

# McGuinness & Robinson Make Historic Visit



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## From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



### Ireland Of The Welcomes

"It's Not Cricket!" proclaimed the headline reporting on a recent Dublin Court Case. The case caused some amusement here but had a serious dimension to it. It concerned a Pakistani national who had come to Ireland as a member of a cricket team in 2008 and stayed on. He was scheduled to marry a Latvian teenager here when the Gardai stepped in as part of an investigation into the large number of marriages taking place in Ireland between men from outside the EU and young women from EU member states in Eastern Europe. The increasing numbers of such unions (544 in 2008, 1,100 in 2009) suggest a racket with the prize for the male, a ticket to residence in Ireland (and the EU) and for the female, a sizeable cash sum. The investigation continues.

This saga is but the latest semi-humorous incident involving immigrants. Several years ago a band from Eastern Europe with 50 members was admitted to take part in a fictitious music festival; the members promptly disappeared. A moment of black humor occurred at a Dublin port before 2004 when a heavily pregnant Nigerian woman was refused admission after an on-the-spot examination revealed that birth was not imminent. A young Nigerian, deported back, was readmitted to complete his school graduation; he later became father of an Irish citizen.

Recent months have also featured media stories about third country nationals seeking either to remain in or to gain entry to Ireland. Several court cases are in train involving African women and girls seeking to stay in Ireland following rejection of their applications for political asylum. Some of the cases made have cited the threat of female circumcision if they are returned whence they came (Nigeria). Other cases have involved men in relationships/marriages here with other non-EU nationals who have pleaded that deportation would impact unfavourably by splitting families up. Media attention in January focussed on a young Eritrean girl whose DNA test proved that she was an Irish citizen, giving her, inter alia, the right to enter and live in Ireland.

The message is clear. It is not about whether or not a person meets the criteria as a political refugee or whether or not someone has discovered true love far away from home. What unite these stories and others like them are

the lengths to which desperate people from the developing world (or poorer countries on the fringe of Europe) will go to stay in a first world country. Ireland has now graduated to becoming a fully paid-up member of the top table, the small number of affluent states which have become magnets for the less well off. The parallels with 19th century Irish emigration to the USA are clear, even if the world has moved on since. Ireland now has its own domestic undocumented issue. We are not unique; the pattern is replicated across the EU. What is new is that it is the first time Ireland, for so long a country marked by emigration, has experienced significant immigration, with all that it entails.

Ireland has experienced two waves of immigration since the mid 90's, essentially different in nature and scale though there was some overlapping. The influx which has attracted most attention came post 2004, following the entry into the EU of the countries of Central Europe. Ireland, hungry for jobs to fuel the booming economy, welcomed entrants from the Ten without restriction. The result has been an influx of around 500,000 in five years (most from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovakia) and even if some have drifted on as the economic bubble has burst, enough have stayed to register significantly in the ethnic make-up of the country. As EU citizens they are, of course, entitled to enter live and work in Ireland, as Irish citizens can throughout the EU.

The other, smaller, inflow began earlier, around 1996, and continues. It represents immigration from poorer countries, some initially from Central and Eastern Europe, but considerable numbers from countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The story of this immigration is not easy to piece together. Irish author Roddy Doyle remarked, whimsically, that he went to bed in one country and woke up in a different one. It took a bit longer than that. Many presented as asylum seekers. Ireland has no land border with a poorer neighbour, and indeed, until very recently, no direct air links with countries outside Western Europe and North America. Despite this, and despite also a 1996 EU agreement (ironically, the "Dublin Convention") under which persons seeking political asylum in an EU country, must do so in the EU state in which they first arrive, the number of

applications for asylum in Ireland took off sharply from 1996 onwards. 424 in 1995 grew to 1,179 in 1996, and to almost 11,000 by 2000. People arrived on planes, walked into police stations, got off ferries from Britain or France, or were found smuggled in containers arriving at Irish ports (some, tragically, discovered dead on arrival). To these should be added thousands who arrived for short visits or to take up work or to study and who stayed.

Once on the map as a possible destination, Ireland's attractions were fairly obvious. An EU member state (with promise of unrestricted travel), relatively prosperous and with an expanding economy as well as a fairly relaxed and liberal attitude towards new arrivals at a time when other European countries were tightening entry requirements. A major extra attraction was that until 2004 Irish citizenship applied to everyone born in Ireland (with some inconsequential exceptions)—not the norm in Europe. Predictably there was a surge in the numbers of births to non-nationals as the century turned. A logjam of applications for asylum meant long delays in processing, with consequent family and humanitarian considerations coming into play as months became years. Most non-Irish parents of Irish born children were permitted to remain. By the time of the 2006 census, a quarter of a million Irish residents had been born outside

Ireland, Britain or the USA, a far cry from 1991, when the figure was 40,341. Though this figure included 120,000 from the new EU countries, 35,000 gave their nationality as African, 47,000 as Asian. The 100,000 or so non-EU/non-US present in 2006 (and their families) represented roughly 2% of the population.

Though the annual asylum applications have dropped to below 4,000 in recent years, the welcome has been wearing thin here. A gradual tightening and harmonisation of entry controls throughout the EU has been reflected in

Irish immigration procedures. New arrivals claiming asylum are now housed in hostels and not permitted to work. A referendum in 2004 ended automatic citizenship for those born in Ireland, while citizenship through marriage has also been restricted. Freedom of access for the new EU nationals has mopped up job opportunities, particularly as the recession bites. Impending legislation threatens to speed up the processing of new arrivals and increase the pace of deportations. Yet given where they come from, is it any wonder that they still try to come?

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## Boyle the Kettle



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Tom Boyle



### Sex Abuse Ireland

Some of you have real difficulty the extent of this problem, because it offends your sensitivities and upsets your optimistic perception of the piety of priests. The very harsh reality is they must deal with their own human frailties in a world obsessed with sexuality. What has happened in Ireland has now beset the German church, and the Netherlands, Switzerland, Mexico, and it won't stop there. I have read countless articles from several authors. Patsy Doyle is one of Ireland's leading disability activists. He was recently appointed by the government as a member of the Memorial Committee for Survivors of Child Abuse. Patsy McGarry, Religious Affairs correspondent for The Irish Times, and in regular contact with Sinead O'Connor, who has been helping me find the facts to expose sex abuse in the Catholic Church.

If sex abuse is a subject that you can't deal with, just don't read any more, because it is very damning. The Catholic Church is in crisis.

Der Spiegel is a German magazine on par with Time magazine in the U.S.

"The Catholic Church in Germany has been shaken in recent days by revelations of a series of sexual abuse cases. Close to 100 priests and members of the laity have been suspected of abuse in recent years. After years of suppression, the wall of silence appears to be crumbling. By SPIEGEL Staff,

"This is what it looks like, the document of conspiracy: 24 pages, with appendix, in Latin, published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith at the Vatican. A 'norma interna,' or confidential set of guidelines for all bishops, who were required to keep it a secret for all eternity, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

"The guidelines, issued in the year

of our Lord 1962, address a sensitive subject: sex in the confessional. The Vatican doesn't put it quite that directly, preferring to use more guarded terminology to describe what happens when a priest leads a member of his flock astray before, during or after the confession -- in other words, when he provokes a penitent 'toward impure and obscene matters' thorough words or signs or nods of the head (or) by touch."

"According to the instructions from Rome, the bishops were to deal very firmly with each individual case -- so firmly, in fact, that everything would remain within the confines of the Holy Church. After all, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith -- formerly known as the Inquisition -- has centuries of experience in conducting internal investigations -- prosecutors, defendants, judges -- from within its own ranks, while the investigation files have been kept in the secret archives of the Roman Curia."

### Roman Curia

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

The Roman Curia is the administrative apparatus of the Holy See and the central governing body of the entire Roman Catholic Church, together with the Pope. It coordinates and provides the necessary central organization for the correct functioning of the Church and the achievement of its goals.

"In exercising supreme, full, and immediate power in the universal Church, the Roman pontiff makes use of the departments of the Roman Curia which, therefore, perform their duties in his name and with his authority for the good of the churches and in the service of the sacred pastors." — Decree concerning the Pastoral Office or Bishops in the Church, Christus Dominus.

Sinead O'Connor's response to the Der Spiegel article:

"Thank you very much for this article. We in Ireland are suffering greatly and are outraged by the Vatican attitude of disrespect for survivors and they're behaving as if they only heard abuse claims a few years ago. And by the fact neither John Paul II nor Benedict ever got on a plane to visit survivors to apologise personally and thank them for their bravery in com-

ing forward. Your article mentions that no survivors have been invited to the Vatican. They would not wish to set foot in that establishment which never gave a damn about them. The Vatican should visit survivors on their own turf. Instead they have acted only to preserve their business interests. And survivors are being treated with contempt by so-called 'redress boards,' at which they are required to give evidence for four hours to a panel of judges, who treat them as if they are guilty themselves, or to blame for what happened to them... no friends, no counsellor, no therapist, allowed in with them... or to wait outside for them. These are broken people. If they are to have any small chance at happiness, they need to have therapy paid for by the Church. The Vatican attitude has been contemptible and again I say the Irish people are very angry. —Sinead O'Connor"

From The Observer, U.K., Jamie Doward, Religious Affairs Correspondent, 24 April 2005

### "Pope 'Obstructed' Sex Abuse Inquiry

Confidential letter reveals Ratzinger ordered bishops to keep allegations secret

Pope Benedict XVI faced claims last night he had 'obstructed justice' after it emerged he issued an order ensuring the church's investigations into child sex abuse claims be carried out in secret. The order was made in a confidential letter, obtained by The Observer, which was sent to every Catholic bishop in May 2001.

"It asserted the church's right to hold its inquiries behind closed doors and keep the evidence confidential for up to 10 years after the victims reached adulthood. The letter was signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was elected as John Paul II's successor last week."

"The letter, 'concerning very grave sins,' was sent from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office that once presided over the Inquisition and was overseen by Ratzinger."

"It spells out to bishops the church's position on a number of matters ranging from celebrating the Eucharist with the a non-Catholic to sexual abuse by a cleric with a minor below the age of 18

years.' Ratzinger's letter states that the church can claim jurisdiction in cases where abuse has been perpetrated with a minor by a cleric."

"The letter states that the church's jurisdiction 'begins to run from the day when the minor has completed the 18th year of age' and lasts for 10 years." (If you're wondering why this time limitation, that's when the statute of limitations expires, so they are off the hook, legally.)

"It orders that 'preliminary investigations' into any claims of abuse should be sent to Ratzinger's office, which has the option of referring them back to private tribunals in which the 'functions of judge, promoter of justice, notary and legal representative can be validly performed for these cases only by priests.'"

"Cases of this kind are subject to the pontifical secret.' Ratzinger's letter concludes. Breaching the pontifical secret at any time while the 10-year jurisdiction order is operating carries penalties, including the threat of excommunication."

### Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Letter (excerpts)

sent from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to Bishops of the entire Catholic Church...

"... 3. Direct violation of the sacramental seal.

"-A delict against morals, namely: the delict committed by a cleric against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue with a minor below the age of 18 years."

"Only these delicts, which are indicated above with their definition, are reserved to the apostolic tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith."

"Rome, from the offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, May 18, 2001"

"Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger"  
"Prefect" (now Pope Benedict XVI)

From Independent.ie;  
by Richard Owen in Rome,  
March 10, 2010

"Mgr. Ratzinger pleaded ignorance about paedophile priests but admitted that some boys at the Regensburg



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school had been treated brutally. In the interview he spoke about the 'very violent' headmaster, who was in charge between 1953 and 1992, and who for legal reasons can be named only as Johann M."

"I knew that Headmaster M often handed out severe slaps -- and also that these slaps were often delivered at the smallest of pretexts," he said. "Some former pupils described the headmaster as a sadist who imposed 'a reign of terror,' and said they found it improbable that the choirmaster knew nothing about the sex abuse." (© The Times, London)

So much for the German Church.

Back to the Irish Church.

In the face of damning evidence, (the Ferns Report, the Murphy Report, and the Ryan Report), the Church continued to stonewall the faithful. There was an interview on TV3, Tonight with Vincent Browne, March 11th, the first press conference since the Bishops' return from Rome. The ground rules were that they would allow only 26 questions. The Bishops in attendance were John McAreevey (Dromore Diocese); Denis Brennan (Ferns Diocese), an Christopher Jones (Elphin Diocese). Most of the interview involved Bishop McAreevey trying to deflect the hard questions that were being asked by Vincent Browne, Patsy McGarry, Religious Editor of the Irish Times and Mary Rafferty. The clincher for me was when Bishop Christopher Jones asked the question, "why are you singling out the Church?" "Most abuse takes place in families." These men are totally incapable of grasping the situation and they continue to cover up for the Pope. They do so because all Bishops swear this oath:

"I will never directly or indirectly, by gesture, word, writing or in any other way, and under any pretext, even that of a greater good or of a highly urgent and serious reason, do anything against this fidelity to secrecy, unless special permission or dispensation is expressly granted to me by the Supreme Pontiff."

I was compelled to send the following email to Bishop Christopher Jones:

"The Church must be held accountable, nobody is singling out the Church, the Bishops must clean up the dirt in their own house. Is there no concern over the defenseless children who were abused? Your commentary was pathetic, portraying yourself and the Church as being 'put upon,' you need to wake up! You are not the victim! Signed, Tom Boyle, Irish American News, Chicago.

### Bishop of Ferns

"Bishop of Ferns, Dr. Denis Brennan, has invited the parishes of the diocese to help pay compensation and legal bills arising from clerical child sexual abuse."

Talk about unmitigated gall! I can only refer to Bishop Brennan as an arrogant, disdainful parasite.

Sinead O'Connor, in an email to myself on March 4, 2010:

"Gonna be discussing the fact that we actually don't need the church anymore. In fact, we never did. Only they had us thinking we did."

"They abused our brothers and sisters. And now by asking us to pay their bills they're abusing us too."

"We should get up off the floor, dust ourselves off, and walk away like we would from any abusive relationship."

"We never need them to get to God. God is with us regardless of religion."

"Let's walk away and let them fade into the night."

"We've every right to be angry."

"But we're only going round in circles."

"So where do we go from here?"

"Elimination."

"No reformation."

"That's where."

"Emancipation of us and God from religion."

"Elimination of the Catholic Church."

"That is the gift we now hold in our hands. Let us all in our different arenas, discuss the idea."

"And slowly over time therefore, make it happen." —Sinead

### Cardinal Sean Brady

Cardinal Sean Brady, Primate of all Ireland, will pay a price for his handling of the investigation of pedophile priest, Brendan Smyth, and the secrecy oaths the child victims were compelled to sign.

From the Irish Times, March 18, 2010:

"Cardinal Sean Brady has apologized again for his handling of complaints against child abuser Fr. Brendan Smyth and expressed shame that he has not always upheld the values that he professes he believes in."

"In his homily during Mass yesterday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh, Cardinal Brady said: 'This week a painful episode from my own past has come before me. I have listened to reaction from people to my role in event 35 years ago. I want to say to anyone who has been hurt by any failure on my part that I apologise to you with all my heart.'"

"Cardinal Brady conducted canonical inquiries into allegations of child sex abuse by Smyth 35 year ago, involving two young people, without reporting the allegations to civil authorities."

From the Irish Times, March 16, 2010:

"Cardinal Brady's colleagues in the bishop's conference were unaware until last weekend that he had conducted canonical investigations 35 years ago into the abuse of two children by Fr. Brendan Smyth."

Excerpted from the same article... "The woman, who wished to be identified only as 'Samantha,' told The Irish Times, 'I was raped, abused and had pictures taken of my body.' She said two other schoolgirls Fr. Smyth abused at the same time had since taken their own lives. 'I was 13 when it began in 1974 and it went on for five years. If he [Cardinal Brady] had done something my life would have been so different,' she said."

Martin McGuinness said that Cardinal Brady needs to reconsider his position.

There is much more that could be said. There is a lot more detail that out of necessity and limitations of space we can not get into in this issue. Draw your own conclusions. I certainly have drawn mine. If you have a problem with what you've read, send a letter to the editor.

### Victims 'Disappointed' by Letter

The Pope's Pastoral letter to the Irish people fell short. "Irish victims of clerical child sexual abuse are deeply disappointed by Pope Benedict's letter of apology, a group representing the survivors of abuse said today." —Pamela Newenham, © Irish Times, March 20, 2010.

## Joint Visit by McGuinness and Robinson to Chicago

By Frank West

In a historic visit to Chicago, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, and First Minister Peter Robinson, the leaders of Northern Ireland government, came to Chicago to garner support for American investment in Northern Ireland.

Robinson is the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and McGuinness is the leader of the Sinn Fein party. History was in the making as these polar opposites in politics worked towards the same goal of peace and prosperity in the North.

Martin McGuinness works for a united Ireland. He has spent many years of his life working to end second class status for the nationalist people in Northern Ireland.

Now he is the Deputy first Minister in Northern Ireland's Assembly. He began his public career as a soldier in the Provisional IRA, protecting the nationalists. He has never

"We Continue the Work  
of Pearse and Connolly."

Martin McGuinness

swerved or flinched in the struggle to create a united Ireland. McGuinness was in Chicago recently, to lay a wreath at the statue of labor organizer, Irish patriot and 1916 martyr, James Connolly.

Armed resistance ended in 1998 and "peaceful and democratic means are used now." He

represents the Sinn Fein party in the Northern Ireland parliament, or Assembly.

McGuinness wants "that government to run on the basis of equality, respect, and dignity for each person in Northern Ireland."

McGuinness points out, however, that "Peace is a fragile flower. It requires constant attention to make sure the peaceful institutions are used."

He stated the basis for the peace in Northern Ireland is for each person to be free to identify themselves as a nationalist wanting a united Ireland, or as a person who wants to remain a British citizen.

People of both identities live side by side. All require "good government and stable political institutions."

"Even Ian Paisley came to recognize that political institutions based on equality work."

The previous First Minister, Ian Paisley, said "You know, Martin, we can rule ourselves. We don't need ministers from London to tell us what to do."

The largest party in Northern Ireland is the Democratic Unionist Party. It is led by Peter Robinson, who is First Minister of the Assembly. McGuinness said to him "Peter, we are far stronger working together, than working separately."

James Connolly would agree with that. He knew that workers acting together in unions were powerful.

Connolly would also be pleased with Martin McGuinness' vision of a united Ireland.



(l to r): Margaret and Declan McShane, Maureen O'Looney Paul Harken (back), Martin McGuinness, and Frank West (back) at the laying of the wreath ceremony held at the James Connolly statue in Union Park. on March, 14, 2010.



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**Ulster American Society Lauds Northern Ireland**

By Cliff Carlson

Drew McGinty is the President of the Ulster American Society which incorporated in 2007.

Irish News talked to Drew about the organization.

IN: What are you trying to accomplish?

Drew: The main mission of the society is focused on raising American awareness of Northern Ireland, and changing misperceptions that many Americans have. We're also looking at increasing American economic support, recovery and development in Northern Ireland, as well as contributions and participation in peacemaking efforts over there by Americans. We have a website, email newsletters, and have a network around the country.

IN: How many people receive your newsletter?

Drew: We do an eblast to about 12,000 people.

IN: Do you travel back and

forth?

Drew: No. We are an all volunteer organization. I have a full-time job. I do travel to DC and locally, but nothing to Ireland yet.

IN: Do you get to Ireland?

Drew: Yes. I've been there many times, but haven't been back since 2006.

IN: Do you work with tourism or any other groups in Ireland?

Drew: Yes. We work closely with Tourism Ireland which now focuses on the entire island of Ireland. They were one of the biggest sponsors of our 2008 Film Festival held here at the Constitutional Center in Philadelphia. We work with them on different things to help us get the word out informally on different meet-up events etc.

IN: What do you are some of the misconceptions that Americans have about Northern Ireland?

Drew: I went back in 2006 with my then 13 year old son. When I



Drew McGinty



**Need Old Pub Pics**

Chicago journalists, Mike Danahey and Allison Hantschel, are putting together a book for Arcadia Publishing on Chicago's legendary Irish watering holes, past and present. Yeah, it's a tough job, but it's about time somebody does it.

And they need your help finding photos, memorabilia and stories from any Irish owned or themed place that had or has a colorful history. Feel free to contact Mike at mike.danahey@comcast.net or Allison at ahantschel@dailycardinal.net with any leads, information or sources you think might be handy. Slainte.

**Rounder Records Celebrates 40 Years**

Indie label, Rounder Records celebrates 40 years in the music industry in 2010 with a DVD/CD release

Rounder held an anniversary concert on October 12th at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry which was filmed for a PBS television special that began airing on the network in March, 2010.



Grammy® winning Rounder artists Alison Krauss & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Bela Fleck and Irma Thomas performed at this momentous celebration along with musical host, Minnie Driver, and special guests Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas and Jazz/R&B pianist, Henry Butler. Steve Martin's show at The Ryman Auditorium the night before was also filmed and select performances from that show will be included in the Rounder 40th Anniversary DVD/CD. In addition, performances from Alison Krauss and Robert Plant's 2008 CMT "Crossroads" are included, as well as performances from Madeleine Peyroux's 2009 concert in Los Angeles. www.rounder.com

came back I heard the same things I heard in the mid 1980s. How can you go there? It's so dangerous! I realized that perceptions hadn't changed. Many Americans still felt it was a war zone—that it was dangerous to go to—and that's far from the case. I would argue personally that there are many more places in the United States that are more dangerous including Philadelphia and Chicago. I think the perception was understandable since it had been formed by years of negative images in the media coming from Northern Ireland, and that's what people came to understand about Northern Ireland, and that did have a negative consequence for the people over there.

IN: Our readership is primarily Irish Catholic, and that's the perception many of them have of the North.

Drew: It's made dramatic strides in the last 20 years. It's modern. The last couple of years the police have not been present for the parades. Look at downtown Belfast. It's less sectarian now. It's more cultural. Many of the more controversial murals are gone. It's having a similar renaissance as some of the cities here in the states.

IN: What needs to be said to the American public to make them want to go to Northern Ireland?

Drew: I think the key thing is to make people aware of today's Northern Ireland. Understand that it has a lot to offer just like the rest of Ireland. The people there want a fair opportunity to compete in the American market. They want Americans to visit in the North. It's not what you might think it is. Great food, great scenery and attractions, great people, wonderful cities. As Americans we have to be more open to hear the good news coming out of the North.

IN: The First Minister John Robinson along with the First Deputy Minister, Martin McGuinness just visited Chicago on a mission to get Americans to invest in Northern Ireland. That tells you that they have come a long way when two representatives of opposite parties can work together like that.

Drew: They have been working very closely together since the 2006 agreement, and the addendum in 2007, and it is really having a positive effect.

IN: They have come to an agreement on policing in the North.

Drew: Yes. They have come to an agreement on that as well, and they have deadlines coming up. Bottom line is they are creating a Department of Justice, and really be fully devolved along the policing and justice areas. They have a lot of work to do.

IAN: They have been steadily working since the peace agreement of 1998, and everything seems to be moving along easier, and easier as far as getting along.

Drew: Right. I think that has a lot to do with younger generations who don't have the same history and baggage. They have a new outlook on things and also want to be a part of Europe.

IAN: Anything we can do here to help promote this peaceful transition into the 21st century, we are happy to do.

Drew: I think the key thing that papers like yours can do is focus on the positives. Things aren't what you think they are. Give the North a fair opportunity. We get many inquiries about genealogy. There is a connection there, and organizations like yourself can help people explore their genealogy more, both the Irish and the Scots-Irish which is a unique blend of cultures in the North.

For information on the Ulster American Society, go to www.ulster-american.org, drew.mcgintry@ulster-american.org or 1-267-328-6123.

**94th Anniversary of 1916 Easter Rising**

The Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America (IRSCNA), will be holding a commemoration of the 94th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. It will take place Sunday, April 11th at 10am at the James Connolly statue in Union Park (Lake and Randolph, Chicago, IL). It will feature the reading of the 1916 Easter Proclamation, statements from the Republican Socialist Movement in Ireland and a wreath laying.

Contact Colm Mitchell at 708-655-2078, or www.irsna.org.

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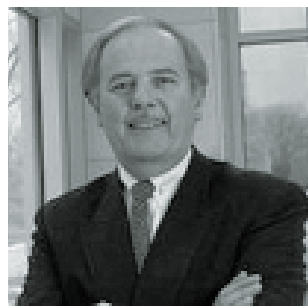
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## Sheehan Medical Launches Private Hospital in Cork

Irish private hospital operator, Sheehan Medical, which has offices in Dublin, Ohio, and the northwest Chicago suburb of Winfield, has announced plans to open a new private hospital in Cork on April 19th, 2010. It will be the first new private hospital facility to open in the city for 30 years.

The new Cork Medical Centre will provide a huge boost to the local economy. The state of the art facility will use the latest technology and surgical techniques, combined with



to offer over 39,000 patient treatments per year. Sheehan Medical was set up to operate private hospitals in the UK, Britain and mainland Europe.

The group, run by James Sheehan and his father, Loyola University professor and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Joseph Sheehan, owns hospitals in Blackrock and Galway, Ireland.

An active surgeon for over 35 years, Dr. Sheehan was the Chairman of Orthopedics at Central Dupage Hospital from 2004-2006, which he led to be recognized as one of the top 50 Orthopaedics Departments in the US for 2007 and 2008 (US News and World Report). He is now an

## Taoiseach Launches New Group to Connect US Irish

Irish across the United States are now better connected, thanks to the work of the Irish Network USA (IN USA), launched in March by An Taoiseach Brian Cowen in San Francisco.

IN USA is a forum through which individuals from any and all fields can connect through the common bonds of heritage and identity with modern Ireland. By harnessing the energy of its diverse membership, IN USA aims to strengthen the economic, social and cultural ties between the US and Ireland.

Irish Networks (IN) are already enjoying success in Chicago, New York, San Francisco/Bay Area, San Diego and Washington DC. Each was formed with the aim of encouraging Irish networking in their local community; and IN USA takes that objective to the next level by allowing members of the INs to connect to the wider Irish community in the US through a website and national member database. It allows members of the various INs to connect with their peers, develop relationships that will foster success in their business, economic and social ventures; and broaden their footprint in the US.

IN USA will also be a resource to assist Irish, Irish Americans, and friends of Ireland in other cities to serve their community, and the national connection will allow for greater collaboration and success for all. Many prominent, influential and successful Irish people have shared their experiences and insights through the INs, and mentored other Irish people to succeed.

IN USA is part of the global Irish community of 70 million worldwide; and consists of an integral Irish community of individuals that work every day in the US to foster goodwill towards the Irish and Ireland, and enhance those international relations that have been so important to the Irish over their nearly 300 years in the US. Within each industry those people have established networks and the aim of IN USA is to open those industry networks to its members with a view to enhancing their lives and careers. IN USA strives to be part of the global Irish village that has been integral in allowing Irish people to obtain a competitive advantage in their lives and careers over a long number of years by connecting their members with the opportunities. [www.irishnetwork-usa.com](http://www.irishnetwork-usa.com).

Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at Loyola University Medical School in Illinois. Joseph is also currently in private practice in Chicago where he performs general orthopaedics and specializes in joint replacement and reconstruction.

Chief Executive, James Sheehan, specializes in the administration of medical care from the science to the management side. A native of Chicago, he moved to Ireland in 2002 to step into his father's role as project manager and co-developer of the Galway Clinic (opened in 2001), in addition to taking over his role as Director of the Blackrock Clinic.

## Gaughan's Celtic Art

Michael Gaughan is the son of Pat Gaughan, vocalist/guitarist whose original album, Road Less Traveled, has received airplay throughout the United States on public radio stations and folk programs,

Born in Northwestern Chicagoland, Michael holds a Master of Arts Education and Teaching License Certification from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He resides in Minneapolis as an Art Instructor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

One of his many genres is Irish and Irish dance themed artwork. He is available for commissioned work of specific Irish dancers or Irish families. [Michael.gaughan@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.gaughan@gmail.com).



[www.michael-gaughan.com](http://www.michael-gaughan.com).

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# O'BITUARIES

## Friends we will miss



### Mary Therese Griffin

The Chicago artistic and historical scene lost a bright fixture with the passing of Mary Therese Griffin, 82, on February 6, 2010. Mary, who retired from a colorful career as a teacher in the Chicago Public School system in 1987, had turned her passions for art, history and lifelong learning to a higher calling as a docent at the Art Institute, the Loyola University Museum of Art, the Chicago Architectural Foundation, the Field Museum, the Lyric Opera, Old St. Patrick's Church, and the Chicago Historical Society. Among her effects at the time of her death was a pin



denoting 500 hours of volunteer service at Resurrection Hospital. The CAF honored her for fifteen years of service.

The world may never again see a docent so well-read, or broadly educated, or so lively and genuinely enthusiastic. "Her feisty spirit and her knowledge of scripture always added a wonderful dimension to our program," said Ann Meehan, Curator of Education at LUMA.

A Chicago native, Miss Griffin was the daughter of Irish immigrants, and always cherished her Irish roots, becoming an active member of several Irish American groups including the Friends of Irish Literature. Father Tom Hurley, pastor of Old St. Patrick's church in Chicago, had these words of praise. "We will remember her here at Old St. Pat's and pay tribute to the energy and love she had for the Irish ancestors who built this wonderful church and the great people whose faith and prayer sustain it today."



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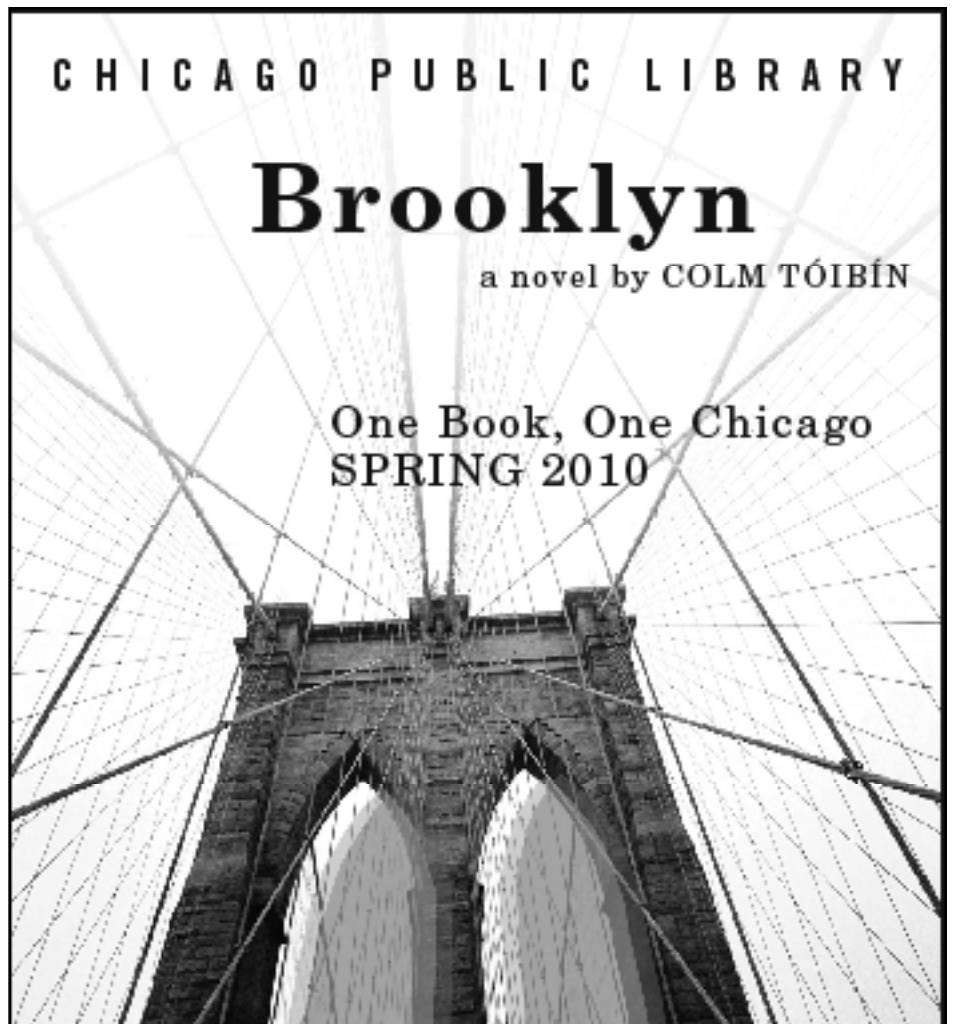
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#### Colm Tóibín in Conversation

Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m.  
Harold Washington Library Center, Cindy Pritzker Auditorium,  
400 S. State St.

#### International Online Discussion, [onebookonechicago.tumblr.com](http://onebookonechicago.tumblr.com)

Between March 29 – April 30, join an online discussion that brings  
together readers from Ireland and Chicago around a weekly topic.

For details and information on additional One Book, One Chicago discussions, events  
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## Kennedy's Turn Toward Peace

By Sabina Clarke

JFK and the Unspeakable... Why He Died and Why It Matters by James W. Douglass. Orbis Books; Maryknoll, NY; 2008; \$30.

If you doubt what kind of nefarious crimes our government is capable of... put your doubts aside and read this well documented, exhaustively researched slice of important history by peace activist and writer James Douglas. Now in its fourth printing, this account of JFK's presidency is packed with illuminating details that I have not come across before.

Douglass supplies proof that JFK planned to pull out of Vietnam and gives hard evidence of the obstacles JFK faced daily in his own administration, like the ongoing treachery of the CIA and the constant push of his generals urging the use of military force.

In fact, JFK was almost totally isolated and at odds with his own government during the entire span of his too brief presidency, with the exception of a few trusted advisors.

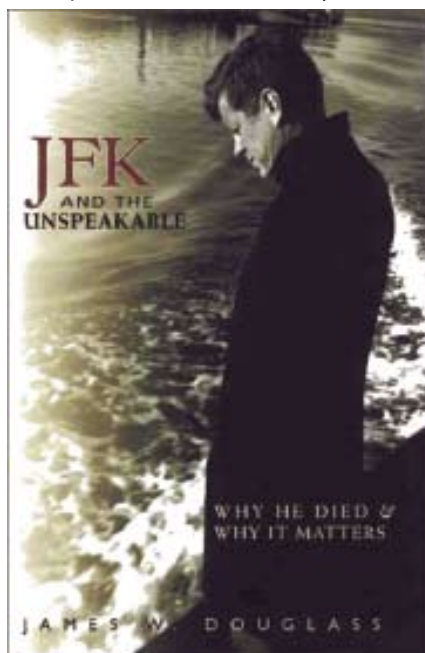
For Kennedy, the Bay of Pigs was a wake-up call. The CIA and the military tried to ensnare him in a war but Kennedy called their bluff—risking personal criticism by accepting defeat instead.

When he realized the extent of the deception by the CIA and its Director Allen Dulles, he said that he would like to "splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds." He immediately fired Richard Bissell, the CIA planner in the Bay of Pigs debacle and replaced him

with Richard Helms—who was not much better. Helms went on to orchestrate a clandestine plan to assassinate Fidel Castro without informing the President.

JFK's attempt to deal with the agency and limit their power was not well received. The CIA was accustomed to operating as an independent agency—accountable to no one—not even the President. When Kennedy tried to put a stop to what had been going on there forever, according to Douglas, "he became a marked man."

Surrounded by Cold War advisers, Kennedy tried to end the Cold War. And his independence became a problem for both the CIA and the Pentagon. He initiated the nuclear test ban treaty with Premier Nikita Khrushchev and also initiated unofficial back-channels of communication with both Khrushchev and Fidel Castro and Pope John XXIII. He was deeply influenced by the Pope's encyclical Pacem in Terris which preceded his famous peace speech at American University.



Kennedy's 1963 speech to students at American University which mirrored his "turn towards peace" was ignored by the American media but hailed by Khrushchev who called it "the greatest speech ever given by an American president other than Roosevelt." It reflected the direction Kennedy intended to take and once again, "made him a marked man."

Douglass follows the labyrinthine trail of the CIA and gives convincing proof that the CIA killed John Kennedy in an elaborately orchestrated plot with the intention of making Cuba and the U.S.S.R. scapegoats through Lee Harvey Oswald. Their plan almost succeeded.

Now, 47 years after the assassination of JFK, few thinking Americans accept that Oswald was the lone gunman. Too many questions linger. Too many strange things happened to witnesses such as sudden unexplained deaths and disappearances and witnesses who went silent or into hiding realizing the dangers they faced.

Doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas where the President was taken after he was shot were forced to change their statements out of fear for their lives. And doctors who performed the President's autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital did so under extreme duress and the watchful eye of the military. Government intimidation extended to all areas of law enforcement and Douglass gives specific and shocking examples of the ironclad government cover-up.

Douglass sees Kennedy's intent to withdraw troops from Vietnam as "the final nail in the coffin" for JFK. He provides proof via a signed order that Kennedy gave to his Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara stating his intention to pull one thousand of the US military out of Vietnam by the end of 1963 and all of them by 1965. McNamara relayed this to the generals who were instructed to begin implementing a plan for the withdrawal. They were outraged.

Following a meeting in 1961 with his military advisers General Lemnitzer and General Le May in which they urged him to use nuclear weapons in Berlin and Southeast Asia, Kennedy walked out and said, "These people are crazy." Kennedy's desire to negotiate with the enemy and find common ground was viewed by the Generals as treason and at odds with the Cold War mentality. The CIA saw their power eroding.

Besides government adversaries, both John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were enemies of big business whose interests at the top were tied to the military industrial complex. JFK immediately withdrew a defense contract from US Steel when US Steel raised its prices while Robert simultaneously launched an investigation into their corporate echelon making them both targets.

Lee Harvey Oswald emerges as the victim of a conspiracy not the President's assassin. Douglass investigates his background in detail and concludes that Oswald was set-up to take the blame for the assassination. The CIA created an elaborately fabricated backstory about Oswald as a disenfranchised malcontent who was pro-Castro. In reality, Douglass says that Oswald was a double agent working in counterintelligence for the CIA.

Oswald was set up to be a patsy. His entire story was fabricated to mislead the American public into thinking he was the disgruntled assassin—the lone gunman. When Oswald first hit American soil after returning from his assignment in Russia, his handlers, whom Douglass identifies, had connections to higher-ups in our government.

In fact, there was at least one Oswald double—and Douglass gives some pretty convincing facts to substantiate this.

This is a meticulously researched book that should be studied by any serious student of history and by future generations and

any citizen interested in finding out how a President in 20th century America can be murdered by his own government without any serious consequences while his murderers, with blood on their hands, remain at loose and in government.

About the author: James W. Douglass is a longtime peace activist and writer. He and his wife Shelley are co-founders of the Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action in Poulso, Washington, and Mary's House, a Catholic Worker house of hospitality in Birmingham, Alabama. His books include The Nonviolent Cross, The Nonviolent Coming of God, and Resistance and Contemplation.

## Irish Presence at Massive DC Immigration Rally

### Lawless Champions Immigration Reform

By Breandán G. Magee

Chairman of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, Billy Lawless and President of Irish Immigrant Support, Cyril Regan lead an Irish delegation to Washington D.C. Sunday March 21. They joined a contingent from the Boston and Philadelphia Irish Centers to add an Irish element to a pro-immigrant rally on the Mall, which drew a massive crowd of over 200,000 people.

The organizer of the rally, Reform Immigration for America, is a national umbrella group, which represents a broad spectrum of community and faith based organizations who advocate fixing our broken immigration system. They support securing the borders and providing a path to legalization for the estimated 12 million undocumented workers – 55,000 of whom are Irish – in the USA.

to be dealt with however, such as financial reform and campaign financing, making the path to immigration legislation far from clear. Supporters of comprehensive immigration reform remain hopeful though and have been bolstered by the huge numbers that showed up on the steps of the Capitol building.

Inside the halls of Congress Senators Schumer (D) and Graham (R) have been working together for months on a bi-partisan bill, which they hope to make public in the Spring. Senator Schumer is working very hard to build a coalition in the Senate and Congressman Luis Gutierrez is doubling his efforts in the House.

The Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles Cardinal Mahoney also addressed the rally, and reaffirmed his commitment to a humane immigration system that recognizes the dignity of the human person. He reminded all men of faith that the New Testament calls us to welcome the stranger in our midst and to recognize the migrant as a brother or sister in Christ.

It was not so long ago that the Irish were considered strangers in this great land and Billy Lawless of the Chicago Celts quoted a Chicago Tribune article from 1895 which called for "every Irishman in the city to be hung from the lampposts". He told the crowd that the Irish were victims of nativism, hatemongering and xenophobia in the 19th century just as new waves of immigrants face hardships and racism today.

The monumental rally in D.C. was the latest, perhaps pivotal event in a long campaign for immigration reform. The Irish community and the Chicago Celts continue to lobby publicly and advocate behind the scenes for legislation that will make a difference to the lives of millions. Our great nation was founded on immigration and our strength has always been our willingness to accept the huddled masses; our future is no less dependant on that reality.

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Billy Lawless leads the charge for immigration reform as he speaks to over 200,000 in Washington D. C. 3-21-10.

Many prominent politicians, faith leaders, union organizers and community leaders spoke passionately to the crowd. However the biggest cheer of the day was reserved for President Obama who delivered a televised speech, which commended the demonstrators for their commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. Many in the throng carried banners calling on President Obama to match his words with actions and to keep to his election promise of implementing immigration reform. They were not to be disappointed as the President reiterated his support for comprehensive reform of the current system and drew attention to his desire to see such legislation dealt with in 2010.

Whitehouse spokesperson Shin Inouye, in a statement on the subject said " (the President's) commitment to fix our broken immigration system remains unwavering and he continues to hope for bi-partisan leadership on legislation".

Observers agree that if Sunday's historic vote on health care reform becomes law, immigration reform will be back on the political and legislative agenda. The time for action however is short – four months – before legislators break to campaign for mid term elections. Other major issues also remain



Brendan McGee and friends in Washington D.C.

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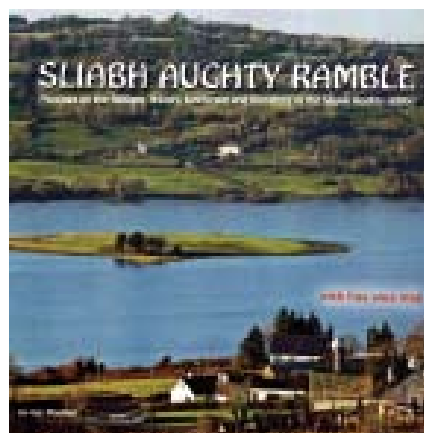
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## New East Clare Book: Sliabh Aughty Ramble

On April 3, 2010 a new book will be launched in Co. Clare by Ger Madden, Sliabh Aughty Ramble.

Ger has contributed much to the heritage and tourism services of the Banner

and the Aughty region through his writings and research, the East Clare Heritage Centre and his world renowned Holy Island Boat tours.

Sliabh Aughty Ramble is superbly presented in a most engaging, accessible and unique format that is a must have for every Dalcassian and Irish heritage lover in 2010.

At a time when Ireland is facing tough challenges, and

disenchantment abounds with many aspects of our social and economic affairs, this richly illustrated book with an accompanying regional map represents much of what is good and cherished in the Irish ways of life.

Sliabh Aughty, covering over 250 square miles is one of the largest mountain ranges in Ireland but one of the least known. Some equate the desolate hills of Sliabh Aughty with poverty and hardship stemming from penal times when communities of refugees were forced by circumstances to seek a living on their apparently hostile barren slopes. The Ultachs who settled near Woodford are still remembered for their sober ways and hard work in reclaiming the mountain.

Sliabh Aughty Ramble. Musings on the folklore, history, landscape and literature of the region, is a one hundred and eighty page, indexed, publication with 120 illustrations. This book may not be the easiest to get your hands on, but if you want more info, email Daniel at boruculture@msn.com.

The book will be in good Irish bookshops, and more is available at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~eastclareheritage>.

# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I am an Irish citizen.  
 The documents came by Fed Ex right before St. Patrick's Day.  
 They signal the end of one journey and the beginning of the rest of my life.  
 My grandfather, Denis Cusack, had sealed the deal. He was born April 11th in Abbeyfeale, Mount Collins, County Limerick in 1869. We never met. He was years in heaven before my birth. My mother had told me he was a captain in the Irish Republican Army.  
 A romantic notion? Maybe, but since I'm now a member of the tribe, I can indulge in such swashbuckling.  
 I am an Irish citizen.  
 We start discovering who we are in infancy and spend the rest of our lives becoming who everybody else thinks we are. We are male or female, laughers or crybabies, dreamers or not. We are cops, doctors, plumbers, or actors. We are married or single, straight or gay. Or lonely. We are disciples of Jesus Christ or Dr. Phil. We are what we do, what we say, and what we want.  
 I am an Irish citizen.  
 We are the traditions of our neighborhoods and the quintessence of our high school nicknames. We make our way in the world, fighting and scratching our way through the alleys and

streets of our psyches.  
 As age comes, we negotiate compromises with our dreams. We tell ourselves our accomplishments would have been greater with a bigger budget.  
 And then along comes that old friend, perspective. I am an Irish citizen.  
 Oh sweet liberation! As a witness and practitioner of Celtic blarney, my Irish pride was always tempered by a feeling of being just a Yank. In years past, blaguards insisted I wasn't really Irish, but a player without a brogue.  
 They were scoundrels and pretenders, the real imposters. I am an Irish citizen.  
 In Dublin, I met comedian Des Bishop after his sold out concert at Vicar Street.  
 Born in New York and schooled in Wexford, he has lit a flame in the old country about what being Irish means. He had to assimilate as a teenager, a Yank lad stuck in the old sod. He learned to adapt, mastered Gaelic, and learned who he was deep down. He performs Irish comedy all over the world now; the hottest young act on television and in nightclubs all over the island.  
 He told me, "We are all Ireland. Take two guys who have roots here, maybe one in New York and one in Dublin. Cut them open and both their blood is Irish. We are all descendants, in America, England, Australia, and the Diaspora all over the world. We are all Ireland."  
 We've been blessed by birth into this race.  
 In Limerick, I visited the church where Denis Cusack was christened 140 years earlier. I dipped my hands into the water

of the same baptismal font where he cried in his mother's arms and I wept with him. I felt the connection, coming full circle.  
 I am an Irish citizen.  
 I share that with Yeats, O'Casey, Brian Boru, and Cuchulainn.  
 Peter O'Toole, Bono, Lady Gregory, and Gerry Adams. Van Morrison, Grainne O'Malley, and Padraic Pearse.  
 I am an Irish citizen.  
 Let that be my epitaph.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



walked as men on that unlikely being; and you certainly can't pin the expenses incurred by the church on an already recession hit community.

Maeve Lewis, who represents One in Four, a charity that supports abuse survivors, quite rightly snapped back: "Right across the Church in Ireland there is huge liability, but the most of that is because of legal costs and that is because the Church is trying to defend the indefensible. We wonder if this is an attempt to create resentment towards the survivors."

"We have had a number of calls from the general public who are absolutely outraged."

I should certainly hope so. And further, I hope that they are outraged enough to tell Brennan exactly where he can stick his sick "invitation."

Maeve Lewis is right. The costs of this are so high (and let's be honest, it was never about money on the side of the victims; it was about having crimes against them recognised) because that is all the Catholic Church has ever been about: the accumulation of more and more wealth. That is why they spent a fortune in legal fees trying to limit what they had to pay out. And now they want the people to shoulder the bill for something that they weren't guilty of.

It doesn't matter that they parade around in their expensive frocks as if they were still the little tin pot dictators who once ruled this country with a rod of iron; or that their Vatican city-state has wealth beyond imagin-

ing. They always wanted more and they always wanted to keep it. No fear of the Bishops moving into more modest dwellings or Rome selling off some of its endless bounty of treasures that ordinary people never will get to enjoy. No, let the suckers dig a little deeper into their damned near empty pockets. That's the reasoning of these characters that are so divorced from what the man and woman in the street lives on.

Pope Benedict and his creatures would rather wail about the wickedness of Harry Potter or hold forth on the film Avatar than have the basic decency to apologise to the raped and the tortured.

Was there a more nauseating photograph last month than that of Irish Bishops queuing up to bend over and kiss the ring of the old man who had summoned them into his divine presence. To see them coming back from Rome grinning ear to ear because they had a chance to suck up to him was truly stomach-churning.

It was an expensive trip that the Church for once didn't mind paying for at all.

Then when you don't think that it can get any worse out comes Bishop of Elphin Christopher Jones. Of course, he has that great stand-by when things go pear-shaped, namely the media.

He said with anger: "Of course we have made mistakes. But why this huge isolation of the Church and this huge cover-up in the Church when it has been going on for centuries?"

"It is only now for the first time that victims have been given [given! How kind of you!] their voice to publicly express their pain and suffering."

"And before that for centuries no one spoke. It is all cover-up. No one wants to admit in a family that there is a problem of that nature."

"I am not justifying it." And this joker goes by the self-important title of head of the Bishops' Committee on Family!

"Given!" If it hadn't been for the

media digging away at an unpopular job for years in order to break through the solid wall of silence that had been erected by these paragons of virtue, then the Church would still be denying everything, protecting the rapist scum in its fold, would still be lordling it over the poor ordinary sinner and telling he and she how to live.

Pope Benedict really insulted me last month when he indicated that it was Godlessness and lack of spirituality that had led to this evil.

Well, I'm glad to say that I am completely Godless, but it doesn't stop me from trying to live by a certain moral standard. Not always successfully, and not always well, but trying.

And that is more than can be said for the hundreds of priests who used their exalted position to fulfil their awful lusts—and the many more who looked after them, ignored the cries of the condemned, and moved the perpetrators around where they could happily continue the rape and abuse of other children.

It's only fair before I end this to mention one of the many good priests—although how they can continue to represent this disgraced organisation is more than I can say.

The dreadful Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway, decided that a family should not have the right to allow a dead loved one in Church overnight no matter how much comfort it may be; but he has been opposed by Father Denis Crosby, who strikes me as a kindly man, who said that he will indeed be allowing relatives to leave their departed in Liscannor Church in County Clare.

It's a pity that more people wouldn't stand up to Martin Brennan, who in the last year has shown himself more and more to be stubborn and arrogant.

Like I said, there are too many of these men who are divorced from their parishioners; and who—worse—are proving themselves to be incapable of change.

## Asking Mass-Goers to Pay for the Sins of their Church

Let's be honest: at least as far as the organisation's behaviour in Ireland is concerned, the Catholic Church certainly doesn't do itself any favours.

In the last few weeks, the parishioners of the diocese of Ferns have been invited by their Bishop, Dr. Denis Brennan, to help pay the compensation bill for those who were abused in an unspeakable manner by the priests who were supposed to be there for them.

This is absolutely shameless and unforgivable: to ask already hard-up parishioners—and it is a mystery to me why there are any left at all—to help bail out the morally worthless but filthy rich Church is nothing short of a further scandal.

Standing there in all his tawdry finery, Brennan had the bare-faced cheek to offer the "invitation"—and

don't I love that word—to a stunned congregation in Enniscorthy, County Wicklow.

The diocese has so far paid €8 million in order to settle 48 civil actions and €830,000 in treating the people that they put through such appalling abuse.

The Ferns abuse scandal was, of course, one of the most notorious in a long history of such things, with known paedophiles either covered up for or simply moved to other parishes by the evil demons in dog collars who were running the show.

The impossibly smug and arrogant Bishop Brennan said that he was "asking for help to fulfill a God-given responsibility."

God-given responsibility? Is he having us on or what? Even if you did believe in God you couldn't pin the wickedness of these things that

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Ed McElroy, host of "The Ed McElroy Show" recently interviewed David Heide, CFP, Managing Director-Investment Officer Branch Manager, Wachovia Securities and Tom Cusack, of Cusack Insurance Agency in Oak Lawn. (l to r): David Heide, Ed McElroy and Tom Crusack.

## Gerry Adams Moves Sinn Fein Inches Closer With Signing of Historic Hillsborough Agreement

By Sabina Clarke

Gerry Adams orchestrated yet another brilliant breakthrough with the historic Hillsborough Agreement, reached at the 11th hour. Finally, devolution or the transfer of power of policing and justice from London to Belfast will happen after a 12 year delay.

Devolution had been part of the original Good Friday Agreement and later the St. Andrew's Agreement but the Unionists and the British and Irish governments always found a way to stall. This time, Sinn Fein was ready to walk away. After Martin McGuinness, Northern Ireland's deputy First Minister met with the British and Irish governments during a deadlock in the talks, Adams got to the heart of the matter: "But let me say this, the governments are not referees in this. The governments are guarantors with responsibilities and obligations. What we are about is fixing the problems and returning to the basis upon which these institutions were established, the Good Friday Agreement and the St. Andrew's Agreement. If that is not possible, then no self-respecting public representation or party would want to be part of what would be nothing less than a charade."

Peace does not come easily in Northern Ireland and justice is even harder. A people's right to self-govern should be basic. Let's hope they don't take it away.

Sinn Fein President and MP for West Belfast, Gerry Adams has been at the center of the peace process since its inception. His message of peace and reconciliation has been studied by students of social justice the world over and emulated by leaders in other countries.

SC: How do you feel about the Hillsborough Agreement; were you ready to walk away from the government without devolution?

Adams: The impasse in the political institutions; their failure to deliver for citizens and the refusal of unionism to agree to a date for the transfer of powers on policing and justice, meant that the Assembly and Executive system was unsustainable. It was quickly losing credibility. The negotiation with the DUP was a long and difficult one but ultimately it succeeded. Moreover, the agreement reached at Hillsborough is unique in that it is the first which was directly negotiated and agreed between Sinn Fein and the DUP.

Previously, the governments had acted as negotiators for unionism.

This time we refused to travel to London and insisted that any agreement had to be reached directly between Sinn Fein and the DUP. So, this agreement belongs to unionism in a way that perhaps previous ones did not. That hopefully makes it stronger.

SC: What did you mean when you said it (the Agreement) was a "staging post" and why did it upset some of the Unionists?

Adams: Some Unionists believe that the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 was a political settlement. It was not. It is an accommodation which creates an all Ireland political structure within which nationalists and unionists can as equals each promote our respective view of the future. Unionists can argue for the union with Britain. Republicans can promote and argue for a United Ireland. And all of this is done in context in which there is power sharing in the political institutions and measures in place to promote equality and end discrimination. So, for Sinn Fein, each negotiation reached, is a "staging post," another marker on the road toward a united Ireland.

SC: Was devolution your toughest battle—as far as getting that concession from the Unionists and the British and Irish governments?

Adams: Every negotiation is tough. Every issue is generally hard fought over. The length of the negotiation on this occasion gives some sense of the complexity of the negotiation and the difficulties we encountered.

SC: Why has the transfer of power been so contentious?

Adams: In 1972, the British decided to take policing and justice powers away from the then Unionist regime. They did so not because the regime was undemocratic and sectarian but because it was incompetent. The British wanted to reshape the security and policing and justice system. This led to greater violence, repression, torture, shoot-to-kill operations and widespread and institutional collusion between the British system and the various unionist death squads like the UDA and the UVF. The unionists objected and collapsed the government rather than give up these powers. Almost 40 years later, unionists were reluctant to take these powers back. This was for several

reasons. They were concerned that republicans would be able to exercise even greater influence over policing and justice—matters which they had long regarded as their sole preserve. They also believe us when we say that part of the process we are engaged in is about taking powers away from London back to Ireland and ensuring that the centre of political power and influence is on the island of Ireland and not in London. This is part of the process of making partition irrelevant and moving inexorably toward a United Ireland.

SC: What will it take for the Executive and the Assembly at Stormont to function more smoothly and tackle the issues that concern the daily life of their constituents?



Adams: We have agreed with the DUP on a number of issues within the Hillsborough Agreement to set up working groups, identify outstanding matters and produce programs of work and see these resolved within months. If we succeed in making these changes, then by this time next year, people should have witnessed a more efficient and more effective government at work.

SC: How difficult has it been to stay on target on this particular issue of devolution when it has been sabotaged for so long?

Adams: We are very patient and focused. Martin McGuinness made a very interesting observation in the press conference announcing the agreement. He pointed out that our negotiation team has remained

largely unchanged in almost 20 years. British Prime Ministers and Irish Taoiseach and unionist and SDLP leaders have come and gone but the Sinn Fein team has remained largely constant. That has helped.

SC: Do you think your long history of meetings with the British and Irish governments over the years gave you and your party the upper hand as being the more skilled negotiators?

Adams: We certainly had lots of experience.

SC: As one of the earliest architects of the Peace Process (beginning with your efforts with Father Alec Reid which preceded the Hume/Adams talks and the Joint Document for Peace) how do you feel about where you have taken your party?

Adams: It has been a long and difficult process. But all of us on the Sinn Fein side knew two decades ago when we developed our peace strategy that it would be like this. We are trying to resolve centuries of conflict; repair relationships destroyed by British colonialism and partition and undo the damage of institutional discrimination and repressions. We were never going to turn this around overnight. We still have a way to go. Sinn Fein is an Irish republican party. We are for a United Ireland. Last year, we held two conferences in the USA and one in Canada on this theme. This weekend, we hold a similar conference in London. We are very serious about wanting a United Ireland. Everything we do—the core of our political strategies—is all about this end goal.

SC: What can be done to deflect the deep-rooted antagonism that still exists at the grass roots level between Catholics and Protestants?

Adams: Sectarianism is a major problem. It is as old as the plantations. It will take time to end but the starting point must be to stand foursquare against it. There can be no toleration of sectarianism wherever it raises its head.

SC: What is the next step for Sinn Fein; what is next on your agenda?

Adams: Lots. There will be a Westminster election in the north in the next few months. An Assembly election in May of 2011 and elec-

tions in the south. We have a lot of work to do to build political strength; reorganize the party; develop policies and seek new allies. Despite some recent setbacks in the 26 counties, Sinn Fein remains very strong and eager to move forward.

SC: Do you think you will see a united Ireland in your lifetime?

Adams: Yes, but only if all of us who want it and who believe in it, join together to make it happen.

SC: What legislation do you want passed regarding the Irish language?

Adams: At St. Andrews three years ago, the British government agreed to

An Acht na Gaeilge—an Irish Language Act which would ensure equality of treatment for Irish language speakers. I have written a blog on this topic—this is an important issue for Irish people.

SC: Do you ever reflect on the constant demands made on you for the past 30 years—including the 1984 assassination attempt on your life and the torture and imprisonment you endured?

Adams: No. Lots of friends and colleagues and family members were killed during that period. I survived. My focus is on the future, not the past.

SC: The day the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize was announced, you spoke at the Union League in Philadelphia. Many of us thought you would be a recipient of the Prize and when you were excluded, we felt you were cheated. In your speech that day, you said that you "didn't care about prizes;" has this changed?

Adams: I have to say that I was surprised at how many people in Irish America were annoyed by that decision. For me, it was never an issue. I am involved in a great project—a history project—to end British government involvement in my country; to end partition; and to create a new and just society for all Irish people. I believe we can be successful and that we can achieve it more quickly the more others join us in this endeavor.

SC: How important has Irish America been to you in accomplishing your goals?

Adams: Very. There would have been no peace process without Irish America. No words can express my thanks to the crucial work for Ireland of all the many organizations and individuals in Irish America and beyond who have remained faithful over the generations.

SC: How would you like to be remembered?

Adams: Ask me that in 20 years.

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## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson

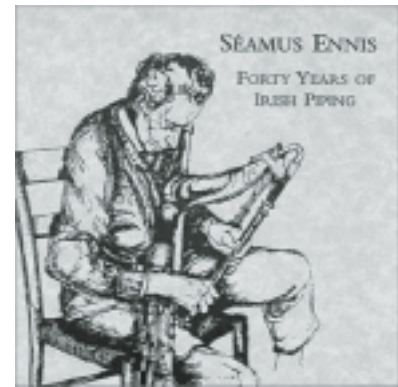


Let's take a break from the normal argy bargy of the column reviews. Let's speak briefly this month about one of the giants of the music. All the young musicians out there blasting away, some with real ability (we'll review Teada's brill new album next month, along with a new fiddler on the scene Grainne Murphy). All of these musicians worldwide simply stand on the shoulders of the immortals, such as Seamus Ennis. You cannot grasp Irish traditional music today without embracing Seamus Ennis. So this month, Seamus Ennis it is.

Born into a musical family in Finglas, north Dublin, in 1919, he came into a rich musical culture and heritage, based in no small part on the ins and outs of the uilleann pipes, of which his father was a strong player. His Dad had purchased an old set of Coyne pipes as a young man, setting the direction not only for himself, but son Seamus, as well. True, traditional music was not in vogue, and would not be for decades. But, it was still vibrant as always and being widely played. At an early age, he was employed by Three Candle Press through a family friend. Some say the job was offered to keep him from going to England and volunteering for the army. In any event, it was at Three Candle that he learned the critical skill of transcribing music into notation form. This would stand him very well in the future. Of course, he continued his life-long playing of the uilleann pipes, as he broadened his knowledge of both traditional music and music itself. There were an extremely limited number of people with any real understanding of the importance or the cultural value of traditional music at this time in Dublin. Nevertheless, Seamus made contacts with people at the Irish Folklore Commission who hired him for a special project. He was given paper, pen and a bicycle and told to go collect Irish music and song. And, so he did. He literally rode his bike through Ireland, concentrating in the West. He even made his way to the Hebrides off the northern coast of Scotland, though not by bike. He was a fluent speaker of Irish and had a knowledge of Scots Gaelic. This went on for five years from 1942-47. He is literally helping save a culture.

The old ones were passing away and taking songs and tunes with them to the grave. Not only did Seamus Ennis save them, he notated them. Critical. We know exactly what they should sound like. As with Francis O'Neill in Chicago and the Breatnach family in Ireland, they are saving not only words and descriptions. They are saving the actual notes, the timings, the tempos. By this time, Ennis was also a gifted fiddler and singer. The real deal, all-round.

So, we now have the iconic, historic vision of Seamus Ennis in full bloom of romanticism—riding his bike through rural Ireland, collecting the music in a magical kind of farry offy placey type of thing. For once, the historical fancy is close to fact. In 1947, Ennis began with Radio



Eireann, what we know today as the RTE. He was still traveling the country, recording the likes of Willie Clancy and Micho Russell. Only now, it was in a truck with tape gear and sound men. Things had changed, indeed. He was also a presenter on the radio. People such as the great folk collector from America, Alan Lomax and Jean Ritchie realized what Seamus Ennis was doing, and they travelled to Ireland to record him. By 1951, he was feeling extremely unhappy at RTE, as so many eventually do. He felt the station was not giving the music, or himself, the respect they deserved. So, in 1951, the BBC hired Ennis to present

what became the iconic Irish traditional music program of all time, As I Roved Out. He also married Margaret Glynn at this time, and they had two children, both of whom survive. The BBC program truly made history and lasted until 1958. True honest-to-God history making programming. After that, Ennis went full time into playing music, doing the occasional program and continuing as, arguably, THE force in the music.

Of course, we run out of space. The story ends sadly. After all, we ARE talking Irish music here. Seamus Ennis ended up living in a mobile home on his old grounds in north Dublin he named, Easter Snow. He wrote an air by that name, and Christy Moore wrote a song with the title. Ennis passed tragically young in 1982, at the age of 63. Too much drink, too poor health, too much and too little of a lot of things. In the end, it does not matter. Here is a hero of the music. Was his the happiest life? Probably not. Okay, definitely not. But, what matters is what a man creates and leaves behind. Few, if any, have left more in Irish history. Every time you hear a bit of real Irish music, somehow, someway, it can be tracked to Seamus Ennis. We have never had a similar type in America—probably Alan and John Lomax come closest. But, they were basic musicians at the best of times. Seamus Ennis is the greatest uilleann piper ever. We suggest 40 Years of Irish Piping as a wonderful introduction to the man himself, as well as his musicianship. You can get it now through Compass Records in Nashville, who bought the Green Linnet hard copy library years ago. Find it. It is Irish music. Seamus Ennis was a hero during his lifetime, and an even bigger one now. He lived with shoulders broad enough that every musician playing the music today stands on them.

\*If you want to hear the likes of Seamus Ennis and other real Irish musicians, turn in Ireland Tonight every Monday night at 8:00 pm, Chicago time, on WDCB, 90.9 fm., or [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org). Co-host Mary Ann Keifer and I will love to welcome you to our musical home!

### Kelly Donlea's Dinner 911 Rescues Cooks

Wish someone could rescue your dinner? Need a lifeline to save your failing efforts? Are you desperate for a delicious meal? Help has arrived!

Organizing Dinner is pleased to announce its "Dinner 911.com" web forum, a source for immediate answers to your pressing cooking questions. The new forum provides vital information and inspiration, all with the success of everyday cooks in mind.

Kelly Donlea, owner of Organizing Dinner (a company that provides cookbooks and cooking classes aimed to organize the dinner process for nightly success), launched the "Dinner 911" forum in response to the frequent e-mails and phone calls she received from friends and clients at dinnertime. Common crunch-time questions included "I

don't have Worcestershire sauce, what can I substitute?" and "What can I make with the ingredients I have on my shelf?" and "Should I cover this recipe while cooking, or leave it uncovered?" The most common concern Donlea hears is "I just don't have time to go to the store!"

In order to manage Organizing Dinner's increasing audience, Donlea started the "Dinner 911" forum. Although she hopes to answer most questions

personally, fellow foodies can jump in with their advice when Donlea is unavailable. Donlea follows up the posts and moderates the answers provided.

For more information on Kelly Donlea's cooking classes or home parties contact Meggan Hill-McQueeney at (847) 366-4571 or [megganhill@gmail.com](mailto:megganhill@gmail.com).

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## Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



job, they focus on digging into their new assignment, without any real plan for their personal success.

### Are They Glad They Hired You?

As loyal readers of this column know, my focus for the last seven months has been devoted to the steps necessary to find a new job. Notwithstanding the terrible economic situation, obviously some people are finding jobs. As an executive search recruiter told me recently, he is seeing mostly "replacement" positions being filled. He says that his clients are still very hesitant to hire "new" employees; someone who adds to the head count of the organization. For purposes of this column, let me assume that you are one of those recent hires.

As the column title asks, is the company happy that they hired you? Apparently, they assessed your skills and past achievements and decided you were their choice.

Clearly, you were selected from a field of candidates; they had other choices, but you were the top one. You've been on board now for two weeks or two months. Do your bosses feel that they made a smart decision?

The company's assessment of their hiring decision will be made based on several factors:

- Do your fellow employees speak well of you when the boss asks, how is John/Judy doing? Are you adding value to the team?
- Do you bring a worthwhile and helpful background to the company?
- Do you make constant reference to how this or that function was done at your former company, with a clear undertone of superiority?
- Does your performance evidence a clear understanding of the boss' goals?
- Do you indicate a genuine willingness to learn the fundamentals of your new employer's business plus their methods and procedures?
- Is your passion and willingness to learn "new stuff" apparent?
- Do you make it obvious that you are dedicated to making your new boss look good?
- Do you make it clear that you see this job as a long term arrangement or does it appear it's just a port in an unstable (employment) situation?
- Have you found an unobtrusive way to demonstrate your business expertise?

There are tons of articles on the assimilation process. Yet many hires are so delighted with the

Obviously, every job seeker has some plan in order to find a new job, however they also need to realize the importance of having a plan that enhance their success in their new role. I would sincerely suggest that when you accept a new job that you "google" the word, assimilation, and read some of the articles that will surface. This research may help you to avoid derailing.

In my experience, most people want to help you in your new job, unless of course, you took the job they were hoping to get themselves. You should be sure to ask during the interviewing process, if there were any internal candidates who were turned down for this job? What was their reaction to being turned down? It's one thing to be considered an outsider, but it is a whole different thing to be considered an outsider who stole an internal candidate's job.

As the new person, you need to work at achieving a meaningful relationship with your co-workers. This approach does not mean that you have to become a real corporate butterfly, but rather you need to show real interest in your fellow employees. You can make it a point to find ways to be helpful to your colleagues, without appearing to be phony about the process. Authenticity is the key.

Ideally, when the boss asks how the new guy is doing, your fellow colleagues are going to speak positively, if not enthusiastically about your attitude, your competence and your willingness to participate with the other team members.

Clearly you need to carefully assess the "post recruitment" culture. We have all heard stories about the new employee immediately realizing that the "honeymoon" phase is over as soon as s/he crosses the employer's threshold as a new employee. Current employees tend to be on their best behavior when recruiting people. Interviewees are likely to be polite and quite agreeable. The courtesies extended to you in the recent interview setting may not carry over to the daily functioning of the company. Surely we have all heard stories about interviewees feeling that they were misled during the process. Even in this tough economy, an interviewee should probe about the culture of the organization. It is much more prudent to assess that before signing on as a new employee.

The assimilation process is really a two way street, competent managers help their new em-

ployees integrate into the company. Yes, some people "mess" with new employees. It was done to them so they feel they have the right to do some of the same silly things to the newest employee. Most of these actions are relatively harmless and will be laughed about at a later date. But smart managers always make sure that new employees feels sincerely welcome. If management provides a thorough orientation that will by itself help the new person feel valued. An inadequate orientation leaves both the employee and employer vulnerable to substantial misunderstandings. Everyone has heard the excuse, "we did it this way at my former job so I assumed that you would do it the same way here".

I hope your new or current job provides you with an opportunity for future growth, excellent compensation and a challenge that intrigues you. Carpe diem.

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

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**Chicago Gaelic News**

**Pat Hennessy**



**Remembering Ireland's Eucharistic Congress 1932**

Ireland in the early 30's was still trying to win peace after a very divisive Civil War, which pitted brother against brother and even family against family. The scheduling of the world-wide Eucharistic Congress in Dublin 1932, together with the tremendous reconciliation brought about on the sporting fields sponsored by the Gaelic Athletic Association, began the healing process and helped heal the many wounds.

I was 12 years old and was overjoyed when I was informed that I could accompany my mother to the big and historic weekend-long ceremony. It was a dream come true, traveling by train from my native Kilkenny to the capital, and being allowed to meet with priests, bishops, and people from many foreign lands, who spoke a strange language and even dressed differently, was also an education. It seemed like the whole world was on its way to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event, the highlight of which was to be the big Pontifical Mass in the huge Phoenix Park.

All Ireland prepared for weeks before to make this celebration the finest that the country and indeed, the world up to that time, had ever seen. Papal flags and those representing the many countries were to be seen everywhere, as they proudly floated side by side in the soft Irish breeze. Old Glory, the proud stars and stripes, occupied a prominent place in almost every house or store. It seemed that everyone had relatives living in America. Ladies' and Men's retreats were ongoing every night and day in all the churches, with Mass being celebrated in between as the Irish nation got ready for this wonderful spiritual renewal. Foreign priests and bishops walked the streets and lanes (boreens) of Ireland, stopped to chat, and offer mass occasionally, where requested. It was a festive time throughout the land as people longed for peace after a bitter war.

Cardinal Laurie, the Pope's representative to the Congress, with Monsignor Spellman, later to become Cardinal, and Cardinal Tardini from Rome, came by mail boat from England and

were fortunate to be able to join the huge crowd who greeted them, as bands played and flags waved. At Merrion Gates, the Papal train stopped for the popular Dublin Mayor, Alfie Byrne, to welcome the visitors in Irish, English and Latin.

The Children's Mass on Saturday was a glorious sight to behold as over 80,000 people, mostly children from all over Ireland and the world joined in the singing and offering of the mass by Most Rev. Dr. Kelly Archbishop of Sydney, Australia. Others in attendance included Ireland's beloved Cardinal McRory, and the two legendary and arch enemies in the Civil War, Eamon deValera, and William Cosgrave, who shook hands during the ceremony.

Sunday, June 16, 1932 was the big day which by the way was also the 1500th anniversary of St. Patrick lighting the Pascal Fire on the Hills of Slane. Thousands of pilgrims, estimated in over a half million people, a record in those days, converged on Phoenix Park for the pontifical Mass and the big procession through the streets of Dublin City for the benediction at O'Connell's Bridge. A combined all-star Irish choir sang the beautiful Missa Brevis and the legendary Irish tenor of those days, John McCormack sang the lovely "Panis Angelicus" in his own inimitable style. I can still hear that beautiful rendition.

After the celebration of mass the huge crowd wended its way in four sections to O'Connell's Bridge where a special altar was erected for the Benedict Singing hymns and reciting the Rosary as they moved slowly along the streets of Dublin. Even for a kid this was an inspiring event. The Blessed Sacrament borne aloft by one of the priest celebrants, and under a canopy escorted by Irish Army officers with swords drawn and at the ready headed the group.

**Southside St. Patrick Parade**

Although not quite as large as the discontinued one in Morgan Park/Beverly area, honoring Ireland's national Apostle, this one in the Tinley Park area was indeed a fitting tribute to the great St. Patrick. The crowds of cheering spectators fully appreciated the additional units including the renowned Gaelic Park float and marchers, the Hennessy unit and others. It was indeed another "great day for the Irish" as signs along the way displayed.

This annual parade, sponsored by the Oak Park Ave. Main Street Association, under the

fine direction of Ed Zatrocki and Frank Kurza, has been running this parade for some years now, and from all accounts it gets better every year. It doubled the units participating each year—with over 70 entries this year. Our congratulations all around.

The official St. Patrick's Day Parade on Columbus Avenue adjacent to beautiful Lake Michigan was another huge success with Mayor Richard M. Daley and his dignitaries leading over 50 gaily decorated floats, 40 marching units including Chicago Irish dancing schools and some of the best marching bands in the Midwest. It was the 54th such parade since it all began in 1954 along 79th Street on the great southwest side.

That first parade on State was led by the legendary Mayor Richard J. Daley, Fr. Tom Byrne from Old St. Pats Church, and U.S. Retired Navy Admiral Dan Gallery, who captured the first ever German submarine with its many secrets in World War II. The submarine is in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry for the all the world to see. This parade in honor of St. Patrick was held on 79th Street in 1954, a year before Mayor Daley was elected Mayor of Chicago.

**Ireland on Parade**

Ireland on Parade, with the legendary Martin Fahey, was again featured to pack houses at Gaelic Park from March 5-16. It had on stage, as usual, the best dancing schools in Chicago, and indeed in the Midwest. They included Jerry O'Loughlin's, The Dennehy's, The Mullane, Healy and O'Brien, The Webers, McNamara's, The World Academy, Kathryn Hughes, and other fine entertainers. And with the real thing Irish music by The Irish Musicians, this was one of the best seen here in a long time. Needless to add, packed houses enjoyed every moment of it and were loud in praise of every act. And of course, the Maestro Martin Fahey who has lost none of his skill with dancing schools and Irish music. Talking about Irish music, we had The Irish Musicians and Sean O'Donnell—who could ask for anything more.

Thankfully now Irish-American parents are bringing their children, boys and girls to Irish-American Dancing Schools and to Gaelic Park to learn the skill of Ireland's national games hurling and Gaelic Football. This could not come at a better time, with young Irish boys and girls being virtually excluded from America. Hopefully Congress will consider what Irish immigrants have done for America from the earliest of times. Talk to your U.S. Senators and Congressman and women about this unfairness.

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## A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

**Reverend Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO



### Easter – New Life For Families In Need

"We are here with open arms, to shelter, comfort and protect."

Like a mother, Catholic Charities reaches out day after day with compassionate, practical and professional help that gets families and individuals back on their feet – that gives them new life.

During this Easter season, Christians celebrate the triumph of the Risen Christ over sin and death. At Catholic Charities, we know that there is hope for the hopeless year-round – and new life for those who have lived "in darkness and in the shadow of death!"

We see it every day as we reach out a helping hand to families struggling to find a job or make ends meet, or to low-income seniors in need of housing, or to homeless individuals in need of food and shelter. And we are blessed not only by the professional, competent staff members working in our 159 programs, but also by an army of thousands of energetic volunteers and generous donors.

These are "the open arms" of Catholic Charities. Together, we find creative ways to assist individuals and families achieve lives of health and stability; and we are frequently inspired by those we help.

I'd like to share some of these stories of new life with you, told to us by parents and children in three of Catholic Charities' self-sufficiency programs.

Lumba, a single parent, explains that she was given a hand up, not a hand out, by our Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

"I am very thankful for the help this program has extended to my four children and me. When I was homeless, with no food or clothes, they picked me up and gave me a helping hand. I am extremely grateful and will carry Catholic Charities in my heart for the rest of my life. All the staff, my case manager, my employment case manager and supervisor, went the extra mile and were great examples for my children and me."

José, whose mother was in the Forever Free Program for women recovering from addiction, told their family's story:

"When my mother decided to go into Forever Free treatment, I was happy, but honestly, I didn't

think it would last. She wrote me letters all the time she was away. She told me that when she came home we were going to be a family again and she wouldn't let anything bring us apart. It took awhile, and I missed her a lot, but it was all worth the wait. I am very grateful to have the mother I know back in my life and around when I need her. I am proud of her for making a promise to us and sticking to it. I continue to pray we live a better life everyday and to live as well as we are. Catholic Charities has been a great part in our lives and we are grateful for all they have done to help my mother to a road of a better life."

Catholic Charities' New Hope Apartments Program also provides intensive case management for homeless families with children in 124

transitional scattered-site apartments in Chicago and Suburban Cook County. For up to 24 months, families receive services such as rental assistance, household furnishings, employment assistance with training and educational referrals, child care, and assistance in budgeting and accessing appropriate government programs. They achieve job skills and income, decrease debt and increase self-determination during their time in the program, equipping them for maintaining permanent housing and steady employment.

Cecilia, a single mother, was living at PADS in the Northwest suburbs with her young son after having been laid off as the manager of a health club that closed because of the recession. "I wanted to get out of the shelter and get him back into stable housing," says Cecilia, who entered the New Hope Apartments transitional housing program several months ago. Now, she is moving toward self-sufficiency because she has had the time and the guidance to figure out how to improve her life. "No one had ever taught me how to separate my needs from my wants," she says, explaining how she was able to fall so far so quickly. "Catholic Charities has literally saved my

life, because so many doors had been shut in my face when I was in my time of need, but Catholic Charities helped me. I plan on volunteering here after I leave the program."

These three "success stories" are just a few examples of Catholic Charities' commitment to families in need.

In these difficult economic times, choices have to be made. Catholic Charities chooses life! We will continue to open our arms to restore and renew the precious gift of life in all its dignity for our hungry and homeless neighbors, and the families, children and seniors who come to us in need of help and hope.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, please pray for our neighbors who—like Lumba, José and Cecilia—desperately need the "newness of life" made possible by God's goodness, Catholic Charities and your generosity.

May God bless you and your families throughout the Easter Season! Happy Easter!

To make a donation, please send to Catholic Charities, 721 N. LaSalle-4th Fl., Chicago, IL 60654; call (312) 655-7012; or visit [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

### Easter Rising Breakfast at Abbey Pub April 11

The Irish Freedom Committee will honor the 94th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising at a commemorative breakfast event at Chicago's Abbey Pub on Sunday April 11, 2010.

94 years ago in Dublin, on Easter Monday 1916, a small band of brave volunteers took on the might of the British army to proclaim a Sovereign and Independent Ireland. Two years later, in the only all-Ireland election in Ireland's history, the majority of the Irish people voted overwhelmingly to remove the British presence from Ireland. Today, 94 years on, Ireland still remains divided and occupied by a foreign military force.

On Sunday April 11, 2010, the Irish Freedom Committee will remember the extraordinary events of Easter 1916 and continue the call for a United, Sovereign and All-Ireland Republic free of British rule. The commemoration will take place from Noon to 2:00 PM at the Abbey Pub, 3420 West Grace St. in Chicago. Musical guest is renowned Chicago balladeer Joe Monahan, who tells the story of Ireland's struggle for freedom in song. Statements from the Irish republican movement in Ireland will be presented, and the Proclamation of Ireland - read aloud on the steps of the GPO on Easter Monday 1916 by Padraig Pearse -

will be recited.

Your donation of \$15 at the door includes a full traditional Irish breakfast. There will be a cash bar. A raffle with prizes including Irish republican memorabilia will be held with all proceeds going directly to the families of Irish republican political prisoners; whose numbers continue to swell under the so-called "Peace Process". There will be news updates shared directly from the POWs, who are now being locked down for up to 12 hours at a time without access to food or fresh water. There will be a cards signing for Irish POWs, and Irish republican memorabilia including books, tee shirts and badges will be on sale.

The IFC Easter Commemoration will follow a wreath laying and commemoration by the Irish Republican Socialist Committee of North America at the James Connelly monument in Union Square Park, Ashland Ave. at Washington Street, which commences at 10:00 AM. All are encouraged to also attend the IRSCNA event.

Deirdre Fennessy  
The Irish Freedom Committee, Inc.  
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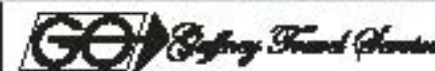
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# Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



My St. Patrick's Day weekend was awesome. It started on Friday, where I danced at the Irish Fellowship Dinner with my sister, Maeve and other Mullane dancers. My sister was excited because she got to wear the team dresses. We danced for the Taoiseach of Ireland, Brian Cowen. He even shook my hand. We practiced hard and our dance performance turned out great. Everyone liked it. On Saturday, I went to the parade with all my cousins and siblings. We ended up leaving before we were supposed to march

because it was so cold and rainy. It was still fun while it lasted. I regret not marching, but it was cold. When we went back to the hotel, I got ready to dance at the Mercy Home party. It was fun because my dance teacher, Mike, was announcing all the dancers at the party. My 2 year old cousin, Grace, likes watching us dance. She tries to imitate us. She also likes our wigs. After the party, we went to Aurelio's pizza with my family. We had a great time. I was ready for bed after that. I was exhausted! I got to rest on Sunday. Usually, I would

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The Mullane Irish Dancers performed for Taoiseach Brian Cowen (c) at the Irish Fellowship Club St. Patrick's Dinner held at the Hilton Hotel on Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

have gone to the South Side Parade. I was sad about the parade, but I'm glad I got to rest. On St. Patrick's Day, my sister and I got to leave school to dance at O'Brien's Restaurant during the Queens' lunch. I think we

did a good job. Channel 5 filmed us but they didn't put us on the news. When we returned to school, we danced for every classroom at my school. We went to dance practice that night. What a perfect way to

celebrate St. Patrick's Day. I had a great St. Patrick's Day this year, and I hope next year will be even better. Happy Easter to everyone, and good luck to the Mullane Healy O'Brien dancers going to World's!

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It was great to head south to Dallas for the NTIF at the beginning of March, leaving snow and ice behind and seeing the first signs of Spring in Oklahoma and Texas.

Huge attendance of 40,000 on Saturday alone made the event a worthwhile endeavor and the great weather brought out the best in everybody including the entertainers.

The Dave Munnely Band were better than ever and stole the show, but there was no shortage of talent at this great event. I saw the Irish Descendants, Ed Miller, Clandestine, Jiggernaut, and Sara Dinan. Jim Flanagan was brilliant, and I was very lucky that he played the stage closest to me. It is a huge affair so I only managed to catch about 15% of the great line up.

Back to Chicagoland for the Saint Patrick's Day season, and we kicked it off with a great night out in Rosie O'Hare's in East Dundee with Bridget's Cross. What a great night, and my sincere thanks to the great crowd that turned out that night. Maurice Lennon, Kathleen Keane, Paddy Homan and Joe Cullen played a magic set and made this night very special. Rosie O'Hare's could become a great north-west suburbs venue for Irish music. Thanks again to all concerned.

Then it was on to the Irish American Heritage Center and the Hilton Hotel on Michigan Avenue, WHERE Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated for a week.

Eamonn Brady's Kitty O'Shea's is ground zero for the parade and the Hilton Hotel hosts all the luncheons, dinners, balls and parties. Pipe bands, musicians, politicians and papperazzi pass by in a blur, and Kitty's is the vortex.

Great to see veteran musicians Jimmy Moore and Peter Brady entertaining the crowd, and I missed Catherine O'Connell and Kathleen Keane, they were there too, but at that stage I was a few miles north at the other center of all things Irish, The Irish American Heritage Center.

The Center had it all, and spread their entertainment schedule from March 12th to March 20th and what a feast it was, the best of everything and Saint Patrick's Day celebrated in a way that would make our Patron Saint proud. The Irish American Heritage Center—where Irish culture comes to life—proclaims the banner on their website and I am here to tell you

that it is no idle boast; they deliver on their promise. We had everything from Ceili to Ceolteori, Dave Munnely, Mulligan Stew, Mickey Finns, Shindig, Anish, Maurice Lennon, Jimmy Keane, every pipe band and danceschool in Chicago, The Chancy Brothers, Tim O'Shea, Sean Cleland and even Cliff Carlson took the stage at one point. We had the Mass on Saint Patrick's Day with Father Karl Langsdorf, followed by breakfast and, again, I must congratulate the staff and volunteers of this great organization for this wonderful extravaganza of Irish culture. It was magnificent and cannot have been easy to put together. Sheila Murphy and Kathy O'Neill seemed to be there all the time, tweaking and organizing what turned out to be a great schedule of entertainment, and if you missed it, well it's your own fault, as it covered five pages in the March issue of The Irish American News and Margeson, myself and all the Irish radio shows were also trumpeting these events.

The IAHC supports the Irish Arts throughout the year with performances, lectures, plays and lessons in all aspects of Irish culture. Become a member of this fine organization and reap the rewards, it will soothe your Irish heart and soul.

### Bits And Pieces

Rig The Jig are back together and better than ever with their expanded line up and new CD/DVD due out this month... check out their website, and we look forward to seeing them soon.

Trad from Tucson. Round The House have released their new album At This Stage, great stuff from Sheila, Claire, Dave and Mark... will be playing this on the show.

Paddy Homan still knocking my socks off at every performance. Nothing can stop this irrepressible and talented Corkman.

Jim Malcolm, ex-Old Blind Dogs was on the show recently and made many new fans, another great voice.

Thanks to Catherine O'Connell, Jimmy Keane, Paddy Homan, Jackie Moran, Joe Cullen and Brian Witt for sharing their talents with me on Blarney On The Air in it's past few months. This new format has become very popular with our listeners, and I think that Jimmy Keane has made a trad head out of me. Thank you all and see you on the radio every Monday



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Ask about Paddy's "We'll Take You Back to Ireland" tour Sept. 19th!



## Rev. James J. O'Brien to Celebrate Fifty Years of Priesthood

On May 2, 2010, Father Jim O'Brien will solemnly celebrate 50 years of priesthood with a 1:30pm. Mass at St. Eugene Church, 7958 W. Foster Avenue, where he was pastor from March 17, 1991 until retirement on June 30, 2006.

Father O'Brien was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1960 at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois having grown up in Our lady of the Angels and St. Lucy Parishes.

On Sunday, May 8, 1960 a First Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Father O'Brien at St. Lucy Church. From 1960 until 1991 Father O'Brien served at St. John Berchmans Parish, St. Catherine of Alexandria in Oak Lawn, St. Patricia in Hickory Hills, St. Lambert in Skokie and finally for a short time at St. Juliana before becoming pastor of St. Eugene Parish.

In the middle 1970's Father O'Brien was assigned to the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Upon completing his studies at Catho-

lic University and the reception of a degree in Canon Law, Father O'Brien became Secretary of the Tribunal as well as a Presiding Judge.

Upon completion of the full time Tribunal work in June, 1990, he was given a six month Sabbatical spending time at the Marianella Pastoral Center in Rathgar, Dublin. Thirty-one other priests from different parts of the world came together during this time, and with the help of the Redemptorist Fathers, all were renewed in their priesthood. Of course, weekends meant leaving Dublin and visiting friends throughout Ireland.

Following the Anniversary mass on Sunday, May 2, there will be a reception in the St. Eugene Father Shaunesy Center until about 6pm. All are welcome for the Mass and refreshments.

Father continues his priestly ministry by helping out with Masses where needed. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings he presides at Resurrection Retirement Community. Weekends

may find Father at Our Lady Mother of the Church, St. Cornelius, or St. Cyprian along with the O'Hare Interfaith Chapel. Father, who is a certified



airport chaplain helps out at the O'Hare airport Chapel during the week and weekends. At present, Father O'Brien is the Associate Chaplain at O'Hare, covering for Father Mike Zaniolo who is on Sabbatical until June 1.

## Musical Adventure Through Ireland

Galena's Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel and the Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group are rounding up all who are interested in experiencing the beauty, the wonder, and the music of Ireland this August. This custom escorted tour is about more than just seeing the sights. It is about becoming immersed in the culture and the people—the magic that is Ireland. Everyone is welcome to join.

Chicago's own Paddy Homan, 2010 Best Male Vocalist Live Ireland Award Winning Tenor and Balladeer, formerly of Cork City, will be accompanying the group as well as Basil Conroy, co-owner of the Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel of Galena. They will introduce guests to their native homeland with the warmest of Irish hospitality. Kathleen O'Connor, organizer of the Meetup group is also accompanying, doing what she does best: immediately making everyone feel like part of the family, and keeping the fun & song going.

The 7 Night/8 Day Musical Pub Tour of Ireland, August 6-14, 2010 will be visiting Galway, Killarney, Kinsale, and Dublin. The itinerary will include the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, Connemara, Blarney Castle and Woollen Mills, a ghost tour of Kinsale, and much more. A few delightful surprises are in the works!

Operated by CIE Tours, a leader

in Irish tourism, guests will enjoy travel by luxury motor coach, and the services of a friendly and informative Irish guide. Features include sightseeing and admissions, breakfast daily, and 5 dinners including 2 dinners replete with traditional Irish mu-



sic, dance, and entertainment—one at "Kate Kearney's Cottage" located on the picturesque Ring of Kerry, and the other at "The Merry Ploughboy Pub," in the Dublin Mountains.

What sets this customized tour apart from others is the focus on music, and a more leisurely pace. Tour members will have a much more intimate experience with the music, the culture, and the people.

Paddy will be entertaining throughout, sharing his love of Ireland and its music. There will be sing-alongs throughout the trip with him. Local musicians will join up of an evening as the group travels around Ireland to add to the fun. No doubt sharing a pint or two and a story with the musicians and the locals will certainly be a highlight of the trip for everyone.

A more leisurely pace is planned for this tour so everyone can enjoy each leg of the trip to its fullest: singing into the wee hours, sleeping in a little later, followed by leisurely breakfasts before heading out to see the sights. The tour will have a perfect mix of planned sightseeing as well as plenty of free time to shop, to discover tiny cafes and local pubs, and to enjoy the local flavor.

Discover "Irish" as well as Ireland. Spend time with the people, sing along, see the historic sites and breathtaking scenery. Immerse yourself into all that creates the charm of Ireland on this absolutely fabulous once-in-a-lifetime tour.

To learn more about this fabulous trip contact:

Jan Alderman, phone 847-274-6700, or jana@theircottage.com

Visit The Irish Cottage Travel Website at: [www.irishcottagetravel.com](http://www.irishcottagetravel.com)

Visit The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group Website at: [www.chicagoirishpubmusicmeetup.com](http://www.chicagoirishpubmusicmeetup.com)

Visit Paddy Homan's Website at: [www.paddyhoman.com](http://www.paddyhoman.com)

We are celebrating the "year of the priests." Pray for your parish priests, for the priest who baptized you, gave you your First Communion, heard your first

confession, witnessed your marriage. Remember the Bishop who conferred upon you the sacrament of Confirmation. God Bless us one and all.

## Benefit Screening of A Shine of Rainbows

The American Ireland Fund and the International Children's Media Center will hold a Premiere Benefit Screening with actor Aidan Quinn who will introduce his new movie A Shine of Rainbows, a story about the transformational power of love.

The event takes place at AMC River East 21, 322 East Illinois St. in Chicago on Thursday, April 15, 2010. A VIP Cocktail Reception with Aidan Quinn will be held at 5pm and the Benefit Premiere and Q&A with Aidan Quinn is at 6pm.

Set in a small village on magnificent Corrie Island, just off the coast of Ireland, this award-winning film tells



the heartwarming story of shy Tomas, who longs to be adopted by the beautiful Maire (Connie Nielsen) and her husband, Alec (Aidan Quinn).

For tickets and full information visit [www.irlfunds.org](http://www.irlfunds.org).

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**August 6 – August 14**



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- The Magic of Killarney and The Famous Ring of Kerry
- 'Ghossocoo' Tour of Kinsale
- Explore Kiarney Castle with its world renowned 'Stone of Eloquence' and the Kiarney Woollen Mills
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\$350.00 deposit per person secures your place on the tour.

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For more information, contact Jan: [jana@theircottage.com](mailto:jana@theircottage.com) or phone: 847-274-6700 [www.IrishCottageTravel.com](http://www.IrishCottageTravel.com)

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

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

# Celtic Kitchen -Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



and definitely change of mood and mind since spring has sprung.

Ireland's culinary life has always been centered on seasonal food, from the types of cheeses produced, to the types of fish caught, to being aware of the best times to draw of the bounty of nature. Since greenhouses in a rainy Ireland would not be productive with the clouds and the practice of hydroponics (plants grown in water) would be redundant, the Irish mainly follow the seasons. That's not to say they don't have technology and imports to facilitate red peppers in January, many prefer seasonal, locally grown produce. In doing so, they believe the flavor and quality is at its best.

In order to appreciate the bounty, the flavors must be delicately coerced. A simple addition of a few extra ingredients to help sharpen and enhance the essence of the fruit or vegetable will help reveal the fresh flavors of the spring. Vegetables such as asparagus, fennel, leeks, spring peas and baby radishes require only a quick dip in boiling water to give them the al dente bite, and then topped with a light dollop of butter and maybe a squeeze of lemon. Nature's perfection.

For dessert, strawberries are coming into season from the warmer states, and then will spread into the rest of the country as the season progresses. But the first perfect, bright red strawberry of the spring will brighten the day like the sun after a season of clouds.

Because the veggies in the spring need very little help, I have created a light dinner menu that can serve 4-6 people, is elegant enough for Easter dinner and easy enough for a weekday meal. I timed it, and total it took a little over an hour from start to finish. The components are easy to work with, easy to find and will be on your table in a flash. Enjoy it as a complete dinner, or as separate components to compliment your own Easter and spring traditions. Have a wonderful, blessed Easter and bon appetit!

## Fennel & Romaine Salad with Red Onion and Citrus Dressing

1 bulb fennel, cut to just where the branches begin. (Toss out the branches since they are very woody)

1/2 large red onion, 2 heads romaine, 2/3 C. olive oil, 1/4 C. lime juice, 2 t. parsley, 1/2 t. salt, 1/4 t. pepper

Round slices of orange for gar-

nish

Cut the fennel in very thin rounds, starting from the root end and working towards the stalk end. They will 'fall' into 'C' shapes and place 3/4 of fennel into large bowl, reserving 1/4 to the side (this will be used for pork). Slice onion into long pieces, from root to top. Place in side bowl of water, to remove strong flavor. Chop romaine and add to fennel. Make dressing from last 5 ingredients, save the orange.

Set a large bowl of water in sink. Cut leeks to just above the white. (Reserve and freeze greens if you make stock.) Slice down middle then cut into thin moons. Toss in water to remove grit and swirl. You may need to do it a couple times. Drain potatoes in colander and in cooking pot, melt remaining butter. Toss in leeks, along with 1 t. salt, 1/2 t. pepper. Sauté for a couple minutes until barely soft. Add potatoes and then hot milk

## The Delicate, Delicious New Spring

While each season has its characteristic fruits, vegetables and flavors, the spring's offerings are of the most delicate, yet flavorful in the vast selection of nature's produce. Summer has the bright tomato and pepper, fall offers apples and squash, and winter's choices are the cruciferous plants like broccoli and cauliflower and the year-round potato. The spring

crop is a whole other matter.

Some of the veggies planted weather the winter storms, having been planted before the snow falls. Others are from a very early planting, just as the snow and weather start to calm. Regardless of the planting time, the products from the spring crop are given a warm welcome, as they are heralding the change of seasons, change of diet

# Celtic Kitchen -Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



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Refrigerate. When ready to serve, drain onions and add to salad. Mix dressing and lightly dress salad and serve with orange slice.

\*Fennel is crunchy like celery but without the stringy fibers and has a slight anise flavor.

## Pork Tenderloin with Rosemary and Thyme

1 2-3 lb. pork tenderloin, cleaned of fat, 1 T. each of dried rosemary and thyme, 2 garlic cloves, crushed

1/3 C. olive oil, 1/2 t. salt, 1/4 t. pepper. Pieces from fennel, diced

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place roast on cooling rack, then on roasting pan. Combine the rest of ingredients and spread over roast. Cook 45-55 minutes, until internal temp is 155°F. Remove from oven, tent with tin foil for 15 minutes, and slice. Pork will be tender and slightly pink.

## Mashed Potatoes

### with Buttered Leeks

2-3 lbs. potatoes, C. milk, 1/2 stick butter, 1/2 brick cream cheese, 2 leeks

Bring large pot of salted water to a boil. Clean and cut potatoes (I leave the skins on.) Boil until fork tender. While they cook, put milk and 1/4 stick butter in small pan on stove. Bring to a simmer.

and mash. Add cream cheese and continue to mix. Adjust seasoning and serve.

## Spring Peas with Mint

1 lb. spring peas (fresh frozen baby spring is ok), 1 T. fresh mint, chopped, 2 T. butter, Salt and pepper

Cook the peas in lightly salted water until al dente. Drain. Melt butter in pan. Toss the peas in the butter and add the mint. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot.

## Easy Strawberries and Cream Napoleons

1 pint of strawberries, cleaned and quartered  
2 T. sugar, divided  
1 C. heavy whipping cream  
1 T. powdered sugar  
1 sheet puff pastry

Cut puff pastry into 2 inch squares. You should have two pieces for each dessert. Sprinkle tops with 1 T. sugar. Following box instructions, bake. Place cut strawberries in glass bowl and sprinkle with 1 T. sugar. Stir and refrigerate. Whip cream into soft peaks, adding the powdered sugar. Refrigerate. When ready to serve, place one pastry on plate, add small amount of cream, top with strawberries, a bit more cream and then finish with second pastry. Serve any remaining berries on the side.

## An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



I have known Barack Obama since 1986, when we were both community organizers. I am still organizing on the streets of Chicago, and what I see in the Latino community makes me fear that the president is oblivious to the pain wrought by our broken immigration system. It could have a profound effect on the 2010 and 2012 elections.

It didn't have to be this way. For a brief moment last year it appeared that Obama might realign the modern political map, cementing the Latino vote into the Democratic coalition by speaking plainly to the American people on the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

Instead, he squandered a political gift handed to him by the Republican Party's nativist wing—and its anti-immigrant rhetoric—during the 2008 campaign. Candidate Obama promised to make immigration reform a priority during his first year in office, and the Latino vote surged to 10 million, from 7.8 million in 2004, and swung eight percentage points toward the Democrats.

Latinos gave 59 percent of their vote to John Kerry in 2004 but gave Obama 67 percent in 2008. The im-

migrant Latino vote expanded from 52 percent for Kerry to 75 percent for Obama, enough to deliver Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Florida—and arguably North Carolina, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

migrant Latino vote expanded from 52 percent for Kerry to 75 percent for Obama, enough to deliver Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Florida—and arguably North Carolina, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

But since taking office Obama has pursued a policy of increased deportations. The president's tin ear for Latino passion on this issue was clear to us in Chicago during his short tenure as our U.S. senator.

After he went into politics, Obama and I worked collegially on issues as diverse as health care for working families to citizenship for new Americans. But we last talked in September 2006, after I publicly criticized his vote as our new U.S. senator in favor of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Obama was shocked at the visceral anger the fence vote caused among his closest Latino allies. At a meeting for damage control, Carmen Velásquez, founder of the Alivio Medical Center for the uninsured and the closest thing to the patron saint of the Mexican American poor, refused to shake his hand. Obama apologized for not understanding the intensity of their feelings—but clinically ex-

plained that the vote was necessary to restore public confidence in immigration enforcement.

Yet Obama did not prioritize the issue last year. To permanently affix the growing Latino vote to the Democratic coalition, he needed to call consistently for Congress to pass immigration reform. Instead, the issue got a brief mention near the end of his State of the Union speech, and Democrats are getting cold feet ahead of the midterm elections.

In its first year, the Obama administration was on track to deport some 400,000 immigrants—far more than during George W. Bush's last year in office. On the anniversary of Obama's inauguration, Hoy, the Spanish-language newspaper in Chicago, ran a full-page picture of the president on its cover under the headline "Promesa Por Cumplir" ("Unkept Promise"). The sense of betrayal among Latinos—especially immigrants—is palpable, just as it was after Obama's 2006 vote on the border fence.

As president, Obama has followed the cerebral strategy that increased enforcement will win support for immigration reform. But if there is no serious progress on the issue, many disillusioned Latinos will stay home in November. Others will decide that because Democrats can't deliver on immigration reform, they might as well vote Republican on the values issues. Depressed Latino turnout in Illinois may well cost the Democrats the Senate seat that Obama once held.

And if the Democrats are cowardly on immigration when they have large majorities in the House and Senate, how will they feel after taking some losses in November? What will Obama's 2012 campaign promise to Latinos be? "Trust me on immigration reform. This time I really mean it"? He might as well say adios to those electoral college votes.

Obama must lead the charge for immigration reform by telling Americans the truth: that tough, fair and compassionate immigration reform is necessary for America's economy and national security, and not just for Latino voters. He must also, somehow, convince Latinos that he really does feel their pain.

The writer, a community organizer in Chicago since 1977, is executive director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. His e-mail address is jhoyt@icirr.org.

### The Universal Language

I went to a rather unusual movie recently.

It was unusual because there was no sex or violence or anything we

good Catholics would even have to confess, except for the occasional swear word. The movie was called "Once" and it is little known, but critically acclaimed.

In essence, the story is about two complete strangers, one Irish and one Czech, who meet on a Dublin street and forge a bond because of their mutual love of and commitment to music.

Throughout the movie, an odd mix of characters come together, bond and blend their talents through the universal language of music. It was one of those movies that makes you feel strangely good about having seen it.

In thinking about the movie, I was taken by the extraordinary gift that is music. Even when language separates, music unites. The hero plays a beat-up old guitar and sings sad dirges of love lost. The heroine plays Mendelssohn on the piano with gifted fingers. They recognize the beauty in each other's song and they blend their talents to make the song even richer.

And somewhere along the way, it made me think that religion is supposed to do the same thing.

The moral core that is our essence is also the essence of most religions throughout the world. Our understanding of a just and loving God transcends the depth of our human understanding and calls us to unite in our love for one another. That call is not the singular call of Christianity. Virtually every religion in the world is based on that single premise—that our earthly world is made more perfect through our love and caring and commitment to each other.

Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims all believe in the inherent goodness of man and search for a way to a more perfect life of peace and harmony. They all strain for peace and for the fellowship of

human kind.

So why can't religion act as a unifier instead of a divider in our world? If music can provide musicians with a universal language of beauty and harmony, why can't our belief in peace, our commitment to lead ethical and moral lives and our dedication to the love of humanity serve the same function? Why does religion, instead, serve to divide the people of our country and of the world?

Why do people kill in the name of their God?

Beliefs may, and do, vary. Buddhists seek nirvana. Hindus seek the ways of action and of wisdom. Christians are commanded to love one another. Our Jewish brothers and sisters embrace not just a religion, but a way of life to guide them on a moral path. Muslims are also seeking eternal reward through peace and ethical life.

But repeatedly throughout history, these major religions of the world have been used as tools to turn people against one another. Jews and Arabs kill each other over a patch of desert. Muslims kill Muslims in Iraq because of slight differences in religious belief. Christians and Catholics have killed each other for centuries in Northern Ireland. Hindus and Sikhs kill each other on the Indian sub-continent. This prostitution of religious belief to feed war and death and destruction is a sad and heinous perversion of what we are called to be.

Strange, isn't it, that we never see blues musicians at war with classical musicians? Rock and roll artists never fight with jazz players. Music is a universe unto itself. Music is what religion is supposed to be. Steve Banko

Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me at 312 534 8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.

fensive battle between the Knights and the Trojans in Carrickfergus, but it was decided by the reliable combination of Adam Devenny passing to receiver Paul McKillop who chalked up two scores and kicked the points after to win by 14-8.

Surprise of the day came at the Trinity/DCU game where the new boys from Trinity beat DCU Saints by 28-15. The Saints had made the play-offs last year and looked set to continue build on their success, but the Trinity team, who moved up from the development league to compete in their first full season, have worked hard to create a competitive team.

Irish Champions, the UL Vikings took on another new arrival to the IAFL in the form of University College Dublin (UCD). The Vikings were comfortable 56-0 winners, but Dublin boys were not dismayed. Head Coach John Collins said "This was not the result that we had hoped for but we realise that the IAFL is a very competitive league and the Vikings are determined to be champions again."

The Vikings will represent Ireland in the Atlantic Cup in June. This is

a European Federation of American Football (EFAF) sanctioned competition that will feature the national champions of Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and Netherlands. The inaugural competition was held in Brussels in 2009, and will be held at Belfield, Dublin over the weekend of the 26-27th June, 2010.

### Loughran Voted Director of Flag Football for EFAF

The EFAF general assembly met on March 13, 2010 in Frankfurt's Römer last month.

Among the board members the general assembly voted in for the next four years, is Director of Flag Football, Greg Loughran from Ireland. He is the first Irishman to hold a position on the Board.

The general assembly also approved the full membership applications of Turkey and Belarus and elevated Luxembourg from its association member status to a full member. EFAF now has 23 full members, one associate member and six nations as temporary members.

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**A Chairde:**

Chicago Gaelic Park is an organization that has been conceived, built, operated and maintained through the unselfish efforts of volunteers. There is no way a not-for-profit organization such as Gaelic Park can meet their mission and goals without the contribution of volunteers.

Our volunteers come in all shapes and sizes with each one bringing different talents and abilities. Working together, they bring the dream of Gaelic Park into reality.

Gaelic Park was constructed with significant contributions by hundreds of trades people. Whether highly skilled technicians or "weekend warrior" laborers, their hard work built Gaelic Park.

One group of volunteers donates their time and efforts at Gaelic Park many days a week. These volunteers work many hours on the maintenance and repairs to our facilities. Generally, their efforts are taken for granted. We simply get used to the fine, clean condition of our facilities and do not give a lot of thought to the amount of time and energy that goes into its upkeep. Occasionally, their efforts are recognized by such organizations as the City of Oak Forest, who has recognized Gaelic Park with numerous beautification awards.

Other people volunteer to the operation of Gaelic Park in more limited, but equally important fashion. Events such as our Irish Festival on Memorial Day weekend, Ireland on Parade, Heritage and Harvest Day, and the sale of raffle tickets are accomplished through the efforts of donated time.

Finally, Gaelic Park is governed by a volunteer board of directors. These are not honorary positions, but service positions. The directors participate in all of the foregoing efforts as well as spending thousand of hours "on duty" at the festival, GAA games and Ireland on Parade. They also attend monthly meetings and support all of the events.

Having a board of 30 directors surprises many people. They cannot imagine a group

so large working together. The fact of the matter is, while we have had lively and heated discussions, we have always drawn together at the end of any debate. The secret is very simple; the board members respect each other because they know that each and every one has Gaelic Park's best interest at heart.

Sincerely, John C. Griffin, President



**What County Are You From?**

Genealogical maps of Ireland can be viewed in many Irish and Irish-American establishments around Chicagoland; Gaelic Park has one outside the Celtic Room. If your surname is O'Malley you would discover that the O'Malley name is very common in County Mayo and if your surname is McLaughlin chances are your family originally came from County Donegal.

For hundreds of years Irish families were born, lived and died in a small geographic area and this fact had profound influences economically and culturally. The experts tell us that this phenomenon has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. I have read that on average, Americans move every 7 years. The first question an Irish person will ask you is what county you are from, figuring that the answer to that question will bestow upon the questioner an inside knowledge of your character. The next question will be what part of that county are you from, gaining even more invaluable insight. There are numerous active County Associations in Chicago: Keny,

Clare, Galway, Mayo and many more where members share their common background and participate in various activities together. I have attended and enjoyed many Donegal Association events over the years, a right bestowed upon me through marriage.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) oversees our national games of hurling, football, camogie and handball, which are all played by amateurs at the club and county level. The passion and zeal of the participants are a hallmark of our national games and this passion is derived from the fact that the players are born in and represent a small geographic region whose families are intertwined in every way. In Chicago terms, think of the Sox vs. Cubs, with all the players born on the North or South side of the city. Every county in Ireland has its own colors which are very visible on St. Patrick's Day and at telecasts of GAA games on Sundays in the summer.

Last year at Gaelic Park, Tadgh O'Reilly, our popular bar manager started a competition for County Benches and so far 10 County Benches have been completed with more under construction. The County Benches are beautiful examples of workmanship, imagination and pride and are very popular for photo opportunities and as conversation pieces. There are illustrations on many of the benches of the landmarks which are unique to each county. For example, Giant's Causeway in Antrim or Bunnally Castle in Limerick and the benches are identified by the finished colors. Many benches display the county crest which relates to a unique historical or geographical characteristic of that county.

The benches will be on display at Gaelic Park over the summer months and will be used as meeting points during Irish Fest on Memorial weekend. At the time of writing, Gaelic Park has benches from Cork, Limerick, Kerry, Tipperary, Mayo, Galway, Kilkenny, Westford, Dublin and Antrim. There are many reasons to visit Gaelic Park, the County Benches offer one very unique reason. While people of Irish descent are rightly proud of the county of their birth, Gaelic Park's success is founded upon recognizing what we have in common, our Games, Music, Dance, Drama and our commitment to family. I look forward to meeting you at the Dublin bench on Memorial weekend.

Sincerely, John Devitt, Director

**Gaelic Handball Club**

At last the sun is shining and that means only one thing! Outdoor handball!

Gaelic handball club had another exciting month. The state singles and doubles were held at the YMCA in Desplains. Sean Connelly and Bernie O'Sullivan won the doubles in the masters division. The juniors train every weekend at Silver Lakes Golf and Racquet club in Orland Park.

The club holds its annual handball tournament at the end of April.

If you want to take part get your gloves on

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and start practicing. If you would like to learn the game or bring your children to participate please call either James Cooke 708-257-7047 or Colm Connolly 630-935-3722.

**Queen Contest**

The 2010 Chicago Gaelic Park Queen contest was held on Sunday, February 28th at the Celtic Supper. The judges had a difficult time selecting the winner from this exceptional group of young women.



The 2010 Queen is Killeen McCloskey (above) from Frankfort, Illinois. Killeen is a student attending Maraine Valley CC. She is involved in theatre, dance and singing (she absolutely loves to sing). Killeen is studying to become an elementary school teacher.

Megan Maloney is the first runner up in the Queen's Court. She is from Homer Glen, IL and is a student at Providence Catholic High School. Megan has traveled in Europe and was a volunteer at the Salvador Dali Museum in Spain. She had the unique opportunity to have an audience with the Pope in Rome. Megan has a passion for running and plays Irish football for the Erin Rovers and St. Jarlath's. She is a member of the Augustinian

Youth Ministry and has participated in Habitat for Humanity.

We congratulate these two fine young women as they represent Gaelic park at the many festivities and events in the year ahead.

**Gaelic Athletic Assn. (GAA)**

**St. Jarlath's Youth**

The St. Jarlath's Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling clubs 2010 season is upon us and registration has begun! We welcome boys and girls from ages 5-18 to come out and be a part of an Irish tradition. All skill levels are encouraged to play. Our annual GAA Football and Hurling Camp will be held June 14-18 at Chicago Gaelic Park. The camps are taught by certified coaches, and are structured so that a different aspect of the game is worked on each day. It will be an action packed and fun filled week of activity! Other upcoming events will be our annual Pub Quiz on Saturday, April 3rd at 7:30 at Chicago Gaelic Park, also save the date for our 1st annual golf outing which will be held on Saturday, May 8th at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. For more information visit our website, [www.chicagostjarlaths.com](http://www.chicagostjarlaths.com).

**Conal Gallen Concert**

Performing at Gaelic Park on Friday, April 16. Doors open at 7pm, with the show beginning at 8pm. Tickets are \$25

Donegal born Gallen is the fastest selling comedian with all of his concerts selling out in advance. He has been performing all over the world for over 25 years. Gallen was voted Best Irish Comedian and Best Irish Comedian in the UK at the Irish World Awards, has 25 albums recorded and released. Conal Gallen will have you in stitches from start to finish and, as one critic says "With Conal Gallen you get exactly what its says... Doubled-over belly laughter till the tears run down your face."



**Sunday Celtic Supper**

Celtic Supper is hosted almost every Sunday, November 1 through Mother's Day. It is a delicious, hot food buffet, all you can eat, served from 4pm to 7pm. A cash bar is also available. Music and dancing continues until 9pm. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$9 for children 12 and under. Reservations requested, especially for large parties. Upcoming entertainment:  
4/4: Joe Cullen (special Easter rate of \$21 for adults; 11 for children)  
4/11: Sean O'Donnell  
4/18: John Dillon  
4/25: Gerard Haughey

**Gaelic Park Players**

**Spring Play Starts in April**

**The Patrick Pearse Motel**

Scheduled show dates are:  
Fridays Apr. 9, 16 & 23 - 8pm  
Saturdays Apr. 10, 17 & 24 - 8pm  
Sundays Apr. 11, 18 & 25 - 3pm

This is a dinner/theatre matinee at a special price. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the office at 708-687-9323.

« Brendan Byrne, the mayor of Donegal, joins the Cream family on March 14 after Sunday Mass. The monthly Mass and Breakfast is held the second Sunday of the month starting 10am.

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# The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Irish music coming from there as it favors the country and rock-a-billy crowd.

And like most businesses this night in quaint Richmond, it was shut up against the worst of Wisconsin weather just south of the border on U.S. 12.

They say you get warm just before you freeze to death. I don't remember anything about Irish set pieces or a lilting fiddle.

The music grew in volume and warmth as I slipped and scuffed across the street astride the frozen Nippersink River. A glow from a two-story home and shop was a welcome beacon as I headed for the door under the swinging white sheep silhouette sign of the Wool, Warp & Wheel Fiber Arts Studio.

I barely had time to hurriedly shut the door before a small mass of fur and pointed ears leapt up at my feet with a resounding WOOF-WOOF! The dog at my feet having made her presence known, pointed her ears and stared at me sideways as her master called me to the back of the warm and bright yarn shop. "Come on back, sit by the fire, tell me of your journey here," welcomed owner Rob Cetner. "I see Molly has approved you. Coffee, cider, perhaps some tea? We have several flavors here and the water's hot."

Somewhere between running the gauntlet of exotic multicolored yarns and wooden spinning contraptions, I followed trotting Molly to a puffing iron hearth fireplace, a cozy stove and a cozier set of chairs where bespectacled and be-vested Rob offered the most welcome time warp welcome since Badger let Toad take domestic shelter in the spooky wintry forest of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. "Ci-ci-cider please!" I stammered out as Molly took her place between Rob and me beneath antique wooden beams, and my own certainty that I had somehow fallen halfway between an Alice-like wonderland and a episode of *The Twilight Zone*.

insert MOLLY HEARTH here  
The dog had to hold the key as to whether I was in the best of company or the strangest of circumstances. "You said Molly approved me?!" I asked as Rob poured a warming beverage from a quaint tea pot and the border collie began playfully bouncing a ball off my frozen toes to play fetch with.

"Oh yes, we have a simple rule here... you don't get in here unless Molly approves of you." Warming to the idea that I not only had a genuine column in the making but also a genuine bit of Irish Americana, I snapped a shot of Molly at my feet and before the hearth.

Insert MOLLY here  
"In seven years she's only failed

out Irish history the working people made their own clothes that have become classics like Irish fisherman sweaters that are so popular today. This is a place where you can learn how they are truly made and do it yourself as they did. We want to teach these forgotten traditions so they continue."

It's clear that old traditions spin a new way of doing business. "We always call people to the back of the shop... and then let them shop their way out," says Cetner with a slight smile and a dose of German pragmatism. "Our is an extension of our living room, and we like to have company all the time."

As I tossed the ball back and forth to Molly and savored my cider, Rob gave me a further history lesson and a sidelight on Irish apparel authenticity. "People going over to Ireland hoping to get authentic woolen wear will be hard pressed to find it. Very few mills are left and fewer who recall the knitting styles."

Molly's instincts for herding sheep would have no use in Ireland today, Rob notes.

Searching for sheep fibers are as easy here as also finding yak, alpaca, New Zealand possum and American Bison.

As Rob talks and weaves there is a common thread of friendship and faith. On their website the Cetners speak of a prayerful vision of finding their own homey commercial space with stone walls and a fireplace. The yellow house on Mill Street fits both the bill and a Scripture they claim. "We claimed God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11-12. We are where He wants us to be and He's listening when we bring our requests and concerns before Him."

If the answer is truly Jeremiah's "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you,'" then God heard my prayer that cold night as He looked down through the snow storm, and through an ice glazed window pane, on two men and a playful dog safe, warm, and prosperous before the richness of new conversation, and an old cast iron stove.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com.



## A Yarn About Molly the Collie

It was a particularly bitter January night a few weeks back when I pulled into the Richmond, Illinois post office desperate to find a check in my postal box. The good news is the check was there after a six month wait, the bad news is my vehicle's fuel pump fumed its last in the sub-zero windchill and my walk home from the stalled vehicle was colder than my frosty economic situation.

The dwindling numbers in my bank account soon gave rise to concerns about the freezing cold of a sleeting snow storm. As I pressed on through the drifts down Mill Street I could barely see, but somehow above the frozen roar of Winter I heard the bright lilting sound of Irish music.

It seemed like a mirage, despite being on the same street as Doyle's Irish Pub. But I'd never heard any



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## Piping It In

Jack Baker



No sooner had I submitted my column last month, info showed up about a second big Pipe Band Blow-out. The first big pipe Band dance this month is in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center on Saturday, 10 April, and features the Chicago Celtic Pipe Band and the City of Chicago Pipe Band, two bands you'll definitely want to see and hear.

The second Pipe Band dance this month will be at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, IN (less than an hour's drive from our store in Villa Park). This dance is sponsored by the Pipes and Drums of the Lake County Sheriff's Department. There are also no fewer than five other bands playing there too. Culver Military Academy Pipe Band, Fort Wayne Police Band, Heather & Thistle Pipe Band, Band of Brothers Pipe Band and Northwest Indiana Pipe Band will all be performing, as well as the Mayer School of Irish Dance. This will be my third year vending at this dance and we always have a great time there. Admission is \$10 at the door and food & drink will be provided. Getting there is a snap, take I-65 South to the Crown Point exit, head into town to the courthouse square and go South from the square to the fairgrounds. Plenty of parking, food, fun and bagpipes. Starts at 5pm and goes till 10pm. Yeah, it's a haul, but it's worth the trip. We always go early and have lunch in one of the restaurants in Crown Point, then hit the antique shops before we set up.

### Lots of New Releases

Got a box in the mail this week from our friends in Kila, always a good thing because there's always new and amazing recording from this most innovative Irish Band. This box was no exception because it contained three new releases. First was Kila's newest CD, titled Soisín. This CD is described by the band as a collection of "slower, more reflective melodies" and that says it all. It's lovely, soothing, and beautiful, with all of Kila's expert musicianship. I put this on in the shop today and just let it play. Music to untie knots by.

The second new CD from Kila is

a two CD set titled The Best of Kila and it certainly is that. It contains tracks from 11 of their recordings plus one original track. A couple of the tracks are from some of their out of print CDs. I have to say though, that if you've ever wanted a good overview of Kila's work, here it is, 25 cuts that will give you a good idea of the genius that is Kila.

The third new CD that popped out of the Kila package is one I've re-



ally been looking forward to hearing. Eoin Dillon, uilleann piper with Kila, has released his second CD titled The Golden Mean. Ably assisted by Steve Larkin on fiddle & viola, Desmond Calahan on guitar, and Frank Tate on bouzouki & mandolin, Eoin sparkles on pipes and whistles. This totally instrumental recording contains some of the finest uilleann piping I've ever heard, traditional yet contemporary and innovative. It will appeal to a broad spectrum of Irish music fans.

Another new treat that came in the mail recently was the CD Ennis by Maureen and Karen Ennis. Another delicious duo from Canada, they were formerly known as "The Ennis Sisters" until their sister Teresa left to pursue a solo career. The two sisters are polished performers whose lovely voices blend together in that way that is only accomplished by folks singing together all their lives. They both sing beautifully, and Maureen plays a mean guitar, while Karen accompanies on whistle. I'm not always a big fan of original songs but I make an exception for Ennis. Their songs are bright and clever and fun and I'm already singing along to some when I play the CD. These two ladies have created a must-have recording here,

and I can't wait to see them live.

Last, but certainly not least new release is another new gem from Compass Records. Seems like every column I'm raving about great new CDs from this label and frankly, I am. This one is from that highly talented young group Téada, and is called Ceol & Cuimhne or Music & Memory, I like that they put the title in Irish and English. The album is all instrumental and traditional, full of fire and joy. I was particularly taken with the 7th track where the band is joined by the marvelous harper Gráinne Hambly. These guys have put out four CDs so far and each one has been a gem. This is certainly music to remember.

### Festival News

The Springfield Illinois Highland Games have been moved from the state fair grounds to Chatham, IL and they will take place on Saturday, 15 May. More info to come, I hope.

The Oshkosh Wisconsin Irish Fest will be held this year on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, the 11th, 12th & 13th of June. This one should not be missed. Already the lineup of talent is striking, Gaelic Storm will be back, and the show will be bigger and better. We had more fun up there last year, and we're expecting the same this year. Drive time is less than two hours from my house, certainly worth the trip.

Rumor has it that there is a new Irish Fest planned for Villa Park, IL to take place in August. Naturally I'm excited about this, since I can walk to the festival site. Plans are being made as I type, so I don't have too much concrete to report but save these second weekend for a short drive (or walk) to Villa Park. The planning committee is working hard on this one, but more, much more, to follow.

Finally, I want to thank Tim McDonnell, Kathy O'Neill, Kathy Kelly, and all the rest of the crew at the Irish American Heritage Center for all their hard work and success at creating the finest Saint Patrick's Day celebration I've ever seen and participated in. It was wonderful, and you all did a great job. Makes me proud to be a member of that fine organization. Slainté.

You can find me at the shop, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S, Villa Ave. in Villa Park, or call at 630-834-8108 or email at pipingitin@comcast.net I thank God for the great people I come in contact with because of this paper.

## Wisconsin News

### Concerts at Milwaukee's ICHC

Myserk, an exciting new Milwaukee musical quartet, will perform in the Parlour of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Friday, April 9, at 7:30pm. Comprised of four innovative

melds the influences of those Irish, Scottish, French, German and Polish settlers with bluegrass, folk and jazz for a unique style that has led to her emergence as a top female artist in the roots music genre.



Myserk

instrumentalists steeped in traditional music, Myserk includes Asher Gray, Randy Gosa, and Devin McCabe who are well-known to area audiences as the band "Ce" along with veteran flute player Brett Lipshutz.

The quartet draws from diverse musical cultures to create highly textured arrangements of traditional and modern tunes on flutes, fiddle, concertina, and guitar. Myserk balances an interest in the unconventional with a deep respect for the time-honored forms on which their music is based. Admission to the concert is \$10. For more information, call (414) 332-8521.

### April Verch Band at ICHC on April 17

Canadian fiddler, step dancer and singer April Verch will remember her father's advice, "Never forget where you came from," when she and her band perform in the Hallamör at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center on Saturday, April 17, at 7:30pm.

Verch will also teach two all-ages workshops at the ICHC prior to the concert. A fiddle workshop is scheduled from 2-3:30pm and a dance workshop from 3:30-5pm. She teaches at the well-known Mark O'Connor String Camp in New York.

In concert, Verch evokes the spirit and foot-stomping energy of the settlers of the old lumber camp halls in Ontario's Ottawa Valley where she was born. She

Millions of people around the world were able to experience that spirit when Verch performed during the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Feb. 12.

Free, pre-concert music will be provided by Milwaukee acoustic duo Frogwater in the ICHC's Quinlan Pub from 6:30-7:15pm.

Reserved seat tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. For information and to register for workshops, call (262) 370-3686.

### Chris Norman Ensemble on April 23

The Chris Norman Ensemble will bring to life the energetic dance music of Maritime Canada, Scotland and Ireland when they perform in the Parlour of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center on Friday, April 23, at 7:30pm.

Norman, recognized as one of the finest flute players in the world, plays the wooden flute rather than the orchestral silver flute. A similar playable flute was found in a 9,000-year-old archaeological dig and is considered the world's oldest surviving musical instrument.

Tickets for the April 23 concert are \$12 at the door. For more information, call (414) 332-8521.

For information on Parlour concerts as well as the Hallamör music series and other events at the ICHC, visit [www.ichc.net](http://www.ichc.net) or call (414) 345-8800.



## Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner

THE HEALY LAW FIRM

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

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

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

### The Facts Behind Medical Malpractice "Reform"

Last month, we discussed the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois invalidating caps on non-economic damage awards in medical malpractice cases. The Court's decision, the third time it has found damage caps unconstitutional, noted that a jury must decide the amount of damages on a case-by-case basis, and that the trial judge who hears the case must decide

## Colm Toibin's Book, Brooklyn is Spring 2010 One Book, One Chicago Selection

The Chicago Public Library has chosen Colm Tóibín's award-winning novel, *Brooklyn*, as the 18th selection for Chicago's city-wide book club One Book, One Chicago.

Colm Tóibín's beautifully written and compelling novel, *Brooklyn*, is set within the backdrop of both a small Irish village and a bustling 1950s Brooklyn. Readers will fall in love with Tóibín's writing as well as his rich characters. They will be drawn into the story of a young Irish woman finding her way in a strange new land.

One Book, One Chicago began in the fall of 2001, to encourage all Chicagoans to read the same book at the same time, and discuss a great piece of literature with friends and neighbors.

As a special feature, author Colm Tóibín joins Commissioner Mary Dempsey on April 21, in conversation about his life and work, including his thoughts about writing *Brooklyn*. In addition, Chicago Public Library librarians have created a resource guide and will conduct book discussions across the city at neighborhood libraries.

In keeping with these technological times, this spring One Book, One Chicago offers an online discussion forum, where readers from both Chicago and Ireland will come together for a virtual book club. Presented with the Cúirt International Festival of Literature at the Galway Arts

Center in Ireland, the online forum can be found at [onebookonechicago.com](http://onebookonechicago.com).



tumblr.com. Through April 30, a different discussion topic will be introduced each week by a "guest blogger." Contributors will include Chicago writer Patrick Somerville (The Cradle), actor Michael Patrick Thornton and Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey.

*Brooklyn: On Stage and In Song* will be presented at the Irish American Heritage Center on April 11.

For complete information about One Book, One Chicago and related events, visit [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org) or call (312) 747-4050.

on a case-by-case basis if a verdict is excessive.

Some have criticized the Court's decision using the same arguments that were used to induce the legislature to pass damage caps in 2005. In this article, we will discuss these arguments and look at the statistics behind the arguments. Many of the statistics discussed below were cited by a group of about 25 law and social sciences professors from colleges across the country who filed a "friend of the court" brief in the Supreme Court opposing the caps.

### Doctors Are Not Leaving Illinois

One of the principal arguments in support of capping medical malpractice cases is that there is a "doctor flight" or "doctor exodus" from Illinois. Statistical data actually shows that Illinois has been gaining doctors and has never seen a decrease in licensed doctors in the over 40 years since the American Medical Association began keeping such data. Even after the Supreme Court struck down caps in 1976 and 1995 there was no "doctor flight" from Illinois. Instead, the number of doctors increased.

Significantly, Illinois has a higher rate of physicians per 100,000 residents than nine of its neighboring states, each of which cap malpractice awards.

### Neither the Number of Medical Malpractice Cases Nor the Amount of Medical Malpractice Verdicts are Rising

Advocates of the cap also argue that the number of medical malpractice suits filed and the amount paid to resolve malpractice cases have been on the rise. Contrary to these assertions, available data shows that in 2003, two years before caps were imposed, the average jury award in medical malpractice cases tried in Cook County dropped to a three-year low. From 1999 to 2003, the number of Cook County claims paid by ISMIE, the state's largest malpractice insurer, dropped from 220 to 160.

In Illinois' southern Madison County, touted by cap advocates as a "judicial hellhole," there were only 11 medical malpractice verdicts from 1996 to 2003. Only 4 verdicts were in favor of the plaintiff and only 1 of those verdicts exceeded \$1,000,000, awarding \$1.8 million.

After the caps were imposed, ISMIE was called upon to support its claim that the number of malpractice claims was on the rise. The reason for the alleged increase in claims turned out to be caused by the way the insurance companies chose to report claims: prior to 2003, if one lawsuit was filed against an insured doctor and an insured clinic it was reported as one claim. After 2003, the same scenario was reported as two claims. Why did insurance companies change their reporting methods? Apparently they wanted to give the impression that lawsuits were increasing.

ISMIE also increased its claims reporting by including other "incidents" such as when a doctor's medical records are subpoenaed, a doctor is subpoenaed to give a deposition, and when a doctor self-reports a medical error even though no lawsuit is ever filed. In 2006, the Illinois Director of Insurance ordered ISMIE to cease categorizing such contacts as claims.

At a November, 2005 hearing, ISMIE executives also admitted to the Director of Insurance that they had no actual data to support their claims that the amount of claim payments was increasing. Instead, the data demonstrates that the average claim payment peaked in 2003 and has leveled off ever since. In fact, the average claim payment, when it increases at all, increases below the rate of medical inflation. In 2004, the year before caps were imposed, claims payment was lower than both 2003 and 2002.

### Medical Malpractice Claims Do Not Greatly Increase the Cost of Healthcare

Many are concerned that medical malpractice claims, and the cost of "defensive medicine" to avoid such claims, can cause an increase in the cost of healthcare overall. However, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found in 2004 and again in 2008 that reducing medical malpractice insurance premiums would have little, if any, effect on healthcare spending. In 2008, the CBO characterized the effect as less than half a percent.

Turning to the concern over "defensive medicine," the CBO found that any evidence that "defensive medicine" increases the cost of healthcare is "weak or inconclusive" and "at best ambiguous."

The CBO's findings were further confirmed by the fact that malpractice insurance rates for physicians in states with malpractice caps were virtually the same as for physicians in states without caps.

### Medical Malpractice Cases are Already Subject to Significant Legislative Protection

Often absent from the debate surrounding medical malpractice caps is that in Illinois, medical malpractice cases are already subject to significant

legislative restrictions. For instance, fees charged by a plaintiff's attorney are restricted to certain maximums unless a court allows for more. Fees charged by defense attorneys representing a doctor or hospital are not limited by statute or by courts.

Punitive damages, damages which are awarded when an individual's or corporation's conduct is more than just negligent, but is willful and wanton, are not allowed in any medical malpractice claim under any circumstances. Finally, in order to even file a medical malpractice lawsuit, an injured plaintiff must attach a report by a physician who has reviewed the allegations and found that they have merit. All of these provisions have existed in Illinois for some time, and have been found constitutional.

### Georgia Acts On Its Damage Cap

It is interesting to note that while writing this article the Supreme Court of Georgia considered that state's cap on non-economic damages. That Court, like the Illinois Supreme Court, found that the determination of damages rests "peculiarly within the province of the jury. The right to a jury trial includes the right to have a jury determine the amount of damages to be awarded to Plaintiff." Georgia, like Illinois, found the caps unconstitutional.

### Conclusion

When the arguments advanced by damage cap advocates are analyzed with the actual statistical data, it is clear that the data does not support the arguments. Medical malpractice cases already have unique restrictions and limitations unlike any other personal injury lawsuit. Finally, medical malpractice damage caps, even if found constitutional, would not result in any significant lowering of the cost of medicine. In a future article, we will address insurance industry reforms that can help to reduce medical malpractice premiums for doctors.

By Martin Healy, Jr. and  
Dennis M. Lynch (below).



**We Get Letters**

I really don't know where to start! I want to thank so many people for the wonderful party held in my honour at Chicago's Gaelic Park last month.

I don't know why I was chosen to receive such an honour, but it was very exciting!

As I walked into Gaelic Park the first people I saw were some members of the Emerald Society Pipe and Drums. That, in itself was a lovely surprise. Thank you guys and gals for coming all the way from the North Side to make a special evening for me.

The next person I saw was Vincent Casey and his two sons. Vincent had his bagpipes with him. All this before I took my coat off!

As I walked into the ballroom I was greeted by our Irish Consul General, Martin Ruaine, and our Vice Consul, Tim O'Reilly. They presented me with a letter from The Teasoiach of Ireland, Brian Cowen - a very nice surprise.

Tom Meehan found out I was being honored and told Cliff Carlson of Irish American News that he had a handwritten poem that Cormac O'Connell had written after he met me several years ago. Cormac writes for the Irish Times, and has written several books. Cliff framed the original poem written on a scrap of paper. I want to thank Tom, Cliff, and Cormac for that.

I want to thank Bill and Steve from Fox News Channel 32 who spent the evening capturing the event on video.

So many to thank. I hope I don't forget any. I really want to thank Fr. Michael Leonard, Cyril Regan, and the entire Irish Immigrant Support Group who put on this event, and for inviting Cook County Board President, Todd Stroger, who graciously attended and honoured me as well for things that I had done over the years to help the Irish in Chicago.

Master of Ceremonies was the one and only, Sean Ginneally, producer of Good Morning Ireland radio show which is on Saturdays from 1:05 pm to 3 pm. Thank you Sean and Bernie, his partner on the show.

A lovely movie was shown to my surprise, and it brought some of the great memories back of the things we have accomplished over the years. I understand Jason Coleman put that video together. Great job!

The evening went so fast with all the excitement and Midnight came too soon! But, before I finish I want to thank Gaelic Park for the lovely food, and for putting my name on the evening menu. I want to say a special thank you to Mary Johnson Gorski for being such a good friend for many years, and to her husband John for picking me up and taking me to Gaelic

Park for the party.

Another big thank you to Danny and Cathy Burke for taking me safely home after spending a delightful evening with many friends, old and new, and an evening I will always remember.

Let's not forget Gerry Haughey and his band for some delightful music.

To all of you who came, and to all of you who wanted to but couldn't, I thank you very much!

Forgive me if I have left anyone out, but I fear age has crept up on me!

Thank you all!

Maureen O'Looney

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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



com/petition/israrms/.

Every single empire in its official discourse has said that it is not like all the others, that its circumstances are special, that it has a mission to enlighten, civilize, bring order and democracy, and that it uses force only as a last resort. And, sadder still, there always is a chorus of willing intellectuals to say calming words about benign or altruistic empires: —Edward W. Said

IS IRELAND ANTI-U.S.? In recent years Irish-Americans visiting Ireland come back commenting that the Irish, once America's greatest admirers, are changing. Some vacationers write angry letters attributing near-treason to Ireland's lessening belief in the U.S. From, say, 1850 until the Celtic Tiger era many in Ireland were partly supported by remittances from their family members in the U.S.; an astounding generosity on the part of the emigrants to whom the recipients were not alone grateful but also grateful to the nation that permitted immigrants to prosper.

THE 1798 RISING and subsequent ones were encouraged by the U.S. overthrow of British rule.[i] Our Founding Father's writings always inspired Ireland; our Declaration of Independence is echoed in Ireland's Proclamation of Easter 1916. The U.S. continued to inspire by expanding its Bill of Rights to much of the world via the Geneva Conventions, the Nurnberg Tribunal standards, the U.N., the International Court in The Hague, etc.

SO, WHY do so many in Ireland criticize the U.S.? Have Ireland's people changed—or have Americans? Have you changed? Your family; friends? A majority of Americans now favor what started under Bush—torture. Americans were once among the most anti-torture people on earth. We used to prosecute and execute water-boarders and other torturers. It is expressly prohibited in the Geneva Conventions. President Reagan rightfully stated; "Nothing, absolutely nothing, can excuse torture." Ireland's people admired the U.S. that opposed torture; so how can we expect them to admire a U.S. that tortures? Where do you stand on torture? For, or Against? One cannot support both policies; it's one or the other, and Ireland loved the non-torturing U.S. To the extent that we still have a "government of, by, and for, the people" what were you doing while we became a torture nation? Do you support the U.S. Constitution as citizenship requires of us or do you consent to torture by your silence?

ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE in Palestine, an on-going international scandal, is funded by U.S. taxpayers, a fact known to the world. I happen to know the extent to which Ireland's people oppose that genocide, and I admire them for it. Do you oppose it? Israel managed to make accomplices of our gov't only because of Americans' consent through silence. We are all patriots. Are you a patriot of the earlier, non-genocidal U.S. or the current one? They are mutually exclusive, so we all must choose to be patriots of one or the other. The chasm between lawfulness and genocide (the Supreme Crime) cannot be straddled. Ireland's people oppose that genocide and our funding of it; thus they evidently favor what once were U.S. values. Does that make them anti-U.S.?

OUR IRAQ WAR was a crime from Day One. That is why some 15,000 Chicagoans marched in protest along Lake Shore Drive on Shock and Awe night. We knew there were no WMD, as did the whole world excepting a minority of Americans. The slaughter of 1.4 million Iraqis to date horrifies the world; so why would visitors to Ireland construe opposition to U.S.'s crimes as Anti-American? And you: do you support the traditional U.S. and its values, or the current U.S. and its murder toll of innocent Palestinians, Iraqis, Afghans, Pakistanis, and others?

THE MINIMUM that any American can do and still avoid criminal complicity is to barrage one's political representatives with visits, phone calls, letters, and eMails, telling them to cease violating our Constitution, cease their wars of aggression, cease torturing, cease bankrolling Israel's crimes in Palestine, cease bankrupting our nation and its taxpayers, and to cease accepting bribes, especially from AIPAC and other criminal organizations. Contact Obama (202/456-1111), your two US senators, and your U.S. House representative. Inform me; (312/664-7651 or fogarty@att.net).

OBAMA LIES. His claim to uphold anti-torture laws is obscene for so long as he and AttGen Holder refuse to prosecute known torturers.

ISRAELI BULLETS for Irish Defense Forces? Ireland's gov't is considering purchase of %millions worth of bullets from Israel Military Industries, a company involved in the crimes documented in the Goldstone Report. Please sign: [www.ipetition.com/petition/israrms/](http://www.ipetition.com/petition/israrms/).

OCCUPIED IRELAND used to be shown on maps as contested; but no more. MI5's Good Friday Agreement (GFA) made Ireland's Six-Counties British. Check it out. Google Ireland: it now shows a

26-county island with an apparent shoreline along the partition. Google Britain and you get two landmasses; the large, eastern one is Scotland, Wales and England; the western one an apparent island—Britain's now-uncontested Province of "Ulster." We Americans have no legitimate involvement in other nations' arrangements but we must uphold democracy where possible; and the GFA enactment was fraudulently achieved. In late 1998 Ireland the "VOTE YES FOR PEACE" campaign was massively deceptive. It made the Occupied Irish British and made British a land that has been Irish since pre-history. The dwindling Adams/McGuinness gang of turncoat still front for that MI5 campaign. Their success requires that people believe that the signing away of the Six-Counties to Britain is essential to Ireland's unification. Ask them how that works. Adams and McGuinness are trying to cover their treachery with borrowed glory. McGuinness visited Chicago yesterday to cloak himself in the glory of labor leader and 1916 martyr James Connolly. They also use Bobby Sands' name; despite the objections of Sands' family and other real patriots.

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

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

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT; beneficial? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), [www.friendsofcolinduff.com](http://www.friendsofcolinduff.com), and [www.freegerry.com](http://www.freegerry.com). A Brit court (Diplock, ie. juryless) in Occupied Ireland has Gerry on trial these days. If you want a daily report on it contact Helen McClafferty at [mcclafferty32@aol.com](mailto:mcclafferty32@aol.com).

[i] Our Revolutionary War ended when Gen. George Washington defeated British Gen. Lord Charles Cornwallis in Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. The Irish had been hugely overrepresented in Washington's army; and Cornwallis took his revenge when he was appointed Britain's Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1798, his forces murdered essentially all captured rebels and many local noncombatants in Wexford, Carlow and Kildare. Pitch-capping and other forms of torture and mutilation were rife. Soon thereafter in Longford and Mayo he again put to death all surrendered rebels including suspected ones; some on gallowses he erected in Killala, Ballina, Castlebar and Claremorris.



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## Horoscopes By Theresa

**ARIES:** You have a great deal of irons in the fire behind the scenes. Your plans and business are all being held close to the vest at this time. Perhaps your investment or secret million dollar invention are ready to be presented to the patent lawyers for protection and future unveiling!

**TAURUS:** You are high viz this month. Do try to be good while you are so exposed to the public view for good or ill. If you use this opportunity to it's best advantage, you can make great strides in your chosen field. Watch your temper though, with planet Mars making mischief in your home sector.

**GEMINI:** Your friends are watching your back! This is good while the planets are making some hard aspects to your sign. When time get tough, the family rallies around! This is true even if your family is a whole town!

**CANCER:** You have had a hard time lately. Jupiter is sending angels to guide you and empower you! You are blessed with planet Jupiter to bolster you in your darkest hour. Even if you are spared from the worst happenings in life, you could be part of making someone's life a bit sweeter by your love and support.

**LEO:** Your burdens may be heavy and you could feel as if you are like Atlas, who carries the world on his shoulders. You are in fact the bulwark that holds the whole family and organization together. You are the unsung hero in our midst!

**VIRGO:** Wait just a bit longer and you will have your prayers answered. Planet Jupiter is eyeing you from directly across the zodiac, straight at you! You are being watched intently by keen observers who are genuinely interested in you! Fear no one!

**LIBRA:** You will be gratified in your quest for happiness and contentment! Your grief will turn to greater understanding and empowerment. You will know love in it's most meaningful form. Time will heal and the sun will rise for you soon again! Jupiter and Uranus will point you in the right direction while fair Venus is waiting to show you her charms!

**SCORPIO:** You have finally entered your element with Jupiter in a friendly angle to your sign. Chiron is about to grace you as well with good luck! What will you do with this dynamic duo's double lucky influence? Love and peace is the best answer! If you are not too greedy, you could be greatly increased in the coming days!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Life can be unfair at times. Half of the solar system's planets are making angry geometry with your sign. This is putting undue blame and pressure on you! Know that you are innocent of much of the blame and so called shame others may try to thrust upon you. Hold tight! The planets will change and others will see the error in their thinking!

**CAPRICORN:** You are going to get a much needed retreat from whatever ails you. You will soon have greater peace of mind and contentment from recent trials that have been dogging you. Jupiter and Chiron will assist you in your future plans to unwind.

**AQUARIUS:** Mars is not helping too much by opposing your every move. Soon however, pesky Mars will leave you alone and move on to bug some other sign. You are weary of arguing and debating issues that have very little or no meaning to you or the rest of humanity. Good riddance!

**PISCES:** You are the darling of the zodiac with Jupiter in your sign! The worst that could happen is that you could gain a couple of pounds! No worries though. Be brave and embrace the expansion that Jupiter brings. The only other pitfall could be in over indulging in drinking and slothful behavior.

## Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West



### Some Mystery Books From Irish Americans

Mystery books are very popular. They give us hours of pleasure.

When I began this column—many years ago—there were few mysteries with Irish themes. I remember how pleased I was to buy, in a used book store, an old copy of *The Riddle of the Sands* by Erskine Childers, written in the early 1900's.

Now there are many outstanding Irish and Irish American authors of mystery books working today. Some are: Ken Bruen, Brian McGilloway, Declan Hughes, Ralph McInerney (the *Father Dowling* series), Eugene McEldowney, James Benn, Dennis Lehane (*Mystic River* and *Shutter Island*), John Brady, David Hosp, Stuart Neville, Rhys Bowen, and Adrian McKinty. I'm sure readers will be emailing even more names to me.

Why are mystery books so popular? They are fast-paced and the style of writing is easily accessible. The results are immediate, because suspense makes you quickly turn the page to learn what's next. And, of course, there is the mystery puzzle. The reader matches wits with the author. Can we "see" what's coming? Can we figure out the conclusion?

These are recently published books that are great examples of mystery books that Irish Americans will enjoy.

Ralph McInerney is the author of *Sham Rock*. He has written over 100 books with topics as diverse as medieval philosophy, to 28 books in the *Father Dowling* series.

This is the 13th book in the mystery series set at the University of Notre Dame. The sleuth in this series is Professor Roger Knight. He, and his brother, are also licensed private investigators.

Roger knows a lot about obscure writers and philosophers. Despite being an academic, he is realistic, and a keen observer of human behavior. And as the title suggests, he is aware that things are not always as they seem.

Present day events at Notre Dame involve several persons from the class of 1989. Three men and a woman from that class now live in various parts of the country. But as young men they competed for the attentions of the girl. Their lives intersect again today. One is a wealthy investment advisor, one a popular author, one is a Trappist monk, and the girl runs a soup kitchen.

Roger struggles to learn what happened in 1989.

These quotes show the wry humor and observations of people, often made

in the book.

—During class, Roger "had spoken of the Julian and Gregorian calendars, prompted to do so by the dates in Russian novels, *New Style, Old Style...*" To the student know it all, Roger says "It doesn't add much to one's appreciation of Gogol."

The student says "The search engine?"

"Roger winced."

—The tenured faculty referred to their teaching "load;" "The term suggested that the faculty were had carriers, sweating under their burden. That burden was typically two courses a semester... scheduled on two days of the week. When retirement came, who would be able to tell the difference?"

*Sham Rock* by Ralph McInerney. Minotaur Books, New York, 2010. 282 pages; \$24.99. [www.minoturbooks.com](http://www.minoturbooks.com).

Another book I enjoyed is *Evil for Evil*. It is the latest in the Billy Boyle World War II Mystery series.

The detective is Billy Boyle, a young policeman from Boston. Upon

joining the army, he is attached to General Eisenhower's staff. There he is asked to conduct sensitive investigations.

A large amount of weaponry is stolen from a U.S. army base in Northern Ireland. Naturally the British blame the IRA. They fear they will be used by Nazi agents to foment a rebellion. This would divert Allied forces from the continent.

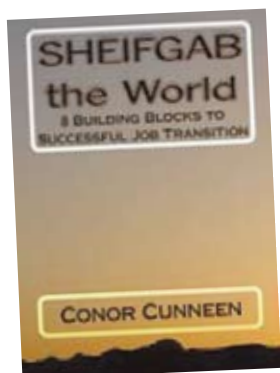


Author, James Benn, clearly shows the bitterness and hatred in Northern Ireland, which would one day erupt into "The Troubles" (1969-1998.)

An arrogant, obnoxious British secret service officer talks to Boyle.

### Authors Add Wit & Optimism to Job Search

Irish immigrant and Chicago-based comedian Conor Cunneen adds substance to his humor in the new book *SHIEFGAB The World: 8 Building Blocks to Successful Job Transition*. Yes, these days it seems there's more red ink than green money in the



United States, so Conor has written the definitive book on how to help land your new job when you suddenly find yourself with a pink slip.

Cunneen discusses what SHIEFGAB means; highlights from his book on finding a new job; Why the Irish accent has been voted sexiest in the world; why green beer is a sin(!); the first St. Patrick's Day parade (started by soldiers in the English army—can you believe that?); what the Irish really think of the English; what everyone can learn from the peace process in Ireland; and the real

Saint Patrick.

Conor Cunneen has been called "Mark Twain with a brogue," "James Joyce meets Tom Peters," and "An Irish Dilbert."

There's no need to look for a 4-leaf clover either.

Optimist Tom Finn of County Cork, Ireland, has a new book out, *A Better Tomorrow: Affirmations and Visualization the Key to Success*.

Tom is a believer in overcoming stressful lifestyles, unhealthy relationships and destructive attitudes



by using positive thinking to build *A Better Tomorrow*.

He discusses how positive thinking and imagination might help people in the U.S. to have "a better tomorrow" and with Ireland's economy in bad shape just like in the U.S., why he's convinced *A Better Tomorrow* is on the horizon.

—"Now Boyle, how much do you know about the Irish Republican Army?" "I've heard of it." I said, suspicious as any good Irish boy would be of an Englishman asking such a question."

—And further in the briefing: "To be certain you understand the importance of what we are about to tell you, I assume you've been raised on tales of valiant IRA lads fighting against English tyranny. With your American distance from the actual events, I dare say you have a rather romantic notion of this conflict..."

(Margaret Thatcher couldn't have said it better.)

—This was in the northern counties of Ireland, "home of the Orangemen and the Red Hand of Ulster." They still celebrate their victory over the

Catholics at the Battle of Boyne more than two hundred and fifty years ago. It had always seemed a dark, brutal, and bitter land... My grandfather used to tell us about their parades every July... how they'd march through Catholic neighborhoods with their English flags and Orange banners, thrashing any Catholic boy they found on the street."

*Evil for Evil: A Billy Boyle World War II Mystery* by James R. Benn. Soho Press, New York, 2009. 326 pages; \$25.00. [www.sohopress.com](http://www.sohopress.com).

Going to Ireland? Available only there and in the U.K. are the *Megarry Mysteries*. They are written by Eugene McEldowney.

A friend brought two of them from Ireland. I read both, and wish they would be distributed here.

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## "As We are at Fourteen We are at Forty"

By Frank West

B.J. Jones is the artistic director of Northlight Theatre in Skokie. He is directing *A Life* by Hugh Leonard, starring Chicago's own, John Mahoney.

He impressed me as energetic, focused, and incredibly passionate about the theater.

When I asked him what motivated him to devote his life to the theater, he answered that he wasn't skilled to do anything else! But, when he was introduced to the theater he quickly came to love it.

Jones has been active in theater since he was young. He came to Chicago in 1974. He was forward looking but was informed by years of experience in the theater. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of Chicago's actors and theaters. He remains optimistic and passionate about the future of theater in Chicago.

The title was said by Jones' mother. "As we are at 14 we are at forty." That's an accurate observation of life. Our early feelings and emotions stay with us for life. We can change, or adjust our emotions somewhat, but not much. The observation above is what *A Life* is about. As Jones said:

"The play is incredibly personal."

The main character, Desmond Drumm, feels smarter and superior to people, because when he was a boy his father pounded into him that he was more intelligent and had a brighter future than any of the boys in the neighborhood. This attitude of intellectual superiority made him fall apart from his contemporaries.

This attitude plagued his life even when he only has a few months to live. Hugh Leonard said, "I think with every writer there are two people there."

I empathize with Drumm because many times, in the religious high school I attended, I was told, "you are in the world, but not of it." This attitude only makes for loneliness and isolation.

During a career of 50 years, Hugh Leonard wrote more than 20 plays, many essays, two autobiographies, a novel, and many scripts for screen and TV.

All the while, he wrote a regular newspaper column.

I asked B.J. Jones about the future of Northlight Theatre in the present economic conditions. He said, "We are emerging from this recession as a



better, stronger institution. The future of the theatre looks bright.

I asked him what is the future of theater in general. "There will always be a demand for theatre as long as there are people who want to sit in a dark space and hear stories told!"

Northlight Theatre is at 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. 847-673-6300.

## John Mahoney Stars in "A Life"

By Cliff Carlson

John Mahoney will be 70 this year, but he's not slowing down. In fact, he hasn't slowed down since he decided to quit teaching and become an actor back in the 1970's.

Irish American News talked to John briefly as he prepared to star in Hugh Leonard's *A Life*.

John: "I took acting classes at St. Nicholas Theater and decided to quit my job and pursue acting full-time. W. H. Macy and David Mammet cast me in a play shortly thereafter, and I've been working steadily ever since," he said.

IAN: Who did you look up to when you first got interested in theater?

John: "I liked the character actors at the time such as Alec Guinness and Anthony Newley when he was doing work with Joan Collins."

IAN: Who do you look up to now?

John: I like actors like Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman, Robert Duvall. I thought Colin Farrell was brilliant in the movie *In Bruges*, as was Brendan Gleeson. Ray Winstone is another actor I admire."

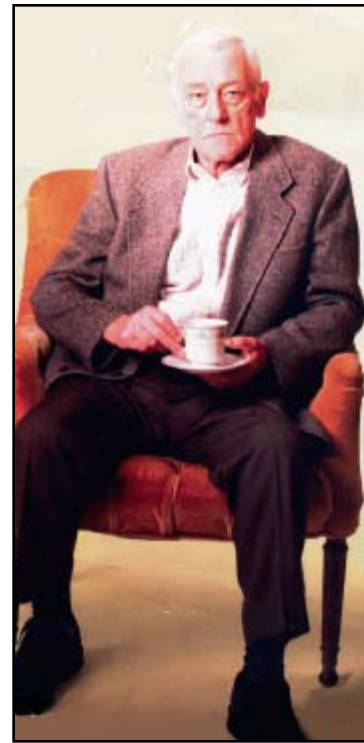
IAN: Has the recession influenced theater?

John: Yes. You don't see it much here in Chicago. Many of the plays are playing to packed houses, but

it's taken its toll on Broadway and London. People have to pay their mortgages and other expenses first. Some of these plays are expensive."

IAN: What is your favorite movie?

John: "Gone With the Wind. I also like *Lawrence of Arabia*, and I loved *Billy Elliot*. I saw a great documentary recently called *A Bronx Dream*. It's about an Irish dance teacher in the Bronx who trains her students—many of whom are not Irish—step dancing. I saw it on Showtime and I



John Mahoney

highly recommend it!

IAN: I remember you in plays staged by The Irish Rep Theatre. I know the theatre didn't have the kind of money to hire an actor of your caliber. It seems to me that you do a lot of work where the pay is low, yet you do it anyway. Is that true?

John: Yes. I've done a lot for the love of the craft or the project. I have taken the lowest rate possible so that I could be involved. Irish plays are great. I was in the play *Seafarer* in Los Angeles, and some of the cast of *Frasier* came. Kelsey Grammar said to me, "What is it about you and Irish plays!" It's because many Irish plays are wonderful!"

## 'And Neither Have I Wings to Fly' at HC

Shapeshifters Theatre, one of the resident theatre companies at the Irish American Heritage Center, 2010 spring show is the Irish family drama, *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* by Seanachai West ensemble member, and former Chicagoan, Ann Noble.

At the heart of *Wings* is the story of Kathleen and Eveline Donnelly, sisters in 1950's rural Ireland who recently buried their beloved mother, Moira. Kathleen, the spitfire younger sister, is also mere days away from her wedding to the sweet but placid Leo Doyle. Eveline distracts herself with the day-to-day household maintenance, and fears that she will now have to stay at home to care for her widowed father and surrender her dreams of attending university on scholarship, a secret to the rest of her family. Their distant father, Peter, grieves by simply wandering aimlessly through their home. Kathleen is surprised by a visit from an old friend, the dashing actor, Freddy Malone, who is traveling Ireland as part of a theatre troupe. Two more visitors arrive unexpectedly at the Donnelly home: Leo's brother Charlie, a bright but troubled drifter, and the ghost of Moira, visible only to Eveline. Freddy's energy and passion makes Kathleen wonder if Leo is the right choice for her future, and Eveline and Charlie begin to fall in love. The conflict of duty versus love affects both sisters, and both finally realize what paths their lives must take.

*Wings* opens April 16 and runs through May 9 at the IAHC. Call 773-282-7035, x10 or email shapeshifters@irishahc.org.

## Secret of Kells at Gene Siskel Center

The *Secret of Kells*, narrated by Brendan Gleeson, is a new film for all ages, chronicling the creation of the *Book of Kells* in dazzling animation that echoes the intricate beauty of the masterpiece from which it was inspired.

This medieval tale of monks and Viking marauders has a boy, a forest fairy, a mysterious artist, and his feline muse at the center of a ravishing fantasy that swirls with ornate Celtic imagery and stunning color, accompanied by the haunting strains of Celtic tunes.

The *Secret of Kells* was nominated for an Academy Award and will run April 1-8 at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, located at 164 N. State St. 312-846-2600 or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org. Ticketmaster, 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets.

# WANNA PLAY?

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

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



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## David James and Lesson Factory Chicago

With the blessing of the former World Music Company, the spirit of the beloved neighborhood music school lives on at the new Lesson Factory Chicago, 10936 S. Western Ave. A core group of teachers, who enriched WMC for 13 years and built a large and devoted following of students before the school closed last November, is now teaching at Lesson Factory (773-779-7059).

Acclaimed Irish musician, David James, is one of those teachers, teaching violin, Irish fiddle, tin whistle, hammered dulcimer and bodhran.

David James was the 2002 All-Ireland Champion, the only American to win solo senior All-Ireland Championships in the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Festival of Irish Traditional Music) on the hammered dulcimer. That was his third championship (Listowel, Co. Kerry, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, 2002). The first was in Sligo in 1989, the second at Listowel in 1995, where he also performed in the International Concert and was featured in the official Fleadh video. He is the 1996 Winfield (KS) Walnut Valley Festival National Hammered Dulcimer Champion. He received a Master Folk Fellowship award from the Indiana Arts Commission in 1990, and another Individual Artist Award in 2000. He has won many US Midwest Fleadh titles on the dulcimer, fiddle, in trio competitions, in traditional

singing and newly composed song categories. He was included among 100 Fascinating People of the Century in Michiana (northern Indiana, southern Michigan) by the South



David James

Bend Tribune newspaper.

David was also the Saturday night headliner at the first dulcimer festival ever held in Ireland, the Cork Dulcimer Festival.

David has performed and con-

ducted workshops from California to Maine. He performs on the hammered dulcimer, fiddle, guitar and Irish bouzouki, concertina, bodhrán, and harmonicas. He sings and plays Irish tunes and songs, liberally laced with American old-time music and his own compositions. He appears as a soloist, also with Midwestern Fleadh tin whistle and singing winner Kim Hoffmann. They have joined others to create larger ceili bands for Irish social dancing at places like Milwaukee Irish Fest, Chicago's Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center.

David is available as a solo Feis musician on the fiddle, or hammered dulcimer, if you're adventurous!

He frequently co-hosts Irish Music Sessions at the Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St. in South Bend, IN, with Kim Hoffmann.

[www.tiompanalley.com/index\\_files/Appear.htm](http://www.tiompanalley.com/index_files/Appear.htm)

[www.tiompanalley.com/index\\_files/AboutDJ.htm](http://www.tiompanalley.com/index_files/AboutDJ.htm)

## Will Rogers Comes to Oak Brook

First Folio's indoor season concludes with the world premiere of Will Rogers: An American Original, written and performed by 3-time Jeff nominee Kevin McKillip, running through May 2, 2010 at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Mayslake Hall, located at 31st St. and Rt. 83 in Oak Brook, IL.

This one-man show explores the life and times of America's most popular humorist.

At the time of his death in 1935, Will Rogers hosted the number one radio show in America, had a daily column that ran in over 400 papers,

and was the number one male box office star for three years running. In the course of a career that included both Texas Jack's Wild West Show and the Ziegfeld Follies, Will Rogers invented the American stand-up comic. Using his trick roping skills to punctuate his delivery, Will Rogers' folksy humor set the groundwork for everyone from Bob Hope to Johnny Carson to David Letterman.

Famous for the statement, "I never met a man I didn't like," Will Rogers is the quintessential image of the common man.

[www.firstfolio.org](http://www.firstfolio.org). 630-986-8067.

## Put The Nuns In Charge! at St. Gerald Chapel Hall

Vicki Quade, the creator and co-author of Late Nite Catechism, thinks the title of her interactive comedy, Put The Nuns In Charge!, says it all: just when you thought it was safe to go back into the classroom, Mother Superior shows up!

St. Gerald Parish Women's Club has invited Mother Superior to put on her one woman comedy show on April 17th in St. Gerald Chapel Hall, 93rd & Central Ave. in Oak Lawn. Doors open at 6:30pm, show at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling the parish office at 708-422-0234.

Quade calls the show "a funny refresher course in a modern look at the Golden Rule. Mother Superior is in charge and she has her own opinions on just about everything, from the shade of your lipstick to the I-Pod in your pocket."

For more information, check out the web site: [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com).

### Have nun, will travel

**Bring one of these hilarious one-woman shows to your very own parish or school!**

Fundraisers ♦ Staff/volunteer thank-you events ♦ Alumni weekends



*"Sharp, funny, and richly humorous" - Chicago Tribune*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Late Nite Catechism</b><br/>by Vicki Quade and Marjorie Donovan</p> <p><b>Put the Nuns in Charge!</b><br/>by Vicki Quade</p> | <p><b>Sunday School Cinema</b><br/>by Vicki Quade</p> <p><b>SHOW! Saints &amp; Sinners</b><br/>by Vicki Quade</p> |
|--|---|

**www.Nuns4Fun.com Phone 773-857-7741**



(l to r): Northern Ireland First Deputy Minister, Martin McGuinness; Irish American News Publisher Cliff Carlson, and Northern Ireland First Minister, Peter Robinson. The Ministers made a historic visit to Chicago to promote investment and tourism in Northern Ireland.

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# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



### Green Family Festival Earth Day Celebration

In response to families who are seeking healthy, natural ways to raise their children and also positively impact their communities and the planet, The Green Parents Network announces

the Green Family Festival, hosted by the Center on April 17-18.

The Green Family Festival features experts, demonstrations and exhibitors focused on the importance of raising

children in a balanced, holistic way.

Activities include panel presentations, healthy cooking demonstrations and exercise and age appropriate activities. Suppliers of wholesome, natural products and services will be on hand for discussion and demonstration.

Throughout the weekend, families can learn about and enjoy:

- organic, locally grown food
- workshops on organic gardening—natural lawn care, worm composting, and wildlife
- yoga, dance, massage, meditation, tai chi and other beneficial, fun fitness and bodywork for kids and families
- non-toxic personal care products
- cleaning products made without harmful chemicals



- building materials made with sustainable, natural products
- holistic medicine exploring alternative, integrative, and supplemental medical treatments
- alternative eco conscious energy sources like solar power and hybrid cars
- holistic veterinary pet care
- entertainment for all age groups
- a panel discussion with

foreign consulates on international perspectives on the Green Movement

- a panel discussion with Interfaith leaders on environmentalism and religion

Participants include:

- Working Bikes-The group will host a bike swap and attendees can bring unused bicycles for donation. Working Bikes has donated thousands of bikes to needy people throughout the world.

- Lou Manfredini, host of the widely popular "Mr. Fix-It" call-in program on Saturday mornings on WGN Radio.

Hours are 10am-6pm on Saturday, April 17 and 10am-5pm on Sunday, April 18. The cost is \$5 per family or a canned food donation that will be collected for Chicago's Catholic Charities.

### Larry Cunningham Headlines Holiday Ballroom Memories Series

The IAHC and the Holiday Ballroom Memories Series present Larry Cunningham in concert for one night only. See the legendary Irish musician for an evening of Irish Country music.

Cunningham is the first Irish-based artist to make the UK Pop charts and his hit, *Lovely Leitrim* sold more than a quarter million records. He has performed all over Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry.

Cunningham will be backed by the SilverBridge Band and Sean Cleland's Irish Music



School of Chicago Singer Frank O'Hara also appear on the bill. The concert is April 17 at 7pm and a dance in the Erin Room follows. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling the office at 773-282-7035.

### Shapeshifters

#### Sprout Wings for Spring Show

Shapeshifters Theatre is pleased to announce their 2010 spring show is the Irish family story, *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* by former Chicagoan, Ann Noble. *Wings* was named Best Play of 1995 by New City and received two American Theatre Critics Association's Award nominations for playwriting.

*Wings* is the story of Kathleen and Eveline Donnelly, sisters in 1950's rural Ireland. The Donnelly sisters have just lost their mother and are struggling to find themselves. Kathleen can't decide between her sweet fiancé and a dashing actor; Eveline tries to prioritize her responsibility to her widowed father, a coveted university

scholarship and her feelings for a new man in her life. When their mother makes a ghostly appearance to lend a supernatural hand, tempers flair and secrets are revealed. The conflict of duty versus love affects both sisters, and both finally realize what paths their lives must take.

*Wings* opens April 16 and runs through May 9 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$10 for IAHC members. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035.

Shapeshifters will also perform *Wings* as the opening night entry in the 18th annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival.

### Brooklyn: On Stage and In Song Comes to the Fifth Province

Performance part of the

Chicago Public Library's *One Book, One Chicago* Celebrations

Join the Center for an afternoon of music and literature as we present a performance this spring honoring the book, *Brooklyn*, by Colm Tóibín, which has been chosen as the 18th selection for Chicago's city-wide book club, *One Book, One Chicago*.

Set within the backdrop of both a small Irish village and a bustling 1950s Brooklyn, readers will fall in love with Tóibín's writing as well as his rich characters. They will be drawn into the story of a young Irish woman finding her way in a strange new land.

*Brooklyn: On Stage and In Song* will be presented at the Center

on April 11 at 2:30pm. The program features



a staged reading from *Brooklyn* by members of Chicago's theatre com-

munity and traditional Irish music by local musicians. The Gift Theatre's Michael Patrick Thornton and Genesis Ensemble's Lindsay Barlag direct the performance. Center members, actor Vera Kelly and Tenor Mark Piekarz will be a part of the ensemble.

The event is free and takes place in the Fifth Province, which will be open from 1-5pm.

*One Book, One Chicago* began in the fall of 2001, to encourage all Chicagoans to read the same book at the same time, and discuss a great piece of literature with friends and neighbors.



THE HERITAGE LINE  
 IRISH AMERICAN  
 HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



**President's Message**

March 18th—it's all over. No more parties, no more music, no more dancers, no more cute little kids in their Irish knit sweaters and, thankfully, no more green shirts, big green foam hats, green beer and "Kiss Me I'm Irish" buttons. St. Patrick's Day has come and gone like a whirlwind leaving all of us exhausted, worn out, and a bit saddened that it's all over so soon.

I expected the Irish American Heritage Center to be as empty as a ghost town on the morning after. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the Center and things were humming along quite nicely: a luncheon was starting in the Fifth Province, the

volunteers were back at work keeping our Center in top shape, the phones were ringing off the hook with people buying tickets for upcoming events, renting rooms, and other general inquiries and a large group was touring our Library and Museum. It was like nothing had happened the past week and everything was back to normal. Of course, everyone looked a little more tired than usual and a few of us were coming down with colds, but the Center was humming along quite nicely.

That's the beauty of our

Center—there is something for everyone and something happening all the time. Granted the weeks leading up to St. Patrick's Day are high time for our Center, but we don't celebrate our heritage just for a couple of weeks—we do it all year long. Over the next several months we have a number of concerts, plays, art exhibits, book signings, lectures and parties happening at our Center all leading up to the big festival in July.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, there's no better time to be a part of

our Center. There's room for everyone. We are looking for new members, new volunteers, new patrons, new friends—everyone is welcome. So please join us at one of our upcoming events and if you want to know more about becoming a member or get more involved, just ask. Just stop in our office next time you are the Center and any of our staff can help you.

We look forward to seeing you at our Center soon.

Robert McNamara  
 President  
 Board of Directors,  
 Irish American Heritage Center



**Executive Director's Message**

"Mr. McDonnell - We've been attending the St. Patrick's Day celebration after the parade for many years now. Just wanted to say that our kids loved all the events yesterday. They won't stop talking about how much fun they had! You guys finally hit the nail on the head..."

Love to get notes like that after a big event, huh? I cannot say that I was surprised to receive the feedback, after seeing the amount of time and effort that our volunteers put into coordinating the event and especially after witnessing the wonderful scene of family fun all day long at our St. Patrick's Festival on March 13th and again on the 17th. Parents and grandparents dancing with their wee ones to Irish music out on the Erin Room and Fifth Province dance floors, parents and grandparents cheering on the Irish dance schools in the Auditorium, parents and kids alike getting their faces painted with Celtic art

designs, parents giving their kids tours of our library and museum to teach them that passion for the heritage is COOL. The Center exists in large part to keep the best of Irish traditions alive across generations, and I was darn proud of how we delivered on our responsibilities this St. Patrick's Day season.

The value of being a part of the Irish Center community, though, is that you have the advantage of experiencing the vibrations of St. Paddy's season all year long. We have a few large festivals coming up with the Green Family Festival in April, Acting Irish International Theater Festival in May, and of course Irish Fest in July. We have lined up some unique cultural events—with Colm Toibin's *Brooklyn: Stage and Song*, calligraphy workshops



with Irish artist Denis Brown, a panel discussion (Tim Pat Coogan, Mary Pat Kelly, Gary Whitedeer) about the contributions of the Chocktaw tribe to the Irish people during the famine, and our annual Bloomsday celebration in June. We have put together a great concert calendar with eleven shows between April and August—including Bua, the Elders, and the Young Dubliners.

These special events are all in addition to the regular run of business at the Center, which is incredibly active on its own. For example - on a recent Friday, the Center hosted a Lenten fish fry, a pub quiz, a ceili, a showing of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, an art gallery exhibition and live Irish music in the Fifth Province. Then on Saturday, we had another performance of the play, another viewing of

the art exhibit, more live Irish music in the pub, and a show in the auditorium that included world champion dancers, the top ranked bagpipe band in the Midwest, a five-time all-Ireland accordion champion, an all-Ireland fiddle champion, a master guitarist, and Live Ireland's 2010 male vocalist of the year.

As one staff member pointed out to me recently, the Center comes pretty close to heaven on Earth. Seriously, though—where else do you get access to all of these things under one roof? I am convinced that I have the best job in the world, representing the Center and representing you. Come join us again soon - there is no better time to be a member of the place where Irish culture comes to life.

Onwards,  
 Tim McDonnell  
 Executive Director,  
 Irish American Heritage Center



**THE HERITAGE LINE**  
**IRISH AMERICAN**  
**HERITAGE CENTER** Chicago, Illinois



**18th Annual**  
**Acting Irish International Theatre Festival**

Shapeshifters Theatre, the resident theatre company of the Center, hosts the 18th Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival this Spring. The fest runs at the IAHC this May 17-23.

The Acting Irish International Theatre Festival (AIITF) was founded in 1993 as an association of Irish theater troupes from across North America. More than a dozen Irish theatre companies from the US, Canada and now Ireland, are invited to present plays as part of a competition judged by professionals in the theatre community. By tradition, the host organization stages the opening production.

The Festival opens on Monday, May 17 at 8pm with *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly*, written by Ann Noble and performed by host company, Shapeshifters. The festival schedule is below:

**Tuesday, May 18**

2pm- *There Came a Gypsy Riding*, Dublin's Estuary Players

8pm- *My Brilliant Divorce*, Tara Players of Winnipeg

**Wednesday, May 19**

2pm- *The Patrick Pearse Hotel*, Gaelic Park Players of Oak Forest, Illinois

8pm- *Moll*, Cincinnati's Irish American Theatre

**Thursday, May 20**

2pm- *Portia Coughlin*, Calgary's Liffey Players

8pm- *The Passion of Jerome*, Dublin's Heads on Stage

**Friday, May 21**

2pm- *Close to Home*, The Irish Theatre of Florida

8pm- *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, Rochester Irish Players, New York

**Saturday, May 22**

2pm, *The Hunt for Red Willie*, Milwaukee Irish Arts

8pm, *Factory Girls*, Toronto Irish Players

Tickets for each performance are \$15, and may be ordered by calling IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

**Volunteer at The Irish American Heritage Center!**  
**New Opportunities!**

**25/35 Anniversary Celebration:**

1985 marks the 25th anniversary of when we bought the building on Knox Ave. that became our beautiful Center. 2011 is the 35th anniversary of when our organization, The Irish American Heritage Center, was founded. Starting with Irish Fest this July through Irish Fest 2011, we will be hosting a year-long celebration of these milestones. A new planning committee is being formed to organize the different elements of this celebration: special events, special exhibits, fundraisers, membership events, and anniversary themed celebrations.

If you are interested in getting more involved, contact us at [info@irishahc.org](mailto:info@irishahc.org) or call the office at 773-282-7035.

Our first meeting for this

committee is Tuesday, April 20th at 7pm at the Center. All are welcome!

**IAHC Parents Club:**

As our organization grows and changes over time, it is important that we keep our focus on the next generations. This new group will meet to explore new ways of creating family friendly activities, events, and programs at our Center as well as social outlets for the parents themselves!

If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact us at [info@irishahc.org](mailto:info@irishahc.org) or call the office at 773-282-7035.

Our first meeting for this committee will be Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm at the Center. Parents with children from high school age on down are welcome to join this group.

**Irish Artists Series Features Percy French-Painter and Poet**

Join the Center for an afternoon of poetry and a slide presentation of the life and work of artist, musician and writer Percy French.

William Percy French was born at in County Roscommon in 1854. He wrote his first successful song while studying at Trinity College in 1877. He was a civil engineer in County Cavan and it is thought he wrote his best songs during this period. French was also a prolific painter of landscape watercolors and during

this period considered art to be his true vocation.

As a songwriter and entertainer, French became renowned for composing and singing comic songs and gained considerable distinction with such songs as "Are Ye Right There Michael."

*Percy French-Painter and Poet* is Sunday, April 25 at 2pm and the cost is \$5 and includes refreshments. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

**Make Your Mark With Calligraphy Series**

Join the Center and the Chicago Calligraphy Collective as we welcome Denis Brown, a Dublin-based artist/calligrapher whose work explodes from, and extends, traditions of calligraphy in the form of innovative works of art. Brown's work is included in many renowned worldwide collections including the National Museum of Ireland and the Trinity College and Chester Beatty Libraries in Dublin.

The following events will take place at the IAHC:

Friday, April 23; 6:30-8:30pm Free

Lecture: *Carrying Tradition in a Digital World*

An inspirational multi-media presentation incorporating both traditional and avant-garde calligraphy: Brown will show a wide range of his recent work, using it to discuss the meaning for him of being a scribe in the twenty first century. Brown brings great vitality and enthusiasm to his work, making his presentations both enlightening and entertaining.

Saturday, April 24; 9:30am-5:00pm

One-Day Seminar: *Introduction to Celtic Art*

Cost: \$15 adults/\$10 students. Supply kit included.

No previous calligraphy or art experience is necessary.

Registration: Open to participants aged 12 years and older.

A "no-pressure" day beginning with a slide presentation that will clearly show in fine detail the

themes of Celtic decoration and writing. Following this, basic instruction on writing a Celtic hand and drawing a few styles of Celtic illumination will be given. There will also be a special viewing of the *Book of Kells* reproduction owned by IAHC.

Sun. 4/25-Tues. 4/27; 9:00am-5:00pm

Three-Day Workshop: *Capital Expressions*

Cost: \$180 CCC members/\$210 Non-CCC members

Registration: Open to intermediate and advanced students familiar with Roman Caps and their skeletal proportions.

Alphabets will be derived from various quadrilateral shapes and then be systematically distorted over several stages, ultimately yielding a free form and expressive capital. Exercises with writing as texture and the expressive potential of these forms will be discussed.

For more information visit [www.chicagocallig.com](http://www.chicagocallig.com).

**April Concert Series**

Check out these upcoming shows at the IAHC!

|                  |      |        |      |
|------------------|------|--------|------|
| Athas            | 4/9  | 7:30pm | \$10 |
| Bua              | 4/16 | 8pm    | \$15 |
| Larry Cunningham | 4/17 | 7pm    | \$30 |
| The Elders       | 4/23 | 8pm    | \$15 |

For tickets, call 773-282-7035



# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



### April 2010

|                                   |  |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------|---------|
| April 1                           | Irish Imm. Support Mtgs                        | Erin Room        | 10am    |
| April 2                           | Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance                    | Fifth Province   | 8pm     |
|                                   | Lenten Fish Fry                                | Fifth Province   | 6:30pm  |
|                                   | <i>Dancing At Lughnasa</i>                     | Room 306/7       | 8pm     |
|                                   | <i>Dancing At Lughnasa</i>                     | Room 306/7       | 8pm     |
| April 4                           | <i>Dancing At Lughnasa</i>                     | Room 306/7       | 3pm     |
| April 7                           | Tiir Na Nog Seniors Mtg                        | Fifth Province   | 11am    |
| April 11                          | Great Irish Books Club                         |                  |         |
|                                   | Discussion                                     | Library          | 2pm     |
|                                   | <i>Brooklyn: On Stage and In Song</i>          |                  |         |
|                                   |  | Fifth Province   | 2:30pm  |
| April 15                          | Irish Imm. Support Mtgs                        | Erin Room        | 10am    |
| April 16                          | Bua in Concert                                 | Erin Room        | 8pm     |
|                                   | Quiz Night                                     | Room 109         | 8pm     |
| April 16-May 9                    | <i>And Neither Have I Wings to Fly</i>         |                  |         |
|                                   |  | Room 306/7 F & S | 8pm     |
|                                   |  |                  | Sun 3pm |
| April 17                          | St. Patrick's Fathers Social                   | Social Center    | 8pm     |
|                                   | Larry Cunningham in Concert                    | Auditorium       | 7pm     |
|                                   | Larry Cunningham post-show dance               | Erin Room        | 9pm     |
| April 17-18                       | Green Family Festival                          | Various          | All Day |
| April 20                          | Celtic Women Meeting                           | Room 109         | 7pm     |
| April 23                          | The Elders in Concert                          | Erin Room        | 8pm     |
|                                   | Lecture: Carrying Tradition in a Digital World | Fifth Province   | 6:30pm  |
| April 24                          | One-Day Seminar: Introduction to Celtic Art    | Art Gallery      | 9:30am  |
| April 25                          | Genealogy Meeting                              | Library          | 1pm     |
|                                   | Percy French-Painter and Poet                  | Room 304         | 2pm     |
| April 25-27                       | Three-Day Workshop: Capital Expressions        | Art Gallery      | 9am     |
| <b>Regularly Scheduled Events</b> |  |                  |         |
| Tuesday                           | Quilting and Needlework                        | Room 208         | 9:30am  |
|                                   | Traditional Irish Art Class                    | Room 308         | 7pm     |
| Wednesday                         | Quilting and Needlework                        | Room 208         | 7:30pm  |
|                                   | Open Music Session                             | Room 302         | 7:30pm  |
| Thursday                          | Irish Heritage Singers                         |                  |         |
|                                   | Rehearsal                                      | Room 304         | 7:30pm  |
| Friday                            | Francis O'Neill Ceili                          |                  |         |
|                                   | Practice and Dance                             | Room 111         | 8pm     |
| Saturday                          | Irish School                                   | Various          | 9am     |

### Pot O'Gold Raffle

During the Larry Cunningham concert on April 17, the Center will hold a raffle, with a chance to win \$3000 cash!

The Pot O' Gold raffle is \$20 a ticket and the prizes are \$3000 for first prize, \$1000 for 2nd prize and \$500 for 3rd prize. Winner need not be present. To purchase tickets, call the Center office at 773-282-7035. The raffle is a benefit for the IAHC and the kitchen renovation project.

### Save the Date for Irish Fest July 9, 10 & 11, 2010

Featuring 3 days of family fun on five stages

Confirmed entertainment includes:

The Chancey Brothers  
The Elders  
Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul  
The Kreellers  
Makem and Spain Brothers  
Mickey Finns  
Scythian  
The Tossers

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

### Planning a Special Event?



Visit the IAHC and tour any of our rental rooms for your special occasion.

The Erin Room (above) is a brand new, high-end social venue seating up to 310

people. The room is perfect for weddings, galas, benefits, anniversary parties, sweet sixteen parties, corporate luncheons, funeral luncheons and many other gatherings.

The room is air-conditioned and includes a top quality sound system, top quality projector system, a 10'x20' stage, a bar, a cloak room, a bride's room, a prep kitchen, brand new chairs and 72-in and 54-in round tables.

To book a visit call 773-282-7035.

### IAHC Board of Directors 2009-2010

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## the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

### April 2010

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Fri, 4/2  | Ceili Mor                     |
| Sat, 4/3  | Ian Tully                     |
| Fri, 4/9  | Matt Stedman Band             |
| Sat, 4/10 | Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore |
| Fri, 4/16 | Gerry Haughey                 |
| Sat, 4/17 | The Dooley Brothers           |
| Fri, 4/23 | Joe Cullen                    |
| Sat, 4/24 | Celtic Groundhogs             |
| Fri, 4/30 | Steve Davern and Friends      |



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

No Cover  
Free Parking



**THE HERITAGE LINE**  
**IRISH AMERICAN**  
**HERITAGE CENTER** Chicago, Illinois



**2010 IAHC Membership Drive**

**YOU Could WIN a Trip to Ireland!**

**Member – Get A Member Contest**

**Calling all Irish American Heritage Center Members!**

Maybe you haven't noticed, but the Center is in the middle of a huge membership drive. The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members! After the St. Patrick's Day weekend, we have 420 new members – just over 20% of our goal with more than ¼ of the year yet to go! This is tremendous and is a credit to the entire Membership Committee and our staff who have been working hard on this effort. They are doing a great job of representing our Center and their commitment and positive attitudes about the Center is contagious.

Our membership is the backbone of our organization. Membership drives the attendance at our events, shapes the look and feel of the programs we offer, and provides us with a strong financial base. More importantly, our members

are the people who make up the unique community and family atmosphere that is unique to our Center. The beauty of our IAHC is that there is something for everyone – music, dance, literature, theater, Irish Language lessons, social activities, volunteer opportunities, the Fifth Province, and, of course, festivals and parties! Membership supports all of our programs and allows people to be involved at whatever level suits their schedule and interests.

In an effort to strengthen our organization, we are looking to expand our membership and bring our mission to as many people as possible. A healthy, active and large membership will help to keep our Center viable for years to come.

As members you are the best possible sales people we could find to spread the word about our organization. In fact, we are so confident that our members will do a great job of recruiting our membership

that we are offering a trip to Ireland as incentive! That's right, you could be going to Ireland.

Encourage a new person to join the IAHC and you have the chance to win a trip for two to Ireland. It couldn't be easier, each of us probably knows someone who should become a member (or maybe has become a lapsed member).

*If you are not a member – join today and you can start recruiting members to get into the contest.*

The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members! Get your family and friends to join and Win a Trip to Ireland or other great prizes.

**Here are the contest rules:**

1. All current IAHC members are eligible to recruit new members for this contest.
2. Multiple referrals are allowed. For each person that you recruit, you get an addi-

tional chance to win! The more new members you find, the better your chances of winning. Our goal this year is 2010 new members!

3. The person who recruits the most new members will receive a free party at the Irish American Heritage Center for themselves and 25 guests.

4. For the purpose of the contest, the new member must not have previously been an IAHC Member within the past year.

5. Members whose membership expired at the end of 2009, may renew their membership and then be eligible to refer new members for the contest.

6. Referral entries must be a new member and not an addition to an existing IAHC family membership.

7. New members that are recruited for this contest may in turn also recruit new members and be entered into the contest.

**How to enter:**

Once you have identified a new member for IAHC, have them fill out a IAHC Membership Form or contact the office for details.

On the top of the new member's form, insert your name in the, "I was recruited by" space.

Have the new member complete the form and submit it with their dues to the Center for processing.

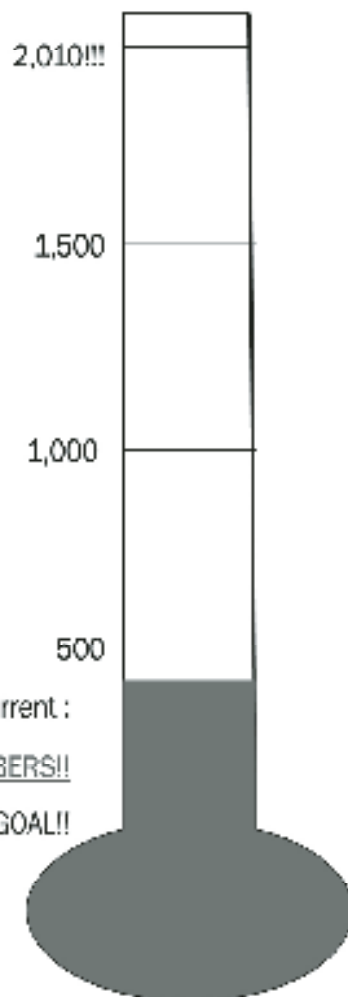
Membership Forms are available in this issue or on-line at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by December 31st, 2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at the 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January, 2011 (a new event yet to be scheduled).

**2010 IAHC Membership Drive**

**Member – Get A Member Contest**

**WIN A TRIP  
 FOR TWO  
 TO IRELAND!**



**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL**

**RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY!**

**2010 NEW MEMBERS IN 2010!!**

I was referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**BECOME A MEMBER**

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

To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org), or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

**The Irish American  
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**This Mother Superior is a Sistah!**  
 Watch Her Take on Hollywood  
 In the comedy, Sunday School Cinema

Vicki Quade, the creator and co-author of Late Nite Catechism, is pleased to announce a new actress is joining her comedy: Sunday School Cinema, Starting in April, Michelle Renee Thompson takes the stage at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago, as the all-knowing, movie loving nun, Mother Superior Mary Margaret Toussaint. Thompson is the first African-American actress to play the role.

The show runs at 3 p.m. Sundays, in rotation with Quade's other nun comedies.

Good movie? Bad movie? Condemned movie? If you're confused, ask Mother Superior. She knows the

difference.

Trying to remember who directed that movie? Better hope it wasn't Satan!

Thompson grew up in Columbus, Ohio in a very Catholic community where two things were important: Mass and Ohio State Football. She has lived and performed in Chicago for many years, working with a variety of companies, including Chicago Actors Ensemble, Touchstone Theatre and Bailiwick Repertory. She is a founding member of Corn Productions, where she has performed in, directed, choreographed and written several plays. She also performs stand up comedy and has appeared in the independent



Mary Margaret Thompson

film, "Never".

Thompson has a BFA in Theatre with a Dance Minor, from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio. She has also studied at The Second City Conservatory, in Chicago.

In this comedy, Mother Superior reviews movies and gives her own version of thumbs up and thumbs down,

using her all-present ruler. You'll never see films the same way again!

Sunday School Cinema looks at a variety of genres, from mobster movies to alien films, but the audience gets to chime in with their favorites. So the show can change with every performance and every audience.

In 1993, Vicki Quade brought to life an idea that Chicago actress Maripat Donovan wanted to perform. Donovan was fascinated with the lives of the saints and wanted to do a stand-up comedy routine. She approached Quade to write a short skit for her.

Instead, Quade developed the idea and expanded it into the comedy wonder, Late Nite Catechism, now starting its 18th year in Chicago, and a national and international hit, with productions over the years in more than 150 cities.

Like its two previous comedies,

Sunday School Cinema will be used to help schools and churches do needed fundraising.

"Schools and parishes throughout Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin have enjoyed my shows as an easy way of raising much-needed money to balance their budgets," says Quade. In addition, each show continues the campaign to raise retirement funds for real Sisters. Through her comedies, Quade has helped raise more than \$2 million and "every penny has been donated to various orders of nuns nationwide," she notes.

For her work raising awareness of the plight of retired Sisters, Vicki Quade received the Spirit of Benedict Award in 2003 from the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, and, in 2005, she was given a Partners in Mission Award by the Sisters of the Living Word in Arlington Heights.

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-Samuel Beckett



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