Moynihan (fiddle) and Denis O'Connor (banjo) are musicians who were raised in the country in the heart of Sliabh Luchara and grew up hearing the Kerry music that is so unique to the area. These aren't professional musicians, but they could be. Con is a school teacher in Killorglin, Denis a mechanic in Casteliland. They play that music each Wednesday along with legendary Irish free spirit Gearóid Ó Duinnín on guitar, and they've been playing together so long that it's almost telepathic. It might not seem like any great recommendation: traditional Irish music in Killarney is ubiquitous! ... but these guys are playing the distinct and unique music of

the area and they've been pretty much unaffected by popular trends or tunes from other parts of Ireland. ... Also, it's a darn good pint at the Grand."

\* Lunch in Skibbereen: "My old town is worth a pit stop for lunch, and here you go nowhere but Kalbos Café on North Street. Tiny place serving great food."

\* Pub in Cork: "It's a short walk up a steep hill past dodgy streets, but Eugene's is a bar on Shandon Street that I adore -- mostly for the musical quality of the barman who delivers you a perfect pint of stout. Really snug local pub, friendly and brilliant stout."

\* Dick Mack's pub in Dingle: "The famous line is, 'Where is Dick Mack's? Across the church. Where is the church? Across from Dick Mack's.'"

\* Famous village in Roscommon: "The Woodlands of Loughglynn, this is the place not far from my house that means the most to me. not

just the place, but also the history and the men that were still living in my youth and their part in the movement towards a free Ireland." Feel free to email me at [scottpowers1979@gmail.com](mailto:scottpowers1979@gmail.com) with your own recommendations.

## Mary Ellen Considine



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## Diaspora Minister, Irish Election

On July 15 2014, Jimmy Deenihan, a long serving T.D. from County Kerry, was named Ireland's first Minister of State for the Diaspora. This position was formed as a genuine attempt from the government to engage with the Irish diaspora on a more official and strategic basis. Minister Deenihan has done an extraordinary job in visiting, speaking with, and engaging the diaspora from all over the globe. The success that he has had as the Minister for the Diaspora cannot

be overstated and resulted in a few notable accomplishments. Some of these accomplishments include: the launch of Ireland's Global Diaspora Policy, the Global Irish Civic Forum, and the expansion of the Global Irish Economic Forum.

This new Ministerial position resulted in Ireland's new official global diaspora policy titled "Global Irish" which was launched in March 2015. This policy set out many goals to address all areas of Irish emigration and the diaspora. These goals include providing support for the most vulnerable Irish emigrants,

connecting with Irish emigrants and people of Irish heritage, and engaging with the diaspora. This policy also seeks to build upon Article 2 of the Irish Constitution that states "the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage". The effects of Ireland's Diaspora Policy have already been felt all around the world and there are still many more aspects of the policy that have yet to be realized. Specifically there is still more work to be done regarding voting rights of Irish citizens abroad. This has been outlined in the Global Irish Diaspora Policy and has been a central part of each main political party's 2016 election manifestos. There are more than one million Irish passport holders that reside outside of Ireland, with even more eligible Irish citizens abroad. Ireland's diaspora policy is an exceptional accomplishment and should be hailed as the gold standard for engaging with and supporting their citizen's abroad. However, Irish emigrants are returning to a government that they did not have a say in electing. Ireland remains one of only three countries in Europe that denies this right to its citizens abroad. Voting rights for the Irish abroad is the next big step in an all-inclusive Irish diaspora policy. The issue was raised at the Global Irish Civic Forum which was launched by the Irish government in June of 2015. The Global Irish Civic Forum was the first of its kind, bi-annual, forum that brought together most of the Irish community organizations from all around the world to share their experiences. The event was spearheaded by Minister Deenihan and was an overwhelming success. Ultimately the appointment of Minister Deenihan to the post of Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs clearly demonstrates that the government believes how important it is that the diaspora are recognized and remain a central part of Ireland.

The recent February General Election in Ireland produced



## From the Executive Director of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins

some unexpected results. The election confirmed predictions that the government that was formed in 2011 would not have enough seats to continue. The Coalition government of Fine Gael and Labour was reduced from 113 seats in the 31st Dáil to 57 seats in the newly elected 32nd Dáil. This number is well short of the 79 seats required to form a new government. This places Irish politics in a temporary stand still with most people anticipating a coalition of the old rival parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. The Irish people have spoken and have clearly indicated that they were not happy with the Fine Gael- Labour coalition. Additionally, the 2016 election brought about some amazing statistics with 52 first time TDs, 48 TDs losing their seats, and 35 female TDs (the most that there has ever been despite the 32nd Dáil being eight seats fewer than in 2011). It is anticipated that the road to forming a new government will be a long one and there is not expected to be a new Taoiseach until a coalition is formed. In the meantime, the government will continue in an acting capacity until a coalition can be formed.

A number of high profile TDs lost their seats in the recent election, including Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs, Jimmy Deenihan. The loss of Minister Deenihan is disappointing for the Irish abroad. The work that Minister Deenihan did was an essential part of bringing young Irish emigrants back to Ireland as well as broadening the support for the Irish abroad. Minister Deenihan will be known worldwide for what he accomplished as Minister for Diaspora and will be missed. It is my hope that the new Government will continue the post of Minister for Diaspora and continue to build upon all of the good work that Minister

Deenihan has accomplished. We would like to thank Minister Deenihan for his selfless 30 years of service to the Irish people, and in particularly the Irish abroad.

### CIIS Update

CIIS is proud to announce that we have hired a new immigration attorney. CIIS welcomes Mahdis Azimi to our team and she will now be running our legal services program. Prior to joining CIIS, Mahdis worked in immigration law in both the private and non-for-profit sectors. Specifically, she provided legal assistance at the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago (CAIR-Chicago) and at the Chicago Legal Clinic office in Pilsen. During her time in law school, she was recognized for her public interest service and leadership. She also served as a staff writer and articles editor for the Loyola University Chicago Public Interest Law Reporter. Mahdis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She received her Juris Doctor and Certificate in Public Interest Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She is licensed to practice law in Illinois. For any immigration inquiries you can contact Mahdis at our office phone line (773) 282-8445 or by emailing her at mazimi@irish-chicago.org.

CIIS is continuing to host legal clinics for anyone who might have immigration questions. These clinics are currently being held once month by appointment only. Each clinic provides a client with a 30- minute face-to-face consultation with our immigration attorney. Our next legal clinic is being held on Thursday April 14th from 5:30pm-8:30pm from 5:30pm- 7:30pm. We host these clinics on the second Thursday of each month. Please call (773) 282-8445 or email

mcollins@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment.

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I had one beer on St. Patrick's Day. Unusual I know.

But I'd been guzzling gallons before it and by Paddy's day itself I was hobbling around like a cripple with a cane. I was wounded.

Why wouldn't I be? In Chicago St. Patrick's Day starts the day after Christmas for cripes sake! It's nuts.

It started for me on Saturday March 5th as I boarded a plane for Austin, Texas where The Lone Star Shamrocks would be screening my film OUR IRISH COUSINS on Monday night. The Lone Star Shamrocks were the brainchild of my old pal Dennis Kearns, who had started the organization many years ago when he moved to Austin and began hosting a St. Patrick's Day party for all the rednecks with Irish blood.

We've been pals since first grade and I was looking forward to meeting the Lone Star Shamrocks and knew there would be shenanigans involved but got thrown a curve as soon as my lovely wife dropped me at O'Hare.

I grabbed my bags and turned to find a red cap and my knee blew out. Ouch!

I'd been having some mild muscle pain for the last week after an ill advised return to power walking but this was the zammo! I staggered at the departure area as my wife drove away and I realized I could barely walk. Feck it, I'm still going.

I requested a wheel chair when I checked in and then wondered why I had never done this before. The guy pushing me through the airport was great, and I was brought to the front of every line and zipped through TSA without removing my shoes or trousers.

I duked him a double sawbuck, gimped the ramp to the plane, plopped into my upgraded first class seat and started drinking. Sure it was painful to walk but Conor McGregor was fighting that night and he was my inspiration for the weekend.

Dennis picked me up at the airport and whisked me back to his palatial hacienda, which included a very private apartment upstairs for my visit so he and his wife Jane could hide from me later. Luckily he'd had knee problems of his own in the past and lent me a snappy cane and knee brace to wear. Managing the stairs was rough but I learned to navigate them once I learned where they kept the 2 Gingers Irish Whiskey!

While they were at mass I tripped over

a large cardboard box in the foyer on my way back from the bar. I looked inside and discovered it was the 5,000 flyers promoting the screening I had shipped to Dennis a month earlier to get the word out about the Texas premiere of my film. It looked like there were only about 4, 850 left in the box!

"More feckin' whiskey!", I screamed as their dog Blanca looked at me in puzzlement.

The next two days were a blur of self-medicating through the pain. We went bar-hopping on Sunday as I hobbled up Congress Street on the cane and wound up



in CBoys Heart and Soul dive bar serenaded by a three foot tall chanteuse in a cowboy hat backed by a handful of bearded pluckers singing about "Texas in my heart". Of course it was "Terri and The Tagalongs".

We played "chickenshit bingo" all afternoon, which is a game of chance involving a live chicken placed in a 3x3 foot cage with numbers on its floor. If the chicken dumps on your number, you win! I was havin' a good ol' time!

Until I found out about Conor McGregor tapping out the night before.

Still he handled defeat with class and I was going to do the same. I returned to to the hacienda after a long day of boozing and Tex Mex food and after I dropped the

big one, I slept til the next day. I'm sure Los Alamos has nothing on Dennis and Jane's upstairs bathroom after my visit.

On Monday night The Lone Star Shamrocks were sorta MIA for the film premiere. Probably not a great idea for me to come to Austin the week before SXSW to premiere a film. But it was my Paddy's day kickoff and among the audience was Ann Soule and Austin's own version of The Flood Brothers, Matt and Mike Flood, both Chicago Expatriates, who now live and work in Austin. We had some laughs and started plotting the rebirth of The Lone Star Shamrocks for my next cultural expedition.

If you're reading this in Austin, get in touch at hiberniantransmedia@gmail.com and we will make sure you're invited for our next

cultural event.

I can walk with both legs again and look forward to stepping back in the arena a wiser man, and just like Conor McGregor, this cultural warrior shall return. I had too much fun not to go back!

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



to take the collective public mind off more serious things. You can be sure that any amount of faux-Oirish waffle is ready

were those Architects of Pain, the Fianna Fail party, even allowed to stage such a dramatic comeback in the first place? Do people have no memories; or in the final analysis do they just vote for the devil they know?

Hell, I realise that it's the nature of the beast, but it hurt to see some decent people lose their seats whilst the most egregious chancers somehow managed to retain them.

I mean, Alan the Arrogant; Alan Kelly, who openly boasted to us that power is a drug. Blowhard Alan, a man who talks without irony of his 'legacy' and who I like to think of as Minister for the Environment and Water Privatization – but more of Alan and his brother later.

Not long ago Alan comes out and lets us know that he isn't in this for his constituents or for his country but for the junkie's rush of a power fix. And in return he isn't utterly destroyed for his swinishness. Admittedly he didn't actually make his quota and the sight of him sweating was a joy to behold; but that was wiped out by his utterly embarrassing carry-on when he scraped through. And now he's swaggering about the place as full of himself as he ever was.

And we let him do it.

In Tipperary they proved yet again that they have no problem with the fact that Michael Lowry has been called by a tribunal not only 'corrupt' but 'profoundly corrupt'. They don't care. Lowry is the very essence of local parish pump politics. If it means annoying that shower up in Dublin then by Jaysus we'll vote him back in to spite them.

Even Enda – bloody Enda Kenny – was rewarded by 13,000 Mayo folk who he had called whingers by being returned. In truth, there are people that you simply COULDN'T insult enough.

Joan Burton...and here words fail me. At least Labour got the hammering they deserved. And yet...and yet. They still somehow manage to retain seven seats? AND the Limp Greens are growing again? What is going on?

If I have enjoyed one thing from the recent shenanigans then it is the role that ultimately the anti-water charge protestors played in making sure that the FG/Labour crowd got their faces bloodied. It must be rather strange for them, as they mop up the bodies, to reflect that if they hadn't abused, insulted and spat on us then they might conceivably be back in government right now.

Instead, anyone who pointed out that they had no intention of paying yet again for a product that they were already paying for twice over was portrayed and vilified as a freeloader and a waster.

Now, as Irish Water is held up as the total disaster that tens of thousands of us held it

to be right from the start, begin the groans of those who toed the Government line. It's dawning on them that their reward for compliance is that they will never see back the money that they have wasted.

Well, since I was told over and over that paying this extra tax 'was the right thing to do' then why SHOULD they be refunded? It was the right thing to do. And their consciences are clear. In fact, for all I care, they can keep on throwing good money after bad.

But as there have obviously been some serious backhanders given out somewhere along the line in return for the privatization of our water, then I doubt that we have heard the last of this. And I like to think that some of our bought-and-paid-for politicians are very nervous indeed.

And those of you who don't think that selling off our water was the ultimate aim – oh, please. When you take the briefest look at how much of our natural resources have already been sold off, you simply can't doubt it. The brother of the aforementioned Environment Minister Alan is Declan Kelly, the Chairman, CEO and co-founder of Teneo – and again the briefest look at that company will show you where there is a vested interest in water privatization. And I doubt that it's a coincidence that the bould Alan receives a staggering amount of donations.

In fact in 2008 he coined in more loot than Bertie Ahern; and we all know how good at sopping up the wonga from 'dig-outs' and mysterious 'wins on the horses' THAT fella was.

So, the only question for me is: donations...for what?

I don't think that the water charges got much more than the most perfunctory of mentions in any of our debates; and yet that may be the one issue that brought FG clattering to the ground. The contemptuous and bullying tone that the likes of Phil Hogan and Kelly took eventually irritated even our docile electorate.

And by the way, I found the closing caption of the brilliant film, 'The Big Short' rather interesting. Commenting on the eccentric genius who foresaw the financial crash it states:

Michael Burry contacted the government several times to see if anyone wanted to interview him to find out how he knew the system would collapse years before anyone else.

No one ever returned his calls. But he was audited four times and questioned by the FBI. The small investing he still does is focused on one commodity: **Water.**

You can read my blogs on [www.cbsays.com](http://www.cbsays.com) & [www.charleybrady.com](http://www.charleybrady.com) or email me at [chasbrady7@eircom.net](mailto:chasbrady7@eircom.net)

## Keeping it in the Kelly Family

At this stage – the third week in March – I should be able to report that the dust has settled on the February election and that for good or bad the country is back to business. I SHOULD be able to, but can't. The bickering continues. Will Fianna Fail and Fine Gael form a Coalition? Well, it's hard to see how they can avoid it. That's not to say that the thought of these two Companies of Liars joining each other at the hip fills my heart with unmitigated delight, it's just stating a simple fact.

And of course it would mean that a new government will be founded on a lie, since both have been adamant that it won't happen. But starting off with a lie is hardly anything new.

At a time when the country badly wants to put the election behind it, our two increasingly hard-to-separate groups are deliberately wasting time, just glad that the 2016 'celebrations' are around the corner

to be trundled out to fill the role of the old Roman bread-and-circuses. Well, they do have a point because these election results have proved once again that there is nothing shorter than the public memory when it comes to politics.

So if our lot can stretch their bickering out for another two months (as they have said it will probably take) then both camps are more than happy to do so.

Ah, look: I'm still down after these results. I'll leave it to my colleague Sean Farrell of this newspaper ('From the Motherland') to take a more reasoned look at how things panned out. I've never met Mr. Farrell but I always look forward to his balanced articles.

For myself, I just can't see how the results of this election can be called a 'seismic shift' in Irish politics, as it has been. It's a shift of sorts, of course, but 'seismic'? And how much of a change does it really indicate?

Sure, more than half of those who voted were unhappy with FF and FG, giving them less than 50% combined; but how on Earth



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## A Cháirde

We've reached the actual anniversary month of the 1916 Rising against Britain, and our commemoration continues. On April 3rd Professor Briona Nic Dhiarmada of the University of Notre Dame will present the new film from the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, *1916: The Irish Rebellion*. A few days later, April 8th is opening night for *Shadow of a Gunman* written by Sean O'Casey. Gaelic Park Players will present nine performance over three weekends. The Youth Living History Exhibit takes place on Sunday the 17th. Students have taken on the roles of various historical figures from the Easter Rising and its era. At this family-friendly event, each student will portray

a character, presenting information about his or her character's life.

April 24th is the anniversary date of the Rising, and that is the day that we will dedicate our permanent memorial to the Rising. All are welcome to join us at 9am Mass, celebrated by Father Tierney. The dedication of the memorial will follow, and will include readings of *Poblacht na hEireann (The Proclamation)* in both Irish and English. The Worldwide 1916 Ceili will be held that day from 12pm to 2pm. It is a noncompetitive, no dance costume event open to all. We hope to see you in April.

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Fri	Apr 8	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 9	Bernie Glim & Country Roads	8:00pm
Fri	Apr 15	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Apr 16	The Ploughboys	9:00pm
Fri	Apr 22	Brian Thoma & Nick Gonzalez	8:00pm
Sat	Apr 23	St. James Gate	9:00pm
Fri	Apr 29	Ray Gavin	8:00pm
Sat	Apr 30	Billy O'Donahue and Larry Nugent	8:30pm

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## 2016 CGP Calendar of Events 2016

### APRIL

4/3	Classic Carvery - TBA	3pm
4/6	Monthly Musical Luncheon* with Ray Gavin	
4/10	Monthly Mass & Breakfast	9am
4/10	Classic Carvery - Ray Gavin	3pm
4/12	Ladies Auxiliary	
4/17	Classic Carvery - Joe Cullen	3pm
4/24	Classic Carvery - Gerard Haughey	3pm

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

\*RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

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

**Pub Trivia will resume on Tuesday evenings in October**

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



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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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*The Shadow of a Gunman*, part of the commemoration of the 1916 Easter Uprising, opens on Friday, April 8th at 8pm and will run for three consecutive weekends.

The performance dates are Fridays, April 8th, 15th and 22nd at 8pm; Saturdays, April 9th, 16th and 23rd at 8pm; Sundays, April 10th, 17th and 24th at 3pm. The Pub Grub

at Gaelic Park's main office, located at 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Please contact Gaelic Park to reserve your tickets at 708-687-9323. *The Shadow of a Gunman* was written by Sean O'Casey and is a dramedy in two acts. The play is set in a Dublin tenement in the 1920's during the Irish War of Independence. It centers around two roommates, Donal Devoren, who is a poet and has mysteriously arrived to live in the tenement with Seamus Shields, who is a peddler

at Gaelic Park's main office, located at 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Please contact Gaelic Park to reserve your tickets at 708-687-9323.



From Left to right are members of the cast: Marty Donovan, Bridget Christianson, Mike Keliher, Bill Gleason, Sabrina Mangan, Katie McKirdie and Liam Brück.

special will be offered again for our Friday and Saturday performances at the Carraig Pub, Gaelic Park. The tickets for Pub Grub will be \$22, which includes your theatre admission along with dinner. The pub dinner will be one item from the Pub Grub menu along with one pint or glass of wine. For Sunday's performances, there will be a Classic Carvery, which will immediately follow the performance in one of the banquet halls. The Classic Carvery ticket will include your theatre admission and your meal for \$27. The Carvery is a buffet which consists of your choice of soup, salad bar, meat selection, potato, vegetables, coffee, tea and dessert. All individual play tickets are \$12 and can be purchased

trying to sell hairpins and forks to the other tenement residents as well as the streets of Dublin. This play reflects the characters' political and religious beliefs, their strong sense of nationalism and their desire for Ireland to be free of British control.

The Gaelic Park Players are very excited about this cast-Robert Emmett Reidy (*The Muesli Belf*), Sabrina Mangan (*Troubles Bachelors*), Mike "Meek" Azarkiewicz (*Philadelphia Here I Come*), Pete Simon (*The Muesli Belf*), Bridget Christianson (*The Maiden Aunt*), and Marty Donovan (*Crad-dock's Well*). We are glad to welcome newcomers Mike Keliher, Bill Geason and Andrew Harrigan to our stage.



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



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Mark Flynn was recently elected to Chicago Gaelic Park's Board of Directors. Mark hails from Dundalk, County Louth.



Consul General Orla and 1916 General Donovan

## The LED Farmers- Lucy

by Mike Shevlin

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, the word "fresh" has the following meanings: having its original qualities unimpaired, full of or renewed in vigor, and not worn or rumpled.

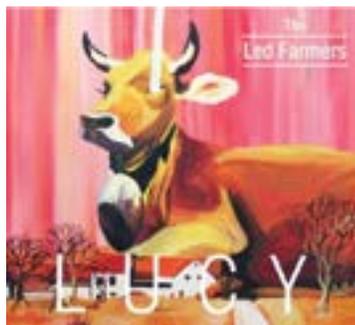
And here comes an Irish band that seems to fit the bill. They are The Led Farmers and they embody all of the definitions of the word "fresh" that you've seen above.

Their latest album, LUCY, can be described as nothing but original and the band is certainly imbued with a vigorous spunk and, well, coming off of months and months on the road, we can only hope they are no longer worn or rumpled.

The Led Farmers, an Irish Indie folk band, come from varying musical backgrounds with each member studying and qualifying for degrees and masters in classical music. Consisting of Brendan Walsh, Ross O'Farrell, Glenn Malone and Mark Byrne, the band boasts two All-Ireland Music competition titles and seems as comfortable belting out a tune from the Pogues or the Dubliners as they would a throwaway pop song from Beyonce.....yes, Beyonce. The Led Farmers take their music seriously but not too seriously.

The signature track on LUCY is the Ewan MacColl favorite, Dirty Old Town. It starts off simple enough with Walsh's banjo and voice in the lead before taking on a life of its own with a driving new arrangement putting the Led Farmer stamp over it. By the end of the song, you seem to forget that you are listening to traditional Irish folk music.

Cheannaigh me mo Chroi is a perfect example of the Irish Prog/Folk direction that the band takes on LUCY and is becoming most known for in their live shows. Led by Walsh's banjo, the tune combines a slip jig and a hornpipe before ending with a rousing traditional reel with the full complement of uilleann pipes, drums and guitar. It's an original composition by the band that sounds uniquely Irish but not necessarily traditional, putting the classical training of the band to very good use.



Their song, Drinking with the Lads, imbues the personality and spirit of the band at its best. Infectious, likable and distinctive, these are lads that you might indeed want to join for a pint or two.

Go ahead and nod your head to their original composition, April Set. The track starts as a peppy polka, but like many of the tracks on LUCY, just when you think you know what's coming next, the Led Farmers take you in a completely different direction. With April Set, the band moves from the polka and transforms into a Prog/Trad/Classical amalgamation before going back to the polka. Brendan Walsh's banjo dominates the musical conversation, transforming whatever genre it might be and creating one all its own.

With songs like As I Roved Out, Haul Away Joe, The Blacksmith, High Germany and Paddy on the Railway, the band breathes new life into classic traditional Irish songs,

taking songs from years ago and giving them a modern spin.

In the case of Paddy, the Led Farmers know when to let things be. Their arrangement is very honest. The verses are backed simply by accordion and the choruses are driven by a pumping bass, banjo and drums. The song itself is centuries old but they've updated it and even added a verse of their own. For me, it's one of my favorite versions of this classic song that I've heard.

Finally, there is Druma Mhor. Leading off with a percussive beat from drummer Glenn Malone, the band moves to a spirited recitation of the Gaelic poem, An Raibh Tú Ar An Gcarrraig, before letting off some steam in a series of primal yelps and screams. Yes, it is as strange as it sounds but shows the personality of the band. Silly, weird, and willing to take chances. The Led Farmers are all that and more on LUCY.

The Led Farmers are hard at work on their sophomore release and planning a trip back to the U.S. in 2016. In the meantime, you can see more at

[www.ledfarmers.com](http://www.ledfarmers.com).

Mike Shevlin is the host of Windy City Irish Radio with Tim Taylor on WSBC 1240 AM Chicago each Wednesday from 8 PM - 9 PM. Listen live or check out the podcast at

[windycityirishradio.com](http://windycityirishradio.com).

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## McSweeney Named President of Young Irish Fellowship

The Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago has over 3,000 general members and is a non for profit, volunteer based organization whose mission has been committed to inviting people of all ethnic backgrounds to explore the Irish culture, meet new friends in the community, and help support Chicagoland charities. Mallory McSweeney is the 36th President elect who will take office on 3/17/2016. She is a graduate of Carmel High School for Girls in Mundelein, IL and Marquette University. The Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago began over 50 years ago and to be a member you have to be between the ages of 21 to 39 years old. Mallory states that the business networking connections between the current and past members are unparalleled to any other group she has been involved with. Her great Grandparents came from Galway and Limerick and she lived in Dublin for a year experiencing life as a college exchange student. This year is especially special for McSweeney as President because it is the centennial of the Easter Rising.

Easter Rising occurred on Easter day Monday, April 24, 1916. A group of Irish nationalists proclaimed the establishment of the Irish Republic and, along with 1,600 followers, organized a rebellion against the British government in Ireland. The rebels seized prominent buildings in Dublin and clashed with British troops. Within a week, the insurrection had been suppressed and more than 2,000 people were dead or injured. The leaders of the rebellion soon were executed. Initially, there was little support from the Irish people for the Easter Rising. However, public opinion later changed and the executed leaders were hailed as martyrs. In 1921, a treaty was signed that in 1922 established the Irish Free State, which eventually became the modern-day



## A Slice of Ireland

By Cathy Cooney-Millar



Mallory McSweeney

Republic of Ireland.

McSweeney's Great Grandfather escaped prison during the Easter Rising and came to America on a ship pretending to be a Monk. McSweeney feels her being President during the centennial of the Easter Rising is special and helps her connect with her Grandfather's memory and honor.

The Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago chooses two charities a year to focus their time and efforts for. Two of the causes they are supporting are the Danny Did

charity to support. Some of the charity events they sponsor are a Pub Crawl in May and in March the Forever Green which is considered the largest and best St. Patrick's Day party in Chicago, for 40 years.

To learn more about how you can participate or be a member of The Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago email:

youngirishfellowship@gmail.com.

Mallory works as the Events coordinator at Remington's in Chicago. It is one of the newest stars in Chicago's epicurian

galaxy. Remington's is a classic American grill welcoming guests to enjoy warm hospitality and unparalleled service just across the street from Chicago's famed Millennium Park. Chef Todd Stein's inventive romp through classic American cuisine features fresh seafood from the raw bar, hearty entree salads, exquisite steaks, delicious chops, and mouth-watering prime rib from the rotisserie. Drop in and say hello!

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## Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



### Making Investment Decisions:

Information vs. instinct. When it comes to investing, many people believe they have a "knack" for choosing good investments. But what exactly is that "knack" based on? The fact is, the choices we make with our assets can be strongly influenced by factors, many of them emotional, that we may not even be aware of. You've heard the whispers, the "next greatest thing" is out there and you can get on board, but only if you hurry. Sound familiar? The prospect of being on the ground floor of the next big thing can be thrilling. But while there really are great new opportunities out there once in a while, those "hot new investments" can often go south quickly. Jumping on board without all the information can be a bit like gambling in Vegas: the payoff could be huge, but so could the loss. A shrewd investor will turn away from spur-of-the-moment trends and seek out solid, proven investments with consistent returns.

Many people claim not to be risk-takers, but that isn't always the case. Most proficient investors aren't reluctant to take a risk, they're reluctant to accept a loss. Yes, there's a difference. The first step is to establish what constitutes an acceptable risk by determining what you're willing to lose. The second step is to always bear in mind the final outcome. If a taking a risk could help you retire five years sooner, would you take it? What if the loss involved working an extra ten years before retiring; is it still a good risk? By weighing both the potential gain and the potential loss, while keeping your final goals in mind, you can more wisely assess what constitutes an acceptable risk.

Some investors attempt to predict the future based on the past. As we all know, just because a stock rose yesterday, that doesn't mean it will rise again today. We know this, but often we "shrug off" this knowledge in favor of hunches. Instead of stock picking, you can exercise a little caution and seek out investments with the potential for consistent returns. Some investors tend to pull out of investments the moment they lose money, then invest again once they feel "driven" to do so. While they may do some research, they are ultimately acting on impulse. This

method of investing may result in huge losses.

Many investors "stir up" their investments when major events happen, including births, marriages, or deaths. They seem to get a renewed interest in their stocks and/or begin to second-guess the effectiveness of their long-term plans. It's a case of action-reaction: they invest in response to short-term needs, instead of their long-term financial goals. The more often this happens, the more incoherent their so-called "financial strategy" becomes. If the financial changes they make are really dramatic, it can lead to catastrophe. Many times, there is no need to fix what isn't broken, or turn away from what they've done right. By enlisting the assistance of a qualified financial professional (and relying on their skill and expertise) you can be sure that investment decisions are based on facts and made to suit your long-term objectives rather than your personal, changing emotions or short-term needs.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. 930 E. Northwest Highway Mount Prospect, IL 60056 Phone: 224-347-2623 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding investing or Financial Planning.

### Margaret Coyle Trips for 2016

Margaret is planning several trips for 2016 including Ireland! Any interested parties call 708-870-0579 or email her at mcoyle17@hotmail.com

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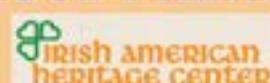
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**Sunday**  
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 www.chicagogaelicpark.org/Radio\_Show.htm 708-687-9330

**Monday**  
 8pm - 9pm Blarney On The Air - 90.9 FM Host: Shay Clarke  
 www.facebook.com/blarneyontheair 630-942-9322  
 9pm - 10pm Ireland Tonight - Host: Maryann McTeague Keifer  
 makeifer@comcast.net Rates: Call Ken Scott 630-942-4200  
 10pm - 11pm House Party - 90.9 FM Host: Bill Margeson  
 MargesonB@wdcb.org 630-942-9322

**Wednesday**  
 8pm - 9pm Windy City Irish Radio - WSBC 1240 AM  
 Hosts Tim Taylor and Mike Shevlin 773-792-1240 773-286-6866  
 tim.taylor@windycityirishradio.com, mike.shevlin@windycityirishradio.com  
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# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane  
and Margo O'Donnell



Hi everybody  
Once again it is time to put pen to paper and say hello to all of you. Since the last time we have lost one of our finest Country singers, the late great Gene Stuart. R.I.P. Gene passed away at home with his family after a brave battle with cancer. He was a very gentle man and was always kind to me. He had a great following and the world of Country Music lost a very important family member. Thanks for the memories Gene. I Have decided to take a break from performing for awhile. I celebrated my 50 year in music and enjoyed every show but my health comes first and I know I have to take time out. I would never use the word retire because I will always be grateful for the wonderful gift God gave me.

I am off to Florida for a vacation so I am looking forward to having some "me" time.

I am still very involved in the Mary Boyle case and hoping the documentary will bring on a lot of unanswered questions. It will let the public see how a great injustice was done and is an insult to the memory of Mary Boyle. I will keep you up to date when the documentary will be shown on T.V. here in Ireland. For now stay safe and be kind to each other.

Thank you Margo,

We send our thoughts and prayers with you on this tragedy and miscarriage of justice.

I'm writting this as the St. Patrick's celebrations get underway in Chicago. I am so happy that my son Declan has joined me on quite a lot of shows this past while. I now know the true feeling of how my father must have felt, when him and I performed together (my father played drums and accordion). Of course back then compliments weren't thrown about like they are now. I know my father loved me because he did it rather than say it. Ha! Ha! the nearest I got to a spoken compliment, was one night my brother and I were

performing and when we took a break, my father said "what was that you were doing with your fingers in the middle of that last song?" I said I was just playing some scale type things. My father said "do more of that" Ha! Ha! that was my lifetime compliment. I know he was proud of us, the same way I now feel on stage with Declan.

By the time this months paper comes out, I'll be in Ireland. I'll be celebrating my uncle's 80th birthday. He's the last of that generation, so we're going to have a hullabaloo! It's so special that we decided one night is not enough. So we're having two nights partying. I'll be home for about five weeks (I'll need that to get over the party).

I think I mentioned before about meeting up with Andy Cooney (thanks to Pauline Conneely) at the Curragh Edison park. That was a while back. Anyway since then I have had many talks with Andy and he even recorded a song that Margo, James Thacker and I wrote called "Light Of Our Own Moon". Then Nathan Carter and I had an idea to write a song about how the country music came here to America by the immigrants. So the three of us started emailing and texting each other. We ended up with a song called "That's How Country Was Born". I love the song and Andy recorded it in Jonathon Owens studios (Spout Studios) in Ireland. That's where most of the big names record these days. So Andy recorded also had Mick Flavin and Johnny Brady sing on the recording also. When I met Andy first, I thought, boy this man is so warm and full of great craic. I said to myself, he must be from a large family. I spoke to him yesterday on the phone and did a little interview with him.

Joe - Hi Andy, first question "how many is there in your family"? Andy - "There's nine Joe, I

have four brothers and four sisters". Joe - Ha! Ha! I knew I was right. "What part of Ireland is your family from?" Andy - One side is from Dublin and the other from Monaghan", "my grandfather was an Irish tenor, so I grew up with the songs of John McCormick and Josef Locke etc". Joe - "Well you have a wonderful voice yourself". I wish we could write the whole interview down but alas, we'd probably take up the whole paper". "Do you have a date set for the CD release, so people can watch out for it?" Andy - Well we have a couple more singles to release and then the whole CD will be out. I'm aiming for Memorial weekend here in the US and early June in Ireland". Joe - "Well Andy thank you for taking time out of what is one busy schedule for you". "Will you be coming to Chicago anytime in the future?". Andy - It's my pleasure Joe, I just got back from a great cruise with some very special guests from Ireland. We had about a thousand people on board and it was a great time. I'm about to go on a US tour with Phil Coulter, so really looking forward to that. I keep in touch with Cliff Carlson and I'm sure we will be setting up some shows for Chicago soon". Joe - "Safe

travels to you and the crew and hopefully meet up again soon"  
Andy - "Thank you and a big hello to all in Chicago and the Mid-West" Andy Cooney, what a really nice gentleman. I thought

it would be good to make the song we wrote "Country Music Was Born", song of the month. Until next time, be good to one another.

God Bless, Joe and Margo

## Country Music Was Born

Written by Nathan Carter, Andy Cooney and Joe McShane

Chorus

Where do you think it started the fiddle and the mandolin  
Dancin' round in the evening time and the folks all joining in  
It turned to Bluegrass and it didn't take long  
Till Country Music was Born

Verse 1

Many thousands came a sailing across the deep blue sea  
Hard working men and women with their family  
At night they'd play their music and sing their songs of home  
An old squeeze box a fiddle and a bow

Verse 2

They travelled through the country, along the dusty trails  
Into the smokey mountains determined not to fail  
The music travelled with them like it never had before  
Singing songs from shore to shining shore

Chorus

Verse 3

The Virginia's to Kentucky through the hills of Caroline  
Music floated down cross that Mason-Dixon Line  
Where it echoes through the Ryman, in Nashville Tennessee  
Mother church, the Grand Ole Opry

Chorus

Verse 4

So here's to all the people that came here to this land  
All they had was their traditions and music in their hands  
Chorus



Much of the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration Events in Dublin were projected on jumbotrons around the City- including the parade.



## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



### Quo Vadis Hibernia?

It WAS the Economy, Stupid – but the Micro and not the Macro. Ireland Inc. may be doing very nicely, thank you, our putative growth rate may be the highest in Europe and our circumstances dramatically better than five years ago, but very little of this cut ice with the Irish voters on February 27. Like its predecessor the Government was unceremoniously dumped, though this time without any obvious successor.

In fact its goose was cooked two years ago. The Local Election results in May 2014 mirrored almost exactly what happened last February, suggesting that three years was all the electorate needed to pass judgement. This after seeing off the Troika and receiving concessions on interest rates payable on our debts and on the promissory notes early on. The perception in official circles may have been that the worst was over, but for the ordinary punter austerity was biting and the cuts causing outrage. I wrote at the time ("Mugged by Reality") that the hiding the Government parties suffered rendered their chances of recovery slight – regardless of any new policy initiatives.

So it proved. We now have a stalemate with very few options. With the magic number eighty, the only viable majority government would be between Fine Gael (50) and Fianna Fail (44). There is historical baggage certainly, but, failing such a coalition, were all other attempts and permutations unsuccessful, including minority administrations by either, another election would beckon. Whether either party has the stomach for one so soon is unclear, but as I write there is little indication of the big two entering negotiations on a "Grand Coalition."

Right now Fine Gael is seeking to negotiate some type of rainbow-style arrangement involving the minor parties (5 seats) and the 19 assorted independents. Sinn Fein (23) and the ten Leftists have painted themselves out of any coalition while Labour (down to 7 seats) is still shell-shocked. While there are Cabinet seats and Junior Ministries on offer the prospect of a stable administration emerging seems fanciful. Whatever about Independents being loath to precipitate another election, any divisive vote could bring the government down. The cautionary tale of the fall of the first Fitzgerald administration in 1982 when an independent withdrew vital support over a budget proposal to tax children's shoes has not been forgotten. April promises to be particularly interesting.

The election post mortems have taken place. Much has been made – particularly on the Left ( 5.5% of the vote) and from Sinn Fein ( 13.8%) – of the fact that the two major parties for the first time saw their combined vote fall below 50% . Yet with less than one fifth of the votes cast going to these self-described parties of the Left – about what Labour polled in 2011 – and with many of the Independents rooted in the gene pools of the major Parties, rumours of their demise seem premature.

Fine Gael and Labour have both polled lower and Fianna Fail – long the dominant force in Irish politics – have bounced back appreciably since 2011. There is clearly considerable disenchantment currently with the traditional parties, but the big two have traditionally been coalitions across class and social divide and have also had the ability to absorb whatever small splinter groups to have emerged, while Labour has its own particular niche.

Cue the recent election. Fine Gael's failings included political naivete, hubris, the wrong priorities, failure to empathize with public sensitivities, perceived indifference to issues such as homelessness and crime. There was general dissatisfaction with the health service, other legacy issues from the crash including the hang-over from years of austerity and the palpable reality that most people – particularly the squeezed middle – are worse off now than eight years ago. To cap it all Fine Gael ran a woefully inept campaign – virtually the worst I can remember in half a century and equalled only by Fianna Fail's 2011 fiasco.

For Labour, some or all of the above, plus guilt by association with Fine Gael. Its strongest card, that it preserved much of the core welfare payments intact, was undermined by clever, focussed and continued sniping from the left over broken election "promises." Labour was never able to shrug off this charge even though the sniping was obviously politically motivated and so disingenuous in view of the country's dire economic situation that only die hards on the anti-Labour left could parrot the "broken promises" line with a straight face. It had moreover oversold itself during the 2011 campaign with Gilmore's fatuous "Labour's way or Frankfurt's way" remark and was on the back foot virtually from the off on that account.

In many ways it was the Crash Election Part Two, and, as in 2011, the incumbents paid the price. It was never going to be easy governing after 2011, but the Coalition did have several factors going for it. It had been gifted office. It enjoyed an extended honeymoon period in which all the blame could be lumped conveniently on Fianna Fail and/or the Troika. Most of the heavy lifting in terms of savage budgets had been done by Fianna Fail. Even the Troika budgetary targets could be passed off as force majeure.

That left the small print. Adherence to the Troika programme and targets promised a rapid economic recovery, which is now well under way at the macro level. But it involved increased and new taxation and cuts in spending. The taxes weren't popular – the Universal Social Charge and the property tax in particular – against a background of public disgruntlement over bailing out the banks and not burning-the-bondholders. But they were accepted, given the general public recognition of the need to bridge the gap between government income and expenditure. The spending cuts were more controversial and proved critical.

In effect the Troika suggested the figures but not the details, which were left to the government. It was an opportunity. Sensitivity and political acumen – "cop on" – were needed. Neither were forthcoming. The cuts, particularly in Health, were ham-fisted, indicating a

government woefully out of touch. Many discretionary medical cards were challenged or discontinued while vital home help and carers programmes were among those cut back. The mantra that cuts should be universal (why?) rang hollow against the simultaneous protection of sacred cows like Old Age Pensions, and Child Benefit (pruned slightly, but not taxed or means tested). And elsewhere the government showed itself no better than its predecessor.

There was still a chance had the lessons of 2014 been absorbed. But the sole strategy adopted was to plough on, lecturing on the need for stability to sustain the recovery which not all felt, while tinkering with taxation and benefits. Meanwhile issues of public concern (homelessness, crime and sick people on hospital trolleys) were ignored. Irish Water capped it all, becoming a lightning rod for public discontent. Water charges were an austerity too far, the institution itself perceived as an overpriced, overmanned new quango. The charges issue could have been solved – and buried – with some tactical thinking and minor adjustments in revenue elsewhere. Instead it became one of the issues which buried the government. Bon Chance!



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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



1916 CENTENNIAL; cause for celebration and solemn commemoration. As shown in an ad in this IAN issue; Where: The Irish Legend Restaurant, 8933 S. Archer Ave., Willow Springs. When: Sat. April 30, starting at 7 p.m. Auspices of Friends of Irish Freedom and the real Clan na Gael in support of current republican prisoners.

IRELAND IN 1916 was still British-ruled, 800 years of genocide that had varied only in its intensity. Liz I, Cromwell, and Victoria each wiped out half of Ireland's population. But led by modern Ireland's Founding Fathers, revolutionary change was underway. Most of Ireland's landlords were already gone by 1916, repatriated to England beginning about 1900, bought out by Britain at above-market prices. Their latifundia were "striped" and returned to the Irish in typically 28-acre holdings with an acre or two of the nearest bog for fuel. The recipients in our area, mostly survivors from poorer lands from Fairymount through Ballinlough, to Williamstown and Glennamaddy in County Galway, had surrendered their few acres which were consolidated into larger holdings for their erstwhile neighbors. Few Irish had survived in the good land from Castlerea to Elphin and Roscommon except as herds, grooms, gardeners, etc. Until the 1970s the recipients were forced, like my father and his fellow-farmers in Roscommon and elsewhere, to continue paying Rent. This annual Rent payment amortized what Britain had given to its landlords in Ireland some seventy years earlier. In addition to that annual Rent, Ireland's farmers paid semi-annual "rates" (land taxes) to maintain roads, schools, etc. Those rents and rates consumed whatever profit a farmer's labor produced. In the mid-1930s Dev

stopped forwarding those rents to Britain, but that's another story. By 1916 Ireland's majority, its farm families, were becoming infinitely better off than in previous centuries.

LANDLORDS GONE, but even after 1923 when the IRA defeated Britain's army and Royal "Irish" Constabulary including its infamous Black-and-Tans, Ireland's other British ("The Ascendancy") stayed. The banks, insurance, news media, brokerages, academia, and entrenched bureaucracy all remained; to Ireland's detriment.

IRELAND IN 2016 is nominally sovereign; 26 of its 32-counties, that is. Influenced by its news media, Church hierarchy, two treasonous ex-IRA men, and its pols pressured by U.S. Neo-Cons, Ireland, via the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, surrendered to Britain its Constitutional claim to its six northeastern counties. It was history's largest-ever surrender of national territory absent catastrophic military defeat. Though Ireland is less controlled by Britain today than for centuries, it has new masters. Neo-Cons got Irish pols to allow banksters to loot Ireland. They got Ireland to violate international law by permitting Shannon Airport to be used for Bush/Obama's Crimes Against Humanity, and for their equally criminal "rendition" flights. Additional sovereignty has been lost to Brussels and Berlin.

Despite Ireland's recent loss of sovereignty it is far better off than before. Its better-educated population is not likely to continue to allow predators to usurp its offshore oil, to pay extortionate water fees in rain-soaked Ireland, or to strip its national assets.

IRELAND, FREE of all of its masters, might be a more congenial nation than ours. Ireland's people only have to reject

foreign predators, their home-grown ones aren't loaded with WMDs and ready to use them against their own citizens, like our Neo-Con-controlled gov't. All a self-respecting Ireland has to do is unify; reject its criminal pols including Sinn Fein and be guided by Republican Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, 32CSM, 1916 Societies, and similar others. It will rid the GAA and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann of their enemies now controlling them ("Derry; the UK City of Culture?!"). It will replace its Consuls General with people of integrity. Who can forget their vile collaboration with Britain against Ireland and Irish-America in State Capitols across the US during campaigns re Joe Doherty, the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, the US/UK Extradition Treaty, and the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland? Who can forget that, despite the readily-available homicide records, the most flagrant anti-IRA propagandists of all were Irish

gov't officials and news media?

TRUTH will distinguish a free Irish people. A free Ireland will be law-abiding, in defiance of the US/UK/Israel empire-builders. Instead of winking at atrocities, it will prosecute the above-the-law perpetrators; of Omagh, of Dublin/Monaghan, of Ballymurphy, of Bloody Sunday, of Loughin Island, of McGurk's Pub and so many more. A free Ireland will allow me and Fr. Vince Sheehy to install truthful monuments over some of Ireland's Holocaust mass graves.

CORRESPONDENT James O'Hara, Santa Fe, NM, ex-Killarney, writes "Why such non-recognition of Ireland's homelessness, of previous holocausts, enslavements, transportations, and what happened to Irish women, Ireland's thousands of mass graves, loss of Ireland's fishing grounds, Ireland's new arms industry, its money laundering and the "black" global economy, its three saints in the graveyard of the Anglican Church in Downpatrick in oc-

cupied territory, Christ Church in Dublin, the Annals of Inishfallen in Oxford and the other hundred medieval manuscripts in the British Library, An Lia Fáil, or as now known, the Stone of Scone, the SAS's murder campaign in 1970-1990s Ireland, etc.?"

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See [www.irish-holocaust.org](http://www.irish-holocaust.org)

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS? See [www.terrorismireland.org](http://www.terrorismireland.org)

GFA BENEFICIAL? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), [www.billymcguire.com](http://www.billymcguire.com), [www.justice-forthecraigavontwo.com](http://www.justice-forthecraigavontwo.com). Write to the framed Craigavon Two. They are Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton, are abused in Maghaberry Prison.

MI5/FBI; See [www.chicagomole.org](http://www.chicagomole.org).

WRITE to Ireland's patriot/prisoners. For names, addresses contact [maryosullivanpaa@gmail.com](mailto:maryosullivanpaa@gmail.com) or 312/437-3175.

Contact [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) or 312/664-7651.

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Interesting month for the music. The terrific Paul McKenna Band from Scotland has a brand new bit of business out, *Paths That Wind*. On Imelda Bhroga's and my Sunday show on LiveIreland.com at noon from Dublin, Ireland, we play a lot of Paul McKenna, and we will play even more of this album. Great music. McKenna is a definite contender for Male Vocalist of the Year with this one. His voice is VERY special and exquisite, and it has matured a lot. Our only complaint with the band's previous three albums is that there was a lot of Paul McKenna, but not enough of his wonderful band. Problem solved. The 10 cuts on this album have a lovely mix of vocal and instrumental moments. Easy to find. Already on iTunes and Amazon. The Paul McKenna Band has become one of those rare international groups both respected and loved. They have arrived, and an even more confident voice from McKenna joins an even more varied instrumental blend to produce one of the year's best new albums. Just plain, flat-out wonderful.

Alan Doherty has a new album, VERY hard to find, but well worth the search. *Aldoc*, From Tallaght to Halle is the name of the album. *Aldoc* is a seven-man band that is getting very hot, indeed. Doherty is a fab flautist and whistle player, highly creative and multi-talented. I was introduced to him by our mutual friend, Colin Farrell. As you know, Colin has the Irish American News 2016 Award for Best Male Musician. Colin and Alan are all part of a young set who are bringing such a fresh approach to the tradition on a virtually worldwide basis. A lot of this is based out of Disney World, believe it or not. Great trad musicians invited to come, play, stay and create while entertaining the punters. This is, most definitely, NOT for exclusively trad fans. Oh, it is Irish, all right, down to the core. But, it is VERY avant garde. Wonderful, but this is NOT session music or the like! Alan can play it all right, but he is expanding wildly, freshly and entertainingly on the tradition, along with his group. A great album—probably not for everyone. Highly recommended, nonetheless. This is a musician who is going to be around, to be sure!!

Here's a puzzler. *The Simpson Three*. Self-titled first album. Two brothers and a sister. Family act. You have



## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



heard us whine frequently about the 300 or so albums we receive each year, leaving us little time to really hear them. As I am typing this, I am looking at a pile of cd's, unheard, yet promised I will listen. These things show up. Like this album. They just keep showing up! There is not much factual info on the *The Simpson Three* online as we would like. The album got in the day before deadline. We gave it a quick run-through listen and loved it. As far as we can figure it out, *The Simpson Three* are out of Australia---Melbourne? Sister Bec is on bodhran and vocals (we really like her voice) and brothers Declan and Clancy do some really great work on guitars, mandolins, fiddles, low whistles and vocals. Be sure of it. This is a young group, very young, and the music does, occasionally run away with them. Too much too fast. BUT—watch this now---BUT, there is a real, true honest to God young force at work here. This is where I need to fill you in more on them, but we were not able to connect before I had to get this in on deadline, and I wanted you to know about it right away. I don't even know how we got the album! More to come when we get the full suss.

You can hear and enjoy all this on *The Bill&Imelda Show* on LiveIreland.com at noon each Sunday out of Dublin on LiveIreland.com Still, we are told, the most listened to Irish music program in the world! Also, keep tuned in Chicago to Maryann

Keifer's wonderful Ireland Tonight radio program each Monday at 9:00 p.m. on WDCB—90.9fm and [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org). Best Irish music show on the radio in Chicago. Period. Also, if you love bluegrass, the child of Irish music, listen to Imelda Bhroga and me right after Maryann's show each Monday. House Party. Bluegrass, a little Irish (you KNEW there had to be a little Irish!!), Cajun, Gospel and Americana. It's all there, and we hope you are too, every Monday at 10!

It must be said whether you are an Irish or bluegrass music fan—or both—you must plan on being at IrishFest in Milwaukee this summer! Go online and look at the lineup. Wow!! We're off to work now, chasing down these talented youngsters in Australia!! See you next month!!

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The mission of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* pays tribute to exemplary Americans of Irish heritage who have truly shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

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The *Irish American Hall of Fame* preserves and promotes the “story” of Irish culture by recognizing the contributions of individuals to the Irish American experience. Telling their story preserves our story. The *Irish American Hall of Fame*, a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will then be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America.

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The purpose of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to preserve the “story” of the Irish in America, thus becoming a resource for all Americans or those interested in the development and history of America including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers and students of Irish and American history at all levels, those interested in genealogy, cultural historians and the general public. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* is national in scope operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

**NOMINATION & SELECTION:**

Founded in 2010, the *Irish American Hall of Fame* accepts nominations from July through September each year. More than 500 nominations have been received from individuals in more than 30 states, Ireland and across the globe.

The Hall of Fame Governing Committee along with The Screening Committee is comprised of esteemed individuals from the Irish American community from across the country including university professors, representatives from Irish organizations, publishers and business professionals. Nominations are vetted and reviewed and a select slate of candidates is put forth in an election each year. The 100+ member voting body of distinguished individuals from business, media, academia and government as well as Irish organizations throughout the United States elect the inductees in January.

This evening, we introduce you to the ten esteemed members of the Class of 2016. We applaud their talents, courage, integrity and ingenuity as they become the newest inductees into the *Irish American Hall of Fame!*

Our Congratulations to the  
*2016 Irish American  
Hall of Fame Inductees*



Front Row: Martin Healy, Jr., John Scanlon, David Huber, Kevin Veugeler  
Back Row: Terence Geoghegan, Jack Cannon, Matthew Healy, Terry Sullivan, Patrick Anderson, Jill Fowler, Matthew Gannon, Dennis Lynch

**Arts & Humanities:**

- Brian Dennehy
- Frank McCourt
- Spencer Tracy

**Business & Industry:**

- Denis J. Healy

**Public Service:**

- Governor Edward F. Dunne
- Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher

**Sports:**

- Nolan Ryan

**Religion:**

- Father Andrew Greeley

**Science:**

- Anne Sullivan Macy

**Science:**

- Captain Emily Hanrahan Warner

**2016 Hometown Hero:**

- Edward F. McElroy



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- Cliff Carlson
- Jim Corboy
- Laura Coyle
- Joan O'Hara
- Kathy O'Neill
- Mike Shevlin
- Tim Taylor

# 2016 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME AWARDS GALA PROGRAM AND SPECIAL GUESTS

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION:** 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**DINNER AND PROGRAM:** 7:30 - 10:30 pm

## INDUCTION CEREMONY

**ARTS & HUMANITIES:**

- Brian Dennehy
- Frank McCourt
- Spencer Tracy

**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:**

- Denis J. Healy

**PUBLIC SERVICE:**

- Governor Edward F. Dunne
- Brigadier General  
Thomas Francis Meagher

**SPORTS:**

- Nolan Ryan

**RELIGION:**

- Father Andrew Greeley

**EDUCATION:**

- Anne Sullivan Macy

**SCIENCE:**

- Captain Emily Hanrahan Warner

**HOMETOWN HERO:**

- Edward J. McElroy



*Join us for an evening of inspiration, storytelling, entertainment and fun honoring these very worthy Irish Americans!*

**Individual Tickets:**

- \$200 per person, non IAHC Members
- \$175 IAHC Members

**Table of ten:**

- \$1950 per table, non IAHC Members
- \$1700 IAHC Members

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*Can't attend Gala but wish to support the Irish American Hall of Fame?*

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# THE AMERICAN IRELAND FUND



Congratulations to our dear friend and Board Director, Denis Healy, on his induction into the Irish American Hall of Fame.

For over 40 years The American Ireland Fund has supported innovative work that preserves Irish culture, counters sectarianism, advances education, strengthens community development and cares for those in need. Thanks to our donors, over \$500 million has been raised for over 3,000 outstanding organizations across Ireland and around the world. **THANK YOU.**

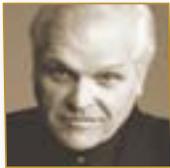


We invite you to learn about giving back to the land that has given us so much.

Please visit [www.theirelandfunds.org](http://www.theirelandfunds.org)

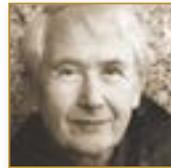
# INTRODUCING THE 2015 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## ARTS & HUMANITIES



### BRIAN DENENHY

A prolific U.S. actor with grandparents hailing from Counties Cork and Waterford, Brian Dennehy has been well respected on both screen and stage for the better part of 40 years. He was born in July 1938 in Bridgeport, CT, the son of Hannah and Edward Dennehy. He attended Columbia University in New York City on a football scholarship as a history major. After Columbia, he attended Yale University to study dramatic arts. Dennehy's select film credits include *Looking for Mister Goodbar*, *The Big Year*, *Ratatouille*, *Assault on Precinct 13*, *Tommy Boy*, *Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet*, *Presumed Innocent*, *Cocoon* and *Silverado*, among others. He has appeared on television in *30 Rock*, *Law & Order*, *The West Wing*, *Just Shoot Me!*, *Miami Vice*, and in numerous television movies and miniseries. He starred as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* (2000) which earned him a Golden Globe Award. Dennehy has also had a rich theatrical career and has appeared both in the United States and internationally in dynamic stage productions including *Death of a Salesman* (for which he won the 1999 Best Actor Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award), *Inherit the Wind*, *A Touch of the Poet*, *Long Day's Journey into Night* (for which he earned another Tony Award in 2003) and in Eugene O'Neill's heart-wrenching *The Iceman Cometh*. He was the recipient of the Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award and inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame in 2010.



### FRANK MCCOURT

Francis "Frank" McCourt was an American teacher and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, best known as the author of *Angela's Ashes*, an award-winning, tragicomic memoir of the misery and squalor of his childhood. Frank McCourt was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1930 to father Malachy McCourt, from Ballymoney, Antrim and mother Angela Sheehan from Limerick. McCourt spent his career teaching at six New York high schools, all in Manhattan. He received the Pulitzer Prize (1997) and National Book Critics Circle Award (1996) for his memoir *Angela's Ashes*. McCourt also authored *'Tis* (1999), *Teacher Man* (2005) and the book for a 1997 musical entitled *The Irish...And How They Got That Way*.



### SPENCER TRACY

Spencer Bonaventure Tracy was born on April 5, 1900, to John Edward and Caroline Brown Tracy, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from West Division High School in Milwaukee, he enlisted in the Navy at the start of World War I. After the war, he attended Ripon College and decided on an acting career. He attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. His career flourished with a series of hit films, and in 1937 and 1938 he won consecutive Academy Awards for *Captains Courageous* and *Boys Town*. In 1942 he appeared with Katherine Hepburn in *Woman of the Year*, beginning a popular partnership that produced nine movies over 25 years. He completed his last film, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* in 1967, just 17 days before his death.

Visit [www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org)  
for more information on the inductees

IRISH AMERICAN  
hall of fame

YOU ARE A  
SOURCE  
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FOR ALL  
IRISH AMERICANS.  
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(WELL DONE)

DAN  
MAYOR

McLaughlin  
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The Alumni Association of The City College of New York

*salutes*

# DENIS J. HEALY

*on being inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame*



**In You Denis Healy, class of 1960,  
The Alumni Association  
of The City College of New York  
Has Reason To Be Proud**

*The City College of New York was founded by Townsend Harris in 1846  
and is the oldest public college in the nation.*

President, Edward Plotkin '53CE, '56MCE, '66MBA  
and  
Executive Vice President, Donald K. Jordan

# *Congratulations from your Turtle Wax Family!!*

We've always been proud of you, Denis — and Sondra and the entire Healy and Hirsch families.

And we've known your Irish pride has been an important and inspirational part of your life and we've seen your brilliant impact on fellow Irishmen and women the world over.

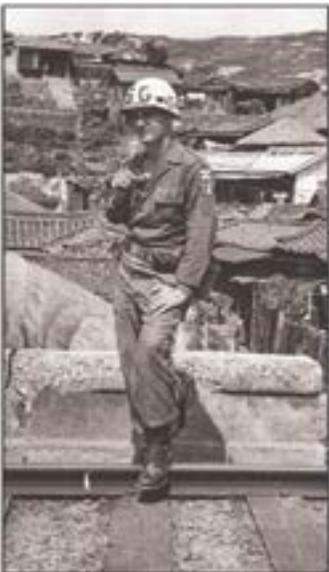
Congratulations to you — for all you have meant to your extended Turtle Wax Family in Chicago, New York and all around the world!





We're especially thankful for the leadership you and Sondra and the Healy family have shown in taking our company to new heights over and over and over again.

Please accept our deep gratitude for your compelling vision and dedicated leadership across so many prosperous and meaningful decades.



*And we are also honored as a company to see the company you now keep!*

Join this stellar group of previous inductees into the Irish American Hall of Fame as the newest shining star amongst:



2011

**HENRY FORD**

The Ford Motor Company



2012

**PATRICK G. RYAN, SR.**

AON Corporation



2013

**DANIEL ROONEY**

The Pittsburgh Steelers



2014

**GEORGE MEANY**

The AFL-CIO



2015

**SISTER SHEILA LYNE**

Mercy Hospital  
and Medical Center

2016 Business & Industry Honoree,  
**DENIS J. HEALY, SR.**

*Sláinte!*

## BUSINESS &amp; INDUSTRY

**DENIS J. HEALY**

Denis J. Healy is the son of Agnes Linehan Healy and Denis John Healy. Healy grew up in the Bronx and is the holder of eight U.S.

patents. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the City College of New York and worked in Research and Development at Colgate Palmolive and the Mennen Company, as well as the Barr Company, before joining Turtle Wax, Inc. in 1971. Healy, along with his wife, Sondra is Co-Chairmen of Turtle Wax Inc., a Chicago-based car-care icon. He served in the Army in the Korean War and is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of the Korean War National Museum located in the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center in Springfield, Illinois. He is past-President of the American Ireland Fund of Chicago and continues as a Board Member.

Visit [www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org)  
for more information

## PUBLIC SERVICE

**GOVERNOR EDWARD F. DUNNE**

Edward F. Dunne's Irish family was from Tullamore, County Offaly. His father was P.W. Dunne and mother was Delia Mary Lawlor, who emigrated to the east coast of America in 1849 before settling in Peoria, IL in 1855. Dunne's father sent his son back to Ireland in 1871 to attend Trinity College Dublin after which he returned to America to study law in Chicago. He consequencely was elected

Circuit Court Judge of Cook County in 1892. Dunne and his wife Elizabeth Kelly had 13 children and enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

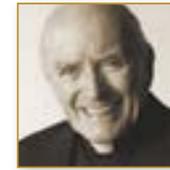
Edward F. Dunne became the first Irish Mayor of Chicago and the only Chicago mayor to also to serve as Governor of Illinois. He was the founding president of The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago and a global champion of Irish freedom. He garnered support from U.S. Presidents Wilson, Taft and Teddy Roosevelt as well as foreign leaders at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference of the Allied victors following World War I to officially recognize the new Irish Republic. Dunne travelled to Ireland as a supporter of home rule, meeting Michael Collins himself and addressing the first *Dáil Éireann* Assembly of the emerging Irish Republic.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER**

A well-educated man from Waterford, Thomas Francis Meagher became a prominent member of the Young Irelanders nationalist movement of the 1840s. Their goal was to repeal of the 1800 Act of Union between Ireland and the British Crown. After being banished from Ireland and escaping from Van Dieman's Land (Australia), Meagher made his way to New York City in the early 1850's, where

he continued his studies of law and journalism and published an anti-British paper called *Citizen* with Young Irelander friend, John Mitchell. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he recruited and captained a group of Irishmen in New York City for the 69th Regiment of Company K, which came to become known as the *Fighting 69th* of the New York State Militia. Ultimately, Meagher would rise to Brigadier General. His Irish Brigade composed of five regiments under his command – three from NY, and one each from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Following the war, Meagher served as Governor of the new Montana Territory.

## RELIGION

**FR. ANDREW GREELEY**

The Reverend Andrew M. Greeley proudly claimed Irish descent through both of his parents. His family roots lay in County

Mayo. Greeley's many contributions to the Catholic Church during almost 60 years as a priest include more than 100 non-fiction books on his sociological studies of American Catholics and on Catholic theology; more than 50 novels; numerous articles in academic journals and the popular press; and a weekly syndicated column that appeared in both religious and non-religious news outlets. In 1962, he earned a doctoral degree in sociology from the University of Chicago. Using sociological data analysis, Greeley became known for calling the Church hierarchy's attention about new insights about the Catholic laity. Greeley considered his priesthood the inspiration for all of his endeavors. He told the *Chicago Tribune* in 1992, "I'm a priest, pure and simple... The other things I do — sociological research, my newspaper columns, the novels I write — are just my way of being a priest."

*Inductees Bios continued on page 12*

## The Sisters of Mercy Extends Congratulations to the 2016 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

We honor current and past inductees for the many advances and contributions they have made in the areas of Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science.

Starting with our Irish founder Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy have served and advocated for those in need around the world. We invite you to join us in this work by doing acts of kindness for others during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

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[www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org)



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*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

**SPORTS**

**NOLAN RYAN**

Lynn Nolan Ryan, Jr. was born in Refugio, Texas, the youngest of six children, to Lynn Nolan Ryan, Sr. and Martha Lee Hancock Ryan. He is a former Major League Baseball pitcher. Ryan was an eight-time MLB

All-Star, and his 5,714 career strikeouts rank first in baseball history. He is currently the only major league baseball player to have his number retired by 3 different teams: the Angels, Astros, and Rangers (other than Jackie Robinson, whose number was retired by the entire MLB). Ryan played in a major league-record 27 seasons for the New York Mets, California Angels, Houston Astros, and Texas Rangers, during his career which spanned from 1966 to 1993. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2014 he accepted the position of Special Assistant to Houston Astros owner, Jim Crane. Ryan's son, Reid Ryan, is the current Astros President.

**SCIENCE**

**CAPTAIN**

**EMILY HANRAHAN WARNER**

Emily Hanrahan Warner was born to John William Hanrahan and Emily Boyd Hanrahan in North Denver, Colorado in 1939. Inspired by aviation as a teenager,

she quietly paid for her aviation training by working two jobs as a Department store sales clerk and secretary for Clinton Aviation. At 18 years old, Warner announced she had earned her pilot's license. On April 10, 1973, her dreams took flight despite the common wisdom was "girls could not, and should not fly." She broke the glass ceiling of the flight deck by becoming the first woman hired by a U.S. airline carrier as a pilot and took the controls of Frontier Airline 737 Flight #379A. In 1974, she became the first woman member of ALPA Air Line Pilot Association. By 1976, Warner became America's first female Airline Captain. That same year, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum permanently enshrined her airline pilot uniform in Washington, D.C. Over the years, Warner has been named Amelia Earhart Woman of the Year (1982), and been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (2002). She has been named a Living Legend of Aviation (2007). In 2014, she was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

**EDUCATION**

**ANNE SULLIVAN MACY**

Anne Sullivan was born in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. A gifted teacher known as "The Miracle Worker," Anne Sullivan is best known for her work with Helen Keller, a deaf, blind and mute child

she taught to communicate.

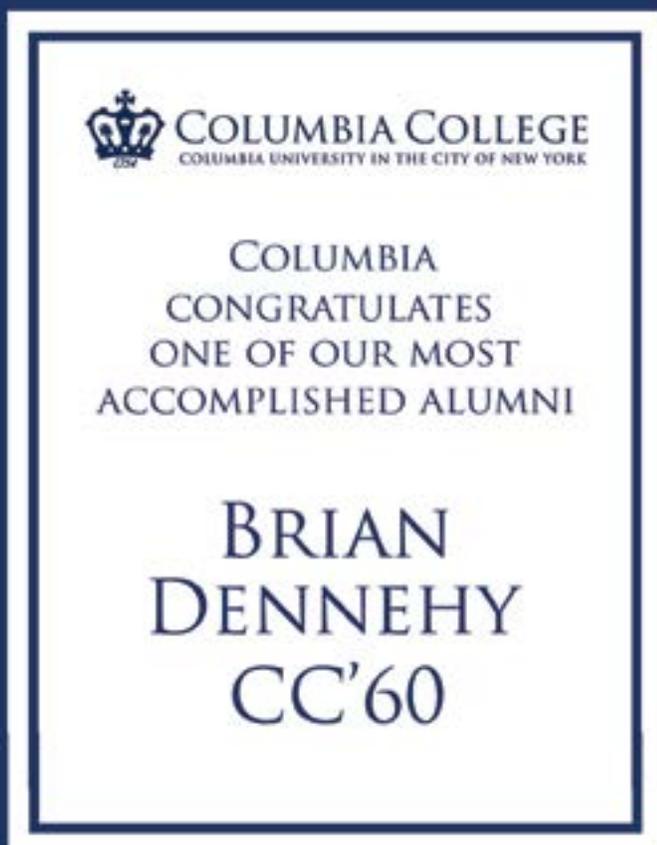
Her parents emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland in the 1840s. At the age of five, Sullivan contracted the eye disease, trachoma, which severely damaged her sight. She eventually attended the Perkins School for the Blind in 1880, and underwent surgery to improve her vision. She was chosen as the valedictorian of her class in June 1886. After graduation, Sullivan was hired by the Keller family as governess for their daughter Helen in March 1887. She worked with Keller to communicate and is famously known throughout the world simply as "Teacher".

*Inductees Bios continued on page 14*

Visit [www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org) for more information



**Saturday, April 23, 2016 is the date for the Irish American Hall of Fame of Fame Gala!**



**THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB OF CHICAGO**

*congratulates the 2016 inductees into the  
Irish American Hall of Fame.*

1901

2016



*We salute our first President, the Honorable  
Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne,  
Mayor of Chicago and Governor of Illinois!*

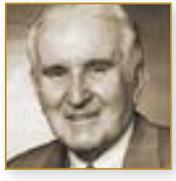
*We also wish to acknowledge our colleague,  
Denis J. Healy!*

*"We congratulate Denis J. Healy  
and the other distinguished honorees on their induction into  
the 2016 Irish American Hall of Fame."*

*- Joseph and Susan Power*



# 2016 HOMETOWN HERO



*Recognizing individual contributions and honoring outstanding efforts to preserve and strengthen Irish heritage in local communities throughout the United States is presented to...*

### EDWARD F. McELROY

There are few people in the Irish or Irish American community in Chicago who don't know Ed! McElroy is truly a "man about town" who is comfortable in the presence of mayors, U.S. presidents, major league baseball players or the guys from the old neighborhood. He celebrated his 90th birthday in 2015 and is still going strong.

Born in 1925 on the south side of Chicago, McElroy grew up in Visitation Parish where he attended grammar school. He then went on to attend high school at St. Joseph's Academy in Indiana. Graduating from high school in the early 1940s, he then joined the Army Air Corps (now the U.S. Air Force). After the war, McElroy found one of his passions in life; helping veterans. He served as State Commander of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of American and in 1962 was became the youngest National Commander for the organization.

McElroy has been active in the field of news and sports on WJOB, WIND and WJJD radio for more than 65 years when he began his career working for former White Sox broadcaster, Bob Elson, in 1946. In 1986, he founded Edward F. McElroy & Associates, a public relations firm focused on representing the American Legion, the Chicago Police Department, various unions, as well as conducting campaigns for Cook County judicial candidates. He is currently the host of "Community in Focus" on Chicago Comcast Channel 19, and "The Ed McElroy Show" on Comcast Channel 19 in the suburbs.

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

#### BRIAN NOONAN, HOST, WGN RADIO

Brian Noonan is an experienced media professional, successful public communicator and blog/comedy/copywriter. He has developed and maintained various social media outlets in support of his employer's and his own brands.

Noonan is host of WGN Radio's "The Brian Noonan Show," Creative Director for TurboTitleLoan.com and is a stand-up comic. He is also a host on WTMJ AM in Milwaukee. He is a member of the Screen Actor Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) and a Board Member for the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Radio and Television from Southern Illinois University.



The Committee of the Irish American Hall of Fame would like to offer their condolences to the Reagan Family on the passing of their mother, First Lady, **NANCY DAVIS REAGAN.**

Mrs. Reagan was very involved and helpful in honoring her husband, **PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN,** when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014.

This past year has also seen the passing of the Hollywood legend and business woman, **MAUREEN O'HARA.**

Ms. O'Hara was a member of the inaugural class of the Irish American Hall of Fame in 2011.

*We are privileged to have played our part in honoring these remarkable Irish Americans.*



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Tune in live each week for the best of Irish culture celebrating music, books, theatre and arts appealing to all ages in the Irish community.

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*The Bruce Family would like to congratulate Denis Healy  
and all the inductees to the 2016 Irish American Hall of Fame!*

**DEVON C. BRUCE**

Attorney at Law, Partner

Power, Rogers & Smith

[www.prslaw.com](http://www.prslaw.com)

## Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



Each month Chicago Irish Immigrant Support hosts senior group meetings at IAHC and Gaelic Park. See below for specific details on upcoming events. All senior meetings begin at 10am. There is no cost and refreshments are served. All are very welcome. If you need further information, please call our office on 773-282-8445.

Writing the Chapters of Your Life  
 Wednesday 6th April at IAHC and  
 Wednesday 27th April at Gaelic Park  
 This event will be held at both the IAHC and Gaelic Park. 'Writing the Chapters of Your Life' is a presentation about the importance of documenting your life stories and how to go about do-

ing it. This could be your life, or that of your parents or your grandparents. In a fun way, you will be motivated to capture these priceless stories in written form before it's too late. It's about preserving stories and memories for your family.

Granny Goes to Antarctica  
 Wednesday, 13th April 2016

Chicago-born Jeanne Roppolo was a 57 year old grandmother when she set out on a five month adventure to Antarctica where she worked with the National Science Foundation. Today she will be joining us to share some fascinating stories about her adventures in one of the most desolate and unforgiving terrains on the planet.



### 1916 – A Commemoration



Join Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform as we host a symposium commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising.

April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

5.30pm – 8pm

The Gage Restaurant

24 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603

The symposium will be free and open to the public, and will bring together scholars and community organizations serving the Irish diaspora. The event will illustrate the significance of the Easter Rising in Irish history, and the significance of Irish immigrants to the U.S. and Illinois in particular.

Speakers include;

- CCIR Chairman Billy Lawless
- Consul General of Ireland to Chicago, Orla Mc Breen
- Illinois State Senator Cullerton
- Chicago author, artist and historian Tom O'Gorman
- Paddy Homan singing the Star Spangled Banner and Amhrán na bhFiann

For more information contact CIIS on 773-282-8445 or [mcollins@irishchicago.org](mailto:mcollins@irishchicago.org)

### Siberian Adventures

In this session we are joined by a woman who decided that retirement should be an adventure and has spent the past several years travelling to distant lands collecting amazing memories. One of her more unusual destinations was Siberia which she will tell us all about at this event.

### Darkness into Light 2016

Last year CIIS partnered with Ireland and New York based charity Pieta House to stage Chicago's first Darkness into Light 5K walk (DIL). The walk is a means of getting the community together to raise awareness of mental health issues and to offer support to one another around suicide and self-harm. The walk steps off in the early morning while it is still dark but as participants are crossing the finish line dawn is breaking. This symbolizes the journey of those who are feeling suicidal from the darkness of despair into the bright hope of a new day. All profits go toward supporting the Irish community of the US.

CIIS is delighted to once again be working with Pieta House and a dedicated local community organizing committee to host this year's event. The DIL 2016 walk will take place at Chicago Gaelic Park (6119 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452) on Saturday 7th May, stepping off at 5am. Below some of the organizing committee for DIL 2016 tell us about their motivation to be part of the event and why they think it's important for the community.

Jessica McCann

As someone who has suffered from depression, and struggled with self-harm from Middle School through College I know, and understand the need for support. I have lost two friends within the past year from suicide, and have witnessed the lack of

resources and support they desperately needed. The first step is to raise awareness, and I think we are doing that. We need to address the issue, and educate others who may not know this is a problem. After we have done that I believe things will start to change, and support will become available through the help of our donors, and sponsors. We can't do this alone, and neither can they.

Cathy McDonagh

My lovely nephew, Edward (Eddie) McDonagh, died in 2009 at the age of 27 by suicide. My family back home in Galway gets a lot of comfort and peace from participating in the DIL walk every year. I decided to get involved in DIL Chicago to show support not only to my family but to everyone who has been touched by suicide. After the first DIL walk on the Chicago lakefront last year, the warmth, love and sense of community I felt was powerful; a little sad, yes, but full of hope. See you all in May 7th!

Kayla Ryan

I've become involved with Darkness into Light in the memory of my father, Declan Ryan. No one should ever feel they need to leave this earth due to any lack of treatment or help available. The money raised by DIL goes to a great cause as we want to ensure anyone who feels this way should have ac-

cess to a professional to speak to at all times, which is sometimes all it takes to save someone's life. The feeling you get from the walk of leaving the dark and entering the light of the beautiful sunrise is so peaceful and helps me understand my father's journey from being in a dark place to being at peace. May he and all suicide victims rest in peace as we strive to end any future tragedies for our families and friends.

Amy Moore

I have been involved with Pieta House since 2012, when I began my time volunteering on reception before working with the research department in Dublin, Ireland. Pieta House provides an out-



McCann



McDonagh



Ryan

Continued on next page



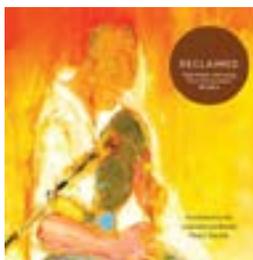
## Piping It In

Jack Baker



## Back In Harness

It was lovely taking a couple months off in Florida but I really missed the Celtic music scene in Chicago. Nothing much at all in Florida, at least where I was. I thank my wife for filling in for the last two months and now I better get back to it because there are plenty of newly released CDs that I think you'll want to hear about/



Makem and Spain, formerly known as the Makem and Spain Brothers ([www.makem.com](http://www.makem.com)), have

released a lovely new CD, "Four Pounds A Day" on New Folk Records. The band has pared

down a bit and now only features Micky and Liam Spain and Rory Makem, joined by the incomparable fiddle of Hanneke Cassel and John Doherty on Bass. Despite their reduced number, the three boys still put out a beautiful sound with their strong voices. Hanneke's fiddle adds a lot to the music here and their choice of music finds me smiling since they've gone with Irish classics like "Jug of Punch", "Red is the Rose", "Bold Thady Quill", "The Molly Maguires" and other tunes that are traditional and performed exceptionally. The guys bring a strength to Irish music that is very reminiscent of the Dubliners and, of course, the Clancy Brothers with Tommy Makem. Nice to hear that strength and feel the feelings that these songs bring to the soul. A solid and worthwhile CD to add to the collection.

One of the joys of my stay in Florida was a visit from my old friend, Colin Grant-Adams ([www.colingrant-adams.com](http://www.colingrant-adams.com)) and his lovely wife Julia. Along with a chance to get caught up with them, he brought his new CD, "Making Memories". Latest in a long and distinguished list of popular CDs, this latest effort has a bunch of traditional Scottish and Irish songs, plus the title song, written by Colin. Performing at Highland Games and Scottish festivals around the US, Colin has built up a sizable fan base who eagerly await each new CD he produces and they won't be disappointed by this one. Along with a nice selection of trad tunes, Colin performs one of Gordon Menzies' tunes, "Smuggler's Road". The addition of mandolin, played by Colin of course, on this CD is an especially nice touch. It was so nice to spend time with this pair of Scots and doubly so to hear this impressive new CD.

While still of a Caledonian mind set, I have to mention another stunning release from Scottish mega label Greentrax ([www.greentrax.com](http://www.greentrax.com)). I'm seldom surprised by Greentrax's releases since I have come to expect simply the best from them but this release has a piping fan like myself totally gobsmacked.

## Social Services

*Continued*

standing service to the people of Ireland, supporting those who are in desperate need of services. The warmth and love with which the therapists provide their service is second to none, with genuine admiration and respect among therapists for their clients. This warmth is embodied in the Darkness into Light walk, with families, friends and supporters united in the walk together into the light. For me, the walk reminds me of the hundreds of clients I have witnessed walk out of Pieta House following their last session - they have come through the darkness and walk bravely into the light. Since moving to Chicago in November of this year, I am eager to bring this service to the people of Chicago and the wider USA.

Moore



### Paul Dowling

I truly think that what human beings need most is to feel connected to something. Although the Irish are wonderful storytellers and quick with a joke, we still struggle to share our darker feelings and experiences with those around us. This creates a great deal of shame and emotional anguish. What we need to do as a community is come together in an honest way and support one another through our struggles. I think the Darkness into Light walk is an excellent way that we can do this and I feel that the walk can have a lasting positive impact on us as an entire community. As someone who has experienced self-harm first hand and had a close family member attempt suicide at a very young age, I think anything we can do that allows people to come together and talk with one another in a meaningful way is a real opportunity for healing.



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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



### St. Patrick's Day Dáil

The convocation on March 10th at Government Buildings in Dublin has erroneously been designated the first meeting of the 32nd Dáil Éireann. It was nothing of the sort. It was a fiasco that concluded nothing and procrastinated the necessity of a coalition (or an alliance of one of the major parties with Independents) to form the next government of Ireland. Expect more such procrastination for plenty long.

After the inconclusive assembly, Enda Kenny had just a few days before jetting off to Washington DC on March 14th. The following day, the caretaker Taoiseach had breakfast with Vice-President Joe Biden, lunch with key members of US Congress at Capitol Hill (in the presence of President Obama) before attending a reception at the White House where the Taoiseach presented the customary bowl of shamrocks to President Obama. With that done, Enda Kenny made ready to return immediately to Dublin, rather than follow through with other planned events in DC. Ministers from his former cabinet have also had their St. Patrick's Day itineraries either greatly curtailed or entirely scrapped. Business at home is pressing given that all we have for now is a St. Patrick's Day Dáil.

What happened when Ireland went to the polls on February 26th was an overthrow of the political domination of the Old Guard: neither of the two parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, which managed, with Labour propping them up, to hold power in Ireland since the country was founded have got a mandate for full government. Now they need each other to form a government, while Labour was so thoroughly deserted that it just about managed to gain "speaking rights" in whatever government will be formed.

Ireland is far from alone in facing such an upheaval. Consider that during the 2007-11 period Belgium had dozens of governmental changes and more a year stretch in which a caretaker government took charge. But, given the radical non-identification of the two dominant groups in Belgium's body politic, it is unsurprising that their quarrel culminated in a breakdown of government.

The case of Spain today is closer to what is happening in Ireland. For Spain's electorate, after enduring eight years of economic agony, the pain is now easing off and yet it decided to jettison its traditional political power base. The credibility of the main Spanish parties, which governed in rotation since the fall of Franco, is in tatters. As a representative Spanish citizen "Maria" said in the London Independent earlier this month: "Traditional politics [in Spain] is in a real mess, but I can't see that a new election will really help". Traditional parties no longer inspire their stalwart voters with enough faith to be returned at election time; as with Spain, so too

with Ireland.

A clue about the nature of the change in the Irish political landscape was offered by journalist Gene Kerrigan the Sunday after polling: "The collective vote of the right wing parties is shrinking. Thirty years ago, in 1987, they - Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, the PDs - got 89pc of the vote. Twenty years ago, in 1997, they got 82pc. At the last election it was 72pc. Now, it's about 57pc."

Whether their share of the vote is shrinking because they are right wing parties or not is debatable, but the diminishing support is indubitable and the trend will be very difficult to reverse. For nearly a century, the parties held sway and now the Irish are truly disaffected with them.

Fintan O'Toole, a journalist who nearly turned politician in 2011 (but recoiled shortly after he became enmeshed in an election campaign), has proclaimed this to be something close to a social democratic revolution. But is it really? It looks a great deal more like a flailing attempt for a ramshackle vehicle to splutter on, and it probably will for a while given the lack of a real alternative.

So what next? There is no appetite in the electorate for another general election and many of the politicians are scarcely solvent enough to contest it anyhow. Besides, who truly believes that if the Irish electorate were asked to vote again it would suddenly revert to historical type and bolster the support of either Fine Gael or Fianna Fail?

It seems likely that Fine Gael will receive a negotiated level of support from Fianna Fail to be a minority government. Such a lame duck cabinet will struggle to survive much longer than a year. Meanwhile, there may well be several changes of leadership of the big political parties: Leo Varadkar of Fine Gael and Mary Lou McDonald of Sinn Fein may seize their chance to lead.

Yet the same old policies will continue. It says a great deal about the February election campaign that no mainstream party (Sinn Fein certainly falls into the category of mainstream in respect of its policies, if not its history) undertook to overhaul any strand of the economic or political reality in Ireland now: their obsession to slightly modify or rearrange the existing system is too deep-seated.

So the tedious orthodoxy will continue to be re-branded and faux radical stances will furnish the daily headlines. Newspapers have already been saturated with commentary and leaks of talks between Independent elected representatives who may consider doing deals with either Fine Gael or Fianna Fail. Occasionally, some Independents have been bare-faced enough to boast about being lured by one of the parties—Shane Ross, in an attempt to make a spectacle of the Taoiseach, made at least as much a spectacle of himself in his boasting about Fine Gael's holding out the olive branch.

The people have rejected the old politics and there is a definite opening for a new de-

parture in Irish politics now. Not since the Northern Irish election of February 1969 has political opinion on this island so comprehensively attempted to transcend the old boundaries and parties—that election in the North gave birth, the following year, to the Social Democratic and Labour Party which was a dominant force in Northern politics for the following three decades. Could such a shift be happening in the South now?

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April is hopping with programs, activities and social events at the Center. See below to learn about how you can get in on the action this spring and enjoy all we have to offer.

## Cultural Corner

### Hidden Treasures of the IAHC Library and Archives

Library Director Leah Steele, Archivist Will Notini and Genealogist Brian Donovan will present a Celtic Women International program about the many and diverse resources of our IAHC Library, outline plans to promote the library's collection as a major research resource and discuss treasures that are being organized and protected in the archives. The program is Tuesday, April 19 at 7pm and suggested donation is \$5.

### Anam Cara Storytelling

Enjoy an encore performance of storytelling this spring. The theme is Down Memory Lane. Anam Cara is a semi-annual evening of readings by the creative writers from the Memoir and Creative Writing Workshops at the Center.

The program is Saturday, April 16 at 6:30pm in the IAHC Library. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

### Shapeshifters Theatre Staged Readings

Shapeshifters Theatre continues its staged reading series this spring in the Fifth Province. The May selection is *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly*. Originally produced by Seanachai Theatre Company, now the Irish Theatre Company of Chicago, the drama follows two sisters in a small town on the East Coast of Ireland in the 1950s. Torn between duty and desire, they confront the memory of their beloved mother.

In June, it's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Oscar Wilde's classic comedy follows

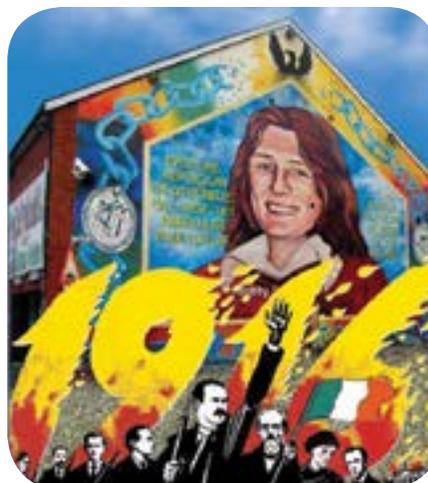
two young gentlemen living in 1890's England who use the same pseudonym ("Ernest") on the sly. Their caper unravels when they both fall in love with women using that name. *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* is Monday, May 2 and *The Importance of Being Earnest* is Monday, June 6. Tickets are \$10 for each reading. The Fifth Province opens at 6pm for live music and readings begin at 7 pm.

### Day of Remembrance and Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising

Sunday, April 24, 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The Center has planned a program to remember and honor the men and women who were the catalysts that lead to the free nation we know as the Republic of Ireland.

The day begins with Mass at 11am. At 12:04pm there will be a reading of the Proclamation on the Center steps. Featured programs include a screening of 1916 film, *A Birth of a Nation*, readings of the Letters of 1916 written during the Rising, a program of music and poetry; *Revolutionary Women of Ireland* and a panel discussion on the Men of 1916.

At 4:30pm, the day wraps up with a concert, *Rebel Songs: A Tribute to the 1916 Rising*, featuring Jimmy



Keane, Jeff Ward, Sean Cleland, Kathy Cowan, the Chancey Brothers, the Sullivan Brothers, the Larkin and Moran Brothers, the Dooley Brothers, Gerry Haughey and Catherine O'Connell. Tickets to the concert are \$20 for IAHC members, and \$25 for non-members, Doors open at 10:30am and food and drink will be available for purchase at 12:30pm. All events are free to the public, except the afternoon concert.

### St. Brendan Voyage Film Screening

St. Brendan is known as the patron of boatmen, mariners, sailors, travelers and whales. St. Brendan the Navigator was famed for his voyages, particularly a seven-year journey around 538, to the 'Land of Promise', which he described in his epic saga, 'Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis'.

In 1976, Tim Severin, expert on exploration sailed from Brandon Creek on the Dingle Peninsula to Newfoundland via Iceland and Greenland, demonstrating the accuracy of the places about which Brendan wrote. There will be a screening of Severin's documentary, *The Brendan Voyage* on Sunday, May 15 at 1pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

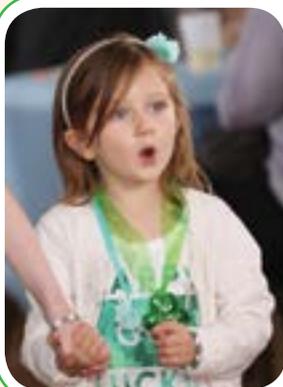
## Social Scene

### Paints and Pints Party

Channel your inner Picasso with an evening of art, food and drinks in the Fifth Province. Paints and Pints features a painting session with instructor Kathy Kelly, where aspiring artists can create and bring home their canvas creation.

Paints and Pints is Friday, April 8 or Friday May 6 at 7pm. Tickets are \$45 for IAHC members or \$50 for general admission. The cost features art materials, canvas and a choice of one soft drink, glass of house wine or domestic beer, and live Irish music at 8pm.

To purchase tickets for all Center programs, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



**Thanks to all who came out to celebrate St. Patrick's MONTH at the Center! We look forward to seeing you all back at Irish Fest on July 8, 9 and 10!**

## Irish American Hall of Fame Gala

**Saturday, April 23 - 6:30pm Cocktails - 7:30pm Dinner and Program**

Celebrate the 2016 Class of inductees of the Irish American Hall of Fame with a Gala Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 23. Cocktails are at 6:30pm and the program is at 7:30pm.

The 2016 class is Brian Dennehy, Frank McCourt, Spencer Tracy, Denis J. Healy, Gov. Edward F. Dunne, Nolan Ryan, Rev. Andrew Greeley, Anne Sullivan Macy, Emily Hanrahan Warner and



Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher.

Tickets are \$175 for IAHC members and \$200 for non-members. To purchase tickets, visit [www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org) or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10. See the special insert in this issue for for inductee bios, the evening program and more about the Irish American Hall of Fame.

## President's Message

The halls were alive...with the sound of music. Whew!! We made it through another March; and a mighty successful one at that. The parades, parties, pints, pubs; all history if we have a reliable memory. On March 6 we kicked off the season with the Wearing of the Green Dance. On March 12 and 13, our award-winning parade float team led our members as



we marched through the streets of Chicago. After the downtown parade, we welcomed all revelers to join us back at the Center for our annual St. Patrick's Festival. Our large team of volunteers did a superb job welcoming and entertaining the thousands who roamed the halls. On display was a who's who of the finest musicians and dancers, cooks, artists and storytellers. We thank all of you who joined us in our celebration. A miniature version of the Fest took place on March 17, where again the halls were filled with green-clad patrons and all lovers of Irish traditions.

April will be a busy month as well here at the Center. We welcome back dancers and music schools, activities are increasing and our membership is booming. Don't be left out; join today.

On April 23rd, the hardworking committee of the Irish American Hall of Fame will hold its annual Awards Gala. This event sold out last year so don't wait. Visit [www.iahof.org](http://www.iahof.org) and

purchase tickets now. I did not make the cut as an inductee. I guess I have to wait another year to be on the ballot.

This month, we will also focus our attention on the 100th year anniversary of the Easter Rising.

One hundred years to the day (April 24) and actually to the minute, (12:04 pm), the Proclamation will be read on the front steps of the Center. This will be followed by a free program on all

things 1916, honoring the brave men and women of the Rising. We will be treated to a concert at 4:30pm in the Auditorium featuring the best of local Irish music talent Chicago has to offer. This is an event you will not want to miss.

We are proud to announce a few additions at the Center. With open arms, we welcome our new General Manager, Meg Buchanan. After an exhausting search of more than 40 outstanding resumes, our committee chose Meg for her experience and vast knowledge. Talk about baptism by fire; her first day was on the St. Patrick's Festival on March 12. Congratulations to our newly crowned IAHC Queen, Maureen Loughran. We look forward to working with you both and give an outgoing round of applause to her predecessor, Alison Kapolnek.

God bless all.

Eugene M. Cooney  
President

## Save the Date

Save the date for the

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Visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) for the full 2016 Irish lineup!



## Annual Appeal

The IAHC Annual Appeal wrapped up a successful campaign in April. The campaign raised \$43,655 from our members and friends. Contributions to the Appeal will once again be enhanced by the matching program offered by Pat and Peggy Burke. We thank them, and

you, for your continued support.

Contributions to the Appeal can be made throughout the year by visiting [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org), calling the Center at 773-282-7035, ext 10 or by dropping by our office. Thank you to all who contributed.

**The Heritage Line Staff** Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

**Contributors:** Theresa Choske, Gene Cooney, Elizabeth Ellis, Michael Gibbons, Catherine Kelly, Kathy Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Maureen Smith

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# the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### APRIL ENTERTAINMENT

- 4/1 Ceili Mor
- 4/2 Cirrus Falcon
- 4/8 TBA
- 4/9 In Spite of Ourselves
- 4/15 the Boils
- 4/16 the Dooley Brothers
- 4/22 Joe Cullen
- 4/23 TBA
- 4/29 Gerry Haughey
- 4/30 St. Stephen's Green

All bands perform at 8pm.

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



### April Drink Special

**\$5 Guinness Blonde Draft**

### April 2016

April 1	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
April 2	Tea with Jane Addams	Fifth Province	11am
	Celtic Women Revolutionary		
	Women Program	Room 111	1pm
	Shamrock American Club Dance	Sham Am Room	8pm
April 6	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
April 8	Paints and Pint Party	Fifth Province	7pm
April 9	Byrne and Kelly in Concert	Erin Room	7pm
April 15	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
April 16	Anam Cara Storytelling	Library	6:30pm
April 19	CWI Meeting: <i>Hidden Treasures of the IAHC Library and Archive</i>	Library	1pm
April 20	Tara Club Meeting	Room 304	10am
April 23	Irish American Hall of Fame Cocktail Party	Second Floor Hall	6:30pm
	Irish American Hall of Fame Gala	Erin Room	7:30pm
April 24	1916 Easter Rising Program	Auditorium, First Floor and Fifth Province	Noon
	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
	Easter Rising Concert	Auditorium	4:30pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Tues	Memoir and Creative Writing Workshop	Library	4pm
Tues	Set Dancing	Room 111	7:30-9:30pm
Tues	Celtic Art Class	Art Gallery	7pm
Tues, Thurs,			12:30pm-
Fri, & Sat	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen2pm	
Wed	Watercolor Painting Class	Room 309	6:45pm
Wed	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	<i>The Craic with Cooney and Keane</i> Radio Show taping	Fifth Province	6pm
Thurs	Thursday Night Irish Music Session	Fifth Province	tune workshop 6:30pm session 7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsals	Room 304	7pm
Thurs	Memoir and Creative Writing Workshop	Library	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm

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

## Four Remain

As I go to press, "Super Tuesday" has come and gone. Looking at the recent Republican debates, one is left to wonder if SNL really needs to be concerned,

the R's comedy show really are giving the show a run for it's money.

The debate in Detroit, if that is what you want to call it, was a lesson in my opinion on how not to debate. I have seen far

better efforts coming from college students and some of you good readers have probably heard better from high school debates. The real worry for the Republican establishment at this stage is the fact that Trump is very close

## An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



to wrapping up the nomination. The other candidates are guilty of letting the king of flip-flop from New York get to this point without challenging him on his positions. I chose positions as opposed to policies because it has to be clear to even the most armature of commentators that Trump has no substance to any of his positions. And indeed his opinions are as changeable as the weather in the west of Ireland—four seasons in one day.

My attention was drawn in particular to his flip-flopping on the question relating to the H-1B non-immigrant visa program. I wonder if Mr. Trump is actually aware of the facts about the H-1B program. The fact is the immigration law as it stands limits to 65,000 the number of foreign nationals who may be issued a visa or otherwise provided H-1B status each fiscal year. Also, the laws exempt up to 20,000 foreign nationals holding a master's or higher degree from U.S. universities from the cap on H-1B visas. The result is that these numbers are grossly inadequate for the demands in the labor force. Mr. Trump is also neglecting to mention that for any and all temporary worker visas to be issued, the sponsoring company must have a cert from the US Labor Department stating that there are not displacing American born workers and also that the H-1B recipients will be paid the prevailing wage.

I would like to mention that the H-1B program is not without its critics and some of the worst abusers of the program are large corporations. If you search the web or pay attention to the news from the industrial heartland, you will not have to do much work to find examples of temporary workers being abused.

A few years ago, I was in line at our local post office and behind me in line was a (obviously homeless) man. He was dirty and obviously hadn't bathed, combed his hair, or changed clothes in who knows how long. The others in line stood back several feet from him and had a distinct look of disgust on their faces. I hadn't even noticed him until the woman behind the counter had looked up, saw him and her facial expression grew angry and she rolled her eyes. It was then that I had turned to see what or who had spoiled her day. My eyes caught the eyes of this man, and he immediately looked away. I knew he felt shame, or embarrassment. I smiled at him and said a soft "Hello" he glanced up at me, and noticed I was talking to him. And for a brief moment smiled, and again looked down. I asked him how he was doing today, and mentioned it was a beautiful day to be outside... He quietly responded with a "yes maam", but did not engage any eye contact. By then the woman behind the counter called me and I went on to finish my tasks. When I turned to leave, I said to him "have a nice day" and carried on my way. As I was getting in my car, this man approached me and asked if he could help... (I use a wheelchair so I was doing what I needed to do) I told him "Thank you, but had it all under control." I half expected he was going to panhandle me and I was wondering if I had any change with me, then he said this "Maam, wanna say thank you for being so kind, ain't nobody talk to me so nice for a long time, you have a very nice day, and may God bless you"... Then he turned and walked away. By Lauri.

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

Always Be Kind

## The Commemorative 1916/2016 Easter Lily Pin

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One of my guilty pleasures is the deep-fried, cinnamon and sugar encrusted churro, but that's not what this is about. It's about the cocktails I drank while eating the churros. Mezcal cocktails. A Mexican spirit derived from the agave piña that I was not familiar with before a cold Friday night in March.

At Mezcaleria Las Flores in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, the mezcal cocktails arrived in creative containers: a Mexican beer bottle turned drinking glass, a round dried gourd perched on a woven stand, and a tiny ceramic jar with room for one finger to slip through the handle.

The flavors hit me all at once as I tried the "Baseworld Paradise," a mix of Mayalen Wild Cupreata mezcal, Victoria beer, pineapple, lemongrass, Dolin Genepy, fresh lime and chile Tajin. The sour tartness zaps you in the nose, but the sip ends with a mellow fizzy finish with the citrus lingering around the edges of your mouth. I was hooked.



In talking with Mezcaleria's owner, Jay Schroeder, I learned that mezcal is a complicated, mysterious spirit (which explained my initial hesitation in attempting to describe the flavors and feel of the drink). "The experts are the people who make it," he says. "The amount of expertise that goes into operating the stills, to working with the produce, to making this thing happen in a beautiful and consistent way is where the true talent lies and where the praise is deserved. I just want to know a lot about it."

I wondered how, if the spirit is so complicated, he chooses the mezcals that eventually end up at his bar. Quality and ethical concerns come first, according to Schroeder. He relies on the distillers to confirm the quality of the ingredients and commitment to ethical work practices.

"Certain things go into the production lines that are unknowable, particularly because of the remoteness of the production," Schroeder explains. "You see a lot of trucks stacked to the brim with agave piñas three, four hours from Oaxaca."

Some may disagree, but Schroeder believes looking for terroir in agave spirits from source material is "like trying to tell me where the corn in Maker's Mark comes from." The reasoning behind his assertion lies in the fact that mezcal is a commodity product.

Schroeder's dive into all things mezcal happened gradually; he describes his career path as "climbing a ladder as it's being built." He was also fortunate to become involved with spirits as one of Chicago's first craft cocktail bars opened – The Drawing Room – as part of the resurgence of sprits in the late 2000s. Schroeder refers to this time as the second golden age of the cocktail, a term used by Dale DeGroff, master mixologist. The first golden age occurred in the 1920s.

The speakeasy feel of the craft cocktail bars around Chicago is hard to miss, but Schroeder balks at the question: Why don't you just pour spirits? Mezcaleria breaks from what traditional cocktail bars serve. Even the bar décor turns away from the speakeasy feel, respecting instead the roots of the space which was at one time a flower shop, hence "Las Flores" (the flowers) in the bar's name.

"The modern cocktail bartenders are all generalists and the field of mezcal is so convoluted and complicated that I have a distinct advantage. I have been able to focus on mezcal, to start to crack the code on the chaos of mezcal production"

But he says, "I don't know if I'll ever be a mezcal expert."

I turn to the next mezcal concoction sitting in front of me, "Shook Ones Pt 1," and wonder how I'll be able to grasp the hints of this mysterious spirit before they slip away to become something unknowable.

"The saga with mezcal continues..."

## Illuminati Handshake

(courtesy of Jay Schroeder)

1 dash Angostura orange bitters  
 ¾ oz fresh lemon juice  
 ½ oz rooibos syrup  
 ¾ oz Lustau Olorosso sherry  
 ¾ oz Old Overholt rye whiskey  
 1oz Mina Real mezcal  
 rimmed with gran mitla sal de gusano  
 rooibos syrup: combine 3 tea bags of rooibos tea with 6 ounces of water. Steep for 5 minutes then remove. While still hot, stir in 5 ounces of sugar until dissolved.

Illuminati Handshake is a mysterious drink. Splitting the difference between rye

whiskey and a mezcal without smoke, two powerful forces combine, leaving the spice of the whiskey and the citrus of the mezcal. The rooibos and sherry continue down the same warm, dark path as the rye, and the gran mitla sal de gusano rounds out the drink with an ingredient so insidious and unctuous as to make one's presence known to any fellow scion of the New World Order.

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### A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

**Reverend Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO



During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has encouraged all of the faithful to share the powerful mercy of God with our brothers and sisters in need by dedicating ourselves to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Throughout his Petrine ministry, the Holy Father has continually reminded us that the Church's Gospel mission to love and serve the poor is lived out through the collective action of each one of us.

I see this truth revealed every day at Catholic Charities. While Catholic Charities is the official social service arm of the Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago, our works of mercy are only possible because of the collective action of parishioners throughout the Archdiocese.

When Catholic Charities was founded nearly 100 years ago, the original intent of the organization was to help parishes and community-based Catholic relief groups address great needs brought on by the influenza epidemic and other societal problems of the time. As I was reviewing some old documents the other day,

I came across this quote from Cardinal Mundelein during his address to the Board of Advisors at Catholic Charities' first annual meeting in 1919:

"During the past twelve months, 50,000 people in this city and diocese have contributed their time and their services that we might efficiently carry out these works of mercy, that we might feed the hungry, nurse the sick, protect the orphan, shelter the homeless and help the poor in our midst. We have learned the lesson that 'In union there is strength,' and so by combining our efforts in one great city-wide organization, we have been able to make the individual gift of each one more far-reaching in its effect than could have been possible without such unity."

Cardinal Mundelein spoke those prophetic words nearly 100 years ago, and they are even more true today—in union there IS strength. Catholic Charities' partnerships with parishes effectively stretch and strengthen the safety net for the poor and vulnerable in Cook and Lake Counties. For nearly a century, we have worked together to

bring the hope and light of Christ to those with great needs.

The social ministries in our parishes are truly remarkable, and Catholic Charities is blessed to participate in these efforts. Catholic Charities' parish partners conduct food, clothing, diaper, school supply and toy drives; "adopt" various programs like our family shelters, refugee services, and veterans programs; dedicate financial support to specific services like New Hope Apartments or Domestic Violence Outreach; provide unused land for our senior and special needs housing; and donate faithfully to our annual Mother's Day Appeal. Parishes host Catholic Charities Health Fairs and Evening Suppers, provide space for counseling and support groups, work with us to establish and operate community-based food pantries, and provide thousands of dedicated volunteers for a multitude of Catholic Charities programs. Many of these wonderful volunteers join our advisory boards.

About 10 years ago Catholic Charities formalized our relationship with parishes through the creation of the Parish Outreach Committee of the Board of Advisors, which brings together representatives from parishes across the Archdiocese. In addition, each Catholic Charities Regional Office also has a Parish Outreach Committee made up of priests, deacons, and lay ministers from the local parishes within each of our seven city and suburban regions. At these regional parish outreach meetings, representatives learn about Catholic Charities programs and services, exchange ideas and best practices, and address specific parish and community needs.

While Catholic Charities parish partnerships may be more formalized than they were a century ago, the goal remains the same: working together on our shared mission to serve those in need. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let's redouble our collective efforts to bring God's mercy to the least among us. For we know that in union there is strength!

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## An Irishman to Watch in 2016

In early April, the US Masters will herald the start of what should be a significant and enthralling year for big time golf. For those that follow the sporting exploits from tee to green, along with the four majors to look forward to, this year will see the first appearance of golf at the summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to the latest instalment of the Ryder Cup at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota in autumn.

With this in mind, it must be noted that the game of golf has never been in a healthier position, either commercially or competitively. In the post Tiger Woods dominated era, the young generation has come in and taken over and this season will see the continuation of last year's narrative which saw the

three top players in the world; the young Texan Jordan Spieth, Northern Irishman Rory McElroy and Australia's Jason Day, partake in what has become an absorbing battle for supremacy.

This entertaining tussle is set to take centre stage at Augusta National Golf Club where all three have form in this tournament. Spieth returns to the venue as reigning champion, while Jason Day has twice finished runner up. McElroy will still feel deep down that he has a few ghosts to exorcise on this course after the onset of some curious final day turmoil saw him lose a four-shot lead in 2011.

Throw in that the fourth highest ranked player in the world, Bubba Watson, has won two of the last four Masters and that the fifth highest ranked player,

Rickie Fowler, must be feeling somewhat aggrieved that he hasn't any majors to his name despite a host of generous showings at golf's blue ribbon events. This year's Masters is set up to be a golfing highlight from what promises to be an epic year that will live long in the memory, whichever way the golfing chips may fall.

Another to watch

Along with McElroy and the 2009 US Open winner, Graham McDowell, there will be another Irishman at Augusta, Shane Lowry, competing for only his second time at the Masters, having readily climbed inside the top 25 players in the world. Lowry has become a huge golfing entity in Ireland since he won the Irish Open in dramatic fashion as an amateur in 2009. The victory arrived after a third playoff hole against English-

man Robert Rock and when the Offaly man sank the winning putt, the unexpected joy and unbridled merriment that took place on that final green was an atypical delight to behold.

Before that tournament, Low-



ry was known only in golfing circles and he didn't wait around for the Walker Cup before taking the plunge into the paid ranks. The Offaly man missed the cut in his first three tournaments but over the next two years began to get traction with a number of high finishes on the European Tour. His first win as a profes-

sional came in 2012 when he won the Portugal Masters and he went to finish an impressive second at the BMW PGA Championships in 2014. From there to here, his star has risen steadily.

In 2014, Shane earned his first top 10 finish at a major when he finished in a tie for ninth at The Open held at Royal Liverpool in 2014 and last year, he followed up with a top 10 finish at the US Open held at the now notorious Chamber's Bay.

During this event, Lowry dressed all in black during the four days of competition in tribute to the six Irish students that lost their lives in the Berkeley balcony collapse that occurred in the weeks preceding the tournament. Then late last year came the biggest win of Lowry's career when he overcame Bubba Watson by two shots to win the players championship at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational. It was the triumph

*Continue on next page*



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## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### 1916-2016

The 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising falls on Sunday, April 24th. Let us never forget the brave men and women who fought for Ireland's freedom. Remember Patrick Pearse's prophetic words at the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa, "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

William F. Kent Autobiography continued

Gaelic was becoming more popular; there was a movement to revive the language. I felt good about that, I thought we should have our language back and had been taking the Gaelic in school. But for the most part they were terrible days - the time of "the Troubles."

I came home many days on my hands and knees to dodge snipers' bullets. There were sharpshooters in the IRA and in the Black and Tans. You could tell where the bullets were coming from. The best think to do was to stay off the roads and crawl through the meadows and get home before dark. We were told never to talk to any British soldiers and we didn't. We couldn't understand what they were saying anyway in their Limey language.

The British couldn't do much - their army was involved in Europe and there was nobody left to do battle with this republican army on the loose. Then the Russian Revolution came into full bloom in 1917 which didn't help things for the British at all. There came a time when they had to do something.

Parliament convened and they emptied out the jails. You'd think they turned every murder loose when they let loose that army of black and tans. That's when "the tyrant's hand laid waste the land and burned the altar's low."

The guerrilla warfare accelerated. For every IRA man that was

shot, they retaliated by shooting six or seven black and tans. When the British came to Ireland, it was like us going into Vietnam. They invaded a strange country hills and valleys that they were completely unaccustomed to. The IRA used hit and run tactics, they'd blow up bridges and roads until they finally became inaccessible. The British came out the worse because then they had to take to the fields.

The British finally called a truce. The white flag went up in Dublin and the firing ceased. The Irish Parliament convened in secured in Dublin and Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins were the two chosen leaders to go to Number 10 Downing Street to negotiate the settlement with the British. The talks raged on and on and didn't seem to be getting very far because of the insistence of the British that they keep the six northern counties, where they were a majority and most of the industry was located. These counties had been in the hands of the British since 1690 and the Battle of the Boyne. This is no history book, but the six counties were definitely to be kept by the British. They insisted on it. They had a Protestant to Catholic ratio of three to one. Harrand and Wolf, the biggest shipping years in the world, along with a great big rope making industry, the steel mills, the jam factories, and many textile factories were all within the six counties, mainly in county Antrum around the vicinity of Belfast. The Irish people were always reluctant to have a separate parliament convene in the north of Ireland it would be a stooge for the British. But the parliament did enjoy some autonomy. The counties were what the British called a free state, such as the dominion of Canada. Irish Free State and British Commonwealth of Nations was the official term that was given to

the settlement. Why did Collins, Griffith and Sean McEuen sign this agreement? Why didn't they go back to Ireland and the IRA for instructions? Britain had threatened to immediately move massive forces and blow the country right off the map - they would leave nothing but a scorched earth - if they didn't agree. They returned and the Dahl reconvened. The vote was split but 70% voted to reject the settlement - to return to arms.

The splinter movement, led by de Valera, who chose not to have a divided Ireland, but chose rather to fight it out immediately. The Irish Free State and its army were established. We had civil war, four long years of bloodshed, brother against brother many a time and whole families divided by the question of loyalty to a divided Ireland or to a Republic that had to be fought for all over again with no end in sight.

Over time, sympathy for the Republican army seemed to wane. They were not in a position to fight any longer so they did capitulate. The Free State became the active government of the country. The IRA decided to work through the electoral process to change things. The country had to be rebuilt, the bombed out roads and bridges replaced. The Germans were brought in to electrify the country and they did it in a few years. They harnessed the River Shannon to power one huge power plant. Finally there was electric light in 1927, but I had left the country by that time.

Academy Awards

According to Chris Rock, "The White People's Choice Awards." Chris Rock poured out his vitriol, and everybody laughed, some nervously as he bashed the academy over the lack of "diversity." There were no Asian or Hispanic protesters. Did the liberal Hollywood right get it wrong? Hey Chris, talent matters.

RNC

Many stalwart Republicans are blaming the Republican National Committee for the Chaos

in the GOP. If Trump is successful, they won't have any control over the executive branch of government.

Old St. Pat's

Mass and breakfast before the parade on March 12. The Mass is always uplifting and inspiring. For the first time since he came to Chicago, Archbishop Blaise Cupich celebrated the Mass. When he spoke he shared a story of a time when he was working for a Superior. He was asked to contact a priest at another rectory. The woman who answered the phone was an Irish housekeeper with a very thick brogue. When he asked to speak to the priest, she asked, "who's calling?" He answered, "Father Cupich." The housekeeper asked, "what kind of a name is that?" Then she laughed hysterically. Father Cupich quickly replied, "I dropped the O'," and the faithful loved the story.

Father Tom Hurley seized the moment, and addressed

our Croatian Archbishop as O'cupich." A ripple of laughter filled the church. There were ten Priests and a Deacon on the altar with the Archbishop. t,ames

Tenor Gavin Coyle, Catherine O'Connell, the Old St. Pat's Choir, and the Shannon Rovers all lending the gift of music to the Mass. Father Tom Hurley's rendition of the Irish Blessing . . . "May the road rise to meet you" was delightful.

The Queen and her Court, James Coyle, Governor Rauner, Mayor Emmanuel, Senator Durbin, Grand Marshall Mike Madigan, Guest of Honor Mary Dempsey, Jimmy Deenihan, Ireland's Minister of the Diaspora, Consul General, Orla McBreen, and a cast of hundreds. Politics permeated the atmosphere at the breakfast.

Witness Statement by George Joseph Dwyer, Member of 'F' Company, 4th Battalion, Dublin Brigade, 1916-1921. (We will continue this in May.)

## An Irishman to Watch in 2016

*Continued from last page*

that rocketed the Irishman to 17th in the world.

That position puts him in line to represent Ireland alongside Rory McIlroy at the forthcoming Olympics. Lowry is set to become a more familiar presence in the sporting environs as the year progresses, as he is currently in position to be among Darren Clarke's Ryder Cup side later in the year. What makes Shane Lowry so easy to root for is his everyman personality.

Off the course he comes across as both easygoing and jovial, a man who takes life in his stride. But on the course, he wears his heart on his sleeve and would readily admit that sometimes his emotions get the better of him. During his second round at last year's Irish Open, the Offaly man famously broke his putter after getting frustrated with a poor shot, but he still made the cut in trying

links conditions by continuing his round by putting with a wedge.

More recently in 2016, he was fined after television mikes picked up some coarse language from Lowry after he sent a seven-iron shot into the lake on the par-three fifteenth in the Cadillac Championship. After being penalized, he was quoted as saying; "I said to the guys on the PGA Tour that I will do my best but I definitely won't be changing. So I said a bad word, shoot me."

At a time when top sports players speak as eloquent robots who follow the well-worn pattern of exchanges, it is refreshing when one comes along who is comfortable to be himself in front of the camera as he would be behind it. Don't be surprised if he gets in contention for the big prizes on offer in 2016, starting with the Masters this month.

Irish American News publisher, Cliff Carlson, was invited to be present at the 100th Commemoration of the Easter Rising in Dublin. Here are some pictures that were taken over Easter Weekend in the Dublin area.

### The Easter Rising 100th Year Tribute in Dublin, Ireland

"I think RTE and the Irish government are doing a tremendous job of allowing access and making it possible to cover whatever we want to." Said

Cliff. Visit irishamericannews.com for all photos from the trip after April 12, 2016. Below: picture left President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins laying a wreath at

the site of the 1916 Easter Rising shows in the jumbotron screens across Dublin, and a great example of the decorations that every business and building displayed throughout the Emerald Isle.



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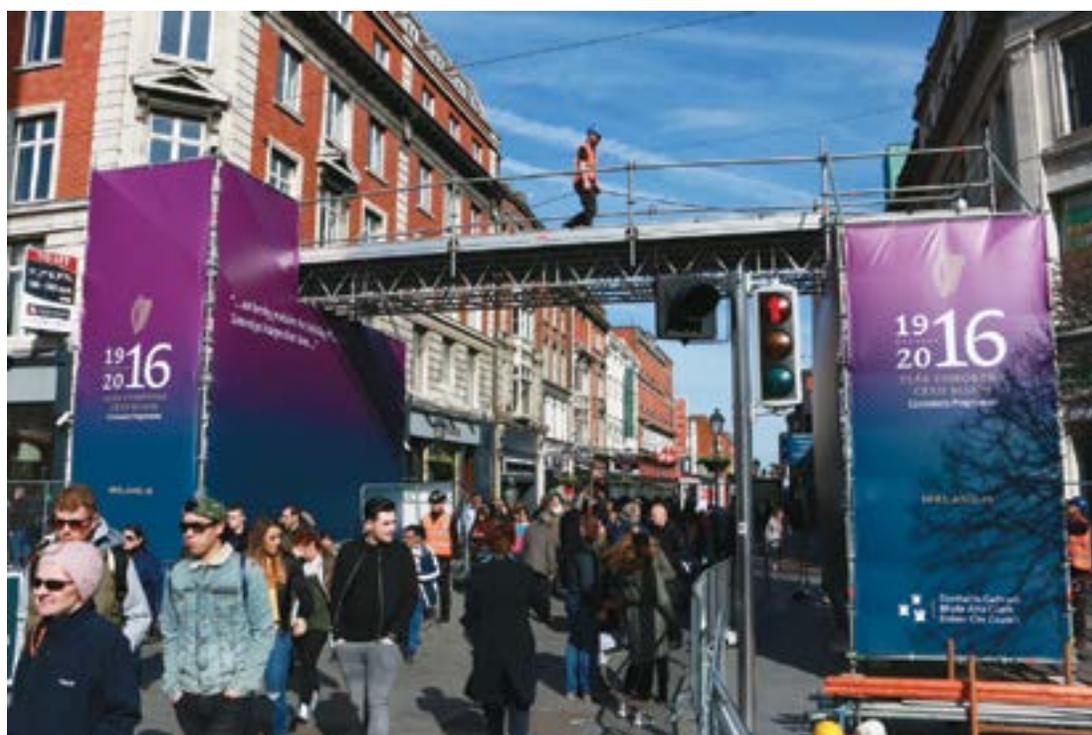
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Counter-Clockwise from right: At one point during the ceremony the Irish flag over the GPO was lowered to half mast in honor of the fallen soldiers of 1916,

street performers, tour buses were everywhere, view of what it was like on O'Connell Street this momentous day, building billboard of the Rising.



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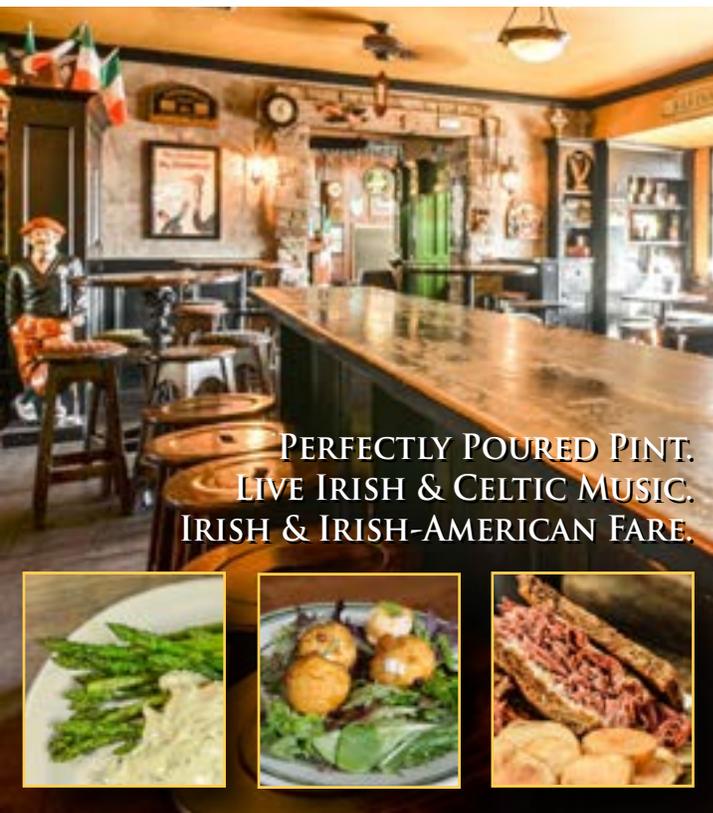
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Well by the time you're reading this column you should have recovered from all of the St. Patrick's Day festivities. I continue to marvel at the fact that Ireland has the only national holiday, to my knowledge, that is celebrated the world over. While attending the parades and the pre- & post parties associated with them, I found a general theme to most of the talk going around --- "we need to go to Ireland!", "I wonder what St. Patrick's Day is like in Dublin?", "I would love to go to Ireland and trace my ancestry". And, once someone found out I specialize in Irish travel, I was backed into a corner with my pint fielding all sorts of questions --- from the best time to go to the cost of a pint. It may sound as though I'm complaining, but that isn't the case, I can't think of another subject I enjoy talking about as much (as long as my pint glass is replenished).

Considering that my deadline for this column falls just short of St. Patrick's Day, I must make a confession (good timing with Lent on as well), the festivities have left me a little ill prepared and I have no real theme for my article....so, I'll just call it "Bits and Bobs" in Irish travel. It was either that or just post some pics of said festivities, but I thought better to avoid any potential litigation from the people who were photographed.

### Tourism Ireland unveils a Virtual Reality Tour of the Wild Atlantic Way

Having just attended the Tourism Ireland event, "Jump Into Ireland" that is attended by members of the travel trade and the media, I was armed with some interesting facts. There, I found out that there has been a 51% growth in tourists from North America from 2010 to 2015. To be fair, Tourism Ireland does an amazing job with its marketing, attracting potential visitors through commercials, print ads, and social media. The latest being Virtual Reality Tours. That's right you can "visit" Ireland through a headset like "Google Cardboard" (only \$15 - [www.google.com/get/](http://www.google.com/get/)



cardboard/), in conjunction with your smartphone (currently only for Android users) and a soon to be released app on the Oculus store. You can virtually experience, as a participant, a horse ride on Streedagh Beach in Co. Sligo, cycling in the Burren, and even surfing off of the Cliffs of Moher. These virtual reality experiences will serve to further entice the potential visitor, and Tourism Ireland will score another coup in the industry as being one of the first tourist boards to use this technology to further their mission.

### Easter Rising Centennial

A number of commemorative events are scheduled to mark the centenary of the rebellion of Easter 1916, the event that is generally regarded as having led to Ireland's independence some six years later. There are also several attractions to help "Remember, Reflect, & Reimagine" (the Irish government's commemorative theme). Some of the best are - the National Museum's 'Proclaiming a Republic' exhibition at Collins Barracks. Here you will find many artifacts from the 1916 Rising, including Thomas Clarke's razor, Patrick Pearse's spectacles and a homemade bayonet. Many of the artifacts have never been shown publicly and include a crucifix pierced by a stray bullet worn by a civilian bystander. 485 people, mostly civilians, were killed during the Rising and Glasnevin Cemetery has data on each of them. Glasnevin Museum is the world's first cemetery museum and guided tours provide perspective for the over 1 million people buried here. Lastly, if you want to feel as though you participated in the events of the day, you can take the Rise of the Rebels bus tour in Dublin, as two professional actors guide you past key sites

in Dublin on a custom-designed bus fitted out as an under-siege base of revolutionary action. And for those of you who cannot make the trip, you can check out 1916: Google Street View Tour, Google is taking Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising commemorations global with a virtual tour of the key sites and events of the rebellion. With narration from Colin Farrell, the specially-curated street view tour can be enjoyed by anyone with a PC, tablet or smartphone. The virtual tour is part of a collaboration between Google, the National Library of Ireland, Military Archives, Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, the Abbey Theatre, the Royal Irish Academy and Trinity College Dublin.

Apologies for the scant column this month as I'm preparing to attend another event focusing on Irish tourism in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day. Not to worry, at this event, nearly EVERYONE is backed into a corner with a pint, dishing out all of their expertise on this world famous destination, and I get to ask the questions.

Go dté tú slán - "May you go safely",

Mary Ann

I invite all queries, suggestions, and comments. Don't forget if your question is chosen to be answered in my next column, you'll receive a \$25 dining voucher to Peggy Kinnane's in Arlington Heights!

You can reach me at [insidersireland@gmail.com](mailto:insidersireland@gmail.com)



## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



### The Easter Rebellion 1916

#### *A New Illustrated History*

By Conor McNamara  
Collins Press

DuFour Editions (One World  
DuFour)

This is the most extraordinary history book I have ever read! The book is unique because it is illustrated with many colorful graphics printed in the years just before the Rising. The rich illustrations are postcards, posters, cartoons, drawings, even Christmas cards. These show the mindset of the revolutionaries—idealistic nationalist and intensely proud of their Irish heritage.

About the illustrations, the publicist's information sheet says this is a "generation of extraordinary revolutionaries who left behind a wealth of photographs, sketches, posters, and cartoons, as well as eyewitness accounts..." They should have added the powerful poems written by the revolutionaries.

Several of the Rising's leaders were poets and a wonderful feature of the book is that each section opens with a poem by W.B. Yeats.

The first section opens with a Yeats poem. We have all heard the last lines of that poem: "all changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born."

The accompanying text reads well. It is definitely not leaden academic prose, even though the author, Conor McNamara, is Resident Scholar at the National University of Ireland at Galway. The last section of the book is devoted to profiles of the men and women who led the Rising and were executed by the British.

Reading these profiles, I was continually amazed at the nobility and selflessness of these outstanding people.

"The outlook of some of the leaders, notably Roger Casement and James Connolly, was international and secular, and the

1916 Proclamation describes other aspects of the modern Irish state such as the equality and dignity of men and women."

Some quotes about these noble revolutionaries:

Roger Casement saw fundamental change coming: "The wind of a new thought, the breath of a new life is already in our nostrils."

About when to begin the Rising: "We know our opportunity when we see it."

It wasn't so much dislike of Eugene that inspired the revolutionaries, "it was instead a repudiation of the cultural and spiritual desolation wrought by the empire and the humiliation that it imposed on its subjects."

Helena Maloney talking about MacNeill's countermanding order: "the discussion in Liberty Hall. Connolly was there. They were all heartbroken, and when they were not crying, they were cursing. I kept thinking "Does this mean that we are not going out?" There were thousands like us. It was foolish of MacNeill and those to think they could call it off. They could not. Many of us thought we would go out single-handed if necessary."

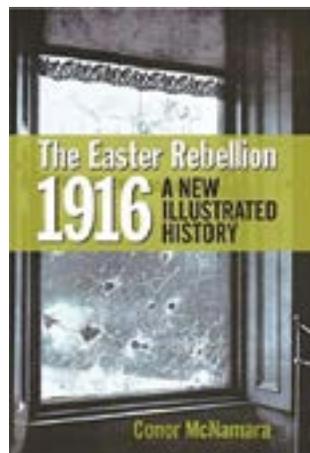
"The military photographer who captured the moment Patrick Pearse handed in the surrender notice to General Lowe at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon later airbrushed Elizabeth O'Farrell who stood at the far side of Pearse, from the image-however, her boots are still visible." I wonder why she was airbrushed out?

The courts marshal: "Courts marshal were held at Richmond Barracks...close to Kilmainham Jail. Maxwell (the British commanding general) ordered that all trials should be conducted in secret and even the archival record was closed until 1999." 1999! I wonder why?

Thomas Clarke: "I am my fellow signatories believe we have struck the first successful blow for Freedom. The next blow, which we have no doubt Ireland will strike, will win through. In this belief, we die happy."

Patrick Pearse: "we went into the fight. I am glad we did, we seem to have lost, we have not lost. To refuse to fight would have been to lose, to fight is to win, we have kept faith with the past, and handed a tradition to the future..."

Frank West is a retired teacher and has written book and play reviews since the paper's inception in 1977. Many are online at [irishamericannews.com](http://irishamericannews.com)



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### Gene Siskel Film Center Welcomes Back A Terrible Beauty

Producer David Farrell and actor Colin Farrell appear will appear at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State St., on April 15 and 17 for Q&As following both screenings of *A Terrible Beauty*, a meticulously researched docudrama which combines archive footage and dramatic reenactments to vividly recre-

ate the ferocious fighting in Ireland's bloody 1916 Easter rebellion.

Friday, April 15, 8:00 pm

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Tickets are \$11/general admission; \$7/students with current I.D.; \$6/Film Center members. For more information and to purchase tickets:

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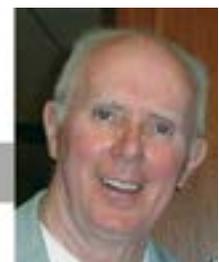
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## Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### What Were You Born to Do?

I would venture to guess that not many of us really ever spent much time wondering about our destiny (the predetermined course of events). Occasionally you will see a unique individual being interviewed on television and she will say that that she knew she was destined to be a famous doctor, or lawyer or opera star. Often such a person will tell you they have known their "destiny" since they were a young child.

For the bulk of us folks, we wrestle with the day to day stuff that gets in the way of greatness. Or is it that we simply allow ourselves to be distracted? Do we lose our focus? We can become more distracted than we want to believe. Maybe the circumstances of our lives are such that we lose sight of "our destiny". Frankly, the term "destiny" sounds pretentious to me. I have always thought that one's role in life had to be exceptional or awesome to be considered a matter of destiny. On the other hand, I have always hoped that more of us could actually reach our destinies even if our goal is to be a chef in a decent restaurant, or a minister in a rural parish or the police chief of a modest size department. We all can't be "Ironman" i.e., a billionaire who flies around in an iron suit and battles the bad guys.

I believe that many of us would be satisfied to simply succeed in a rewarding job. The weather is improving; spring is clearly in sight. "Life" is returning. The blossoms will be a little different this year. If flowers can change and mutate into something even more lovely, why can't we do likewise?

We have to keep trying to improve ourselves in all kinds of ways. Persistence is the name of the game. We have to believe in ourselves. A fundamental ques-

tion to ask ourselves is, do we wake up in the morning ready to take on the challenges of the world? Alternatively, do we wake up believing that you just have to survive one more dreary and dreadful day?

We see it all the time, one child is outgoing and friendly and his sibling is just the opposite. Nothing is quite right with the second youngster. He sees the worst in people, rather than the best. Is the first sibling better than the second one? They were born to the same parents in the same environment, ate the same food, played in the same backyard, went to the same schools, and may even have had the same friends. Why does one excel and the other does not? Perhaps the difference is their view of the world. One says I haven't accomplished this or that YET, whereas the other says, I couldn't accomplish this or that, therefore I am going to stop trying.

It seems to me that many of us just stop trying to improve ourselves. Perhaps we simply have different expectations. When I see a person grossly overweight, I wonder when the person gave into the belief that he was born to be obese. Obesity robs us of our energy.

The authorities on unemployment say that the stated unemployment rate is really only about half of the people who are unemployed. The real total of unemployed include the people who are still trying to find a job and the other half are the people who have simply given up trying to find a job. Obviously those who are looking for work seriously certainly stand a far better chance of finding a job than those who have given up the search. Those who have quit the job search will tell you there are no jobs out there,

no one is hiring, I am too old/too young, not educated enough or over educated, they have an endless string of reasons.

Some individuals are in the wrong place or the wrong industry or it's simply a bad time. As the bumper stickers say, stuff happens. My suggestion is there is a need for a course correction. Maybe the individual will have to try other employment opportunities or fields of endeavor.

I have a number of suggestions for those who are continuing their search for meaningful work. Stay the course, but be realistic; you may have to change directions. Recognize that there are many individuals who succeed after some initial failures. Many "late" bloomers have wonderful, fulfilling careers. It may sound somewhat corny, but some people say if you can imagine something you can achieve it.

But to succeed, you must know where you want to go. You need a target and a plan to achieve the target. For that matter, ideally you have a dream.

If you are a concerned parent, encourage and support your children. Remember they also live in a highly competitive world; they don't need their parents to be their severest critics. Don't kill their enthusiasm. Carpe diem.

Hope you had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward. Dr. Martin Luther King

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## Clutter Buster Procrastinate No More by Rita Emmett

### Tomorrrw I've Got to Get Organized

Have you ever thought to yourself, "Tomorrow I've GOT to get organized"? I believe that it's almost impossible to get organized when surrounded by clutter, but being organized becomes practically effortless when that clutter is gone.

Did you know that clutter does NOT come from being messy, lazy or disorganized? Clutter comes from four habits; and working on any one of the 4 habits

will result in seeing your clutter start to melt away.

Do you:

Save things you don't need or use

Insist on bringing things into your life you don't need or use

Never assign a spot for things to belong

Set things down to put away later

It's interesting that the first letter of these 4 habits spell SINS. So the message for you today is REPENT from the Four Deadly SINS of Clutter.

Let's focus on the first one: If your habit is saving things you don't need or use, ask "Why?"

Are you saving it because you MIGHT need it someday? Sometimes people say they know they will never need it, but it's possible that someone somehow some time some place on this planet might need it.

However, isn't it true that when you do need it, you forget you have it? OR if you remember you have it, you can never find it ... because it's buried under the clutter of things you "might need some day".

If you haven't needed it or used it in a year, why not pass it on to someone who would love and cherish it? Salvation Army and several Vet's groups

will come to your house and pick up your items.

Another question to ask. Are you keeping things you don't need or use because they bring back memories?

Memories are in your mind and in your heart, not in that sequined velvet Elvis pillow.

To keep a few baby outfits and one or two pieces of your children's art projects will work as well as a box of outfits & all of their art work. A few photos in some albums or boxes that are manageable will work better than tons of boxes containing millions of photos that you never look at.

To keep one cherished item of a special event or something your parent loved, and put it out on display, makes more sense than keeping boxes of stuff you never look at. If you don't remember what is in the boxes or at the Storage Unit, how can it possibly bring back memories?

Stop being "Clutter Numb" and start questioning everything that seems like clutter.

Will I really wear these old clothes if I lose weight?

Will I ever find time to read these old magazines or catalogs?

Do I have to keep every single piece of paper that comes across my desk?

Why am I giving valuable space to things that are broken, stained & ugly?

If there's not enough room for all your stuff, you don't need more room, you need less stuff.

You'll think of other questions to ask. And don't you agree that these questions deserve to be answered? Aren't you sick & tired of being smothered by clutter?

Today, try getting rid of just one thing you never need or use. You'll be surprised to observe that the world doesn't come to an end.

Next month we'll focus on the "I" of SINS. Insisting on bringing stuff into your life that you don't need or use.

Warmly, Rita

Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat", a Professional Speaker, and best-selling author of The Procrastinator's Handbook; and The Clutter-Busting Handbook.

Go to [www.RitaEmmett.com](http://www.RitaEmmett.com) for info on Stress Management, Procrastination and Clutter. You will find books, CDs, and DVDs.

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